

## MVG 12—TROPICAL EUCALYPT WOODLANDS/GRASSLANDS

---

- This group contains the so-called tall bunch-grass savannas of far north Western Australia and related Eucalypt Woodland (MVG 5) and Eucalypt Open Woodland (MVG 11) communities in the Northern Territory and in far north Queensland, including Cape York Peninsula.
- Typified by the presence of a suite of tall annual grasses (notably *Sorghum* spp.) but does not include communities in more arid sites where *Triodia* becomes more dominant.



Photo: D. Napier

*Erythrophleum chlorostachys* and *Eucalyptus tectifica* woodland, *Sorghum intrans* grassland, NT

## MVG 12—TROPICAL EUCALYPT WOODLANDS/GRASSLANDS

### Facts and figures

<b>Major Vegetation Group</b>	MVG 12—Tropical Eucalypt Woodlands/Grasslands
<b>Major Vegetation Subgroups (number of NVIS descriptions)</b>	Tropical Eucalypt forests and woodlands with a tall annual grassy understorey (19)
<b>Typical NVIS structural formations</b>	Woodland (mid, low) Tall tussock grassland
<b>Number of IBRA regions</b>	14
<b>Most extensive in IBRA region</b>	Est. pre-1750 and present: Victoria Bonaparte (NT, WA)
<b>Estimated pre-1750 extent (km<sup>2</sup>)</b>	115 503
<b>Present extent (km<sup>2</sup>)</b>	112 481
<b>Area protected (km<sup>2</sup>)</b>	14 436

### Species

- Woodlands include a mix of species *Eucalyptus tectifica* (Darwin box), *E. tetradonta* (Darwin stringybark), *E. miniata*, *Corymbia foelscheana*, *C. latifolia*, *C. flavescens*, *C. polycarpa*, *C. nesophila*, *C. clarksoniana*, *C. grandifolia*, *C. bleeseri*, *C. ferruginea*, *Erythrophleum chlorostachys* with an understorey of:
  - *Sorghum* spp., *Sehima nervosum* grasses;
  - *Triodia* spp. or *Chrysopogon* spp., *Sorghum* spp. grasses;
  - *Sorghum plumosum*, *Heteropogon triticeus* grasses;
  - *Sehima nervosum*, *Sorghum* spp. or *Chrysopogon* spp., tussock grass understorey; or
  - *Sorghum* spp., and *Triodia* spp. grasses.
- Low woodlands of *Corymbia dichromophloia*, *Eucalyptus tintinnans* (ringing gum) with an understorey of:
  - *Sorghum* spp., *Triodia bitextura* grasses;
  - *Sorghum* spp. grasses; or
  - *Corymbia dichromophloia*, *Eucalyptus tectifica* low open woodland with *Sehima nervosum*, *Sorghum* spp. tussock grass understorey.

### Geography

- Principally found across monsoonal and tropical northern Australia on sandstone plateaux from the northern Kimberley to Cape York Peninsula.
- The major distribution is in the top end of the Northern Territory (79 839 km<sup>2</sup>) and the Kimberley region of Western Australia (32 642 km<sup>2</sup>).

