

# Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>1 THE WORLD OF RIVERS, ESTUARIES, AND DELTAS</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>2 HOW DO RIVERS WORK?</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>3 THE ANATOMY OF RIVERS</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>4 RIVER ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY</b>	<b>104</b>
<b>5 RIVERS AND US</b>	<b>128</b>
<b>6 HOW DO ESTUARIES WORK?</b>	<b>160</b>
<b>7 THE ANATOMY OF ESTUARIES</b>	<b>180</b>
<b>8 ESTUARINE ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY</b>	<b>202</b>
<b>9 ESTUARIES AND US</b>	<b>220</b>
<b>10 HOW DO DELTAS WORK?</b>	<b>244</b>



<b>11</b>	<b>THE ANATOMY OF DELTAS</b>	268
<b>12</b>	<b>DELTA ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY</b>	286
<b>13</b>	<b>DELTAS AND US</b>	316
<b>14</b>	<b>FUTURE RIVERS, ESTUARIES, AND DELTAS</b>	340
	<b>Glossary</b>	386
	<b>Resources</b>	388
	<b>Notes on contributors</b>	390
	<b>Index</b>	391
	<b>Picture credits</b>	399



# Mapping and techniques

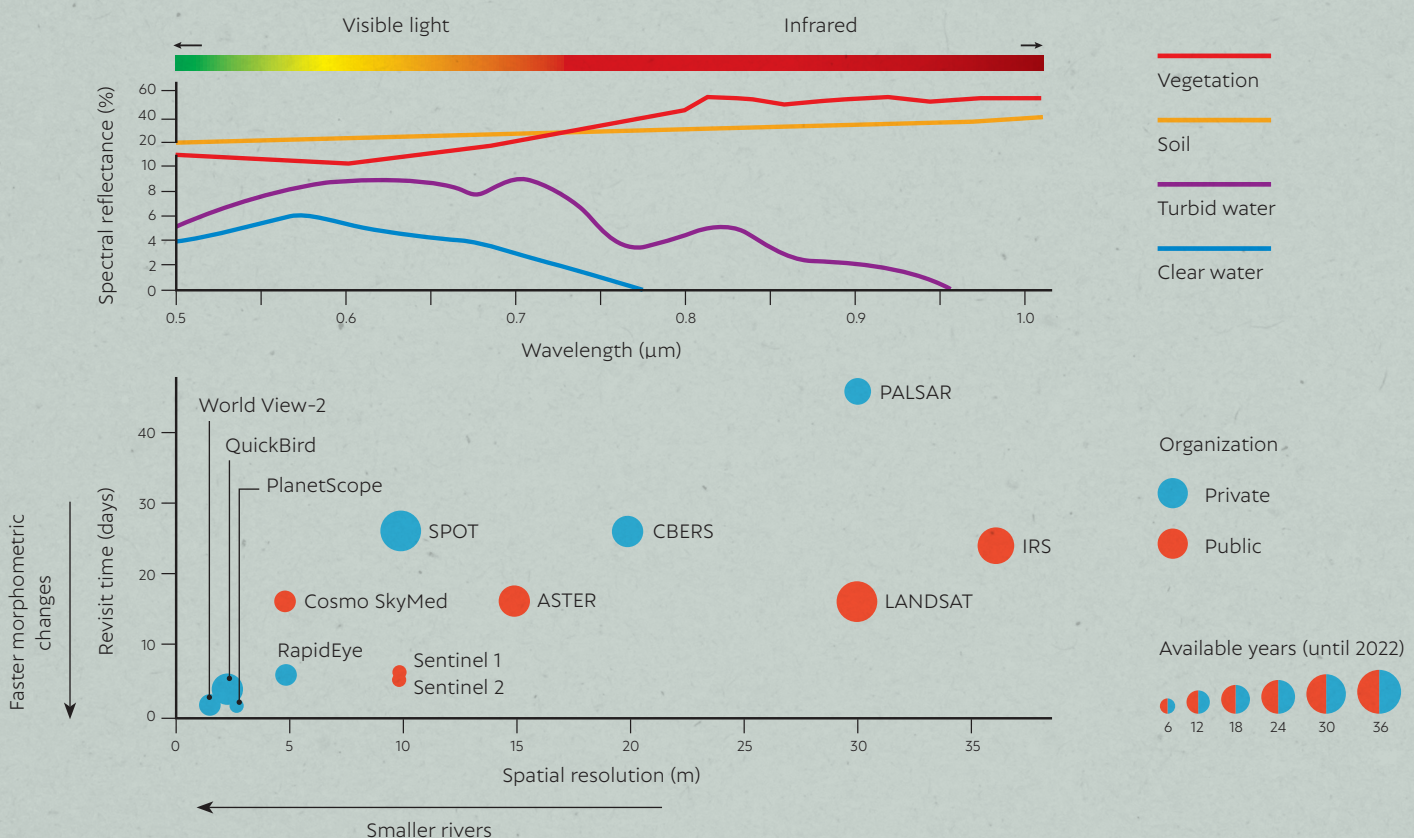
Monitoring the shape of the Earth's surface and its changes over time has been revolutionized over the past 60 years by new technologies: satellite remote sensing from space, application of light detection and ranging (LiDAR) methods, and new uses of aerial images. Combined, these now provide us with unprecedented capabilities to measure the Earth's surface and how it is changing due to natural and anthropogenic stresses.

## Principles of remote sensing

Large-scale mapping of the Earth's surface is possible through the application of various remote-sensing techniques using airborne or space-borne sensors. These sensors work by detecting radiation emitted from the Earth's surface, with different sensors focusing on different regions (wavelengths) of the electromagnetic spectrum (EMS). Since the amount of radiation reflected is influenced by both the properties of the surface and the incoming radiation, different sensors can capture different

### SENSING EARTH'S WATERBODIES

Different features on the Earth reflect solar radiation in distinctive ways. Earth observation satellites can measure these reflected signals at varying temporal and spatial scales.



information about surface properties. For example, conventional aerial photography, long used in mapmaking, simply utilizes light in the visible spectrum. Especially pertinent to the mapping of rivers, estuaries, and deltas is the fact that water has a highly distinctive spectral signature compared to adjacent land, making it possible to delimit water features. Compared to land, water more readily absorbs incoming solar radiation in the infrared portion of the EMS (wavelengths of 0.75–3.0  $\mu\text{m}$ ), but it absorbs less in the visible range (wavelengths of 0.38–0.75  $\mu\text{m}$ ). This means that, so long as corrections are made for the fact that water in waterbodies is rarely perfectly clear (due to the presence of suspended sediment, phytoplankton, and chlorophyll-*a*), remote detection of water features is possible using optical sensors that have at least one detecting “band” in the infrared spectrum.

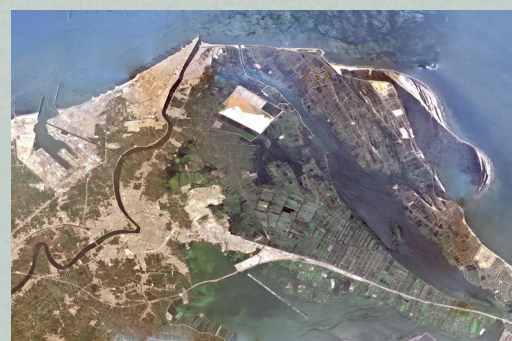
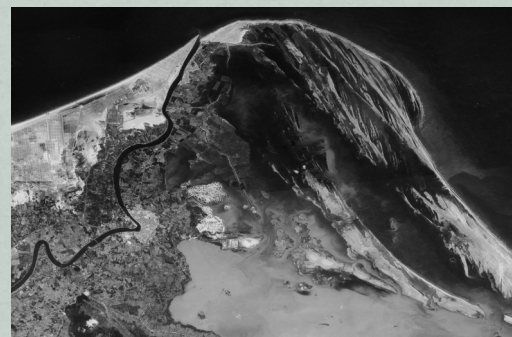
Many remote-sensing techniques are based on passive sensors that rely on receiving solar radiation reflected from the Earth’s surface. However, active sensors are also employed. For example, synthetic aperture radars (SARs) emit and then receive microwave radiation backscattered by the Earth’s surface. The great advantage of SARs is that they can penetrate cloud cover that would otherwise limit the use of optical sensors.

### Earth images from early spy satellites

A fascinating glimpse into the shape of the Earth’s surface in the 1960s comes from the 1995 release of classified images taken by reconnaissance satellites operated by the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) between 1959 and 1972.

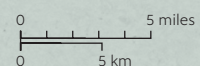
The CORONA project was rapidly advanced after a United States U-2 spy plane was shot down over the Soviet Union on May 1, 1960, and eventually consisted of eight separate satellite missions. On each mission, a space vehicle flew at altitudes of about 185 km (115 miles), capturing images on photographic film using a rotating stereo panoramic camera system. The film was developed on board the vehicle and fed into cassettes in recovery capsules that eventually descended Earthward, where the film was retrieved. Each payload consisted of an astonishing 9,600 m (31,500 ft) of 70 mm film, with the program collecting more than 800,000 images in 12 years. The images have a ground resolution of 8 m (25 ft), increasing to 2 m (6 ft) as technology improved.

Although designed as spy satellites to record details of Russian and Chinese military operations, the CORONA archive—now declassified and available to all—provides an invaluable record of many parts of the Earth’s surface in the 1960s, including its rivers, deltas, and estuaries.



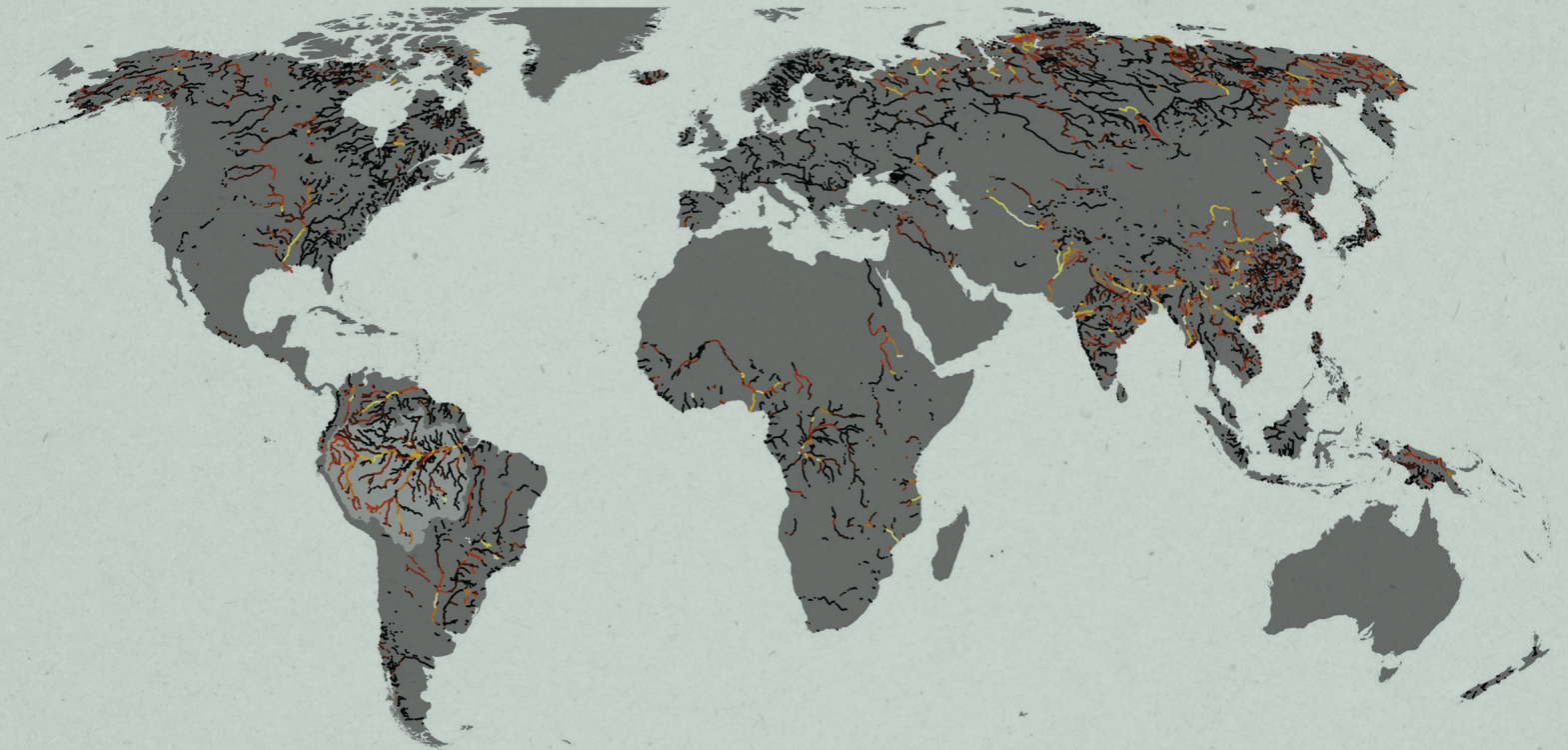
#### Landscape change in the Nile delta

Images of the downstream terminus of the Damietta branch channel taken in 1968 (upper) by the United States CORONA spy satellite, and in 2022 (lower) by the Planet CubeSat satellite.



## TRACKING RIVER MOTION

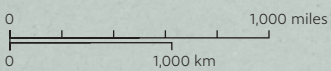
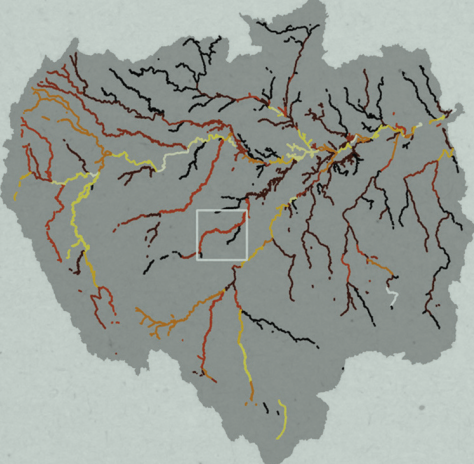
Analysis of 20 years of Landsat imagery allows river migration rates to be estimated along 370,000 km (230,000 miles) of Earth's river network. The median annual rate of channel migration is 1.52 m (5 ft), but most rivers are moving across their floodplains at slower rates. The most rapidly migrating rivers tend to be located in the Amazon Basin and parts of Asia.



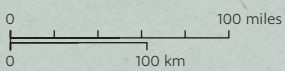
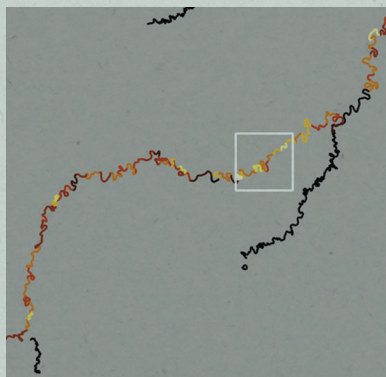
Riverbank erosion (m/yr)



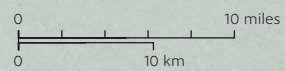
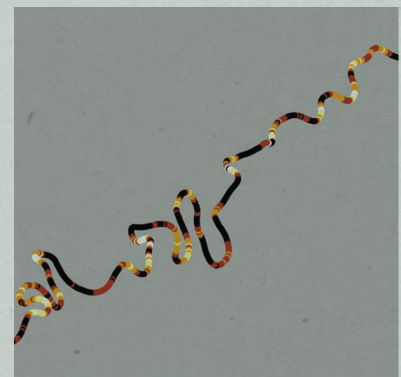
Amazon River Basin



10 km reaches



200 m nodes



## Landsat: a game-changing development

The Landsat program, funded by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), stands out as the most widely used platform for studies of the Earth's surface. The program started with the launch of Landsat 1 in 1972, followed by Landsat 5 (1984), Landsat 7 (1999), Landsat 8 (2013) and, most recently, Landsat 9 (2021). The high spatial resolution (60 m/200 ft for Landsat 4 in 1982, and 30 m/100 ft subsequently) and quality of the Landsat sensors have allowed the expansion of remote sensing—once mainly restricted to land surface changes—to numerous applications.

Three key factors have contributed to Landsat's status as a "game-changer." First, since 1984 the Landsat satellites have employed three different bands in the infrared spectrum: near infrared (NIR), 0.85–0.88  $\mu\text{m}$ ; shortwave infrared (SWIR) 1, 1.57–1.65  $\mu\text{m}$ ; and SWIR 2, 2.11–2.29  $\mu\text{m}$ . This enables a wide variety of water-detection algorithms and indices to be developed and improved. Second, its longevity (30 m/100 ft spatial resolution imagery available continuously and globally since 1984) has made it possible for researchers to investigate how rivers, estuaries, and deltas evolve over longer timescales, even in inaccessible areas of the globe. Finally, as a government-funded programme, Landsat imagery is free for anyone, anywhere, to use, thereby contributing to an important "democratization" of Earth science.

## Global digital elevation models

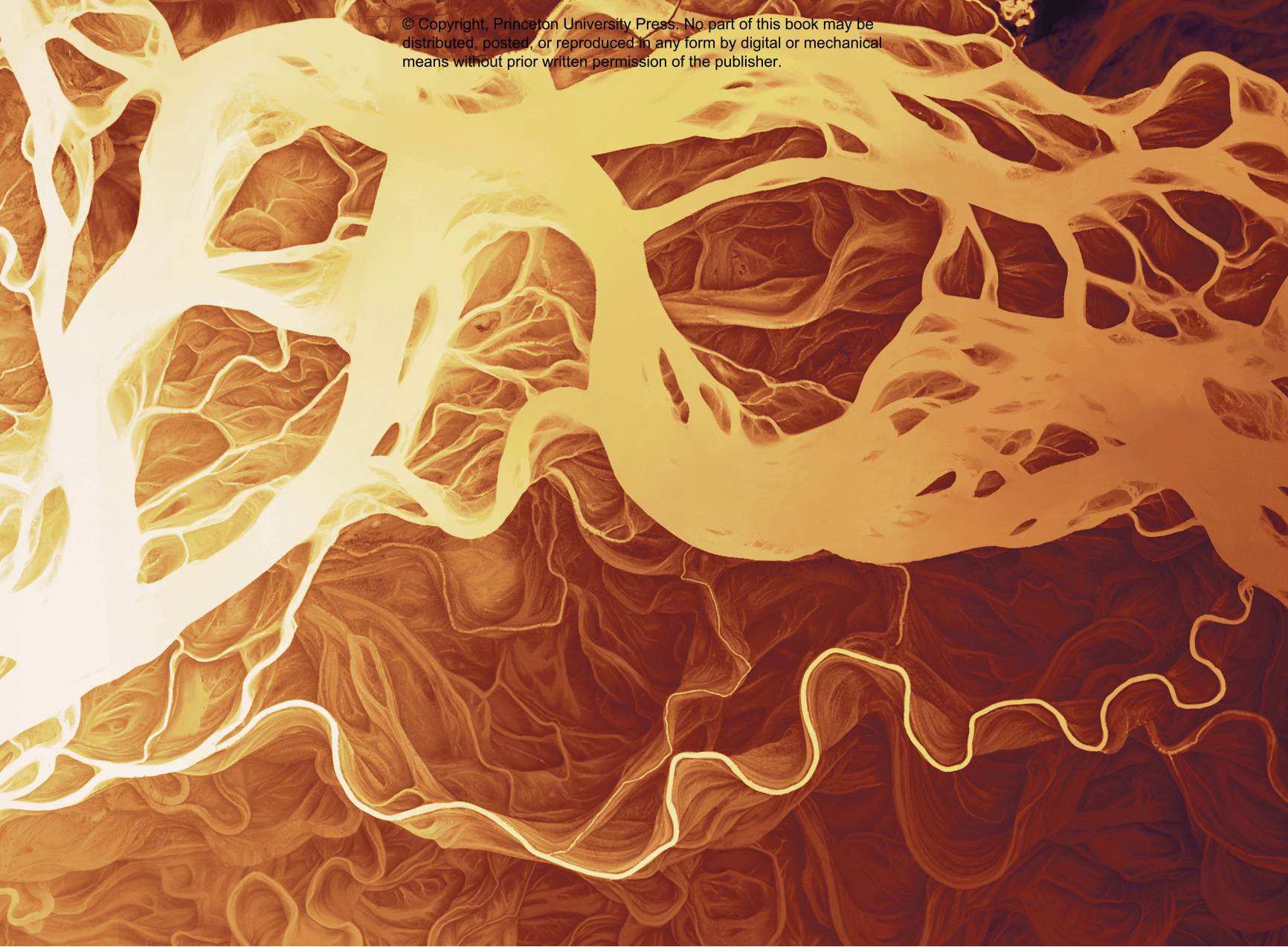
Maps of the elevation of the Earth's terrestrial surface have been central to advancing our knowledge of the world's landscapes. Several near-global datasets are now available, including that produced by the NASA Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM), which employed a specially modified radar system onboard the Space Shuttle *Endeavour* during an 11-day mission in February 2000. This produced a digital elevation model (DEM) of the majority of the Earth's surface on a 30 m (100 ft) grid, allowing mapping of many remote regions.

Other global DEMs are now also freely available, including the Japan-USA Advanced Spaceborne Thermal Emission and Reflection Radiometer (ASTER) and European Union Copernicus missions. These datasets, and the various products derived from them, provided an unrivaled quantitative view of the Earth's topography.

