



Geographical range

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Amazing Species: Carpoxylon Palm

The <u>Carpoxylon Palm</u>, Carpoxylon macrospermum, is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species[™]. It is the only species in its genus, and is endemic to three islands in the south of Vanuatu in the South Pacific. There are thought to be around 40 individuals left in the wild, and another 120 mature trees are cultivated in rural areas for food and ornamental qualities.

The uncertain future of the Carpoxylon Palm is exacerbated by extensive deforestation for agriculture and the population damage caused by the harvesting of this palm's seeds for cultivation. Very little is known about the reproductive biology of this tree, so appropriate conservation measures may be hard to design.

The Carpoxylon Palm is protected by law and is the subject of a high priority conservation plan managed by the Vanuatu Forestry Department. The genetic diversity of the species may be low due to the populations being fragmented, but it has been suggested that the cultivated individuals may represent significant reserves of genetic diversity, and informal ex-situ conservation collections.







