

Vital Sign: Bats-USVI

[shortened name: Bats] Deferred

Parks Where Vital Sign will be Implemented:

BUIS, SARI, VIIS – Deferred due to insufficient funds

Justification/Issues being addressed: Bats-USVI ranked 39th among the 44 SFCN vital signs. Six bat species are the only native terrestrial mammals in the USVI. Although none are locally endemic, four are listed as "Species of Greatest Concern" in the Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy for the USVI. Their role in local plant pollination and effects on local insects and fish populations are unclear but could be important.

General Monitoring Questions to be addressed by the Vital Sign:

- What are the status and trends in bat species abundance and bat roosting locations including the red fruit bat, *Stenoderma rufum*, and the fisherman bat, *Noctilio leporinus*?

Measures:

Roost locations, roost population counts, relative activity levels

Basic Approach:

Deferred due to insufficient funding/staff time. If Virgin Islands National Park hires staff who can implement this monitoring, SFCN staff can assist in designing an appropriate monitoring protocol.

Principal Investigators/Key Contacts and NPS Lead:

N/A

Development schedule, budget, and expected interim products:

N/A