### ▼ Mapping topography

*Global elevation datasets, such as that from NASA's Shuttle Radar Topography Mission, have revolutionized mapping of the Earth's surface, revealing the intimate connections between topography, rivers, estuaries, and deltas. Here, topography created by mountains, geological faults, and volcanoes shapes the passage of rivers in South Island, Aotearoa New Zealand to coastal plains and the ocean.*





▲ **Rivers revealed**

*LiDAR-derived “bare-earth” surface image of the Yukon River and its floodplain, southeast of Fort Yukon, Alaska.*

## Using lasers to map the Earth’s surface

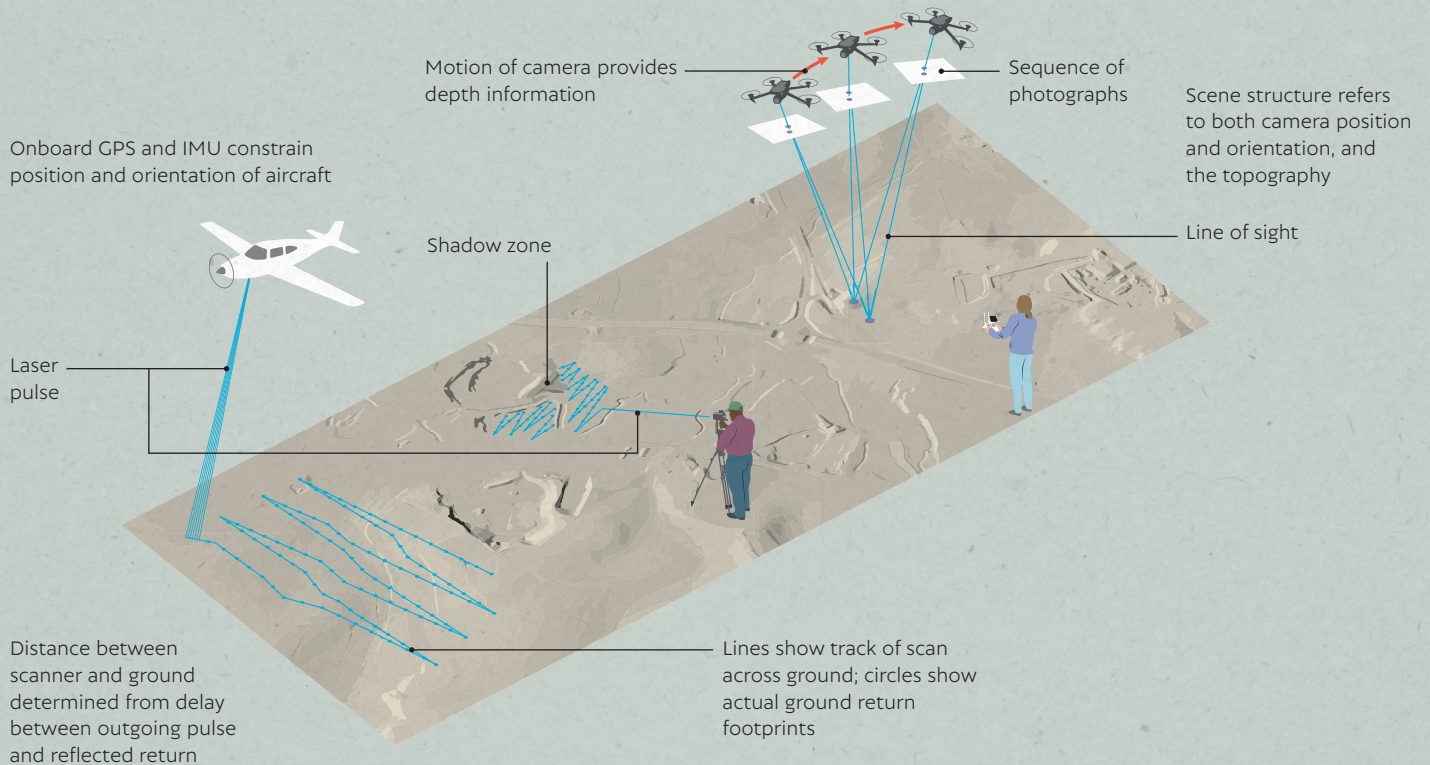
The widespread adoption of light detection and ranging (LiDAR) has provided the means to map large areas of terrain accurately. LiDAR works by timing the interval required for an emitted laser pulse to be reflected back from the target to the sensor, enabling the distance between the sensor and target to be calculated. By mounting a sensor on a conventional aircraft or drone, whose location is itself accurately measured using a Global Positioning System (GPS), and by having a sensor that emits repeated pulses at extremely high frequency (in some instances up to 100 million times per second), a highly detailed (dense) “point cloud” of accurately geolocated points can be obtained. These can cover very large spatial areas, offering the means to measure surface topography in unprecedented detail.

A key feature of some LiDAR instruments is that the wavelengths of the returned laser pulse can be modified according to surface characteristics, enabling features such as vegetation that obscures the true surface of the Earth to be “removed,” revealing the “hidden” detail beneath. Similarly, green-waveform LiDARs (which emit laser pulses with wavelengths in the green part of the visible spectrum) can penetrate shallow water that has good transparency, allowing submerged surfaces to be revealed (topobathymetric LiDAR).

## MEASURING THE EARTH'S SURFACE

Three methods for producing high-resolution quantification of the Earth's surface: airborne LiDAR, terrestrial (ground-based) LiDAR, and aerial platform (e.g., drone) structure from motion

(SfM). Abbreviations: GPS, Global Positioning System (to measure position); IMU, inertial motion unit (to measure precise three-dimensional movement of the sensor).



## Structure from motion imaging

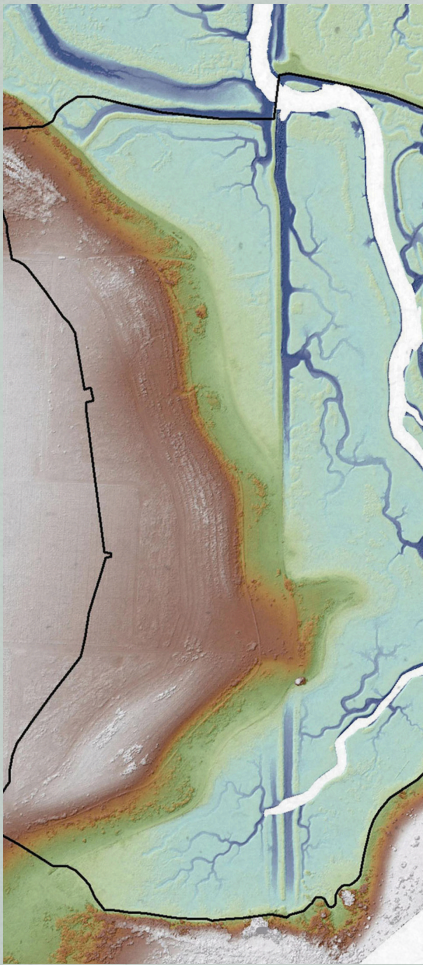
Stereo photogrammetry, in which overlapping aerial photographs are used to reconstruct three-dimensional models of the terrain based on the shift in apparent position of an object from one image to the other, has long been used to produce detailed terrain maps. Advances in computing power and image-processing algorithms have led to development of the “structure from motion” (SfM) technique, whereby the structure of features is tracked and quantified between multiple overlapping images. Given a known camera position in each image, and/or if the locations of distinct points marked on the ground surface are also known with a high accuracy (so-called ground-control points), features can be matched between images and used to generate a three-dimensional map of the surface. The SfM technique can thus yield a dense cloud of points that depict the height of the surface. Images may be taken from airplanes, but are increasingly being captured using unmanned aerial vehicles (drones). As such, SfM is being rapidly adopted as a low-cost but highly accurate method for measuring the morphology of Earth surface change. Although the SfM point clouds depict the surface imaged, and thus cannot measure the bare-earth surface like LiDAR, the technique is rapid and has been adopted for Earth surface research, forestry, hazard mapping, building inspections, and archeological studies.



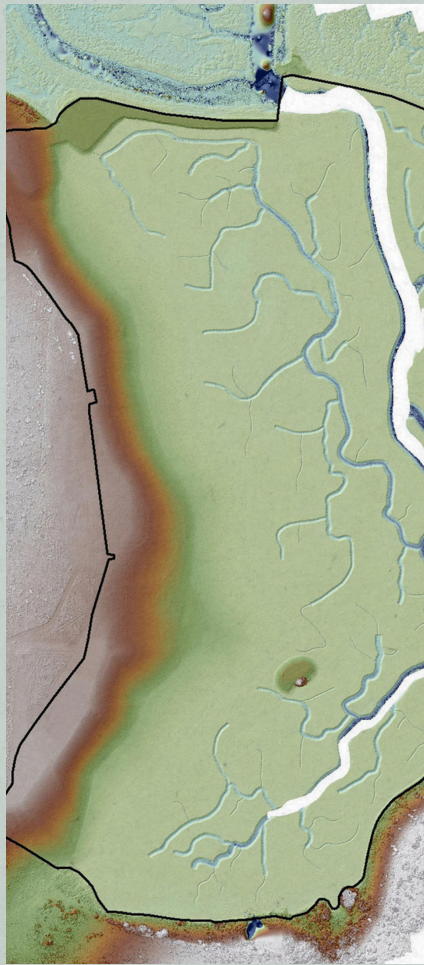
## IMAGING TOPOGRAPHIC CHANGE

Elevation maps produced from aerial drone imagery and structure from motion (SfM) photogrammetry of the Hester Marsh restoration site, Elkhorn Slough, an estuary in central California. Maps show elevation before and after restoration of the tidal flats, which involved raising the marsh plain and tidal creeks. Quantification of topography can be vital in aiding environmental rehabilitation.

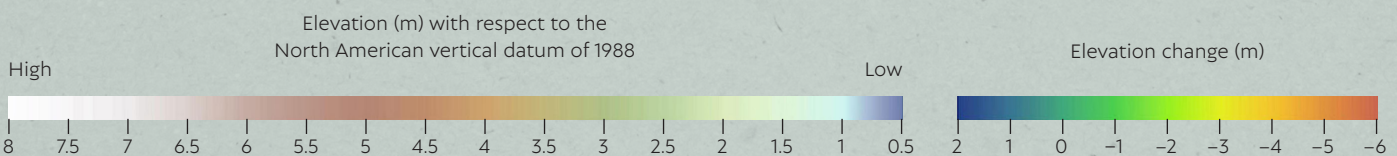
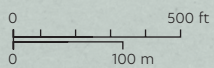
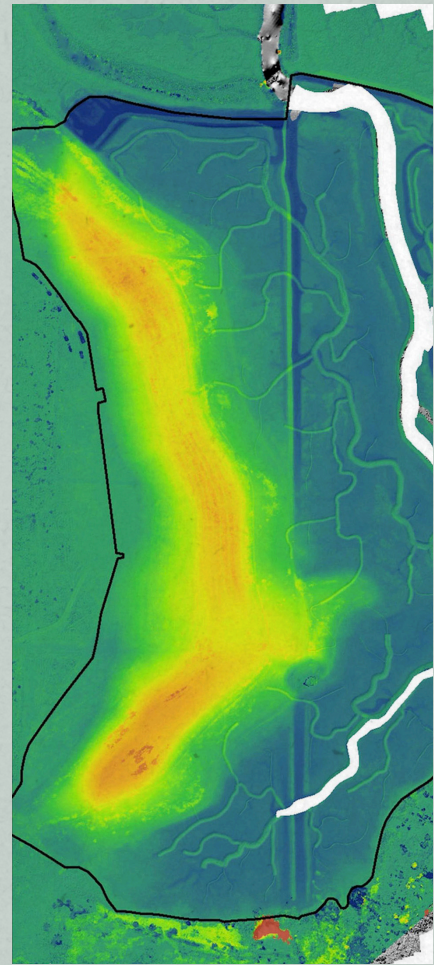
2015 Digital elevation model (DEM)



2018 DEM



Topographic change



## A flock of doves

Technological advances in remote sensing from space have allowed near-daily coverage of most of the Earth's surface using constellations of small CubeSat satellites, termed "doves." These small satellites are the size of a shoebox and less costly than larger satellites. While they have more limited capabilities, they can be deployed in their hundreds, may possess multiple spectral bands, and can yield images with a resolution between 5 m (16 ft) and 0.3 m (1 ft). These flocks of doves provide an unrivaled opportunity to monitor natural events such as floods, hurricanes, and landslides, and human-induced changes such as deforestation and urban expansion. The frequency and high spatial resolution of such images can be of vital use in our response to natural disasters and their management.



► **Flood watch**  
*CubeSat imaging permits the monitoring of flood extent and inundation, as here at low-water (top) and flood (bottom) states on the Sacramento River, California, February 2017.*



# 2

## **How Do Rivers Work?**

# Why do rivers flow where they do?

Rivers sculpt the Earth's surface through the erosion, transport, and deposition of sediment, creating a rich tapestry of landscapes that support immense ecological diversity and are home to billions of humans. Earth's surface topography, created by tectonics and worn down by erosion, determines the paths that rivers follow.

Follow a drop of water in its natural path along a river and you will always be going downhill—water acts under gravity to trace the gradient of the surface over which it is passing, from steep mountainous headwaters to low-gradient rivers that enter the ocean. This simple movement of water, and the sediment it transports, ties rivers to topography. It also provides a feedback mechanism where the longer-term erosion of the landscape takes place through the action of flowing water. Rivers thus respond to topography, seeking the steepest route, being steered around higher ground, and depositing sediment where flows decelerate.

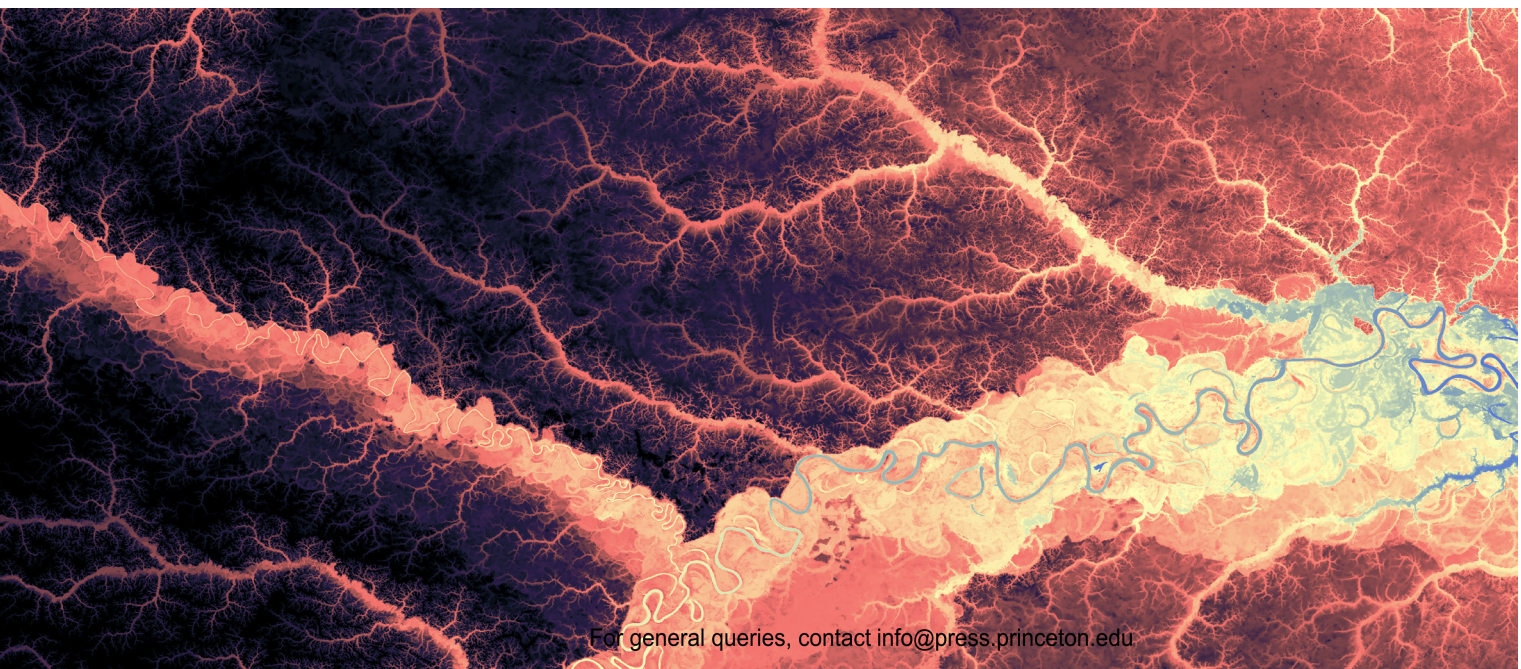
## Dendritic drainage networks

As rivers develop on a fresh surface, their channels etch a pattern, or drainage network, into the landscape that routes water from the land. Upstream channel growth takes place by erosion at the tips of the river network—a process known as headcut erosion. On a relatively uniform sloping surface, or over very long periods of time, this produces a tree-like, or dendritic, drainage network, with the branches of the river tree feeding water and sediment, via channel confluences, into ever-larger channels that eventually form the main trunk channel downstream. Dendritic drainage networks can be found on all scales, from small rivers to some of the world's largest drainage basins.

River networks thus unite channels of different size and provide ecosystem connections—for instance, as paths for the upstream migration of salmon from the ocean to small headwater streams, where they spawn and where individuals of some species then die. Their decomposing carcasses subsequently contribute food for the entire ecosystem. However, human interventions such as damming are making this natural journey far more challenging.

### ▼ Intricate networks

*Dendritic networks feed water and sediment into meandering rivers and their floodplains, Amazon River Basin, Brazil. The image shows the elevation from high (black/purple) to low (yellow/blue) and is plotted from the global FABDEM terrain data.*



## RIVER PATTERNS

The map shows river basins of North America in different colours. The dendritic network of the mighty Mississippi River drains 41 percent of the contiguous United States.

The Colorado and Columbia Rivers each drain around 8 percent of the same area with the Rio Grande collecting water from c. 6 percent of this land area.





◀ **Dam removal**

*Restoration of the Elwha River in Washington State is the largest dam-removal project in US history. It saw the removal of Glines Canyon Dam between September 2011 and August 2014. The Glines was the upper of two dams in the project; the downstream Elwha Dam was dismantled by March 2012.*

**HUMAN-MADE BARRIERS**

Dams, such as here on the Columbia River in the United States, can fragment river networks, interrupting the migration of species such as salmon.

-  Dam
-  Accessible to salmon
-  Blocked by dams
-  Historically never accessible



▶ **Upstream migration**

*After a long journey upstream through a river network, a female Sockeye Salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) uses her tail to excavate a pit, or redd, in an Alaskan riverbed to lay her eggs.*





# River networks and controls

The development of river networks is controlled by surface topography, climate, and the level of the waterbody into which they flow. Over tens of millions of years, the uplift of mountains and movement of continents provides the template on which rivers develop.

The rivers of the world act over long periods of time to erode and sculpt the landscapes over which they flow as water travels downhill in its journey from the uplands to the ocean (although some rivers terminate in inland deserts and swamps, never reaching the sea). Because rivers act as conduits for the flow of water, sediment, carbon, nutrients, and contaminants over long periods, they are also indicators of some of the long-term controls that shape our continental landscapes.

Three of the largest-scale controls are those of plate tectonics, climate, and relative sea level, which may change radically over periods ranging from thousands to hundreds of millions of years. Deciphering the pattern of river drainage networks on the Earth's surface thus helps us interpret the changes in these broadscale controls in geological deep time. In addition, the tectonic makeup and climatic character of the Earth's surface changes greatly across the globe, and the world's rivers reflect these changing attributes in their course and the pattern of their drainage networks.

## ► **Stepping down strata**

*A river responding to geology and topography in this false-color*

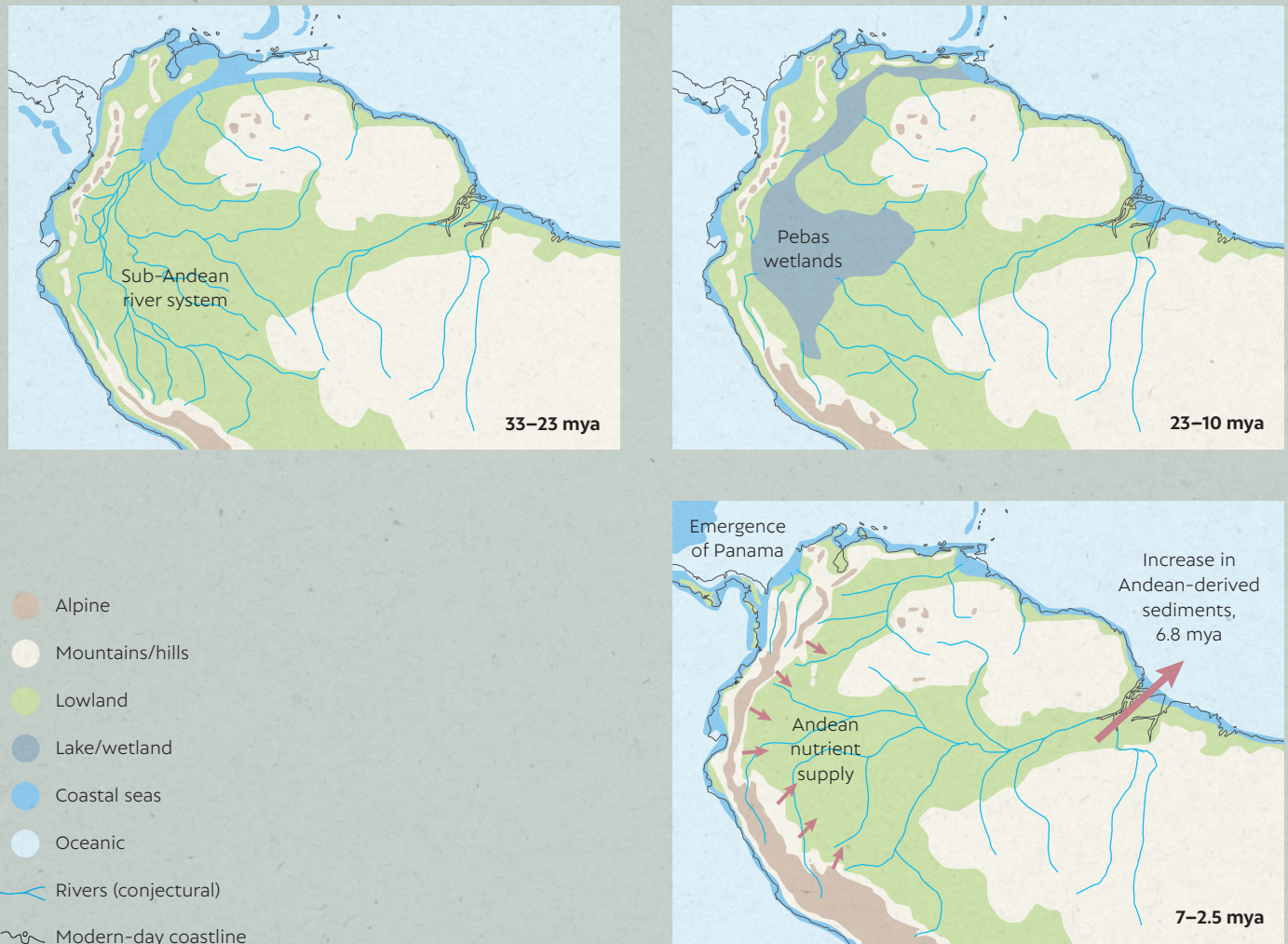
*Landsat image: the Ugab River, Namibia. The river steps its way along, and across, topography created by folded rock strata. This topography forces rivers to run parallel to the ridges in some places, until they incise and cut across the strata, forming steps in the river planform. The river paths also take advantage of geological faults that can be seen as straight lines running northwest to southeast in some parts of the image.*



## REVERSAL OF THE AMAZON

Uplift of the Andes Mountains since c. 50 million years ago has caused the mighty Amazon River to reverse its course. It once flowed to the northwest and north, but uplift of the Andes

resulted in a gradual change in surface topography, first forming the extensive Pebas wetlands and eventually causing the Amazon River to flow eastward into the Atlantic Ocean.



