

## Comments to Anonymous Referee #1

The manuscript generates component of annual water balance based on a hydrologic model. The analysis is very routine and there is very little validation of output. Some of the concepts also needs to be corrected such as, the ET is calculated without considering wind and humidity. The manuscript, in this form, is not suitable to be published in HESS.

1. There is no validation for variables such as ET and soil moisture. The authors must validate the model with satellite estimates of ET and soil moisture.

**Reply:** As suggested by reviewers, estimated values of both AET and PET have been validated with available satellite estimates from GLDAS (AET) and CRU TS (PET). The final equation used for estimating water yield involves two ET estimates viz. AET and PET which both are been validated using satellite based estimates for the respective years.

Parameter (mm)		Source 2 (GLDAS)	Source 2 (CRU)	InVEST model				
				Strategy A (Lumped Zhang Model)	Strategy B (Large Model)	Strategy C (Global model)	Strategy D (Xu et al. 2013)	Strategy E (Donohue et al. 2012)
AET	1980	555.0355		696.84	486.07	679.52	679.68	680.01
	1990	646.168		815.02	592.3	735.23	735.27	736.25
	2001	588.084		680.76	408.86	548.28	548.39	550.38
	2015	716.8316		900.11	625.41	743.48	743.52	744.34
PET	1980		1175.964	1376.64	1382.12	1382.12	1382.12	1382.12
	1990		1156.497	1456.16	1461.86	1461.86	1461.86	1461.86
	2001		1184.847	1457.08	1462.96	1462.96	1462.96	1462.96
	2015		1156.686	1544.20	1550.42	1550.42	1550.42	1550.42

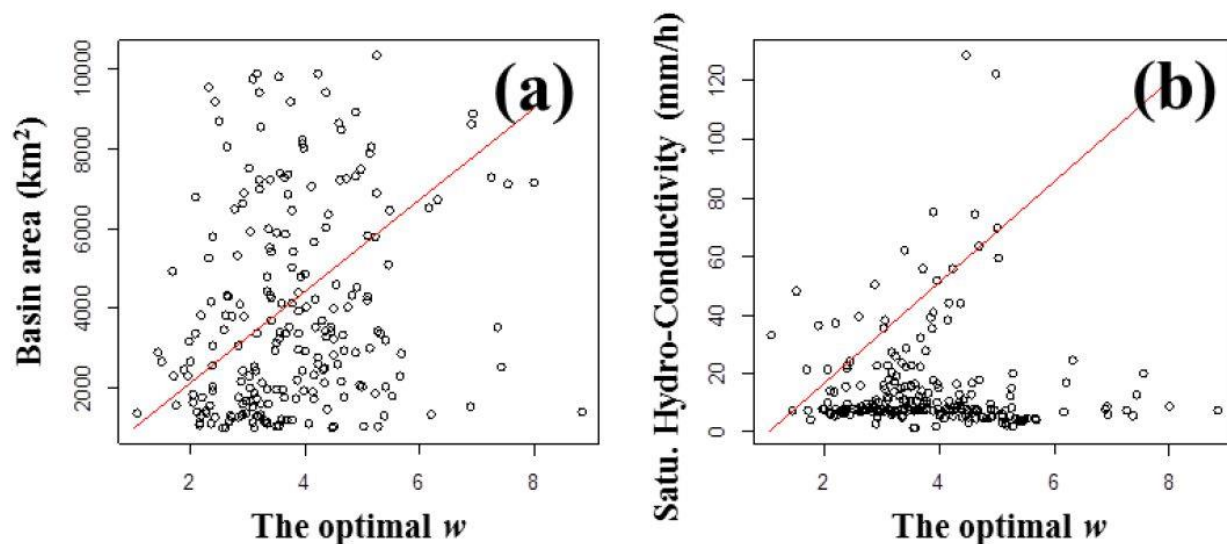
2. There is no specific scientific hypothesis, the article just reports results from some empirical equations without proper analysis.

**Reply:** Authors agree that the study lacks a precise scientific hypothesis. However, the parameters involved in the Budyko model are dependent on various factors such as basin characteristics (size, topography, stream length, slope, etc.), climate seasonality, etc. (Li et al. 2013). The factors affecting model parameters again vary both spatially and temporally. Moreover, the relationship between these factors and model parameters are not yet well defined (Ahn and Merwade, 2017). In such scenario, adopting a hypothesis by assuming few of these controlling factors (such as 'w') to be constant spatially or temporally is inappropriate. Considering these facts, the present study attempts to incorporate the spatial variability of model parameter for estimation of water yield at pixel level. As the computations are made at pixel level in GIS environment, the assumption of dependence of model parameters over scale of the catchment may also be disregarded.

Authors also agree that the computations made in present work are based on empirical equations, however, the application of these equations has been well documented worldwide for estimation of various water balance components at various basin scales (Zhang et al. 2008; Ma et al. 2008; Ning et al. 2017; Rouholahnejad et al. 2017; Wang et al. 2017). An illustrative summary of such studies has been added in the revised manuscript.

### 3. I do not see a proper conclusion coming out of this work.

**Reply:** Present study attempts to compute water yield from a Himalayan catchment using InVEST water yield model. The study attempts to incorporate the spatial variability of parameters involved in the model through pixel level estimation of parameters which are otherwise taken as lumped in the previous studies. Study results show that the water yield estimated considering spatial variability in model parameters are in better agreement with the observed water yield as compared to the water yield estimated by considering the parameters to be lumped over the study region. Further, the computations of various parameters are made at pixel level, therefore, the estimates of water balance components using this approach are expected to be independent of the assumption of dependence of parameters on catchment size. As the variation between Budyko's model parameters and their controlling factors has not shown well defined trend (see Fig 1), the study emphasizes water yield estimation using pixel based computations.



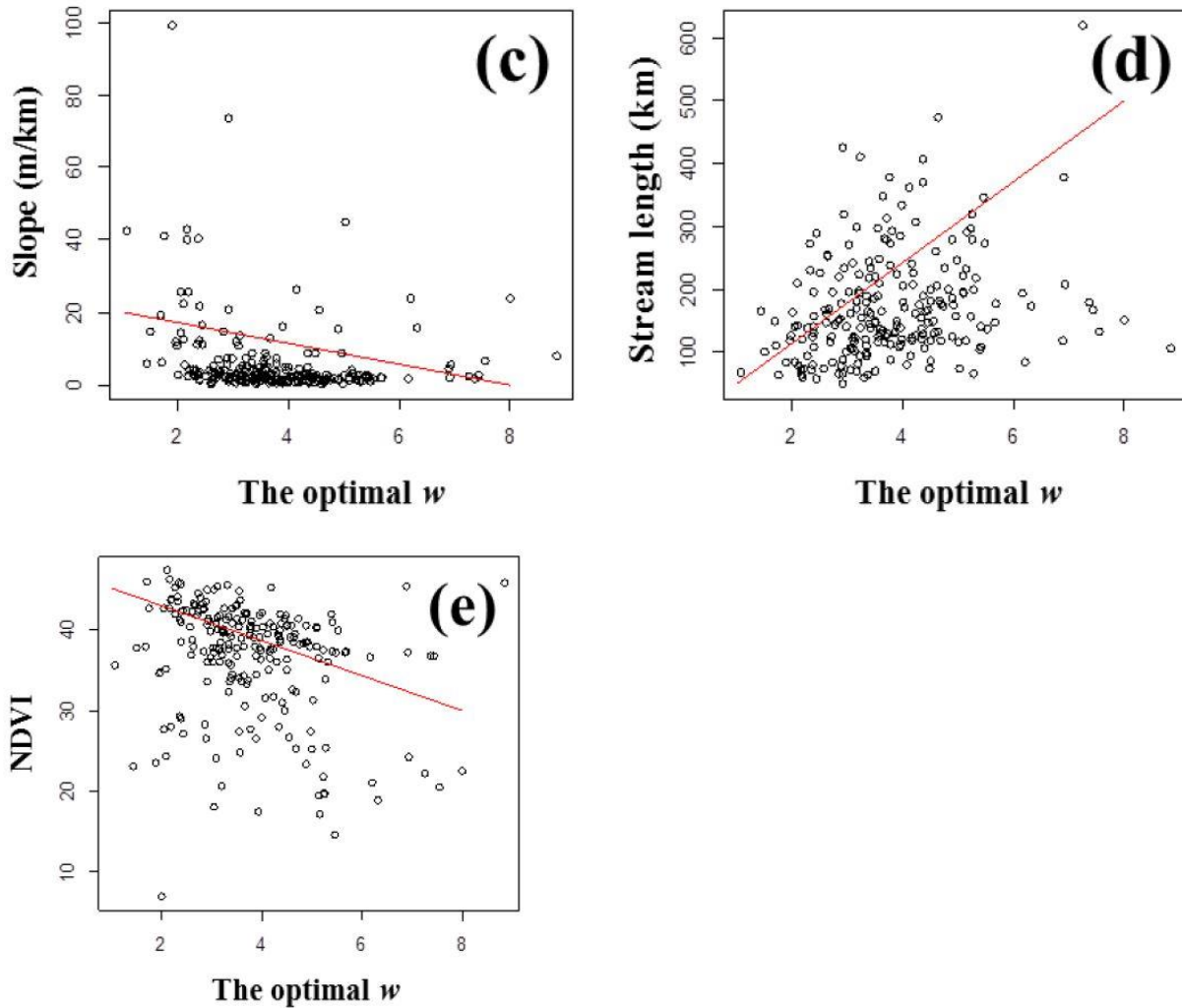


Figure 1: The relationship between basin characteristics and optimal  $w$  values (Source: Ahn and Merwade, 2017)

**4. The write up is extremely poor and needs significant revision.**

**Reply:** As per reviewer’s suggestion, the write up has been improved wherever required. Our endeavor will be that the revised paper is much better than the current version.

**References:**

1. Ahn, K. H., and Merwade, V. (2017). “The Integrated Impact of Basin Characteristics on Changes in Hydrological Variables”, Book Chapter 12 in “*Sustainable Water Resources Management*”, American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), pp. 317-336. ISBN: 978-0-7844-1476-7.

2. Choudhury, B. J. (1999). "Evaluation of an empirical equation for annual evaporation using field observations and results from a biophysical model." *J. Hydrol.*, 216(1–2), 99–110.
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5. Ning, T., Li, Z., and Liu, W. (2017). "Vegetation dynamics and climate seasonality jointly control the interannual catchment water balance in the Loess Plateau under the Budyko framework." *Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci.*, 21, 1515-1526
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## Comments to Anonymous Referee #2

**This study estimates the water yield for the Upper Ganga basin using variations of the Budyko model that relates aridity index (ratio of long term potential evapotranspiration to precipitation) to evaporation ratio (ratio of long term actual evapotranspiration to precipitation). Several versions of a parameterized form of the Budyko curve, developed over the past years, are used to estimate long term streamflow for the basin. It is also assessed whether the inclusion of spatial variability of basin properties improves predictive skill. Though the study does not make any new contributions, it has the potential to contribute to understanding hydrology of this particular basin. However, in its present form it has major drawbacks:**

**1. Literature review: The study overlooks a significant body of literature in streamflow modeling in the region. Studies are available both at the scale of entire India, the Ganga basin as well as finer scales. In addition, the premise of the study is poorly developed and developments related to Budyko's theory are improperly explained. In fact, the work by Donohue et al. (2012) is cited but equations from InVEST's online documentation are instead used. It is not straightforward to connect the equations in the manuscript with Donohue et al. (2012) formulations. Overall, the introduction needs connection to a wider literature base, along with better exposition of developments in Budyko theory.**

**Reply:** The present study focuses on incorporation of spatial variability of various parameters involved in computing water yield using InVEST model. The work does not involve modelling of streamflow rather it attempts to compare the outcomes of spatially distributed water yield model and conventionally used lumped Zhang model. Authors agree that the literature on hydrological modelling of water balance components is available for Ganga basin and its sub-catchments (finer scale), however, the term 'finer scale' in the paper represents incorporation of spatial variations through pixel level estimation of parameters involved in InVEST model which are otherwise taken as lumped. Authors agree that the parameter ' $w$ ' in the equation involved in strategy "E" have been proposed by Donohue et al. (2012) which is also cited in online documentation of InVEST model, however, the final equation used for estimating water yield is from the InVEST model. Considering this fact, Donohue et al. (2012) has been cited in Strategy 'E'. If suggested by reviewer, the citation can be removed from the Strategy 'E'. Various advancements in the Budyko's theory have been addressed properly in revised manuscript.

