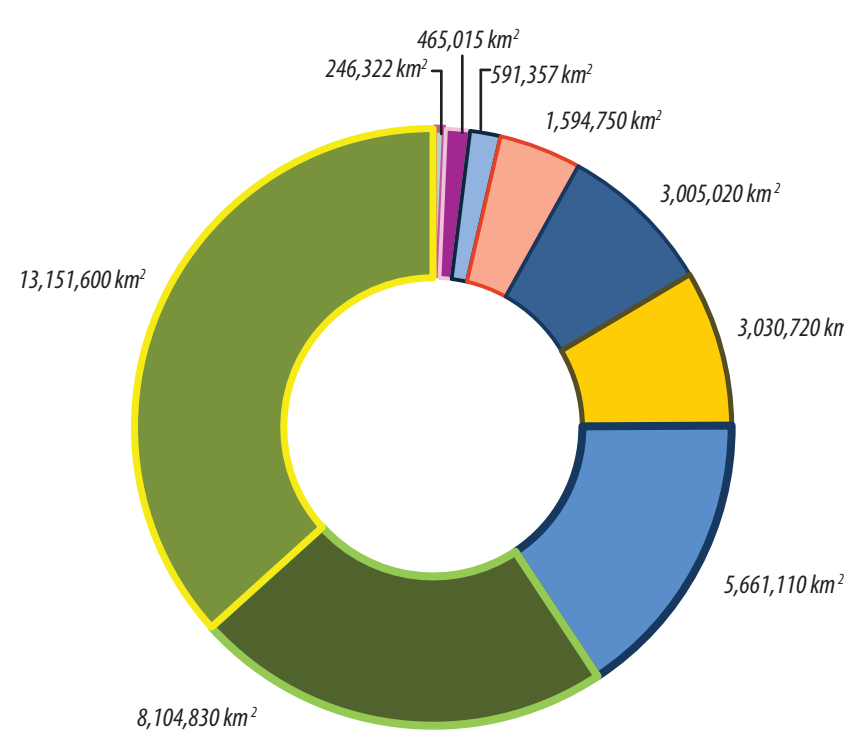


Global Grasslands

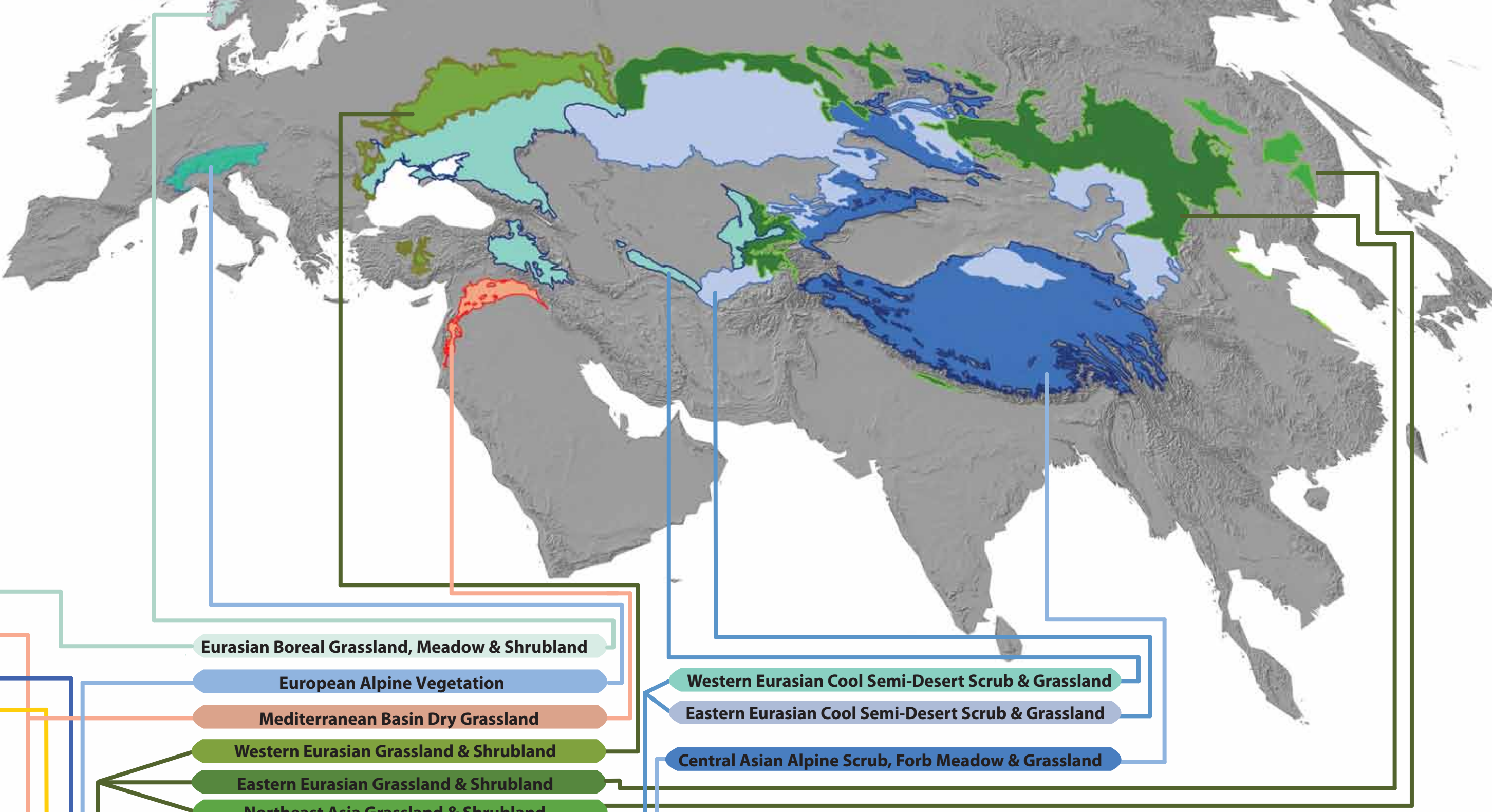
Unmapped North American Grasslands
Vancouverian and Rocky Mountain Grassland & Shrubland
Eastern North American Grassland, Meadow & Shrubland
Western North America Interior Sclerophyllous Chaparral Shrubland
Southeastern North American Grassland & Shrubland
North American Boreal Grassland, Meadow & Shrubland
Caribbean and Central American Montane Shrubland and Grassland

