# Lake volume and potential hazards of moraine-dammed glacial lakes-in temperature glaciation regions—A case study of Bienong Co

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- 10 Abstract. The existence of glacial lakes in the Southeastern Tibetan Plateau (SETP) is a potential hazard to downstream regions, as the outburst of such lakes has the potential to result in disastrous glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs). In the present study, we conducted a comprehensive investigation for Bienong Co, an moraine-dammed glacial lake in the SETP. First, the lake basin morphology was determined\_and the lake volume was estimated, showing that the maximum lake depth is ~181 m and the lake volume is ~102.3×10<sup>6</sup> m<sup>3</sup>. Then, we analysed scenarios for possible lake outbursts. These scenarios
- 15 included the possibility of GLOFs being triggered by the ice avalanches (Scenarios A1-3) or the lateral moraines landslides entering the lake (Scenarios B1-3 and C1-3). assumed that the ice avalanche (Scenarios A1, A2, and A3) and the lateral moraine landslide (Scenarios B1, B2, and B3 and C1, C2, and C3) induced GLOFs process chain of Bienong Co. The <u>avalanche</u> volumes of <u>the</u> nine trigger scenarios wereas <u>obtained</u> calculated using the from the RAMMS modeling results,-. and tNext, he displacement wave-the BASEMENT model was used to simulate the generation and propagation of the avalanche-induced
- 20 <u>displacement waves</u> in the lake<sub>27</sub> With the BASEMENT model, the overtopping flow and erosion on the moraine dam and the subsequent downstream flooding were also simulated. The results <u>demonstrate-indicate</u> that the ice avalanche scenarios produce-may cause the largest amount of material <u>entering</u> into the lake, resulting in <u>a</u> displacement wave <u>amplitudes of</u> up to 25.2 m in <u>amplitude</u> (Scenario A3) near the moraine dam. Smaller <u>volumes of</u> landslides <u>volumes</u> entering the lake-only result in smaller displacement waves in the lake, <u>such asfor example</u>, <u>that</u> Scenario C1 has a wave amplitude below 1 m near the
- moraine dam. Scenarios A1, A2, and A3 result in released water <u>volumes</u> from the lake of  $24.1 \times 10^6$  m<sup>3</sup>,  $25.3 \times 10^6$  m<sup>3</sup>, and  $26.4 \times 10^6$  m<sup>3</sup>. Corresponding, and peak discharges at the moraine dam of <u>are</u> 4,996 m<sup>3</sup>/s, 7,817 m<sup>3</sup>/s, and 13,078 m<sup>3</sup>/s, respectively. These high discharges cause scour erosion of the moraine dams, resulting in breach widths of 295.0 m, 339.4 m, and 368.5 m, respectively, with the generally similar breach depth of approximately 19 m. and breach depths of 19.0 m, 19.1 m, 19.3 m, respectively. However, <u>iI</u>n landslide scenarios, only the overtopping flow generated by Scenarios B3 and C3 caused
- 30 m\_oderate erosion of the moraine dam, with breach depths of 6.5 m and 7.9 m, and breach widths of 153 m and 169 m, respectively. According to our simulations, GLOFs generated by Scenario A1, A2, and A3 can all flow through 18 settlements downstream within 20 h, thereby threatening and will threaten more than half of the settlements. Both Scenarios B3 and C3 produced <u>GLOFsfloods</u> that flow through eight downstream settlements within 20 h and had-have a relatively small impact on them. Comparisons of area, depth and volume of glacier lakes show that Bienong Co is the relative known deepest glacial lake
- 35 known on the Tibetan Plateau in the same surface area., <u>Tand this study could provide new insight about moraine-dammed</u> glacial lakes in the SETP and a valuable reference for GLOFs disaster prevention for local governments.

# **1** Introduction

Due to global warming, accelerated retreat and thinning of glaciers has occurred in most regions compared to the last century (Zemp et al., 2019), resulting in a rapid increase in the number, area, and volume of glacial lakes worldwide (Shugar et al.,