**2. Methods: The methods rely on previously developed relationships between Budyko parameter and observable catchment properties. However, some of these relationships, such as those in Donohue et al. 2012 were developed for Australia. Similarly, Xu et al. (2013) report that the global model could explain only 53% of observed variation of Budyko's parameter in their dataset. The large basin model worked well but is the Upper Ganga basin large enough in comparison to the 32 basins used in Xu et al. (2013)?**

**Reply:** The Donohue et al. (2012) model was developed for Australia, however, the online documentation on InVEST model also states its application globally. Although, the Upper Ganga basin lies in large basin category as per the definition from Xu et al. (2013), but, the yield computed using global model is in good agreement with the observed data for the Upper Ganga basin.

**3. Climate data:** The resolution of climate data used to compute fine scale variables is of concern. The introduction stresses on a stronger control of precipitation (and potential evapotranspiration) on runoff estimates, as compared to Budyko's parameter, but the analysis works with coarse climatic data. Though precipitation and temperature data were downscaled to the resolution of land use data (by a statistical technique that is not described well.), the effect of elevation on these variables was neglected (for example lapse rate was not accounted for in temperature estimates). As the basin has significant elevation variations, this may lead to biases in water yield estimates.

**Reply:** The climate datasets used in the present study is at the finest resolution available so far for the study region. The precipitation and temperature data sets were downscaled to a resolution of land use data using Spline interpolation technique. The details regarding Spline interpolation technique has been added in the revised manuscript. Gridded datasets of temperature and precipitation used in the present study has been developed using quality controlled stations and well-proven interpolation technique. Further details about the datasets are given in Srivastava et al. (2009) and Pai et al. (2014).

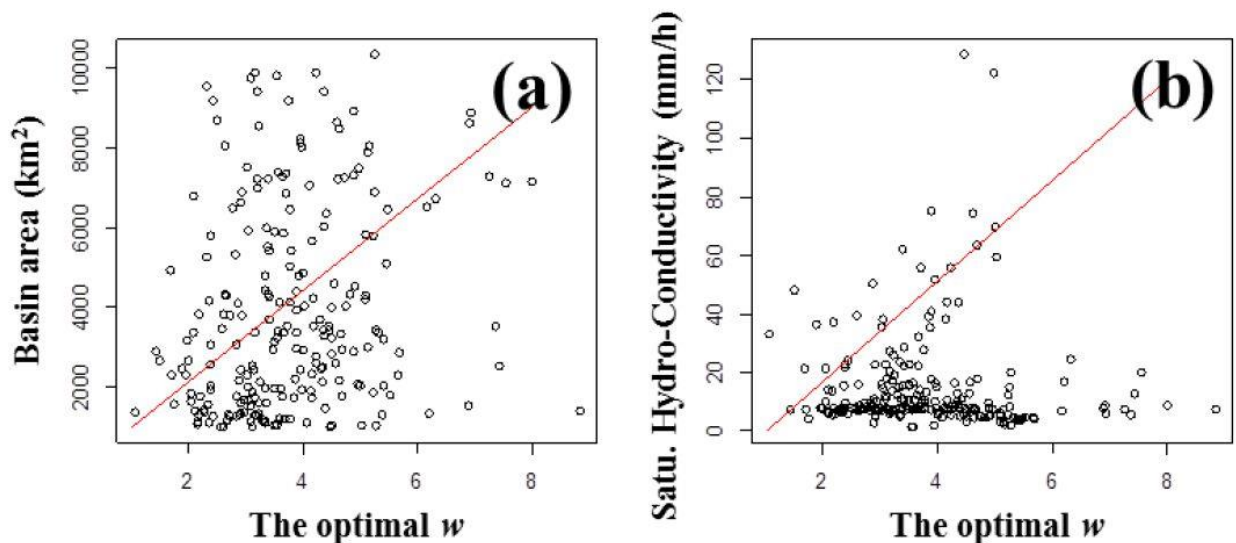
**4. Validation:** For the validation catchment, 32% of observed discharge is removed as it is assumed to be snowmelt. But snow melt still counts within the hydrological budget of the region as it is contributed by precipitation falling as snow, which is being used in the Budyko model. If the melt contribution was from long term glacier melts that contribute water to the region in addition to precipitation falling as rain or snow, one may remove it. Even that will be challenging at annual time scales if the basin has significant storage. Unless the distinction between glacier and snow melt is made, and some reasoning as to why Budyko's approach can be applied at annual time steps, it will be hard to justify this reduction. There is also the issue of claiming predictive skill over an entire basin by looking at performance at a single sub-basin in a single year. Note that most approaches based on the Budyko's curve must work with long term data as even at annual time scales, catchment's water storage changes may be significant and the Budyko model may be invalid (Donohue et al. 2007). The discussion should reflect the limitations of this approach.

**Reply:** Present work considers runoff from both precipitation as well as snowfall for the region, but 32% of the observed discharge has been removed as it is contributed by glacier ice melt to the streamflow for this catchment as explained by Maurya et al. (2011) for our study area. The above mentioned fraction of discharge had been quantified using isotope study which separates snow melt contribution from that of the glacier melt (Maurya et al. 2011). The present study attempts to quantify annual water yield at pixel level irrespective of the size of catchment. Therefore, the proposed methodology is expected to perform well for the catchment of any given size. Changes in catchment's water storage over time are required to be quantified in order to validate the applicability of Budyko's model to long term data for the catchment under study. This limitation of the proposed methodology has been added in the revised manuscript.

**5. Interpretation of results:** For some reason, as we move from strategy A to E, catchment water yield steadily increases, or, ET decreases. This indicates a systematic change in the Budyko parameter as we go from simpler to more complex relationships requiring more

**data. Why would the Budyko parameter scale in this manner? This also seems to be in contradiction of the result by Choudhary (1999) who showed that as larger areas are used in a lumped form, Budyko's parameter changes such that actual evapotranspiration reduces. See also the discussion in Donohue et al. (2007). Given the limited data for validation, it is important to physically interpret the results instead of focusing on which method is the best.**

**Reply:** Values of water yield estimated using strategy A to E are systematically increasing but are not steady in nature as water yield estimated using strategy A and B lies in range 650 – 750 mm whereas water yield from strategy C-E lies in range 1229 – 1231 mm for the year 1980 (see Table 1). Similar results are also evident for other years too. Also, water yield estimated using strategy C-E are more or less same for a given year as these strategies involve pixel based estimation of water yield considering spatial variation in Budyko parameters. Parameters involved in Budyko model such as 'w' are found to be dependent on various factors such as catchment characteristics, vegetation cover, etc. as well as climate seasonality (Li et al. 2013). Ahn and Merwade (2017) have analysed the relationship between basin characteristics and factor 'w' for 175 stations spread over the USA. Results are shown in Fig. 1 (Ahn and Merwade, 2017). As evident from figure, no precise conclusion can be drawn regarding relationship between basin characteristics and value of 'w' especially in case of basin area characteristics. In that case, rationalizing the relationship between basin size and value of Budyko model parameters as documented by Choudhary (1999) is not appropriate. Moreover, no straight forward relationship has yet been identified between basin characteristics and model parameters and it is a subject matter for further study. Authors again want to emphasize over the fact that study focuses on analyzing estimates of water yield computed considering spatial variation in Budyko model parameters at pixel level with water yield computed considering model parameters as lumped for the entire catchment. Authors agree that the data available for validation of parameters estimated at various levels are limited, however, estimated values of AET and PET used in computation of water yield are validated using satellite estimate of the variables for corresponding years (Table 1). From the comparison, both AET (GLDAS) and PET (CRU TS) values are found to be in agreement with the satellite estimates. Necessary tables are added to the revised manuscript.



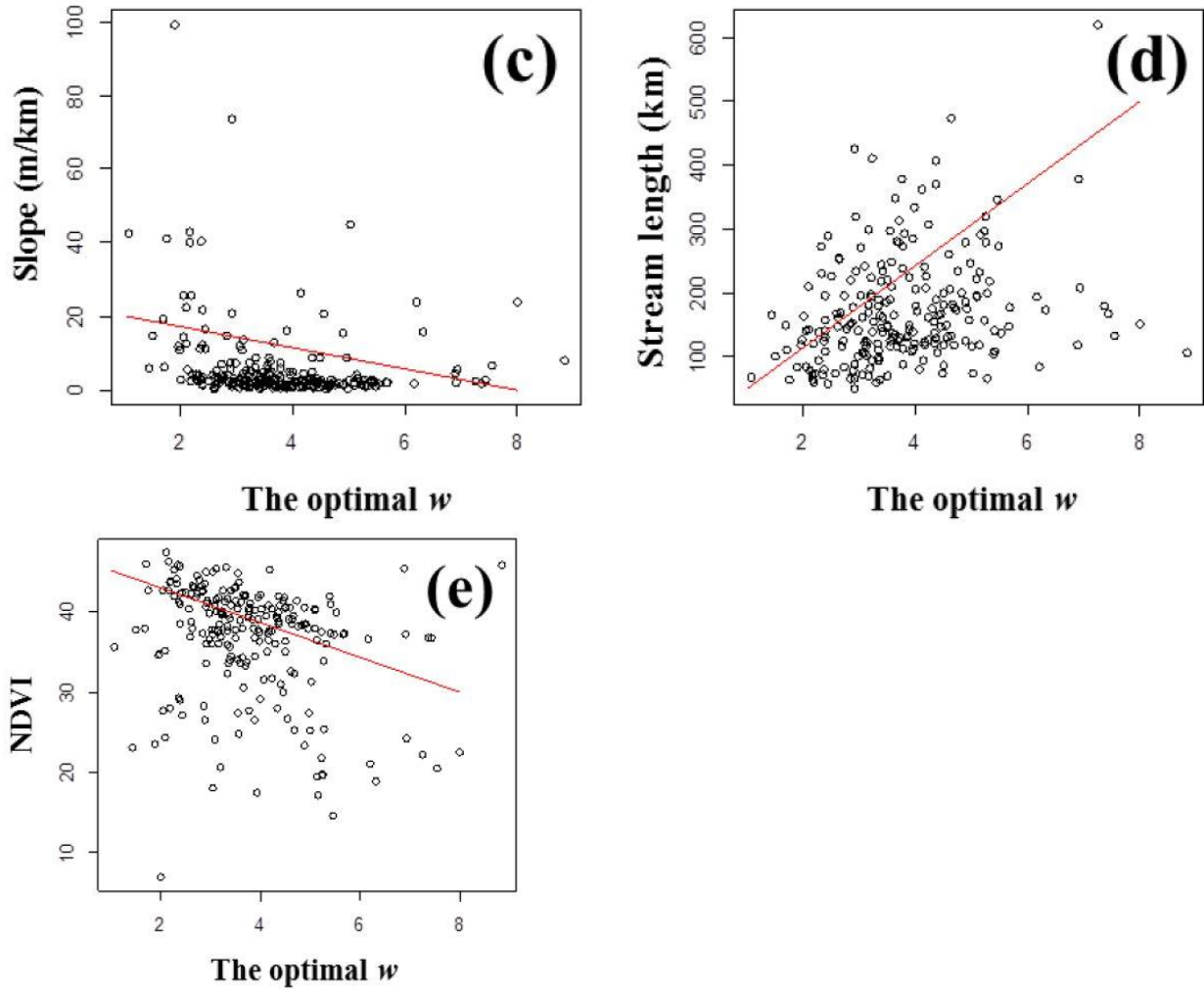


Figure 1: The relationship between basin characteristics and optimal  $w$  values (Source: Ahn and Merwade, 2017)

Table 1: Comparison of model estimated PET and AET with satellite estimates

Parameter	Year	Source 2 (GLDAS)	Source 2 (CRU)	InVEST model				
				Strategy A (Lumped Zhang Model)	Strategy B (Large Model)	Strategy C (Global model)	Strategy D (Xu et al. 2013)	Strategy E (Donohue et al. 2012)
AET	1980	555.0355		696.84	486.07	679.52	679.68	680.01
	1990	646.168		815.02	592.3	735.23	735.27	736.25
	2001	588.084		680.76	408.86	548.28	548.39	550.38
	2015	716.8316		900.11	625.41	743.48	743.52	744.34
PET	1980		1175.964	1376.64	1382.12	1382.12	1382.12	1382.12
	1990		1156.497	1456.16	1461.86	1461.86	1461.86	1461.86



	<b>2001</b>		1184.847	1457.08	1462.96	1462.96	1462.96	1462.96
	<b>2015</b>		1156.686	1544.20	1550.42	1550.42	1550.42	1550.42

### Minor Comment

**Structure:** The paper can be re-structured to improve clarity. Sections 2 and 4 have overlapping items, while ‘data’ generally goes better with ‘Study area’.

