Project Update: September 2018

The data collected during the fieldwork phase of the project was formatted in Windows Excel using appropriate indices. The main data formats that were used for analysis were capture rates based on active monitoring methods (bat captures) and relative activity based on passive monitoring methods (echolocation recordings). The rainfall and temperature data was recorded by a stationary Davis weather station and exported into Windows Excel for further analysis. The analysis will be done on the monthly variation in terms of the detection of bat species utilising the various monitoring methods.

The call library, which is region specific, was developed by using hand-held bat detectors (Anabat SD2 and Anabat Swift) to record the release calls of the bats that were caught. Species-specific filters were developed in AnalookW based on identified bat species linked to the call library. The call library is vital for further studies in this region and will be saved using appropriate methods to ensure its use for future studies.

The project was presented and discussed at the Meletse Symposium in August 2018. We discussed the integration of various avenues of science to monitor bat populations within South Africa, in addition to enhancing public awareness of current and future projects.

Left: Monique Shanahan measuring the forearm length of a *Neoromicia capensis* ©E.C.J. Seamark. Right: Monique Shanahan taking a bat out of a mist net that was caught during a capture event. © T. Nkoana.

Sunset over the South African landscape that marks the beginning of a bat capturing event. ©M. Shanahan.
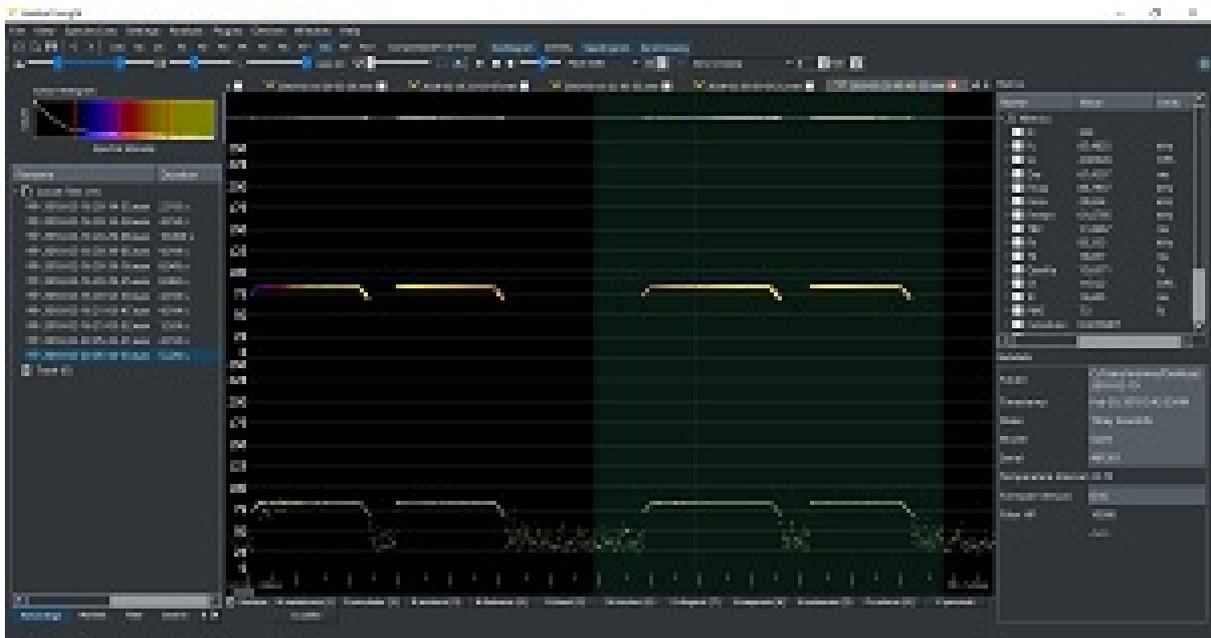
The release call of a *Rhinolophus simulator* displayed in AnalookInsight. ©M. Shanahan.