

## **Response to associate editor decision: Publish as is**

Dear Dr. Akihiko Ito,

Thank you for your positive feedback and for recommending our manuscript for publication. We are pleased to hear that the revisions we made have effectively enhanced the manuscript's clarity. Your constructive comments have been invaluable in this process. Enclosed below are the relevant changes made in the manuscript for production.

**Remarks from the preceding review file validation:** *Regarding your figure 1: with the next revision, please update the copyright statement as follows: (map © OpenStreetMap contributors YEAR. Distributed under the Open Data Commons Open Database License (ODbL) v1.0.)*

**Response:** We adjusted the copyright icon “©” in the map itself as required by the Editorial Support Team in June. In this revision, we have added the copyright statement to the caption of Figure 1 as follows (see Line 101 in the manuscript):

Figure 1. Overview of the study site. The red area is Yanchi County in China (Map source: OpenStreetMap contributors 2021. Distributed under the Open Data Commons Open Database License (ODbL) v1.0). The white star denotes the field station located in Yangzhaizi village in Yanchi County, Ningxia Province.

Besides, we added the number “(2)” to indicate the equation at Line 189. Throughout the text, some typos and the use of hyphens instead of en dashes has been corrected.

We appreciate the time and effort from you, referees and editorial officers to review our work, and we are excited about the opportunity to contribute to the field through this publication. Thank you once again for your support and recommendation.

Yours sincerely,

Enting Tang, on behalf of Zhongbo Su, Yijian Zeng, Lingtong Du