## Tectonic controls

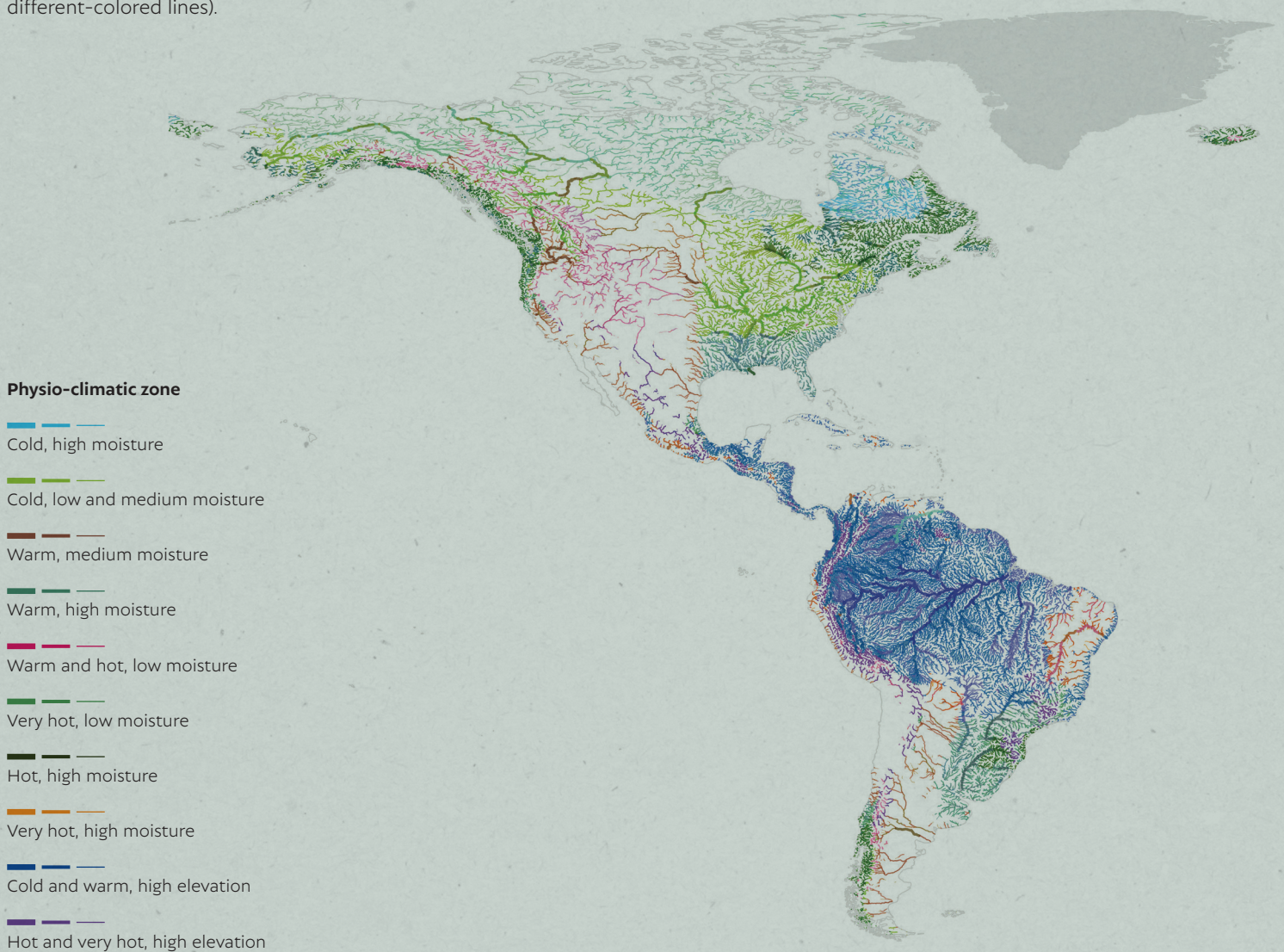
Because water follows the gradient of the land surface, the routes and patterns of riverine drainage networks reflect large-scale plate tectonics and evolution of the Earth's crust. Water is diverted by topography, such as that created by tectonic folds and faults, or incises into bedrock that is rising over millions of years due to tectonic uplift. Tectonics provide the fabric of the canvas on which the world's rivers are painted, and act as a principal control on how their drainage networks are organized. Some river networks develop rectangular or "trellis" planform patterns, whereas those draining from domed topography—for example, around volcanoes—generate river channels that run radially from the highest point. Drainage networks thus provide a sensitive record of crustal deformation, and as plate tectonics alter surface gradients through geological time, so the surface routing of rivers responds accordingly.

## Climate controls

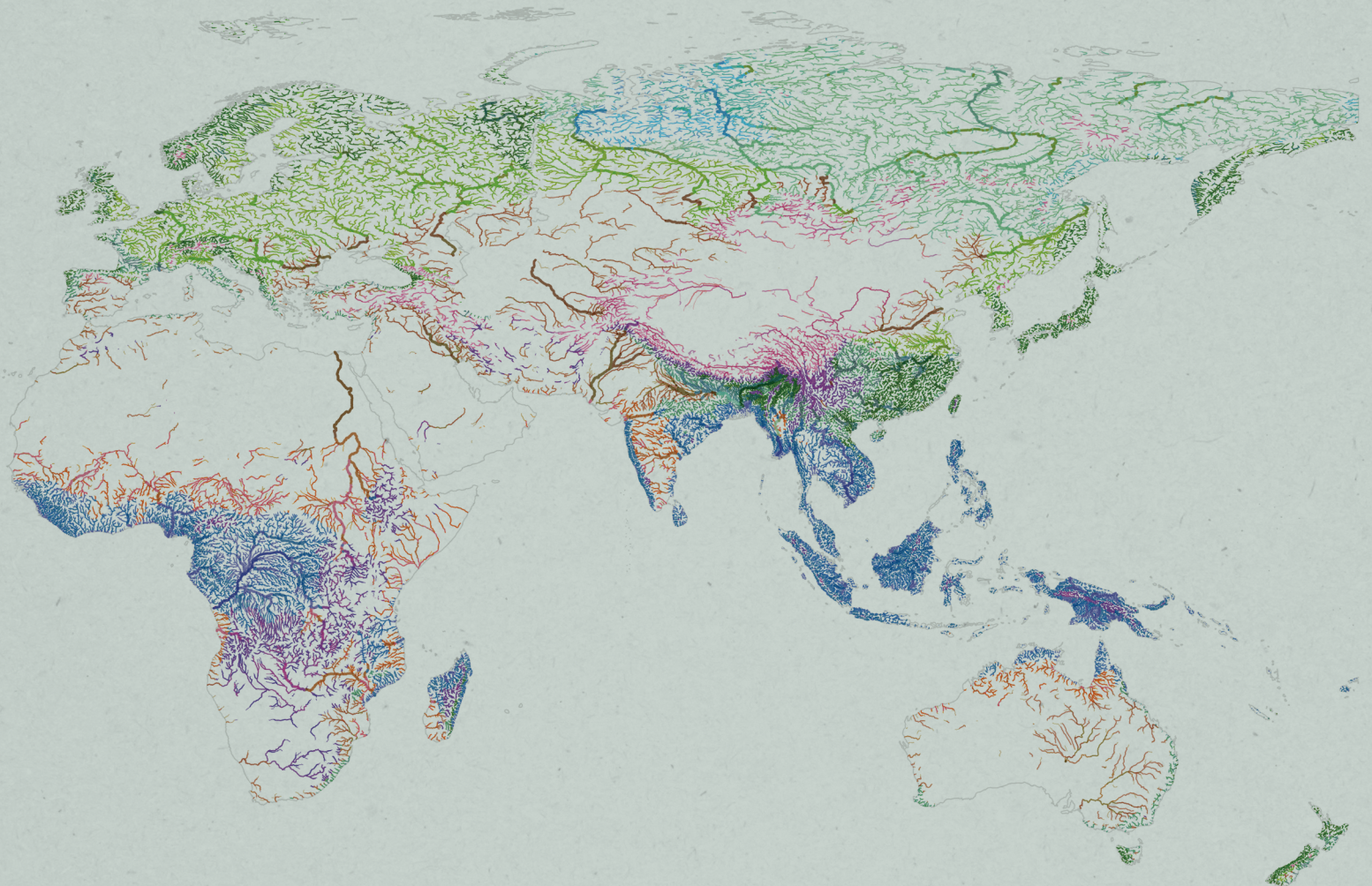
The weathering of rocks and transport of sediment are strongly influenced by climate, which helps determine the type of weathering as well as the volume of water supplied to river networks. Climate thus exerts a first-order control on the dynamics of rivers. Climate changes both spatially across the globe and temporally through geological time as the Earth has warmed and cooled.

### RIVER CLASSIFICATION

Classification of the world's rivers based on characteristics of their water flow (hydrology, shown by line thickness) and their physical and climatic controls (indicated by different-colored lines).



Climate has also changed as the Earth's crust has evolved through time. For example, uplift of the Himalayas, which began around 50–60 million years ago and is caused by the northward drift of the Indian tectonic plate and its collision with the Eurasian plate, has resulted in dramatic shifts in the Earth's climate, changing global circulation in the last 10 million years and leading to the onset of the Indian summer monsoons. The Himalayas are still rising today—by about 1 cm ( $\frac{2}{3}$  in) per year or 10 km (6 miles) in the last million years—signifying the intense weathering and erosion that is feeding sediment to the great rivers flowing from the high mountains. Himalayan uplift and associated climate change has thus shaped both the paths of the many rivers in this region and the climate. In turn, the rivers have fed immense quantities of sediment to the oceans, forming some of the world's greatest estuaries and deltas.



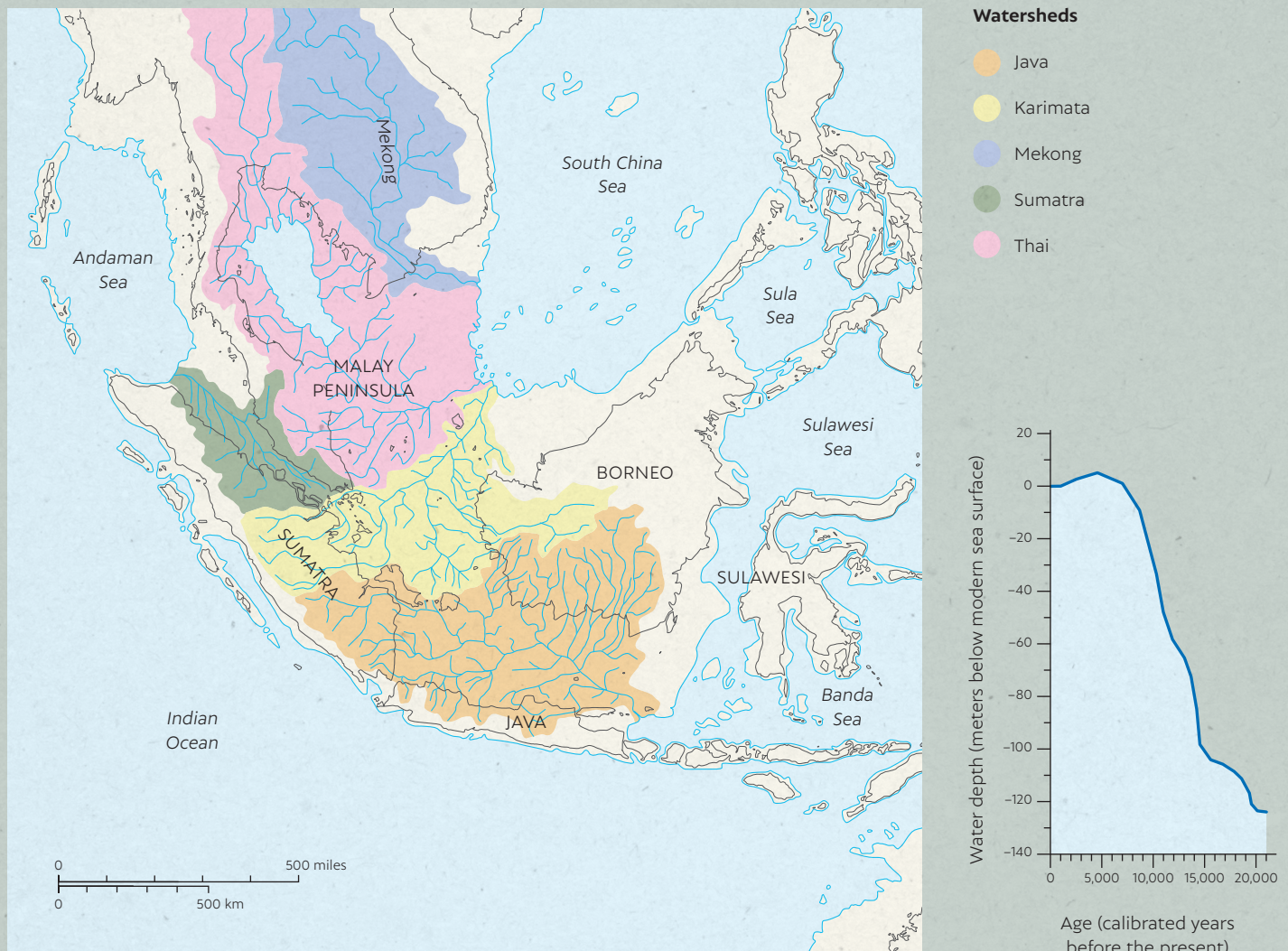
## Sea-level controls

Rivers flow to lower elevations, many eventually forming estuaries and deltas as they enter the ocean. As a consequence, sea level acts as the key control on the distal end of a river system—the baselevel to which the end of the river must adjust. However, baselevel changes as sea level rises or falls—for example, absolute changes in sea level caused by melting of the ice caps or relative changes due to more local processes such as regional tectonics or land subsidence. Land subsidence in many of the world’s present-day deltas (for example, caused by groundwater extraction) is exacerbating the effect of sea-level rise due to a warming climate.

### OUT OF SUNDALAND

Schematic representation of the rivers of Sundaland, a vast area south of the present-day China Sea, at minimum sea level at the height of the last glacial maximum some 18,000 years

ago. Rivers extended further across the continental shelf, and likely provided a home for early humans who transited across this landmass. The inset shows sea level over the last 21,000 years.



Today, we live in a world with a sea level that is relatively high in relation to the last few million years of Earth's history—as shown by the existence of many estuaries along our contemporary coastlines that represent river valleys drowned by high sea levels. Yet, at the height of the last glacial maximum around 18,000 years ago, when much water was locked up in extensive continental ice sheets, the global sea level was, on average, some 120 m (400 ft) below where it is today. As such, the distal ends of some rivers extended many tens or hundreds of kilometers further across the continental shelves and have subsequently been drowned, and buried with sediment, as sea levels have risen. Such expanded land areas at low sea level also provided routes for human dispersal and migration across the globe. Scientists speculate that one such landmass, Sundaland (between present-day Thailand, Borneo, Java, and Sumatra), once formed a region that fostered the spread of humans across the globe and was perhaps the cradle of civilization.

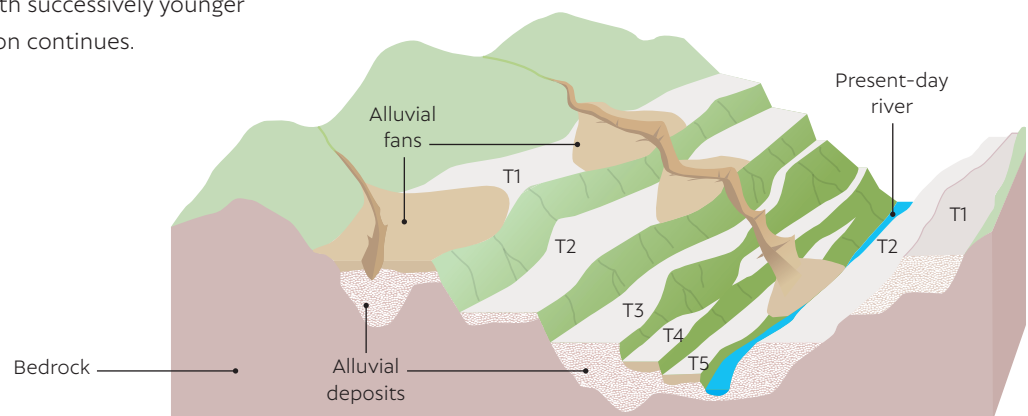
## Multiple controls: river terraces

As one might expect, rivers are often shaped by a combination of controls that act over different scales in both space and time. One example is found in the common presence of river terraces within alluvial valleys. These are flat-topped benches that represent the surfaces of river floodplains that have become abandoned due to vertical incision (or aggradation) by the river. Multiple terraces are separated by steeper steps, with the oldest terraces usually at a higher elevation and more fragmented due to longer periods of incision and erosion.

River terraces may be formed by erosion into existing sediments (alluvial terraces) or bedrock (strath terraces). Incision is driven either by external factors—such as tectonic uplift, falls in baselevel, or changes in climate, which may enable the river to erode more—or due to the inherent lateral migration of river channels across their floodplains. Some terraces can be formed by sediment deposition as the bed of the river valley aggrades through time, perhaps burying older terrace fragments. These flat-topped benches may extend for long distances along a river valley, and they may occur in pairs on either side of the valley but with the top of each pair being at the same elevation. The number and elevation of terraces can thus inform us about the longer-term evolution of the river and help reveal the controls on how the alluvial valley has been sculpted through time.

### TERRACE FORMATION

River terraces formed by incision of a channel into older alluvial sediments or bedrock, with successively younger terraces (T1–T5) forming as incision continues.



# Weathering and erosion

For sediment to be supplied to a river, the source rocks in its upstream catchment must be weathered to yield sediment particles of many different sizes that can be transported downstream. Rock weathering occurs through a range of physical, chemical, and biological processes, all of which are strongly modulated by climate.

## ▼ The power of ice

*Freeze-thaw weathering can split boulders apart, eventually yielding smaller fragments of rock to the river system.*

## Types of weathering

Physical weathering can involve the thermal expansion and contraction of rock surfaces (insolation), caused by daytime solar heating and nighttime cooling, producing stresses that fragment the surface. If water is present in fractures and cracks, its freezing and thawing can also split rock surfaces apart.

The presence of water in rock fissures can also create chemical change, such as the breakdown of rock by acidic water (hydrolysis) to produce clays and soluble salts, the dissolution of soluble materials such as calcium carbonate, and the oxidation of iron-rich minerals. Chemical weathering becomes more important in warmer, wetter climates, where chemical reactions can take place more easily and rapidly, and where unstable minerals such as feldspars (a very common aluminosilicate mineral) can be weathered to yield smaller grains and alteration products such as clays.



Rock weathering is also significantly influenced by biological activity. This includes the action of plant roots and, especially, that of algae and fungi, which produce organic acids that aid rock disintegration.

Weathering gives rise to the formation of soils, which constitute an important weathering rind on the Earth's surface that supports life. In tropical environments, weathering to a depth of up to around 30 m (100 ft) produces brick-red lateritic soils that are rich in iron and aluminum and have formed the building blocks of many architectural wonders.

## Erosion

Over time, weathering thus rots unstable minerals, generating rock fragments and mineral grains for transport by water, yielding a range of elements to groundwater, producing alteration products such as clays, and progressively leaving behind the more stable minerals such as quartz (silicon dioxide) and hard, heavy minerals. Upland, mountainous terrains feed sediment into river channels by a mixture of processes, such as direct rockfalls, the slower downslope creep of material, and transport by flows of debris, mud, or water. Fan-shaped accumulations of sediment, known as alluvial fans, are deposited at breaks in slope between uplands and a lower-gradient valley floor. These can provide abundant sources of loose, unconsolidated sediment that are then eroded by the river and transported downstream. Thus begins the long journey of sediment from its erosive source to its eventual depositional 'sink', whether that be within an alluvial valley, estuary, delta, beach, or deep-sea environment.

### ▲ **Fanning out**

*The weathering of mountains feeds sediment to alluvial fans and then into river networks.*

### ▼ **Royal building material**

*The ultimate product of tropical weathering—red iron-rich soils, called laterites—can be used as building stones, such as in the Pre Rup temple, Angkor Wat, Cambodia, which was dedicated to the Khmer King Rajendravarmān in 961 or 962 CE.*





# Sediment transport

Water flowing over a bed of sediment exerts forces that drive different types of grain movement. Measuring such sediment transport is fundamental to understanding how rivers shift this material and estimating the changing quantities of sediment supplied to the world's estuaries and deltas.

