

## Supplementary Information

### Lithology and orographic precipitation control river incision in the tropical Andes

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**Text S1: Topographic analysis**

To compare inter-catchment variability of river steepness indices, the referenced concavity index ( $\theta$ ) is typically fixed to a value of 0.45 (DiBiase et al., 2010). In this section we explore whether assuming a fixed value for the concavity index is consistent with the diversity of river forms in the Paute basin. Our analysis relies on Bayesian optimization of the *mn*-ratio as implemented in the TopoToolbox function *mnoptim* (see also <https://topotoolbox.wordpress.com/2017/10/24/bayesian-optimization-of-the-mn-ratio/>).

The Paute river network is characterized by a major transient knickzone, situated close to the outlet of the basin (see main text for discussion). Including this knickzone in the *mn*-analysis would render the concavity to be significantly lower due to a major jump in the slope area profiles (Figure S3). It is known that there exists a positive trade-off between the concavity and the steepness of river profiles in transient regions (Vanacker et al., 2015). In order to facilitate the use of the stochastic stream power equation and ensure inter catchment comparability, we fixed the concavity to a value representative for the part of the river network being close to equilibrium. Therefore, we only considered the streams upstream of the two major knickzones in the Paute network, both likely originating from a major river reorganization in the recent geological past (<10 Ma Steinmann et al., 1999).

The Bayesian optimization procedure is based on the integral approach of longitudinal river profile analysis (chi-analysis) (Perron and Royden, 2013). Moreover, the optimization uses a cross-validation approach which randomly and repeatedly separates the drainage network into training and validation data. In one iteration, the *mn* -ratio is determined with the training data (~50% of the catchments) and is then evaluated with the remaining data (validation data) using the root mean squared error (RMSE). This approach is stochastic because at each iteration, different catchments are randomly selected. The RMSE for the same value of the concavity index may thus differ, which enables us to quantify the uncertainty of the optimal concavity. Bayesian optimization returns an optimal value of the  $\theta = 0.42$  and is consistent with the value of 0.45 which is commonly used when modelling stochastic river incision (DiBiase and Whipple, 2011; Scherler et al., 2017). Uncertainty analysis (Figure S3) reveals that a range of *mn*-values between 0.35 and 0.5 is likely to result in equal model performance, further justifying adopting  $\theta$  to 0.45 for the remainder of this study.

Chi-plots of drainage network for all individual sub catchments studied in this paper are shown in Figure S4.

Figure S5 illustrates the location of the digitized river sections to calibrate the river discharge-width relationship (main manuscript, Figure 3).

## Supplementary Information

**Table S1** Lithological erodibility index ( $L_A$ ) based on the age of the lithological unit

	$L_A$
Cambrium	1
Ordoviciun	1.2
Silurian	1.3
Devonian	1.5
Carboniferous	1.8
Permian	2.5
Permian/Triassic	2.6
Triassic	2.7
Triassic/Jurassic	3
Jurassic	3.3
Jurassic/Cretaceous	3.7
Cretaceous	4.2
Cretaceous/Paleogene	4.6
Paleogene	5.2
Paleogene/Neogene	5.5
Neogene	5.8
Neogene/Quaternary	5.9
Quaternary	6

**Table S2** Lithological erodibility index ( $L_L$ ) per lithology, adjusted from on Aalto et al. (2006)

<b>Igneous</b>	$L_L$	<b>Metamorphic</b>	$L_L$	<b>Strong sedimentary</b>	$L_L$	<b>Unconsolidated</b>	$L_L$
Adamellite	2	Gneiss	2	Limestone	4	Alluvial deposits	12
Diorite		Amphibolite		Massive greywacke		Colluvial deposits	
Dolerite		Chert		Massive mudstone		Estuarine deposits	
Diabase		Migmatite		Massive sandstone		Marine deposits	
Gabbro		Serpentinite				Laterite	
Granite							
Granodiorite		<b>Metasedimentary</b>		<b>Weak sedimentary</b>			
Granophyre	3	Quartzite	2	Conglomerates	10		
Ophiolite		Meta lava	3	Pyroclastic			
Pegmatite		Schist	4	Shale			
Porphyry		Slate		Weathered sandstone	12		
Ultramafic				Loose volcanic deposits			
Andesite							
Basaltic Lava Rocks							
Ignimbrite							
Nepheline							

