

Project Update: December 2011

Overview

The first four months of the field season focused on catching bats at roost sites.

Fieldwork preparation and planning

Before starting the fieldwork, we needed to find and purchase a suitable field vehicle - full 4x4, high clearance, and reasonable fuel efficiency - and to get camping gear to ensure we could be self sufficient. We then set off with our vehicle fully loaded with vehicle spares, camping and survey equipment for what would turn out to be a gruelling 36,000km road trip.

Fieldwork – Cave sites

A total of 11 cave sites, nine sinkholes and nine disused mine shafts were visited. Each of the sites was identified as being a historical roost or potential roost for the focal species. Where focal species were found, they were caught - using a combination of a harp trap, mist nets and hand nets - to obtain morphometrics, record calls and take DNA samples.