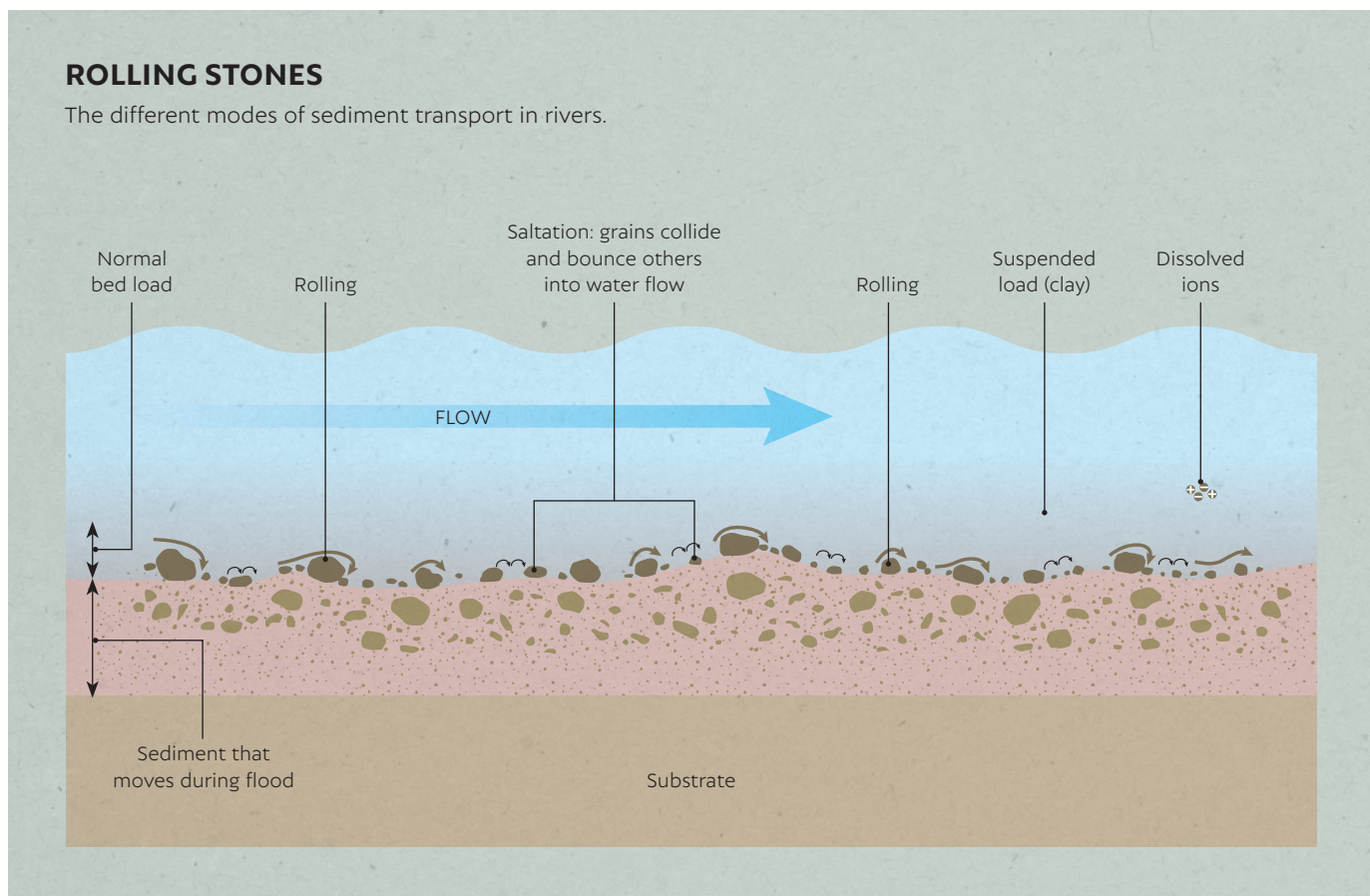
## ► Mobile sediment

*The mobile bed of the River Markarfljot, Iceland, is sculpted into barforms that are indicative of active sediment transport.*

## Types of sediment transport

The solid sediment particles moved along the course of a river are transported in two distinctive modes. The bedload is the portion of sediment that is transported by intermittent rolling, sliding, or “hopping” (termed saltation) of grains along or near the riverbed, typically at average speeds much less than that of the flowing water. In contrast, the suspended load comprises particles that are held aloft by turbulent eddies in the main body of the water, which move at roughly the speed of the flow and are carried along without significant contact with the riverbed.

With an abundant availability of sediment, the overall rate of sediment transport increases rapidly as flow velocity increases. The proportional split between bedload and suspended load fractions is controlled by a balance between the size of the sediment particles being transported and the rate at which sediment is mixed upward into the flow by turbulence. This means that larger particles tend to move more as bedload.





## Traditional techniques to measure sediment transport

Most sediment is therefore transported during floods, which means that measuring sediment transport can be very challenging and even dangerous. Traditional “intrusive” measurement methods typically rely on deploying sampling devices of varying designs into the flow to capture the mass, or concentration (per unit volume of water), of moving sediment; this sometimes requires major infrastructure to trap moving sediments. However, unless such sediment samplers are very carefully designed and deployed, they can alter the flow, or become rapidly infilled or fouled, meaning that they may not always provide a representative picture of the actual rate of sediment transport. Moreover, such techniques may be difficult, or impossible, to use in large or remote rivers.

## New techniques for measuring sediment transport

To overcome these limitations, modern measurement of sediment transport uses passive, non-intrusive techniques that rely on the principles of hydroacoustics. For example, hydrophones (underwater microphones) can monitor the noise made as grains collide and then calibrate this as a proxy measure of the intensity of bedload transport. Alternatively, sonar mapping can be used to create detailed maps of the riverbed through time, allowing the migration of sandbars to be tracked. This information can then be used to determine the rate of bulk bedload sediment motion.

The development of acoustic Doppler current profilers (ADCPs) has revolutionized the measurement of flow velocities and suspended sediment concentrations in the world’s rivers, lakes, estuaries, deltas, and oceans. These instruments transmit acoustic energy into the water column from an array of transducers, with the energy backscattered to the instrument from different depths being proportional to the concentration of suspended sediment in the water column (accounting for the loss in energy due to the spread of the acoustic beams). The frequency of the backscattered sound changes due to interaction

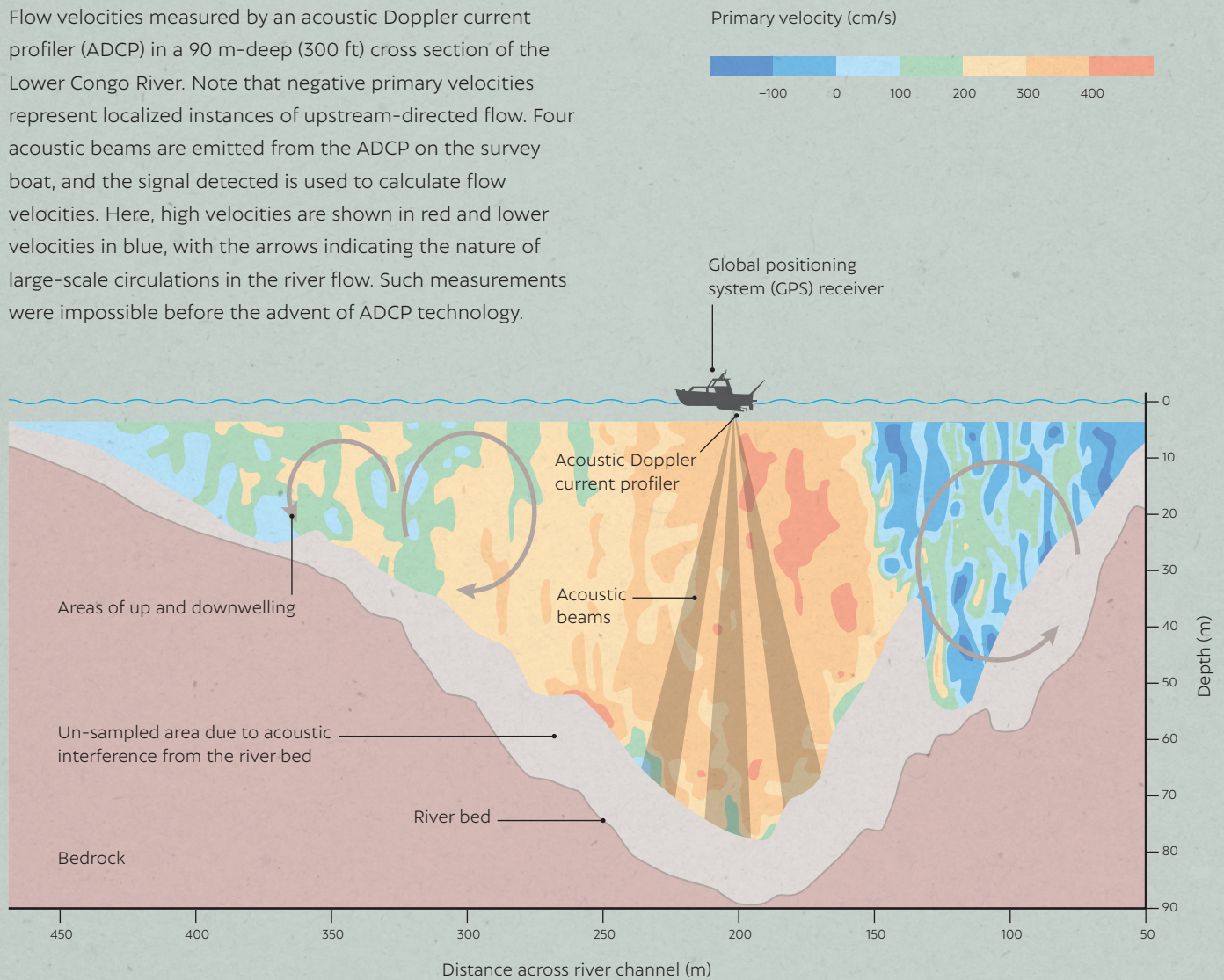
► **Traditional measurement**

*Measuring suspended load in the shallow North Fork Toutle River, Mount St. Helens, Washington State, using sampling bottles.*



## USING SOUND TO MEASURE FLOW VELOCITY

Flow velocities measured by an acoustic Doppler current profiler (ADCP) in a 90 m-deep (300 ft) cross section of the Lower Congo River. Note that negative primary velocities represent localized instances of upstream-directed flow. Four acoustic beams are emitted from the ADCP on the survey boat, and the signal detected is used to calculate flow velocities. Here, high velocities are shown in red and lower velocities in blue, with the arrows indicating the nature of large-scale circulations in the river flow. Such measurements were impossible before the advent of ADCP technology.



with particles in the water—the so-called Doppler shift, a phenomenon we also notice when the sound of a train changes as it approaches and then recedes from us. This frequency shift is proportional to the velocity of these particles, which are assumed to be moving at the same as the velocity of the water. In this way, ADCPs measure water velocity throughout most of the water depth. Such hydroacoustic monitoring allows measurement of both the speed of the water and the concentration of suspended sediment. We can then multiply these two measurements to calculate the flux of material being carried in suspension. Both sonars and ADCPs can be deployed from moving boats or on the riverbed, and can be used in shallow channels decimeters deep up to the world's biggest river channels. They can also be used during floods when other methods cannot be employed. Perhaps more than any other instrument, ADCPs have lifted the veil on the many secrets of water flow and sediment transport in global rivers.

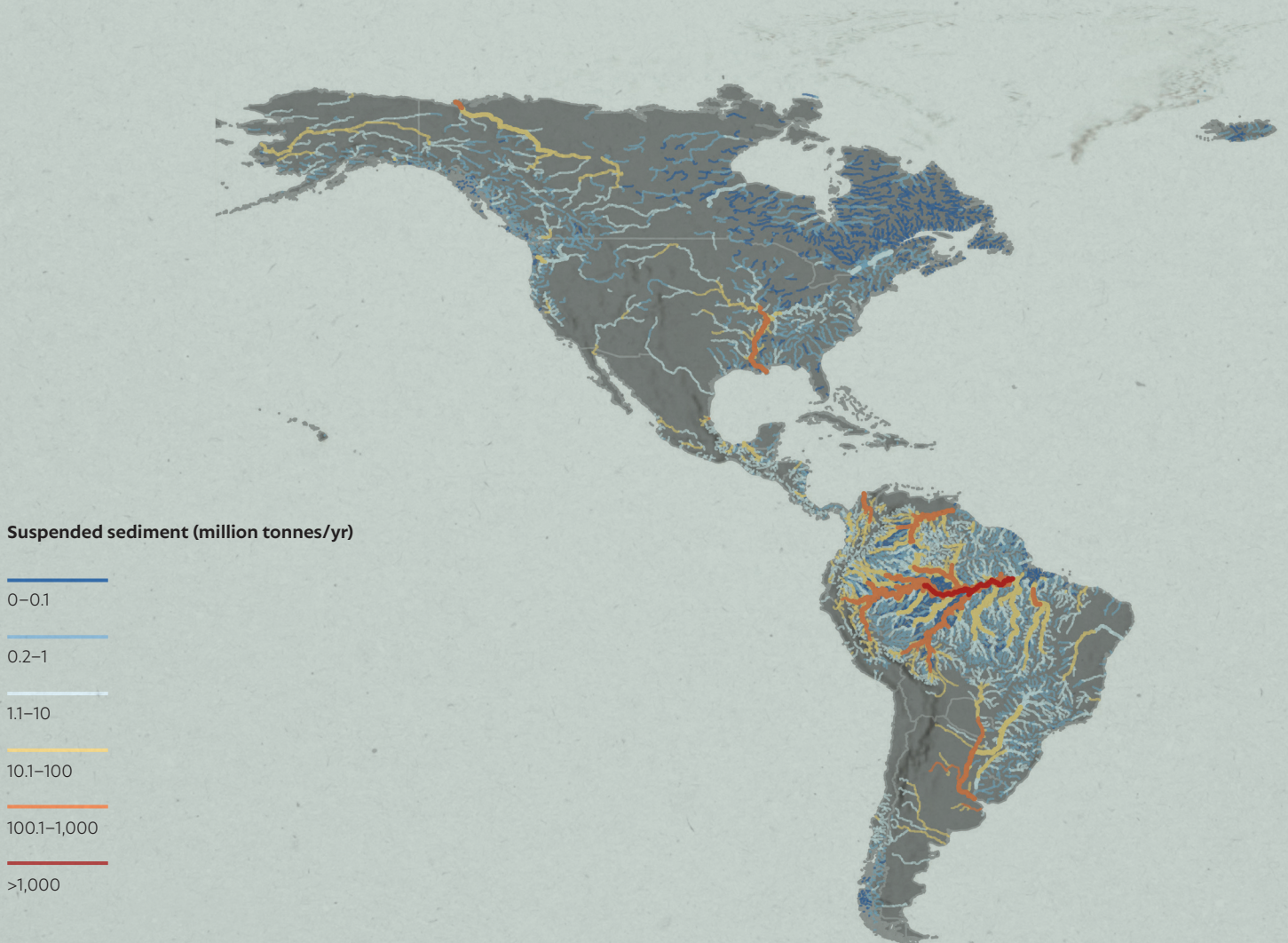


◀ **Colliding rivers**

*Near Manaus, Brazil, the dark (blackwater) Rio Negro joins the pale sandy-colored (whitewater) Amazon River (referred to as the Solimões River in Brazil upriver of this confluence).*

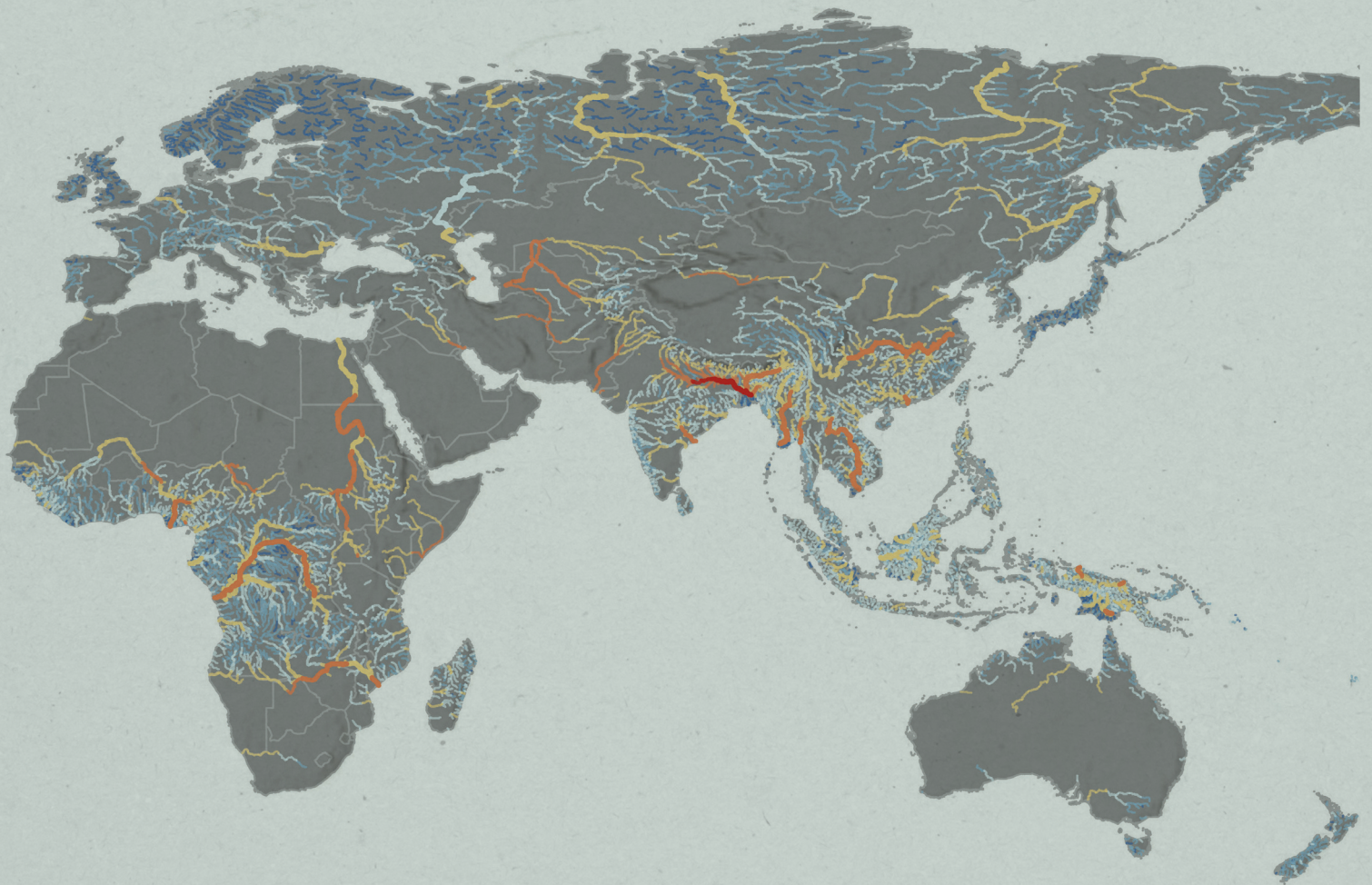
**SPATIAL VARIABILITY**

The difference in suspended sediment load in the world's large river systems (drainage areas >40,000 km<sup>2</sup> or 15,400 square miles, and water discharge >30 m<sup>3</sup>/s or 1,060 ft<sup>3</sup>/s). Data represent average values for the time period 1960–2010.



## The challenges of measurement

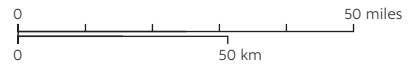
Whether intrusive or non-intrusive methods are used, measuring sediment transport is both time-consuming and expensive, and on average globally there is just one suspended sediment monitoring station per 10,000 km (6,200 miles) of river length. Thus, while it is estimated that about 19 billion tonnes (21 billion tons) of sediment are discharged from the world's rivers into the oceans each year, the sparse coverage of the global sediment transport monitoring network means that this estimate is very uncertain—by around  $\pm 50$  percent. Moreover, there is a very large spatial variability in the rates of suspended sediment transport through the world's rivers, with the highest values located in zones of intense rainfall that coincide with steep, tectonically active mountain regions with erodible rocks, such as in the rivers that drain the Andes, the Himalayas, and Southeast Asia.



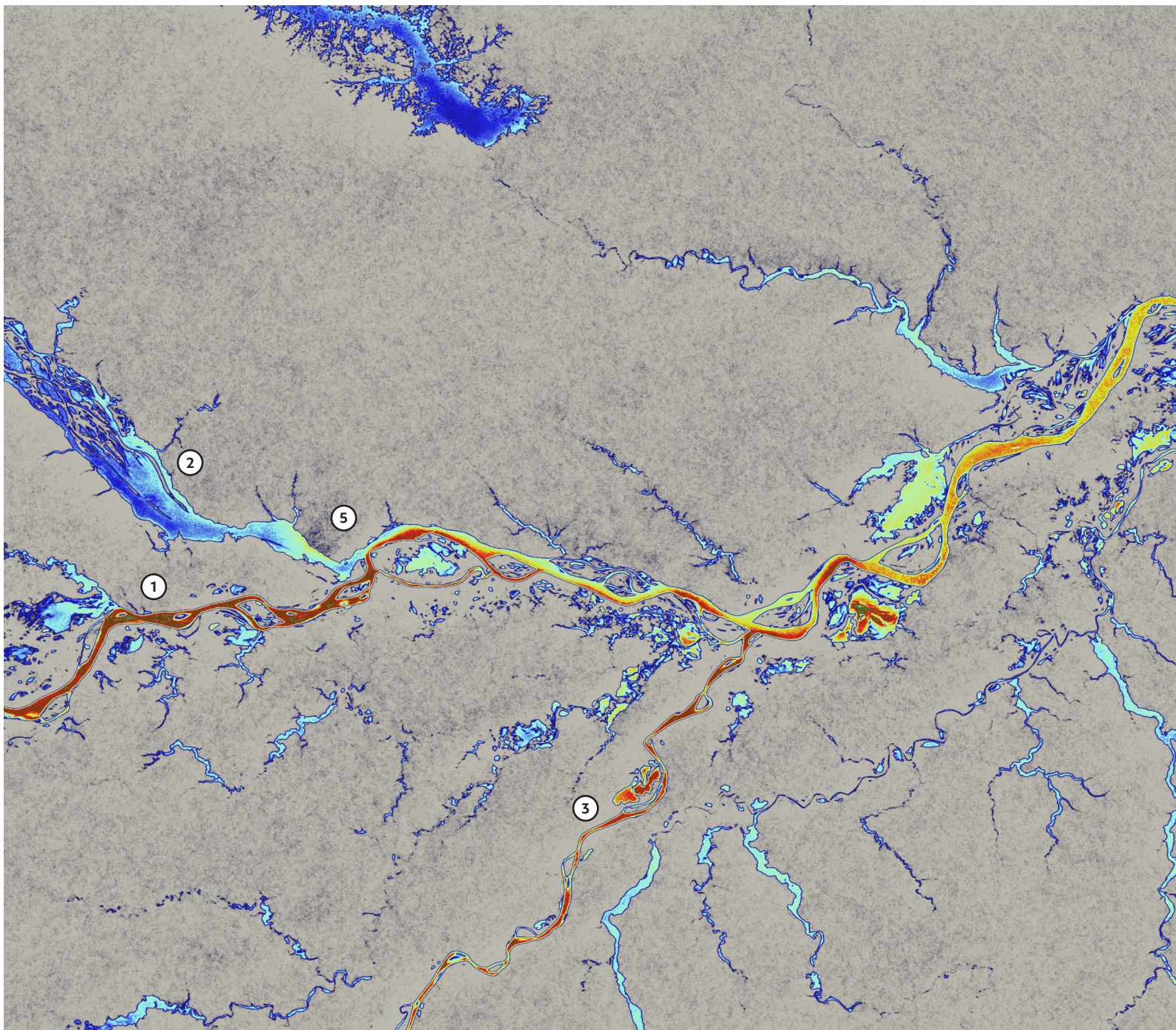
## SEDIMENT CONCENTRATIONS FROM SATELLITE

Suspended sediment concentration (SSC) for part of the Amazon River for September averaged over the period 2000–2016, as measured from satellite imagery. The map illustrates differences in sediment supply from tributary channels, patterns of mixing between river flows, and higher suspended sediment concentrations in some floodplain lakes.

