

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1	Erosion in mountain belts . . . . .	3
1.2	General context . . . . .	4
1.3	Controls on erosion rates and patterns . . . . .	9
1.3.1	Erosion measurements . . . . .	9
1.3.2	Temporal scale: Modern vs. long term erosion . . . . .	12
1.3.3	Erosion and landscape . . . . .	12
1.3.4	Erosion and climate . . . . .	15
1.4	Motivation & Questions . . . . .	18
1.5	Why the Himalayas? . . . . .	20
<b>2</b>	<b>The Himalayas</b>	<b>23</b>
2.1	Geological settings and topography . . . . .	23
2.2	Climate and hydrology . . . . .	28
2.2.1	Monsoon . . . . .	31
2.2.2	Orographic effects . . . . .	33
2.2.3	Himalayan hydrology . . . . .	34
2.3	Erosion patterns . . . . .	35
<b>3</b>	<b>Precipitation data evaluation</b>	<b>39</b>
3.1	Introduction . . . . .	39
3.2	General discussion . . . . .	57
<b>4</b>	<b>Hydro-climatology</b>	<b>59</b>
4.1	Introduction . . . . .	59
4.2	General discussion . . . . .	67
<b>5</b>	<b>Source, mobilization and transport of sediments</b>	<b>69</b>
5.1	Introduction . . . . .	69
5.2	General discussion . . . . .	107

<b>6 Millennial scale erosion rates</b>	<b>111</b>
6.1 Introduction . . . . .	111
6.2 Study area . . . . .	112
6.2.1 Tectonic and geological settings . . . . .	112
6.2.2 Climate and topography . . . . .	112
6.2.3 Sampling locations . . . . .	114
6.3 Methods . . . . .	115
6.3.1 Theory of cosmogenic nuclide erosion rates . . . . .	115
6.3.2 Sample preparation and analysis . . . . .	117
6.3.3 Calculation of catchment characteristics . . . . .	118
6.4 Results . . . . .	118
6.4.1 Catchment Characteristics . . . . .	120
6.4.2 Erosion vs. precipitation . . . . .	122
6.4.3 Erosion vs. topography . . . . .	122
6.4.4 Erosion vs. geology and glaciers . . . . .	123
6.4.5 Erosion variations across the Himalayan range . . . . .	125
6.5 Discussion . . . . .	125
6.5.1 Erosion vs. precipitation . . . . .	125
6.5.2 Erosion vs. topography . . . . .	128
6.5.3 Comparison with suspended sediments . . . . .	129
6.6 Conclusions and outlook . . . . .	130
<b>7 Conclusions and outlook</b>	<b>133</b>
7.1 Main results and implications . . . . .	133
7.2 The seasonal erosion cycle . . . . .	137
7.3 Outlook . . . . .	138