### Change

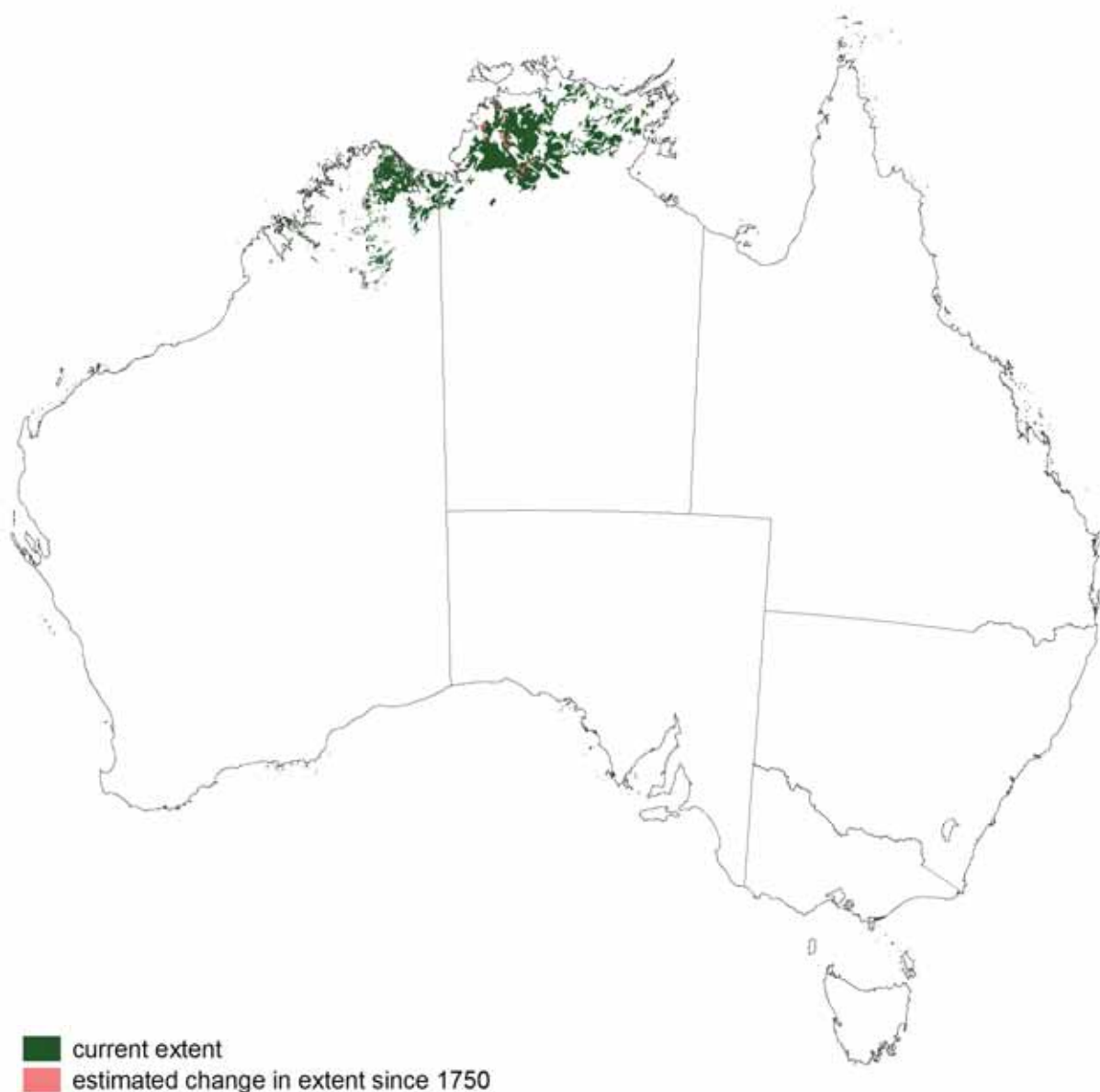
- Approximately 2.6% of the estimated pre-1750 extent cleared accounting for 0.3% of total clearing in Australia.
- Approximately 3 000 km<sup>2</sup> cleared since European settlement.
- Substantially in natural condition.
- Threats include fragmentation, weed infestation, inappropriate fire regimes (e.g. fires too regular and/or too intense) and over-grazing. There are issues associated with understanding and managing these areas for multiple values. Part of this is providing support to Indigenous groups and developing among these groups an understanding of methods of feral animal and weed control.

## MVG 12—TROPICAL EUCALYPT WOODLANDS/GRASSLANDS

### Tenure

Tropical Eucalypt Woodlands/Grasslands occur largely on leasehold land.

<b>Northern Territory:</b>	leasehold land, freehold land, protected areas and some other crown land
<b>Queensland:</b>	leasehold land, protected areas, freehold land, some state forests
<b>Western Australia:</b>	leasehold land, reserved crown land, other crown land, protected areas, some freehold land



## MVG 12—TROPICAL EUCALYPT WOODLANDS/GRASSLANDS

### Key values

- Biodiversity including some of the most restricted communities in Australia.
- Remnant populations of a wide range of vertebrate and invertebrate species.
- Ecotourism and scenic landscapes.

### Management considerations

Management requires protection of the range of values that exist in these woodland areas.

- Fire particularly in terms of changes to ‘natural’ fire regime brought about by the fuel loads of introduced grasses and grazing land management practices.
- Weed control.
- Management of total grazing pressure.



Photo: D. Napier

*Eucalyptus tetrodonta* (Darwin stringybark) woodland, annual *Sorghum* spp. grassland, NT

## MVG 12—TROPICAL EUCALYPT WOODLANDS/GRASSLANDS

### 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.
- Brooker M.I.H. and Kleinig D.A. (1994) *Field guide to Eucalypts, Volume 3*, Northern Australia. Inkata Press, Sydney, 383pp.
- Fox I.D., Neldner V.J., Wilson G.W., et al. (2001) The Vegetation of the Australian Tropical Savannas. Env. Prot. Agency, Qld and Tropical Savannas CRC, 2 map sheets and 1 legend, < <http://savanna.ntu.edu.au/information/>>.
- National Land & Water Resources Audit (2001) *Australian Native Vegetation Assessment 2001*. National Land & Water Resources Audit, Canberra, 332pp.

### 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

- Described as Eucalypt Woodlands (MVG 5) in some places given the variability in the dominance of the tall annual grass layer.
- See the [Introduction to the MVG fact sheets](#) for further background on this series.



Photo: M. Fagg

Keep River National Park, NT