



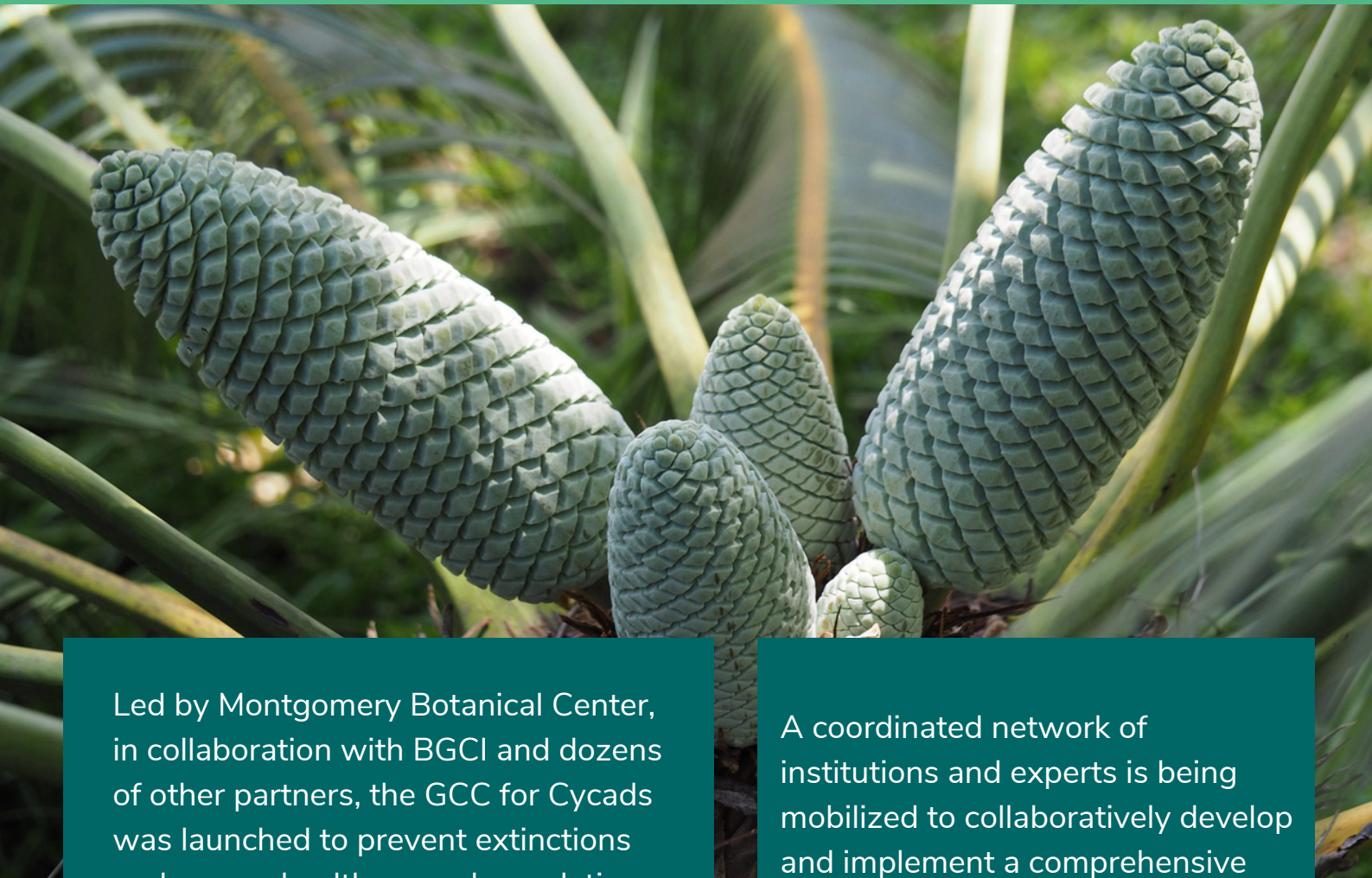
Global
Conservation
Consortium

Cycads



About the Global Conservation Consortium for Cycads

The Global Conservation Consortium (GCC) for Cycads is a joint effort of Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) and the IUCN Cycad Specialist Group. The objective of the GCC for Cycads is to enhance durable conservation of global cycad diversity through integrated *ex situ* and *in situ* actions.



