

Elaeis guineensis  [简体中文](#) [正體中文](#)

System: Terrestrial

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Plantae	Magnoliophyta	Liliopsida	Arecales	Areaceae

Common name palmeira-dendê (Portuguese, Brazil), nu tamara (English, Cook Islands, (Mangaia)), apwiraiasi (English, Pohnpei), African oil palm (English), palmier à huile d'Afrique (French), dendê (Portuguese, Brazil)

Synonym *Elaeis melanococca*, J. Gaertn.

Similar species *Elaeis spp.*

Summary *Elaeis guineensis* is native to the west African coast from Liberia to Angola. It has been introduced to many islands in the Pacific and to South America at the time of slavery. It is widely cultivated for the oil products obtained from its fruit and seed. However it is now showing potential of being invasive from cultivation in some dry areas of the Pacific and has become very invasive in remnants of Atlantic Forest in Bahia state, Northeast Brazil.



[view this species on IUCN Red List](#)

Species Description

"Trunk stout, solitary, covered by the persistent leaf-bases above, bare below, dark gray-brown and ringed. Leaves large, pinnate, the lower segments as spines on the petiole margin; segments many, irregularly divergent, somewhat fascicled in 4's or 5's; inflorescence large, headlike, with spinose tipped branches borne close to the trunk, among the leaves" (Stone, 1970. In PIER, 2003).

Lifecycle Stages

First fruits 3-4 years after planting in the field. Bunches ripen 5-6 months after pollination. Seeds normally require temperatures in excess of 35 degrees to germinate. (Duke, 1983)

Uses

Cultivated for oil from the fruits - palm oil and palm kernel oil. The oils are used variously in manufacturing and foodstuff production. *E. guineensis* is also often used as a source of Vitamin's A and B in developing countries (Duke, 1983)

Habitat Description

In its native range it occurs wild in riverine forests or in freshwater swamps (Duke, 1983). It cannot thrive in primeval forests and does not regenerate in high secondary forests. Prefers volcanic soils, coastal alluvials and acidic sands (Duke, 1983).

Reproduction

Seeds, (PIER, 2003).

Nutrition

The African oil palm requires fertile and well drained soils (León, 2000).



GLOBAL INVASIVE SPECIES DATABASE

FULL ACCOUNT FOR: *Elaeis guineensis*

Management Info

Physical. The trees are cut down, (PIER, 2003). The palm however, resprouts after cutting, so there has to be complementary chemical control (Ziller, S., pers.comm., 2004).

Pathway

Sometimes grown as an ornamental, as in southern Florida. (Duke, 1983) Introduced and cultivated throughout the tropics. (Duke, 1983)

Principal source: [Pacific Islands Ecosystems at Risk, \(PIER\)](#)

Compiler: IUCN/SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG)

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ALIEN RANGE

[3] BRAZIL	[1] COOK ISLANDS
[3] FRENCH POLYNESIA	[1] GUADELOUPE
[1] GUAM	[1] MADAGASCAR
[1] MAYOTTE	[2] MICRONESIA, FEDERATED STATES OF
[1] NEW CALEDONIA	[1] NIUE
[2] PALAU	[1] SOLOMON ISLANDS
[1] TANZANIA, UNITED REPUBLIC OF	[2] UNITED STATES

BIBLIOGRAPHY

12 references found for *Elaeis guineensis*

Management information

[PIER \(Pacific Island Ecosystems at Risk\), 2003. *Elaeis guineensis*](#)

Summary: Ecology, synonyms, common names, distributions (Pacific as well as global), management and impact information. Available from: http://www.hear.org/pier/species/elaeis_guineensis.htm [Accessed 2 June 2003]

General information

Barthelat, F. 2005. Note sur les espèces exotiques envahissantes Mayotte. Direction de l'Agriculture et de la Forêt. 30p

Summary: Tableau synthétique des plantes exotiques de Mayotte classées en fonction de leur niveau d'envahissement.

[Centre des ressources biologiques. Plantes tropicales. INRA-CIRAD. 2007.](#)

Summary: Available from: <http://collections.antilles.inra.fr/> [Accessed 31 March 2008]

[Duke, James A. 1983. Handbook of Energy Crops. Unpublished. Purdue University newCROP.](#)

Summary: General information about *E. guineensis* and its uses, cultivation and ecology.

Available from: http://www.hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/duke_energy/Elaeis_guineensis.html [Accessed 2 July 2003].

[Florence J., Chevillotte H., Ollier C. & Meyer J.-Y. 2007. *Elaeis guineensis* Base de données botaniques Nadeaud de l'Herbier de la Polynésie française \(PAP\).](#)

Summary: Available from: http://www.herbier-tahiti.pf/Selection_Taxonomie.php?id_tax=4675 [Accessed 1 April 2008]

Fournet, J. 2002. Flore illustrée des phanogames de Guadeloupe et de Martinique. CIRAD-Gondwana editions.

Hartley, C.W.S. 1988. The oil palm. 3rd Edit., Longman sc. & techn., John Wiley and Sons London.

Summary: Description, habitat, distribution and botanical information.

[ITIS \(Integrated Taxonomic Information System\), 2004. Online Database *Elaeis guineensis*](#)

Summary: An online database that provides taxonomic information, common names, synonyms and geographical jurisdiction of a species. In addition links are provided to retrieve biological records and collection information from the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) Data Portal and bioscience articles from BioOne journals.

Available from:

http://www.cbif.gc.ca/pls/itisca/taxastep?king=every&p_action=containing&taxa=Elaeis+guineensis&p_format=&p_ifx=plglt&p_lang=
[Accessed December 31 2004]

[Leon, Jorge, 2000. Botánica de los cultivos tropicales. San José, Costa Rica, IICA, 2000. 522 p; ISBN 92-9039-395 5](#)

Summary: Description, habitat, distribution and botanical information.

Global Invasive Species Database (GISD) 2026. Species profile *Elaeis guineensis*. Available from:

<https://www.iucngisd.org/gisd/species.php?sc=377> [Accessed 30 June 2026]



GLOBAL INVASIVE SPECIES DATABASE

FULL ACCOUNT FOR: *Elaeis guineensis*

MacKee, H.S. 1994. Catalogue des plantes introduites et cultivées en Nouvelle-Calédonie, 2nd edn. MNHN, Paris.

Summary: Cet ouvrage liste 1412 taxons (espèces, sous espèces et variétés) introduits en Nouvelle-Calédonie. L'auteur précise dans la majorité des cas si l'espèce est cultivée ou naturalisée.

Meyer, J.-Y. 2000. Invasive plants in the Pacific Islands. In: [The Invasive Species in the Pacific: A Technical Review and Draft Regional Strategy](#). Sherley, G. (tech. ed). Published in June 2000 by the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

Summary: Resource that includes the distribution of invasive species throughout the Pacific Islands.

[World Wildlife Fund, WWF. Northern Congolian forest-savanna mosaic \(AT0712\).](#)

Summary: Information on the Northern Congolian Forest Savanna Mosaic.

Available from: http://www.worldwildlife.org/wildworld/profiles/terrestrial/at/at0712_full.html [Accessed 2 July 2003].