California Grassland & Meadow
Western North American Cool Semi-Desert Scrub & Grassland
North American Warm Desert Scrub & Grassland
Great Plains Grassland & Shrubland



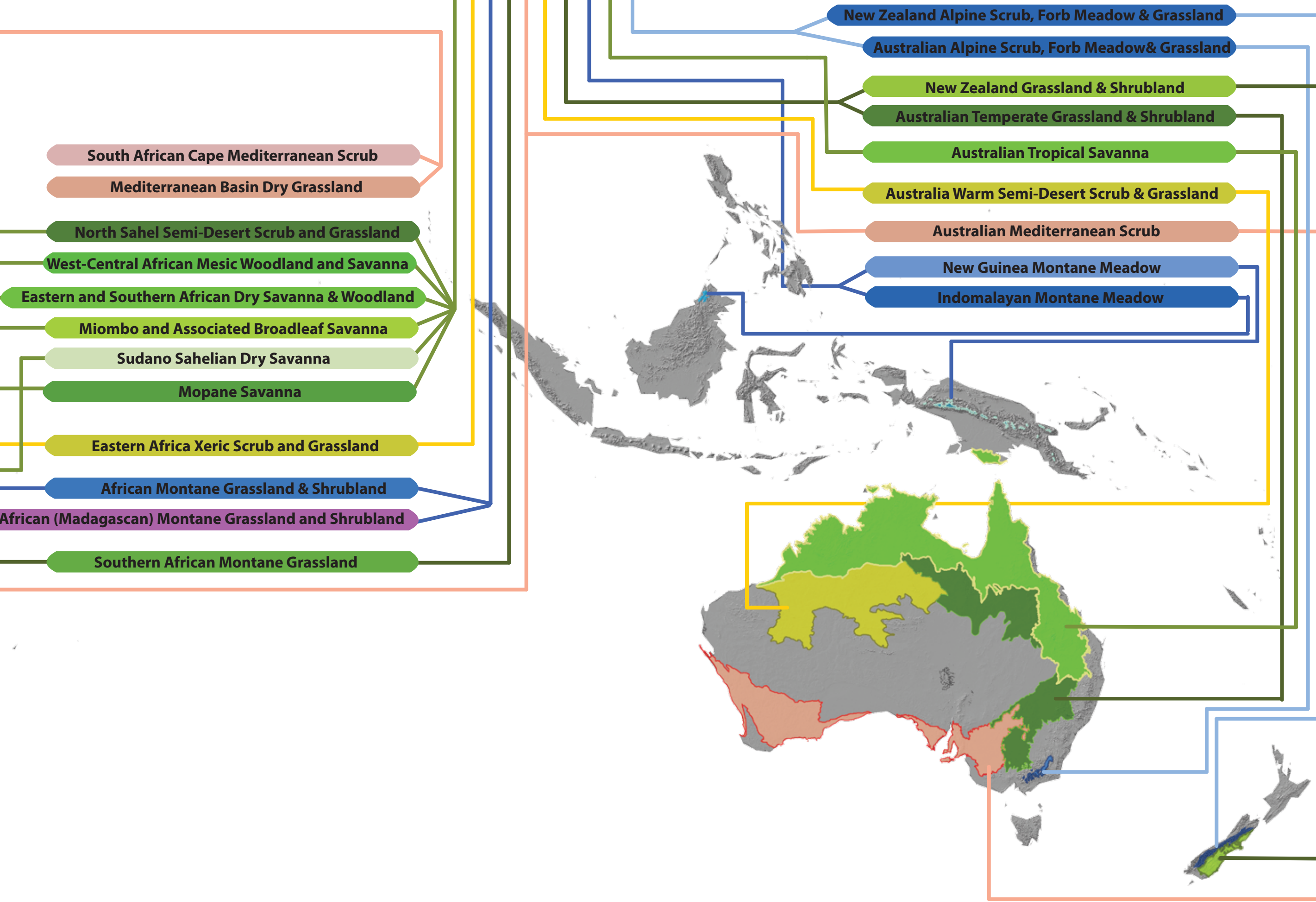
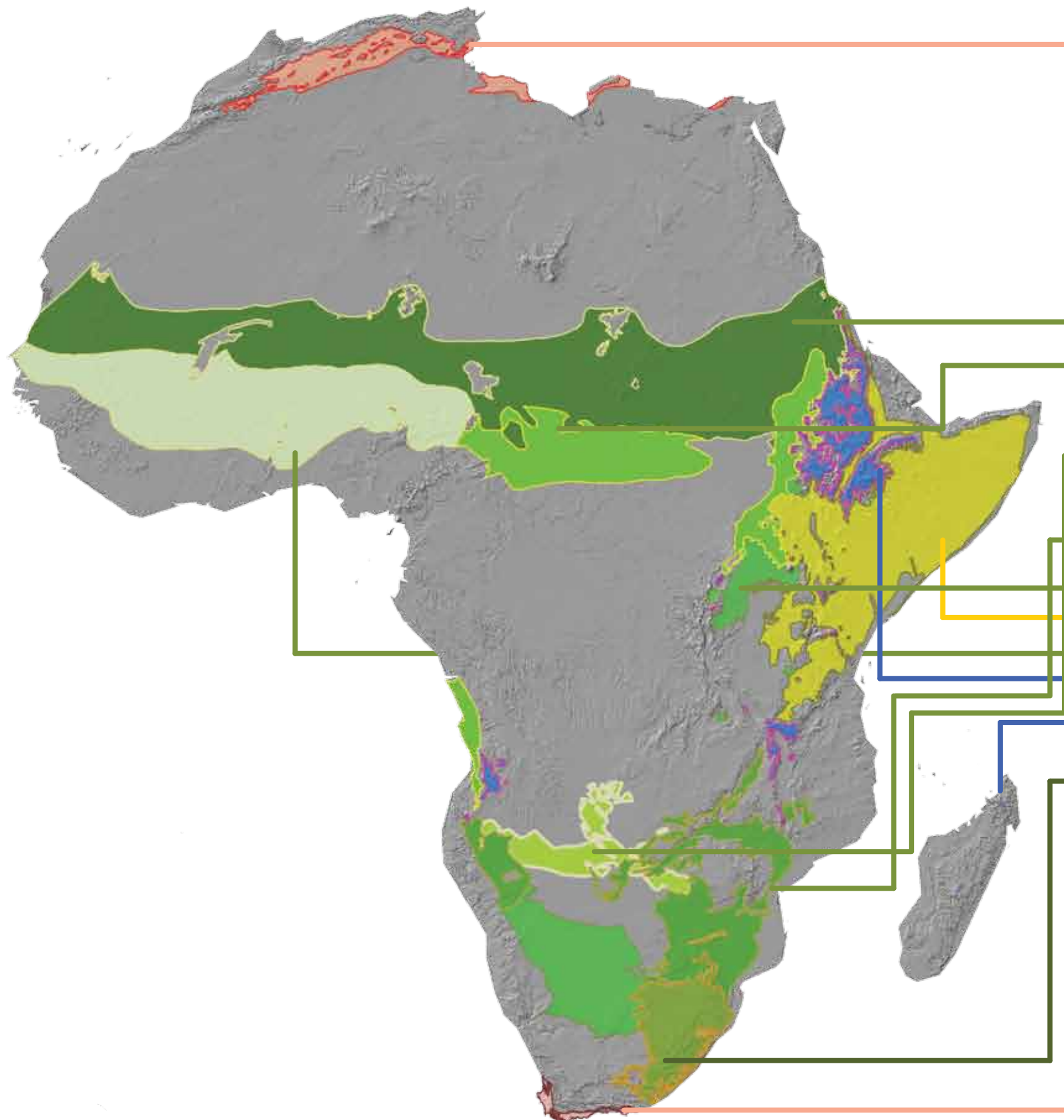
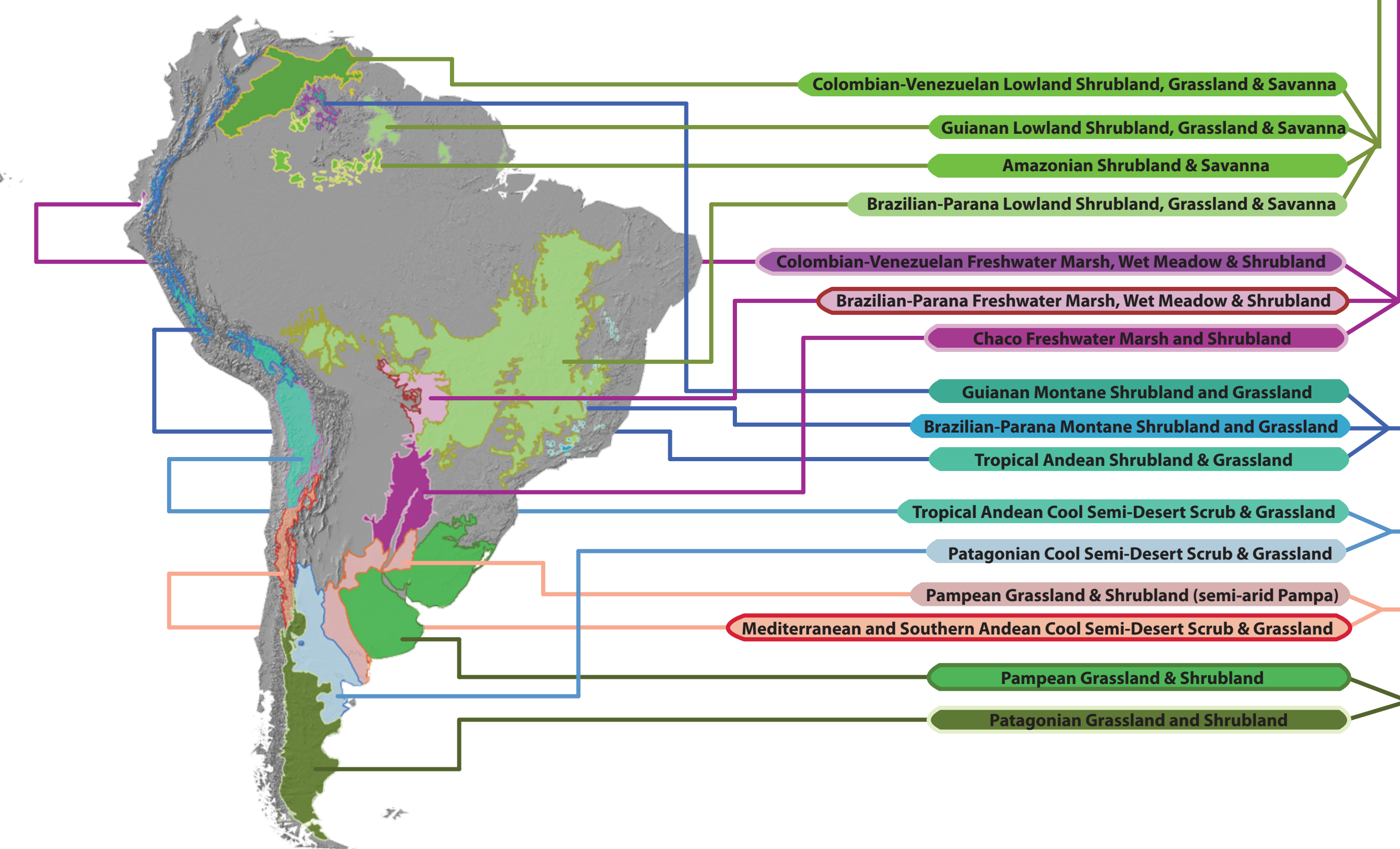
National and international policy frameworks – such as the European Union's Renewable Energy Directive – increasingly seek to conserve and reference 'highly biodiverse grasslands'. We propose a