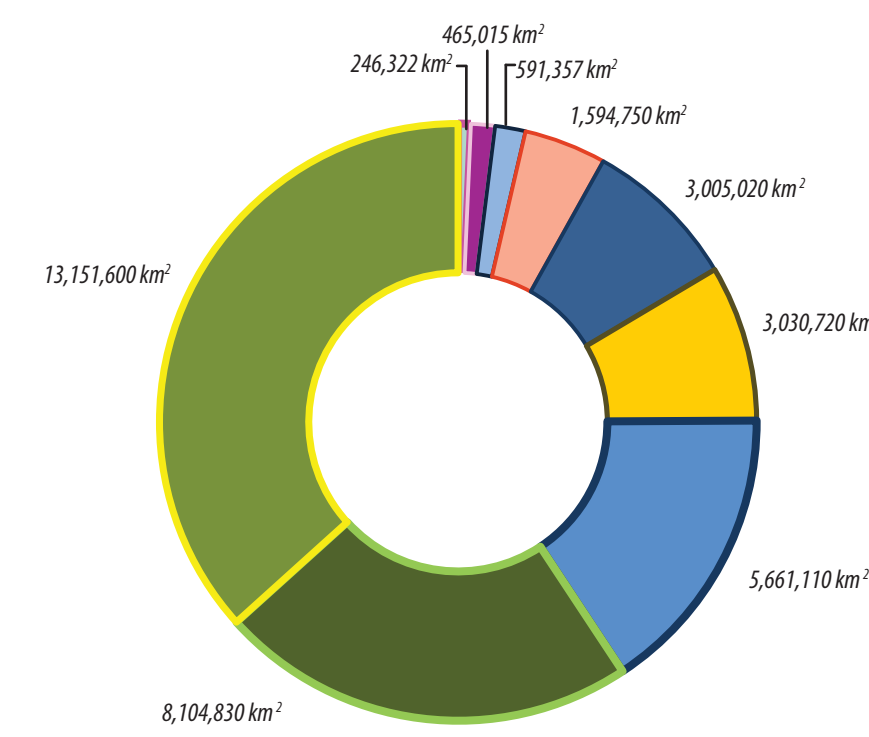


Global Grasslands

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.