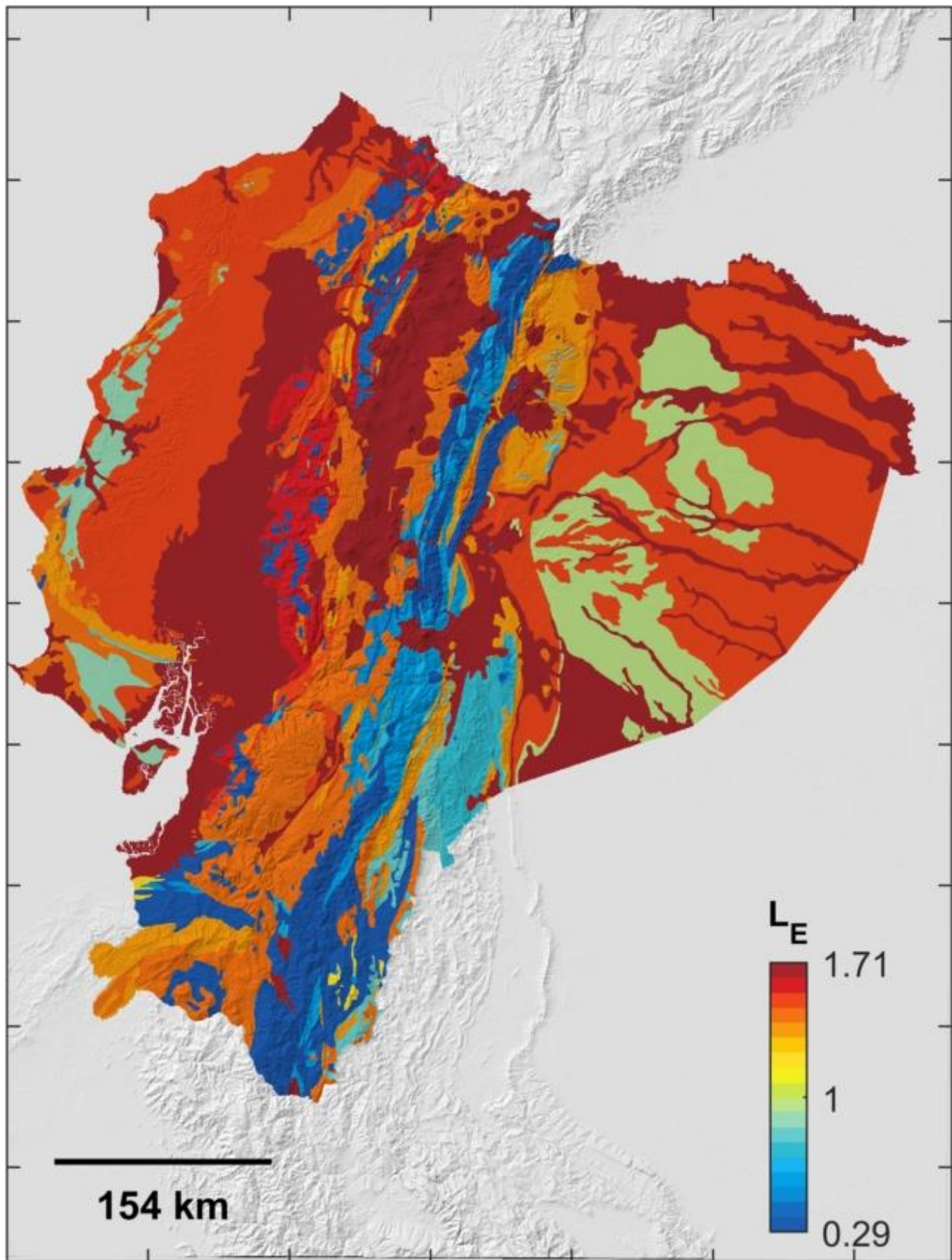
## Supplementary Information

### 55 **Table S3** Lithostratigraphic data

