



Geographical range

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Species of the Day: Angraecum longicalcar

Angraecum longicalcar is listed as 'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. Angraecum is a genus of orchids commonly known as Comet Orchids. Angraecum longicalcar has become extinct in some locations (Analavory and Itasy lake), and is now only found in the rocky Itremo massif in Ambatofinandrahina, Madagascar, where no more than 50 individuals are recorded.

This species has been facing overexploitation mainly for local trade, and habitat loss due to bush fire. Regulated by CITES under Appendix II, it is an offence to trade Angraecum longicalcar internationally without a permit. Itremo-Ambatofinandrahina has the potential to become a legally protected area, and management of this site needs to ensure that the only subpopulation of Angraecum longicalcar is included within any new protected area delimitation.

Scientific studies of this species, coupled with community-based conservation and reintroduction of seedlings, is being undertaken at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. As the main threat at Itremo-Ambatofinandrahina is bush fire, a fire break is now installed to protect the habitat and fire patrolling will be necessary.