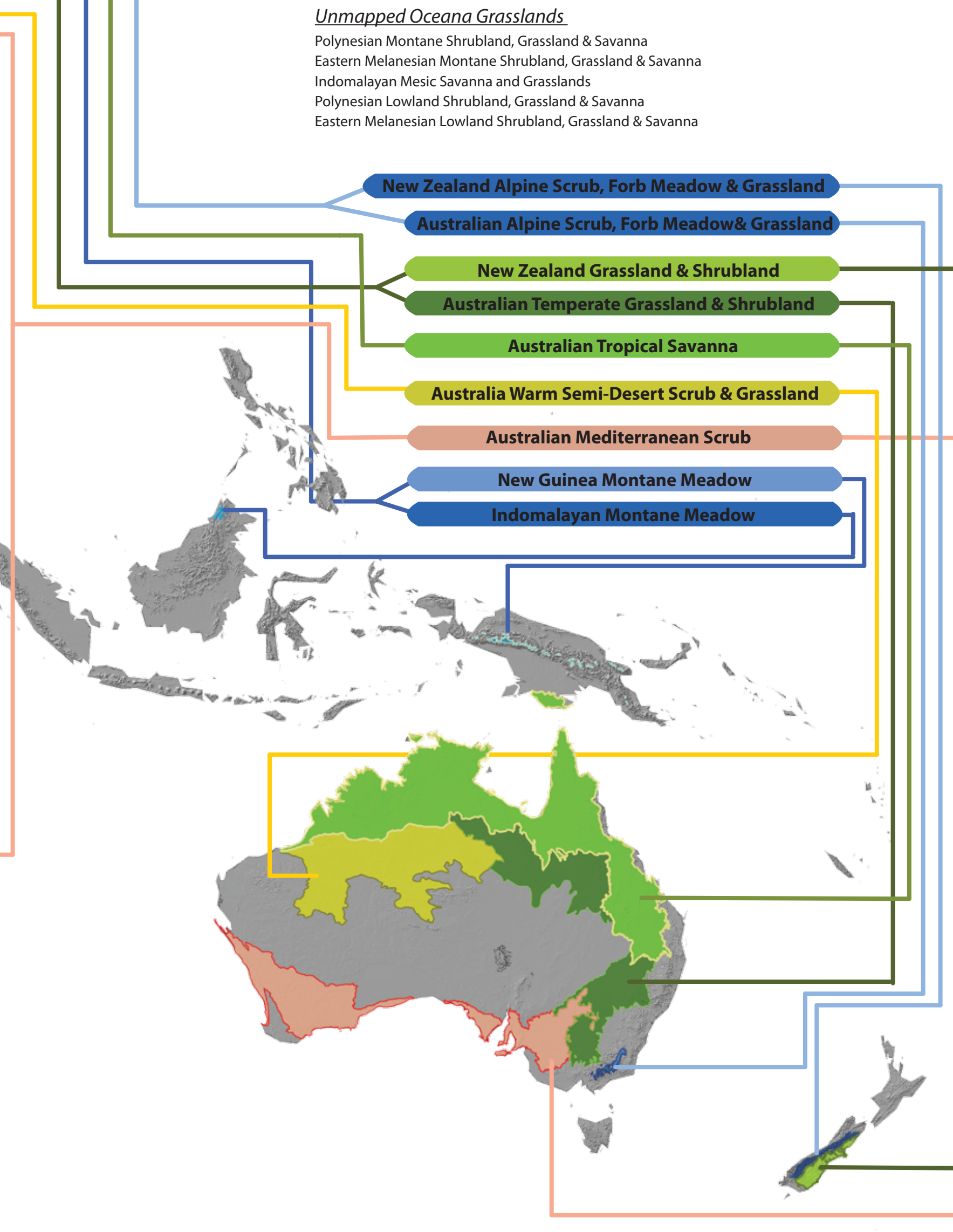
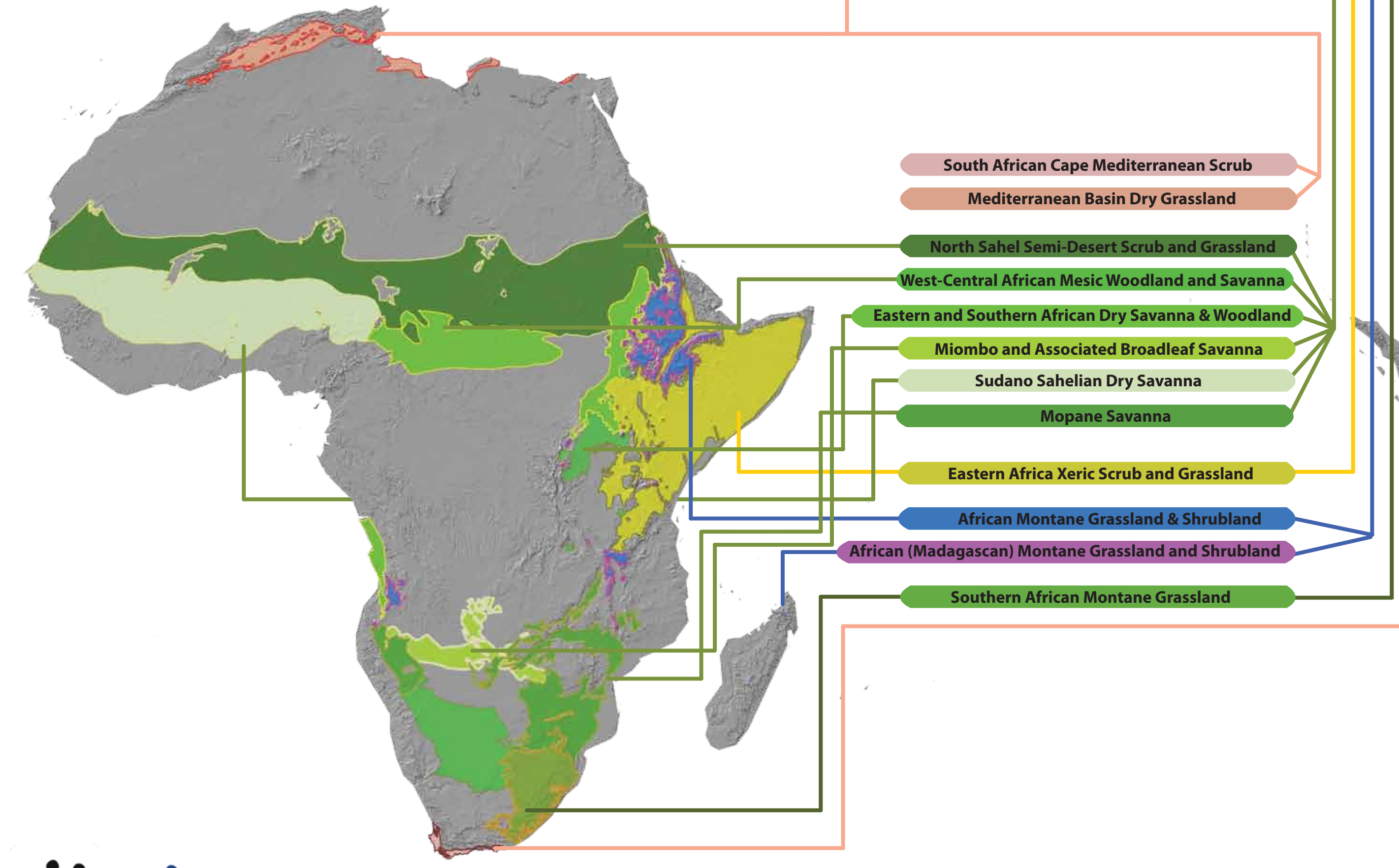
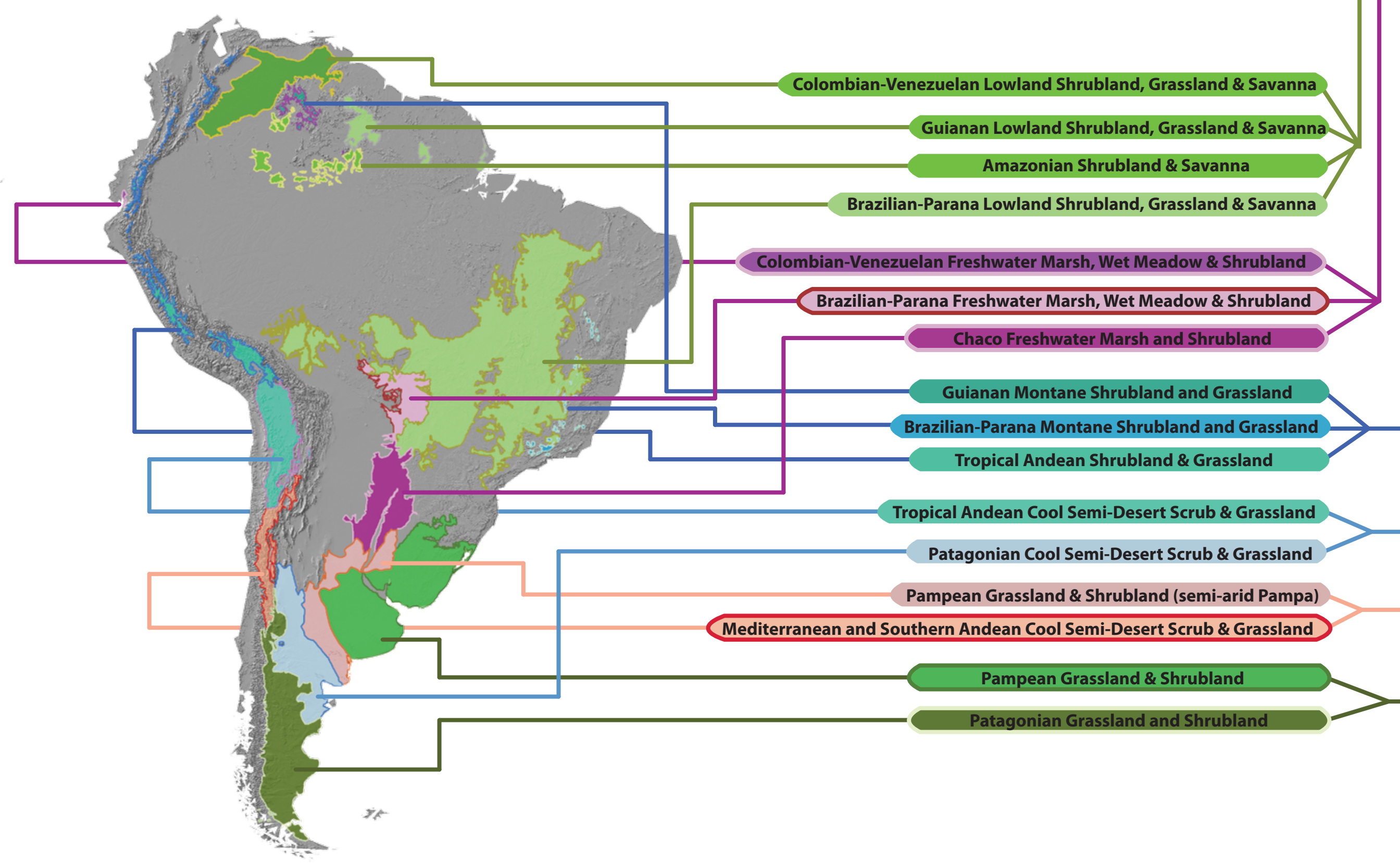
Alpine Scrub, Forb Meadow & Grassland
 Tropical Freshwater Marsh, Wet Meadow & Shrubland
 Tropical Lowland Grassland, Shrubland & Savanna
 Temperate Grassland, Meadow & Shrubland
 Boreal Grassland, Meadow & Shrubland
 Mediterranean Scrub, Grassland & Forb Meadow
 Tropical Montane Shrubland, Grassland & Savanna
 Warm Semi-Desert Scrub & Grassland
 Cool Semi-Desert Scrub & Grassland

Eurasian Boreal Grassland, Meadow & Shrubland
 European Alpine Vegetation
 Western Eurasian Cool Semi-Desert Scrub & Grassland
 Eastern Eurasian Cool Semi-Desert Scrub & Grassland
 Mediterranean Basin Dry Grassland
 Western Eurasian Grassland & Shrubland
 Eastern Eurasian Grassland & Shrubland
 Northeast Asia Grassland & Shrubland
 Central Asian Alpine Scrub, Forb Meadow & Grassland

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:

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



Dixon A.P., Faber-Langendoen, D., Josse, C., Morrison, J., Loucks, C.J. (2014) Distribution mapping of world grassland types. *Journal of Biogeography*, in press.

Faber-Langendoen, D., Josse, C. (2010) World Grasslands and Biodiversity Patterns. NatureServe, Arlington, VA.

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