

Project Update: July 2016

Achievements and findings

1. I have launched the project. All the key stakeholders have showed optimism.
2. I have conducted a population survey. The population estimate is more than 1,500 individuals
3. There is no known use of this cycad in the area. However, foreigners have reportedly come to collect them on two occasions
4. The cycad is found in Agoro-Agu Central Forest Reserve within Madi-Opei and Agoro sub counties.
5. The forest is currently invaded by farming communities.

Challenges

1. Applying for a permit from the National Forestry Authority (NFA) delayed the commencement of my field activities
2. The cycad is located at an altitude above 1500 m which makes transport costs higher than projected
3. The community was hesitant due to the impression created by the foreigners who collected the plants for unknown reasons.

Next tasks

1. Community sensitisation.
2. Seed collection.
3. Formation of nursery bed management committee.



Encephalartos macrostrobilus Female cone



Left: *Encephalartos macrostrobilus* mature plant. Right: *Encephalartos macrostrobilus* Male cone.