**Reply:** Review suggestions regarding modification of structure of the paper are duly considered in the revised manuscript. Our endeavor will be that the revised paper is much better than the current version.

### References:

1. Ahn, K. H., and Merwade, V. (2017). “The Integrated Impact of Basin Characteristics on Changes in Hydrological Variables”, Book Chapter 12 in “*Sustainable Water Resources Management*”, American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), pp. 317-336. ISBN: 978-0-7844-1476-7.
2. Choudhury, B. (1999). “Evaluation of an empirical equation for annual evaporation using field observations and results from a biophysical model.” *Journal of Hydrology*, 216(1), 99-110.
3. Donohue, R. J., Roderick, M. L., and McVicar, T. R. (2012). “Roots, storms and soil pores: Incorporating key ecohydrological processes into Budyko’s hydrological model.” *Journal of Hydrology*, 436, 35-50.
4. Li, D., Pan, M., Cong, Z., Zhang, L., and Wood, E. (2013). “Vegetation control on water and energy balance within the Budyko framework.” *Water Resources Research*, 49(2), 969-976.
5. Maurya, A. S., Shah, M., Deshpande, R. D., Bhardwaj, R. M., Prasad, A., and Gupta, S. K. (2011). “Hydrograph separation and precipitation source identification using stable water isotopes and conductivity: River Ganga at Himalayan foothills.” *Hydrological Processes*, 25(10), 1521-1530.
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1 **Spatio-temporal assessment of annual water-balance model for Upper Ganga**

2 **Basin**

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9 **Abstract**

10 The Upper Ganga Basin, Uttarakhand, India has high hydropower potential and plays an important  
11 role in development of state economy. Thus, knowledge about water yield is of paramount  
12 importance to this region. The paper deals with use of contemporary water yield estimation  
13 models, such as the distributed model (InVEST), Lumped Zhang model and their validation to  
14 identify the most suited one for water yield estimation in this region. Earlier, while utilizing these  
15 models, attempts were made to consider a single value of some important model parameters which  
16 in fact show a variation at a pixel level scale. Therefore, in this study, the pixel level computations  
17 are performed to assess and ascertain their need in model applications. To validate the findings,  
18 the observed sub-basin discharge data is analyzed with the computed water yield for four decades,  
19 i.e. 1980, 1990, 2001 and 2015. The results obtained are in good agreement with the water yields  
20 obtained at pixel scale.

21 **Keywords:** Ecosystem, Evapotranspiration, Water Yield, Lumped Zhang model, InVEST model

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## 22 1. Introduction

23 Efficient development and optimum utilization of water resources is of great significance to the  
24 overall development of any country. Many rivers, springs and lakes in the mountain regions are  
25 fed by the significant contribution of runoff from the snow melt and glacier melt. High spatial and  
26 temporal variability in hydro-metrological conditions in mountainous environments requires  
27 spatial models that are physically realistic and computationally efficient (Liston et al. 2006).

28 Hydrological ecosystem services (ES) often include drinking waters supply, power production,  
29 industrial use, irrigation, and many more. These hydrological ES are dependent on the  
30 characteristics of different watersheds such a topography, land-use land cover (LULC), soil type  
31 and its climatic condition.

32 To quantify the impact of land-use and land management decisions on ecosystem services, a  
33 number of tools have been developed by various researchers (Bagstad et al. 2013). Accordingly,  
34 models for ecosystem service valuation often focus on using globally available data, accepting  
35 large number of spatially explicit inputs and producing spatially explicit output, and limiting the  
36 model structure to key biophysical processes involved in land use change (Guswa et al. 2014).

37 Due to the spatial variability and dependency on so many topographical and climatic factors, the  
38 proper analysis of ES happens to be a complicated task. The benefits that can be derived from ES  
39 should be analyzed and quantified in a spatially explicit manner (Sanchez et al. 2012). The  
40 uncertainties in the determination of spatial and temporal distribution of the climatic variables,  
41 especially precipitation constitutes a major obstacle to the understanding of hydrological behavior  
42 at the catchment scales (Milly et al. 2002).

43 The literature indicates attempts to develop different ecosystem assessment tools. In this respect,  
44 Integrated Valuation of Ecosystem Services and Tradeoffs (InVEST), developed by Natural  
45 Capital Project (Tallis et al. 2010) is worth mention. It includes a biophysical component,  
46 computing the provision of freshwater or water yield, by different parts of the landscape and a  
47 valuation component, representing the benefits of water provisioning to people. This model is very  
48 simplified and is based upon the Budyko theory, which has a long history and still continues to  
49 receive interest in the hydrological literature (Budyko 1979; Zhou et al. 2012; Zhang et al. 2004;  
50 Ojha et al. 2008; Zhang et al. 2001; Donohue et al. 2012; Xu et al. 2013; Wang et al. 2014). The  
51 InVEST model applies a one-parameter formulation of the theory in a semi-distributed way (Zhang  
52 et al. 2004).

53 In literature, some of the limitations related to InVEST annual water yield model, are that there is  
54 an absence or inadequate comparison with observed data, calibration of the model without prior  
55 identification of sensitive parameters, and lack of validation of the predictive capabilities in the  
56 context of Land Use Land Cover change (Bai et al. 2012; Nelson et al. 2010; Su et al. 2013; Terrado  
57 et al. 2014).

58 In 2012, the sensitivity analysis is done by Sanchez Canales *et al.* using the InVEST model for a  
59 Mediterranean region basin for three parameters i.e.  $Z$  (seasonal precipitation coefficient),  
60 precipitation (annual) and  $ET_0$  (annual reference precipitation) and found that precipitation as the  
61 most sensitive parameter. Later in 2014, Terrado et al., applied the InVEST model for the heavily  
62 humanized Llobregat river basin. The model is applied for both extreme wet and dry conditions  
63 and the role of climatic parameters is emphasized. Hoyer et al. (2014), applied this model in  
64 Tualatin and Yamhill basins of northwestern Oregon under the series of urbanization and climate  
65 change scenarios. The results show that the climatic parameters have more sensitivity than other

66 inputs for a water yield model. Hamel et al. (2014), applied the same water yield model for the  
67 Cape Fear catchment, North Carolina and concluded that the precipitation is the most influencing  
68 parameter. Goyal et al. (2017) analyzed the InVEST water yield model for the hilly catchment by  
69 taking two catchments i.e. Sutlej river catchment and Tungabhadra river catchment. The climate  
70 parameters i.e. precipitation and  $ET_0$  are observed to be most influencing parameters. However,  
71 spatial variability of some of the model parameters is not accounted for in this work.

72 This work primarily considers in detail, the spatial variation of used model parameters and uses  
73 different strategies to compute water yield. Such water yield estimates are computed for four years  
74 i.e. 1980, 1990, 2001 and 2015 to identify most successful strategy. The parameters that are earlier  
75 computed at basins level scale are reduced to pixel level scale in order to study hydrological  
76 processes of catchment at pixel level to increase the efficiency of the results.

77 Accurate assessment of key ecosystem services (ES) such as water yield have gained focus in  
78 recent years in ecosystem service modelling as fresh water availability in a region are essential for  
79 agriculture, industry, human consumption, hydropower, etc. (Readhead et al., 2016). Hydrological  
80 ecosystem services often include drinking waters supply, power production, industrial use,  
81 irrigation, and many more. These hydrological ES are dependent on different factors such as  
82 watershed characteristics (e.g. topography, land use land cover (LULC), soil type) and climatic  
83 condition. To incorporate these concepts into assessment and decision making, there has been a  
84 proliferation of ecosystem modelling tools and methods. Models for ecosystem services valuation  
85 often focus on using globally available data, accepting large number of spatially explicit inputs  
86 and producing spatially explicit output, and limiting the model structure to key biophysical  
87 processes involved in land-use change (Guswa et al. 2014). Precise estimation of ES using these  
88 models is a complicated task owing to spatial variability and dependence of ES on various

89 topographical and climatic factors. Further validation and uncertainty assessment in model output  
90 have proven to be a key obstacle to the application ES models. In the literature, studies focusing  
91 on comparison of different ES models have projected some light over the model output validation  
92 issues, however, there still exist lack of studies highlighting validation of these models for Indian  
93 basins. Further, the benefits that can be derived from ES should be analyzed and quantified in a  
94 spatially explicit manner (Sanchez et al. 2012). The uncertainties in the determination of spatial  
95 and temporal distribution of the climatic variables, especially precipitation constitutes a major  
96 obstacle to the understanding of hydrological behaviour at the catchment scales (Milly et al. 2002).  
97 The Integrated Valuation of Ecosystem Services and Tradeoffs (InVEST) model, developed by  
98 Natural Capital Project (Tallis et al. 2010) is a tool which provides a framework to planners and  
99 decision makers to assess trade-offs among ecosystem services and enables their comparison in  
100 various climate and land use change scenarios. It includes a biophysical component, computing  
101 the provision of freshwater or water yield, by different parts of the landscape and a valuation  
102 component, representing the benefits of water provisioning to people. This model works on  
103 simplified Budyko theory, which has a long history and still continues to receive interest in the  
104 hydrological literature (Budyko 1979; Zhou et al. 2012; Zhang et al. 2004; Ojha et al. 2008; Zhang  
105 et al. 2001; Donohue et al. 2012; Xu et al. 2013; Wang et al. 2014). The InVEST model applies a  
106 one-parameter formulation of the theory in a semi-distributed way (Zhang et al. 2004). The model  
107 is capable of quantifying water yield of a catchment under the influence of change in drivers viz.  
108 climate variable and catchment characteristics (e.g. land use change). Various studies have been  
109 carried out in the past demonstrating application of InVEST model. Sanchez-Canales et al. (2012)  
110 carried out sensitivity analysis of three parameters i.e.  $\alpha$  (seasonal precipitation coefficient),  
111 precipitation (annual) and  $ET_0$  (annual reference precipitation) using the InVEST model for a

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112 Mediterranean region basin and found precipitation to be the most sensitive parameter for the study  
113 region. Later, Terrado et al. (2014) applied the InVEST model for the heavily humanized Llobregat  
114 river basin. The model is applied for both extreme wet and dry conditions and the role of climatic  
115 parameters is emphasized. Hoyer et al. (2014), applied this model in Tualatin and Yamhill basins  
116 of northwestern Oregon under the series of urbanization and climate change scenarios. The results  
117 show that the climatic parameters have more sensitivity than other inputs for a water yield model.  
118 Hamel et al. (2014), applied the same water yield model for the Cape Fear catchment, North  
119 Carolina and concluded that the precipitation is the most influencing parameter. Goyal et al. (2017)  
120 analyzed the InVEST water yield model for the hilly catchment by taking two catchments i.e.  
121 Sutlej river catchment and Tungabhadra river catchment. The climate parameters i.e. precipitation  
122 and  $ET_0$  are observed to be most influencing parameters. However, there exist certain factors  
123 limiting the application of InVEST models such as the absence or inadequate comparison with  
124 observed data, calibration of the model without prior identification of sensitive parameters, and  
125 lack of validation of the predictive capabilities in the context of Land Use Land Cover change (Bai  
126 et al. 2012; Nelson et al. 2010; Su et al. 2013; Terrado et al. 2014).

