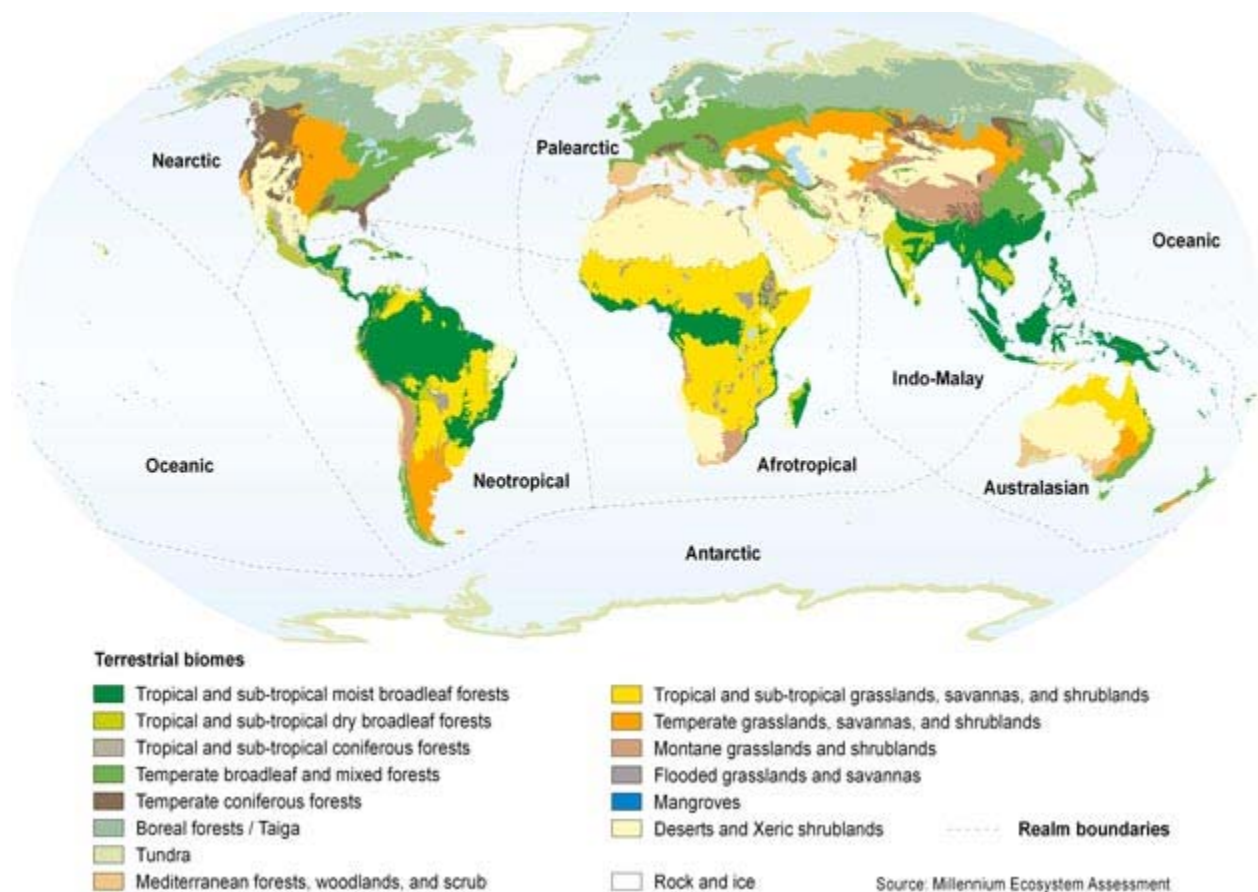


## The 8 Biogeographical Realms and 14 Biomes

Biogeographic realms are large spatial regions within which ecosystems share a broadly similar biological evolutionary history. Eight terrestrial biogeographic realms are typically recognized, corresponding roughly to continents.

Although similar ecosystems (such as tropical moist forests) share similar processes and major vegetation types wherever they are found, their species composition varies markedly depending on the biogeographic realm in which they are found. Assessing biodiversity at the level of biogeographic realms is important because the realms display substantial variation in the extent of change, they face different drivers of change, and there may be differences in the options for mitigating or managing the drivers. Terrestrial biogeographic realms reflect freshwater biodiversity patterns reasonably well, but marine biogeographic realms are poorly known and largely undefined.



