

THE "KIDNAPPING" OF LIVING FOSSILS



CRIMES AGAINST THE ENVIRONMENT DON'T ALWAYS RECEIVE THE NECESSARY ATTENTION AS CRIMINOLOGY, AS A SCIENCE, MOSTLY FOCUSES ON CRIMES THAT HUMANS COMMIT AGAINST ONE ANOTHER OR CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY. ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME IS A SERIOUS AND GROWING INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM, WITH CRIMINALS VIOLATING NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LAWS THAT PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT. ACROSS THE WORLD, ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME TAKES ON A NUMBER OF FORMS WHICH INCLUDE POACHING, ILLEGAL DIVERSION OF RIVERS, TRAFFICKING IN ENDANGERED SPECIES AND ILLEGAL DUMPING OF HAZARDOUS WASTE ONTO LAND OR IN WATER. "COMPARED TO HUMAN AND ECONOMIC-RELATED CRIME, SUCH AS MURDER, RAPE AND ROBBERY, CRIMES AGAINST THE ENVIRONMENT SEEM OF LITTLE SIGNIFICANCE. THIS IS NOT QUITE TRUE, FOR JUST AS EVERY PERSON'S RIGHT TO LIFE, FREEDOM AND PRIVACY IS INCLUDED AND PROTECTED BY THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA, EACH PERSON'S RIGHT TO THE CONSERVATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE SAKE OF PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS IS INCLUDED AND PROTECTED." - EXTRACT FROM A DOCUMENT WRITTEN BY SUPT PIET LATEGAN, THE THEN COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE ESPU.

Mpumalanga's rare Cycadaceae
Encephalartos Lebomboensis

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