Led by Montgomery Botanical Center, in collaboration with BGCI and dozens of other partners, the GCC for Cycads was launched to prevent extinctions and ensure healthy cycad populations for the future.

A coordinated network of institutions and experts is being mobilized to collaboratively develop and implement a comprehensive conservation strategy for cycads.

The Global Conservation Consortia are coordinated by BGCI. Contact us ggc@bgci.org.



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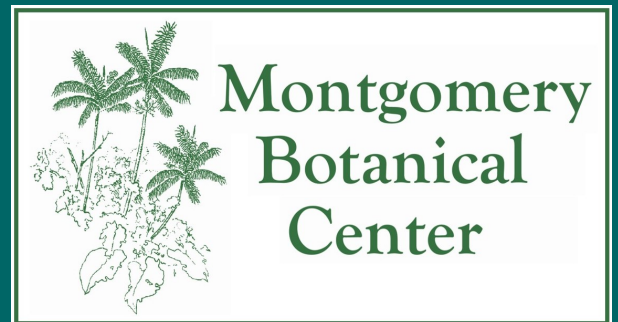


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Current Steering Committee Members:



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Dr. Vanessa Handley
Montgomery Botanical Center
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Dr. Cristina Lopez-Gallego
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For questions or more information, or if you are interested in learning more about current activities please contact [Vanessa Handley](#), Global Conservation Consortium for Cycads Coordinator.

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Cycads

Threats

A confluence of factors – including poaching, habitat destruction and pest pressures – have conspired to render cycads one of the most imperiled groups of organisms on earth.



While there has been concerted effort to assess and monitor species, the implementation of concrete conservation measures has lagged behind. Global cycad populations hence continue to decline, many precipitously.

In recent decades, multiple species have reached the point of extirpation and coordinated *ex situ* and *in situ* actions are now more critical than ever before.



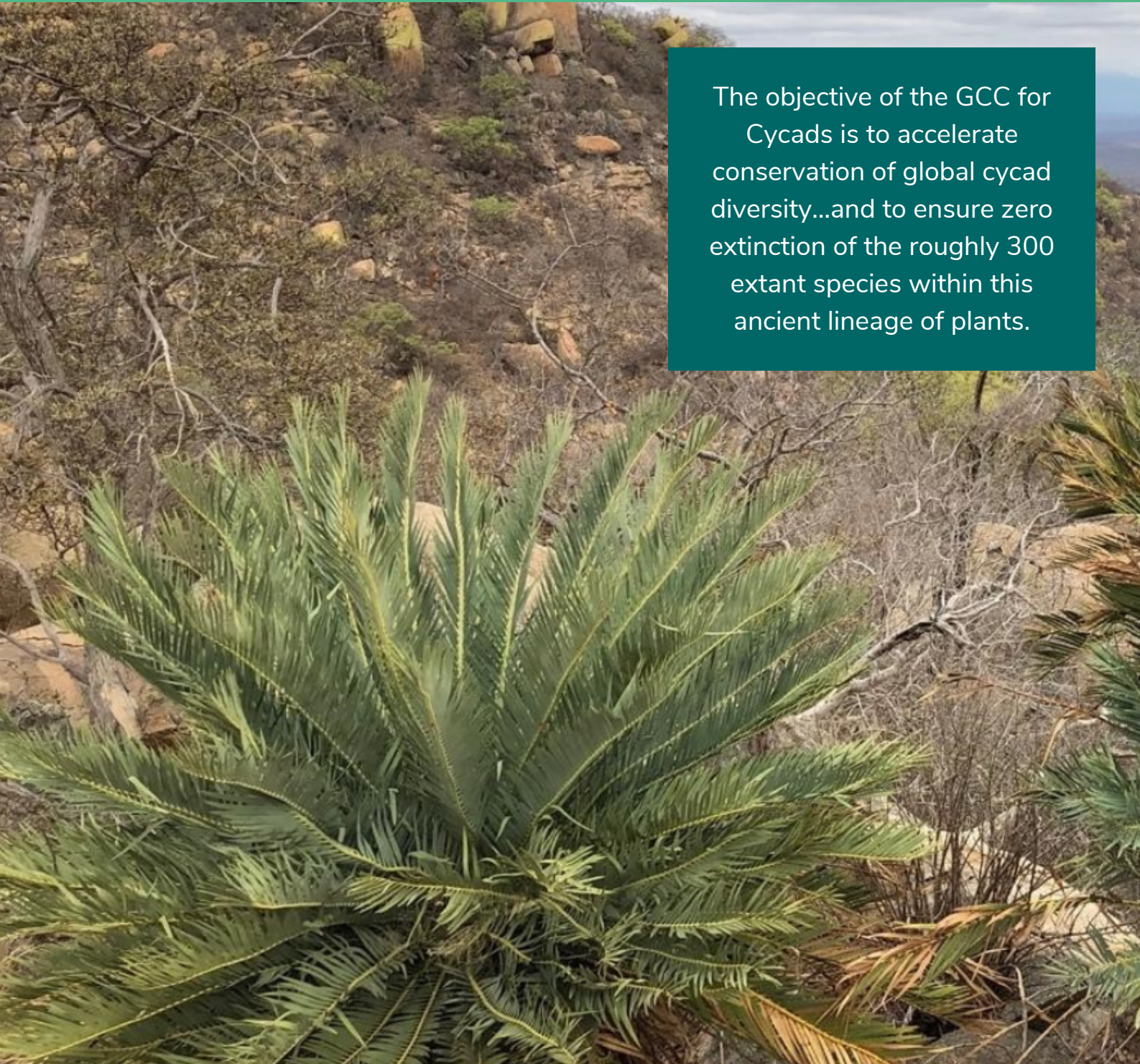
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Collaboration

