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Red List of South African Plants

Search the Red List
Search

Red List statistics | Summary of recent changes | National Red List categories | Assessment methodology | Glossary | Guidelines for EIAs

Browse

- 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

Kaapsehoop Cycad

Taxonomy

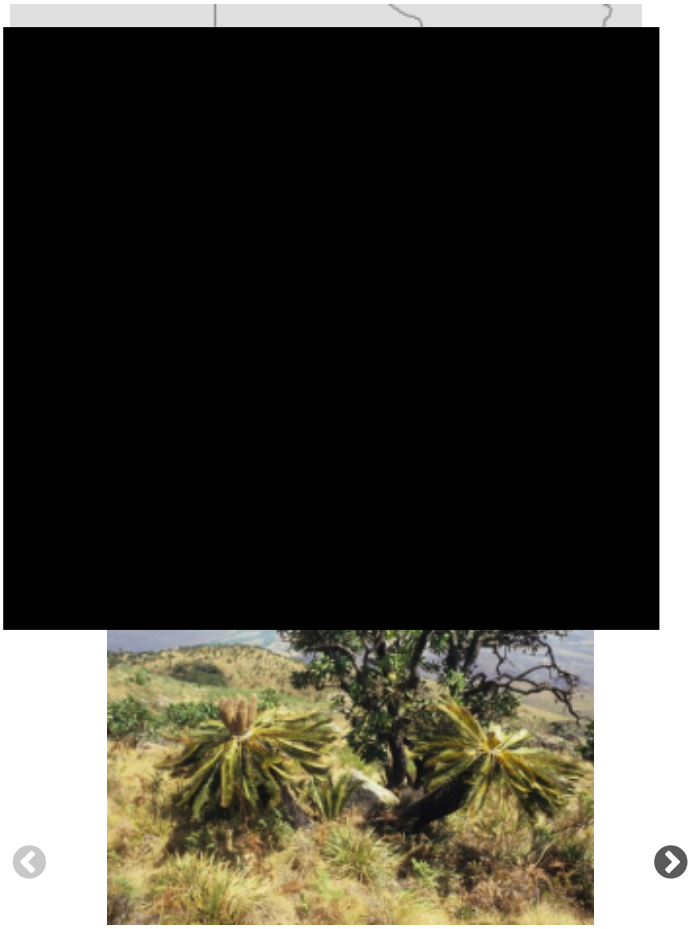
Scientific Name	**Encephalartos laevifolius Stapf & Burtt Davy**
Higher Classification	Gymnosperms
Family	ZAMIACEAE
Common Names	Broodboom (a), Cycad (e), Kaapsehoop Cycad (e), Kaapsehoop-broodboom (a)

National Status

Status and Criteria	**Critically Endangered A2acde**
Assessment Date	2009/10/31
Assessor(s)	J.S. Donaldson
Justification	Subpopulations across the range have declined substantially. Dramatic declines have been recorded at Kaapsehoop, all subpopulations in Limpopo province are now extinct, and the subpopulation on Mariepskop is virtually extinct. Where it has been monitored, decline has exceeded 80%. All subpopulations are also affected by a fusarium fungus that attacks the cones so that no viable seeds are produced.

Distribution

Endemism	Not endemic to South Africa
Provincial distribution	Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga
Range	Restricted to high mountain peaks in eastern Mpumalanga and parts of Swaziland. Locally extinct in



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Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal and Pondoland.

Habitat and Ecology

Major system	Terrestrial
Major habitats	Northern Escarpment Quartzite Sourveld
Description	Steep, rocky slopes in mistbelt grassland, 1300-1500 m.

Threats

Signs of stem harvesting for traditional medicine have been observed. Some evidence of plant pathogens have been reported. In addition, E. laevifolius is threatened due to habitat loss caused by alien invasive plants and timber plantations. This species has also been drastically affected by over-collecting for ornamental purposes. All populations are also affected by a fusarium fungus that attacks the cones so that no viable seeds are produced.

Population

This formerly widespread cycad has declined extensively across its range, and it is now locally extinct in Limpopo and KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape. Over 80% declines have been recorded in monitored subpopulations. It is estimated that only between 700 and 820 mature individuals remain in a few scattered localities in Mpumalanga and Swaziland.

Population trend	Decreasing

Conservation

Plants occur in four nature reserves in Mpumalanga an Swaziland.

Assessment History

Taxon assessed	Status and Criteria	Citation/Red List version
Encephalartos laevifolius Stapf & Burtt Davy	**CR** A2acde	Raimondo et al. (2009)
Encephalartos laevifolius Stapf & Burtt Davy	**EN** B1B2abcd	Scott-Shaw (1999)
Encephalartos laevifolius Stapf & Burtt Davy	**Endangered**	Hilton-Taylor (1996)
Encephalartos laevifolius Stapf & Burtt Davy	**Endangered**	Hall et al. (1980)

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Citation

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