

Plants

[Red List statistics methodology](#)

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

[National Red List categories](#)

[Assessment](#)

Browse

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

- [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](#)

Zululand Cycad

Taxonomy

Scientific Name	Encephalartos ferox G.Bertol.
Higher Classification	Gymnosperms
Family	ZAMIACEAE
Synonyms	Encephalartos kosiensis Hutch.
Common Names	Broodboom (a), Cycad (e), Maputaland Cycad (e), Maputaland-broodboom (a), Tongaland Cycad (e), Tongaland-broodboom (a), Utobani (z), Zululand Cycad (e)

National Status

Status and Criteria	Near Threatened A4d
Assessment Date	2012/04/17
Assessor(s)	J.S. Donaldson
Justification	This widespread and common species is declining due to increasing collecting pressure as well as habitat destruction and population reduction is projected to be nearing 30% within three generations (generation length 30 years).

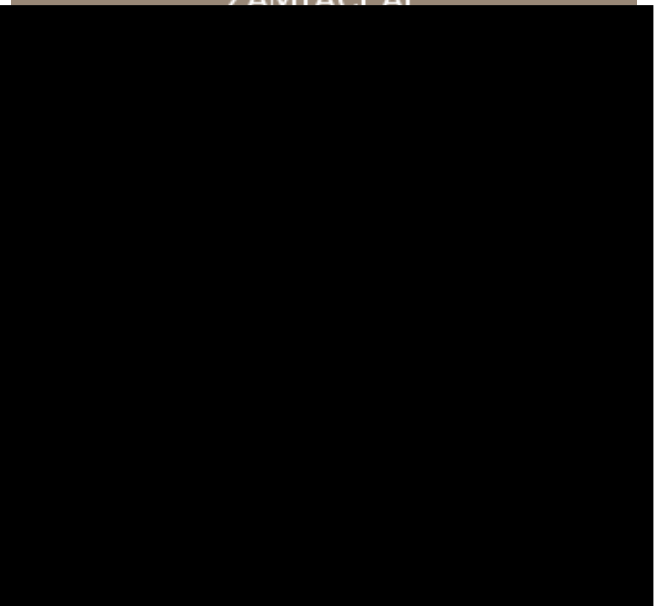
Distribution

Endemism	Not endemic to South Africa
Provincial distribution	KwaZulu-Natal
Range	Southern Mozambique to northern KwaZulu-Natal.

Habitat and Ecology

Major system	Terrestrial
Major habitats	Forest, Indian Ocean Coastal Belt
Description	Evergreen coastal forest to dense coastal scrub and deep sands of old coastal

ZAMIACEAE



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

dune systems, as well as open grassland.

Threats

The major threats affecting this species include over-collecting for ornamental purposes and habitat destruction due to current and future coastal developments and for agricultural purposes.

Population

Encephalartos ferox is a locally common species and many large subpopulations are known. However, despite the species being protected, reports show that large numbers of plants have been removed from the wild in Mozambique, and that South Africa has experienced a recent increase in poaching (B. Church pers. comm.). Due to the combination of illegal collecting and habitat destruction it is estimated that population reduction is nearing 30% within three generations (generation length 30 years).

Population trend Decreasing

Conservation

Populations are present in a number of nature reserves in northern KwaZulu-Natal.

Assessment History

Taxon assessed	Status and Criteria	Citation/Red List version
<i>Encephalartos ferox</i> G.Bertol.	Least Concern	2011.1
<i>Encephalartos ferox</i> G.Bertol.	Least Concern	Raimondo et al. (2009)
<i>Encephalartos ferox</i> G.Bertol.	Lower Risk - Conservation Dependent	Scott-Shaw (1999)
<i>Encephalartos ferox</i> G.Bertol.	Vulnerable	Hilton-Taylor (1996)
<i>Encephalartos ferox</i> G.Bertol.	Vulnerable	Hall et al. (1980)

Bibliography

Boon, R. 2010. Pooley's Trees of eastern South Africa. Flora and Fauna Publications Trust, Durban.

Hall, A.V., De Winter, M., De Winter, B. and Van Oosterhout, S.A.M. 1980. Threatened plants of southern Africa. South African National Scientific Programmes Report 45. CSIR, Pretoria.

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

African National Botanical Institute,
Pretoria.

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.

Scott-Shaw, C.R. 1999. Rare and
threatened plants of KwaZulu-Natal and
neighbouring regions. KwaZulu-Natal
Nature Conservation Service,
Pietermaritzburg.

Citation

Donaldson, J.S. 2012. *Encephalartos
ferox* G.Bertol. 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.