



About Flying-foxes

Flying-foxes are nomadic and will roost close to a food source, moving on when food becomes scarce.

Both the little red flying-fox and the black flying-fox prefer to roost in dense shady vegetation that provides protection from predators and weather conditions.

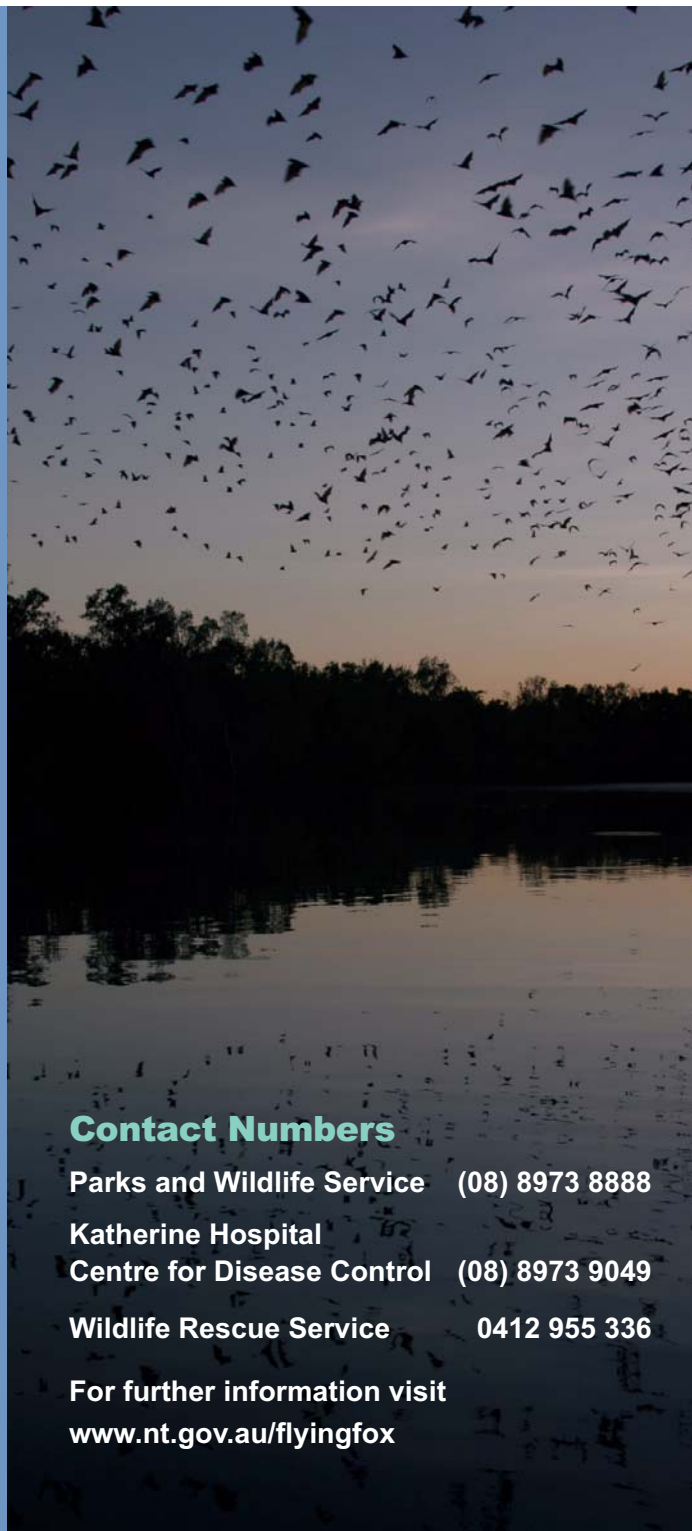
In urban areas, the introduced African mahogany tree is a perfect roosting site because it is tall and the branches are dispersed which makes it easy for entry and exiting.

Before giving birth females form maternal colonies. Research suggests that the same maternal roosting sites are used each year.

Young are dependant on their mothers from the late wet season until the early dry season. About 50% of young die before they reach adulthood. However, those that survive can live for 10-20 years in the wild.

Little red flying-fox colonies usually have more individuals than black flying-fox colonies and they roost closer together.

As with other native wildlife in the Northern Territory, the little red flying-fox and the black flying-fox are protected under section 43 of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*. This means that it is an offence for people to interfere with flying-foxes without a permit.



Contact Numbers

Parks and Wildlife Service (08) 8973 8888

**Katherine Hospital
Centre for Disease Control** (08) 8973 9049

Wildlife Rescue Service 0412 955 336

For further information visit
www.nt.gov.au/flyingfox



Northern
Territory
Government

Flying-fox

Management in Katherine

The black flying-fox (*Pteropus alecto*) and the little red flying-fox (*Pteropus scapulatus*) both periodically roost in Katherine.

These species are important to our natural environment as they disperse seeds and pollinate many native plant species.

The Parks and Wildlife Service in Katherine addresses issues related to flying-fox roosts in the Katherine region, including reducing human/flying-fox interaction within the town.





Reducing flying-fox roosting

Parks and Wildlife have initiated management practices to reduce the frequency of flying-foxes roosting in areas of high human habitation in the Katherine region, and to help the community learn to live with wildlife. Flying-foxes play an important role in creating a healthy ecosystem.

To decrease the impact of flying-foxes Parks and Wildlife undertake various activities, including:

- Encouraging residents to prune or lop favoured roosting trees such as the African mahogany.
- Encouraging tree lopping and pruning of preferred flying-fox roosting sites on public land around Katherine.
- Monitoring the habits and movement of little red flying-foxes.
- Educating the public on how to reduce potential flying-fox roosts around town, for example, alternative garden plants.
- Studying the behaviour of flying-foxes around high voltage structures fitted with various power-line protection devices.
- Collecting and caring for flying-foxes during relocation and pruning.

What you can do to help

- Prune or remove potential roosting trees such as large African mahoganies and tamarind trees in your garden.
- Plant species in your garden that do not encourage flying-foxes to roost. A recommended plant list is available from the Parks and Wildlife Katherine office or on the website at www.nt.gov.au/flyingfox

Do not handle flying-foxes

Flying-foxes are difficult to handle and only people previously vaccinated and trained in the care and rehabilitation of these animals should do so. If you find a sick or injured flying-fox contact the Parks and Wildlife Service on 8973 8888 or the Wildlife Rescue Service on 0412 955 336.



Australian Bat Lyssavirus (ABL)

ABL has been identified in several species of flying-fox, including the little red flying-fox and the black flying-fox.

The virus can be transmitted from flying-fox and bat saliva to humans via bites and scratches. ABL is not spread in flying-fox urine, blood or faeces and cannot survive outside of the animal's body for more than a few hours. ABL is not thought to live long in dead flying-foxes.

If you are scratched or bitten by a flying-fox, wash the wound thoroughly with soap under running water. Cover the wound and seek medical advice at your nearest hospital or clinic immediately. Before handling or caring for flying-foxes and bats, people should be vaccinated.

Fruit soiled by flying-fox urine or faeces should be washed before consumption.

For more information contact the Katherine Hospital - Centre for Disease Control on 8973 9049.