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Lydenburg Cycad

Taxonomy

Scientific Name	Encephalartos inopinus R.A.Dyer
Higher Classification	Gymnosperms
Family	ZAMIACEAE
Common Names	Broodboom (a), Cycad (e), Lydenburg Cycad (e), Lydenburg-broodboom Mofaka (ns)

National Status

Status and Criteria	Critically Endangered A2acd; B1ab(i,ii,iv,v)+2ab(i,ii,iv,v); C1+2
Assessment Date	2009/10/31

Assessor(s)	J.S. Donaldson
Justification	EOO 50 km ² , AOO 7 km ² , this species is popular with collectors and has declined by over 80% over the past 30 years. Individuals occur as small fragmented subpopulations. Conservation officials recorded 677 plants in 1992 and only 81 in 2004. Subsequent ground surveys indicate further decline and even possible extinction in the wild.

Distribution

Endemism	South African endemic
Provincial distribution	Limpopo
Range	Steelpoort and Olifants River valleys.

Habitat and Ecology

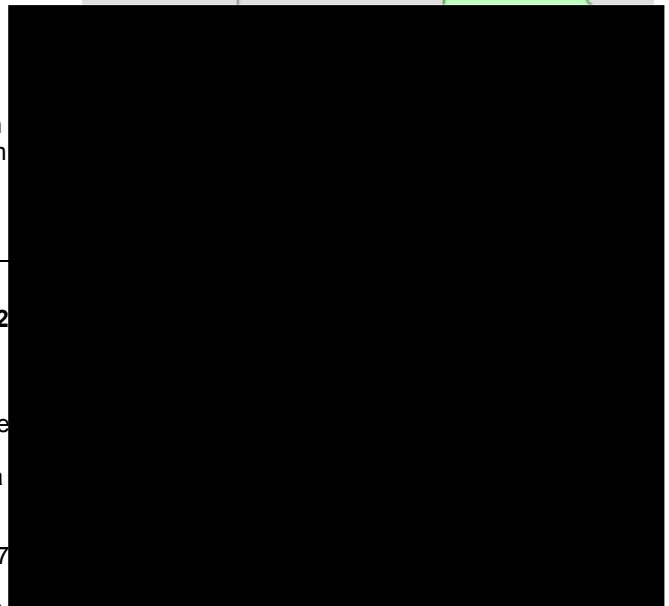
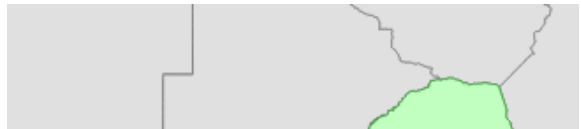
Major system	Terrestrial
Major habitats	Poung Dolomite Mountain Bushveld
Description	Shallow soils on steep, rocky slopes and gorges, restricted to dolomite.

Threats

This species has suffered much from the activities of collectors and in addition, large troops of baboons damage immature cones and this could explain the absence of seedlings.

Population

E. inopinus has always been popular with collectors and has declined substantially over the past 30 years. Conservation officials recorded 677 plants in 1992 and only 81 in 2004. Subsequent ground surveys indicate further decline and even possible extinction in the wild.



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Population trend Decreasing

Assessment History

Taxon assessed	Status and Criteria	Citation/Red List version
Encephalartos inopinus R.A.Dyer	CR A2acd; B1ab(i,ii,iv,v)+2ab(i,ii,iv,v); al. C1+2a(i)	Raimondo et al. (2009)
Encephalartos inopinus R.A.Dyer	Endangered	Hilton-Taylor (1996)
Encephalartos inopinus R.A.Dyer	Endangered	Hall et al. (1980)

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Citation

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