**Stangeria eriopus**

**Family**
Stangeriaceae

**NEMBA Status**
Protected (PR)

**CITES Listing**
Appendix I

**Redlist category**
VU (Vulnerable)

**Common names**
English: Natal Grass Cycad, Stanger’s Cycad  
Afrikaans: Bobbejaankos  
Zulu: Ifingo  
Xhosa: Umfingwani, Umncuma

**Geographic location / distribution / province**
Mozambique; South Africa (Eastern Cape; KwaZulu Natal)

**Population trend**
Decreasing

**Description**
*Stangeria eriopus* is a slow-growing perennial plant with large fern-like leaves, which is why it is often mistaken for a fern. The body of the plant consists of a large tuberous root which is swollen and carrot-shaped. The upper portion is the stem which branches and can form up to 10 heads. Each growing point of the stem only produces one leaf at a time. When young, the leaf is rolled up at the tip and is fern-like, varying in length from 0.25-2 m depending on the habitat.

**Distinguishing characteristics**
*Stangeria eriopus* has pinnately-veined and fern-like leaves that distinguish it from all other cycads. Stems are completely subterranean (underground) and the tuberous root is swollen and carrot-shaped.

**Threats**
Over-collecting (for medicinal and ornamental use); habitat destruction
Stangeria eriopus. Photographer: Errol Douwes

Stangeria eriopus leaf midvein present. Photographer: Rob Kunitz.
Stangeria eriopus. **Photographer:** De Wet Bosenberg **Copyright/Website:** SANBI
*Stangeria eriopus* female cone. Photographer: De Wet Bosenberg Copyright/Website: SANBI
Stangeria eriopus cone. Photographer: JMK
Stangeria eriopus male cone. **Photographer:** Robert Kunitz **Copyright/Website:** Way to grow
Stangeria eriopus leaf. Photographer: De Wet Bosenberg. Copyright/Website: SANBI
Stangeria eriopus lignotuber. **Photographer:** Errol Douwes

Stangeria eriopus seed. **Photographer:** Errol Douwes
Comparison of Encephalartos, Cycas and Stangeria. Copyright/Website: TRAFFIC

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