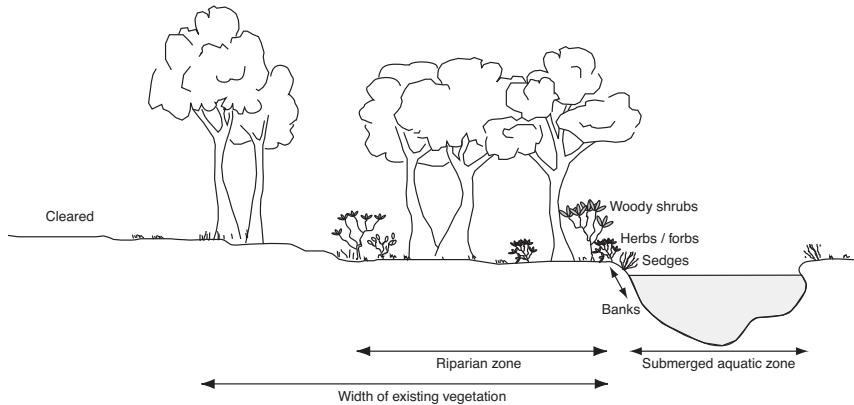


# Riparian vegetation record sheet—Method 1

Date (dd/mm/yy)  /  /  Monitor(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Site code \_\_\_\_\_ Tributary name \_\_\_\_\_

The riparian zone is a band of vegetation along a stream or river that is directly linked to the stream. Riparian vegetation is dependent on the extra moisture provided by the waterbody, and provides leaf and branch litter to the stream. The riparian zone selected for assessment should be relatively homogenous and representative of the area. Highly disturbed riparian zones may be very thin and patchy.



## 1. Bank vegetation

Estimate the following measurements for both banks along the total length of your site (reach). Measure the width as the surface distance away from the water's edge.

Left bank	Measurement	Right bank
	Width of existing vegetation (m)	
	Number of gaps in the canopy (> 5 m)	

## 2. Introduced species

Record the presence of all listed plant species present in the riparian zone at your site.

Plant species	Presence
Species 1	
Species 2	
Species 3	
Species 4	
Species 5	
Species 6	
Species 7	
Species 8	
Species 9	
Species 10	

Note: The species list should change in accordance with your project objectives—what plants are important for your program—and can include both native and introduced species.

## 3. Dominant vegetation

Mark the box for each bank that best represents the distribution of native to introduced riparian vegetation at the site.

Left bank	Dominant vegetation	Right bank
	Native species	
	Even between natives and introduced species	
	Introduced (non-native) species	

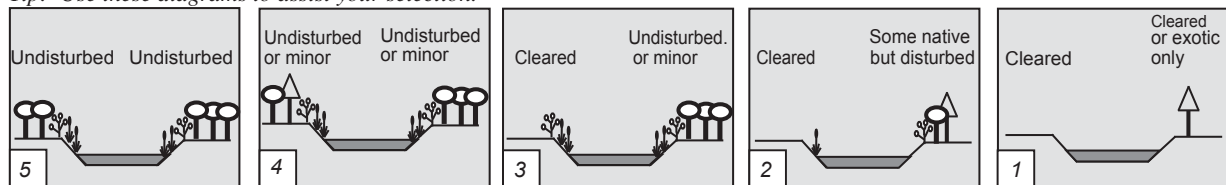
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**4. Riparian zone disturbance rating**

Using the information perviously collected to inform your choice, select and mark one box that best describes the state of the riparian vegetation present at your site.

<p><b>Undisturbed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• riparian zone width greater than 40 m</li> <li>• native vegetation on BOTH sides of the stream in an undisturbed state</li> <li>• introduced plants rare or insignificant</li> <li>• representative of natural vegetation in excellent condition.</li> </ul>	<b>5</b>	
<p><b>Good</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• riparian zone width less than 40 m but still wide</li> <li>• native vegetation on BOTH sides of the stream in generally good condition with few introduced plants present</li> <li>• evidence of minor disturbance.</li> </ul>	<b>4</b>	
<p><b>Moderate</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• both sides moderately disturbed by stock or through intrusion of introduced plants</li> </ul> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• one side cleared and other side undisturbed native vegetation</li> </ul> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• narrow (&lt; 20 m) width of native plants on both sides.</li> </ul>	<b>3</b>	
<p><b>Poor</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• one bank cleared and the other side moderately disturbed through stock or intrusion of introduced plants</li> </ul> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• narrow (&lt; 20 m) riparian widths dominated by introduced plants</li> </ul>	<b>2</b>	
<p><b>Very Poor</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• riparian vegetation absent or severely reduced</li> <li>• vegetation present is extremely disturbed and dominated by introduced plants</li> <li>• native plants are rare or completely absent</li> </ul>	<b>1</b>	

*Tip: Use these diagrams to assist your selection.*



**5. Riparian zone disturbance score**

This number, taken from the riparian zone disturbance rating above, is the overall riparian zone disturbance score for the site and has a maximum value of 10. To calculate this score, multiply the riparian vegetation disturbance rating by 2 and enter the result into the box below.

Riparian zone disturbance score    ___ / 10
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