



Workshop: Bats, how to identify species and methods to study them in Equatorial Guinea

Introduction

Equatorial Guinea is a country located in the Gulf of Guinea, Africa, one of the world's richest regions in bat diversity and endemism. The bat fauna from the continental region has not been surveyed since the 1970s, while major threats to the bat populations continue to rise. On the other hand, the governmental institution INDEFOR-AP (National Institute for Forest Development and Management of the Protected Areas System) oversees biodiversity conservation of protected areas. Due to limited funding, language barrier (Spanish is the official language) and underdeveloped capacity for research, INDEFOR's actions are limited. Thus, there is an urgent need to know the bats and provide local researchers and authorities with basic expertise.

Aims

- Provide INDEFOR-AP researchers basic knowledge on African bats, their ecology, diet, etc.
- Provide information on methods to survey bats: mist-nets, harp traps, roost surveys and bioacoustics.
- Provide field training on how to set mist-nets, extract bats from the nets, safely manipulate them, take external measurements, and identify the species.

Trainers

Laura Torrent, Dr Joxerra Aihartza Azurtza and Dr Ignacio Garin Atorrasagasti.

Date and site

18th and 19th May 2022 at INDEFOR-AP headquarters in Bata, Equatorial Guinea

Total amount of training hours: 14 hours

Workshop language: Spanish

Number of participants: 7 trainees and 3 trainers.

Planning

18th May morning (from 10 am to 14 pm)

Morning session at INDEFOR-AP headquarters to introduce African bats, the methodologies to study them and bioacoustics with Power Point support. Each talk had a duration of 1h with 15 minutes of questions and discussion. The three talks had the following titles:

- The world of bats by Laura Torrent
- Methods to study and survey bats by Dr Ignacio Garin
- The use of bioacoustics to study bats by Dr Joxerra Aihartza

18th and 19th May evenings (from 16 pm to 21 pm)

Evening sessions to learn the skills to set mist-nets to capture bats; how to safely handle them to take morphological measurements and use field guides to distinguish the species.

At the end of the workshop all participants will receive a certificate of attendance signed by the trainers and INDEFOR-AP director.

Requirements to participate

- 1) Be a researcher at INDEFOR-AP
- 2) Participate in field expeditions and have no previous experience on bat research
- 3) Availability to attend the evening sessions

Involved institutions

