

Distribution

The size and spatial distribution of the ecozones is shown in Fig. 1.1 and Table 1.1 and in the regional chapters.

Table 1.1. Areal extent of the ecozones

Ecozones – Sub-ecozones	Area million km ²	Landmass (%)
Polar subpolar	22.0	14.8
– <i>Ice deserts</i>	16.0	
– <i>Tundra and areas of rock and frost debris</i>	6.0	
Boreal	19.5	13.1
Temperate midlatitudes	14.5	9.7
Dry midlatitudes	16.5	11.1
– <i>Grass steppes</i>	12.0	
– <i>Deserts and semi-deserts</i>	4.5	
Subtropics with winter rain	2.5	1.7
Subtropics with year-round rain	6.0	4.0
Dry tropics and subtropics	31.0	20.8
– <i>Deserts and semi-deserts</i>	18.0	
– <i>Winter-wet grass and shrub steppes (subtropics)</i>	3.5	
– <i>Summer-wet thorn savanna (tropics) and thorn steppes (subtropics)</i>	9.5	
Tropics with summer rain	24.5	16.4
– <i>Dry savanna</i>	10.5	
– <i>Moist savanna</i>	14.0	
Tropics with year-round rain	12.5	8.4
Total area	149.0	100.0

The boundaries of the ecozones entered on the distribution maps adhere to the climatic zone structuring of the earth according to Troll and Paffen (1964), which do more justice to the earth zone's differentiation between vegetation and further natural characteristics than other effective climate classifications.

Nevertheless, their application for the drawing up of the ecozone remains makeshift, which in view of the fact that this book is primarily concerned

