

## **Know your species**

### **Name**

Mauritius fruit bat (*Pteropus niger*)

### **Status**

Currently it is classed as Vulnerable. Population variously estimated to be between 15-25,000 but more detailed work needs to be done. Population fluctuates in size depending on environmental factors (e.g. cyclones) and possibly hunting pressure.



### **Distribution**

The species is found on Mauritius. Historically it was found on La Reunion where a small population has recently recolonised. May have occurred on Rodrigues. On Mauritius it may forage island-wide but roosts in heavily forested areas especially valleys and mountain sides. Main populations in southwest of the island.

### **Biology/Ecology**

Feeds on leaves, flowers and fruits of native and exotic trees. Important seed disperser and pollinator of native trees. Potential distributor of exotic fruiting tree seeds as well. Claimed to be a pest of lychees and mangoes.

### **Threats**

Habitat destruction and degradation

Hunting, particularly after cyclones when vulnerable

Control as a perceived pest

Cyclones