

Dera Editor,

We would like to sincerely thank you for your careful reading of the manuscript and for your constructive suggestions. We fully agree that the introduction and contextualization of the study needed to be expanded in order to reach a wider readership. In response, we have revised the manuscript as follows:

1. **Introduction expanded.** We added three new paragraphs before the presentation of the PAMELA case study. These paragraphs provide an overview of key international examples of ancient lakes, including the Great Basin (Lake Bonneville and Lahontan), Mega-Lake Chad, and the Altiplano paleolakes. We also inserted a short synthesis of Iranian paleolake studies (Hamoun, Jazmurian, and recent nationwide modeling) in order to situate PAMELA in the broader global and regional scholarly context.
2. **Methodological contextualization.** A new subsection (Section 3.4) has been added to the Methodology. It discusses how our combined use of DEM-based mapping, satellite imagery, geomorphic observations, and historical textual sources follows established practices in other regions (Bonneville, Altiplano, Caspian Sea). This explicitly demonstrates that the methods applied here are comparable to, and transferable from, international paleolake research.
3. **Discussion strengthened.** At the end of the Discussion/Conclusion, we inserted a new paragraph that explicitly situates PAMELA alongside global case studies. This highlights both the cultural and geomorphic legacies of large paleolakes worldwide and underlines Iran's importance as a climatic crossroads.

We believe these revisions have strengthened the manuscript by making the significance of the results clearer to a broader scholarly audience while maintaining the specific contribution of our case study.

We thank you again for your valuable guidance.

Best regards

Hadi