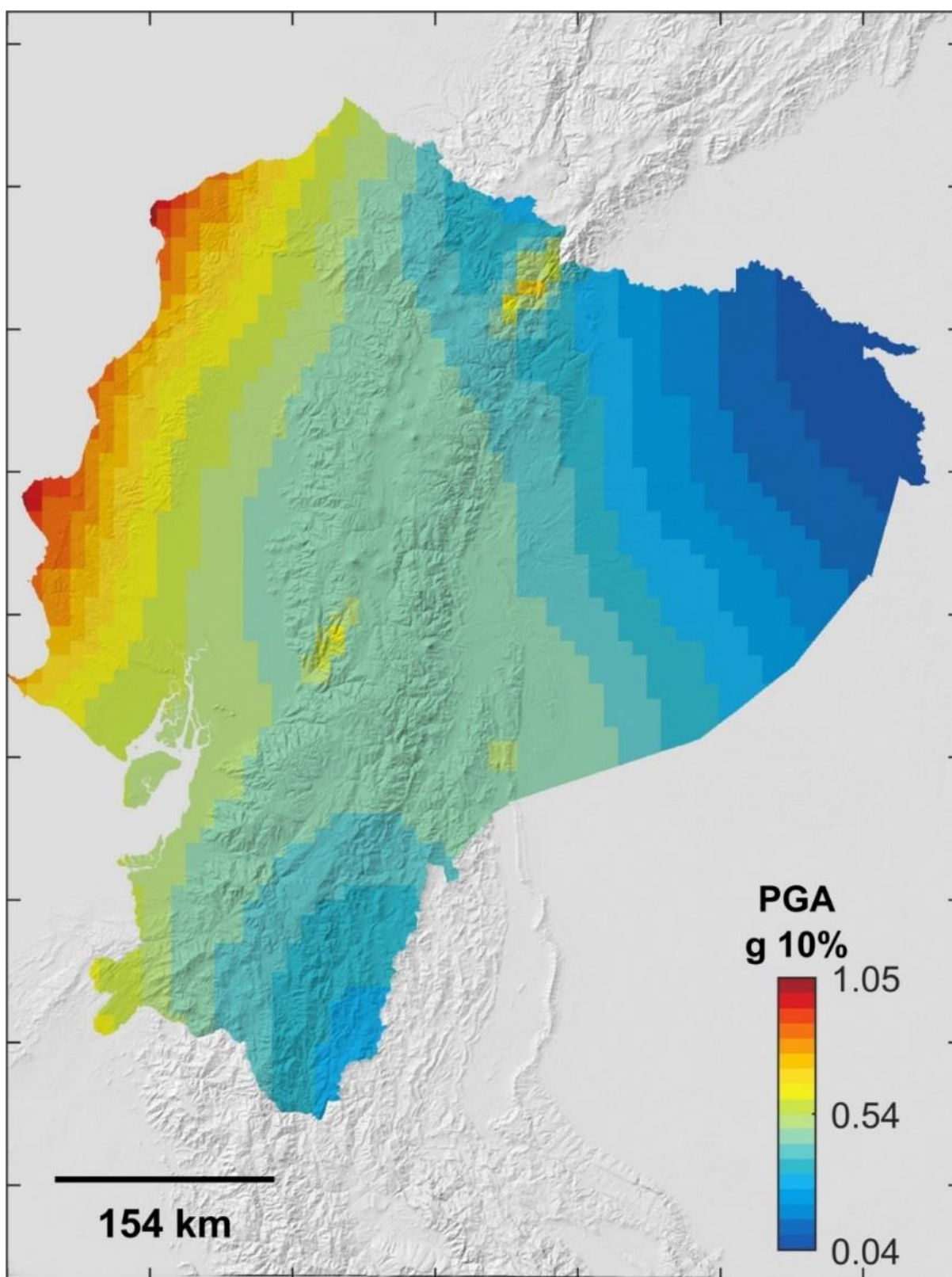
See file “TableS3.xlsx”

### **Table S4** Data PRECUPA

See file “TableS4.xlsx”