127 The InVEST model operates on the principle of Budyko theory (Budyko, 1958, 1974). Based on  
128 works of Schreiber (1904) and Ol'Dekop (1911), Budyko proposed formulations explaining the  
129 relationship between precipitation and potential evapotranspiration (PET) in order to couple water  
130 and energy balances, defined as Budyko hypothesis. Several attempts have been made to obtain  
131 an analytical solution of the Budyko hypothesis (Schreiber, 1904; Ol'Dekop, 1911; Turc, 1954;  
132 Mezentsev, 1955; Pike, 1964; Fu, 1981; Choudhury, 1999; Zhang et al., 2001, 2004; Porporato et  
133 al., 2004; Yang et al., 2008; Donohue et al., 2012; Wang and Tang, 2014; Zhou et al., 2015).  
134 Among these approaches, solutions provided by Fu (1981), called Fu's equation gained attention

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135 as the work represented the effect of catchment properties on water balance components by  
136 incorporating an addition parameter 'w'. Fu's equation can provide a full picture of the evaporation  
137 mechanism at the annual timescale. Therefore, Fu's equation could be used through top-down  
138 analysis for providing an insight into the dynamic interactions among climate, soils, and vegetation  
139 and their controls on the annual water balance at the regional scale (Yang et al., 2007).

140 Considering the lack of studies on analysis and validation of ES in Indian sub-continent especially  
141 for Himalayan catchments and to assess the applicability of various water-balance model to  
142 Himalayan catchments, the present work attempts to compute and analyse water yield in Upper  
143 Ganga basin using InVEST model. The work primarily considers in detail, the spatial variation of  
144 InVEST model parameters and uses different strategies to compute water yield. Accordingly,  
145 water yield is estimated for four years i.e. 1980, 1990, 2001 and 2015 and the most appropriate  
146 strategy is identified. The parameters that are computed at basins level scale in previous studies  
147 are estimated at pixel scale in order to avoid the dependence of model parameters on size of the  
148 catchment. In addition, pixel level estimations of water yield are expected to be accurate than  
149 output obtained using conventional approach. The term 'finer scale' in the paper represents  
150 incorporation of spatial variations through pixel level estimation of parameters involved in  
151 InVEST model which are otherwise taken as lumped. The work also attempts to compare the  
152 outcomes of spatially distributed water yield model and conventionally used lumped Zhang model.

## 153 **2. Background Theory**

### 154 **2.1 Water Yield Models**

155 In this section, two water yield models, i.e. InVEST water yield model, which is a distributed  
156 model and Lumped Zhang model ~~is~~are described ~~as follows~~.



157 2.1.1 InVEST model

158 The InVEST water yield model (Tallis *et al.* 2010) is designed to provide the information regarding  
159 the changes in the ecosystem that are likely to alter the flows. It is based upon the Budyko theory  
160 which is an empirical function that yields the ratio of actual to potential evapotranspiration  
161 (Budyko, 1979). To describe the degree to which long-term catchment water-balances deviate  
162 from the theoretical limits, a number of scholars have proposed one-parameter functions that can  
163 replicate the Budyko curve (Fu 1981, Choudhury 1999, Zhang et al. 2004, Wang et al. 2014).

164 To observe and represent ~~pixel~~~~parcel~~-level changes to the landscape, InVEST model  
165 ~~incorporates~~~~represents~~ explicitly the spatial variability in precipitation and PET, soil depth and  
166 vegetation. The model ~~operates at grid scale~~ ~~runs in the gridded format~~ and acquires the inputs in  
167 the raster format ~~into a GIS environment such as ArcGIS, which in turn helps to understand the~~  
168 ~~heterogeneity of the factors influencing the water yield such as precipitation, land use land cover,~~  
169 ~~soil type, etc. GIS and remote sensing plays a very crucial role in gathering the spatial and temporal~~  
170 ~~information of any hydrological processes. GIS could be utilized as a suitable tool for solving~~  
171 ~~water resources problems from local to global scale, spatially as well as temporally (Khatami et~~  
172 ~~al. 2014).~~

173 The InVEST water yield model is based on an empirical function ~~which is~~ known as the Budyko  
174 curve (Budyko 1974). ~~The model takes the input as raster format and runs on the gridded map.~~

175 Water yield  $Y(x)$  is determined for each pixel annually ~~for~~~~on~~ a landscape as follows:

176 
$$Y(x) = \left(1 - \frac{AET(x)}{P(x)}\right) \times P(x) \quad (1)$$

177 ~~W~~here,  $AET(x)$  is the actual annual evapotranspiration per pixel  $x$ ; and  $P(x)$  is the annual  
178 precipitation per pixel  $x$ . Actual evapotranspiration (AET) is essentially determined by climate

179 factors (precipitation, temperature, etc.) and mediated by catchment characteristics (vegetation  
180 cover, soil characteristics, topography, etc.). On the other hand, potential evapotranspiration (PET)  
181 represents the evaporating potential of the climate system prevail at a specific location and time of  
182 year without the consideration of catchment characteristics and soil properties (Allen et al., 1998).  
183 Several attempts have been made in past to establish relationship between AET and PET, among  
184 which solution provided by Fu (1981) are adopted worldwide. Fu (1981) provided an analytical  
185 solution to the Budyko hypothesis and related AET with PET by incorporating a dimensionless  
186 parameter ‘w’ which denotes the effect of catchment characteristics.

187 ~~Mean annual evapotranspiration of any catchment is strongly determined by precipitation and~~  
188 ~~potential evapotranspiration. The secondary role is played by the catchment characteristics, i.e.~~  
189 ~~soil, topography, etc.~~

190 The InVEST model uses ~~the~~ expression of the Budyko curve proposed by Fu (1981) and Zhang  
191 *et al.* (2004). The ratio of mean annual potential evapotranspiration to annual precipitation, known  
192 as index of dryness, is expressed as:~~can be used to determine the mean annual evapotranspiration~~  
193 ~~by using one additional parameter.~~

194 
$$\frac{AET(x)}{P(x)} = 1 + \frac{PET(x)}{P(x)} - \left[ 1 + \frac{PET(x)}{P(x)} \right]^{\left(\frac{1}{w}\right)} \quad (2)$$

195 ~~W~~where,  $PET(x)$  is the annual potential evapotranspiration per pixel  $x$  (mm); and  $w(x)$  is a  
196 non-physical parameter that influences the natural climatic soil properties.

197 The  $PET(x)$  is calculated ~~using~~by the following expression:

198 
$$PET(x) = Kc(x) \times ET_o(x) \quad (3)$$

199 ~~w~~Where,  $ET_o(x)$  is the annual reference evapotranspiration per pixel  $x$  which is calculated based  
 200 on evapotranspiration of grass of alfalfa grown at that location shown in the equation (6).  $Kc(x)$   
 201 is the vegetation evapotranspiration coefficient that is influenced by the change in characteristics  
 202 of land use land cover for every pixel (Allen et al. 1998). The values of  $ET_o(x)$  are adjusted by  
 203  $Kc(x)$  for each pixel over the land use land cover map. ~~w~~ $\omega(x)$  is an empirical parameter and the  
 204 expression given by Donohue et al. (2012) for the InVEST model has been applied to define  $\omega(x)$   
 205 which is as follows:

$$\omega(x) = z \times \frac{AWC(x)}{P(x)} + 1.25 \quad (4)$$

206 Thus, the minimum value of the parameter ~~w~~ $\omega(x)$  is 1.25 corresponding to ~~for~~ bare soil where  
 207 root depth is zero (Donohue et al. 2012) ~~which is evident from the above expression~~. The Donohue  
 208 model was developed for Australia, however, the online documentation on InVEST model states  
 209 its application globally. ~~The Other~~ parameter  $z$  is known as seasonality factor whose values vary  
 210 from 1 to 30. It represents the nature of local precipitation and other hydrogeological parameters.  
 211 The parameter  $AWC(x)$  depicts volumetric plant available water content which is expressed in  
 212 depth (mm) which can be expressed by following formula for each pixel  $x$ :

$$AWC(x) = Min. (\text{Restricting layer depth, root depth}) \times PAWC \quad (5)$$

215 Root restricting layer depth is defined as the depth of the soil upto which the soil can allow the  
 216 penetration of roots and root depth is defined as the depth where 95 percent of the root biomass  
 217 occurs. Plant Available Water Content (PAWC) is generally taken as the difference between the  
 218 field capacity and wilting point. It depends upon the soil properties and can be computed by the  
 219 Soil-Plant-Air-Water (SPAW) software. PAWC is calculated using the method described by  
 220 Mckenzie et al. (2003).

221 ~~Modified Hargreaves method and Hargreaves method were employed For computing the pixel~~  
 222 ~~wise-reference evapotranspiration for the study area at pixel scale,- two methods are applied, i.e.~~  
 223 ~~modified Hargreaves method and Hargreaves method.~~

224 Modified Hargreaves method

$$225 \quad ET_o = 0.0013 \times 0.408 \times RA \times (T_{avg} + 17.0) \times (TD - 0.0123 \times P)^{0.76} \quad (6)$$

226 ~~W~~here,  $ET_o$  is reference evapotranspiration,  $T_{avg}$  is average daily temperature ( $^{\circ}C$ ) defined as the  
 227 average of the mean daily maximum and mean daily minimum temperature,  $TD$  ( $^{\circ}C$ ) is the  
 228 temperature range computed as the difference between mean daily maximum and mean daily  
 229 minimum temperature, and  $RA$  is extraterrestrial radiation expressed in  $[MJm^{-2}d^{-1}]$ .

230 Hargreaves method

$$231 \quad ET_o = 0.0023 \times 0.408 \times RA \times (T_{avg} + 17.8) \times TD^{0.5} \quad (7)$$

232 ~~W~~here,  $ET_o$  is reference evapotranspiration,  $T_{avg}$  is average daily temperature ( $^{\circ}C$ ) defined as the  
 233 average of the mean daily maximum and mean daily minimum temperature,  $TD$  ( $^{\circ}C$ ) is the  
 234 temperature range computed as the difference between mean daily maximum and mean daily  
 235 minimum temperature, and  $RA$  is extraterrestrial radiation expressed in  $(MJm^{-2}d^{-1})$ .

236 For computing the ~~parameter~~-extraterrestrial radiation ( $RA$ ), ~~following equation is used is shown~~  
 237 ~~in the equation (8).~~

$$238 \quad RA = \frac{24(60)}{\pi} \times G_{sc} \times d_r \times [w_s \sin(\varphi) \sin(\delta) + \cos(\varphi) \cos(\delta) \sin(w_s)] \quad (8)$$

239 ~~w~~Where, RA is extraterrestrial radiation [ $\text{MJm}^{-2}\text{d}^{-1}$ ],  $d_r$  is the inverse relative distance Earth-Sun,  
240  $G_{sc}$  is solar constant equals to  $0.0820 \text{ MJm}^{-2}\text{min}^{-1}$ ,  $w_s$  is sunset hour angle (rad),  $\delta$  is solar  
241 declination (rad) and  $\phi$  is latitude (rad).

#### 242 *Determination of Seasonality factor ( $z$ ) parameter*

243 The seasonality factor ( $z$ ) parameter varies depending upon the local precipitation patterns such as  
244 the hydrological characteristics of the area, its rainfall intensity and topography. According to the  
245 InVEST water yield model ~~InVEST~~ (Tallis et al. 2010), ~~the~~ parameter  $z$  can be computed in three  
246 different ways. First method is suggested by Donohue *et al.* (2012), in which ~~that the~~ parameter  $z$   
247 ~~is can be~~ expressed as the one fifth of the number of rain events per year. Second method is  
248 suggested by Xu *et al.* (2013), which relates  $\omega(x)$  with latitude, NDVI (Normalized Difference  
249 Vegetation Index), ~~A~~area, etc. Third method experiments with various selections of  $w$  (one value  
250 of  $w$  for the entire study region) till there is a good match between observed and computed water  
251 yield. Unfortunately, this method is not suited to a pixel based analysis as the number of pixels  
252 will be extremely large making the method to be computationally intensive.

