

CYCAD SAVIOURS

- saving Encephalartos is our business –

Cycad Saviours – who are they?

- They are collectors, owners, nurserymen and gardeners, ordinary people, who have decided to contribute meaningfully to the conservation of the Encephalartos species that are endemic to South Africa.
- It is a voluntary exercise and no pressure has been brought to bear on anyone participating.
- A **Cycad Saviour** has to be committed to contribute to the cause – **cycad conservation**.

Why CYCAD SAVIOURS?

South Africa is blessed to be the home of 37 Encephalartos species.

Three species are now extinct and a further fifteen species are endangered - some are already on the brink of becoming extinct at this moment in time.

This is mainly caused by unscrupulous syndicates that steal the plants from their natural habitat as well as from National Botanical Gardens and from other collectors and resell to unscrupulous collectors. Muthi-dealers and loss of habitat also contribute to the crisis cycads are in.

The current socio-economic situation in South Africa makes it impossible to re-establish plants in nature because the plants will not be safe in the wild.

Everybody hopes that the situation will normalise in a couple of years but it will be a catastrophe if we refrain from taking steps **NOW!**

The last nearly 10 years inculcated a fear that Encephalartos are being regulated and legislated into extinction and very little real progress was effected for various reasons.

Now there is new hope. The steps envisaged in the Biodiversity Management Plan for Species (BMP-S), combined with the efforts of the persons and organisations involved in the **Cycad Saviour** project, will deliver quantifiable results in the real process of conservation.

This is what will happen!

- **Cycad Saviours** have committed themselves individually and collectively to start “stockpiling” cycads for re-establishing sometime in the future.
- A **Cycad Saviour** earmarks specific plants in his or her collection with a numbered **Cycad Saviour** vinyl sticker. The plants remain in the possession

of the owner and the plants will be tended to as usual by the owner. All earmarked plants will be kept until the nature conservation situation has become conducive to safely re-establish the plants in their natural habitat or in safe havens. Please note that the plants remain the property of the **Cycad Saviour** who marked the plant in the first place.

- Participants in the **Cycad Saviour's** project can choose if he/she selects to mark seedlings or adult plants.
- Only TOPS permitted plants must be utilized for this purpose.

This is a commitment every participant makes to the conservation cause and every participant is bound only by his honour as a person!!

It is anticipated that collectors, owners, nurserymen and gardeners will contribute to this “stockpiling” of plants as proof of their commitment to save a treasured part of our Plant Heritage.

Remember: Only when the situation has stabilised to such an extent that the **Cycad Saviour** is convinced plants can be successfully re-established in habitat or in safe havens, will the plants be offered to Nature Conservation officials.

Every participant must try his/her utmost to select genetically pure specimens to earmark under this scheme. Ultimately the fitness of the plants from private collections for re-introduction into habitat will be determined through scientific methods by officials of Nature Conservation or from the Scientific Authority. It will never be the duty of the donor to prove fitness and acceptability of the plants he/she contributes.

- The species mentioned in the attached list form part of the current **Cycad Saviour** drive.
- These are the same species that form part of the Biodiversity Management Plan for Species that is currently being finalised for approval and implementation.

Be a proud participant and show your commitment to the safeguarding of our plant heritage – the exquisite Encephalartos species.

Proudly display your CYCAD SAVIOUR plants as proof of your commitment to conservation of the relevant species.

A project originated and driven by the Cycad Society of South Africa. P O Box 176, Montana Park 0159. E-mail: cycad@cycadsociety.org



Choose from this list					
1	<i>E. aemulans</i>		8	<i>E. heenanii</i>	
2	<i>E. arenarius</i>		9	<i>E. hirsutus</i>	
3	<i>E. cerinus</i>		10	<i>E. horridus</i>	
4	<i>E. cupidus</i>		11	<i>E. inopinus</i>	
5	<i>E. dolomiticus</i>		12	<i>E. laevifolius</i>	
6	<i>E. dyerianus</i>		13	<i>E. lebomboensis</i>	
7	<i>E. eugene-maraisii</i>		14	<i>E. middelburgensis</i>	
			15	<i>E. msinganus</i>	