

Plants

[Red List statistics methodology](#)

[Summary of recent changes](#)
[Glossary](#) [Guidelines for EIAs](#)

[National Red List categories](#)

[Assessment](#)

Browse

[Home](#) >> [Genera: E](#) >> [Genus: Encephalartos](#)

- [Genera: A](#)
- [Genera: B](#)
- [Genera: C](#)
- [Genera: D](#)
- [Genera: E](#)
- [Genera: F](#)
- [Genera: G](#)
- [Genera: H](#)
- [Genera: I](#)
- [Genera: J](#)
- [Genera: K](#)
- [Genera: L](#)
- [Genera: M](#)
- [Genera: N](#)
- [Genera: O](#)
- [Genera: P](#)
- [Genera: Q](#)
- [Genera: R](#)
- [Genera: S](#)
- [Genera: T](#)
- [Genera: U](#)
- [Genera: V](#)
- [Genera: W](#)
- [Genera: X](#)
- [Genera: Y](#)
- [Genera: Z](#)

Ngotshe Cycad

Taxonomy

Scientific Name	Encephalartos aemulans Vorster
Higher Classification	Gymnosperms
Family	ZAMIACEAE
Common Names	Broodboom (a), Cycad (e), Ngotshe Cycad (e), Ngotshe broodboom (a)

National Status

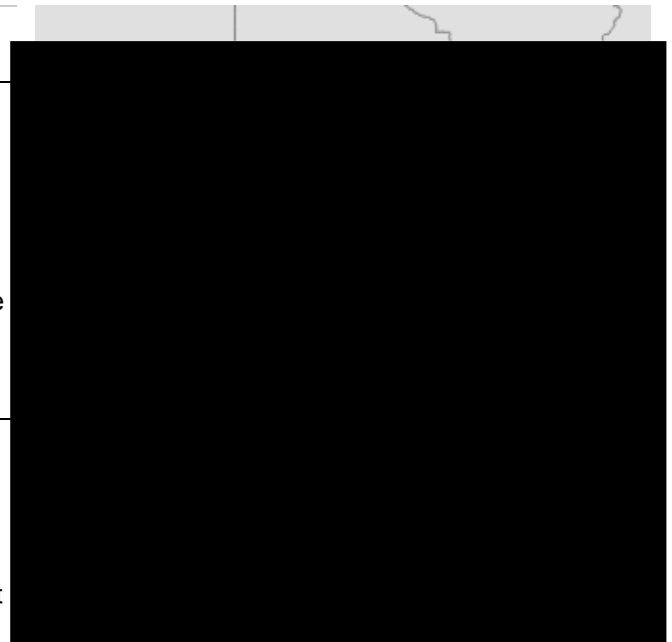
Status and Criteria	Critically Endangered B1ab(v)+2ab(v); C2a(ii)
Assessment Date	2009/10/31
Assessor(s)	J.S. Donaldson
Justification	Occurs almost completely at a single location (two males known from a second location). EOO 12 km ² , AOO 2 km ² . There are records of continued decline, and the landowner of the private nature reserve on which they occur believes that plants are still being removed. The population is believed to have declined substantially in the 1980s but the extent of decline is difficult to quantify. Scott-Shaw (1999) classified as EN, but in terms of AOO and EOO it qualifies as CR. Total wild population is 150-250 mature individuals.

Distribution

Endemism	South African endemic
Provincial distribution	KwaZulu-Natal
Range	Vryheid.

Habitat and Ecology

Major system	Terrestrial
Major habitats	Northern Zululand Sourveld
Description	South-facing sandstone cliffs in short grassland.



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Threats

This species' occurrence at a single site means the plants are vulnerable to environmental perturbations. Collecting has been a problem in the past although the bulk of the plants now occur within a private nature reserve. Collecting, however, still remains a problem.

Population

According to Scott-Shaw (1999), there were 150 plants surviving in the wild. Donaldson and co-workers counted <100 (in part of the population) in 1997, but unverified reports put the total at about 250 individuals. Active seedling regeneration is taking place. More than 90% of mature individuals occur in a single subpopulation on a hill slope on a privately owned farm, and two old male plants have been recorded about 10 km away.

Population trend Decreasing

Conservation

A large part of the population occurs within a private nature reserve. However the reserve is not secure against poachers and the owner believes that plants are still disappearing.

Assessment History

Taxon assessed	Status and Criteria	Citation/Red List version
Encephalartos aemulans Vorster	CR B1ab(v)+2ab(v); al. C1	Raimondo et al. (2009)
Encephalartos aemulans Vorster	EN B1B2cd,D1	Scott-Shaw (1999)
Encephalartos aemulans Vorster	Endangered	Hilton-Taylor (1996)

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Citation

Donaldson, J.S. 2009. *Encephalartos aemulans* Vorster. National Assessment: Red List of South African Plants version 2020.1. Accessed on 2021/10/15

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