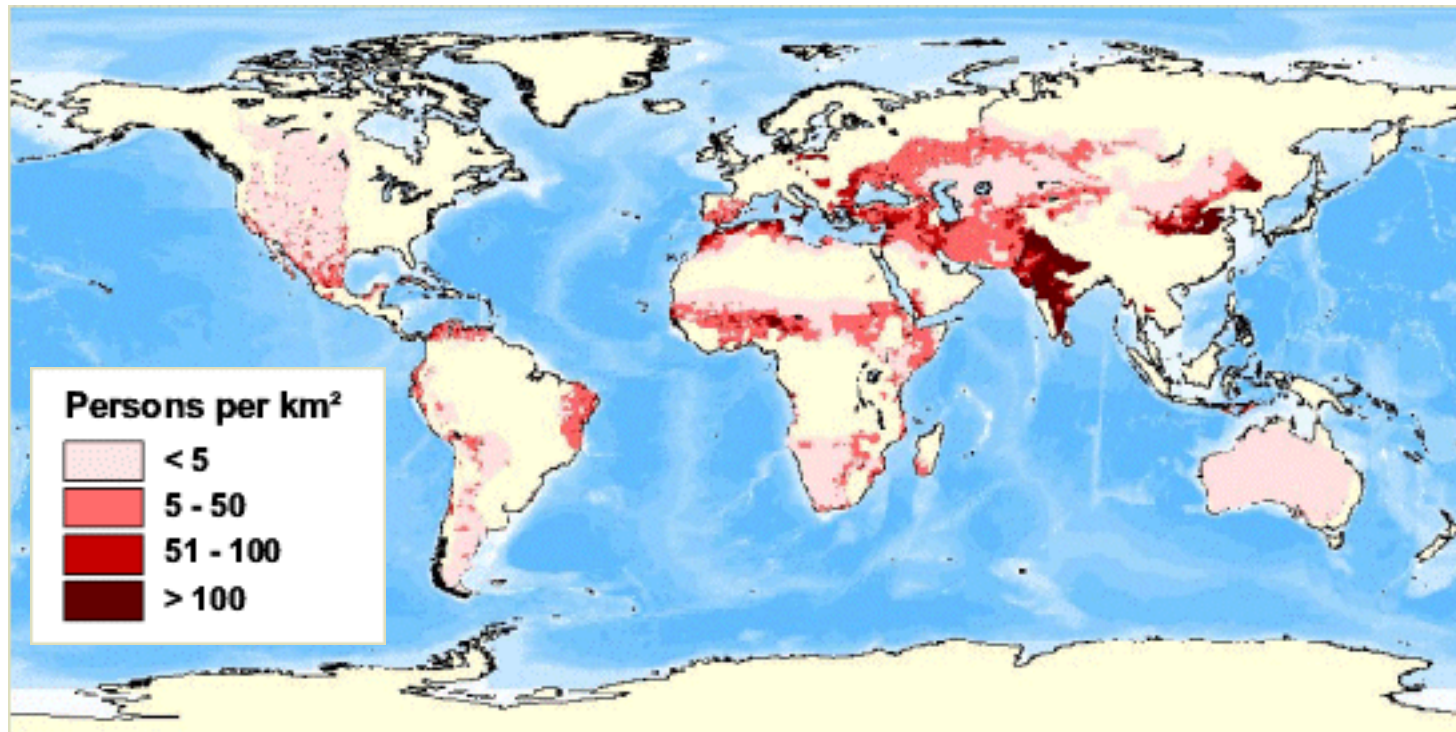


Drylands: Population Density in Drylands



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 population density grid was clipped to the drylands extent.

Description:

Regionally, Asia has the largest population living in drylands, both in terms of numbers and percent: over 1.4 billion people, or 42 percent of the region's population. Africa has nearly the same percent of people living in drylands--41 percent-- although the total number is less than Asia's: nearly 270 million. South America has 30 percent of its population in drylands or approximately 87 million people.

Of the three aridity zones defining drylands, semi-arid and dry sub-humid lands are favored, with population levels rising with increases in humidity. Some of the highest population densities in the world are found in the semi-arid and dry sub-humid zones of India. Other pockets of high population densities occur in the dry sub-humid zones of eastern China, the Middle East, and West Africa.