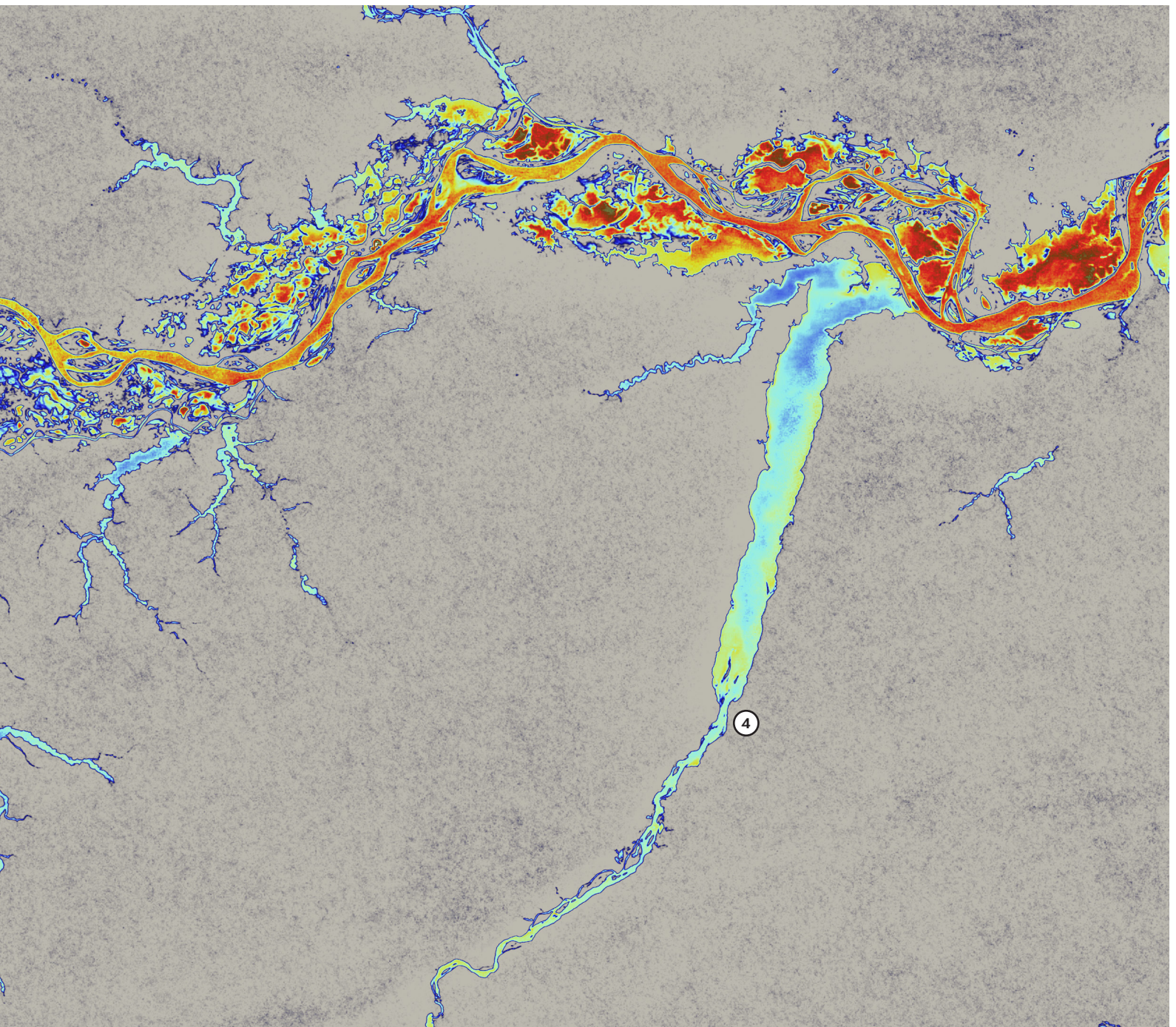
- 1 Rio Solimões
- 2 Rio Negro
- 3 Rio Madeira
- 4 Rio Tapajós
- 5 Manaus



SSC, mg/L:



So, how can these challenges of monitoring sediment movement be overcome in the future? One way is to use remote sensing from satellites. The concentration of suspended sediment particles at the water's surface is known to affect the reflectance of incoming solar radiation. By using satellite sensors to measure this surface reflectance, it is now possible to estimate suspended sediment concentrations from space by calibrating this with known river samples. Such satellite-based remote sensing is offering exciting new opportunities to monitor sediment transport across large spatial scales, and on a routine basis, affording new insights into the processes by which erosion and sedimentation reshape some of Earth's most dramatic and inhospitable environments.





# Carbon and nutrient flows through rivers

Besides transporting sediment particles, rivers are responsible for moving huge quantities of nutrients and carbon to the oceans. In addition, rivers and their floodplains provide regions for abundant vegetation growth, and carbon, stored as organic material, can become buried and locked into alluvial sediments.

## Supplying nutrients to the oceans

Rivers are vital conveyors of nutrients and carbon from the land to the sea. Nutrients are critical to the development of plant and animal life, and are required for the growth of algae and cyanobacteria that lie at the base of the riverine food web, forming a food source for many small invertebrates and fish. However, healthy aquatic ecosystems require only modest concentrations of nutrients and, as we shall see later, pristine nutrient conditions are essentially non-existent in many rivers, estuaries, and deltas due to a range of human-sourced contaminants. The excessive enrichment of nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus—in a process termed eutrophication—is perhaps the Earth’s most widespread issue for water quality.

Natural nutrients enter rivers through a range of processes, such as direct input from the weathering of rocks and nutrient release from soils, as well as the decomposition of riverside vegetation and aquatic organisms. Dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN) and phosphorus (DIP) are two of the most common and vital nutrients in rivers. Around three-quarters of these riverine nutrients reach the open ocean each year—globally, around 17 million tonnes (19 million tons) of DIN and 1.2 million tonnes (1.3 million tons) of DIP are delivered to the sea to support marine aquatic ecosystems. Some of these nutrients may become processed and changed due to biological activity in estuaries and along coasts, which act as biogeochemical buffers between rivers and the ocean.



► **Flood debris**  
*Mountain stream in flood, with large boulders, trees overhanging the channels, and fallen trees creating logjams.*

# Index

## Note:

All rivers and lakes are listed under their specific name, e.g. River Nile is indexed under Nile River; Lake Victoria is indexed as Victoria, Lake.

## A

abalone 225  
*Acipenser brevirostrum* 362  
*Acipenser oxyrinchus* 237  
*Acipenser stellatus* 373  
*Acipenser sturio* 237  
 acoustic Doppler current profilers (ADCPs) 64-5  
 Adler, Morgan 149  
 Advanced Spaceborne Thermal Emission and Reflection Radiometer (ASTER) 43  
 Affall River, Iceland 177  
 African Bush Elephant 291, 300, 301  
 African Wild Dog 116  
 agriculture/agricultural land 19, 144-5  
   delta land as 247, 297, 318, 319  
   marshland as 297, 299  
   river basins, sediment erosion 144  
   runoff from 148, 178, 235  
 Alaskan Brown Bear 113  
 Albert River, Australia 351  
*Alcedo atthis* 114  
 Alexandria, Egypt 318  
 Alfonso V, King of Portugal 23  
 algae  
   blooms *see* harmful algal blooms (HABs)  
   farming 225, 227  
   invasive species 231  
 alluvial fans 59, 61  
 alluvial terraces 59  
 alluvial valleys 59  
 Amazon Basin 50, 78  
   evolution, forest changes 118, 119, 120  
   freshwater fisheries 36  
   hydropower dams 370  
   productivity, carbon source/store 71  
   river migration 42  
 Amazon delta, Brazil 258, 271, 310  
 Amazon River 33  
   electric eels 120  
   evolution 118, 119, 120  
   floodplain 71, 75, 78  
   migration 42  
   reversal of course 55  
   Rio Negro confluence 66  
   sediment concentrations 68  
 Amazon River Dolphin 153, 336, 337  
 Amazonian Manatee 209, 210  
 American Comb Jelly 230  
 American Flamingo 290  
 American Mink 155  
 amphipods 214  
 Amur River, Siberia 357  
 An Giang, Vietnam 310  
 anabranching 90, 92  
 anchovies 230  
 Anchovy Kilka 230  
 ancient civilizations 18-19, 278, 297  
   deltas 274, 278, 318  
   flood defenses 322  
   maritime trade routes 326  
 ancient Greece, Ephesus 200-1  
 ancient landscapes, reconstruction 102  
 ancient rivers 102, 103  
 Anders, William A. 38  
 Andes Mountains 55, 71  
 Angkor Wat, Cambodia 61  
 Angolan Tilapia 106  
*Anguilla anguilla* 207  
 anoxic conditions 115, 177, 185, 235  
 Anthropocene 38

anthropogenic stresses 13, 158, 159, 342, 376  
   resilience thresholds 158  
   timescales 158, 159  
   *see also* climate change; *entries beginning humans and...*  
 Antwerp, Belgium 326, 327  
 apes (Bonobo), Congo Basin 121-2  
 aquaculture  
   brackish water 222-3  
   deltas 310, 311  
   freshwater 106, 223  
   management and threats of 225, 310  
   marine (estuaries) 218, 222-3  
   cage farming 225  
   environmental impact 218, 225  
   extensive 225, 226, 227  
   floating villages 226, 227  
   prawns 218, 225  
   production (tonnes), producers 218, 222-3  
 aquatic ecosystems 70  
 aquatic plants  
   chalk rivers 109  
   invasive 155  
 aqueducts 146  
*Aquila heliaca* 312, 313  
 Arcachon Bay, France 192  
 Arctic deltas 302-7  
   biodiversity/inhabitants 288, 289, 303, 305, 306-7  
   freezes and floods 305  
   Lena delta, Siberia 305  
   Mackenzie delta, Canada 306-7  
   permafrost and 302, 303, 304  
   seasonal temperature changes 305  
 Arctic rivers, and watersheds 302, 305  
 Arno River, Italy 10  
 Arrowhead 292  
 art and artists 12, 13  
 artificial meander cutoffs 115  
 artisanal fishing, estuarine 217  
 Asian Clam 155  
 Asian Tiger Prawn 218, 225  
 asthenosphere 28  
 Atchafalaya delta, Louisiana 292, 293  
 Atchafalaya, Lake, Louisiana 275  
 Athabasca, Lake, Canada 87  
 Athabasca Sand Dunes Provincial Park, Canada 87  
 Australia  
   Aboriginal oral histories 298  
   ancient sediments, river 103  
   bar-built estuary 172, 188  
   deserts, dry climate zones 31, 127, 138  
   dinoflagellate bloom 235  
   Gold Coast, flooding 137  
   marine aquaculture 223  
   oyster consumption 238  
   shellfish reef restoration 239  
   waves/wave ripples 26  
 Australian Flat Oyster 239, 288  
*Austroptamobius pallipes* 109  
 authors/writings 298  
 autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs) 359, 363  
 autotrophs 308  
 Avery Island, Louisiana 264, 265  
*Avicennia marina* 293, 294  
 Avon River, Devon, England 189  
 avulsion, river *see* river(s)  
 Ayakum, Lake, Tibet 249  
 Ayeyarwady delta, Myanmar 319, 353  
 Ayeyarwady River basin, freshwater fisheries 36  
 Azerbaijan 284, 285

## B

Babcock Bench, Washington State 100  
 backwater zone 84, 270, 271, 279  
 Baikal, Lake, Russia 249  
*Balaena mysticetus* 306, 307  
*Balaenoptera physalus* 193  
 Bald Cypress 293  
 Bald Eagle 308  
 Balize delta 369  
 ballast water, non-native species spread 229, 230  
 Baltic Sturgeon 237  
 Bamako, Mali 130, 131  
 Bangkok, Thailand 327  
 bar(s)  
   braid 90, 91, 92  
   river *see* river bars  
   river mouth 254, 276, 277  
   sandbars 88, 89, 172, 188  
 bar-built estuaries 172, 186, 188-9, 192  
 Bar-tailed Godwit 212, 213  
 barforms, river 72-3, 76, 92  
 barrier beach 189  
 barrier islands 188, 280, 281, 368  
 basalt rock 28  
 basins *see* river basins  
 bathymetry 276  
 Bay of Bengal, delta 256, 257, 277  
 Bay of Fundy, Canada 164, 165  
 beach formation, delta retreat 280  
 beach ridges 252  
 bears, Arctic delta 288  
 beavers 114, 306, 385  
 bedforms 72-3  
 bedload 62, 92  
 bees 290  
 Beki River, India 330  
 Belo Monte dam, Brazil 140  
 Bengal Tiger 338, 339  
 benthos 205  
*Beroe ovata* 230  
 Bertius, Petrus 20, 21  
 Betsiboka River, Madagascar 33  
 Bighead Carp 155  
 bilharzia (schistosomiasis) 36, 39  
 bioaccumulation 235  
 biodiversity 8, 107  
   abundance of organisms, sampling 363  
   Arctic regions 288, 289, 303, 305, 306-7  
   assessing 362-3  
   citizen science and 364, 365  
   deltas 288  
   coastal marshes 292  
   desert 291  
   human-induced changes 336-9  
   temperate 288  
   tropical 290, 293  
   estuaries 195, 204, 205, 206-7  
   forests, as hotspots 377  
   lack of information 109  
   rivers and 106-9  
   temperate marshes 296  
 biofilms 212, 213, 214  
 biological pollution 154  
 biotelemetry 363  
 birds  
   on Arctic deltas (Yukon) 288  
   on deltas 300, 312-15  
   on estuaries 193, 194, 195, 204, 205, 213, 214  
   on marshes 299  
   migratory flyways 312, 314, 315  
   on mudflats 196, 212, 213, 215  
   river/delta restoration, impact on 366, 368  
   on rivers, flow rate 114  
   sanctuaries 215, 312-15  
 Black-headed Gull 313  
 Black history/heritage 12  
 Black Sea 187, 230, 274  
 Black Sea-Mediterranean Flyway 312  
 Black Tiger Prawn 218  
 Bligh Reef, Alaska 233  
 blind fish (*Lamprologus lethops*) 86  
 blue carbon ecosystems 378-9  
 Blue Crab 308, 309  
 Blue Nile, dam 142, 156  
 boat people 226, 227  
 Bolieu Pond, Atchafalaya Basin, Louisiana 293  
 Bono tidal bore, Sumatra 166  
 Bonobo 121, 123

Book Cliffs, Utah 282, 283-4  
 Botswana, Okavango delta 249, 291, 300, 301  
 Bowhead Whale 306, 307  
 brackish water 24, 170, 171, 175, 186, 187, 207, 350  
 Brahmaputra delta *see* Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna delta  
 Brahmaputra (Jamuna) River 98, 99, 100, 249, 329  
 Bretz, J. Harlen 101  
 brine 187  
 Brooks Falls, Alaska 113  
 Brown Comb Jelly 230  
*Bruguiera parviflora* 293  
 Brütük Menderes River, Türkiye 90  
*Bubalus bubalis* 384  
 buildings, settling 263, 267  
 Bull Shark 208  
 Burdekin River, Australia 333  
 Bush Dog 336

## C

cage farming 225  
 Cahokia, Illinois 19  
*Calidris alpina* 196  
*Calidris pygmaea* 215  
 Californian Water Wars 146  
*Callinectes sapidus* 308, 309  
*Caltha palustris* 109  
 Camargue horses 280  
 Camargue region, France 280, 296, 297  
 Can Gio Mangrove Biosphere Reserve, Vietnam 337  
 Canadian Inuvialuit and Inupiat people 307  
 carbon  
   cycling 378, 379  
   floodplains 71  
   flow through rivers 70-1  
   offsetting 378  
   in permafrost 303  
   sequestration 71, 90, 303, 377, 378-9  
   transfer by turbidity currents 34  
*Carcharhinus leucas* 208  
 Caribou (Reindeer) 289, 307  
 cartographers, early 20, 21, 22, 23  
 Caspian Sea 230, 282, 284, 285  
*Castor fiber* 385  
 catastrophism 101  
 catchment areas 32-3  
   restoration 382-3  
 catchment-to-coast continuum *see* river(s), connectivity  
 catfish 114  
 Cather, Willa 298  
 cattles 292  
*Caulerpa cylindracea* 231  
 caviar 236  
 centrifugal force 95  
*Cerastoderma edule* 219  
 chalk rivers 109  
 Chang Jiang (Yangtze) River, China 21, 85, 329  
   basin, freshwater fisheries 36  
   delta 21, 310, 318  
   estuary 195, 358  
   water transfer scheme 146  
 channel(s) *see* tributary channels; river channels  
 channel-levee system 32  
 channel switching 271  
 channelization 369  
 Chao Phraya delta, Thailand 327, 335  
 chemotrophs 308  
 Cheonggyecheon River, South Korea 366, 367  
 Chesapeake Bay, USA 194, 195  
 Chester, port of, England 199  
 Chimpanzee 121-2, 123  
 China 20, 21, 146  
   *see also* specific rivers, cities  
 Chinese Mitten Crab 230-1  
 chlorophyll 178, 358  
*Chroicocephalus ridibundus* 313  
*Ciconia boyciana* 314, 315  
 cities 18, 30-1, 130

- estuarine 182-5
- megacities 182-3, 184, 318
- river flood risk 130, 131
- citizen science 364, 365
- climate 31
  - classification/zonation 29-31
  - estuaries affected by 31, 193
  - history (Earth) 57, 258, 259
  - records, delta sediment depth 258
  - river network control 56-7
- climate change
  - 13, 36, 38, 134-9, 342, 343
  - Arctic rivers/deltas, impact 302, 303, 304
  - blue carbon mitigating 378
  - carbon storage/release 71, 303
  - causes/drivers 134
  - droughts 134, 135, 136, 138
  - estuaries, future changes 350, 351
  - floods *see* flood(s) (flooding)
  - glaciers melting 139, 189
  - permafrost melting 303, 304
  - rainfall 134, 343
  - resilience thresholds 158
  - rivers, future changes 346-8
  - sea level rise *see* sea-level rise (SLR)
  - sediment transport rate/volume 138-9
  - temperature rise 27, 134, 136, 137, 139, 342, 343
  - third pole (High Mountain Asia) melting 139
  - water cycle and 134
- clouds 30
- Clupeonella engrauliformis* 230
- coarse particulate organic matter (CPOM) 110, 111
- coastal areas/plains 186, 189
- coastal marshes *see* marshes
- coastal protection structures 240
- coastal squeeze 240, 241, 242
- cockles, and collecting 218, 219
- colliding rivers 66
- colonialism, Gambia and 20
- Colorado delta, Mexico 333
- Colorado River, USA 51, 333
- Columbia River, USA 51, 53
- Columbus, Christopher 209
- comb jellies 230
- Common Cockle 219
- Common Kingfisher 114
- Common Reed 368
- Common Sturgeon 237
- compaction, sediment 262
  - grain size influence 262
  - organic deposits 262, 263, 334
  - subsidence due to 263, 266, 267
- computer models 360-1
- Congo Basin 121-2, 123
- Congo River 34, 35, 86, 195
- conservation 376, 377
- construction, river sand/gravel for 150
- container ports, on deltas 327
- continental climate 29, 30
- continental crust 28
- continental shelf 32
- continental slope 32
- convection 30
- Copernicus mission, European Union 43
- Copper River, Alaska 251
- coral reefs 217
- Corbicula fluminea* 155
- Coriolis force 30
- CORONA project 41
- Corthell, Elmer 368
- cost(s)
  - delta restoration 368
  - hydropower energy 142
  - invasive species removal 155
  - oil spill clean-up 233
  - water transfer schemes 146
- Costa Rica, delta 272
- cottonwoods 116, 117
- country borders, rivers as 156
- crabs, invasive species 230
- crevasse splays 272, 273, 369
- Critically Endangered Species 207, 210, 215
- Orinoco Crocodile 336
- sturgeons 236
- Crocodylus intermedius* 336
- Crocodylus niloticus* 300
- Crocodylus porosus* 257
- Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge, Florida 211
- CubeSat satellites 47
- cultural ecosystem services 126, 127
- currents
  - bar-built estuary formation 188
  - hyperpycnal flow, deltas 254
  - longshore 188, 189, 252
  - tidal *see* tidal currents
  - turbidity 32, 33, 34, 35
- Cuyahoga River, Ohio 149
- cyanobacterial blooms 235
- cyclones, tropical 173, 353, 377
- D**
- da Vinci, Leonardo 364
- dams 140-2, 152
  - beavers and 385
  - Blue Nile 142, 156
  - Brazil, environmental changes due to 140
  - conflicts over/impact on others 156, 310
  - construction and sizes 140, 142
  - decommissioning/removal 52, 142, 152, 366
  - delta sediment changes 330, 347
  - disease and 39
  - environment/ecology impact 39, 50, 140, 142, 370
  - environmental management 366, 367, 374, 375
  - fish migration and 370, 371, 374
  - flood defenses in deltas 322
  - hydroelectric 142, 370, 371
  - impact on water flow 39, 50, 53, 337, 347, 370
  - locations, and numbers 140, 141
  - Mekong River/basin 310, 337, 355
  - people displaced by 142
  - tailings, disaster (Brazil) 234
- Danaus plexippus* 364
- Danube delta
  - 278, 292, 313, 332, 368, 369
  - rewilding 384
- Danube River 20, 251, 274, 372
- Date Palm 291
- DDT, bioaccumulation 235
- de-embankment 147, 240
- Dead Sea 24, 187
- Dee, River/estuary, England 199
- deep-sea ecosystem 33
- deep-sea fan 32, 33, 35
- Deepwater Horizon oil rig 232, 233
- deforestation 71, 144, 377
  - for agriculture 318, 319
  - delta land/deltaplains 318, 332
  - estuary sediment increase 198
  - mangrove 218, 319, 225
  - river sediment flux 144
  - Sundarbans 339
  - water runoff increased 33
- delta(s) 245-339
  - aggradation 276, 277
  - ancient civilizations 274, 278, 318
  - ancient/in deep time *see* paleodeltas
  - apex 271, 318
  - Arctic *see* Arctic deltas
  - avulsion 273, 275, 278, 279
  - "bathtub" approach, future 353-4
  - below sea level, compaction and 262, 263
  - biodiversity *see* biodiversity
  - as "canary in the coal mine" 266
  - channelization 369
  - channels *see* distributary channels
  - classification 250-3
  - climate records, paleogeography 258
  - complexes, duration 273, 275
  - deep-sea fan 256
  - definition/description 246-7
  - desert, biodiversity 291
  - distribution (global) 249, 252-3
  - Earth history, reconstruction 258, 282-5
  - ecology *see* ecology of deltas
  - elevation loss, levees causing 324
  - flood/ebb tidal 172
  - flood risk *see* flood(s) (flooding)
  - flow mixing 254, 255, 271
  - flow restoration 369
  - flow types (e.g. homopycnal) 254, 255
  - flows diminishing 254-5
  - food web and 308-11
  - formation *see* delta cycle
  - future changes 352-5, 369
  - gravel-dominated 260
  - growth *see* delta cycle
  - historical importance 18, 274, 278, 318
  - humans and *see* humans and deltas
  - landlocked, Okavango 300
  - landmass formation 273, 276, 277
  - large 249, 252-3, 256, 257, 258, 318
  - life cycle *see* delta cycle
  - living organism comparison 247, 270
  - lobes 273, 274, 280, 369
  - location (tropical, deserts, polar) 249
  - major (global) 30-31, 249, 252-3, 318
  - mud-dominated 261
  - paleodeltas *see* paleodeltas
  - progradation 273, 275, 276, 277, 283
  - restoration 366, 368, 369
  - retreat 280, 281
  - river-dominated 250, 251, 252-3
    - post-abandonment 280, 281
  - salinity gradient 271
  - salinity intrusion 333, 336, 337, 339, 353
  - salt diapir 264
  - sand-dominated 261
  - sea-level rise effect 266, 267, 353-4
  - as sediment sink *see* sediment(s) in deltas
  - senescence 272, 273, 280, 330
  - shapes 246, 250, 353
  - sizes 249, 354
  - subaerial, sediment layer 257, 275
  - subaqueous, sediment layer 257, 258, 259
  - subsidence 58, 258, 266, 267, 334, 335, 352, 366
  - temperate zone, biodiversity 288
  - tide-dominated 250, 251, 252-3
  - tropical, biodiversity 249, 290, 293
  - wave-dominated 250, 251, 252-3
- delta cycle 246, 247, 266, 270, 272-5
  - channel abandonment 278-9, 280, 281, 330
  - delta formation 8, 9, 186, 246, 249, 250, 256, 273, 274, 276
  - duration 273, 275
  - early deposition 276, 277
  - growth 273, 275, 276, 277
  - horizontal growth (progradation) 273, 275, 276, 277, 283
  - Mississippi delta 273, 275
  - post-abandonment 280, 281
  - retreat (delta) 280, 281
  - senescence 272, 273, 280, 330
  - spatial/temporal changes 272-3
  - submergence and shoals 274, 275, 281
  - vegetation role/changes 276, 277, 280
  - vertical growth (aggradation) 276, 277
  - young/development 272, 273, 274, 276, 277
- Delta del Orinoco National Park, Venezuela 337
- delta islands 281, 292
- Delta Works 381
- deltaplain 270, 272
  - deforestation, impact 318, 319, 332
  - flora/fauna 247, 249, 270, 271
  - lower/upper 270, 271
  - reforestation schemes 332
- dendritic drainage networks 50, 51
- depoldering 240
- desert(s) 30, 31
- desert deltas, biodiversity 291
- Dhaka, Bangladesh 331
- Diama Dam, Senegal River 39
- Dianchi, Lake, China 348, 349
- diapirs, salt 264
- diatoms 205, 212, 213, 214
- Dickinson, Emily 298
- Didymo (*Didymosphenia geminata*) 155
- digital elevation model (DEM) 43
- dikes 242
- Dimer Char island, Bangladesh 277
- dinoflagellates 205, 230, 235
- displacement of people 38, 134, 142, 322, 323
- dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN) 70
- dissolved inorganic phosphorus (DIP) 70
- dissolved organic carbon (DOC) 71
- distributary channels, deltas 250, 254, 267, 270, 271, 369
  - abandonment 278-9, 280, 281, 330
  - area between (interdistributary) 250, 266, 267, 272-3
  - bayous/backwaters 279
  - dredging 330-1
  - for navigation 328
  - sediment deposition 266, 273
  - Sundarbans 339
  - switching 278-9
- DNA, environmental (eDNA) 362, 363
- Doce River, Brazil 234
- Dogger Bank, North Sea 236
- dolphins 153
- Dongchong Peninsula, China 225
- Doppler shift 65
- Dordogne River, France 237
- "doves" (CubeSat satellites) 47
- drainage basin (river catchment) 32
- dredge "spoil" 331
- dredging
  - deltas 330-1
  - harbors 198
- Drissena polymorpha* 154, 155, 230
- drones 45, 359, 363
- drought 134
  - climate change and 134, 135, 136, 138, 343
  - impact 134, 135, 136
  - inverse circulation, estuaries 174
- drowned river valley 189
- dry climate zones 30, 31
- Duck-billed Platypus 108
- Dugong 209, 210, 337
- dunes, fossilized 100
- Dunlin 196
- Dutch Wadden Sea National Park, Netherlands 242
- E**
- eagles 308, 312, 313, 336
- Earth 28
  - climate records, sediment 258, 259
  - crust 28, 55, 57
  - history reconstruction, deltas and 258, 259, 282-5
  - rotation 26, 27, 30, 165
  - surface, measuring 45
- Earth Day 149
- Eastern Imperial Eagle 312, 313
- ebb tides 172, 250
- Ebro delta, Spain 332, 333, 366, 367
- ecological quality, restoration 375
- ecology of deltas 270, 287-315

