

MVG 10—OTHER FORESTS AND WOODLANDS

- Cover a series of forests and woodlands of limited extent including those dominated by *Leptospermum* and the *Banksia* species on the south-eastern, eastern and western coastal areas, and the *Agonis* forests of the western temperate coastal areas near Gardner River in Western Australia.
- The variety of woodlands is extensive and includes the northern mixed species woodlands dominated by genera such as *Adansonia* (baobab), *Lysiphyllum*, *Pandanus* and *Terminalia* woodlands in northern Australia. Other inland woodlands include those dominated by *Hakea*, *Heterodendron*, *Myoporum* and *Geijera*–*Flindersia* woodlands in the northern subhumid/semi-arid areas, and the *Macropteranthes* (bonewood) and *Lysiphyllum* communities of inland Queensland.
- Victorian examples include *Eucalyptus viminalis*, *Acacia melanoxylon* and *Allocasuarina verticillata* communities; *Leptospermum lanigerum*, *Allocasuarina verticillata* mixed woodland; *Banksia integrifolia* and *B. serrata* woodlands; *Alectryon oleifolius* ssp. *canescens*, *Myoporum platycarpum* grassy woodlands.
- Tasmanian communities include *leptospermum* and banksia species.
- Other Forests and Woodlands exhibit a variety of subforms with diverse understoreys ranging from low trees and shrubs, to low shrubs and to tussock grasses depending on the environments that they occur in—from northern monsoon regions through semi-arid rangelands to temperate coastal areas in the south-east and western areas of Australia.



Adansonia gregorii (baobab) low open woodland, east of Derby, WA

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Facts and figures

Major Vegetation Group	MVG 10—Other Forests and Woodlands
Major Vegetation Subgroups (number of NVIS descriptions)	Tropical mixed spp forests and woodlands (23) Other forests and woodlands (160) Banksia woodlands (62) Leptospermum forests and woodlands (36)
Typical NVIS structural formations	Mid closed forest Open forest (tall, mid, low) Woodland (tall, mid, low) Open woodland (mid, low) Low mallee woodland
Number of IBRA regions	58
Most extensive in IBRA region	Est. pre-1750 and present: Gulf Plains (Qld)
Estimated pre-1750 extent (km²)	80 772
Present extent (km²)	72 414
Area protected (km²)	7 140

Geography

- Largest areas occur in Queensland, Northern Territory and Western Australia.

Change

- Approximately 10% of the estimated pre-1750 extent cleared accounting for 0.8% of total clearing in Australia.
- Approximately 8 500 km² cleared since European settlement.
- Northern and inland forests and woodlands have been mainly modified for pastoral activities and the southern coastal forests and woodlands have been mainly modified by urban development. These have been thinned to encourage the growth

of ground layer grasses or partly cleared for cropping.

- Foremost threats are fragmentation of woodland areas, inappropriate fire regimes (e.g. too regular or intense), grazing, and clearing. Recent changes to land clearing policies in parts of Australia has seen a shift away from the clearing of woodlands toward their protection and management for conservation. Nonetheless, there are issues associated with understanding and managing these limited extent forest and woodland areas that need to be addressed.
- Other threats include urban encroachment on the banksia forests and woodlands that occur on the coastal areas, while fire regimes can affect the communities in the northern and inland areas.

Tenure

Other Forests and Woodlands occur across a range of land tenures.

