

## ***Interactive comment on “Mapping long-term evapotranspiration losses in the catchment of the shrinking Lake Poopó” by Juan Torres-Batló et al.***

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Dear Referee #1,

Thank you for your useful comments to the manuscript. We, the authors, believe that the majority of the technical issues raised were actually addressed during the development of the study and have a rigorous justification, but they were poorly explained in the manuscript. These issues include: why a single date image was used to derive a water mask or how the land cover changes in the study period were considered. A thorough validation of the CHIRPS product was also carried out but is not properly reflected in the manuscript.

Other pointed issues stem from the inadequate introduction, which may create some

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misunderstanding about the aims of the study. Actually, we never aimed to develop a water balance of the lake at this stage, since we are currently missing important data for that purpose. The analysis presented here focused on the comparison of temporal trends in vegetation, ET and precipitation. These trends are presented spatially distributed and per land cover type. Absolute water storage figures are intentionally avoided. We are now addressing a thorough revision of the Introduction section for a more comprehensive literature review and a clear statement of the study aims and scientific contribution.

We would like to emphasise the large number and appropriateness of the used satellite products, our assurance on the rigour of the analysis undertaken and the significance of some of the results. We do hope to appropriately address all the weaknesses identified by the reviewer within the next days. Our sincere thanks again for raising those.

Sincerely, The authors

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