

Glacier change in the Tuotuo River basin, the source region of Yangtze River in western China

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Tuotuo River basin is located in the west of the source region of Yangtze River, western China. It is one of the primarily distributed regions of glaciers in the source region. Glaciers in the Tuotuo River basin have been monitored during the past decades by applying the topographical map and high resolution satellite images. Over the period 1968/71-2001/02, most of glaciers in the river basin have been retreating with a smaller portion advancing. The area of glaciers shrinkage in the river basin during the past decades accounts for approximately 3.2% of the total area in the late 1960s. Based on the glacier area of the Tuotuo River basin in different periods, decrease in the ice volume of glaciers is estimated during the period 1968-2002.