

Detailed response:

We have revised the manuscript and addressed the editor's comments for the minor revisions.

1) Lines 3-4: Please rewrite this sentence.

- Reply: Thanks for the comment, we rephrased the sentence
 - o Old: The added value and complementarity of landcover units and the commonly used Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) trend analyses is shown.
 - o New: The complementarity between landcover units and NDVI analyses is shown.

2) Line 10: Do you mean the inconsistency in the relationship? Can you please specify? **3)** And Can you please indicate with what?

- Reply: yes, that's what we mean, we rephrased it to:
 - o Old: This underlines the need to complement NDVI analyses, such as the use of landcover units to describe changes in wetland areas.
 - o New: The inconsistency in the association between those variables underlines the need to complement NDVI analyses with a scheme representing wetness, such as the use of landcover units to describe changes in wetland areas.

4) Introduction: The first part of the introduction is a very long paragraph. Can you please break this into three to four parts/paragraphs to help the readers?

- Reply: The introduction is now divided into several shorter paragraphs to enhance readability.

5) Line 76: You have done a good job explaining what are available methods up to date. But before going into the aim of the study, can you please add a very brief description of what is lacking in the current state of the art in this field?

- Reply: Thanks for the input, we included following sentence before "The aim of this study...":
 - o New: Overall, NDVI analyses have been shown to provide valuable information on vegetation recovery after lake drainage. However, an approach representing changes in wetness is lacking. New landcover description schemes using recent satellite observations can provide relevant information and may thus complement NDVI analyses.

6) Table 1: Please add some more description about the color schemes so that the legend is standalone and the readers don't have to go back to Bartsch et al. 2024 to find them.

- Reply: We changed the caption of Table 1 and renamed the ID column to new ID:
 - o Old: Table 1. Legend for the land cover units based on Bartsch et al. (2024) and grouping schemes.
 - o New: Table 1. Legend for the landcover units based on Bartsch et al. (2024) and grouping schemes. The original IDs 18, 19 and 20 (representing different forest types) were merged into the new ID 18. The original ID 21 is now ID 19.

7) Figure 2: Please indicate that the subzone and the color bars next to the subzone are to be referred to from Table 1.

- Reply: Thank you for the comment. We changed the captions:
 - o Old: Figure 2. Subplots (a - d), NDVI change within the first ten years after drainage separated by bioclimatic subzone (B - E). The peripheral area refers to the area around the DLBs for a zone of 1 km.
 - o New: Figure 2. Subplots (a - d), NDVI change (Sentinel-2) within the first ten years after drainage separated by bioclimatic subzone (B - E). For Bioclimate subzone location and color legend see Figure 1. The peripheral area refers to the area around the DLBs for a zone of 1 km.

- Old: Figure 3. Landcover change in time for the DLBs separated by the different bioclimate subzones (a - d). The sum of available basins for a certain age is displayed on top. For color legend see Table 1.
- New: Figure 3. Subplots (a - d), Landcover change in time for the DLBs separated by the different bioclimate subzones (B - E). The sum of available basins for a certain age is displayed on top. For Landcover color legend see Table 1, for Bioclimate subzone location and color legend see Figure 1.
- Old: Figure 6. Fraction change of wetness groups (see Table 1) for different DLB ages (1 - 10) separated into the bioclimatic subzones (a - d).
- New: Figure 6. Subplots (a - d), Fraction change of wetness groups (see Table 1) for different DLB ages (1 - 10) separated into the bioclimatic subzones (B - E). For Bioclimate subzone location and color legend see Figure 1.

8) We also included the “Author contribution” section:

- New: AB developed the initial concept which was adapted by CvB. CvB processed the data, analyzed the results and wrote the first draft of the manuscript. AB, HB, BW, AE, TK, and DE contributed to the conception of the study and writing of the manuscript, AS and SA provided additional feedback. In-situ data was collected by DE, AS and SA.