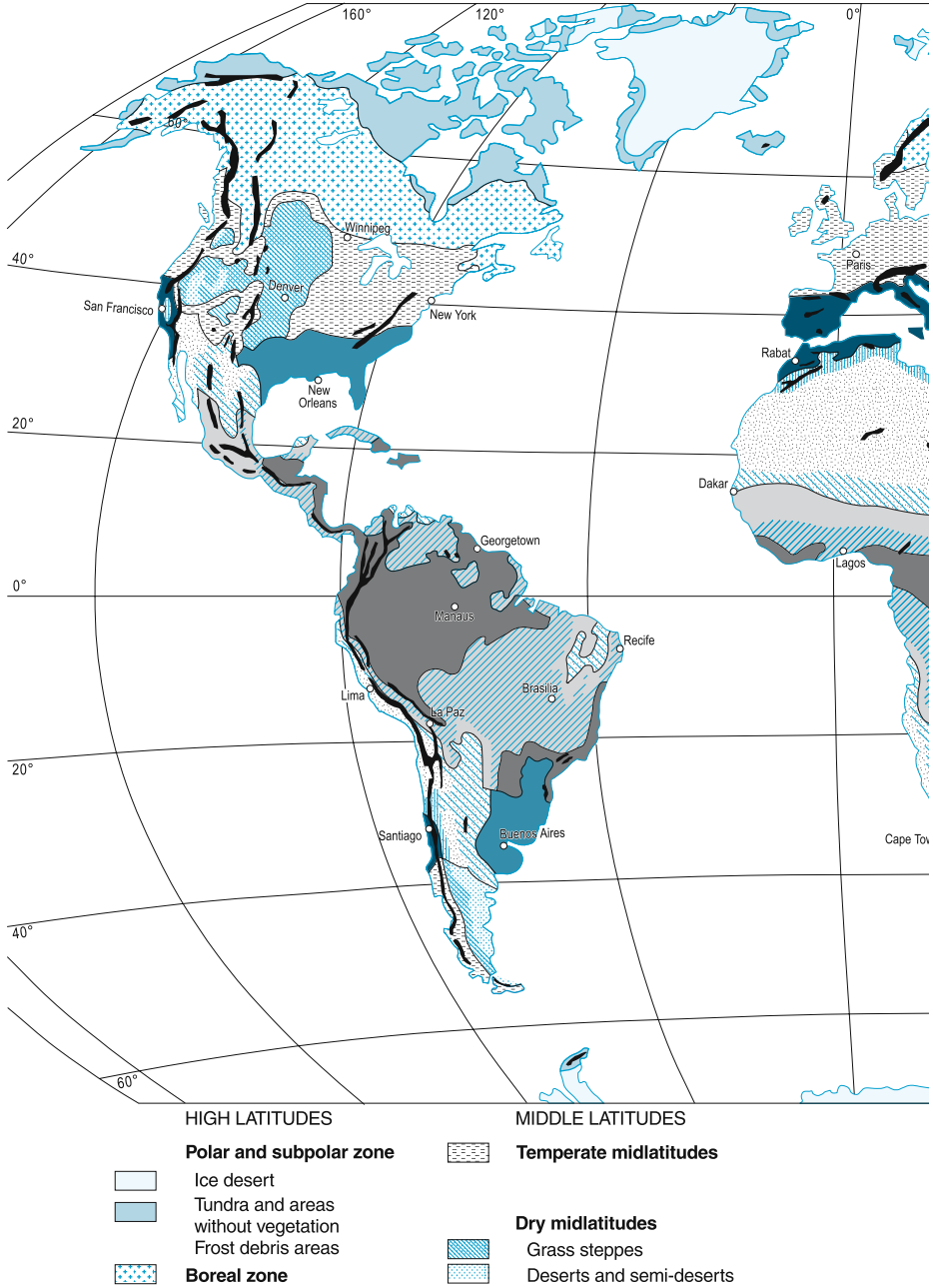
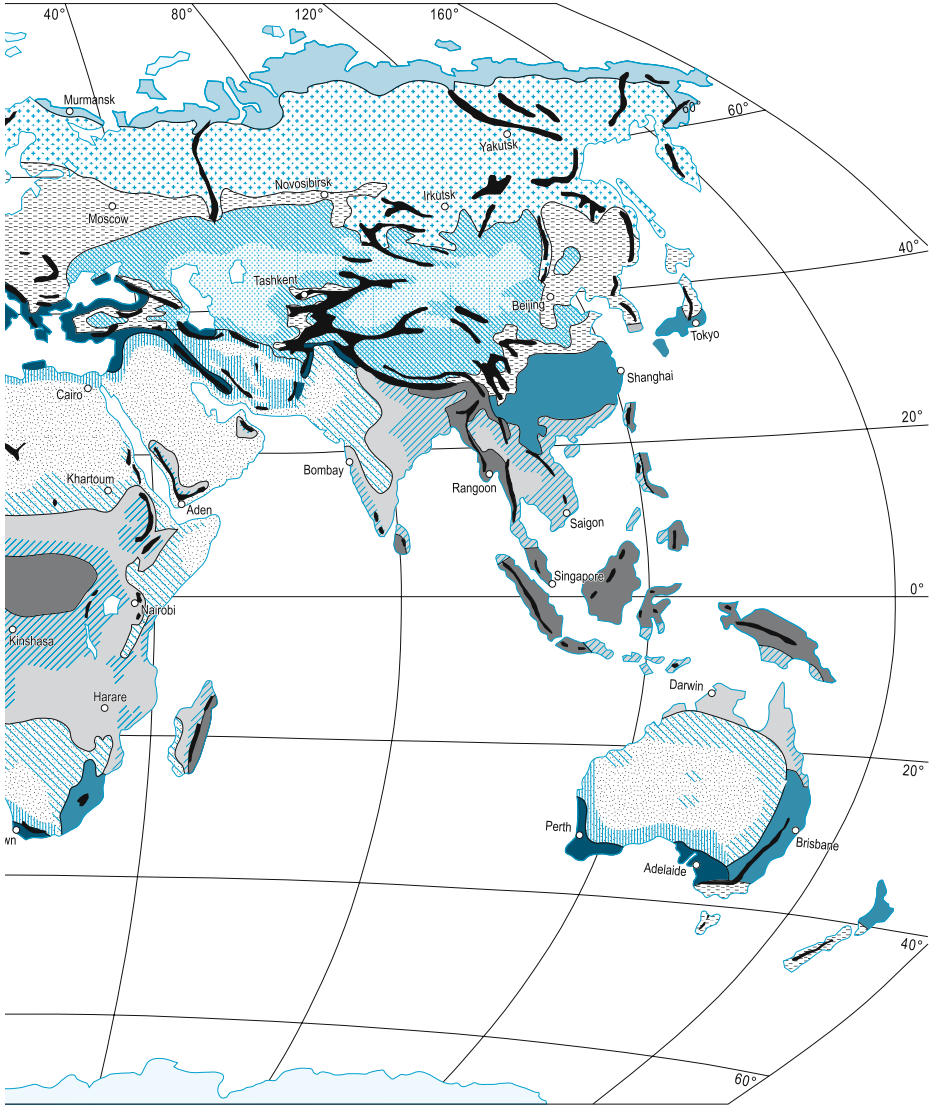












Fig. 1.1. Distribution of the eozones of the world



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|---|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| SUBTROPICS AND OUTER TROPICS | | TROPICS | |
|  | Subtropics with winter rain |  | Tropics with summer rain |
|  | Subtropics with year-round rain |  | Dry savanna |
| Dry tropics and subtropics | |  | Moist savanna |
|  | Deserts and semi-deserts |  | Tropics with year-round rain |
|  | Grass and shrub steppes with winter rain |  | Uplands and mountains |
|  | Thorn savanna and steppes with summer rain | | |

with the mean qualities of the ecozones renders the external boundary of less consequence and has to be accepted for the interim. Larger areas which are difficult to classify (e.g. thorn savannas) are referred to as “transitional areas” (Fig. 13.1 and Fig. 14.1).