

Cycad conservation

A Provincial perspective



History overview

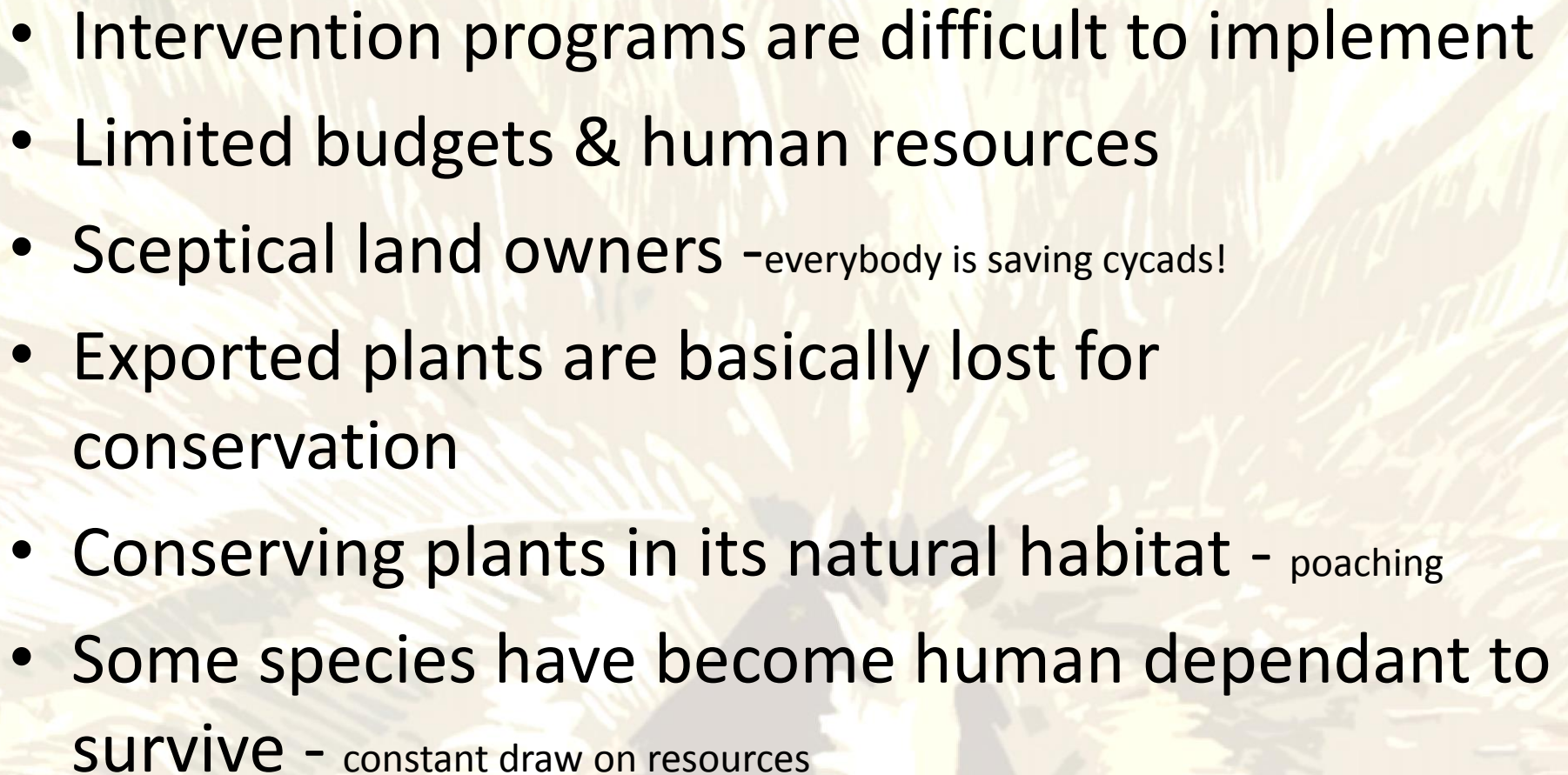
- 1800-1960's Good honest botany
- 1960's acts, laws and ordinances
- 1970's awareness and surveys
- 1980's surveys, monitoring and splitting species
- 1990's re-establishing plants and micro chips
- 2000's wholesale poaching and new acts
- 2010's missing populations , more acts

“... strict adherence to all conservation measures must be realised by all cycad enthusiasts if these plants are to survive. ” –David L. Jones

Challenges

- Critically small populations
- Male /Female ratios distorted
- Age class distorted
- Increased and continuous poaching
- Slow growing of cycads
- Limited or no access to plants for conservation

“Whether these remarkable plants will survive man's greedis debatable “ –David L. Jones

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- Intervention programs are difficult to implement
 - Limited budgets & human resources
 - Sceptical land owners - everybody is saving cycads!
 - Exported plants are basically lost for conservation
 - Conserving plants in its natural habitat - poaching
 - Some species have become human dependant to survive - constant draw on resources

Conservation principles

- Ultimately cycads can only be conserved in its natural habitat
- It's a long term process500yrs+
- No longer possible to save all forms, rather the sp.
- Protected areas are still key to survival of spp.
- Land owners attitude is paramount
- Laws still are important
- Propagation and collections are temporary stepping stones with window periods
- The real value of a species is its survival

“.....preserve the cycads in their natural habitats together with all their interactions.” - Knut Norstog

Solutions

- **Breeding colonies/gene banks**- Seed must be available for priority species
- **Recovery programs** -Re-establish, strengthen, introduce etc.
- **Partnerships with land owners**- Recovery programs
- **Arrest the illegal trade** – improve legal processes and develop technology
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“the conservation framework needs must be realistic within the context of the social and economic driving forces that influence trade...” - John Donaldson

Collaboration with industry

- **Raise the standard** – code of ethics of cycad society Hold perpetrators accountable.
- **Model the new comers**
- **Develop a conservation mentality** - will what you do contribute to the long time survival of cycads?
- **Make plants available for recovery programs**
- **Keep a stud book** - is heenan seed available and where?

....."the future of cycads probably lies largely in the self-imposed discipline of the 'cycadophile' community ". - Douglas Good