

**Dear editor,**

**Thank you for the suggestion and comments, it is truly helpful.**

**Below are your notes with our detailed reply in blue.**

The authors have adequately addressed the comments from my previous review, and the manuscript has improved accordingly. I recommend acceptance, with a suggestion to further improve the language and sentence synthesis to enhance clarity and readability...

- Climate classification: People often associate the term “subtropical” with humid regions such as Southeast Asia, which led me to question which official climate classification is appropriate for the Hula Valley. Given its broader classification as a Mediterranean climate, would it be valid to use the term “Mediterranean subtropical (or hot-summer subtropical)”? Please verify the validity of your classification (warm subtropical) once more.

**We agree with the editor. It has been clarified in the site description (L149) and has also been added to the abstract in the revised version.**

**The Mediterranean subtropical climate classification is one of the two basic types of subtropical climates. In the context of this study, the primary relevance of climate classification lies in the annual temperature regime, which governs soil respiration rates. Therefore, we believe it is appropriate to use the broader and more process-oriented term “*warm subtropical*” when discussed in the text.**

- The term “primitive” can sometimes be controversial, because it implies a state that is 100% untouched by human activity. Please consider replacing “primitive” with something more technically precise, such as “intact” or “undisturbed”.

**There is no term "primitive" in the article. Do you refer to "pristine"?**

**We believe that "pristine" is a good term here and the full meaning is explained in the text (L145).**

- Agmon pond: Is it the same “Agamon Lake”? Please use the term consistently and briefly explain the pond’s history in the text.

**Done, we've changed "pond" to "lake" and made some corrections in the explanation of the lake history. The history is explained in L140-145.**