

Araucaria humboldtensis

(Common names Humboldt's araucaria)

Description:

A tree 6-15 m tall, with a candelabra-like crown. Bark exfoliating in quadrangular scales or in thin strips, bright brown turning gray. Branches in one plane, in a V-like pattern, 8-10 mm. in diameter. Juvenile leaves scale-like, triangular, 2.5-4 mm. long by 2-3 mm. wide, and apex incurved. Adult leaves scale-like, midrib prominent, keeled, ovate, apex acuminate and incurved, 5-6 mm. long by 4-5 mm. wide. Male cone cylindrical, to 6 cm. long by 15 mm. wide, twisted microsporophyll's triangular, pollen sacs 6. Female cone subglobose, 9 cm. long by 8 cm. wide; bracts erect to 6 mm. long. Seed to 3 cm. long with a broad nut and with broad wings.

Location:

S New Caledonia: Mt. Humboldt, Mt. Mou and Mt. des Sources.

<u>Threats</u>

The IUCN reports that the species is facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild due to:

1. A limited and severely fragmented distribution.

- 2. Decline in extent of habitat.
- 3. Number of subpopulations.
- 4. Number of mature individuals.

Major Threats:

- 1. Die back have caused the death of at least 10% of the Mt Humboldt subpopulation.
- 2. Drought induced stress and an unknown pathogen.
- 3. Wildfires are currently the main threat.
- 4. Impacts of climate change.

Conservation Steps:

- 1. IUCN will play a key role in increasing public awareness of the centrality of the world's forests to human and natural well-being.
- 2. New initiatives in forest landscape restoration work.
- 3. An increased international awareness about the role of healthy ecosystems in combating climate change and reversing biodiversity loss.
- 4. The International Year of Forests 2011 aims to increase public awareness about the multiple benefits of healthy forests and the ways to keep them standing and healthy.