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Waxen Cycad

Taxonomy

Scientific Name **Encephalartos cerinus**
Lavranos & D.L.Goode
Higher Classification Gymnosperms
Family ZAMIACEAE
Common Names Waxen Cycad (e)

National Status

Status and Criteria **Critically Endangered A2acd; B1ab(i,ii,iv,v)+2ab(i,ii,iv,v); C2a(i)**
Assessment Date 2009/10/31

Assessor(s) J.S. Donaldson
Justification The population declined rapidly by more than 80% after it was first described in 1998. The species continues to be targeted by collectors and some experts believe that very few plants remain. The population at the type locality is considered to be extinct, which means that it now occurs in a single subpopulation. Estimates of number of remaining plants vary from 10-70. EOO and AOO are 10 km².

Distribution

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

Habitat and Ecology

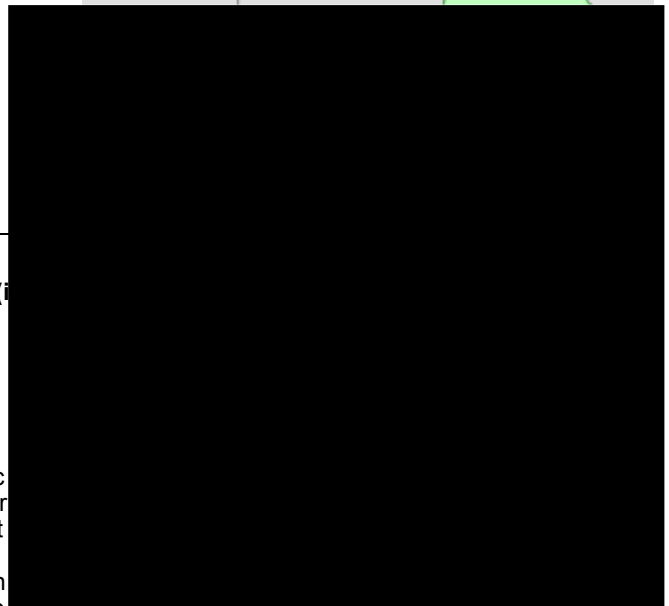
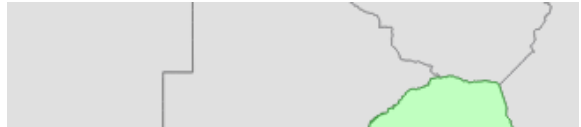
Major system Terrestrial
Major habitats Thukela Valley Bushveld
Description Dry, hot, east-facing cliffs in rocky grassland.

Threats

This species has been severely affected due to over-collection of plants from the wild for ornamental purposes. As a result, reproductive failure has become the most serious threat that this species is facing.

Population

Population numbers declined rapidly after it was first described in 1998. The species continues to be targeted by collectors and some experts believe that very few plants remain. The population at the type locality is considered to be extinct (D. Goode pers. comm.), which means that it now occurs in a single



subpopulation. Estimates of the number of remaining plants vary from 10-70, with some reports suggesting it may already be Extinct in the Wild.

Population trend Decreasing

Assessment History

Taxon assessed	Status and Criteria	Citation/Red List version
Encephalartos cerinus Lavranos & D.L.Goode	CR A2acd; B1ab(i,ii,iv,v)+2ab(i,ii,iv,v); al. C2a(ii)	Raimondo et al. (2009)
Encephalartos cerinus Lavranos & D.L.Goode	CR A1acd,B1B2abcde,C2	Scott-Shaw (1999)
Encephalartos cerinus Lavranos & D.L.Goode	Endangered	Hilton-Taylor (1996)

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Citation

Donaldson, J.S. 2009. *Encephalartos cerinus* Lavranos & D.L.Goode. National Assessment: Red List of South African Plants version 2020.1. Accessed on 2021/10/15

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