

We thank the Editorial office for this observation. We agree that the appendix was not sufficiently integrated into the manuscript. To address this issue, we revised the text to explicitly reference the appendix and its figures at appropriate locations throughout the manuscript. Specifically, we added citations to Appendix Figures A1-A4 within the Methods, Results, and Discussion sections where these supplementary diagnostics support interpretation of model behavior. These additions include references to the flow-duration curve analysis (Fig. A1), the complete soil-moisture time series comparison (Fig. A2), and the full streamflow calibration and evaluation time series (Figs. A3 and A4). We also added text in the calibration methods section introducing the appendix as a source of supporting diagnostic analyses. These revisions improve the connection between the main manuscript and the supplementary material and clarify the role of the appendix in supporting the study conclusions. Furthermore, during revision we conducted a comprehensive review of the reference list, removed duplicate entries, corrected incomplete citations, and reformatted all references to comply with Hydrology and Earth System Sciences (HESS) reference formatting requirements