



# Species

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## 2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat







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### Mission statement

The Cycad Specialist Group (CSG) exists to bring together the world's cycad conservation expertise and disseminate this expertise to organisations and agencies which can use this guidance to advance cycad conservation.

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### Projected impact 2021–2025

In this quadrennium, the Cycad Specialist Group will impact on cycad species conservation by: (1) ensuring that no cycad becomes extinct through enhancing assurance colonies for Critically Endangered and Extinct in the Wild species; (2) increasing population numbers of target Critically Endangered species as part of a process to improve their conservation status from Critically Endangered to Endangered; (3) working to reverse pollinator extinctions which will also potentially change the conservation status of three Critically Endangered species, and (4) securing habitat for species and effectively protecting these sites from habitat loss and illegal collecting of plants.

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### Targets 2021–2025

#### ASSESS

**T-003** Update Red List and Red List Index for all species described up to 2020.

Status: Achieved

**T-009** Assess newly described taxa.

Status: Not initiated

**T-010** Improve the evidence base for cycad conservation and management.

Status: Achieved

#### PLAN

**T-006** Identify priority sites for cycad conservation.

Status: On track

#### ACT

**T-004** Enhance the percentage of Extinct in the Wild and Critically Endangered - 8.33.8 3206 Tw 898 000 018 21 20 8.33.8 3206 28.2 (n.4236

outstanding assessments are for 12 East  
African species where assessments by the



*Zamia decumbens* in habitat  
Photo: Michael Calonje



*Zamia encephalartoides* in habitat.  
Photo: Michael Calonje

six widely separated localities. In order to identify relationships between plants from different localities RADSeq analyses have been undertaken to guide the establishment and management of assurance colonies and for planning recovery actions. Sampling and initial analyses have also been completed for *Encephalartos latifrons*. This taxon comprises ca. 70 mature plants distributed across three widely separated localities. Conservation genetic assessments have been published for *Cycas bifida*, *Cycas micholitzii* and *Dioon holmgrenii*.

**T-008** . . . . . (KSR 10)

Number of areas under management for the species or group of species: 3

Result description: An area of ca. 4,000 ha, where the major portion of *Encephalartos eugene-maraisii* (EN) occurs, was secured for conservation and has been incorporated into the management plan for a larger conservation area in the Waterberg Mountains of South Africa. A core population of *E. latifrons* (CR) is now part of an established private reserve with a recovery plan. The implementation of the plan has resulted in a population increase of >300 plants. At this stage, these are primarily juveniles, but the plan includes actions to speed up recovery to achieve >250 mature plants within 10 years. The Cycad Specialist Group worked with the Selati Wilderness Foundation and the Limpopo Province conservation authorities to further secure the single site where *Encephalartos dyerianus* (CR) occurs. This site was previously guarded against poaching by government-funded rangers whose later absence

led to a spike in poaching incidents. The SWF obtained an IUCN SOS grant for one year and the CSG and SWF are working together to develop longer-term(i)-150nto

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