- 40 2020; Wang et al., 2020). Glacier meltwater can be confined and stored in certain depressions dammed by moraine, ice, or bedrock (Vilímek et al., 2013). Once the dam is damaged, the water can be suddenly-and-catastrophically released to form glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), which <u>could have a significant downstreammay cause severe</u> social and geomorphic impacts <u>across</u> several dozens of kilometers and more downstream (Lliboutry, 1977; Richardson and Reynolds, 2000; Osti and Egashira, 2009; Carrivick and Tweed, 2016; Cook et al., 2018; Harrison et al., 2018; Zheng et al., 2021). Moraine-dammed
- 45 glacial lakes are of particular concern due to their large volume (Fujita et al., 2013; Veh et al., 2019), weak dam composition, and exposure to various triggers, such as ice and/or rock avalanches, heavy precipitation, and intense glacier melting meltwater (Emmer and Cochachin, 2013; Nie et al., 2018), which are the most common sources of GLOFs (Watanbe and Rothacher, 1996; Westoby et al., 2014). The Himalayas and the Southeastern Tibetan Plateau (SETP) are regions of the-frequent occurrence of GLOFs caused by moraine-dammed glacial lakes (Wang, 2016). Veh et al. (2019) deemed that the Himalayas,
- 50 particularly the southern region, would likely experience more GLOFs in the coming decades. Research shows that the Himalayas, especially the southern region, are likely to experience more GLOFs in the coming decades (Veh et al., 2019). The SETP is a broad mountainous area region with highly complicated terrains, including covering the central and eastern

Nyainqêntanglha Ranges, <u>the</u>eastern Himalayas, and <u>the</u>western Hengduan Mountains<del>, and has highly complicated terrains</del> (Ke et al., 2014).<u>Controlled by warm and humid Indian monsoons</u>, a <u>A substantial large</u>-number of temperate glaciers have

- 55 developed here <u>under the influence of the warm and humid Indian monsoons</u> (Yang et al., 2008), <u>with characteristics such as featured as adequate recharge, strong-intense</u> ablation, low snowline distribution, high temperature, fast movement, and strong geological, as well as geomorphological, effect (Li et al., 1986; Qin et al., 2012; Liu et al., 2014), <u>In the past decades, glaciers in this region have undergone significant negative mass balances</u> which have been observed with markedly negative mass balances during the past decades (Kääb et al., 2012; Neckel et al., 2014; Kääb et al., 2015; Brun et al., 2017; Dehecq et al.,
- 60 2019). Therefore, the combination of active glacial processes and heavy rainfall during the monsoon season makes the region prone to glacier-related natural hazards (Wang et al., 2012a). Studies of glacial lakes in the SETP have mainly focused on the regional-scale assessments of glacial lake changes (Wang et al., 2011b; Song et al., 2016; Wang et al., 2017; Zhang et al., 2020; Zhang et al., 2021), identification of potentially dangerous glacial lakes (Wang et al., 2011a; Liu et al., 2019; Duan et al., 2020; Qi et al., 2020), site-specific analysis of formation mechanisms, development trends, risk evolution and management measures
- of GLOFs (Cui et al., 2003; Cheng et al., 2008, 2009; Sun et al., 2014; Liu et al., 2021; Wang et al., 2021), and exploration of geological features of a single glacial lake (Yuan et al., 2012; Liu et al., 2015; Huang et al., 2016). Fewer studies have applied hydrodynamic models to simulate GLOFs in the SETP. Wang et al. (2011b) evaluated the applicability of ASTER GDEM (the Global Digital Elevation Model) and SRTM DEM in the simulation of GLOF processes based on the HEC-RAS hydrodynamic model (Brunner, 2002). Zheng et al. (2021) analyzed and reconstructed a GLOF process chain of Jinwu Co using published empirical relationships and the GIS-based r.avaflow simulation tool (Mergili et al., 2017; Pudasaini and Mergili, 2019; Mergili
- and Pudasaini, 2020).

As a key factor related to the peak discharge and outburst volume of a GLOF event (Evans, 1987; Huggel et al., 2002), lake volume is difficult to directly obtain by means of using a satellite remote sensing approach directly. Currently, due to the easy availability of area information from remote sensing images, the volume of a glacial lakes is generally estimated using

- 75 the developed empirical formulas and the its area information from remote sensing images. Empirical formulas linking the areas and volumes of glacial lakes were generally developed based on the bathymetry data of a small number of glacial lakes to connect glacial lake area and volume based on bathymetric data for a small number of glacial lakes (O'Connor et al., 2001; Huggel et al., 2002; Yao et al., 2014).-\_However, the estimated volume may be inaccurate because of the unique geographical conditions of different glacial lakes (Cook and Quincey, 2015). Despite the high prevalence of GLOFs in Although the SETP
- 80 region-is an area with a high incidence of GLOFs (Sun et al., 2014; Zheng et al., 2021; Zhang et al., 2023), there are have been

few publicly available bathymetric-bathymetry data of on glacial lakes and related research works. <u>The Previous previous</u> bathymetric works in the Tibetan Plateau were carried out mainly for glacial lakes located in the Himalayas (LIGG/WECS/NEA, 1988; Geological Survey of India, 1995; Yamada, 1998; Mool et al., 2001; Sakai, 2003; Yamada, 2004; ICIMOD, 2011; Sakai, 2012; Yao et al., 2012; Wang et al., 2015; Haritashya et al., 2018; Sharma et al., 2018; Li et al., 2021).