#### 253 *2.1.2 Lumped Zhang model*

254 In this model all the mean values of the parameters are used as an input to compute the average  
255 value of the water yield for the whole watershed. In this model the averaged actual transpiration,  
256 potential evapotranspiration,  $w$ , precipitation is used as described by Zhang *et al.* (2004)

### 257 **3. Study Area**

258 ~~In India,~~ The Gangaes river in India is rankeds amongst the world's top 20 rivers in regards to the  
259 flow discharge. The ~~River~~ Ganga river is segregated into three zones, viz., Upper Ganga basin,  
260 Middle Ganga basin and Lower Ganga basin. The area chosen for the present study, i.e., Upper

261 Ganga river basin is situated in the ~~n~~Northern part of India within the geographical coordinates  
262 30<sup>o</sup> 38' - 31<sup>o</sup> 24' N latitude and 78<sup>o</sup> 29' - 80<sup>o</sup> 22' E longitude with an area of 22,292.1 km<sup>2</sup> upto  
263 Haridwar, which encompasses an area of around 22,292.1 km<sup>2</sup>. The altitude of the study area varies  
264 from 7512 m in the Himalayan terrains to 275 m in the plains. Approximately 433 km<sup>2</sup> of ~~the~~ entire  
265 region of the basin is under glacier landscape and 288 km<sup>2</sup> is under fluvial landscape. ~~The river~~  
266 ~~basin of Ganga is located in the state of Uttarakhand, India within the geographical coordinates~~  
267 ~~30<sup>o</sup> 38' - 31<sup>o</sup> 24' N latitude and 78<sup>o</sup> 29' - 80<sup>o</sup> 22' E longitude with an area of 22,292.1 km<sup>2</sup> upto~~  
268 ~~Haridwar.~~ About 60% of the basin is utilized for agricultural, 20% of the basin is under the forest  
269 area, especially majorly in the upper mountainous region, ~~and~~ Nearly 2% of the basin is  
270 permanently covered with snow in the mountain peaks. Most predominant soil groups found in the  
271 region are sand, clay, loam and their compositions. ~~Due to favorable agricultural conditions~~  
272 ~~majority of the population practices agriculture and horticulture. However, a large portion of the~~  
273 ~~total population lives in cities along Ganga river.~~ In the Upper Ganga river basin, the average  
274 annual rainfall varies from 550 to 2500 mm (Bharati et al. 2011) and a major fraction of total  
275 annual rainfall is received during monsoon months (June-September). ~~part of the rains is due to~~  
276 ~~the south westerly monsoon that prevails from July to late September.~~ The geographical location  
277 and other information of the study area Upper Ganga river basin are represented in Fig. 1.

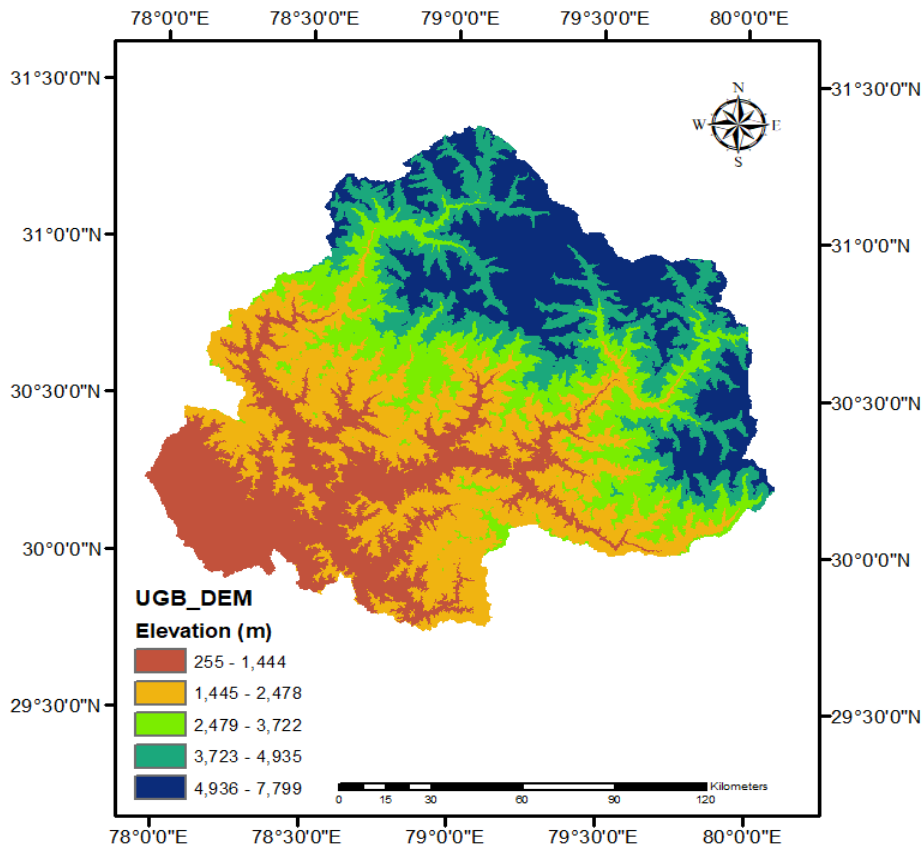
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278  
279 **Figure 1.** Graphical representation of study area, Upper Ganga basin

280 **4. Methodology**

281 **4.1 Data**

282 **4.1.1 Precipitation and Temperature**

283 The daily time series data of precipitation and temperature for the study area is acquired from India  
 284 Meteorological Department (IMD) at a grid size of 0.25 degrees and 1 degree, respectively. The  
 285 study area Upper Ganga basin comes in the latitude ranging from 29.5 degrees to 31.5 degrees and

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286 longitude ranging from 77.75 degrees to 80.25 degrees. The daily time series of precipitation was  
287 aggregated to obtain the annual time series at each grid point. Various analysis in the study are  
288 carried out for four years. The data is extracted for all the four years, i.e. 1980, 1990, 2001 and  
289 2015.

#### 290 4.1.2 Soil Map

291 Spatial ~~maps~~Data of soil ~~were~~is collected from National Bureau of soil survey and land use  
292 planning (NBSSLUP) at 1:250000. Digital maps of soil available at a resolution of 1200m×1200m  
293 were resampled to the resolution of land use data i.e. 30m×30m using ‘resample’ tool in ArcGIS  
294 in order to maintain the scale homogeneity. The cell size of this data is 1200m×1200m which is  
295 different from that of land use data which has a cell size of 30m×30m. So this data is resampled  
296 using ‘resample’ tool in ArcGIS. The attribute table of the ~~raster~~vector layer contains fields like  
297 soil depth, soil texture, percentage carbon content, drainage, slope, erosion, soil temperature and  
298 mineralogy. The relevant feature, i.e. of soil depth and soil texture are converted into the raster  
299 image for the Upper ganga basin.

#### 300 4.1.3 LandUse/Land Cover map

301 ~~Different sensors are used for obtaining the satellite images for different years. For the year 1980,~~  
302 ~~1990, 2001 and 2015, Landsat 3/4 ETM, Landsat 4 ETM, Landsat 7 and Landsat 8 ETM sensors~~  
303 ~~are used to download the image. Satellite images were acquired from different sensors of Landsat~~  
304 ~~viz. Landsat 3/4 MSS/TM, Landsat 4 TM, Landsat 7 ETM and Landsat 8 OLI sensors for the year~~  
305 ~~1980, 1990, 2001 and 2015 respectively. The images are available at different resolution and for~~  
306 ~~several bands out of which Green (G), Red (R) and Near Infrared (NIR) band images are combined~~  
307 ~~to create False Colour Composite (FCC) for the study area in ERDAS Imagine.~~



308 ~~These satellite images are different in their grid size and all the satellite data is taken as raw data~~  
309 ~~from USGS. This data is available in form of different bands combinations and different~~  
310 ~~resolutions depending upon the type of sensors. As per the type of sensors, the bands are stacked~~  
311 ~~in ERDAS and a new stacked image is generated. FCCs are then This image is now~~ classified  
312 using supervised classification in ERDAS in six different classes, i.e. Forest, Water, Agricultural,  
313 Wasteland, Snow and Glacier and Built-up land. Classification of the area is based upon their  
314 similar response under different bands. Each class is then recognized with the help of ground truth  
315 and high resolution satellite images.

#### 316 ***4.2 Methodology to compute water yield involves the following steps.***

317 ~~In the present work, five different strategies are employed to compute water yield. For computing~~  
318 ~~water yield five strategies are considered here.~~ For the ease of presentation, these strategies are  
319 referred as A, B, C, D, E. In strategy A, an average value of precipitation, temperature,  
320 extraterrestrial radiation and parameter ‘w’ is used for the entire basin. This strategy is  
321 essentially based on Lumped Zhang Model.

322 Strategies B, C, D and E are designated corresponding to particular variation of InVEST model  
323 where water yield is computed using different approach for estimating ‘w’ parameter. ‘w’ is  
324 estimated differently. For computing parameter ‘w’, Xu et al. (2013) relationship for large basin  
325 and global level is given by equation (9) and equation (10) respectively.

326 *For Large basins:*

$$327 \quad w = 0.69387 - 0.01042 \times lat + 2.81063 \times NDVI + 0.146186 \times CTI \quad (9)$$

328 *For global model:*

329  $w = 3.50412 - 0.09311 \times slp - 0.03288 \times lat + 1.12312 \times NDVI - 0.00205 \times long -$   
 330  $0.00026 \times elev$  (10)

331 ~~Where, *slp* is slope gradient, *lat* is absolute latitude of basin center, *CTI* is compound topographic~~  
 332 ~~index, *NDVI* is normalized difference vegetation index, *long* is longitude and *elev* is elevation.~~

333 In strategy B, entire basin is considered for computing the parameter "*w*" for large basins  
 334 (equation 9) by Xu et al. (2013). In strategy C, entire basin is considered for computing the  
 335 parameter "*w*" for Global model (equation 10) by Xu et al. (2013). In strategy D, parameter "*w*"  
 336 ~~is computed at each pixel in order to incorporate the spatial distribution of the hydrologic variables~~  
 337 ~~involved in the computations. considered pixel-wise as all the hydrological parameters involved in~~  
 338 ~~the computations vary spatially.~~ In Strategy E, parameter "*z*" is computed according to the  
 339 number of rain events in a year and subsequently equation (4) is used to compute the parameter  
 340 "*w*".

341 For all the strategies, ~~other steps involving computation of Extraterrestrial Radiation, Precipitation,~~  
 342 ~~Temperature, Reference Evapotranspiration and Potential Evapotranspiration are briefly described~~  
 343 ~~as follows:~~

344 ~~4.2.1 Extraterrestrial Radiation (RA) (x)~~

345 ~~The value of this parameter is computed at a monthly interval in a raster format for different pixels~~  
 346 ~~for each month using equation (8); and a raster layer is generated.~~

347 ~~4.2.2 Precipitation; P(x)~~

348 ~~The data is obtained from Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) at grid size of 0.25 degree for~~  
 349 ~~the study area and has been interpreted and converted to raster format by using Inverse Distance~~

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350 ~~Weighted (IDW) IWD~~ interpolation technique in ArcGIS environment for obtaining the values for  
351 all pixels at a resolution equal to the resolution of the ~~H~~Landsat satellite image ~~for the study area~~.  
352 The temperature dataset is obtained from IMD at grid size of  $1^{\circ} \times 1^{\circ}$  for the study area and has  
353 been interpreted and converted to raster format by using IDW interpolation technique for obtaining  
354 the values for all pixels at a resolution equal to the resolution of the Landsat satellite images.  
355 Subsequently, the mean monthly value of average temperature ( $T_{avg}$ ) and the difference between  
356 mean daily maximum and mean daily minimum (TD) is obtained. The climate datasets used in the  
357 present study are of the finest resolution available so far for the study region. The precipitation and  
358 temperature data sets were downscaled to a resolution of land use data using Spline interpolation  
359 technique.

#### 360 *4.2.3 Temperature $T_{avg}(x)$ and TD (x)*

361 ~~The temperature data is obtained from IMD at grid size 1 degree for the study area and has been~~  
362 ~~interpreted and converted to raster format by using IWD interpolation technique for obtaining the~~  
363 ~~values for all pixels at a resolution equal to the resolution of the landsat satellite image for the~~  
364 ~~study area. Subsequently, the mean monthly value ( $T_{avg}$ ) and the difference between mean daily~~  
365 ~~maximum and mean daily minimum (TD) is obtained. Gridded datasets of temperature and~~  
366 ~~precipitation used in the present study has been developed using quality controlled stations and~~  
367 ~~well-proven interpolation technique. Further details about the datasets are given in Srivastava et~~  
368 ~~al. (2009) and Pai et al. (2014).~~

#### 369 *4.2.4 Reference Evapotranspiration ( $ET_o$ )*

370 Modified Hargreaves method is applied for obtaining the values of reference evapotranspiration at  
371 each pixel ~~for the study area~~ for each month (Droogers et al. 2002). ~~It is calculated based on the~~

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372 ~~evapotranspiration of grass of the study area.~~ In this method, the inputs are  $R_a$ , precipitation,  $T_{avg}$   
 373 and TD. Some of the months, i.e. July 1980, July 1990, August 1990, June 2001, July 2001, August  
 374 2001, June 2015, July 2015 and August 2015 showed the negative values of reference  
 375 evapotranspiration as obtained from by applying Modified Hargreaves method. Thus, for the above  
 376 months the Hargreaves method, ~~as previously~~ recommended by (Droogers et al. (2002)), is applied  
 377 for obtaining the positive values for the reference evapotranspiration.