synthesized definition of grassland that can be applied globally, then combine the proposed International Vegetation Classification (IVC) – a global biogeographic methodology to characterize grassland types with the Terrestrial Ecoregions of the World (TEOW) – a spatial regionalization of the earth's terrestrial biodiversity.

We mapped forty-nine taxonomically distinct macro-scale vegetation assemblages. Sixteen additional distinct but with limited extent grassland types are recognized, but unable to be mapped with our approach.



Unmapped Eurasian Grasslands
Mediterranean Basin Montane Grassland & Scrub
European Grassland & Heath
Indomalayan Mesic Savanna and Grasslands
Polynesian Lowland Shrubland, Grassland & Savanna

- Grassland globally can be defined as:
1. a non-wetland formation;
 2. at least 10% vascular vegetation canopy cover;
 3. graminoids have at least 25% (but if < 25% cover, graminoids exceed that of other herbaceous and shrub cover);
 4. broad-leaved herbs (forbs) may have variable levels of cover and dominance;
 5. shrubs have < 25% canopy cover;
 6. and trees:
 - (i) temperate regions, trees typically have < 10% canopy cover, are < 5 m tall and single-layered,
 - (ii) or in tropical regions, trees typically have less than 40% canopy cover, are < 8 m tall, and single-layered.



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Map design by Adam P. Dixon
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