- Arctic deltas 302-7  
 biodiversity *see* biodiversity  
 bird sanctuaries 312-15  
 flyways for migratory birds 314, 315  
 food webs 308-11  
 mangroves *see* mangroves  
 Okavango delta 249, 291, 300  
 seafood/fish from 309-10, 311  
 temperate marshes 296-9  
 wetland vegetation 292-3
- ecology of estuaries 193, 203-19  
 biodiversity 195, 204, 205, 206-7  
 endangered species, saving 210, 211  
 Florida Manatee 210, 211  
 food chain base 205, 206, 218  
 habitat types, restoring 163, 169, 236-43  
 harmful algal blooms 185  
 invasive species threat 228  
 life in mud, mudflats *see* mudflats  
 as nurseries of the sea 204, 207, 208, 211  
 productivity 204-10  
 salinity and *see* salinity  
 sea cows, shelters 210, 211
- ecology of rivers 106-26  
 biodiversity 106-9  
 evolution of life in 118-22  
 feeding strategies 110-11  
 flow type (lotic/lentic) affecting 114  
 humans' negative impact *see* humans and rivers  
 in-channel ecology 110-13  
 invasive crab species 230  
 life in the flow 114-15  
 life on the floodplain 71, 74, 76, 96, 116, 117  
 river continuum, changing conditions 111  
 shifting sands and 88  
 value of rivers 124-6
- economic losses  
 algal blooms causing 185  
 flooding causing 157
- economic value  
 deltas 309  
 estuaries 216, 217  
 rivers 124-5
- ecosystem(s) 8, 110  
 birds, importance/role 312  
 blue carbon 378-9  
 delta restoration impact 366, 368  
 estuary 184, 204, 205  
 invasive species as threat 228  
 floodplain 116  
 freshwater, threats to marine invasive species 230-1  
 saltwater intrusion 350  
 natural, conservation 376-7  
 non-native/invasive species 154-5, 228, 230-1  
 river 110-13  
 connectivity impact 116, 126, 366, 367, 382-3
- ecosystem services  
 124-6, 216, 298, 376  
 of deltas 309, 332-4, 335  
 of estuaries 216-19  
 of rivers 124-6, 127  
 of saltmarshes 242  
 types 125-6  
 of wetlands/marshes 298, 299
- ecotourism, Okavango delta, Botswana 300
- eels 207  
 electric 120-1
- Egyptian dynasties 18, 19, 74, 298
- Eichhornia crassipes* 155
- Elaphurus davidianus* 214
- Elbe River, Germany 371
- electric eels 120-1
- electromagnetic spectrum (EMS) 40, 41, 43
- Electrophorus electricus* 120, 121
- Electrophorus varius* 120, 121
- Electrophorus voltai* 120, 121
- elephants 291, 300, 301
- Elkhorn Slough, California 46
- Elwha River, Washington State 52
- embankments 147, 240, 243, 322  
 overtopping/flooding over 322, 323, 351  
 removal, intertidal habitat recreation 240  
 removal from Swindale Beck, England 382-3  
 removal to reduce flooding 147  
*see also* levees
- Emerald Glass Frog 365
- employment 150, 216, 218
- Emscher River, Germany 380
- endangered species 364, 365  
*see also* Critically Endangered Species
- engineering, river 146-7
- environmental concerns 13, 38  
 marine aquaculture impact 218, 225  
 pollution *see* pollution  
 river stresses/stressors 38, 151  
 sediment mining 150, 151  
*see also* future challenges
- environmental disasters  
 mercury poisoning, Minamata, Japan 235  
 toxic mud disaster 234
- environmental DNA 362, 363
- environmental management 13, 36, 344, 366-9  
 nature-based solutions 376-7, 380, 384  
 reforestation 332, 377, 382  
 restoration of deltas/rivers *see* restoration  
 rewilding 384-5  
 rivers 125, 126, 158, 372-5  
 Swindale Beck, England 382-3  
 Room for the River program 126, 152, 381  
 successful schemes 366, 367  
 whole-system thinking 375  
*see also* future challenges, and solutions
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 149
- Ephesus, fall of 200-1
- equator 29
- Eriocheir sinensis* 230-1
- Ermakov Island, Ukraine 384
- erosion 33, 50, 61, 95, 266  
 agriculture/land use affecting 33, 144  
 headcut 50  
 Loess Plateau, China 261  
 river terrace formation 59  
 riverbank 38, 73, 76, 94, 95
- Espadarana prosoblepon* 365
- estuaries 10, 162-243  
 balance of power (river vs tide) 168-73  
 bar-built 172, 186, 188-9, 192  
 biodiversity 195, 204, 205, 206-7  
 climate impact 31, 193, 350, 351  
 coastal plain (rias) 186, 189  
 deepest 195  
 degradation 184, 218, 225  
 ecology *see* ecology of estuaries  
 ecosystem services 216-19  
 fate/importance of 196-9  
 fjords 177, 186, 190  
 formation 186-91, 196  
 funnel-shaped 193, 194, 195  
 future changes/planning 345, 350, 351  
 geomorphology 186, 193  
 habitat types in/around 163, 169, 236-43  
 highly stratified 174, 175, 177  
 historical importance 18, 19  
 humans and *see* humans and estuaries  
 hypertidal 166  
 important (global) 30-1, 182-5  
 largest/length 193, 194, 195  
 lifetime, geological 196  
 loss/dwindling/size reduction 243
- lower/middle/upper 168-9  
 macrotidal 174  
 measurements 178, 179  
 muddy/mud deposits 196, 206, 212-15  
 as nurseries of the sea 204, 207, 208, 211  
 partially mixed 174, 175, 176  
 as ports/harbors 18, 198  
 salt-wedge (river-dominated) 177  
 sea-level rise effect 59, 188, 189  
 sediment in *see* sediment(s)  
 sediment transport 168, 172, 173, 174, 177, 179, 186, 196, 198  
 shapes, diversity 192-5  
 siltation *see* siltation  
 stratified 174, 175, 177  
 tectonic 186, 191  
 tidal bores 166, 167  
 tidally dominated (well-mixed) 174, 175  
 tides, influence 162-5, 350  
 tropical 172-3, 204  
 tropical cyclone effect 173  
 types 186-91  
 value of 216-19  
 wave-dominated 188  
 winds effect 170, 174
- estuarine cities 30-1, 182-5
- estuarine plants 216
- estuarine species *see* ecology of estuaries
- estuarine turbidity maximum (ETM) 175
- estuarine water 174-7  
 circulation patterns 170, 174-6  
 density, fresh vs saltwater 170  
 fresh water 170, 171, 175, 350  
 inverse (negative) circulation 174, 175  
 mixing of salt/freshwater 170, 171, 174, 175, 176, 177, 186, 254  
 nutrients in 168, 173, 174, 178, 179, 205  
 excess 178  
 partially mixed 174, 175, 176  
 pollutants 168, 178, 232-5  
 quality, measurement 178, 179  
 salinity *see* salinity, estuarine water  
 saltwater intrusion threat 350, 351  
 stratified/highly stratified 174, 175, 177  
 temperature and pH 178  
 tidal current effect 170, 172, 173, 174, 175  
 as transitional waters 174  
 turbidity 175, 178, 206  
 well-mixed (tidally dominated) 174, 175
- Euphrates delta (Shatt al-Arab delta) 291, 296, 318, 332
- Euphrates River 18, 19, 20, 74, 191, 291, 323
- Euphydryas aurinia* 383
- Eurasian Beaver 385
- Europe, river fragmentation 152
- European Eel 207
- European Union Biodiversity Strategy 152
- eutrophication 70, 178, 227, 235, 348
- evaporation, of water 24, 25, 32, 134, 174
- evaporite deposits 264
- evolution 8, 12  
 in Amazon Basin, forest changes 118, 119, 120  
 ancient river sediments 102  
 of river life 118-22, 119  
 Bonobos/Chimpanzees 121-2, 123  
 electric eels, Amazon 120-1  
 of rivers 54, 55, 56, 57, 59, 118, 119
- exclusive economic zone (EEZ) 309
- extinction, animals saved from 237, 339
- Exxon Valdez, oil spill from 233
- F**
- fan-shaped deposits 32, 33
- fault lines (grabens) 191
- feldspars 60
- filter feeders 206, 234, 235, 238
- filters, natural, for water 33, 115, 125
- Fin Whale 193
- fine particulate organic matter (FPOM) 110, 111
- fire, Cuyahoga River, Ohio 149
- fish  
 blind, in Congo River 86  
 breeding in fresh water 207  
 Critically Endangered 207  
 in deltas, tonnes caught 309, 310  
 in estuaries 204, 205, 207, 217, 222  
 harmful algal bloom effect 185  
 heavy metals in, toxic mud disaster 234  
 invasive species 155  
 in lower deltaplain 271  
 in marshes 299  
 migration 116  
 dams, passage around 370, 371, 374  
 hydrokinetic turbines 370, 371  
 river fragmentation effect 116, 152, 370  
 overharvesting *see* overfishing  
 river continuum, in-channel ecology 110, 111, 116  
 in rivers, species richness 106-7  
 spawning site, Lena Delta 305  
 types/numbers, detecting 362, 363
- fish ladders 370, 371
- fish traps 217
- fisheries  
 deltas 309, 310, 311  
 estuary/marine 211, 218, 223, 230  
 comb jellies, impact 230  
 decline, habitat loss 236  
 mangrove deforestation 218, 219, 225  
 freshwater 36, 106  
 Mekong River 36, 125  
 threats to 36, 37  
 production (tonnes) 36, 218, 222-3  
 in deltas 309, 310, 311  
*see also* aquaculture
- fishing, artisanal, estuarine 217
- fjords 177, 186, 190, 195
- flamingos 206, 290
- floating barriers 233, 234
- floating houses 374
- floating villages 226, 227
- floodation 173, 175, 196
- flood(s) (flooding)  
 77, 98, 134-9, 348  
 annual probability 136, 137  
 catastrophic 100, 101, 134, 381  
 climate change and 74, 76, 134, 135, 136, 137, 266, 348
- debris from 70
- defenses *see* flood defenses
- in deltas 266, 276, 278, 280, 292, 324, 348  
 channel abandonment 278  
 levees increasing 324  
 living below sea level 325, 348  
 risk calculation 320-1  
 risk reduction 352, 375  
 subsidence and 266, 352
- "doves" (CubeSat satellites)  
 imaging 47
- economic losses (USA) 157
- Gold Coast, Australia 137
- Ice Age 100-1  
 impact on humans 134, 157, 348  
 intertidal habitat loss increase 243
- megafloods 100, 101, 136
- one-in-100-year events 136, 137
- over estuarine embankments 322, 323, 351
- population number at risk 134, 136, 348
- risk, urbanization and 126, 130, 131, 132
- river management and 374

- riverine, risk in Netherlands 381
- saltmarshes to prevent 242
- sediment transport 64, 65
- social inequities 157
- tropical cyclones 173
- ultra-low-gradient rivers and 84
- flood defenses 76
  - ancient, Euphrates River 323
  - in deltas 322-5
  - failure 322-3, 324
  - polders 322, 325, 381
  - Room for the River program and 126, 152, 381
  - see also embankments; levees
- flood exposure representativeness (FER) 157
- flood pulse 74, 79, 121
- flood tides 172, 250
- floodplains 59, 74-8, 116
  - Amazon River 71, 75, 78
  - anabranching/anastomosing rivers 90
  - carbon storage/release 71
  - as complex mosaics, beauty 76, 77
  - description 74
  - development 92, 93, 96
  - as dynamic bioreactors 71
  - ecological richness 71, 74, 76, 96, 116, 117
  - fertile 19, 71, 74
  - fish migration 116, 152
  - flood pulse 74, 79, 121
  - forests/trees 71, 116, 117
  - human encroachment 116
  - human-induced changes 71, 74, 76, 78, 130
  - importance 19, 71, 74, 88
  - inundation/flooding 74, 76, 77-8, 116, 130
  - land area covered 74
  - levee removal and 147
  - major (global) 75
  - mapping and measuring 19, 74, 96
  - modified vs unmodified 78
  - nutrients/minerals 71, 78
  - processes shaping 76-7
  - river connectivity 74, 116
  - disconnection 76, 77, 115, 147, 153
  - restoration 115, 116, 126, 147, 152, 366, 382-3
  - river migration 42-3
  - saltwater intrusion, future 350
  - sediments 96, 116, 257
  - transitions (vegetation) 117
- Florida Manatee 210, 211
- flow hydraulics 92, 95
- fluvial system 32
- Fly River/delta, Papua New Guinea 251, 293
- flyway, migratory bird 312, 314, 315
- food chain/web 308
  - base 205, 206, 308
  - deltas and 308-11
  - estuaries and 205, 206
  - invasive species impact 230
- food security 218-25, 222-7
- food web see food chain/web
- forests
  - Amazon Basin 118, 119, 120
  - as biodiversity hotspots 377
  - conversion to agricultural land 318
  - floodplains 71, 116, 117
  - "ghost forests" 353
  - Mackenzie delta (Arctic) 306
  - reforestation 332, 377, 382
  - see also deforestation
- Fraser delta, Canada 327
- fresh water 24, 36, 187
  - density 170
  - discharge, St. Lawrence estuary 193
  - estuary see estuarine water
  - rivers 24, 36, 114
  - sea cows/manatees requiring 210
- freshwater plume 33
- frogs 114, 365
- future challenges, and solutions 13, 342-85
  - algal blooms, increase 348, 349
  - biodiversity assessment 362-3
  - blue carbon 378-9
  - citizen science 364, 365
  - climate change see climate change
  - deltas 345, 346-7, 352-5
  - estuaries 345, 350, 351
  - floods see flood(s) (flooding)
  - future stresses 342-5
  - future/sustainable planning 345
  - making room for water 126, 152, 380-3
  - management see environmental management
  - methods to predict changes 356-9
  - nature-based solutions 376-7, 380, 384
  - numerical modeling 360-1
  - renewable energy 164, 370, 371
  - rewilding 384-5
  - rivers 345, 346-8, 349, 372-5
  - sea-level see sea-level rise (SLR)
  - sediment load/transport 346-7
  - temperature see temperature
  - see also environmental concerns
- G**
  - Gabon estuary, West Africa 293
  - Galveston Bay, Texas 192
  - Gambia River 20
  - Ganga, goddess 11
  - Ganges River, India 11, 18, 36, 85, 329
  - Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna delta, Bangladesh 249, 256, 257, 277, 311, 330
  - dredging and dredge spoil 330, 331
  - Hindu temples 278
  - river and tidal flow restoration 368
  - salinity intrusion 353
  - as sediment sink 256, 257
  - Sundarbans mangrove forest 257, 290, 338-9
  - gas, natural 334, 335
  - Geiranger Fjord, Norway 190
  - geographical distribution, rivers/estuaries/deltas 28-31
  - geological faults, river paths 54
  - geological timescales 38, 118, 120, 193
  - geology 186, 193
  - "ghost forests" 353
  - Giant Freshwater Prawn 310
  - Giant Otter 336
  - Giant water lilies 108
  - Gibson Desert, Australia 31
  - Gironde estuary, France 195
  - Gironde River, France 237
  - glacial lakes 100, 305
  - glacial outwash rivers 254
  - glacier(s) 189, 190, 259
    - melting/retreat 139, 189, 342
  - glacier lake outburst floods (GLOFs) 100
  - Glines Canyon Dam, Washington State 52
  - global digital elevation models (DEMs) 43, 83
  - Global Positioning System (GPS) 44, 45
  - Gold Coast, Australia 137, 172
  - Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, Ethiopia 142
  - Grand Port Bay, Mauritius 233
  - granite, rock 28
  - gravel 150
  - gravel-dominated deltas 260
  - gravitational pull of moon 26, 27, 164
  - gravity 32, 50, 164
  - Gray Mangrove trees 293, 294
  - Great Nature Project 365
  - Great Sandy Desert, Australia 31
  - Great White Pelican 313
  - green/blue infrastructure 376
  - greenhouse gases 27, 134, 344, 377, 378
  - ground-control points 45
  - groundwater 24, 25, 146, 350, 352, 374
  - Guangzhou (city), China 318, 329
  - Guiana Shield 121
  - Gulf of Mexico 211, 232, 279, 334
  - Gulf of Ob, Siberia 195
  - Gullfoss Waterfall, Iceland 84
- H**
  - habitats
    - estuarine 163, 169, 236-43
    - intertidal see intertidal habitats
    - modification/loss 151, 236
    - restoration 236-43, 384
    - see also entries beginning ecology
  - Hachirō, Lake, Japan 243
  - Hachirōgata Lagoon, Japan 243
  - Hadley, George 31
  - Hadley cells 30-1
  - Hairy-nosed Otter 337
  - Haliaeetus leucocephalus* 308
  - halocline 177
  - Hangzhou, China 183
  - Hapi (Egyptian river god) 297
  - Harappan civilization 18, 19, 74
  - harbors/ports
    - in deltas 326-9
      - ancient 326, 329
      - modern 327
    - dredging 198
    - estuaries as 18, 198, 217
      - ancient ports, fate of 198-9, 200-1
    - harmful algal blooms (HABs) 178, 185, 235, 349
    - aquaculture impact 225
    - causes 115, 178, 185, 205, 225, 235, 348
    - diatoms reducing risk 205
    - future increases 348, 349
    - Harpia harpyja* 336, 337
    - Harpy Eagle 336, 337
    - Hastings estuary, Australia 192
    - headcut erosion 50
    - health and disease 36, 37, 38, 39, 296
    - heavy metals 234, 235
    - Herodotus 246
    - Hester Marsh restoration site, California 46
    - heterotrophs 308
    - High Mountain Asia 139
    - Himalayas 57
    - Hindu Pilgrimage and Festival 127
    - Hindu statue, Ganga 11
    - Hindu temples 278, 338
    - hippopotamus 87, 300
    - historical context 18-23, 58
      - Ephesus, fall of 200-1
      - mapping the world 20-3
      - river civilizations 18-19
      - see also ancient civilizations; paleodeltas
    - Hoatzin 271
    - Hobsons Bay, Australia 378
    - Hokkaido, Japan 185
    - homopycnal flow 254, 255
    - honey, collection 290
    - Houston, Texas 183
    - Huang He (Yellow) River, China 18, 19, 21, 329
      - avulsion/channel switching 278, 279
      - dam, sediment from 142, 143
      - delta 21, 259, 261, 318, 369
      - restoration 368
      - sediment thickness/yield 144, 259
      - water transfer scheme 146
    - Hudson River, New York 155
    - Hughes, Langston 12
    - humans and deltas 10-12, 310, 317-39
      - biodiversity changes 336-9
      - bird sanctuaries 312-15
      - deforestation 318, 319, 332
      - deltas under stress 318-21, 333, 334
      - dredged channels 330-1
      - fish/prawns, wild-caught/farmed 309, 310, 311
  - flood risk/defenses see flood(s) (flooding); flood defenses
  - future sediment changes 346-7
  - importance (agriculture/food) 247, 249
  - land change of use 318, 319
  - as natural resources 332-4, 335
  - as population centres 318, 319
  - ports and navigation see harbors/ports
  - urbanization 319
  - water overextraction 333
  - humans and estuaries 10-12, 221-43
    - aquaculture see aquaculture, marine (estuaries)
    - dwindling estuaries 243
    - economy and employment 216, 218
    - eutrophication, algal blooms 235
    - food security 222-7
    - invasive species see invasive species, estuarine
    - oil spills 232, 233
    - pollution 232-5
    - ports/harbors see harbors/ports
    - restoring habitats see restoration
    - settlement on estuaries 198, 199, 200, 211, 216
    - tourism and photography 226
    - toxic mud disaster 234
    - urbanization 184
  - humans and rivers 10-12, 126, 130-59
    - ancient civilizations and 18-19, 274, 278, 297
    - climate change see climate change
    - dams see dams
    - flooding see flood(s) (flooding)
    - fragmentation of rivers 152, 153, 370
    - hazards from 38
    - land-use change, agriculture 144-5, 148
    - non-native/invasive species see invasive species; non-native species
    - politics 156-7
    - pollution 70, 130, 132, 148-9
    - population growth 130-3
    - sediment load increase 138-9
    - sediment mining 150, 151
    - timescales 158, 159
    - urbanization 130-3, 146, 148
    - virtual water, flows 145
    - water overextraction 37, 38, 109, 126, 127, 291
    - water transfer schemes 146-7
  - Humpback Whale 206
  - hurricane(s) 173, 353
  - Hurricane Florence (2018) 173
  - Hurricane Harvey (2017) 134
  - Hurricane Katrina (1005) 323, 368
  - Hydrilla verticillata* 155
  - hydroacoustics 64, 65
  - hydroperiod 292
  - hydrophobes 64
  - hydropower dams 142, 370, 371
  - hyperpycnal flow 254, 255
  - hypersaline conditions 24, 25, 186
  - hypertidal estuaries 166
  - hypertidal places 163
  - hypertidal ranges 165
  - Hypophthalmichthys molitrix* 155
  - Hypophthalmichthys nobilis* 155
  - hypopycnal flow 254, 255
- I**
  - Ica River, Peru 93
  - ice 8, 357
  - Ice Age 100-1, 189
  - ice sheets 59, 342
  - igapó forest, Amazon Basin 119, 120
  - Ijburg, Netherlands 374
  - Ijssel River, Netherlands 381
  - in-channel ecology 110-13, 111, 112
  - Indian National River Linking Project 146
  - Indonesia 27, 225
  - Indus delta 278, 318
  - Indus River 18, 19, 85, 249, 250

