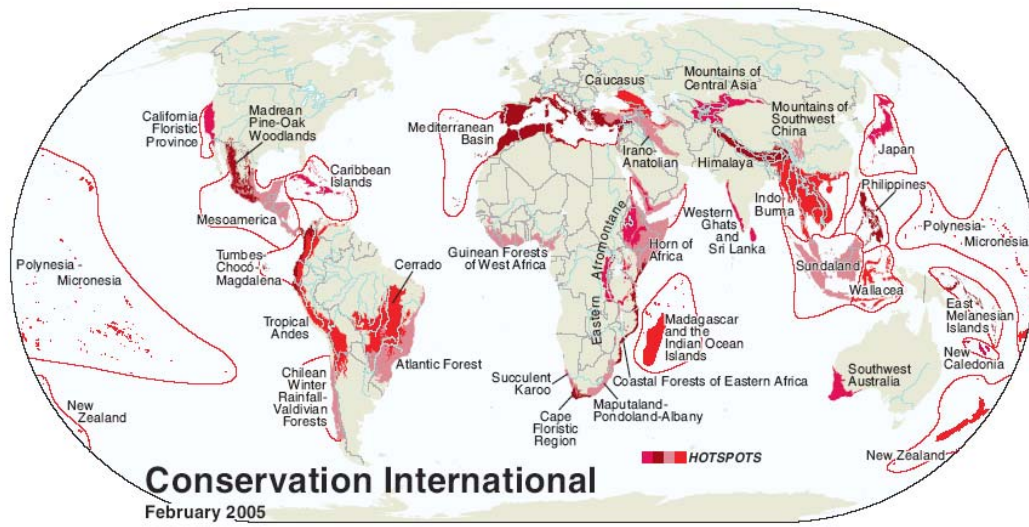


## What are Biodiversity Hotspots?



**The term Biodiversity Hotspot specifically refers to 34 designated biologically rich areas around the world characterized both by exceptional levels of plant endemism and by serious levels of habitat loss.**

### **Biodiversity Hotspots focus global conservation priorities**

Hotspots emphasize regions of the world with the most threatened biodiversity and the most urgent need for conservation action.

To qualify as a hotspot, a region must meet two strict criteria:

- 1) The region must contain at least 1,500 species of vascular plants (> 0.5% of the world's total) as endemics
- 2) The region has to have lost at least 70% of its original habitat:  
The remaining natural habitat in these biodiversity hotspots amounts to just 1.4% of the land surface of the planet, yet supports nearly 60% of the world's plant, bird, mammal, reptile, and amphibian species!