378 Thus, all the mean values for the month are added up to get the mean yearly values for the year  
 379 1980, 1990, 2001 and 2015.

#### 380 4.2.5 Potential Evapotranspiration PET (x)

381 To computed potential evapotranspiration. The yearly values obtained for the reference  
 382 evapotranspiration have been multiplied by the vegetation evapotranspiration coefficient ( $K_c$ )  
 383 which varies with the LULC characteristics as expressed in equation (3). The value of the  
 384 vegetation evapotranspiration coefficient is taken from Allen *et al.* (1998) as shown in. ~~The Table~~  
 385 ~~1. shows the values taken for the coefficient of various classes of landuse/landcover.~~ In this study,  
 386  $K_c$  is taken same for all the four years from Table. 1 and is used to obtain potential  
 387 evapotranspiration which is subsequently used to obtain the yearly potential evapotranspiration at  
 388 each pixel of the study area.

389 **Table 1.** Value of  $K_c$  corresponding to LandUse/LandCover classes

S.No.	LandUse/LandCover	Percentage cover (1980)	Percentage cover (1990)	Percentage cover (2001)	Percentage cover (2015)	$K_c$
1	Forest	17.84	16.32	15.78	15.19	1

2	Water	21.87	21.27	19.47	17.65	1
3	Wastelands	51.1	52.36	54.18	55.46	0.2
4	Built-up Area	2.07	2.14	2.27	2.49	0.4
5	Agricultural	3.67	4.04	3.76	4.22	0.75
6	Snow and Glacier	3.45	3.87	4.54	4.99	2

390

391 ~~1. In this study,  $K_e$  is taken same for all the four years from Table. 1 and is used to obtain~~  
392 ~~potential evapotranspiration which is subsequently used to obtain the yearly potential~~  
393 ~~evapotranspiration at each pixel of the study area.~~

## 394 6.5. Results

### 395 6.15.1 Reference Evapotranspiration, $ET_o(x)$

396 Reference Evapotranspiration is computed for the upper Ganga Basin using a high-resolution  
397 monthly climate dataset. Modified Hargreaves method is applied for obtaining the values of  
398 reference evapotranspiration at each pixel ~~for the study area~~ for each month (Droogers et al. 2002).  
399 The reference evapotranspiration is a function of  $R_{ga}$ , precipitation,  $T_{avg}$  and TD which are  
400 already computed pixel wise for each month for the year 1980, 1990, 2001 and 2015.

401 Some of the months i.e. July 1980, July 1990, August 1990, June 2001, July 2001, August 2001,  
402 June 2015, July 2015 and August 2015 showed ~~ed the~~ negative values of reference  
403 evapotranspiration ~~by on~~ applying Modified Hargreaves method. Thus, ~~1~~ for the above months, the  
404 Hargreaves method is applied for obtaining the positive results. Hence, all the mean values for the  
405 months are added up to get the mean yearly values of evapotranspiration for the years 1980, 1990,  
406 2001 and 2015, as represented in Fig 2.

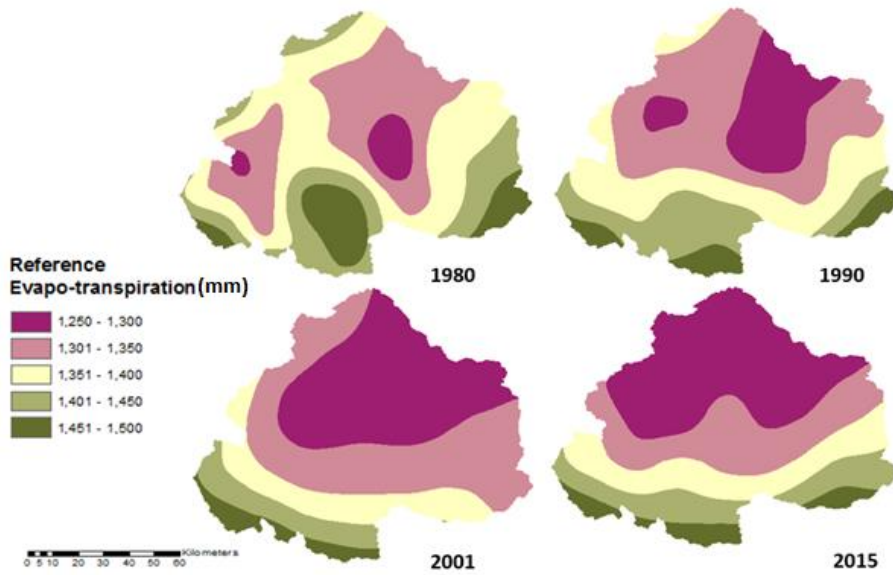
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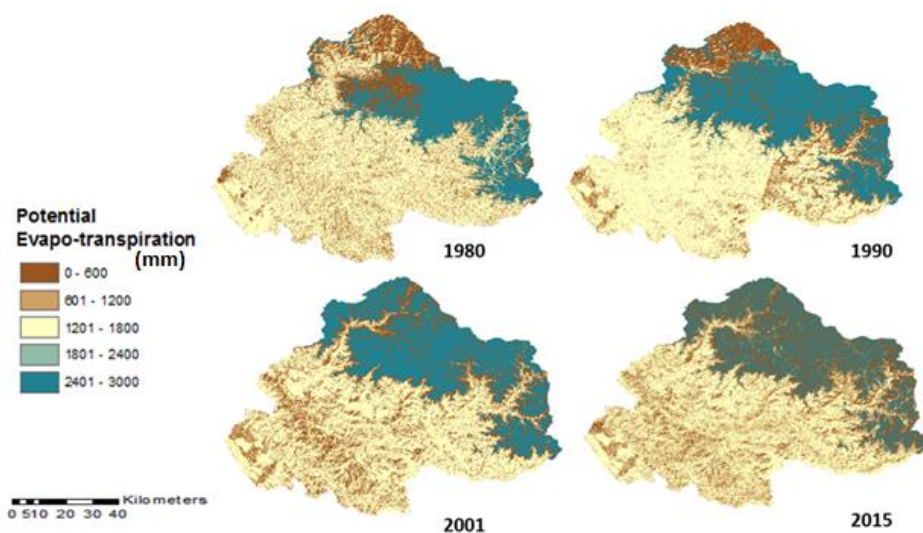
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407  
 408 **Figure 2.** Reference Evapotranspiration (mm) of Upper Ganga Basin for the years 1980, 1990,  
 409 2001 and 2015.

410 **6.25.2 Potential Evapotranspiration,  $PET(x)$**

411 The annual-yearly values obtained for the reference evapotranspiration is multiplied by the  
 412 vegetation evapotranspiration coefficient ( $K_c$ ) which varies with the Land Use Land Cover  
 413 characteristics, as expressed in equation (3). The value of the vegetation evapotranspiration  
 414 coefficient is taken from Allen et al. (1998). The values of the vegetation evapotranspiration  
 415 coefficient are taken from the Table 1. Thus, the potential evapotranspiration is computed for  
 416 Upper Ganga Basin for the years 1980, 1990, 2001 and 2015 as represented in Fig. 3.



417  
 418 **Figure 3.** Potential Evapotranspiration (mm) of Upper Ganga Basin for the years 1980, 1990, 2001  
 419 and 2015.

420 **5.3 Water Yield,  $Y(x)$**

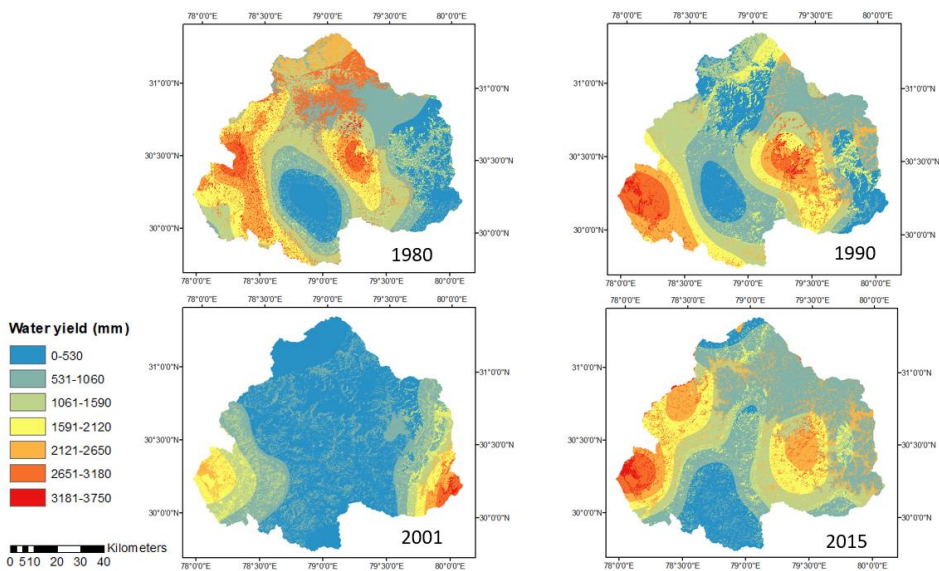
421 As mentioned in the methodology, the water yield for the Upper Ganga basin are computed using  
 422 ~~five~~ various strategies A, B, C, D and E:

423 **Strategy A: ~~By computing~~ Water yield computed using from Lumped Zhang Model**

424 Here, the ~~basin average mean~~-values of all the input parameters are considered and the water yield  
 425 is computed for the Upper Ganga basin for the years 1980, 1990, 2001 and 2015 ~~which~~ is-are  
 426 obtained as 658.52 mm, 925.68 mm, 603.71 mm and 1194.25 mm, respectively.

427 **Strategy B: Water yield obtained by taking the single weighted mean value of parameter ~~“w”~~**  
 428 **from Xu et al. (2013) for Large basins.**

429 By considering ~~at~~ the single value of the parameter " $w$ " for the whole basin the water yield is  
 430 computed for Upper Ganga basin (equation 9). The weighted mean value for the parameter " $w$ "  
 431 for the years 1980, 1990, 2001 and 2015 are obtained as 1.507, 1.541, 1.403 and 1.507 respectively.  
 432 The spatial distribution of water yield for the Upper Ganga basin for ~~different~~ the years are  
 433 represented in Fig. 4. The mean values of water yield as obtained using this method for the years  
 434 1980, 1990, 2001 and 2015 are 755.65 mm, 959.48 mm, 742.39 mm and 1131.42 mm respectively.



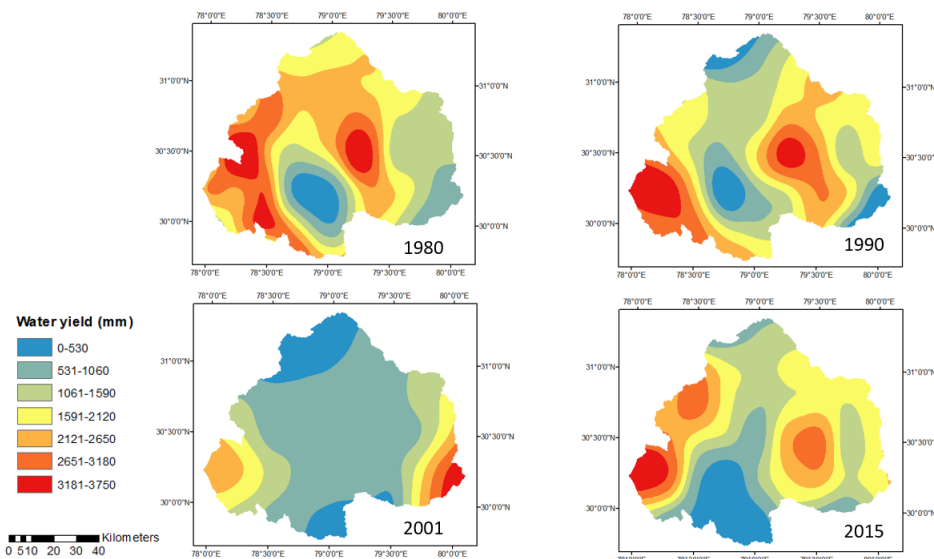
435  
 436 **Figure 4.** Water yield obtained by taking the single weighted mean value of parameter " $w$ " from  
 437 Xu et al. (2013) for large basins.