## **Afrotropical Realm**

### **Tropical humid forests**

- Guinean Rainforest
- Congo Rainforest
- Malagasy Rainforest

### **Tropical dry or deciduous forests (incl. Monsoon forests) or woodlands**

- West African Woodland/Savanna
- East African Woodland/Savanna
- Congo Woodland/Savanna
- Miombo Woodland/Savanna
- South African Woodland/Savanna
- Malagasy Woodland/Savanna
- Malagasy Thorn Forest

### **Evergreen sclerophyllous forests, scrubs or woodlands**

- Cape Sclerophyll

### **Warm deserts and semideserts**

- Western Sahel
- Eastern Sahel
- Somalian
- Namib
- Kalahari
- Karoo

### **Mixed mountain and highland systems with complex zonation**

- Ethiopian Highlands
- Guinean Highlands
- Central African Highlands
- East African Highlands
- South African Highlands

### **Mixed island systems**

- Ascension and St. Helena Islands
- Comores Islands and Aldabra
- Mascarene Islands

### **Lake systems**

- Lake Rudolph
- Lake Ukerewe (Victoria)
- Lake Tanganyika
- Lake Malawi (Nyassa)

## **Antarctic Realm**

### **Subtropical and temperate rain forests or woodlands**

Neozealandia

### **Tundra communities and barren Arctic desert**

Maudlandia

Marielandia

Insulantarctica

## **Australian Realm**

### **Tropical humid forests**

Queensland Coastal

### **Subtropical and temperate rain forests or woodlands**

Tasmanian

### **Tropical dry or deciduous forests (incl. Monsoon forests) or woodlands**

Northern Coastal

### **Evergreen sclerophyllous forests, scrubs or woodlands**

Western Sclerophyll

Eastern Sclerophyll

Brigalow

### **Warm deserts and semideserts**

Western Mulga

Central Desert

Southern Mulga/Saltbush

### **Tropical grasslands and savannas**

Northern Savanna

Northern Grasslands

### **Temperate grasslands**

Eastern Grasslands and Savannas

## **Indomalayan Realm**

### **Tropical humid forests**

Malabar Rainforest

Ceylonese Rainforest

Bengalian Rainforest

Burman Rainforest

Indochinese Rainforest

South Chinese Rainforest

Malayan Rainforest

**Tropical dry or deciduous forests (incl. Monsoon forests) or woodlands**

Indus-Ganges Monsoon Forest

Burma Monsoon Forest

Thailandian Monsoon Forest

Mahanadian

Coromandel

Ceylonese Monsoon Forest

Deccan Thorn Forest

**Warm deserts and semideserts**

Thar Desert

**Mixed island systems**

Seychelles and Amirantes Islands

Laccadives Islands

Maldives and Chagos Islands

Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands

Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Sumatra

Java

Lesser Sunda Islands

Celebes

Borneo

Philippines

Taiwan

## **Nearctic Realm**

**Subtropical and temperate rain forests or woodlands**

Sitkan

Oregonian

**Temperate needle-leaf forests or woodlands**

Yukon Taiga

Canadian Taiga

**Temperate broad-leaf forests or woodlands, and subpolar deciduous thickets**

Eastern Forest

Austroriparian

**Evergreen sclerophyllous forests, scrubs or woodlands**

Californian

**Warm deserts and semideserts**

Sonoran

Chihuahuan

Tamaulipan

**Cold-winter (continental) deserts and semideserts**

Great Basin

**Tundra communities and barren Arctic desert**

Aleutian Islands

Alaskan Tundra

Canadian Tundra

Arctic Archipelago

Greenland Tundra

Arctic Desert and Icecap

**Temperate grasslands**

Grasslands

Mixed mountain and highland systems with complex zonation

Rocky Mountains

Sierra-Cascade

Madrean-Cordilleran

**Lake systems**

Great Lakes

## **Neotropical Realm**

**Tropical humid forests**

Campechean

Panamanian

Colombian Coastal

Guayanan

Amazonian

Madeiran

Serra do Mar (Bahian coast)

