



8 May 2006

On 26 April 2006, the World Conservation Union (IUCN) Red List authority accepted the status of Endangered (EN) for *Cycas micronesica*. This species was accidentally omitted from the 2003 update of the IUCN Red List, where it should have been listed as Near Threatened (NT) based on field work conducted in the 1990s which showed the species to be fairly abundant and with few threats (although plants had been completely removed from at least two islands within the range by the Japanese during or just before World War II). The change from NT to EN was prompted largely by the devastating effects of an invasive pest insect known as cycad aulacaspis scale (CAS). *Cycas micronesica*, the indigenous cycad unique to Micronesia, seems particularly susceptible to CAS, and this insect has ravaged natural populations of this species in Guam with mortality rates of 100% in many infested areas. The complete assessment of EN A3ce has been added to the *2006 Red List of Threatened Species* released on 4 May.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Donaldson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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