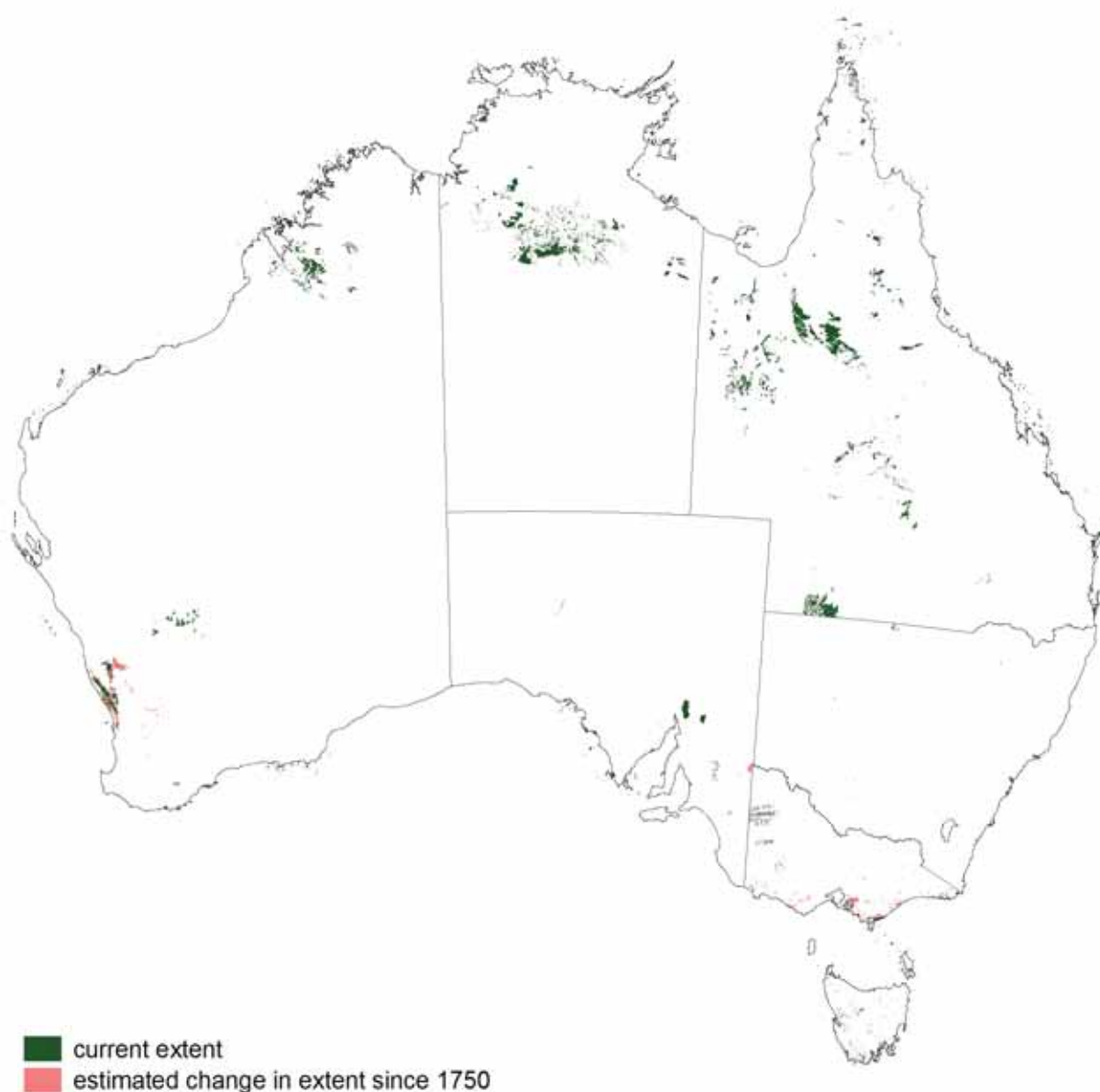
Northern Territory:	leasehold land, freehold land, protected areas
Queensland:	largely leasehold land; also freehold land, protected areas & state forests
South Australia:	leasehold land, protected areas, some freehold land
Tasmania:	protected areas, state forests, little freehold land
Victoria:	protected areas and state forests
Western Australia:	leasehold land, freehold land, protected areas, state forests, other crown land

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Key values

- Biodiversity including a diversity of overstorey and understorey species, the restricted ecological communities and endangered species.
- Remnant populations of a wide range of vertebrate and invertebrate species.
- Ecotourism including bushwalking and landscape features.

Key values are primarily the restricted ecological communities and the protection of endangered species. These are significant in forest and woodland areas which are either geographically restricted in area or have become restricted through fragmentation.



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Management considerations

- Maintenance of local site conditions that support these communities, (e.g. hydrological, fire and grazing regimes).
- Control of clearing and edge effects.
- Wildlife corridors between remnant patches of vegetation.
- Tourist/visitor management (scenic landscapes).
- Weed control.

Other Forests and Woodlands provide challenges in many parts of Australia within the current context of changing management practices, grazing pressures and fire regimes.

References

- Australian Surveying and Land Information Group (1990) *Atlas of Australian Resources. Volume 6 Vegetation*. AUSMAP, Department of Administrative Services, Canberra, 64pp. & 2 maps.
- Beadle N.C.W. (1981) *The Vegetation of Australia*. Cambridge Univ. Press, Cambridge, 690pp.
- National Land & Water Resources Audit (2001) *Australian Native Vegetation Assessment 2001*. National Land & Water Resources Audit, Canberra, 332pp.
- Specht R.L. and Specht A. (1999) *Australian Plant Communities. Dynamics of Structure, Growth and Biodiversity*. Oxford University Press. 492pp.



Terminalia fitzgeraldii, Kimberley, WA

Photo: M. Fagg

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Data sources

Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA), Version 6.1.

Land Tenure in Australia's Rangelands (1955 to 2000), National Land and Water Resources Audit.

National Vegetation Information System, Version 3.0.

1996/97 Land Use of Australia, Version 2.

Collaborative Australian Protected Areas Database—CAPAD 2004—Terrestrial.

Notes

- The decreased area from NVIS 1 is due to large areas of gap-filling (non-NVIS) data in South Australia being assigned to other groups.
- Additional areas of this group were identified in Western Australia arising from improved NVIS data.
- *Macropteranthes* (bonewood) vegetation types with a closed canopy (>70% foliage projective cover) have been assigned to Rainforests and Vine Thickets (MVG 1).
- See the [Introduction to the MVG fact sheets](#) for further background on this series.



Photo: C. Slatyer

Tropical woodland near a mud spring, Qld