

## Plants

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## Drakensberg Cycad

### Taxonomy

<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Encephalartos ghellinckii Lem.</b>
<b>Higher Classification</b>	Gymnosperms
<b>Family</b>	ZAMIACEAE
<b>Common Names</b>	Broodboom (a), Cycad (e), Drakensberg Cycad (e), Drakensberg-broodboom (a), Isidawu (z), Mont-aux-sources Cycad (e), Umguza (x), Umphanga (x)

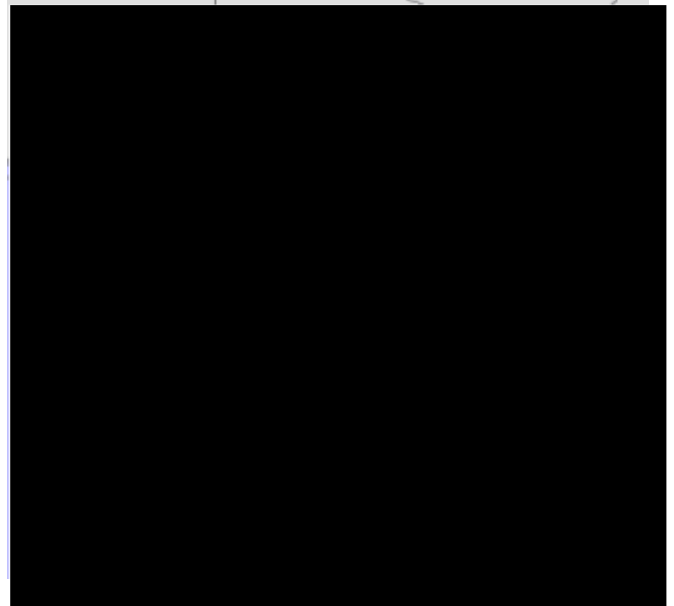
### National Status

<b>Status and Criteria</b>	<b>Vulnerable C1</b>
<b>Assessment Date</b>	2009/10/31
<b>Assessor(s)</b>	J.S. Donaldson
<b>Justification</b>	The population size estimated at less than 10 000 mature individuals with declines recorded in several subpopulations. Future decline is expected to exceed 10%, within a generation length of 30 years. Subpopulations on the lowlands are especially vulnerable to illegal collecting, whereas those at higher elevations are less accessible and thus at lower risk.

### Distribution

<b>Endemism</b>	South African endemic
<b>Provincial distribution</b>	Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal
<b>Range</b>	Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal Drakensberg Mountains.

### Habitat and Ecology



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<b>Major system</b>	Terrestrial
<b>Major habitats</b>	Mooi River Highland Grassland, Northern KwaZulu-Natal Moist Grassland, Southern KwaZulu-Natal Moist Grassland, Drakensberg Foothill Moist Grassland, uKhahlamba Basalt Grassland, Drakensberg-Amathole Afromontane Fynbos, Northern Drakensberg Highland Grassland, Pondoland-Ugu Sandstone Coastal Sourveld
<b>Description</b>	Rocky outcrops in montane grasslands, sandstone cliffs and associated with montane fynbos in the Drakensberg.

## Threats

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The major threat for this species is over-collecting for ornamental purposes. Too frequent fires may have an effect in certain subpopulations.

## Population

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The subpopulations are isolated, small (some with only a few plants) and widely scattered. The population size for *E. ghellinckii* is estimated to be less than 10 000 mature individuals and there has been recorded decline in several subpopulations. With a generation length of 30 years, future decline is expected to exceed 10%. Subpopulations occurring in lowland areas are especially vulnerable.

**Population trend** Decreasing

## Conservation

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Plants are protected in a national park and provincial nature reserve.

## Notes

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Restricted to the foothills of the Drakensberg and many populations fall within the nature reserves where it is presently protected and not yet threatened. Of all the South African cycad species, this is the slowest grower and most difficult to re-establish after the leaves and roots have been removed during transplanting.

## Assessment History

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Taxon	Status	Citation/Red
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<b>assessed</b>	<b>and Criteria</b>	<b>List version</b>
Encephalartos ghellinckii Lem.	<b>VU C1</b>	Raimondo et al. (2009)
Encephalartos ghellinckii Lem.	<b>Lower Risk - Least Concern</b>	Scott-Shaw (1999)
Encephalartos ghellinckii Lem.	<b>Vulnerable</b>	Hilton-Taylor (1996)
Encephalartos ghellinckii Lem.	<b>Vulnerable</b>	Hall et al. (1980)

## Bibliography

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## Citation

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