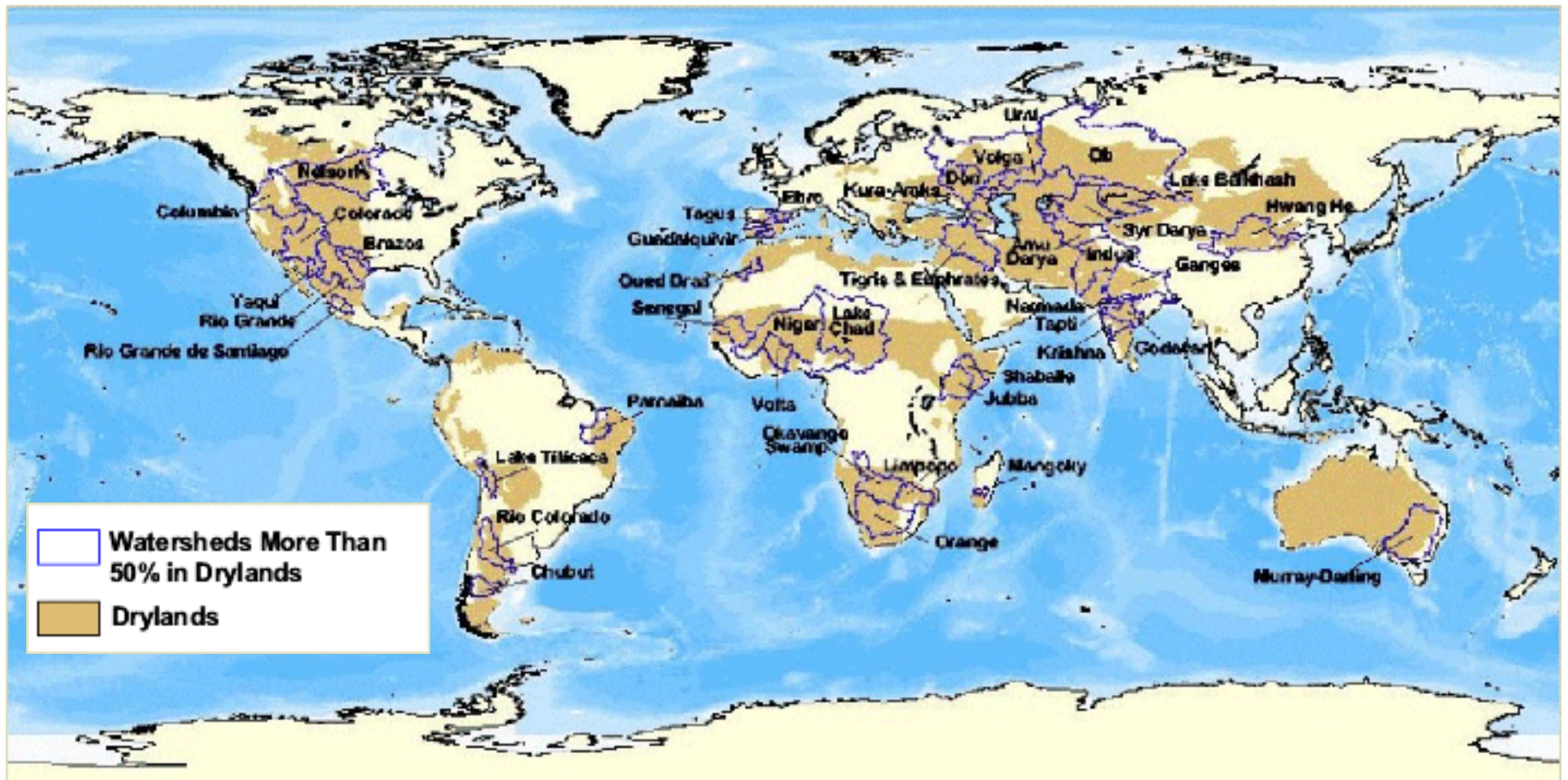


Drylands: Major Watersheds in Drylands



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 major watershed basin GIS coverage used in this map is from Revenga, et al, 1998. An analysis was conducted to determine the amount of dryland area in each basin. Watershed basins containing more than 50% dryland area are included in whole and are labeled on this map.

Description:

This map shows major watersheds of the world with at least 50 percent of their area within the dryland aridity zones. Summary statistics of these basins show that their area ranges from approximately 52 thousand km² to nearly 3 million km². A summary of some of the indicators for these dry basins include the following:

-These basins include a wide range of population densities, from an average of 1 person per km² (Chubut) to an average of 398 people per km² (Ganges);

-The major dryland basins of Asia and Europe tend to have larger percentages of their area in cropland and built-up area than other regions of the world;

- These major dryland basins of Asia and Europe also tend to have larger percentages of irrigated area, up to as high as 24 percent (Indus and Narmada), contrasting with the dryland basins in the remaining regions, such as Senegal without any irrigated land;

- The percent of these major dryland basins in wetland is generally low, but over half of them contain at least one Ramsar site and some contain over five Ramsar sites;

- These basins tend to have very few or not any large dams under construction, with one major exception: Tigris & Euphrates with 19 large dams in progress.

- Although generally without large dams in progress, many (where data are available) exhibit a high degree of modification (i.e. existing dams, reservoirs, interbasin transfers, and irrigation consumption), including many in Asia such as the Hwang He.