In response to this pressing need, the IUCN Cycad Specialist Group and Botanic Gardens Conservation International have jointly launched the Global Conservation Consortium (GCC) for Cycads.

The objective of the GCC for Cycads is to accelerate conservation of global cycad diversity...and to ensure zero extinction of the roughly 300 extant species within this ancient lineage of plants.

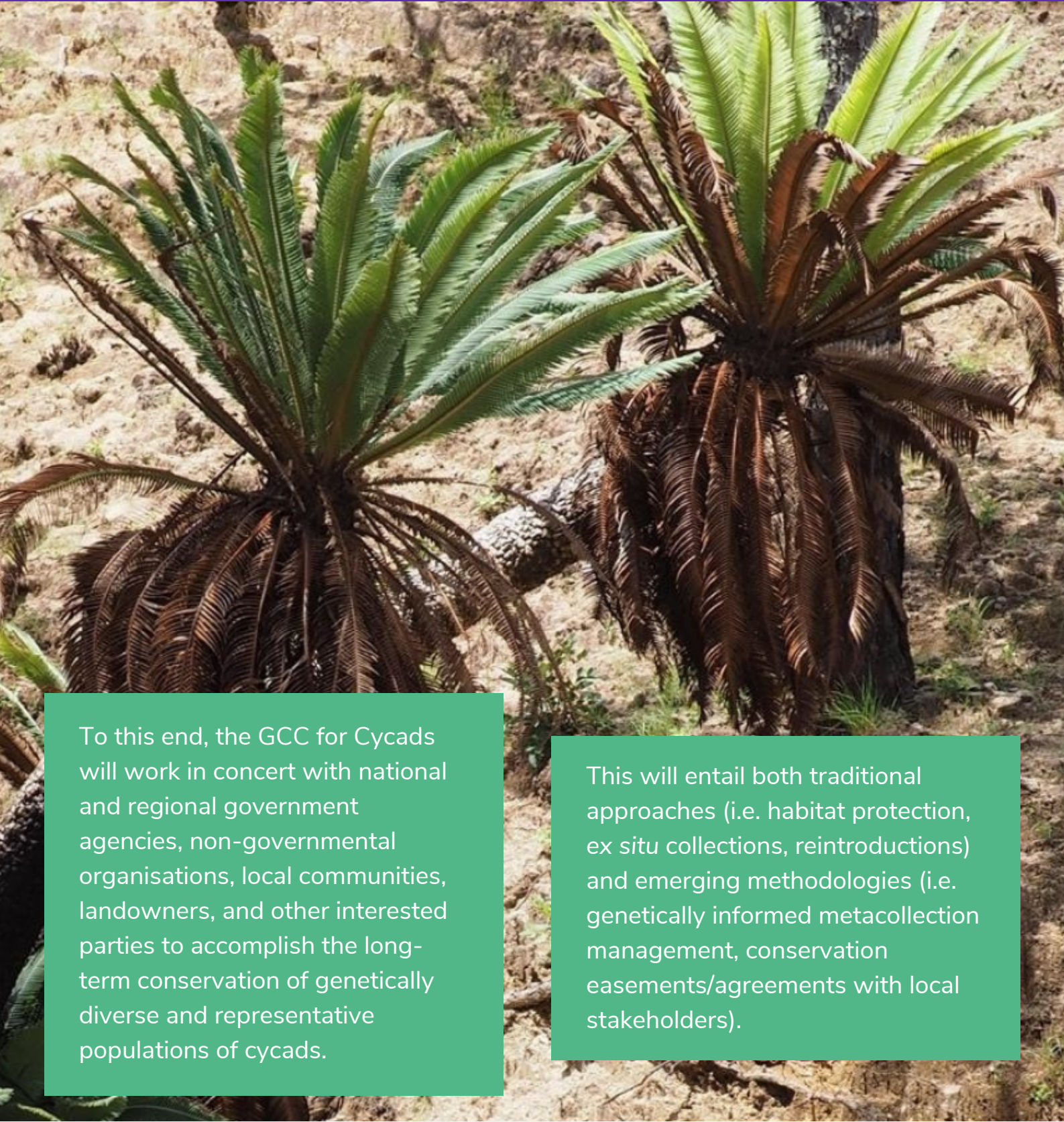




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Conservation



To this end, the GCC for Cycads will work in concert with national and regional government agencies, non-governmental organisations, local communities, landowners, and other interested parties to accomplish the long-term conservation of genetically diverse and representative populations of cycads.

This will entail both traditional approaches (i.e. habitat protection, *ex situ* collections, reintroductions) and emerging methodologies (i.e. genetically informed metacollection management, conservation easements/agreements with local stakeholders).



Operational Regions

Africa

Two genera, *Encephalartos* (70+ species) and *Stangeria* (monotypic), are endemic to the African region (encompassing continental and island nations). Wild populations of *Encephalartos* have been decimated by decades of poaching and simultaneous habitat degradation with numerous taxa now functionally extinct in the wild. In these cases, *in situ* conservation is no longer feasible and species survival is contingent on *ex situ* approaches, coupled with scientifically informed reintroduction. For species that persist in the wild, long term management and monitoring strategies are critical.

Asia

Nearly 80 species of *Cycas* are distributed across the Asian region with particularly high diversity in China, India and Southeast Asia. Of the species currently assessed, the majority are threatened or endangered. With habitat loss a primary threat, it is critical to survey and protect extant wild populations and strengthen *ex situ* coverage of priority species.

