

Conservation status & Trends in SA

Round Table Discussion on Cycads

Inyathi Park – Offices of the SAHGCA
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DEA



Presentation Outline

- Introduction
- Conservation Status and Trends Internationally and in SA
- NEMBA and BMPs
- Government programmes - cycads conservation



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Introduction

- Cycads:
 - Most threatened taxonomic group globally
 - many species facing extinction in the wild - direct result of human activities
 - traded both locally & internationally
- Globally - 308 species of Cycads
 - 38 species occurs in SA
 - 29 (76%) are endemic to SA



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Introduction (Cont...)

- Cycads:
 - 30% of South African cycads - CE compared to the
 - 17% global average
 - 4 Extinct in the Wild - South Africa is home to 3 species
 - *Encephalartos brevifoliolatus*
 - *Encephalartos nubimontanus*
 - *Encephalartos woodii*
 - 12 species - CR
 - 10 species - VU



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Introduction (Cnt)

- Cycads:
 - majority are listed under NEMBA – ToPS (Current and Under Review)
 - SA government's policies favours sustainable use of natural resources by supporting legal trade which does not have negative impacts on wild populations



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Conservation Status and Trends Internationally and in SA

- **IUCN Cycad Assessments:**

- 1997 – Old IUCN system of categories and criteria
 - Cycads and conifers are the only plant groups to have been globally assessed
- 2003- IUCN 2001 categories and criteria
- 2010- IUCN 2001 categories and criteria
 - Cycads are the only plant group to have been assessed twice



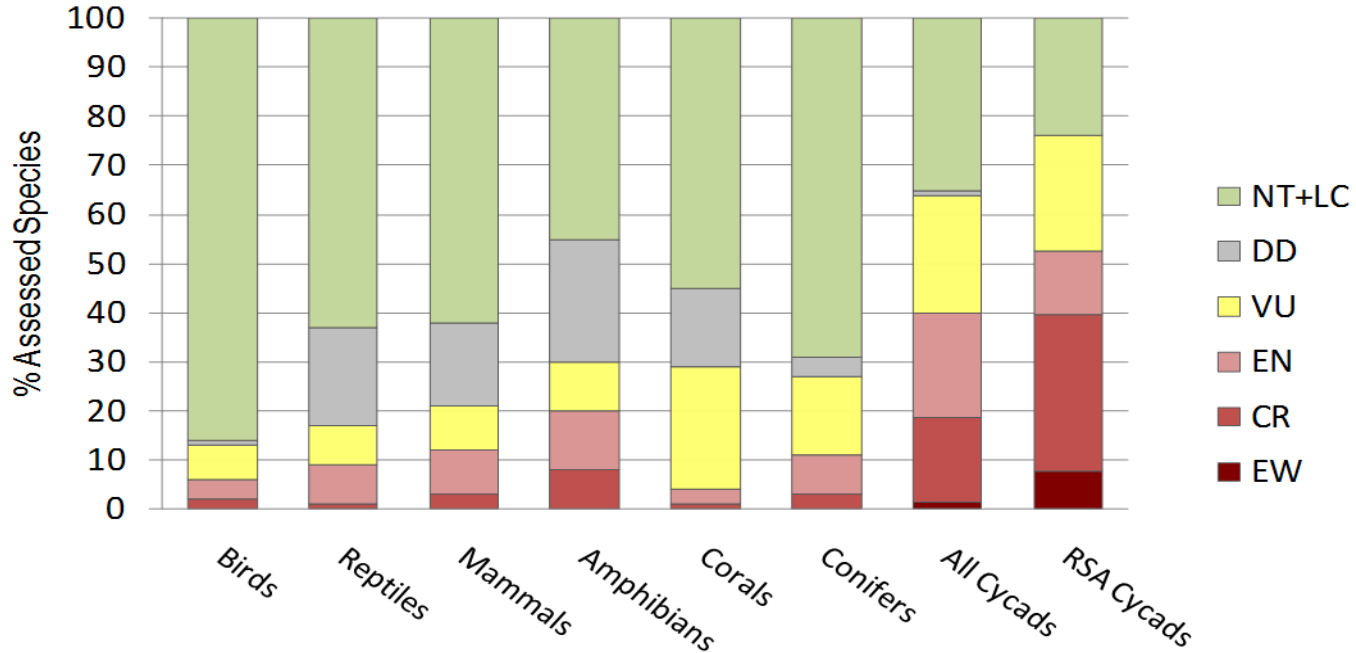
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Results of Global Assessment