438 *Strategy C: Water yield obtained by taking the single weighted mean value of parameter " $w$ "*  
 439 *from Xu et al. (2013) for global model.*

440 By considering ~~at~~ the single value of the parameter " $w$ " for the whole basin the water yield is  
 441 computed for Upper Ganga basin (equation 10). The weighted mean value for the parameter " $w$ "



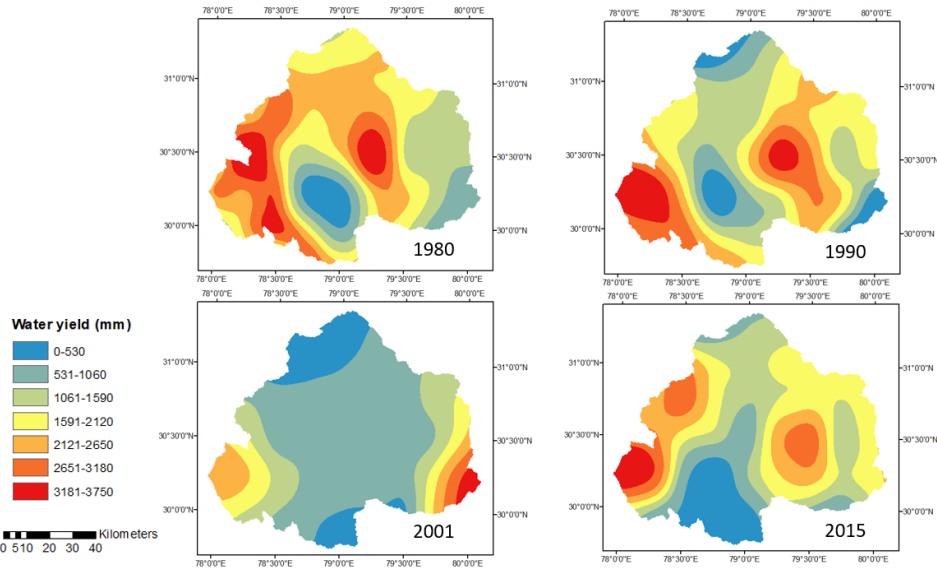
442 for the years 1980, 1990, 2001 and 2015 are obtained as  $(-0.967)$ ,  $(-0.955)$ ,  $(-1.010)$  and  $(-0.968)$   
 443 respectively. The spatial distribution of water yield for the Upper Ganga basin for the years are  
 444 ~~shown~~represented in Fig. 5. The mean values of water yield for the years 1980, 1990, 2001 and  
 445 2015 are 1239.92 mm, 1549.46 mm, 1149.93 mm and 1754.59 mm respectively.



446  
 447 **Figure 5.** Water yield obtained by taking the single weighted mean value of parameter “w” from  
 448 Xu et al. (2013) for global model.

449 *Strategy D: Water yield obtained by using computing pixel level estimation wise value of*  
 450 *parameter “w” from Xu et al. (2013)*

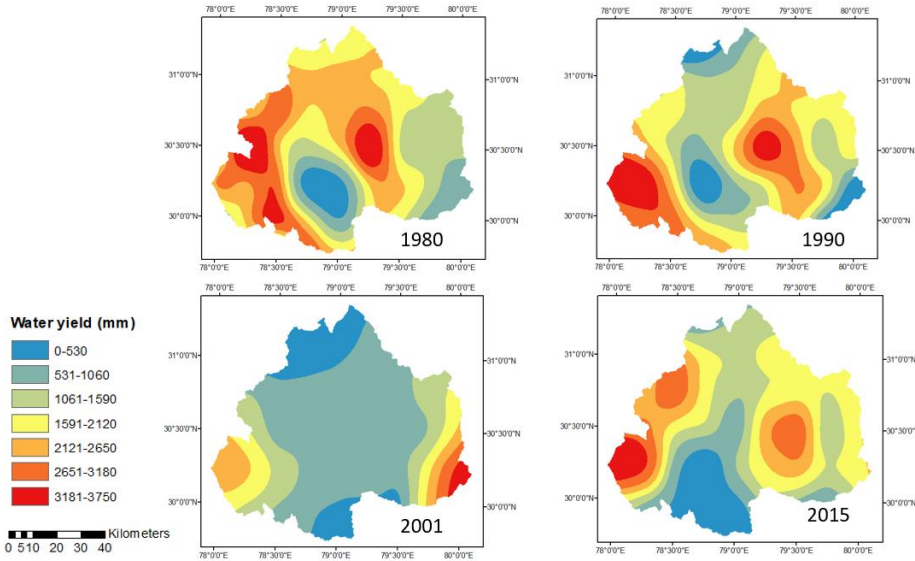
451 In this strategy, The values of parameter “w” is computed at pixel level. The water yield  
 452 computed for the years 1980, 1990, 2001 and 2015 for the Upper Ganga Basin are represented in  
 453 Fig. 6. The mean values of water yield for the years 1980, 1990, 2001 and 2015 are 1240.02 mm,  
 454 1549.44 mm, 1149.89 mm and 1754.62 mm respectively.



455  
 456 **Figure 6.** Water yield obtained by computing pixel wise value of parameter “w” from Xu et al.  
 457 (2013)

458 *Strategy E: Water yield obtained using-by-computing pixel level estimation-wise value of*  
 459 *parameter “w” from Donohue et al. (2012)*

460 The equation (4), represents the parameter “w” which is the function of the parameters ‘z’,  
 461 AWC and P. The parameter ‘w’ in the equation involved in strategy ‘E’ have been proposed by  
 462 Donohue et al. (2012) which is also cited in online documentation of InVEST model, however, the  
 463 final equation used for estimating water yield is from the InVEST model. Considering this fact,  
 464 Donohue et al. (2012) has been cited in Strategy ‘E’. Thus, ~~t~~the water yield is computed for Upper  
 465 Ganga Basin for the years are shown in Fig. 7. The mean values of water yield for the years 1980,  
 466 1990, 2001 and 2015 are 1241.09 mm, 1552.38 mm, 1153.95 mm and 1753.53 mm respectively.

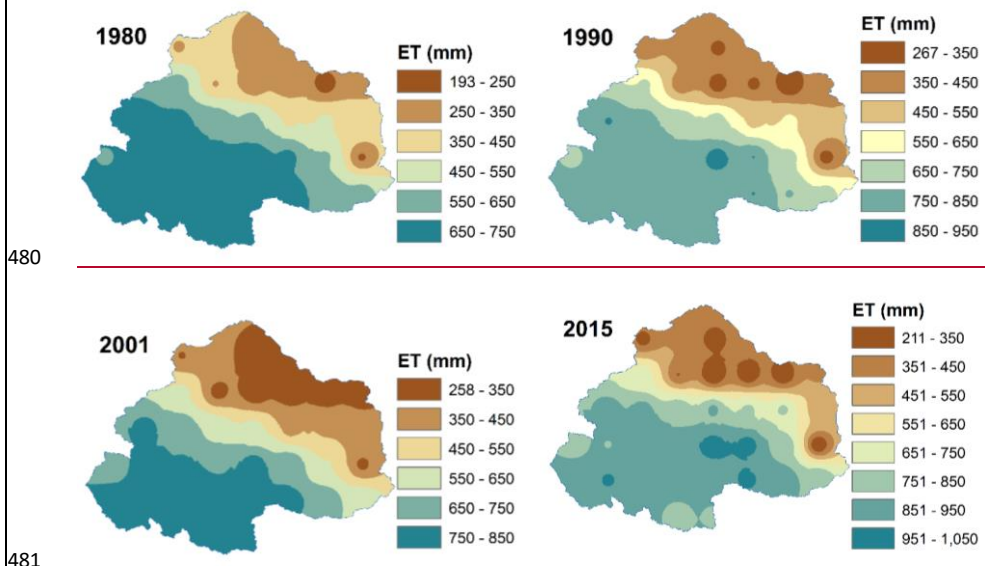


467  
 468 **Figure 7.** Water yield obtained by computing pixel wise value of parameter “w” from Donohue *et*  
 469 *al.* (2012)

470 **5.2 Validation of ~~results in sub-basin Rishikesh of Upper Ganga Basin-ET and water yield~~**  
 471 **estimates**

472 For validation purpose, the basin average annual values of PET and AET estimated using various  
 473 strategies are compared with the corresponding basin average values obtained from available  
 474 global datasets (Table 2). Model simulated AET values are obtained from GLDAS global ET  
 475 datasets from Noah model outputs. Basin average values of PET dataset are obtained from Climate  
 476 Research Unit (CRU) PET datasets (CRU TS v. 4.01) available at resolution of 0.5°. From the  
 477 comparison, both AET (GLDAS) and PET (CRU TS) values are found to in agreement with the  
 478 satellite estimated values. Spatial of Global datasets of AET and PET are shown in Figure 8 and  
 479 9, respectively.

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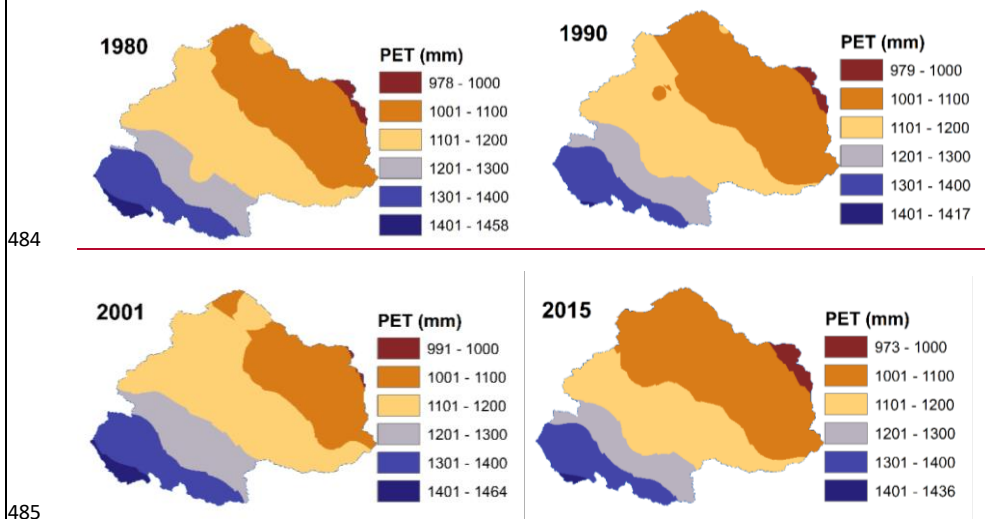
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482 **Figure 8.** Spatial distribution of AET obtained from GLDAS Noah output datasets.

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486 **Figure 9.** Spatial distribution of PET obtained from CRU datasets.