Caribbean & Mexico

Currently, 8 species of *Zamia* are known to be native to the Caribbean, along with the monotypic genus *Microcycas* (Cuba). These island taxa are particularly vulnerable to climate change, loss of habitat and introduced pests/pathogens. Significant *Zamia* diversity is also found in Mexico along with extraordinary richness in two allied genera, *Ceratozamia* (30 species) and *Dioon* (16 species). Many species are threatened by shifting land practices and accompanying habitat destruction and, to a lesser extent, extraction. Careful monitoring, community-based conservation strategies and genetically informed *ex situ* collections are all key objectives across the region.

Central & South America

This region is a rich repository of cycad diversity with at least 58 species of *Zamia* distributed from Guatemala to central Brazil and several *Ceratozamia* and *Dioon* found in Central America. Panama and Colombia are regional hotspots of diversity, with numerous endemic cycads, some only recently described. Habitat loss and degradation present threats to cycads across the region and active *in situ* management is essential, alongside community-based conservation and ongoing biodiversity exploration.

Oceania

Australia is a center of diversity for *Cycas* and three endemic genera, *Macrozamia*, *Lepidozamia* and *Bowenia*. Habitat degradation – accelerated by climate change – is impacting cycad populations across the continent. Additional *Cycas* diversity is harbored within neighboring island nations but introduced insect pests have decimated some of these wild populations. Protection of intact, healthy habitat is crucial, as is creation of genetically representative *ex situ* collections.