Comparative threat status of different plant and animal groups based on latest global IUCN data (2010 or earlier)
(Source: Hoffman et al 2010, Science)



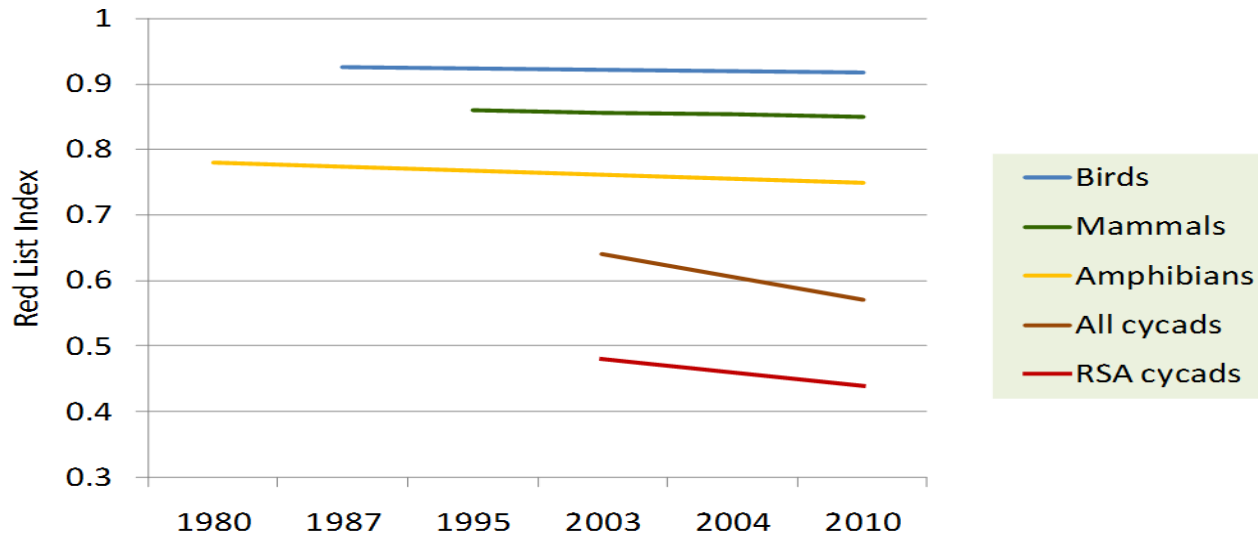
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Red List Index for Global Groups

Red List Index values for several major taxa that have been assessed using IUCN categories of threat (data from Hoffmann et al 2010 and Donaldson unpublished data)