**Subtropical and temperate rain forests or woodlands**

Brazilian Rainforest (Brazilian Deciduous Forest)

Brazilian Planalto (Brazilian Araucaria Forest)

Valdivian Forest (Chilean Temperate Rain Forest)

Chilean Nothofagus

**Tropical dry or deciduous forests (incl. Monsoon forests) or woodlands**

Everglades

Sinaloa

Guerreran

Yucatecan (Yucatan)

Central American (Carib-Pacific)

Venezuelan Dry Forest

Venezuelan Deciduous Forest

Ecuadoran Dry Forest

Caatinga

Gran Chaco

**Temperate broad-leaf forests or woodlands, and subpolar deciduous thickets**

Chilean Araucaria Forest

**Evergreen sclerophyllous forests, scrubs or woodlands**

Chilean Sclerophyll

**Warm deserts and semideserts**

Pacific Desert (Peruvian and Atacama Desert)

Monte (Argentinian Thorn-scrub)

**Cold-winter (continental) deserts and semideserts**

Patagonian

**Tropical grasslands and savannas**

Llanos

Campos Limpos (Guyana highlands)

Babacu

Campos Cerrados (Campos)

**Temperate grasslands**

Argentinian Pampas (Pampas)

Uruguayan Pampas

**Mixed mountain and highland systems with complex zonation**

Northern Andean

Colombian Montane

Yungas (Andean cloud forest)

Puna

Southern Andean

**Mixed island systems**

Bahamas-Bermudan

Cuban

Greater Antillean (Jamaica, Hispaniola and Puerto Rico)

Lesser Antillean

Revilla Gigedo Island

Cocos Island

Galapagos Islands

Fernando de Noronja Island

South Trindade Island

**Lake systems**

Lake Titicaca

## Oceanian Realm

### Mixed island systems

- Papuan
- Micronesian
- Hawaiian
- Southeastern Polynesian
- Central Polynesian
- New Caledonian
- East Melanesian

## Palaearctic Realm

### Subtropical and temperate rain forests or woodlands

- Chinese Subtropical Forest
- Japanese Evergreen Forest (Japanese Subtropical Forest)

### Temperate needle-leaf forests or woodlands

- West Eurasian Taiga
- East Siberian Taiga

### Temperate broad-leaf forests or woodlands, and subpolar deciduous thickets

- Icelandian
- Subarctic Birchwoods
- Kamchatkan
- British Isles (British and Irish Forest)
- Atlantic (West European Forest)
- Boreonemoral (Baltic Lowland)
- Middle European Forest (East European Mixed Forest)
- Pannonian (Danubian Steppe)
- West Anatolian
- Manchu-Japanese Mixed Forest
- Oriental Deciduous Forest

### Evergreen sclerophyllous forests, scrubs or woodlands

- Iberian Highlands
- Mediterranean Sclerophyll

### Warm deserts and semideserts

- Sahara
- Arabian Desert (Arabia)
- Anatolian-Iranian Desert (Turkish-Iranian Scrub-steppe)

### Cold-winter (continental) deserts and semideserts

- Turanian (Kazakh Desert Scrub-steppe)
- Talka-Makan-Gobi Desert

Tibetan

Iranian Desert

**Tundra communities and barren Arctic desert**

Arctic Desert

Higharctic Tundra

Lowarctic Tundra

**Temperate grasslands**

Atlas Steppe (Atlas Highlands)

Pontian Steppe (Ukraine-Kazakh Steppe)

Mongolian-Manchurian Steppe (Gobi-Manchurian Steppe)

**Mixed mountain and highland systems with complex zonation**

Scottish Highlands

Central European Highlands

Balkan Highlands

Caucaso-Iranian Highlands (Caucasus and Kurdistan-Iran Highlands)

Altai Highlands

Pamir-Tian Shan Highlands

Hindu Kush Highlands

Himalayan Highlands

Szechwan Highlands

**Mixed island systems**

Macaronesian Islands

Ryukyu Islands

**Lake systems**

Lake Ladoga

Aral Sea

Lake Baikal