

Species Action Plan



Long-nosed Bat

Scientific name *Leptonycteris curasoae*
Common names Southern Long Nosed bat, Curaçao Long-nosed bat
Key values Keystone species, pollinator and seed dispersal for protected cacti species and agaves
Population Status unknown
Population status Globally declining by [30% \(1985 - 2015\)](#)
Distribution Occurs in northeast Colombia, north and western Venezuela, Margarita Island, Curaçao, Bonaire and Aruba
Habitats Dry forest. Arid areas, including coastal. Roosts in caves, mines and abandoned buildings.



Photo: [Christian König](#)

SPAW	IUCN Red List	CITES	CMS	Legislation		Other
						Restricted range
NONE	Vulnerable	NONE	None	Bonaire	Aruba	

Threats

Habitat loss: Livestock farming	Free roaming feral goats, and extensive livestock farming practices are the main cause of overgrazing. Grazers target young plants, which reduces ground cover, leading to erosion and limits natural regeneration of trees and plants not favored by grazers. Species preferentially targeted do not have the ability to regrow, reducing the habitat and available food sources for bats
Residential / commercial development	Tourism, second homes and population growth demand land for development into commercial and residential activity centers. Particularly on islands with limited development potential this leads to the clear felling of dry forest, reducing the habitat and food sources available for bats. Anthropogenic disturbance also affects diurnal and nursery roosts leading to abandonment.

Management goals

<p>Habitat loss: livestock farming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively manage dry forests to address grazing and limit habitat loss Work with the National government, island government and stakeholders to address overgrazing and encourage sustainable animal husbandry practices Mitigate the consequences of historical habitat loss and degradation through reforestation and restoration ('rewilding') to improve habitat structure and plant diversity island wide
<p>Residential/commercial development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and actively manage sites important for bats as roosting and foraging areas Work with existing protected areas to augment the network of bat protected sites and to raise the profile for bat conservation Encourage the use of bat boxes to maximize available roosts in degraded areas

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Recommendations

Management

- Advocate for the designation and active management of dry forests
- Establish bat conservation areas; Important Areas for the Conservation of Bats (AICOMs) and Important Sites for the Conservation of Bats (SICOMs) [RELCOM](#)
- Identify sites for effective cave gating to protect bat roosting sites
- Identify key locations for habitat restoration with a focus on increasing food sources for bats
- Support local initiatives to address overgrazing and encourage sustainable animal husbandry
- Encourage reforestation, restoration and rewilding initiatives
- Support nurseries and similar cultivating native plants which can provide high value trees for rural and urban restoration projects
- Provide new strategic roost sites by constructing tunnels and artificial caves ([Simal, F.](#) unpublished)

Legislation

- Advocate for environmental legislation specifically formulated to protect bat roosting sites (day and maternity). See ([RELCOM](#)), [Simal, F.](#) (unpublished)
- Advocate for restricting access to maternity roosts

Enforcement

- Carry out intelligent surveillance of bat roosts for disturbance (when it is most likely to be happening), particularly from March-July.

Science and monitoring

- *DCNA working group developing standardized monitoring protocols*
- Improve understanding of bat population dynamics, growth rates, reproduction and population structure particularly in relation to seasonal distribution, reproduction and food sources
- Identify and monitor foraging areas
- Identify and monitor roosting sites (day and maternity)
- Continue banding project on the ABC islands and Venezuela to study migratory capacity and other aspects of their population ecology

Stakeholders

- Identify and work with stakeholders to improve bat conservation
- Build community support for bat conservation

Networking

- Work with existing bat initiatives: [Caribbean Speleological Society \(CARIBSS\)](#), [RELCOM](#)
- Improve bat conservation within protected areas, [STINAPA](#) Bonaire, [Parke Nacional Arikok Aruba](#), [CARMABI](#).

Information - education

- Develop communication campaign to build support for bats, dry forest and native plant protection
- Raise awareness about the impact of habitat loss on native species, including bats
- Target messaging to those involved with livestock farming (kununeros)
- Communicate why restrictions to roosts are necessary
- Support education efforts to raise awareness of habitat degradation and its ecological impacts on bats
- Develop a program to support local community members experiencing any conflict with bats
- Develop cave guide certification course
- Train field staff for monitoring colonies in day shelters. ([Simal, F.](#) unpublished)

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Gaps

- Population data not available
- Limited understanding population dynamics
- Limited knowledge of population distribution and foraging areas

Description

- Weigh 18g to 30g
- 7.62cm length
- 34cm wingspan s
- short, greyish-brown fur,
- a long, narrow snout,
- relatively short ears,
- small, triangular nose-leaf

Biology

- Bats are mammals and live for up to 30 years
- Functional herbivores, but have been known to eat insects
- Nocturnal, feeding on fruit, nectar and pollen of cacti
- Females produce one pup per pregnancy
- Maternity phase from March - July
- Often roost in colonies of several thousand
- Perception: eyesight, touch, chemical and echolocation