

# The Tongan flying fox *Pteropus tonganus*: status, public attitudes and conservation in the Cook Islands

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## Appendix 1

Flying fox questionnaire for adults

Name (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Gender Male  Female  (Please tick)

Age \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Address (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

1) What type of animal is the flying fox?

amphibian  bird  mammal  reptile  other  don't know

2) What does the flying fox eat?

birds  fruit  insects  leaves  flowers  other  don't know

3) How many flying foxes do you think live on Rarotonga/Mangaia?

\_\_\_\_\_

4) Other than Rarotonga/Mangaia are there any other islands or countries in which you can find the flying fox?

\_\_\_\_\_

5) Do you eat the flying fox?

yes, whenever they are available  yes, only for special occasions  never

If you never eat them, please explain why:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6) Are flying foxes a nuisance/danger on Rarotonga/Mangaia?

nuisance  danger  both  neither  don't know

If they are a nuisance or a danger then please explain how:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7) Have you gone flying fox hunting in the last year?

yes  no

IF YOUR ANSWER TO QUESTION 7 WAS **NO**, PLEASE MOVE ONTO **QUESTION 14**.

IF YOUR ANSWER WAS **YES**, PLEASE MOVE ONTO **QUESTION 8**.

8) How often do you go hunting?

regularly (every few weeks)  occasionally (every few months)  once or twice a year

9) How many flying foxes have you caught in the last full year?

\_\_\_\_\_

10) Would you have liked to have caught more?

yes  no

If yes, what limited the number you caught?

lack of bats  lack of time  other

11) Were the flying foxes you caught for your personal consumption?

yes  no

If no, please explain what you did with the flying foxes you killed:

\_\_\_\_\_

12) Do you have regular hunting places?

yes  no

If yes, please state hunting areas:

13) Is the long term survival of the flying fox something you think about when you go out hunting?

yes  no

14) Do you think that flying foxes are important to Rarotonga/Mangaia?

yes  no  don't know

If they are important, then why?

for food  for money  for the survival of other plants and animals

as a tourist attraction  as a feature of the island  other

15) Do you consider any of the following to be a threat/danger to the flying fox on Rarotonga/Mangaia? (Please tick the biggest threat)

hunting  not enough space to live  not enough food to eat  other  don't know

16) Would it upset you if the flying foxes disappeared from Rarotonga/Mangaia?

yes, a lot  yes, a little  no

Please explain your answer:

17) Have you noticed any change in the number of flying foxes on the island?

an increase  a decrease  no change  I wouldn't notice any change

18) Would you welcome hunting restrictions if there was evidence to suggest that flying fox numbers are decreasing?

yes  no

If yes, how would you suggest that hunting was regulated/controlled?

19) Would you encourage future generations to go hunting?

yes  no

20) Would you be interested in getting involved in any conservation projects on Rarotonga/Mangaia?

yes  no

If yes, what kind of projects would you be interested in doing?

If you have any further comments, please write them below:

## Appendix 2

Flying fox questionnaire for school children aged 12–16

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_

Male  Female

1) What type of animal do you think the flying fox is?

amphibian  bird  mammal  reptile  other  don't know

2) What does the flying fox eat?

birds  fruit  insects  leaves  flowers  other  don't know

3) How many flying foxes do you think live on Rarotonga/Mangaia?

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4) Other than Rarotonga/Mangaia are there any other islands or countries in which you can find the flying fox?

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5) Have you studied the flying fox in school?

yes, in detail  yes, a little  no

6) Would you like to learn more about the flying fox?

yes, much more  yes, a little  no

7) Have you eaten flying fox?

yes  no  don't know

8) Would you eat flying fox today if it was offered to you?

yes  no  don't know

Please explain your answer:

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9) Would you like to go flying fox hunting?

yes  no  don't know

Please explain your answer:

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10) Are flying foxes a nuisance/danger on Rarotonga/Mangaia?

nuisance  danger  both  neither  don't know

11) Do you think that flying foxes are important to Rarotonga/Mangaia?

yes  no  don't know

12) If they are important, then why?

for food  for money  for other plants and animals  other

13) Are there any threats/dangers to the flying fox on Rarotonga/Mangaia?

yes  no  don't know

14) If yes, what are these dangers?

hunting  hurricanes  not enough space to live  not enough food to eat  other

15) Would you be upset if the flying foxes disappeared from Rarotonga?

yes, greatly  yes, a little  no

Please explain your answer:

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16) Do you think that the number of flying foxes on Rarotonga/Mangaia should be monitored?

yes  no  don't know

17) If the number of flying foxes on Rarotonga/Mangaia became very low, do you think they should be protected from hunting?

yes  no  don't know

Please explain your answer:

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18) Would you be interested in working in the field of animal biology or conservation when you leave school?  
yes  no  don't know

19) If you have any further comments, please write them below:

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