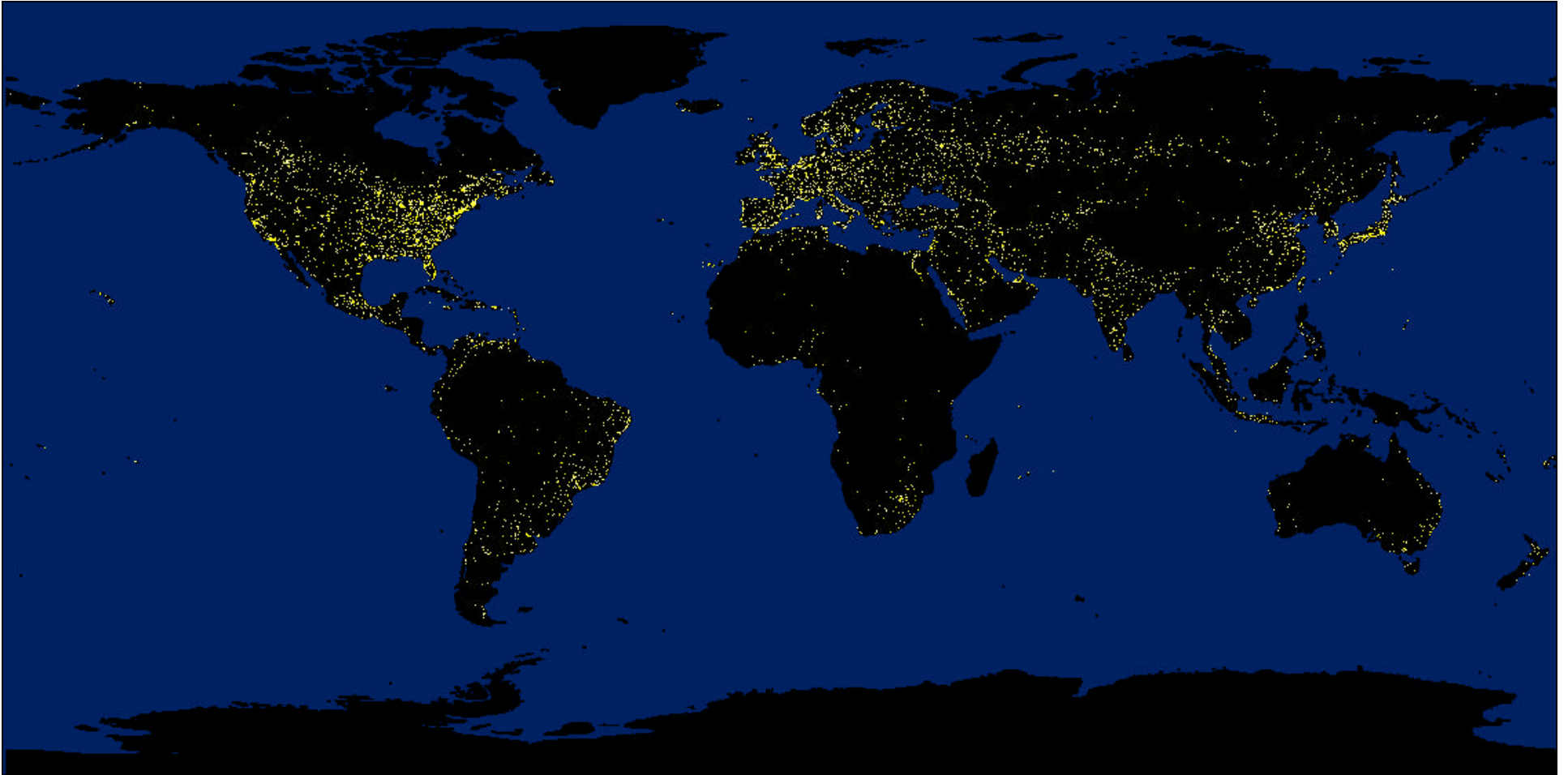


## City Lights of the World



**Map Projection:** Geographic

**Citation:** WRI, 2000 based on NOAA-NGDC, 1998

**Notes:**

NOAA National Geophysical Data Center. 1998. Stable Lights and Radiance Calibrated Lights of the World. CD-ROM. Boulder, CO: NOAA-NGDC.

Some lights detected by the DMSP may not be visible in the graphic due to re-sizing.

**Map Description:**

The National Geophysical "city lights" database depicts stable lights and radiance calibrated lights of the world (which includes lights from cities, towns, industrial sites, gas flares, fires, and lightning illuminated clouds). A high concentration of city lights is especially found in industrialized densely populated regions such as western Europe, Japan, and the U.S.. Alternatively, few "city lights" are shown in economically poorer and sparsely populated regions (e.g. central and northern Africa and South America). Moderate "city lights" are found in several densely populated "developing countries" (e.g. India, Indonesia, eastern Brazil, and South Africa). The "city lights" data may be used a proxy for population distribution or infrastructure (e.g. in which it may be assumed that the occurrence of few city lights is correlated with the presence of institutional, political, and industrial infrastructure).

**Source:**

1. NOAA-NGDC (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration-National Geophysical Data Center). 1998, Stable Lights and Radiance Calibrated Lights of the World CD-ROM. Boulder, Colorado, USA: NOAA-NGDC. Available On-line at: <http://spidr.ngdc.noaa.gov>.

**Analytical Overview:**

The National Geophysical "city lights" database is based on imagery developed by the Defense Meteorological Satellite Program (DMSP), which detecting low levels of visible to near infrared (VNIR) radiance at night. The VNIR pick up radiance from cities, towns, industrial sites, gas flares, fires, and lightning illuminated clouds. The resolution of this database is at 1km.