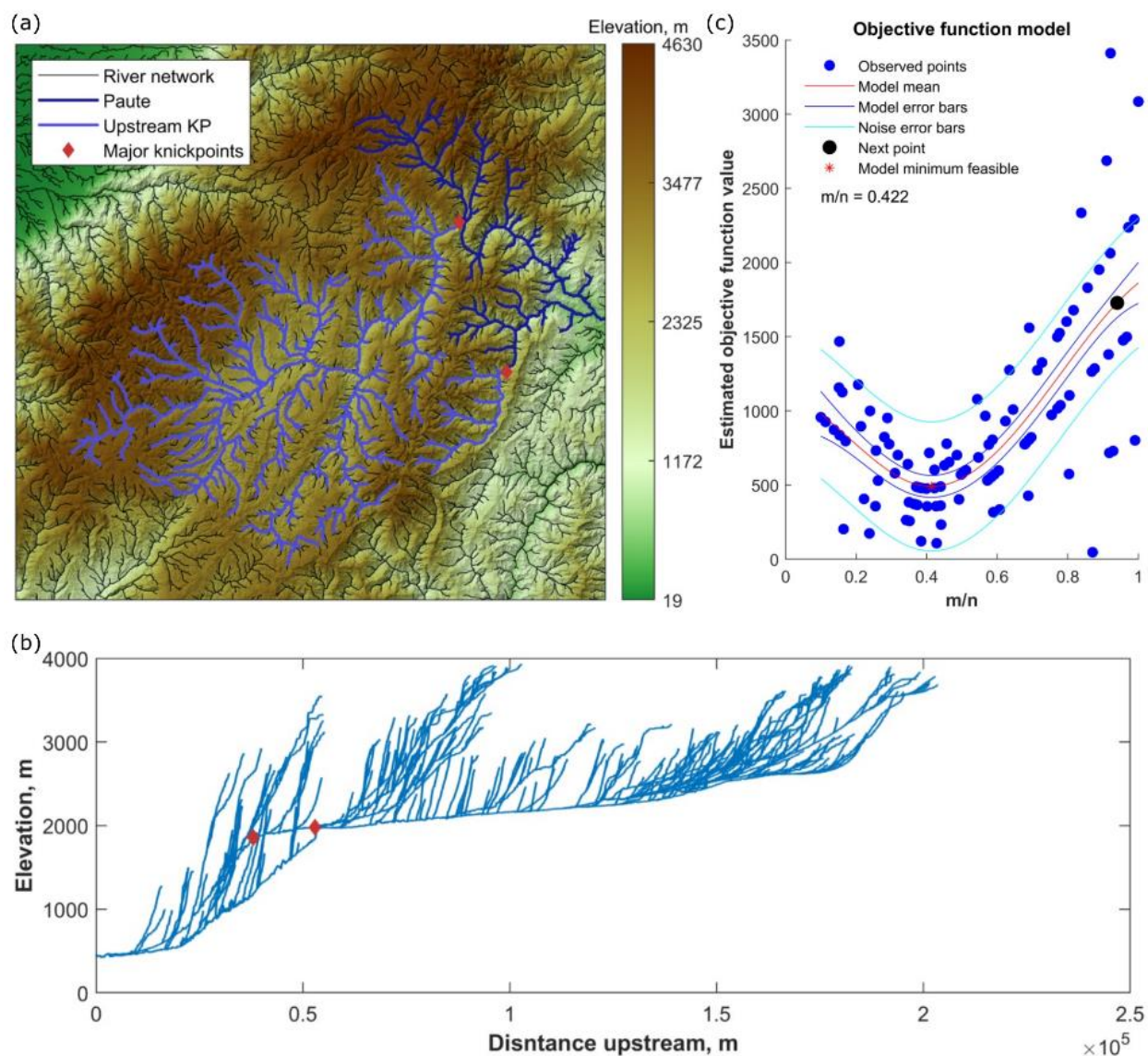
60 **Figure S1** Regionally constrained lithological erodibility index ( $L_E$ ) derived from the 1M geological map of Ecuador (Egüez et al., 2017) and applying Eq. 15, overlain on hillshade map based on the 30 m SRTM v3 DEM (NASA JPL, 2013).



**Figure S2** PGA (g) derived from Petersen et al. (2018) overlain on hillshade map based on the 30 m SRTM v3 DEM (NASA JPL, 2013). PGA data available through ScienceBase (doi: 10.5066/F7WM1BK1).

