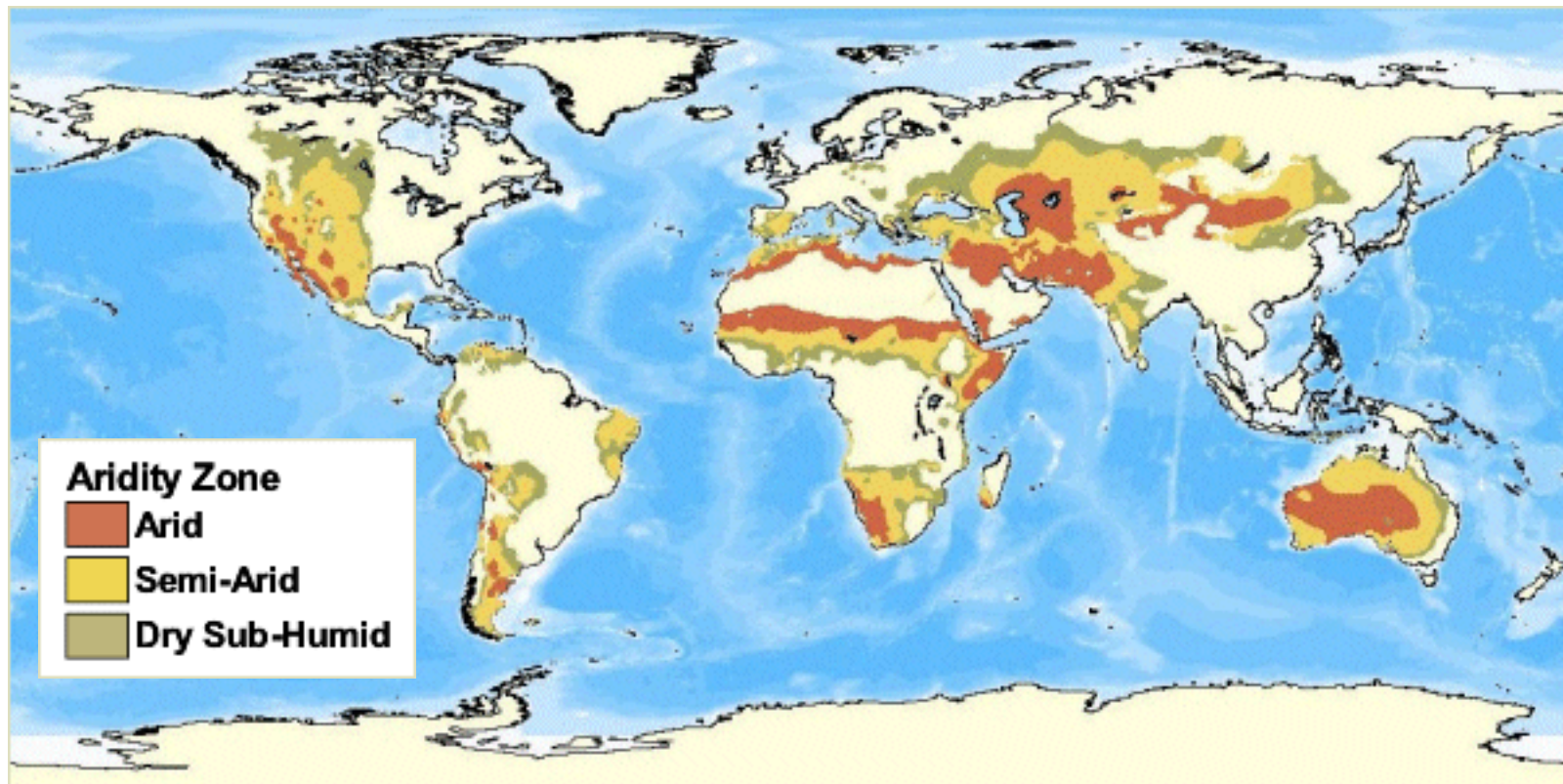


## Drylands: Extent of the World's Drylands



**Map Projection:** Geographic

**Citation:** WRI. 2002. World Resources Institute. Drylands, People, and Ecosystem Goods and Services: A Web-based Geospatial Analysis. Available online at: <http://www.wri.org>.

**Analytical Overview:**

The six original aridity zone classes were condensed into the three dryland classes for display on this map.

**Description:**

The extent of drylands within each region ranges from approximately 1.3 to 18 million km<sup>2</sup>. Asia and Africa have the largest total amounts (18 and close to 13 million km<sup>2</sup>, respectively); Central America and Europe have the least.

Australia has more dryland than any other country in the world, with approximately 6.6 million km<sup>2</sup>. Other countries with large amounts of dryland include the United States and three countries in Asia: Russia, China, and Kazakhstan—all with more than 2 million km<sup>2</sup>.

While large countries, like Russia and China, have large amounts of dryland, other generally smaller countries are 100 percent, or nearly 100 percent dryland: Botswana, Burkina Faso, Turkmenistan, Iraq, and Moldova. Two countries are both large and predominantly dryland: Kazakhstan with over 2.6 million km<sup>2</sup> is 99 percent dryland; and Iran with over 1.4 million km<sup>2</sup> is 90 percent dryland.