

Vegetation Condition Assessment Tool

(adapted from Jaliigirr Biodiversity Alliance Site Assessment sheet)



Site name	Options	Assessment Date			
		Score Zone 1	Score Zone 2	Score Zone 3	Score Zone 4
Riparian Width (m) If applicable	<5, 5-10, 10-20, 20-30, >30				
Total Canopy Cover (%)	0 - 25% (0), 26-50% (1), 51-75% (2), 76-100% (3)				
Canopy (5m+) Weed Cover (%)	0% -25%(3), 26-50%(2), 51-75%(1),76-100%(0)				
Total midstorey cover, (%)	0%-25% (0), 26-50%(1), 51-75%(2),76-100%(3)				
Midstorey weed cover (1-5m)	0% -25%(3), 26-50%(2), 51-75%(1), 76-100%(0)				
Ground cover (%) native (don't score, just record)	0%-25%, 26-50%, 51-75%,76-100%				
Ground weed cover (%)	0% -25%(3), 26-50%(2), 51-75%(1),76-100%(0)				
Grazing impacts or other disturbance such as erosion	Severe (0), much (1), minimal (2), None (3)				
Evidence of native regeneration?	None(0), little (1), scattered (2), abundant (3)				
Presence of EECs	Yes/No, Name				
Identify Threats	Name				
Priority Threatening Weed Species (name)	Name				
	Name				
	Name				
Condition score					

Condition score:

Bad

0 – 5

Poor

6 – 10

Fair

11 - 16

Good

17 – 20

Very good

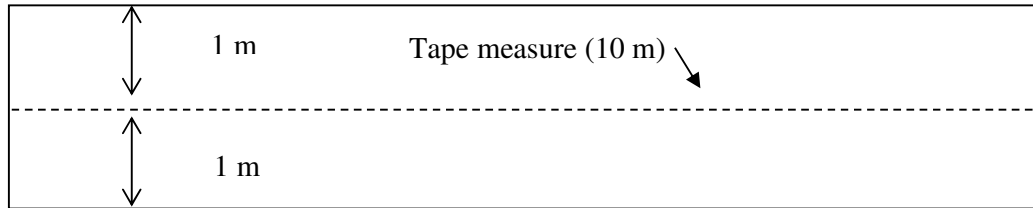
21



Monitoring - Observational Data

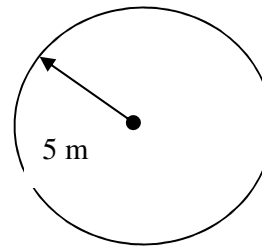
This information can be collected for a circle *or* a rectangle, using a tape or string. The rectangular plot should be at least 10m long and data is collected for a width of two meters, one meter each side of the tape.

Rectangular plot:



Circular plot:

Stand at the centre of the radial plot and observe vegetation for approximately 5 m in a complete circle.



Data is collected for the density weeds and/or native plants within the plot at two levels: below 2 m and above 2 m in height. The data is entered into the monitoring sheet.

Vegetation *cover* is a visual estimate of the proportion of the plot that is occupied by each species.

Collecting the Data:

- List the target species found in your plot.
- Estimate the cover by visually assessing the (live) foliage that is projected over the ground when viewed from above (low growing plants) or below (canopy species). The cover estimate is then determined as a percentage of the area examined, expressed as one of the preset cover classes.
- Record that information in the table.

Target species	Cover class					
< 2m	0%	1 – 5%	6 – 25%	26 – 50%	51 – 75%	> 75%
>2m						

Assessing ground cover



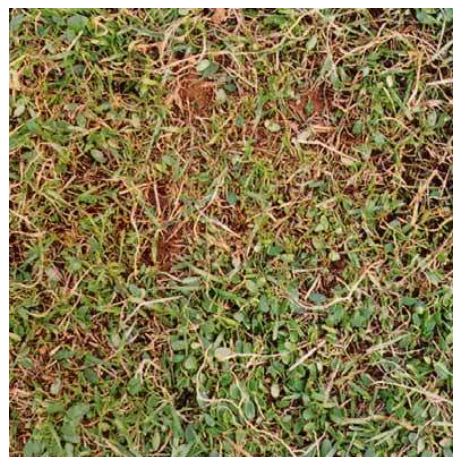
20 %



40 %



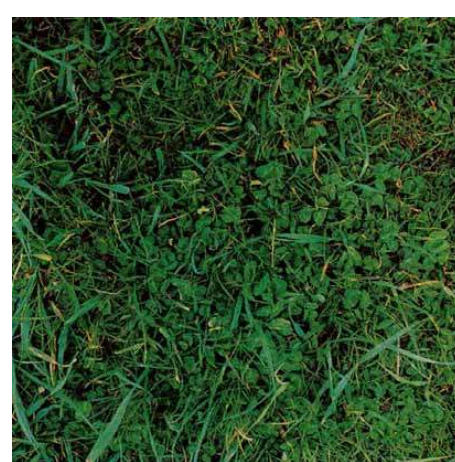
50 %



80 %



90 %



100 %

Assessing canopy cover



25 – 30 % (after logging)



40 – 50 %



80 % (Spotted Gum)



100 % (Rainforest)



Monitoring - Photopoints

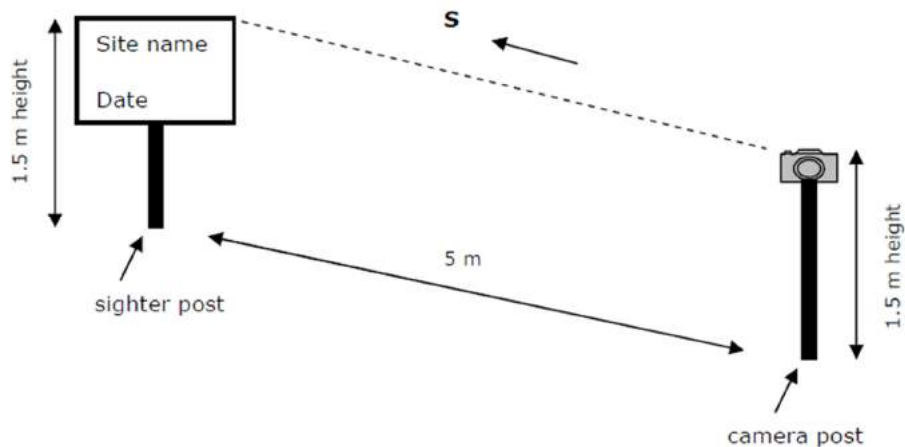
The monitoring standard is:

- **two** photopoints for each area that is being monitored
- **three** photopoints for each ecological community which is being observed for changes in response to weed control
- **one** photopoint for the observation of change in one plant / tree
- **one** photopoint to show the broader landscape of the site

How to set up a photopoint

Use a stake to mark the points. There are two points for each photo – a **camera point** and a **sighter point**. They are approximately 5 m apart and 1.5 m high. Ideally, they are oriented north to south so that the photo is taken with the sun behind the camera.

If you find it difficult to use a stake for any reason, find and mark an existing permanent marker such as a lamp post or a tree.



Photopoints are selected to include a permanent fixture such as a large tree or a sign as a visual reference point and something to show the scale, possibly a person.

Photopoints are set up so they are easily accessible, i.e. along a track, and where vegetation is not likely to obstruct the view of the site.

Photos are taken every 12 months, ideally by the same person using the same camera with the same lens and zoom setting and at the same time of the day.

Each photopoint has a name/number and is recorded with the location. Photos taken from these points are stored with that information.