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## Amazing Species: Banana Bat

The **Banana Bat**, *Musonycteris harrisoni*, is listed as 'Vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species<sup>™</sup>. It has a relatively small distribution, occurring only in western Mexico in the states of Colima, Michoacán, Guerrero, Jalisco and Morelos. This species acts as a pollinator of the banana plant as it feeds on its flowers.

The Banana Bat's distinguishing feature is its elongated snout, or rostrum, which is the longest of any bat in relation to its width - hence it alternative name, the Trumpet-nosed Bat. It also has an extremely long tongue, measured to be over 76mm long. Banana Bats appear to be restricted to arid thorn and tropical deciduous forest; as one of the most endangered habitats in Mexico, due to the pressures of an increasing human population, loss of these forest areas is the main threat facing this species.

This bat is protected by Mexican law and is found in at least two protected areas. Recognized as important pollinators of bananas and other species of plants, it is critical that the remaining dry forests of western Mexico are protected to ensure the future survival of this species.









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