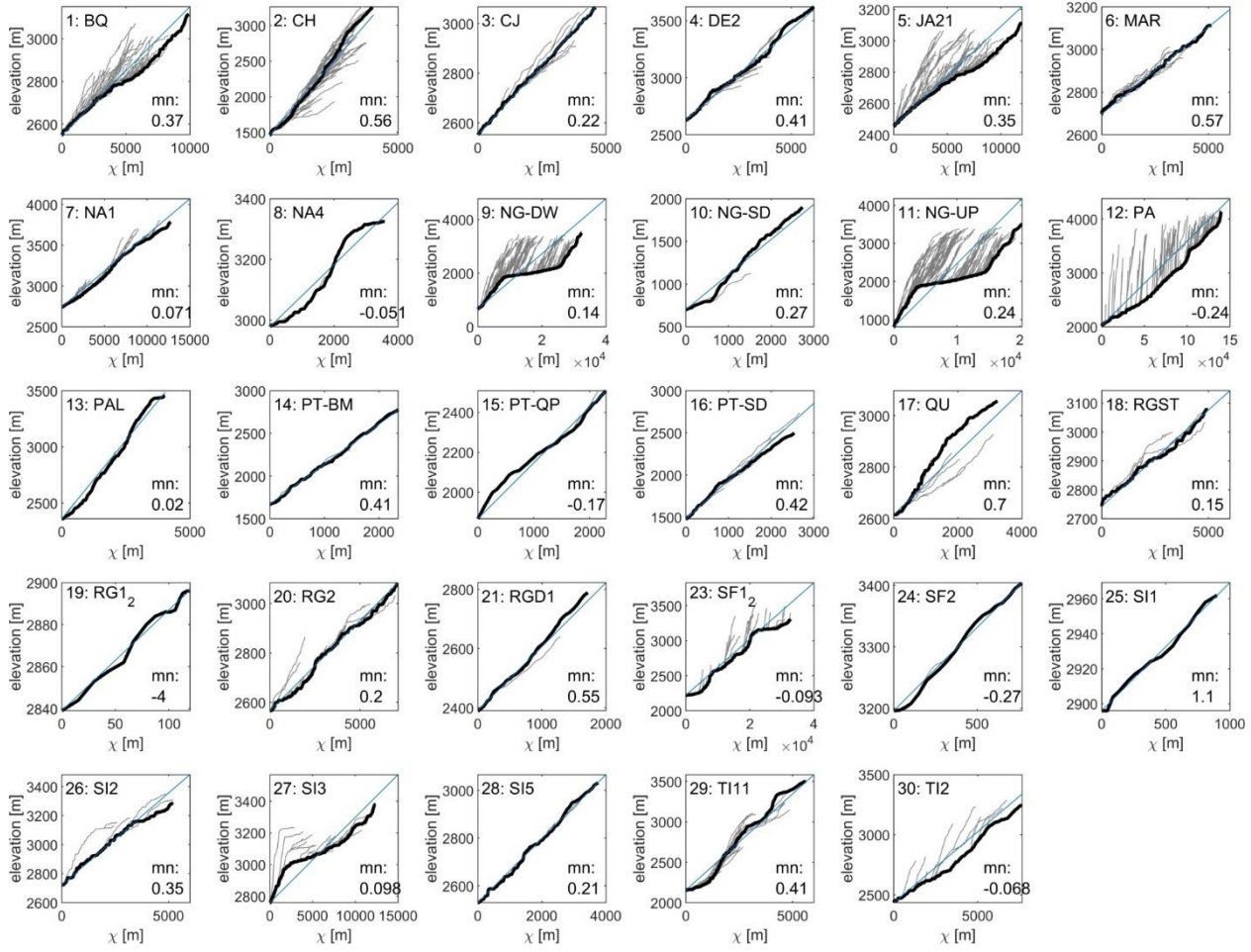


# Supplementary Information



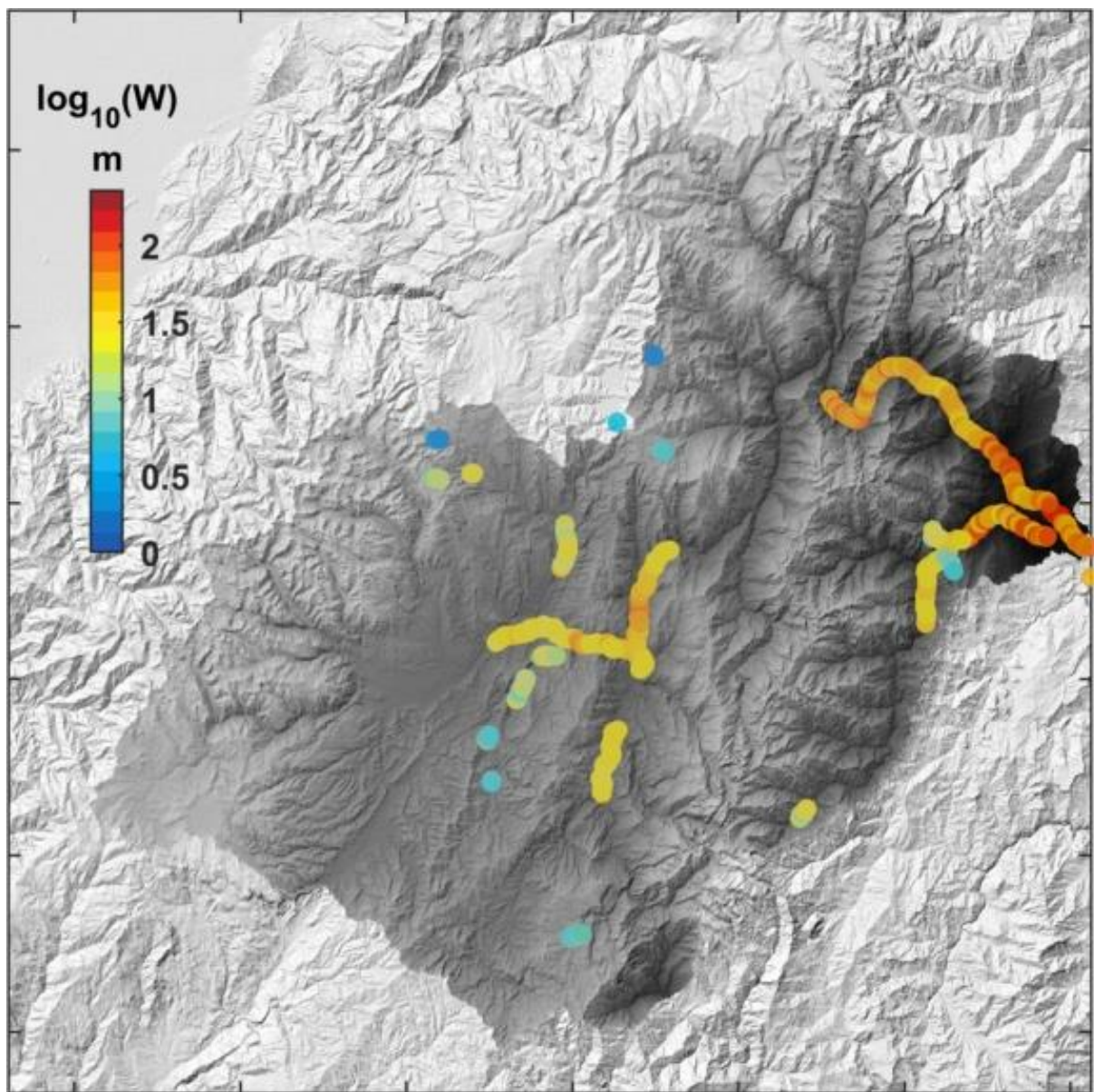
**Figure S3:** Constraining the concavity index of the Paute catchment using an objective function model. (a) River network with major knickpoints indicated as red diamonds, overlain on hillshade map based on the 30 m SRTM v3 DEM (NASA JPL, 2013), (b) Longitudinal river profiles of the Paute drainage network. (c) Bayesian optimization of  $mn$ -ratio for the stream network upstream of the two major knickzones.

## Supplementary Information



**Figure S4:** Chi-plots of drainage networks form studied sub-catchments. *mn*-value calculated using the chiplot function in TopoToolbox (Schwanghart and Scherler, 2014), assuming a critical drainage area of 0.5 km<sup>2</sup>.





**Figure S5:** Mapped river width for ca. 120 km of channels overlain on hillshade map based on the 30 m SRTM v3 DEM (NASA JPL, 2013).

## Supplementary Information

### References SI

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