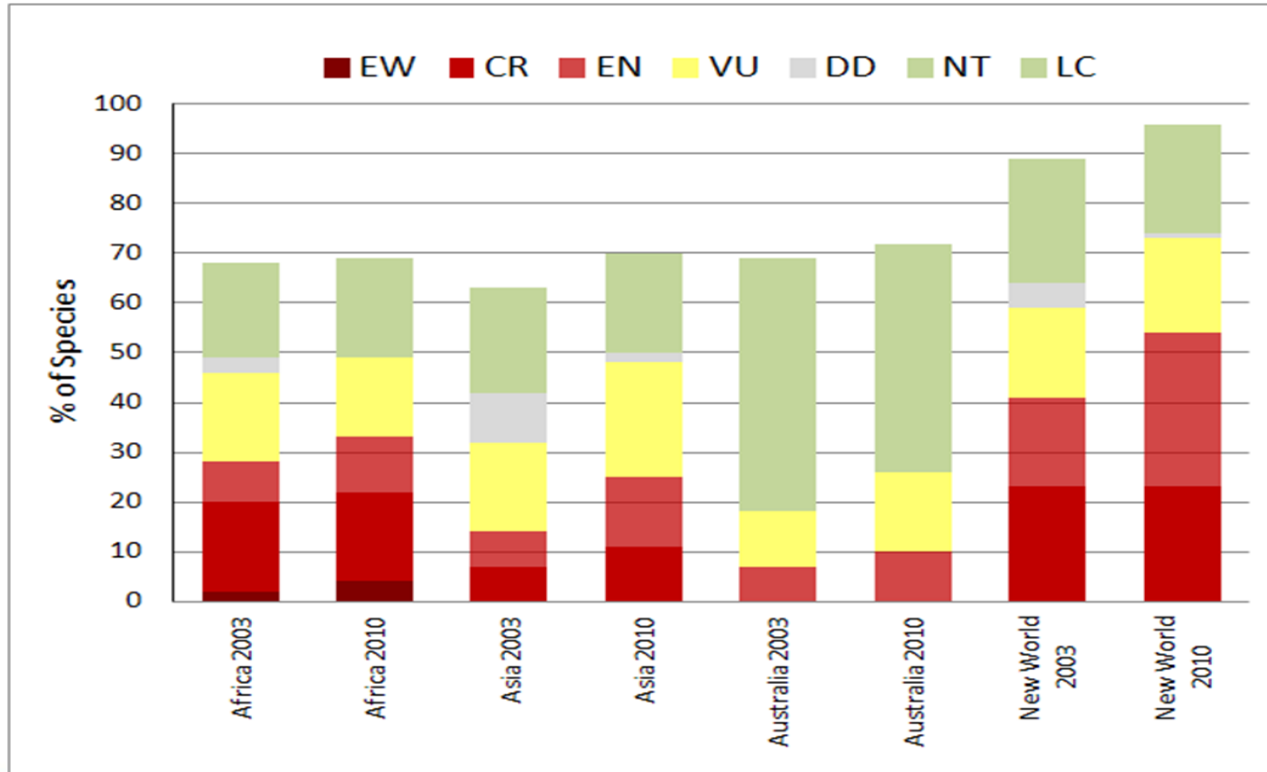


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Change in Status by Region

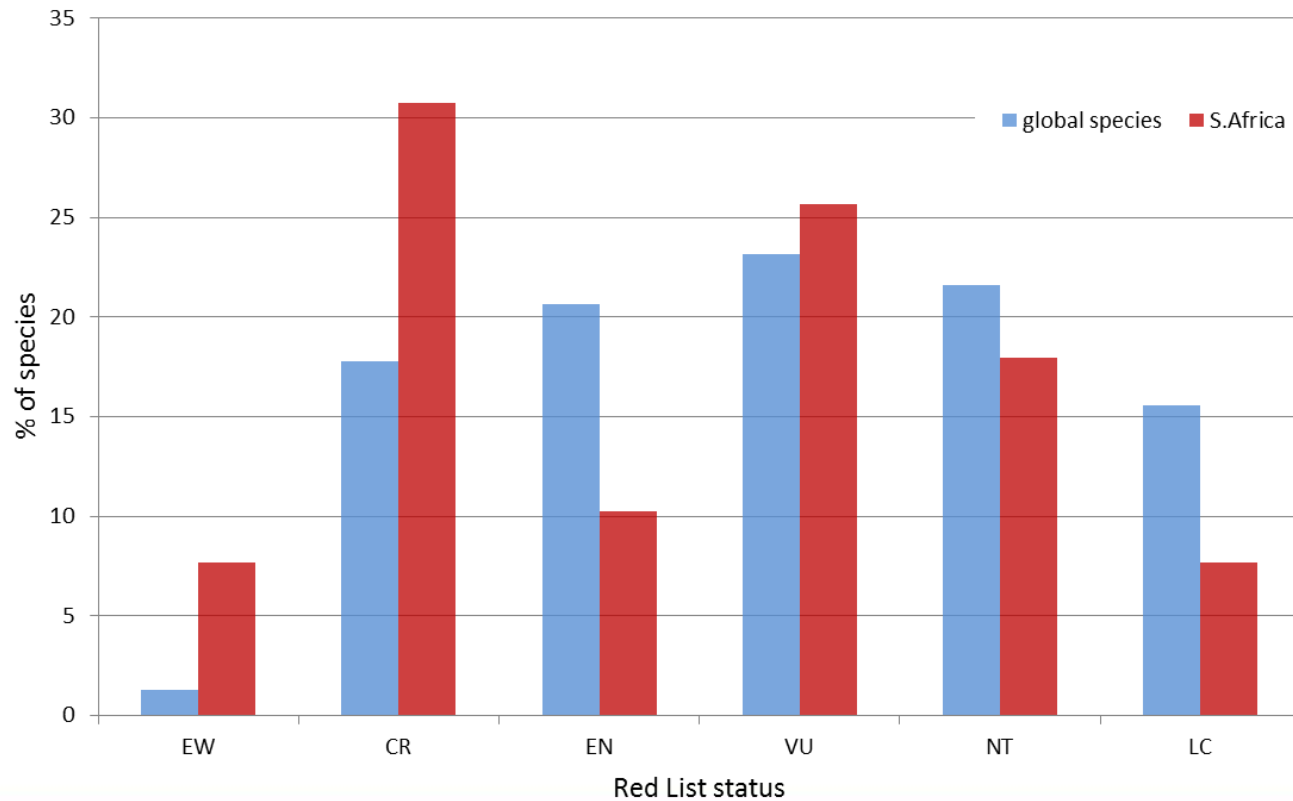


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South Africa in Global Context



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Causes of Decline

- Globally
 - Habitat loss (60%)
 - Collection (30%)
 - Biological Invasion (5%)
 - Traditional use(5%)
- South Africa
 - Collection (80%)
 - Traditional use(30%)
 - Habitat loss (5%)
 - Biological invasions (5%)



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NEMBA and BMPs

- In terms of Section 9(1) of the NEMBA, the Minister may, by notice in the Gazette
- (a) issue N&S for the achievement of any of the objectives of this Act, including for the
 - (i) management and conservation of South Africa's biological diversity and its components
 - (ii) restriction of activities which impact on biodiversity and its components; and
- (b) set indicators to measure compliance with those N&S



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NEMBA and BMPs (Cont...)

- N&S - Gazetted in March 2009
- The purpose - to provide a national approach and minimum standards for the development of BMP-S
- Since March 2009 - approximately 19 MBP-S in different stages implementation and development
 - 5 - being implemented
 - 14 different stages of development



