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Geographical range

Species of the Day: Little Mountain Palm

The **Little Mountain Palm**, *Lepidorrhachis mooreana*, is not currently listed on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™, however, a preliminary evaluation has classified it as 'Endangered'. A relatively short, solitary palm, it is restricted to the summit of Mt. Gower on Lord Howe Island, in the southwest Pacific.

This endemic palm occurs in dwarf mossy forest at elevations above 750 metres, in an area totalling less than 0.5 km². It is under threat from introduced rats which eat the fruits, preventing regeneration, as well as from invasive weeds and pathogens, and damage to the fragile soil and vegetation by human visitors. Climate change may also affect cloud cover, with potentially catastrophic effects on the forest.

The entire distribution of this species falls within a reserve. A number of conservation efforts are underway on Lord Howe Island, including controls on tourist access, a comprehensive weed strategy, and research into the Little Mountain Palm. This species would also benefit greatly from a complete rat eradication programme.

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