

Table 2. Cryospheric, Hydrologic, and Demographic Characteristics of the Major Mountain Basins Analyzed in Figure 3^a

River Catchment Unit	Basin Area (10 ³ km ²)	Population Density (p. km ⁻²)	Ice Volume (10 ⁹ m ³)	Glacier Cover (%)	SWE + ΔM_g (10 ⁹ m ³ yr ⁻¹)	R-ET (10 ⁹ m ³ yr ⁻¹)	C (%)
Asia							
Yangtze	1,913	248	201	0.14	110	1,265	8
Tarim ^(e)	1,218	9	2,413	2.25	406	131	76
Junggar Basin ^(e)	1,038	11	125	0.28	364	144	72
Tibetan Plateau ^(e)	1,011	1	760	0.85	413	66	86
Ganges	948	399	793	1.30	81	797	9
Indus	859	175	2,559	3.13	262	313	46
Yellow	803	146	11	0.02	61	143	30
Mekong	773	67	29	0.06	29	699	4
Amudarya ^(e)	623	35	1,146	2.38	180	214	46
Brahmaputra	533	109	1,053	3.43	138	594	19
Lake Balkash ^(e)	415	12	157	0.68	189	95	67
Syrdarya ^(e)	326	61	60	0.38	113	92	55
Salween	265	26	62	0.48	47	124	28
Total	10,727	124	9,369	1.03	2,393	4,678	34
South America							
Amazon	5,888	4	62	0.03	4	8,050	0
Orinoco	934	11	0	0.00	0	1,639	0
Altiplano ^(e)	356	7	22	0.18	71	62	53
Central Andes	322	29	49	0.44	12	23	34
Magdalena	259	109	1	0.01	0	403	0
Total	7,760	11	135	0.05	86	10,178	1
North America							
Columbia	653	10	110	0.31	123	284	30
Colorado	628	12	0	0.00	76	86	47
Fraser	232	5	147	1.10	73	194	27
Total	1,513	14	257	0.28	272	564	33
Europe							
Danube	791	103	15	0.04	54	578	9
Rhine	164	298	19	0.21	11	97	10
Rhone	97	99	57	0.89	14	111	11
Po	73	221	16	0.45	18	79	18
Total	1,124	140	107	0.18	97	865	10

^aEndorheic basins are marked with superscript (e). Population densities for 2000 are based on *Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN) et al.* [2005]. Snow water equivalent (SWE), glacier mass change (ΔM_g) total annual rainfall (R) and evapotranspiration (ET) are derived from remote sensing data, and the overall relative melt contribution C is calculated using equation (1).