

Plants

[Red List statistics methodology](#)

[Summary of recent changes](#)
[Glossary](#)
[Guidelines for EIAs](#)

[National Red List categories](#)

[Assessment](#)

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](#)

[Home](#) >> [Genera: E](#) >> [Genus: Encephalartos](#)

Blue Cycad

Taxonomy

Scientific Name	Encephalartos nubimontanus P.J.H.Hurter
Higher Classification	Gymnosperms
Family	ZAMIACEAE
Synonyms	Encephalartos venetus Vorster
Common Names	Blue Cycad (e)

National Status

Status and Criteria	Extinct in the Wild
Assessment Date	2009/10/31
Assessor(s)	J.S. Donaldson
Justification	Surveys conducted in Limpopo province show a decline from 66 plants in the 1990s, to eight plants in 2001 and no recorded plants in 2004. As with other cycad species in Limpopo province it was mostly impacted by illegal collecting.

Distribution

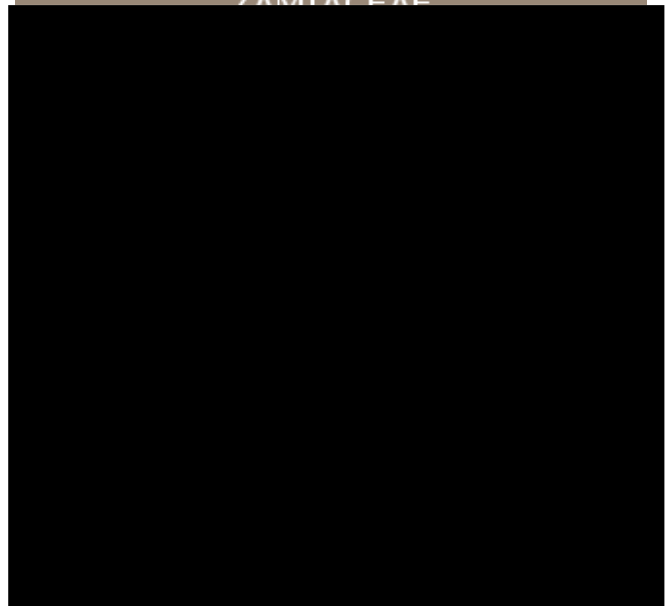
Endemism	South African endemic
Provincial distribution	Limpopo
Range	Formerly occurred in the Mountains north of Penge.

Habitat and Ecology

Major system	Terrestrial
Major habitats	Grassland
Description	Steep cliffs in low open woodland.

Threats

ZAMIACEAE



Search for images of *Encephalartos nubimontanus* on [iNaturalist](#)

Like other cycad species in Limpopo province, *E. nubimontanus* was mostly impacted by illegal collecting.

Population

The population size of *E. nubimontanus* was originally estimated to be 50-100 mature individuals, but the known subpopulations were extirpated by collectors. Surveys conducted in Limpopo province show a decline from 66 plants in the 1990s, to 8 plants in 2001 and no recorded plants in 2004.

Population trend Decreasing

Conservation

Distribution area falls within part of a provincial nature reserve, but no wild plants are known to remain there.

Assessment History

Taxon	Status and Criteria	Citation/Red List version
Encephalartos nubimontanus P.J.H.Hurter	Extinct in the Wild	Raimondo et al. (2009)
Encephalartos nubimontanus P.J.H.Hurter	Endangered	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.

Hurter, J. and Claassen, I. 1996. Focus on *Encephalartos nubimontanus*. *Encephalartos* 45:4-11.

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.

Citation

Donaldson, J.S. 2009. *Encephalartos nubimontanus* P.J.H.Hurter. National Assessment: Red List of South African Plants version 2020.1. Accessed on 2021/10/15

 [Comment on this assessment](#)

(c) South African National Biodiversity Institute (**SANBI**) 2010-12.