Ecological Monitoring System Australia

Datasheets: Vegetation Mapping Module



Version 2

4 July 2025

Version control

Readers are advised that this datasheet will undergo revision as the EMSA Monitor app undergoes new refinement and updated versions become available. The names of the fields may vary slightly from the modules and the datasheet during this process.

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| **Datasheet version** | **Date** | **Version update overview** |
| 1.0 | 8 May 2024 | Release of the datasheet matching Monitor version 1.0.0 |
| 2 | 4 July 2025 | Release of the datasheet matching Monitor version 1.0.7 |

Instruction

This datasheet can be used if the Monitor app is not accessible at the time of a field survey. The datasheet has been designed to match the EMSA module manual and the Monitor app workflow. However, there are some minor differences, as capturing the quantity and complexity of the data in hard-copy form is difficult to replicate. At times some additional information or less information is collected on the datasheet. Examples of this are where the app would readily collect the location, date and time information of each input with minimal user input, but the datasheet version only collects the survey start and end location, date and time.

Surveyors must follow the EMSA module manual as though they are using Monitor, i.e. by following the Instructions and Procedures section of the relevant protocol, but instead of entering the data in Monitor, data is entered on the datasheet.

**Surveyors are reminded to check the module manual to ensure that the mandatory pre-survey and prerequisites have been completed prior to undertaking the module.** A key example is where the Plot Selection and Layout Module must be completed prior to undertaking all plot-based protocols.

This datasheet can either be printed and used in the field using a pencil or used digitally on a device.

**Regional Delivery Partners are responsible for manually entering datasheet-collected data into Monitor once the app is fully functional again. The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water require that digital scans of the datasheets be uploaded into MERIT.**

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| Survey details | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Context\* | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Project\* | | | | Plot\* | | | | | Visit\* | | | |
|  | | | |  | | | | |  | | | |
| **Vegetation mapping survey (start)** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Observer name\* | | | | Start date(dd/mm/yyyy) &  time (24 hr)\* | | | | | End date(dd/mm/yyyy) &  time (24 hr)\* | | | |
|  | | | |  | | | | |  | | | |
| Vegetation mapping observation (repeatable component) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Vegetation Mapping  Point ID\* | | Field ID | | | | Location\* (waypoint or lat/long) | | | | | Homogeneity measure (m)\* | |
|  | |  | | | |  | | | | |  | |
|  | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Photo ID | | Photo direction | | | | Photo comments | | | | | | |
|  | |  | | | |  | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Vegetation growth stage\* | | Site disturbance\* | | | | Land use history\* | | | | | Fire history  (if known, include date of most recent) | |
|  | |  | | | |  | | | | |  | |
|  | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NVIS Level 5 Vegetation Association Information | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Stratum | Species  (or field name) | | % Foliage projective cover | | Dominant growth form | | Average height (m) | Photo ID (optional) | | Vouchered specimens | | |
| Voucher barcode | | Voucher type |
| U1 |  | |  | |  | |  |  | |  | |  |
| U2 |  | |  | |  | |  |  | |  | |  |
| U3 |  | |  | |  | |  |  | |  | |  |
| M1 |  | |  | |  | |  |  | |  | |  |
| M2 |  | |  | |  | |  |  | |  | |  |
| M3 |  | |  | |  | |  |  | |  | |  |
| G1 |  | |  | |  | |  |  | |  | |  |
| G2 |  | |  | |  | |  |  | |  | |  |
| G3 |  | |  | |  | |  |  | |  | |  |
|  | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Comments | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Vegetation mapping observation (repeatable component) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Vegetation Mapping  Point ID\* | | Field ID | | | Location\* (waypoint or lat/long) | | | | Homogeneity measure (m)\* | |
|  | |  | | |  | | | |  | |
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| Photo ID | | Photo direction | | | Photo comments | | | | | |
|  | |  | | |  | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | | | |
| Vegetation growth stage\* | | Site disturbance\* | | | Land use history\* | | | | Fire history  (if known, include date of most recent) | |
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| U2 |  | |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |
| U3 |  | |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |
| M1 |  | |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |
| M2 |  | |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |
| M3 |  | |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |
| G1 |  | |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |
| G2 |  | |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |
| G3 |  | |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |
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| Comments | | | | | | | | | | |
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| **VEGETATION MAPPING PROTOCOL – DROPDOWN FIELD OPTIONS** | | | | | | | | | |
| **Vegetation growth stage** |  | **Site disturbance** |  | **Land-use history** | | |  | **Growth form** | |
| Early regeneration |  | No effective disturbance |  | Nature conservation | Landscape | |  | Tree | Tree-fern |
| Advanced regeneration |  | No effective disturbance except grazing by hoofed animals |  | Strict nature reserves | Traditional Indigenous uses | |  | Tree mallee | Fern |
| Uneven age |  | Limited clearing, for example, limited logging |  | Wilderness area | Other minimal use | |  | Shrub | Bryophyte |
| Mature phase |  | Extensive clearing, for example, poisoning, ringbarking |  | National park | Defence land - natural areas | |  | Mallee shrub | Lichen |
| Senescent phase |  | Complete clearing, pasture, native or improved, but never cultivated |  | Natural feature protection | Stock route | |  | Heath shrub | Epiphyte |
|  |  | Complete clearing, pasture, native or improved, cultivated at some stage |  | Habitat/species management area | Residual native cover | |  | Chenopod shrub | Vine |
| **Fire history** |  | Cultivation, rain-fed |  | Protected landscape | Rehabilitation | |  | Samphire shrub | Palm |
| Unknown |  | Cultivation, irrigated, past or present |  | Other conserved area | Grazing native vegetation | |  | Tussock grass | Grass-tree |
| Known  (date of known fire) |  | Highly disturbed, e.g. quarrying, road works, mining, landfill, urban |  | Managed resource protection | Production native forests | |  | Hummock grass | Cycad |
|  |  | Regrowth after clearing |  | Biodiversity | Plantation forests | |  | Other grass | Seagrass |
|  |  | Significant natural disturbances, e.g. cyclonic impact |  | Surface water supply | Grazing modified pastures | |  | Sedge | Aquatic |
|  |  |  |  | Groundwater |  | |  | Rush | Lower plant |
|  |  |  |  |  | |  |  | Forb |  |