- Inga Falls, Democratic Republic of the Congo 35  
*Inia geoffrensis* 153, 336, 337  
 insolation 60  
 inspiration, sources 12  
 inter-distributary area 250, 266, 267, 272-3  
 International Initiative on Water Quality 357  
 International Panel on Climate Change 27  
 intertidal habitats  
   163, 240, 241, 292  
   importance/value 217, 218, 219  
   loss 240, 241, 242, 243  
   mudflats *see* mudflats  
   re-creating 240, 241  
   reducing, coastal squeeze 240, 241, 242  
 intertidal zone 26  
 introduced species *see* non-native species  
 inundation, floodplains *see* floodplains  
 invasive species 154-5  
   deltas, Huang He delta 259  
   estuarine 228-31  
     comb jellies and crabs 230  
     containing/control 231  
     diversity of species 230-1  
     number of species 228, 229  
     pathways/shipping routes 229  
   spread to rivers 230, 231  
   tropical green algae 231  
 river  
   aquatic plants 155  
   crabs 230  
   fish 155  
   Zebra Mussel 154, 155  
 invertebrates 111  
   in-channel (river) 110, 111  
   marine, in estuaries 208  
 irrigation 126, 127, 291  
 Isar, River, Germany 132-3  
 Itchen, River, England 109
- J**  
 Jaguar 336  
 Jamuna River (Brahmaputra) 98, 99, 100, 249, 329  
 Jawa Dam, Jordan 140
- K**  
 Ka-band radar interferometer (KaRIn) 356-7  
 Kabul River, Afghanistan 136  
 Kalahari Basin 291, 300  
 Kalahari desert 300  
 Kaskaskia River, Illinois 115  
 kerogen 334  
 King Prawn 218  
 Kızılırmak delta, Türkiye 312  
*Kobus leche* 301  
 Kolkata (Calcutta), India 326  
 Koppen climate classification 29-31  
 Kosi Bay estuary, South Africa 217  
 Kumbh Mela 127  
 Kuyalnik estuary, Ukraine 186
- L**  
 lagoon, reclamation (Hachirōgata, Japan) 243  
 lakes 115, 270  
   glacial 100, 305  
   *see also specific lakes*  
 Lamprey 109  
*Lamprologus lethops* 86  
 "land ethic" 298  
 land loss 324, 368  
   restoration 369  
   *see also sea-level rise (SLR); subsidence*  
 land reclamation 242  
 land-use change 144-5, 148, 345  
 Landsat program 42, 43, 358  
   Landsat 8 43, 173, 178, 179, 243  
 Large Yellow Croaker 225  
*Larimichthys crocea* 225  
 lasers, mapping of Earth's surface 40, 44
- lateral channel migration 76  
 laterites 61  
 legacy pollutants 148  
 Lemon Shark 208  
 Lena delta, Siberia 305  
 Lena Delta Wildlife Reserve, Siberia 305  
 Lena River, Siberia 305  
 lentic water 114, 115  
 Leopold, Aldo 298  
 levees 147, 152  
   blowouts 322  
   deltas with 234, 322, 330  
   failure 322-3  
   flood risk increase with 324, 374  
   Mississippi delta 322, 368  
   negative effects 324, 330, 368  
   removal 147  
   *see also embankments*  
 Liao River floodplain, China 75  
 light detection and ranging (LiDAR) methods 40, 44, 45, 96  
*Limosa lapponica* 212, 213  
 lithosphere 28  
*Litopenaeus vancouveri* 218  
 Little River, Maine 188  
 littoral drift 26, 188  
 living dikes 242  
 Livingstone Falls, Democratic Republic of the Congo 35  
 Loess Plateau, China 144, 261  
 logjams 70, 71  
 Loire River, France 135  
 London, England 183  
 long profiles of rivers 82-3, 84, 85  
   fragmentation 152, 153, 370  
 longshore currents 188, 189, 252  
 Los Angeles, California 146, 157  
 lotic water 114  
 Lower Congo River 34, 35  
*Loxodonta africana* 291, 300, 301  
 Luangwa River, Zambia 87  
*Lutra sumatrana* 337  
*Lycaon pictus* 116  
 Lyme Bay, Dorset, England 236
- M**  
 Mackenzie delta, Canada 305, 306-7  
*Macrobrachium rosenbergii* 310  
 Madeira River, Brazil 93  
*Magallana gigas* 288  
 Mahakam River/delta, Indonesia 251, 295  
 Mahanadi delta, India 311  
 Maiandros 90  
 malaria 200, 296  
 Malebo Pool, Democratic Republic of the Congo 35  
 Mamoré River, Bolivia 97  
 managed realignment 240  
 manatees 209-10  
 mangroves 163, 179, 208, 240, 276, 293  
   carbon sequestration 378, 379  
   coastline protection 217  
   deforestation/loss 218, 225, 319  
   delta retreat, sea-level rise 280  
   in deltas 276, 290, 293, 319  
   distribution, model validation 361  
   economic value 217  
   environmental benefits 376  
   in estuaries 204, 208, 216, 351  
   hotspots 293  
   pneumatophores, physiology 294, 295  
   reforestation 377  
   salt exclusion 295  
   sediment trapping 294-5  
   species distribution 294  
   Sundarbans 257, 290, 338, 339, 377  
 Manila Clam 309  
 Manning River delta, Australia 288  
 Manzala, Lake, Egypt 332  
 "Map of the Tracks of Yu" 20, 21  
 mapping/measurement methods 20, 40-7  
   active vs passive sensors 41
- aerial photography 41, 45, 357  
 biodiversity assessment 362-3  
 cities, major rivers/estuaries/deltas 30-1  
 drones, remote boats, robots 359, 363  
 floodplains 74, 96  
 flow measurement from air/space 357  
 Fra Mauro map 22, 23  
 for future change prediction 356-9  
 global digital elevation models 43  
 historical/ancient 20-3  
 laser use 40, 44  
 LiDAR methods 40, 44, 45, 96  
 new technologies 40-7  
 reflectance data, river colors 358-9  
 remote sensing *see* remote sensing; satellites  
 river courses 20, 22, 23, 44, 358  
 river motion, Landsat 42, 43  
 river slopes 83, 84  
 structure from motion (SfM) imaging 45, 46  
 topographic changes 46  
 water quality, remote quantification 357  
 water surface elevations 356-7  
*see also* Landsat program; satellites  
 Mariana disaster 234  
 Maritime Silk Road 326, 329  
 maritime trade routes 326  
 Markarfljot, River, Iceland 62  
 Marsh Fritillary 383  
 Marsh-marigold 109  
 marshes 196, 276, 280, 288, 292, 296, 354  
   as cesspools, disease 296, 297  
   drainage 296  
   as ecological gems 297-8  
   importance/roles/value 296, 298, 299  
   loss, levees causing 324  
   perceptions of 296, 297-8  
   Purple Marsh Crab impact 308, 309  
   temperate 296-8  
   vegetation, zones 292  
   *see also* saltmarshes  
 Mauritius, oil spill 233  
 Mauro, Fra 22, 23  
 meanders 76, 90, 91, 92, 94, 380  
 ancient 103  
 artificial cutoffs 115  
 restoring to rivers 380, 383  
 measurement methods *see* mapping/measurement methods  
 megacities 182-3, 184  
 megadams 140, 142  
 megafloods 100, 101  
*Megaptera novaeangliae* 206  
 Meghna River, Bangladesh 256  
 Meinmahla Kyun Wildlife Sanctuary, Myanmar 319  
 Mekong delta, Vietnam 249, 337, 339, 355  
   animal conservation 337  
   aquaculture 310  
   boat traffic 326  
   dams affecting 310, 337, 355  
   deforestation 318, 319  
   floating market 328  
   future changes, causes 355  
   salinity intrusion, effects 337, 339, 353  
   salinization, limiting 333, 337  
   subsidence/inundation 355  
   wood sourced from 332  
 Mekong River 124, 329  
   ecosystem services/fisheries 36, 124, 125  
   hydropower dams 310, 337, 355  
   riverbank slumping 38  
   sand extraction/mining 150  
 meltwater "pulses" 305  
 mercury poisoning 235  
 mermaids, manatees 209  
 Mesopotamia 18, 19, 74
- Mexico, river border 156  
 microbial life 205, 212  
 microhabitats, river 112, 113  
 microplastics 132  
 Middle Paraná River, Argentina 93  
 migration, mass, drought increasing 134  
 migration routes, rivers as 10, 154  
 migratory species 152  
   *see also* birds; salmon; sturgeon  
 Millennium Ecosystem Assessment 125  
 millponds 115  
 "Milu" 214  
 Minamata disease 235  
 minerals  
   in floodplains 71  
   in sediment 150, 234  
   mining, sediment 150, 151, 234  
 Mississippi delta 258, 264, 275, 368  
   Atchafalaya, Wax Lake lobes 275  
   avulsion/channel switching, prevention 279  
   Bird's Foot delta 275  
   crevasse splays 273  
   levees, building 322, 368  
   life cycle 273, 275, 279  
   oil and gas platform 334  
   restoration 368, 369  
   salt diapir 264, 265  
   seafood caught, tonnes 309  
   upstream delta plain 271  
   water quality enhancement 299  
 Mississippi River, USA 51, 75, 155, 251, 255, 273, 275, 368  
 Missoula, Lake, Montana 101  
*Mnemiopsis leidyi* 230  
 modeling 360-1  
 Mohawk River, New York 155  
 Moldova, rewilding scheme 384  
 mollusks, bivalve 212, 219  
 Monarch Butterfly 364  
 Monks Mound, Illinois 19  
 moon 26, 27, 164  
 Morecambe Bay, England 219  
 morning glory 37  
 motion imaging, structure from 45, 46  
 mountains  
   formation 28, 55, 57, 259  
   weathering 61  
 mud 196, 212, 260  
 deposits 172, 196  
 toxic, disaster (2015) 234  
 mud-dominated deltas 261  
 muddy estuaries 196, 206, 212-15  
 muddy rivers 138-9, 261  
 mudflats 163, 169, 196, 197, 204, 212-15, 241  
   adaptations to live on/in 212  
   birds on 196, 212, 213, 215  
   as conservation areas 212, 215  
   dangers 219  
   fauna on, as food source 196, 212, 213, 219  
   importance, ecology 196, 212  
   loss/degradation 215  
   species/environment interactions 204, 214  
   stability, biofilm role 212, 214  
   Xiapu county, China 226  
 Mui Can Mau Biosphere Reserve, Vietnam 337  
 Muir, John 298  
 Murray-Darling river system, Australia 85, 298  
 Murray River, Australia 127  
 mussels 225  
 mythical significance 11
- N**  
 Nærøfjord, Norway 190  
 Nanjing, China 183  
 NASA 43  
 natural gas 334  
 natural systems, resilience 376  
 nature-based solution 376-7, 380, 384  
*Negaprion brevirostris* 208  
 Negro River, Brazil 93  
*Neogala vison* 155

- Netherlands 381  
 delta plan 325  
 living dikes, saltmarsh restoration 242  
 Room for the River program 126, 152, 381  
*see also* Rhine-Meuse delta
- New Orleans, Louisiana 323, 328
- New Zealand, topography mapping 43
- Niger delta 261, 322, 332
- Niger River, western Africa 19, 261  
 floodplain 75, 130, 131
- Nile Basin Initiative 156
- Nile Crocodile 300
- Nile delta, Egypt 41, 246, 247, 250, 296, 318, 332
- Nile River, Egypt 18, 19, 156  
 basin, freshwater fisheries 36  
 floodplain 19  
 Hapi (river god) 297  
 height measurement 19  
 levees, construction 147  
 mapping, early 20  
 “nilometers” 19
- Nipa Palm 293, 295
- nitrogen, in water 70, 178, 205, 235
- Noctiluca scintillans* 235
- non-native species 154-5, 228  
 becoming invasive 154, 228  
 to control invasive species 230, 231  
 estuarine 228, 229
- Noosa estuary, Australia 172
- North Fork Toutle River, Washington State 64
- null point 175
- numerical modeling 360-1
- Nusa Lembongan, Indonesia 227
- nutrient(s) 70  
 in estuarine water 168, 173, 174, 179, 205  
 excess, algal blooms/eutrophication 70, 178, 185, 235, 348  
 in floodplains 71, 78  
 importance 32, 33, 70  
 transport 32, 33, 39, 54, 70-1
- Nypa fruticans* 293, 295
- O**
- Ob, River, Russia 92
- oceanic crust 28
- oceans *see entries beginning sea*
- Oder, River, Germany 237
- oil, global production 334
- oil and gas reservoirs 284, 334
- oil spills 232, 233, 334
- Okavango delta, Botswana 249, 278, 291, 300, 301
- Oncorhynchus nerka* 53, 113
- Opisthocomus hoazin* 271
- Ord River estuary, Australia 179
- Oreochromis angolensis* 106
- organic matter 71, 173, 262, 263
- organic-rich shales 334
- Oriental Stork 314, 315
- Orinoco Crocodile 336
- Orinoco delta, Venezuela 290, 309, 336-7
- Orinoco River, Venezuela 336
- Ornithorhynchus anatinus* 108
- Ostrea angasi* 239, 288
- otters 114
- overfishing 218, 222  
 in estuaries, deltas 308  
 from rivers 126  
 sturgeon 236
- oxbow lake 95, 97
- oxygen 205, 212, 235
- oyster beds, natural 238
- oyster reefs 204, 238  
 reinstating 239
- oysters 178, 216, 218, 225, 238-9, 288
- P**
- Pacifastacus leniusculus* 155
- Pacific Oyster 288
- Pacific salmon 113, 288
- Padstow Harbour, England 198
- paleo-Volga delta 282, 284, 285
- paleoclimate 258
- paleodeltas 282-5, 334  
 Book Cliffs, Utah 282, 283-4  
 paleo-Volga delta 282, 284, 285
- Pan paniscus* 121-2, 123
- Pan troglodytes* 121-2, 123
- Pangaea supercontinent 283
- Panthera onca* 336
- Panthera tigris tigris* 338
- paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) 235
- Pardee, Joseph Thomas 101
- Parrett estuary, England 240
- particle-imaging 357
- particle-tracking velocimetry 357
- particulate organic carbon (POC) 71
- Patanal, Brazil, giant water lilies 108
- Patos Lagoon, Brazil 174
- patterns, of rivers/estuaries/deltas 10
- peat/peatlands 302-7  
 draining 381  
 formation, compaction 262, 263
- Pebas wetlands 55
- Pecos River, USA 187
- Pelecanus onocrotalus* 313
- Penaeus monodon* 218
- Père David’s Deer 214
- permafrost 303, 305, 306  
 melting 302, 303, 304
- petroleum 334, 335
- Phnom Penh, Cambodia 37
- Phoenicopterus ruber* 290
- Phoenix dactylifera* 291
- phosphorus, in water 70, 178, 205, 235, 348
- photography, landscape in China 226
- photosynthesis 111, 178, 205, 212
- Phragmites australis* 368
- phytoplankton 33, 111, 178, 185, 205, 308
- Piankatank River, Virginia 239
- “planetary health” 36-9
- planforms  
 deltas 250, 251, 252  
 rivers 90-2
- plankton 205
- overgrowth *see* harmful algal blooms (HABs)
- phytoplankton 33, 111, 178, 18, 205, 308
- zooplankton 178, 205, 230, 308
- plastic waste 132, 148
- plate tectonics 28-9, 32, 55, 57, 283
- Farallon Plate 283
- Indian and Eurasian plates 57, 284
- paleodeltas and 282, 283, 284
- river networks and 54, 57
- tectonic estuary formation 191
- pneumatophores 294, 295
- Po delta, Italy 309, 335
- poetry 12, 298
- Pointe d’Esny wetland, Mauritius 233
- polar climate 29, 30
- polar regions 29, 30, 31
- Arctic delta *see* Arctic deltas
- permafrost 302, 303
- polders 322, 325, 381
- politics of rivers 156-7, 372, 375
- pollutants 148, 151, 234  
 heavy metals 234  
 legacy 148
- pollution 36, 70  
 biological 154  
 of dredge spoil 331  
 estuaries 168, 178, 232-5  
 large-scale water transfer projects 147  
 mercury 235  
 oil spills 232-3  
 oysters/mussels/clams as filters 234, 235  
 reduction, river management 374, 375  
 rivers 36, 148-9, 234  
 urban rivers 130, 132  
 toxic mud disaster 234
- pollution prayers 148
- population growth 130-3, 146, 318, 342
- coastal areas 183
- deltas 318
- estuarine cities 182-3
- megacities 182-3, 184, 318
- pore space, compaction and 262
- Pororoa (tidal bore) 166
- ports *see* harbors/ports
- Posidonius 20, 21
- potassium chloride (KCl) 24
- Pothole Coulee Cataracts, Washington State 101
- prawns  
 aquaculture 218, 225  
 river, schistosomiasis and 39
- Pre Rup temple, Cambodia 61
- precipitation (rain) *see* rain/rainfall
- Pripyat River, Belarus 76
- progradation 273, 275, 276, 277
- Pseudoplatystoma tigrinum* 310
- Pteronura brasiliensis* 336
- Purple Marsh Crab 308, 309
- Pytheas 296
- Q**
- Qiantang River, China 166
- Qingshan Island, China 225
- Quian’an Hebei province, China 380
- R**
- rain/rainfall 24, 25, 32  
 climate change impact 134, 343  
 climate zones 29, 30  
 urbanization and flood risk 130
- Rakaia River, New Zealand 91
- Rangifer tarandus* 289
- rapids 72
- Red Lechwe 301
- Red List of Threatened Species, IUCN 210, 236, 315
- Red Sea 187
- “red tide” 185, 235  
*see also* harmful algal blooms (HABs)
- reforestation 332, 377, 382
- Reindeer (Caribou) 289, 307
- religious importance, of rivers 11, 278, 297
- remote sensing, mapping by 40-1, 43  
 active/passive sensors 40-1  
 floodplains 74  
 flow measurement from air/space 357  
 river motion 42, 43  
 sediment transport 68, 69  
*see also* Landsat program; satellites
- remote vehicle technology 359, 363
- renewable energy 164, 370, 371
- Rennell, Major James 98
- reptiles 114
- reservoirs 115
- resilience threshold 158
- restoration 376  
 after land loss 369  
 catchments, Swindale Beck, England 382-3  
 deltas 366, 369  
 estuaries (habitat/species) 236-43  
 intertidal habitats 240, 241  
 oysters 238, 239  
 sturgeon 236-7
- Mississippi delta 368, 369
- prawns, Senegal River 39
- rivers 126, 132-3, 148, 366, 380  
 connectivity 115, 116, 126, 147, 152, 366, 367, 382-3  
 meanders 380, 382, 383  
 urban river (S. Korea) 366, 367
- saltmarshes 242
- shellfish reef 239  
*see also* environmental management
- rewilding 384-5
- Rhinocodon typus* 206
- Rhine River, renaturalizing 126
- Rhine-Meuse delta, Netherlands 259, 262, 263, 296, 325, 381  
 below sea level 325, 381  
 dredging 331  
 Room for the River 126, 152, 381  
 windmills, draining the land 319
- Rhizophora apiculata* 293
- Rhoda Island, Egypt 19
- Rhône delta, France 13, 253, 280, 296, 297
- rias (coastal plain estuaries) 186, 189
- rice production 243, 353
- Rio Baluarte, Mexico 170
- Rio Grande River, USA 51, 156
- Rio Negro River 66
- Rio Tinto River, Spain 358
- river(s) 8, 31, 32, 49-159  
 anabranching/anastomosing 90, 92  
 ancient 102, 103  
 avulsion 98-9, 273, 275, 278, 279, 280  
 impact 278, 279  
 biodiversity 106-9  
 as borders (of countries) 156  
 braided 90, 91, 92  
 catchment 32  
 chalk 109  
 classification 56-7  
 color, reflectance data 358-9  
 connectivity (catchment-coast) 32-5, 50, 116, 152, 172  
 disconnection 76, 77, 115, 152-3, 324, 366, 380, 382  
 ecosystem, impact 116, 126, 366, 367, 382-3  
 restoration 115, 126, 147, 152, 366, 367, 382-3  
 deepest (Congo River) 86  
 deified/religious significance 11, 297  
 drainage networks *see* river networks  
 Earth surface area covered by 107  
 ecology *see* ecology of rivers  
 ecosystem services 124-6, 127  
 engineering *see* river engineering  
 evolution/development 54, 55, 56, 57, 59, 118, 119  
 evolution of life in 118, 119, 120  
 floodplain connection *see* floodplains  
 flow *see* river flow  
 fragmentation, fish and 152, 153, 370  
 free-flowing 152, 153  
 future changes/planning 345, 346-8, 349  
 height, ancient measurements 19  
 historical importance 18, 19, 58  
 human impact *see* humans and rivers  
 importance/uses *see* ecosystem services  
 instream barriers 152  
 lengths 152, 153, 261  
 long profile *see* long profiles of rivers  
 major (global) 30-1  
 management *see* environmental management  
 meanders *see* meanders  
 migrating 94-6, 97, 98  
 migration rate, Landsat images 42, 43  
 as mineral source 150  
 muddier/muddy 138-9, 261  
 multi-threaded 90, 92  
 paths, factors determining 50-3, 73, 98  
 patterns 10, 51  
 planforms 90-2, 93, 95  
 responding to topography 50, 73  
 restoration *see* restoration  
 sacred 11, 298  
 sandbars 88, 89

