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Red List of South African Plants

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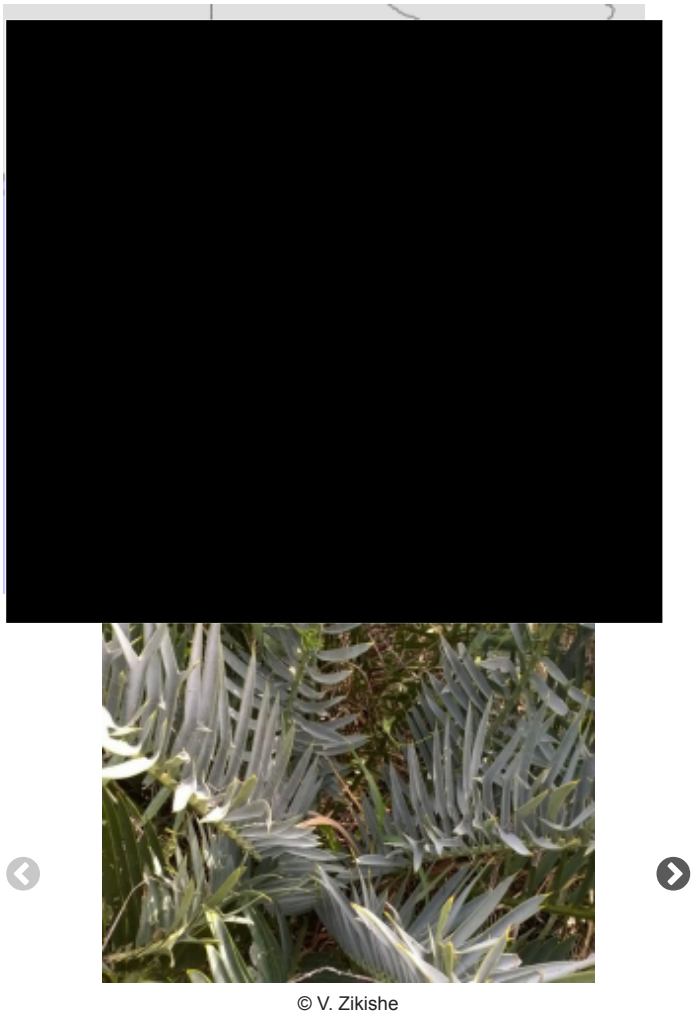
Bushman's River Cycad

Taxonomy

Scientific Name	**Encephalartos trispinosus (Hook.) R.A.Dyer**
Higher Classification	Gymnosperms
Family	ZAMIACEAE
Common Names	Bushman's River Cycad (e)

National Status

Status and Criteria	**Vulnerable A2cd**
Assessment Date	2009/10/31
Assessor(s)	J.S. Donaldson
Justification	There has been at least a 30% decline in subpopulations due to habitat alteration and collecting since the 1950s, based on repeat photographs and monitoring data. Subpopulations have declined in the Bushmans and Kariega River valleys due to collecting and land use and in the Helspoort area northwest of Grahamstown due to heavy grazing.



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Distribution

Endemism	South African endemic
Provincial distribution	Eastern Cape
Range	Albany, Bathurst, Fort Beaufort and Peddie districts.

Habitat and Ecology

Major system	Terrestrial
Major habitats	Grahamstown Grassland Thicket, Fish

	Valley Thicket, Albany Valley Thicket, Albany Mesic Thicket, Albany Bontveld, Albany Arid Thicket
Description	Arid low succulent shrubland on rocky ridges and slopes.

Threats

Over-collecting and habitat degradation due to overgrazing (subpopulations are mostly on farmland) is causing ongoing decline of the population.

Population

There has been at least a 30% decline in populations due to habitat alteration and collecting since the 1950s, based on repeat photographs and monitoring of populations. Between five and 10 remaining subpopulations are known, however, this low-growing species occurs in dense, spiny thicket vegetation and the population is therefore difficult to survey. Surveyed subpopulations consisted of between 300 and 400 mature individuals, but many plants may have been overlooked.

Population trend	Decreasing

Conservation

Protected within three nature reserves in the Eastern Cape.

Assessment History

Taxon assessed	Status and Criteria	Citation/Red List version
Encephalartos trispinosus (Hook.) R.A.Dyer	**VU** A4cd; C1+2a(i)	Raimondo et al. (2009)
Encephalartos trispinosus (Hook.) R.A.Dyer	**Vulnerable**	Hilton-Taylor (1996)
Encephalartos trispinosus (Hook.) R.A.Dyer	**Vulnerable**	Hall et al. (1980)

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Citation

Donaldson, J.S. 2009. Encephalartos trispinosus (Hook.) R.A.Dyer. National Assessment: Red List of South African Plants version 2020.1. Accessed on 2021/10/15

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