

Saving Attalea crassispatha In Situ Conservation of Haiti's Most Endangered Palm

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2025 estimate

wild population count.

individuals

BACKGROUND

- Endemic to southern Haiti; sole member of its genus (*Attalea*) in the Caribbean.
- Discovered by Plumier in 1703 in Fonds-des-Nègres, Haiti; described as very common.
- Grows in moist forests at low altitudes; highly moisture-dependent.
- Produces nutritive oil nut, important for humans, wildlife and ecological processes.
- Reproductive biology: 1) Requires cross pollination by beetles; extremely small population & isolation among reproductive adults has led to inbreeding depression; 2) Trees first flower at around 20–25 yrs old, dominated by male flowers & no fruit production; 3) Fruiting begins at about 40 years old & extends to over 100 yrs.
- Critically Endangered (CR; C2a(i)) on the IUCN Red List. Global pop. mostly cultivated (est. 150-200).

OBJECTIVES

Save species from extinction

RESULTS Germination

- Collect seeds for nursery propagation.
- Engage local communities.
- Educate and raise awareness.
- Prepare for reintroduction into native habitat.

METHODS

Field Mission & Seed Collection

- Conducted by HNT team (Aug–Oct 2024)
- 16 geo-referenced trees: 9 dead
- Seed collected:
 - From the tree
 - On the ground below the tree
- 843 seeds collected from 9 trees







APRIL 1

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Collection Site	Municipality	Collection Date	# Trees Harvested	Seeds Collected
Desravines	Cavaillon	7-Sep-24	3	323
Kay Sosent	Cavaillon	30-Aug-24	4	288
Pemel	FdN	5-Oct-24]	191
Baron	FdN	5-Oct-24	1	41

• Desravines (1):

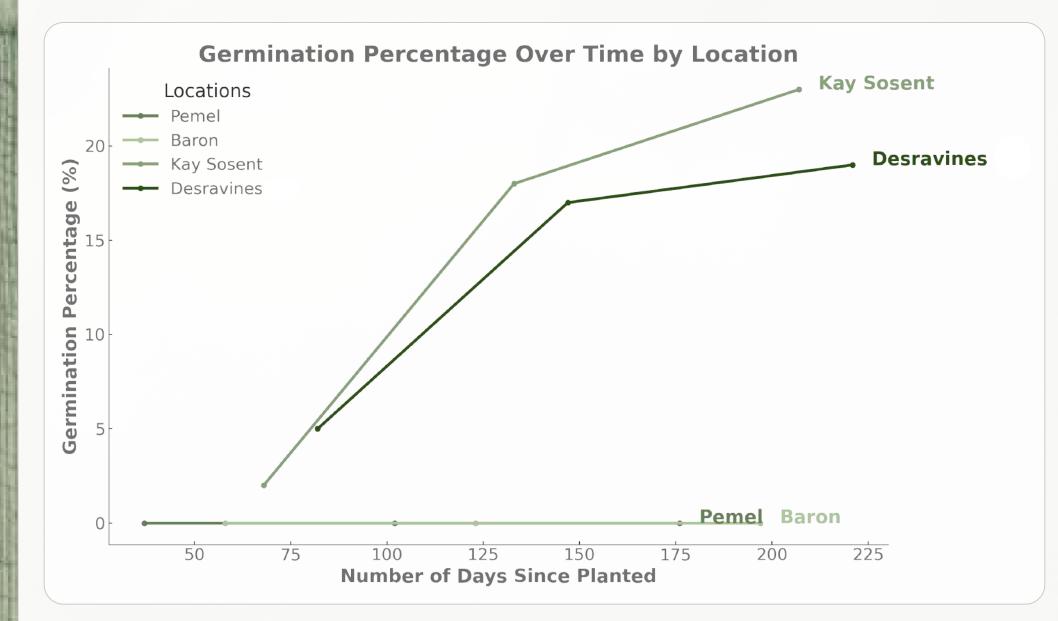
- Initial germination recorded at 82 days (5%).
- Marked increase at 147 days (17%).
- Highest germination percentage observed at 221 days (19%).

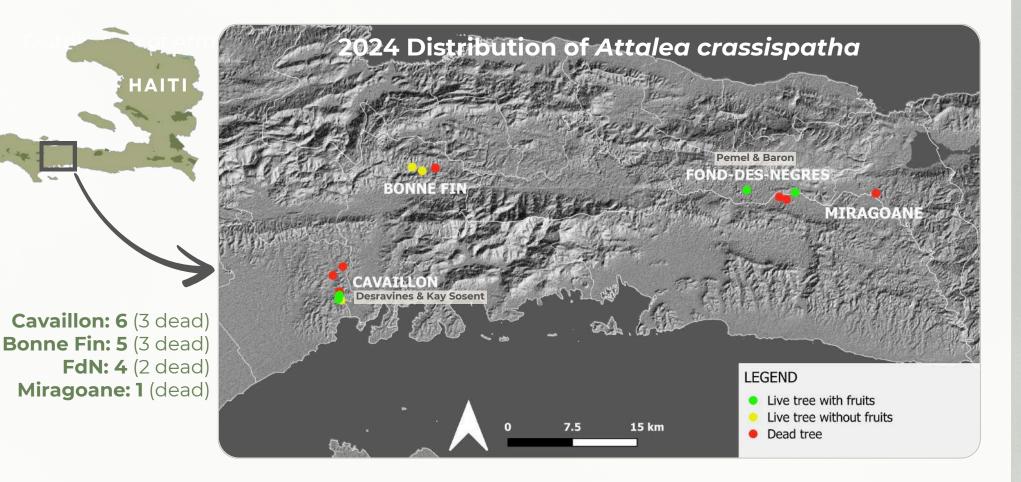
• Kay Sosent:

- Initial germination observed at 68 days (2%).
- Significant increase in germination at 133 days (18%).
- Peak germination reached at 207 days (23%).

• Pemel and Baron:

- No germination observed throughout the entire observation period, including the maximum days recorded (197-221 days).
- Likely due to old non-viable seed collected on the ground and too late in the season (mid to late October).





Nursery Propagation

- Nursery site: ORE, Camp Perrin (Haiti, South).
- Standard substrate (soil, compost, organic manure)
- Regular monitoring: Dec'24, Feb'25, Apr'25.



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Community Engagement

- 75+ locals engaged across 7+ communities.
- 31% women participants.
- Actions included:
 - Species identification & site scouting.
 - Seed collection assistance.
 - Awareness sessions in schools, agroforestry centers, clinics.





OUTLOOK & NEXT STEPS

- Secure additional funding.
- Continue monitoring & nursery care.
- Harvest fruits during next season: June Sept 2025.
- Reintroduction on secure sites in 3 years (2027-2028).

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