- sediment deposition  
72-3, 76, 86, 92, 116, 258
- sediment plume 32, 33, 34
- sediment transport *see*  
sediment transport
- shapes 85
- shortened 115
- single-threaded 92
- slope 82-3, 84, 85
- steep, gravel-dominated  
delta 260
- steepness (global) 82-3
- straightened  
90, 115, 156, 366, 380, 382
- transboundary 372-3, 375
- ultra-low-gradient 84
- urban, restoration 132-3
- urbanization impact  
130-3, 146, 148
- value of 124-5
- water overabstraction  
37, 38, 109, 126, 127
- width and depth 86
- river bars 73, 90, 92
- barforms 72-3, 76, 92
- counterpoint 96
- large-scale order 93
- mid-channel 73
- point bars 76, 96
- river mouth 254, 276, 277
- at riverbank 94
- steering water flow 73, 92
- vertical growth 92, 276
- river basins 32, 50, 51, 346-7
- flow types 254, 255
- freshwater fisheries 36
- land-use change 144-5, 148
- non-native species  
migration 154
- sediment deposition,  
delta formation 276
- sustainable, actions needed 345
- third pole (High Mountain Asia)  
139
- transboundary 372-3, 375  
*see also specific river basins*
- river channels  
anabranching/anastomosing  
rivers 90, 92
- ancient 102
- catastrophic change 98-100
- curvature 94, 95, 96
- distributary, deltas *see*  
distributary channels
- ecology 111
- fish migration and 116
- flooding causing changes  
98-100, 278
- interweaving 90, 91
- meanders *see* meanders
- migrating/motion  
94, 95, 96, 97, 98
- planforms 90, 92, 93, 95
- shapes 86, 87, 88
- split 92
- straightened  
90, 115, 156, 366, 380, 382
- switching *see* river(s), avulsion  
in upper delta plain 270
- river civilizations 18-19
- river engineering 88, 146-7
- dismantling, to reduce flood risk  
152, 381
- water transfer schemes 146  
*see also* embankments; levees
- river flow 110, 114, 366
- climate change impact 347, 348
- ecosystem and 110, 114
- hydraulics 92, 95
- life in, ecology 110, 114-15
- lotic or lentic, ecology and  
114, 115
- measuring from air/space 357
- megafloods 100
- restoring from catchment to  
coast 366
- sea water mixing *see* delta(s);  
estuaries
- seasonal 250
- steered by bedforms and  
barforms 73
- velocity 65, 72, 82, 100, 110, 114
- width/depth of river 86
- river islands 72-3, 88
- river mouth bars 254, 276, 277
- river networks 50, 51, 54-61
- carbon/nutrient transport 70-1
- climate controls 56-7
- dams interrupting 50, 53
- rectangular/"trellis" patterns 55
- sea-level controls 58-9
- stepping down strata 54
- tectonic controls 54, 55
- river terraces 59
- river valleys 18, 88
- riverbank  
"breaking" ("bursting") 77, 78
- crab invasive species  
destabilizing 230
- erosion 38, 73, 76, 94, 95
- resistance, planform shape  
and 92
- unstable 86, 87
- width/depth of river 86
- riverbed 88, 98
- Roaring Fork River,  
Tennessee 112
- robots 359
- rocks, weathering 60-1
- Rocky mountains, USA 283
- Romania, restoration/rewinding  
368, 384
- Room for the River program  
126, 152, 381
- Ruditapes philippinarum* 309
- runoff 148, 178, 234, 235
- pollutants 148, 178, 234
- water 33, 178
- S**
- Saccostrea glomerata* 239, 288
- Sacramento River, California 47
- sacred rivers 11, 298
- sagebrush 117
- Sahara Desert 31
- Saint John River, Canada 362
- Salicornia* 206
- salinity 24-5, 171
- adaptation to survive in 208
- gradient, deltas 271
- intrusion  
deltas 333, 336, 337, 339, 353
- estuaries 350, 351
- low, marine species 207, 208
- mangroves 293, 295
- marshes, vegetation 292
- narrow tolerance to 208
- water types by 187
- salinity, estuarine water  
170, 171, 174, 175, 178, 186
- ecology/biodiversity 205, 206-7
- future changes 350, 351
- high river discharge  
171, 173, 177, 186
- low river discharge 171, 172, 174
- sea cows/manatees 209-10
- species tolerating 207
- tropical estuaries 172
- vertical gradient 174, 175
- salmon 50, 53, 113, 114, 207
- farming 225
- Pacific 113, 288
- river fragmentation impact 152
- sediment mining impact 151
- Sockeye 53, 113
- salt 295
- exclusion, by mangroves 295
- sourced from deltas 332, 333
- salt diapirs 264
- salt mine, Avery Island, Louisiana  
264, 265
- salt pans, Camargue (Rhône) delta,  
France 296, 297
- saltation 62
- saltmarsh plants 206, 208, 241
- Purple Marsh Crab destroying  
308, 309
- saltmarshes 163, 169, 204, 211, 240
- benefits/value 217, 242
- carbon sequestration 378
- development 240, 242
- distribution, model  
validation 361
- to prevent flooding 242
- restoration 242
- saltwater 170, 187, 350, 395
- see also* salinity
- Saltwater Crocodile 257
- San Francisco Bay, California  
191, 213, 229
- sand  
bar-built estuaries 188
- in lower estuary 172
- pore space and grain size  
260, 262
- river 87, 88, 150  
*see also* sediment(s)
- sand-dominated deltas 261
- sand ripples 26, 72
- sandbars 88, 89, 172, 188
- Sansha Bay, China 225, 226, 227
- São Francisco River, Brazil 251
- Sargasso Sea 207
- Saskatchewan River, Canada 72-3
- satellites, Earth observation  
40, 41, 356-7
- Aqua 178
- Copernicus Sentinel-2 43, 297
- CORONA spy satellite 41
- CubeSat satellites 47
- estuary measurements 178
- Landsat *see* Landsat Program
- Planet CubeSat satellite 41, 357
- river long profiles 83
- sediment concentrations 68
- SWOT 356-7
- Terra 178
- schistosomiasis 36, 39
- Schleswig-Holstein Wadden  
Sea National Park,  
Germany 206
- sea  
nutrient transport by  
rivers to 32, 33
- salinity 24-5
- sea cows 209-10
- sea level 27
- living below, projections  
262, 325, 348
- river network control 58-9
- sea-level rise (SLR)  
27, 38, 58, 59, 266, 342
- climate change  
27, 189, 266, 267, 342, 344, 348
- delta retreat 280, 353-4
- deltas, subsidence and  
266, 267, 352, 353
- future delta size changes  
353-4, 355
- intertidal habitat reduction 240
- since Last Glacial Maximum  
59, 189
- ultra-low-gradient rivers 84
- "sea sparkle" 235
- seagrass beds 204, 217
- seagrasses, carbon  
sequestration 378
- seawalls 241
- seaweed farming 225, 227
- sediment(s) 50, 60, 61
- ancient, preserved 102, 103
- bedforms formed 72-3
- contaminated, heavy metals  
234
- dams, impact of 39, 142
- in deltas *see* sediment(s)
- in deltas  
dredging *see* dredging
- in estuaries 34, 168, 172, 173,  
177, 196, 198, 206
- removal 198
- fine-grained  
144, 168, 172, 176, 196, 206
- in floodplains 96, 116, 257
- flow *see* sediment transport
- grains, and pore space 262, 266
- legacy pollutants in 148
- mining 150, 151
- near river mouths  
32, 33, 34, 246, 249, 276
- plumes, around deltas 248
- in reservoirs behind dams 142
- in rivers 72-3, 76, 86, 92, 116, 258
- silts and clay 196
- sink/traps 34, 256-9
- trapping, by mangroves 294-5
- sediment(s) in deltas  
8, 9, 256-9, 330
- age/dating 257, 258, 259, 275
- challenges, dredging 330-1
- compaction *see* compaction,  
sediment
- delta cycle 272, 273, 276
- delta formation 186, 246, 249,  
250, 252, 254, 272, 276
- delta type 250, 251, 252
- depth 257, 258, 259, 264
- flow types 250, 254, 255
- grain size 260-1, 262, 266, 276
- large/small-scale diversion 369
- layers 257
- load/flow, future changes  
346-7, 352, 354
- suctioning 331
- supply, levees preventing 324
- types 260-1, 262, 266, 267
- sediment samplers 64
- sediment transport  
32, 61, 62-9, 63, 88
- as bedload 62, 92, 93, 254
- bidirectional, tide-dominated  
deltas 250
- braided river channels 92
- climate change increasing 138-9
- to coastal areas 186
- from dams 142
- to deltas *see* sediment(s)
- in deltas
- future changes 346-7
- homo-/hyper-/hypopycnal  
flow 254, 255
- Huang He (Yellow) River,  
China 144
- in/to estuaries 168, 172, 173, 174,  
177, 179, 186, 196, 198
- load, greatest (rivers)  
66-7, 256, 347
- longshore currents  
188, 189, 252
- measurement 64-9
- challenges 67, 68, 69
- new methods 64-5
- satellite 68, 69
- traditional methods 64
- predicting quantity 73
- rate 62, 64, 65, 138-9
- in rivers 32, 33, 54, 72, 73, 88
- channel shapes 88, 92, 96, 98
- migration rates 88, 96
- saltation ("hopping") 62
- seasonal 120, 250
- shifting sands in riverbed 88
- from source to sink 32, 34, 61
- suspended particles  
33, 34, 62, 92
- Amazon River 68-9
- climate change effect 138
- heavy metal transport 234
- homopycnal flow 254
- load, global variability  
66-7, 138
- meanders and 91, 115
- measurement 64, 65, 68, 69
- tidal bores and 166
- tonnes per annum 67
- tropical cyclone effect 173
- types 62
- Selemdzha River, Russia 94
- Selenga delta, Russia 249
- semi-lotic environment 114, 115
- Senegal River basin 39
- Senegambia Bridge,  
The Gambia 20
- Sesarma reticulatum*  
308, 309
- Severn, River, England 156
- Sevier Mountains 283, 284
- sewage, threat to rivers 109
- Shakespeare, William 156
- Shared Socioeconomic Pathways  
(SSPs) 344, 354
- Shatt al-Arab delta, Iraq  
291, 296, 318, 332, 368
- Shatt al-Arab River, Iraq 291, 368
- shellfish 310
- collecting on mudflats 218, 219
- shellfish reefs, reinstating 239
- ships 327
- non-native species spread  
229, 230
- Shortnose Sturgeon 362
- "shredders" 110, 111



shrimp, Mekong delta  
floodplain 310  
Shuttle Radar Topography  
Mission 43  
Signal Crayfish 155  
Silk Road 326, 329  
siltation 196, 198, 199  
ancient harbors 198–9, 200–1  
dredging harbors 198  
Silver Carp 155  
Silver Dragon (tidal bore,  
China) 166  
Sirenia 209  
Skelton Inlet, Ross Ice Shelf,  
Antarctica 195  
slack water 172  
sludge, contaminated 234  
Smooth Cordgrass 308  
socioeconomic global changes 344  
Sockeye Salmon 53, 113  
sodium chloride (NaCl) 24  
Sognefjord, Norway 195  
soil 18, 32, 33, 61  
wetlands, peat formation  
262, 263  
solar radiation 40, 41  
Solimões River, Brazil 66  
sonar mapping, sediment  
transport 64, 65  
South Caspian Basin 284  
South Saskatchewan River,  
Canada 88  
South-to-North Water Transfer  
Project, China 146  
Southern Mud Oyster 239  
Southport, England 219  
*Spartina alterniflora* 308  
“spatial lags” 95  
*Speothos venaticus* 336  
spit (sand bar connected to  
land) 188  
“sponge cities” concept 380  
Spoon-billed Sandpiper 215  
spy satellites, images from 41  
St. Lawrence estuary, Canada 193  
St. Lawrence River,  
North America 85  
*Starry Night over the Rhône*  
(1888)(van Gogh) 13  
Starry Sturgeon 373  
Stear Marshes, England 240  
stereo photogrammetry 45  
storm surges 173  
strath terraces 59  
streams 111  
“structure from motion” (SfM)  
technique 45, 46  
sturgeon 207, 236, 362  
captive breeding and release 237  
Danube Sturgeon Task Force 372  
threats to, Critically  
Endangered 236, 237  
subduction 28  
submarine canyon 32, 34, 35  
subsidence 58, 266, 267  
Bangladesh 331  
compaction driving  
263, 266, 267  
deltas 58, 258, 266, 267,  
334, 335, 352, 366  
Mekong delta, future 355  
from petroleum/gas extraction  
334, 335  
river networks and 58  
Sundaland, rivers of 58, 59  
Sundarbans, mangrove forest  
257, 290, 338, 339, 377  
Surubi (Tiger Shovelnose  
Catfish) 310  
suspended sediment  
concentration (SSC) 62, 68  
sustainable management  
344, 357, 376  
see also environmental  
management  
sustainable sources, of food  
218, 310, 311  
swamplands 271  
Swindale Beck, England 382–3  
SWOT interferometry 356–7  
Sydney Rock Oyster 239, 288  
synthetic aperture radars  
(SARs) 41

**T**  
tailings dam, disaster 234  
Tall-stilt Mangrove 293  
Tavernier, Melchior 21  
Taw-Torridge estuary,  
England 14–15  
*Taxodium distichum* 293  
tectonic controls 54, 55, 258, 259  
tectonics see plate tectonics  
temperate climate 29  
temperate marshes 296–8  
temperature  
climate zones 29  
Florida Manatee and 211  
numerical modeling 360–1  
polar regions 303, 305  
rise, climate change 27, 134, 136,  
137, 139, 342, 343  
sea temperature, increase  
353, 360  
Temple of Artemis, ancient  
Greece 200  
terraces, river 59  
Thames, River, England  
132, 145, 230  
estuary 168–9  
thermokarst lakes 304, 305  
third pole (High Mountain  
Asia) 139  
Tibetan Plateau 139  
tidal currents 162, 165, 172  
harnessing energy from 164  
salt/freshwater mixing at  
delta 254, 255  
salt/freshwater mixing at  
estuary 170, 172, 174, 175  
slowed, by mangrove  
pneumatophores 294  
speed 172  
in tropical cyclones 173  
tidal range 26, 162–3, 193  
highest, locations 162–3  
location influencing 165  
tides 26, 27, 162–5, 193, 250  
flood, and ebb 172, 250  
high, or low 26, 163, 172, 240  
location, influence of 165  
neap, or spring 26, 27, 164  
restraining/reinstating 240  
super 164  
timing 26  
Tiger Shovelnose Catfish 310  
Tigris River  
18, 19, 20, 74, 77, 191, 291  
Tigris-Euphrates delta  
(Shatt al-Arab delta)  
291, 296, 318, 319, 332  
toads 114  
Tokyo, Japan 184, 185  
Tokyo Bay, Japan 184, 185  
topography, rivers responding  
50, 54, 55  
Tortosa, Spain 332  
total organic carbon (TOC) 71  
toxic mud disaster 234  
trade, deltas and 326, 327, 328  
trade winds 30–1  
transboundary rivers  
372–3, 375  
trees see forests  
Trent, River, England 156  
triage, river 158  
*Trichecus inunguis* 209, 210  
*Trichecus manatus latirostris*  
210, 211  
*Trichecus manatus manatus* 209  
*Trichecus senegalensis* 209, 210  
tropical climate 29, 30  
tropical cyclones 173, 353, 377  
tropical deltas, biodiversity  
290, 293  
see also mangroves  
trout 114, 152  
Tsiribihina River, Madagascar  
9, 91  
Tugela estuary, South Africa 192  
tundra, frozen 306  
turbidity, estuarine water  
175, 178, 206  
turbidity currents 32, 33, 34, 35  
turbines, hydrokinetic 370, 371  
Tweed River, Australia 137  
typhoons 173, 353

**U**  
Ubangi River, Central Africa  
122, 123  
Ugab River, Namibia 54  
Ukraine, rewilding scheme 384  
“underground rivers” 254  
underwater avalanches 33  
underwater cables 33, 34  
underwater channel system 33, 35  
underwater power farms 370, 371  
United Nations Food and  
Agriculture Organization  
(FAO) 36, 37  
United States Migratory Bird  
Treaty Act (1918) 315  
urbanization 130–3, 146, 148, 345  
deltas 319  
estuaries 184  
flood risk and  
126, 130, 131, 132, 320–1  
megacities 182–3, 184, 318  
rivers 130–3, 146, 148  
urea 208  
*Ursus arctos middendorffi* 113  
Uruguay, floodplain 78  
USA see individual rivers, deltas,  
and places

**V**  
validation of models 361  
van Gogh, Vincent 13  
Vancouver, Canada 327  
várzea flooded forest, Amazon  
Basin 118, 119, 120  
Vedic civilization 18, 19  
vegetable farming 36, 37  
vegetation 32, 33, 144  
delta development/aggradation  
276, 277  
delta retreat 280  
estuaries 204  
floodplains 116, 117  
Mackenzie delta (Arctic) 306  
wetland, in deltas 292–3  
vegetation succession 88, 89, 292  
Venice, Italy 351  
Victoria, Lake, fisheries 36  
virtual water 145  
Vistula River, Poland 90  
Vjosa River, Albania 366, 367  
volcanic arc 28  
volcanoes 28  
Volga delta, Russia 258, 284  
paleo-Volga delta 282, 284, 285  
Volta, Alessandro 120  
Volta delta, Ghana 311

**W**  
water  
chemistry 24  
contamination see pollution;  
water quality  
density 170, 254, 255  
drinking 36, 332–3  
export 145  
filtration, natural 33, 115, 125  
fresh see fresh water  
fundamental to life 36  
groundwater  
24, 25, 146, 350, 352, 374  
human use 146–7  
importers 145  
management, transboundary  
rivers 372–3, 375  
overextraction  
37, 38, 109, 126, 127, 291, 333, 352  
phases/states 8, 24  
quality see water quality  
runoff 33, 178  
sourced from deltas 332–3  
transfer schemes 146–7  
use reduction measures 375  
virtual 145  
Water Buffalo 384  
water cycle 24, 25, 30, 134  
water flow 32, 50  
dams, impact of 24, 39, 50, 53  
from source to sink 32–3, 61  
velocity measurement,  
ADCPs 64–5  
water footprint 145  
Water Hyacinth 155

water lily 124  
water mimosa 37  
water quality 33, 36, 70  
aquaculture impact 225  
barrier beach 189  
enhancement, Mississippi  
delta 299  
estuary measurements 178  
indicators, remote  
quantification 357  
meanders in rivers, benefits 380  
oysters improving 238  
water vapor 8, 24  
waterborne diseases 36  
waterfalls 152  
Waterhyme 155  
wave(s) 26, 188  
“wave base” 26  
wave-dominated deltas  
251, 252, 253  
weathering of rocks 60–1  
West African Manatee 209  
West Bar, Washington State 100  
West Indian Manatee 209, 210  
Western Interior Seaway 283, 284  
wetlands  
coastal marshes 292, 293, 296  
conversion to agricultural  
land 318  
drainage, to reduce  
disease 296  
ecosystem services/value  
298, 299  
loss, levees causing 324  
perception change about  
297, 298  
river management and 374  
soil, peat formation 262, 263  
spring, Lena River delta,  
Russia 305  
tropical mangroves  
see mangroves  
vegetation, in deltas 292–3  
wood sourced from 332  
see also mangroves; marshes  
Whale Shark 206  
whales 193, 206, 306, 307  
Whanganui River,  
New Zealand 297  
White-clawed Crayfish 109  
Whiteleg Prawn 218  
William River, Canada 87  
willows 292  
wood, supply from deltas 332  
World Health Organization  
(WHO) 36  
World Heritage Sites, UNESCO  
201, 215, 300, 312, 338  
World Meteorological  
Organization 134  
World Register of Introduced  
Marine Species 228

**X**  
Xiaolangdi megadam, China  
142, 143  
Xiapu county, China 226  
Xingu River, Brazil 140

**Y**  
Yallahs River, Jamaica 260  
Yamuna River, New Delhi,  
India 148  
Yancheng National Nature  
Reserve 214  
Yangtze River see Chang Jiang  
(Yangtze) River, China  
Yellow River see Huang He  
(Yellow) River, China  
Yellow Sea coast,  
bird sanctuaries 215  
“Yu ji tu,” map 20, 21  
Yukon River, Canada 44  
delta 248, 288  
Yuxi Grand Canyon, China 342

**Z**  
Zambezi River 116  
Zebra Mussel 154, 155, 230  
Zhu Jiang (Pearl) delta, China  
318, 329  
zooplankton 178, 205, 230, 308