



BAT WORLD

SANCTUARY

To whom it may concern,

We hope this letter reaches those who hold the power and direct influence to enact the necessary ecological and humanitarian resolutions. This letter has been funded by a member of the public who opposes the practices outlined below.

In partnership with Protect Paradise Seychelles and with public support from various wildlife organizations, we are writing to request a revision of your food menu including but not limited to, general daily menus and special occasion menus. Particularly, we are requesting the removal of any menu item containing, in any capacity, one of Seychelle's only native mammal: the Seychelles Flying Fox.

We acknowledge that cultural dishes such as fruit bat curry have been a part of the local cuisine since the times of French colonization. The consumption of 'bush meat' came about during a time when enslaved people had little to no other food options available. This practice, which is no longer necessary, still survives under the guise of tradition and immersion tourism. It is with this in mind that we proceed with voicing our concerns for the status of the Seychelles Flying Fox as its important role in the ecosystem is being threatened by the unfortunate increase in popularity of fruit bat dishes within the tourism industry.

Bats are some of the slowest reproducing mammals on earth, usually birthing only one pup per year. The last census conducted by the IUCN on the population of the Seychelles Flying Fox calculated roughly 8500 fruit bats left in the wild. With the combination of unregulated hunting and availability of this dish to over 428,000 tourists in 2019 alone, the question is not "whether or not" we will witness the extinction of the Seychelles Flying Fox- but "when?"

In 2020, a species census was proposed by the Seychelles Ministry of Environment; as of 2023, the census has just begun. Until results from this study are available, a temporary cessation of fruit bat dishes is imperative, as these animals have no place on the dinner plates of tourists and experience seekers. Promoting and profiting off of the consumption of a threatened animal cannot be justified until further research is conducted to show how the population is being affected. Without strict regulations from the government, the responsibility falls on restaurant owners and managers to make the required changes which would protect this keystone species. Ultimately, the ethical choice is yours to make.

Sincerely,

Addison McCool
Executive Director
Bat World Sanctuary



**Bat Conservation
& Rescue QLD. INC.**
RESCUE. EDUCATION. CONSERVATION. HABITAT



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