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BMP – S database

No	Scientific Name	Common Name	Conservation Status	Lead Developing Agent	Implementing Agent	Status of BMP
1	Encephalartos latifrons	Albany Cycad	TOPS Critically Endangered	Eastern Cape Province & SANBI	Eastern Cape Province	Being Implemented
2	Diceros bicornis	Black Rhino	TOPS-- Endangered	Rhino Management Group (RMG)	RMG	Being Implemented
3	Pelargonium sidoides	Umkaloaba/ Pelargonium	Red List--Least Concern	Members of the Pelargonium Working Group	Eastern Cape & Free State Provinces	Being Implemented
4	Spheniscus demersus	African Penguin	IUCN--Endangered	DEA: Oceans & Coast Branch & CapeNature	DEA: Oceans & Coast Branch & CapeNature	Being Implemented
6	Gypaetus barbatus meridionalis	Bearded Vulture	TOPS--Endangered	EKZN Wildlife	EKZN Wildlife	Being Implemented
7	Ceratotherium simum	White Rhino	TOPS Protected	Rhino Management Group	Rhino Management Group	Finalised for public participation
8	Panthera Leo	African Lion	TOPS--VULnerable	DEA: Conservation Management	DEA: Conservation Management	Being developed
9	Labeo seeberi	Clanwilliam Sandfish	Tops--endangered	Freshwater Consulting Group		
10	Amietophrynus pantherinus	Western Leopard Toad	Endangered	SANBI/CapeNature		
11	Equus zebra zebra	Cape Mountain Zebra	IUCN--Vulnerable	CapeNature		Initial Stages of development
12	Labeobarbus kimberleyensis	Orange-Vaal largemouth yellow-fish	IUCN--Near Threatened, ToPs--Protected	EWT & Orange Vaal River Yellow-Fish Conservation & Management Association		Initial Stages of development
13	Gyps coprotheres	Cape Vulture	IUCN--Vulnerable	EWT & Vulture Programme (Vulpro)		Initial Stages of development
14	Hyperolius pickersgilli	Pickersgill's Reed Frog	TOPS--Critically Endangered	EWT		Being initiated
15	Acinonyx jubatus & Lycaon pictus	Cheetah & Wild Dog	IUCN--Vulnerable & Endangered, No ToPs status yet	Endangered WildLife Trust (EWT)		Final stages of development
16	Anthropoides paradiseus	Blue/Stanley/ Paradise Crane	IUCN--Vulnerable	Endangered WildLife Trust (EWT)		
17	Tyto capensis	African Grass-Owl	IUCN regional assessment-- Vulnerable	GDARD & African Grass-Owl Task Force of EWT		Initial stages of development
18	Damaliscus pygargus pygargus	Bontebok	IUCN-Vulnerable	SANParks & CapeNature		Planning for development
19	Encephalartos Priority Species	Cycads	CR Endangered	SANBI		

Government Programmes - cycads conservation

- 2009 - The Scientific Authority recommendations - Review of the Conservation Status, Population Trends, and Trade for SA of *Encephalartos* and its Implications for Decisions Relating to Trade
- Based on the recommendations - DEA initiated National Cycad Management Strategy & Action Plan (NCMS&AP)



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Why the NCMS&AP?

An effort to **MINIMISE** the threats and where possible to **IMPROVE** the **CONSERVATION STATUS** of cycads in the wild, through a series of relevant, practically implementable **ACTIONS** aimed at addressing the current cycad extinction crisis



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How?

Through a comprehensive **STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION** process and in as short a time period as possible so as to give effect to the urgency in addressing and rectifying the current exploitation and threats to South Africa's cycads.



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Aims of the NCMS&AP

- To ensure the persistence in the wild of viable populations of all indigenous cycad species through implementing a suite of integrated activities between now and 2020
- The strategy actions:-
 - Strategic Objectives
 - Sub-Objectives
 - Actions



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Six Strategic Objectives

- Security - Compliance and enforcement
- Securing and effectively managing critical habitat for wild cycads
- Population management
- Sustainable use
- Communication and awareness
- Research



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Progress up to date on development of the NCMS&AP

- DEA developed a working document - April 2013
- Stakeholder Workshop 11-12 June 2013
- Circulated for consultation la
- DEA - incorporating comments
- The draft document to be to stakeholders for further inputs
- Approval though Governance structure (WG1; MINTECH and MINMEC) and the Minister
- Published for implementation



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Other programmes

- ✓ SANBI - NDF
- ✓ Prohibition Notice
- ✓ Wildlife Forum



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Finally

- ✓ Take note of the progress to date - cycads conservation
- ✓ Open to suggestions



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