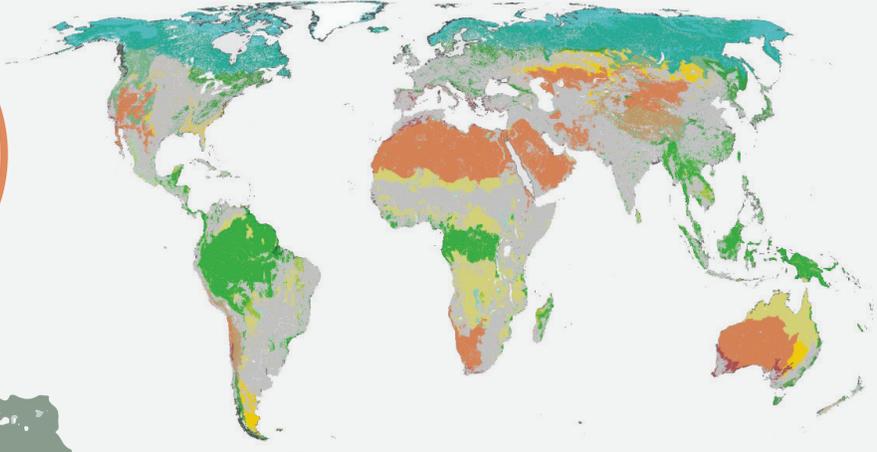


MAPPING HUMAN IMPACTS ACROSS THE GLOBE

A new study funded by the National Geographic Society maps out drivers of habitat loss and fragmentation in hopes to locate where there are opportunities to protect more land with minimal disruption to human landscapes.

Researchers did this by mapping out landscapes minimally affected by humans, known as *Low Impact Areas*.

>50%
OF THE PLANET
REMAINS LOW
IMPACTED
AREAS



BIOMES

- Non-low impact areas
- Permanent Ice & Rock
- Low Impact Areas**
 - Tropical Moist Forests
 - Tropical Dry Forests
 - Tropical Coniferous Forests
 - Temperate Broadleaf Forests
 - Temperate Coniferous Forests
 - Boreal Forests
 - Tropical Grasslands
 - Temperate Grasslands
 - Flooded Grasslands
 - Montane Grasslands
 - Tundra
 - Mediterranean
 - Deserts
 - Mangroves



WHAT IS A LOW IMPACT AREA?



NO
AGRICULTURE



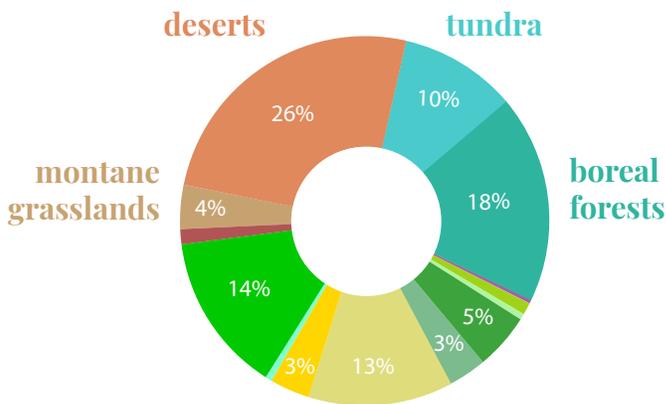
LOW
LIVESTOCK



NO
URBAN

Landscapes that currently have low human density and impacts and are not primarily managed for human needs.

REMAINING LOW HUMAN IMPACT AREAS BY BIOME (%)



Of remaining areas with low human impact, more than half is in less hospitable landscapes such as deserts, tundra, montane grasslands, and boreal forests. These cold, dry, and high landscapes have relatively low biodiversity.

WHAT IS FRAGMENTATION?

Fragmentation is the process in which habitats are subdivided into smaller and more isolated patches. This causes fracturing of ecosystems, and often leads to the migration or loss of many species and functions. Habitat loss and fragmentation due to human activities are the leading causes of today's biodiversity crisis.

MOST THREATENED

TROPICAL DRY FORESTS

16%

Tropical dry forests, such as those in southeastern Asia and parts of Central and South America, are the most fragmented and threatened with only 16% of their original range considered low impacted.

TEMPERATE GRASSLANDS

24%

Temperate grasslands are the next most threatened habitat with less than 25% of land area with low human impacts. Examples include the Mongolian steppes and the American Midwest.

LEAST THREATENED

TUNDRA

99%

Tundra areas in the far north have almost all of their range intact.

BOREAL FORESTS

92%

Boreal forests like those in Canada and Russia have also kept most of their land continuous.