

Definition:

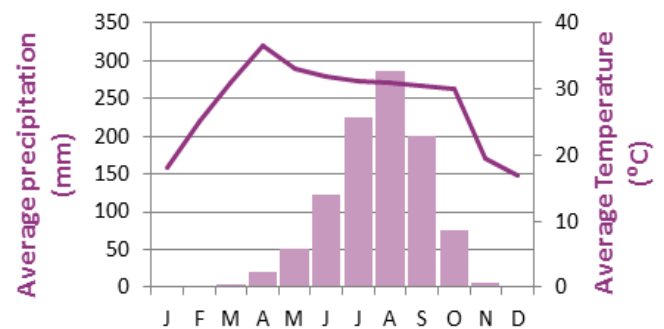
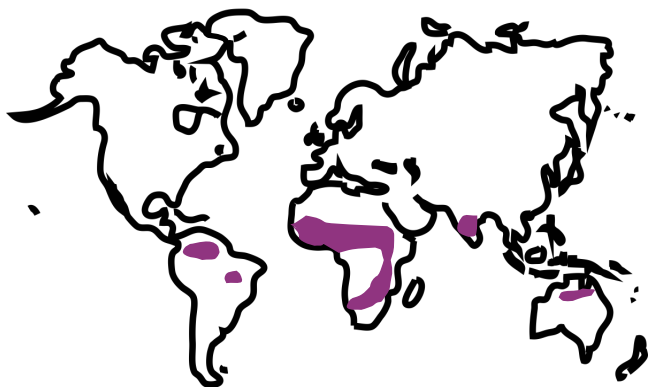
A terrestrial biome containing large areas of open space and grasslands, with occasional small trees and shrubs.

Location

- Savanna grasslands are found in large bands on either side of the Equator, between the tropical rainforest and desert biomes.
- Savannas are found in Africa, South America, Asia and Australasia, within 30° of the Equator.

Climate

- Two very distinct seasons; a long dry season and a shorter wet season.
- No rain from December-February then monsoon rains begin in May.
- Slightly cooler during the dry season, however temperatures are still 21°C or above.



(Flickr Source : Manuel Romaris)



An African Elephant; typical of a Savanna biome.

Examples of Flora

- Clumps of tall, spiky grasses such as Pampas grass.
- Baobab trees with large swollen stems.

Examples of Fauna

- African Elephants—the largest mammals in the world.
- Koala Bears—lean and muscly marsupials.
- Herding animals like Wildebeest and Antelope.

Conservation

Unsustainable farming practices can contribute to soil erosion and the removal of nutrients from the soil. Known as desertification, this can increase the pressure on the remaining farmland. With conservation, desertification can be avoided and may even be reversible.

Conservation strategies include:

- Planting hedges around fields to prevent soil from being blown away.
- Use natural fertiliser, e.g. fertiliser made from dead plants.
- Burn branches for fuel rather than whole trees.
- Soil run-off and soil erosion can be reduced by terracing slopes, which means adding wide steps into the landscape.



(Flickr Source : Matt Champlin)

Serengeti National Park, Tanzania; a typical savanna biome.