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## Msinga Cycad

### Taxonomy

<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Encephalartos msinganus</b> <b>Vorster</b>
<b>Higher Classification</b>	Gymnosperms
<b>Family</b>	ZAMIACEAE
<b>Common Names</b>	Broodboom (a), Cycad (e), Msinga Cycad (e), Msinga-broodboom (a)

### National Status

<b>Status and Criteria</b>	<b>Critically Endangered</b> <b>B1ab(iii,v)+2ab(iii,v); C1+2a(ii)</b>
<b>Assessment Date</b>	2009/10/31
<b>Assessor(s)</b>	J.S. Donaldson
<b>Justification</b>	EOO 2 km <sup>2</sup> , AOO 0.5 km <sup>2</sup> , known from a single small location and recorded as declining by Scott-Shaw (1999). There are also fewer than 250 plants in the wild and most of the plants occur in one subpopulation. Based on general illegal trade in rare cycads, it is estimated that over 25% of the remaining plants could be removed within the next 30 years.

### Distribution

<b>Endemism</b>	South African endemic
<b>Provincial distribution</b>	KwaZulu-Natal
<b>Range</b>	Msinga.

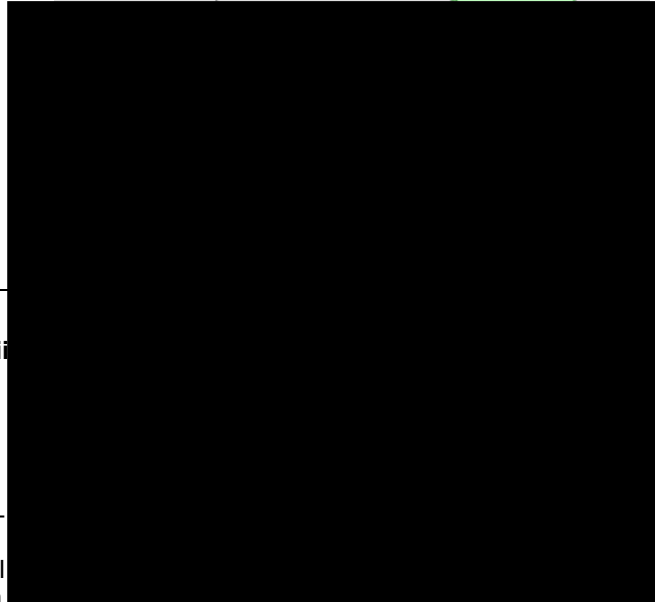
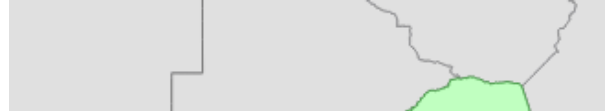
### Habitat and Ecology

<b>Major system</b>	Terrestrial
<b>Major habitats</b>	KwaZulu-Natal Highland Thornveld
<b>Description</b>	Grasslands, occurs on steep, north-facing slopes, usually among boulders.

### Threats

*E. msinganus* is severely threatened due to poaching for ornamental purposes. Small cycad populations often experience reproductive failure and it is expected to occur in *E. msinganus*. Habitat destruction is also a general problem in the area.

### Population



The population size of *E. msinganus* was estimated as 100-200 mature individuals. Recent reports (Hurter 2008) suggest that only scattered individuals survive in nature. Plants occur in scattered small clumps along a single ridge.

**Population trend** Decreasing

### Assessment History

Taxon assessed	Status and Criteria	Citation/Red List version
Encephalartos msinganus Vorster	<b>CR</b> B1ab(iii,v)+2ab(iii,v); al. C1+2a(ii)	Raimondo et al. (2009)
Encephalartos msinganus Vorster	<b>EN</b> A1,B1B2abcde,D1	Scott-Shaw (1999)
Encephalartos msinganus Vorster	<b>Endangered</b>	Hilton-Taylor (1996)

### Bibliography

Donaldson, J.S. 2003. Cycads. Status survey and conservation action plan. IUCN/SSC Cycad Specialist Group, Gland, Switzerland; Cambridge, UK.

Hilton-Taylor, C. 1996. Red data list of southern African plants. *Strelitzia* 4. South African National Botanical Institute, Pretoria.

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Raimondo, D., von Staden, L., Foden, W., Victor, J.E., Helme, N.A., Turner, R.C., Kamundi, D.A. and Manyama, P.A. 2009. Red List of South African Plants. *Strelitzia* 25. South African National Biodiversity Institute, Pretoria.

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### Citation

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