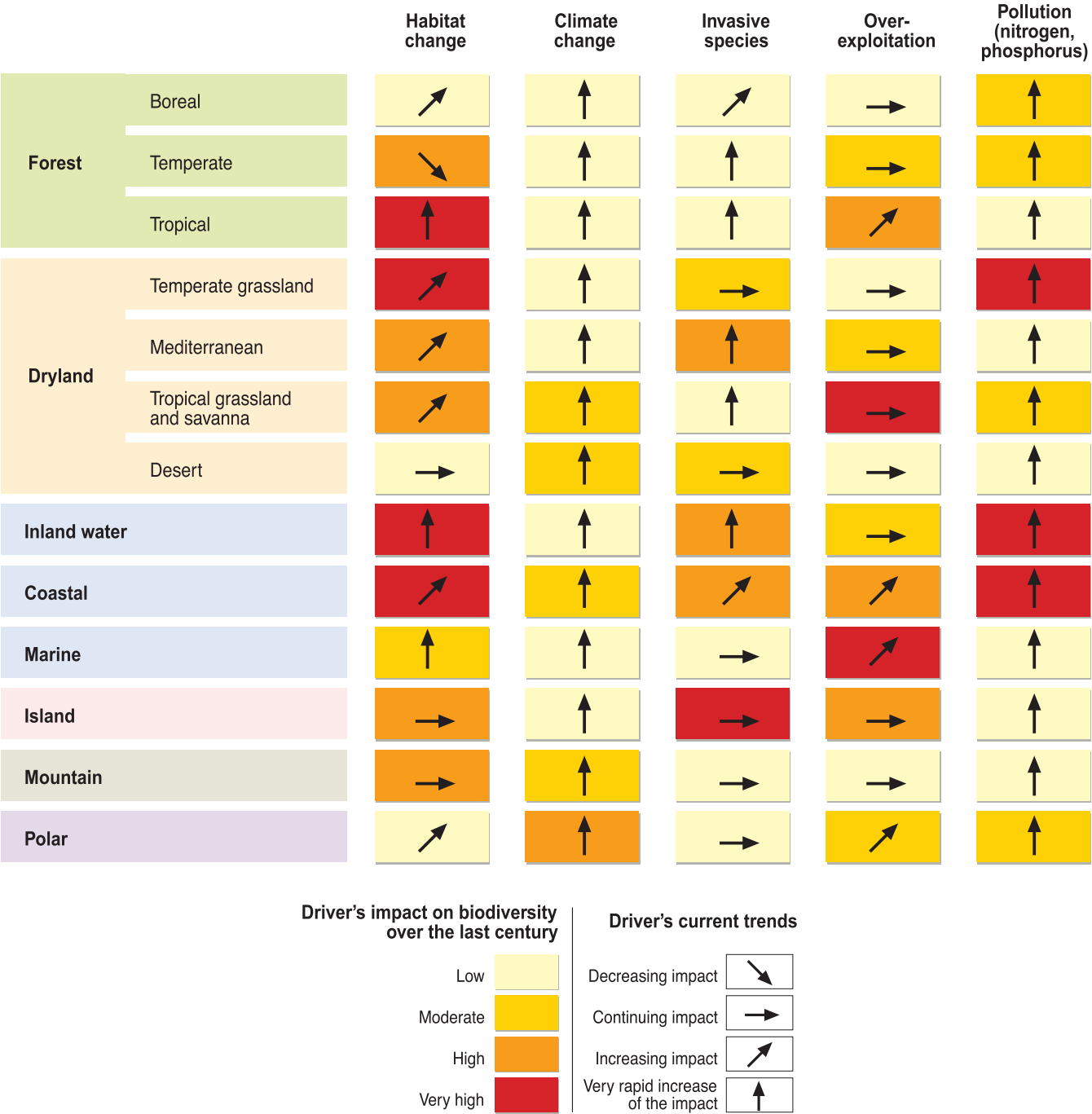


FIGURE 4.1 | Main direct drivers of change in biodiversity and ecosystems



The cell colour indicates the impact of each driver on biodiversity in each type of ecosystem over the past 50 to 100 years. High impact means that over the last century the particular driver has significantly altered biodiversity in that biome; low impact indicates that it has had little influence on biodiversity. The arrows indicate the trend in the driver. Horizontal arrows indicate a continuation of the current level of impact; diagonal upward and vertical arrows indicate progressively increasing trends in impact; and diagonal downward arrows indicate decreasing trends in impact. For example, if an ecosystem had experienced a very high impact of a particular driver in the past century (such as the impact of invasive species on islands), a horizontal arrow indicates that this very high impact is likely to continue. This figure is based on expert opinion consistent with and based on the analysis of drivers of change in the various chapters of the assessment report of the Condition and Trends Working Group of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. The figure presents global impacts and trends that may vary among regions.