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**Table 2:** Comparison of model estimated PET and AET with satellite estimates

Parameter (mm)	Year	Source 2 (GLDAS)	Source 2 (CRU)	InVEST model				
				Strategy A (Lumped Zhang Model)	Strategy B (Large Model)	Strategy C (Global model)	Strategy D (Xu et al. 2013)	Strategy E (Donohue et al. 2012)
AET	1980	555.0355		696.84	486.07	679.52	679.68	680.01
	1990	646.168		815.02	592.3	735.23	735.27	736.25
	2001	588.084		680.76	408.86	548.28	548.39	550.38
	2015	716.8316		900.11	625.41	743.48	743.52	744.34
PET	1980		1175.964	1376.64	1382.12	1382.12	1382.12	1382.12
	1990		1156.497	1456.16	1461.86	1461.86	1461.86	1461.86
	2001		1184.847	1457.08	1462.96	1462.96	1462.96	1462.96
	2015		1156.686	1544.20	1550.42	1550.42	1550.42	1550.42

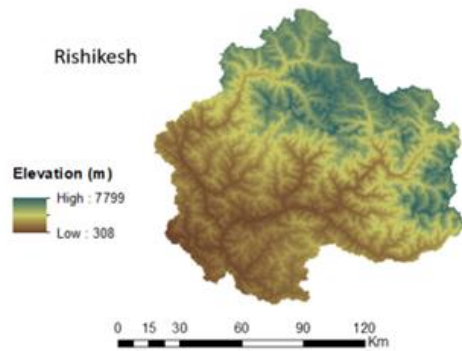
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491

492 The validation of the water yields obtained from various ~~proposed~~ strategies ~~is~~ performed  
 493 ~~upto~~for Rishikesh gauging site(Fig. 8), a sub-basins of Upper Ganga basin (Fig. 10). As the data  
 494 ~~of the study area is classified and thus, the representation of complete data is forbidden.~~ The  
 495 discharge data of the basin is obtained from Irrigation department ~~of~~, Uttarakhand state. ~~The~~  
 496 ~~surface runoff data is extracted from the snow melting data from the discharge data as the snow~~  
 497 ~~melting contributes about 32 percent in study area as suggested by Maurya et al. (2011).~~ Present  
 498 work considers runoff from both precipitation as well as snowfall for the region, but 32% of the  
 499 observed discharge has been removed as it is contributed by glacier ice melt to the streamflow for  
 500 this catchment as explained by Maurya et al. (2011) for our study area. The above mentioned  
 501 fraction of discharge had been quantified using isotope study which separates snow melt  
 502 contribution from that of the glacier melt (Maurya et al., 2011). A comprehensive work on water  
 503 balance of Upper Ganga Basin has been discussed by Jain et al. (2017), ~~with reference to~~ (Table  
 504 4, in Jain et al., (2017). For a ~~p~~precipitation value of 1236.1 mm, ~~G~~ground water contributes by

505 ~~an amount of flow of~~ 293.92 mm and snow melt ~~contributes by~~ 73.84 mm. It is apprehended that  
 506 ~~g~~Ground water flow and snow melt equals to 367.76 mm which is approximately equals to 29.75  
 507 percent of Precipitation. ~~Subsequently Indirectly~~, this percentage contribution is also supported by  
 508 the value reported by Maurya et al. (2011). ~~A comparison of Thus~~, the water yield ~~computed and~~  
 509 ~~observed for the study region has been validated~~ for different years by various proposed strategies  
 510 ~~are~~ shown in Table ~~32~~.



511

512 **Figure 108.** Graphical representation of sub-basin Rishikesh

513 **Table 32.** Observed vs computed water yield by various proposed strategies for Rishikesh sub-  
 514 basin.

Strategies	1980	1990	2001	2015
Observed discharge (mm)	1831.31	2422.43	2187.22	2835.81
Observed (mm) (after reducing approx. 32% snow melting contribution)	1245.29	1647.25	1487.31	1928.35
Water Yield_Strategy A (mm)	652.47	914.35	598.25	1189.72

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Water Yield_Strategy B (mm)	745.38	917.77	697.75	1092.17
Water Yield_Strategy C (mm)	1229.90	1506.82	1102.62	1718.17
Water Yield_Strategy D (mm)	1229.99	1506.74	1102.61	1718.18
Water Yield_Strategy E (mm)	1230.77	1508.88	1106.86	1720.16

515

516 Values of water yield estimated using strategy A to E are systematically increasing but are not  
517 steady in nature as water yield estimated using strategy A and B lies in range 650 – 750 mm  
518 whereas water yield from strategy C-E lies in range 1229 – 1231 mm for the year 1980 (see Table  
519 3). Similar results are also evident for other years too. Also, water yield estimated using strategy  
520 C-E are more or less same for a given year as these strategies involve pixel based estimation of  
521 water yield considering spatial variation in Budyko parameters. Parameters involved in Budyko  
522 model such as ‘w’ are found to be dependent on various factors such as catchment characteristics,  
523 vegetation cover, etc. as well as climate seasonality (Li et al. 2013). Ahn and Merwade (2017)  
524 have analysed the relationship between basin characteristics and factor ‘w’ for 175 stations spread  
525 over the USA results are presented in Ahn and Merwade, (2017). As evident from their study, no  
526 precise conclusion can be drawn regarding relationship between basin characteristics and value of  
527 ‘w’ especially in case of basin area characteristics. Moreover, no straight forward relationship has  
528 yet been identified between basin characteristics and model parameters and it is a subject matter  
529 for further study.

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530 **7.6 Discussion**

531 The study aimed to apply the InVEST water yield model, a tool that is gaining interest in ecosystem  
532 services community for Upper Ganga Basin, having the variability in the topography and  
533 consisting of hilly areas, plain areas and the regions which are totally covered with snow. The

534 InVEST model is based upon Budyko theory which requires low amount of data and low level of  
535 expertise, thus making it acceptable world-wide. Monthly precipitation, monthly average value of  
536 temperature, monthly value of difference of mean daily maximum and mean daily minimum and  
537 extraterrestrial radiation parameters are computed for the Upper Ganga Basin for each month of  
538 all the four years i.e. 1980, 1990, 2001 and 2015 and converted into the raster format for the further  
539 analysis. The monthly reference evapotranspiration is thus computed using input parameters in the  
540 GIS environment by applying the modified Hargreaves equation for all the months except some  
541 months where the modified Hargreaves equation shows the negative results for the reference  
542 evapotranspiration value. For those months Hargreaves method is applied to obtain the positive  
543 value of reference evapotranspiration as also suggested by Goyal et al. (2017). Reference  
544 evapotranspiration when multiplied with  $K_c$  gives the potential evapotranspiration. All the monthly  
545 values of different years are added up to obtain the yearly value of reference evapotranspiration.  
546  $K_c$  is the function of Land Use Land Cover, thus supervised classification is done to prepare the  
547 raster Land Use Land Cover map for the Upper Ganga Basin. Thus, the yearly value of potential  
548 evapotranspiration is obtained for the study area for the years 1980, 1990, 2001 and 2015.

549 The paper focuses on all the methodologies discussed in the paper and is applied on the Upper  
550 Ganga basin. Thus, water yield is computed both from InVEST model as well as Lumped Zhang  
551 model. The value of the parameter  $_{w}$  are computed in four ways, i.e. mean single value  
552 obtained from Xu et al. (2013) for large basins and global model, pixel wise value of parameter  
553  $_{w}$  from Xu et al. (2013) and pixel wise value of parameter  $_{w}$  from Donohue et al. (2012).  
554 Although, the Upper Ganga basin lies in large basin category as per the definition from Xu et al.  
555 (2013), but, the yield computed using global model is in good agreement with the observed data  
556 for the Upper Ganga basin.



557 ~~In the study, pixel level estimation of parameter 'w' is made in order to incorporate the spatial~~  
558 ~~variability of the parameter in water yield estimation. The purpose to introduce the value of~~  
559 ~~parameter "w" at pixel level so that it does not seem logical to compute a single value of parameter~~  
560 ~~"w" for such a large basin.~~ Thus, two pixel wise values of parameter "w<sub>1</sub>" is computed for the  
561 Upper Ganga basin for years 1980, 1990, 2001 and 2015 by considering two approaches as given  
562 by from Xu et al. (2013) and Donohue et al. (2012). Also, the water yield is computed from  
563 Lumped Zhang model which works on the approach of considering mean values of all the  
564 parameters indulged in the computations of water yield. Thus, in five ways water yield are  
565 computed for the Upper Ganga basin for the years 1980, 1990, 2001 and 2015.

566 ~~At For site Rishikesh gauging site, the contributing area to water yield is extracted from the Upper~~  
567 ~~Ganga basin and the discharge data is taken from the irrigation department, Uttarakhand to~~  
568 ~~compare the results. The surface runoff data is obtained by extracting from the snow melting~~  
569 ~~data from the discharge data as the snow melting contributes about 32 percent of total runoff#~~  
570 ~~study area as suggested by (Maurya et al., (2011). Using this fact, the observed yield is compared~~  
571 with the computed water yield based on different proposed strategies for the years 1980, 1990,  
572 2001 and 2015 represented in Table 23.

573 The results obtained from Donohue et al. (2012) and Xu et al. (2013) computed at pixel level  
574 (Strategy C, Strategy D and Strategy E), thus represents better performance than other and are in  
575 good agreement with the observed data. It is clear that in order to go for hydrological processing  
576 for any watershed, pixel wise classification and computation is advisable necessary. ~~The~~  
577 parameters involved in the Budyko model are dependent on various factors such as basin  
578 characteristics (size, topography, stream length, slope, etc.), climate seasonality, etc. (Li et al.,  
579 2013). The factors affecting model parameters again vary both spatially and temporally. Moreover,

580 the relationship between these factors and model parameters are not yet well defined (Ahn and  
581 Merwade, 2017). In such scenario, adopting a hypothesis by assuming few of these controlling  
582 factors (such as 'w') to be constant spatially or temporally is inappropriate. Considering these  
583 facts, the present study attempts to incorporate the spatial variability of model parameter for  
584 estimation of water yield at pixel level. As the computations are made at pixel level in GIS  
585 environment, the assumption of dependence of model parameters over scale of the catchment may  
586 also be disregarded. -The computations made in present work are based on empirical equations,  
587 however, the application of these equations has been well documented worldwide for estimation  
588 of various water balance components at various basin scales (Zhang et al., 2008; Ma et al., 2008;  
589 Ning et al., 2017; Rouholahnejad et al., 2017; Wang et al., 2017).

590 Hence, it is recommended, that for such a large basin there is a strong need to compute all the  
591 parameters involved in the computations of water yield at pixel ~~level~~-scale rather than adopting  
592 the mean values for entire watershed.

### 593 **8.7 Summary and Conclusions**

594 The present study aimed to apply the InVEST annual water yield model, a tool that is gaining  
595 interest in the ecosystem services community. While such simple models having with low  
596 requirements for data, high and level of expertise are needed for practical applications use of such  
597 model as with a single representative value of model parameter for the entire basin does not provide  
598 good estimates of water yield. On the other hand, performing pixel scale computation of water  
599 yield indicates a better performance and results obtained show better agreement with the observed  
600 water yield. As far as parameter ~~Regarding the use of parameter 'w' is concerned,~~ global model  
601 works better than other representation of 'w' available in literature.

602 The water yield is computed ~~using~~ five different ~~strategies~~ ~~ways~~ and results are analyzed with  
603 the observed data of sub-basins of Upper Ganga Basin. The present study attempts to quantify  
604 annual water yield at pixel level irrespective of the size of catchment. Therefore, the proposed  
605 methodology is expected to perform well for the catchment of any given size. Changes in  
606 catchment's water storage over time are required to be quantified in order to validate the  
607 applicability of Budyko's model to long term data for the catchment under study. Earlier, some  
608 of the important parameters for the water yield used to be computed at a basin level scale which  
609 brings noise in the results. Thus, by considering all the parameters involved in the model at pixel  
610 level scale, the results obtained are higher in accuracy.

611 The study attempts to incorporate the spatial variability of parameters involved in the model  
612 thorough pixel level estimation of parameters which are otherwise taken as lumped in the previous  
613 studies. Study results show that the water yield estimated considering spatial variability in model  
614 parameters are in better agreement with the observed water yield as compared to the water yield  
615 estimated by considering the parameters to be lumped over the study region. Further, the  
616 computations of various parameters are made at pixel level, therefore, the estimates of water  
617 balance components using this approach are expected to be independent of the assumption of  
618 dependence of parameters on catchment size. As the variation between Budyko's model  
619 parameters and their controlling factors has not shown well defined relationship (Ahn and  
620 Merwade, 2017), the study emphasizes water yield estimation using pixel based computations.

621 Thus it ~~can~~ be inferred that: (i):-

622 ~~1)~~ ~~B~~etween two approaches used, i.e. considering entire basin and pixel level approach, the  
623 pixel level approach is found to provide better results and (ii):-

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624  $\Rightarrow$  In pixel level based computations, results further improved with the use of  $\alpha$  parameter  
625  $\alpha$  based on a global model than regional models of  $\alpha$  for large basins in Himalayan basin.

## 626 Acknowledgement

627 Authors are thankful to Executive Engineer, Irrigation Department, Uttarakhand, for providing the  
628 discharge data for the Rishikesh sub-basin of Upper Ganga Basin.

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