

Save the Cycads!



Cycads outlived the dinosaurs

Cycads are awesome plants that are adapted to survive in many hot places around the world. They are some of the oldest plants on the planet. Cycads have been around for 280 million years, even longer than dinosaurs. Many dinosaurs used to eat them!

Cycads are in trouble! About 2/3 of them are currently endangered. In part, this is because many places where cycads once lived have been changed by people and their buildings. They are also endangered because many cycads are animal pollinated by special beetles that are also endangered. These special beetles enter the cones of male cycads. Cycads are dioecious, meaning they have separate male and female plants. While looking for food in the male cones, these beetles get pollen on their bodies. When the beetle enters the female cycad cones, it spreads the pollen. Now the cycad has all it needs to produce seeds which will grow into more cycads.

How can we help prevent cycads from going extinct? Come up with a plan to help us save the cycads.