- 85 This-<u>It</u> is unfavorable to fully understand the morphology and optimal disaster prevention strategies of glacial lakes in the SETP region. In recent years, unmanned surface vessels (USVs) have developed rapidly (Liu et al., 2016), and have been widely used in <u>specific certain</u>-scenarios, such as bathymetric map creation, transportation, environmental monitoring, and <u>moraine-marine</u> surveys (Larrazabal and Peñas, 2016; Yan et al., 2010; Specht et al., 2019), owing to personnel safety and high flexibility in complex environments. Glacial lakes are <u>mainmost</u>ly located at high altitudes and in harsh environments (Zhang
- 90 et al., 2020)<del>, <u>)</u>. a The application of USVs makes the underwater topography measurement of glacial lakes more accurate, efficient, and safernd USVs make the measurement of the underwater topography of glacial lakes safer, more convenient, and more accurate (Li et al., 2021).</del>

In this study, we aim to complete an investigation of the potential GLOF hazard of an end-moraine-dammed glacial lake, Bienong Co ("Co" means "lake" in Tibetan) in the SETP based on field bathymetric data and remote sensing data using\_-a

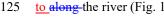
95 multi-model combination method. First, <u>we determined</u> the lake basin morphology of Bienong Co-<u>is modelled</u>. Then, <u>we simulated themultiple components of the</u> GLOF process chain, <u>including starting with the</u> initial mass movement from the mother glacier and <u>the</u> lateral moraines slope, displacement wave the generation and propagation <u>of displacement waves</u> in the lake, <u>the</u> overtopping flow and erosion on the moraine dam, and <u>the</u> subsequent downstream flooding were simulated. This study will assist the local government <u>into</u> understanding the potential hazards of Bienong Co and serve as a reference for other scholars-studying glacial lakes and GLOFs in the SETP region.

#### 2 Study area

Bienong Co is located in the upper area-region of the Yi'ong Zangbo ("Zangbo" means "river" in Tibetan) watershed basin (30°05' - 31°03'N, 92°52' - 95°19'E) in the SETP (Fig. 1a). As a one-level tributary of the Parlung Zangbo and a twolevel tributary of the Yarlung Zangbo (i.e., the Brahmaputra River), the Yi'ong Zangbo drains an area covering 13,533 km<sup>2</sup>. 105 With tall mountains and deep valleys, The the terrain is high in the west and low in the east with high mountains and valleys. The region experiences a elimate is warm and humid climate with, featuring a mean annual precipitation of 958 mm and a mean annual temperature of 8.8 °C (Ke et al., 2013, 2014). In 2016, There there was were 1,907.76 km<sup>2</sup> glacier coverage, and 105 moraine-dammed glacial lakes with a total area of 16.87 km<sup>2</sup> in the Yi'ong Zangbo basin, in 2016 (Duan et al., 2020). Seven glacial lakes in the basinwatershed, including Bienong Co, were considered to have high GLOFs potential (Duan et al., 110 2020), of which Jinwu Co collapsed failed on June 26, 2020 (Zheng et al., 2021). Three catastrophic GLOFs have occurred in the Yi'ong Zangbo basin As-as of 2021,, there have been three recorded large GLOF events in the basin, all of which caused very significantly damaged to infrastructures in the downstream region (Sun et al., 2014; Yao et al., 2014; Zheng et al., 2021) (Fig. 1b). Bienong Co is an end moraine-dammed lake constrained by the mother glacier (Mulang Glacier) on the south and a massive unconsolidated terminal moraine dam on the northwest (Fig. 1c). In 2021, it had an area of  $1.15 \pm 0.05$  km<sup>2</sup> and a surface elevation of 4,745 m The elevation of the water surface in 2021 was 4,745 m covering an area of  $1.15 \pm 0.05$  km<sup>2</sup> that 115

- has experienced less significant changes. The Mulang Glacier, which has remained stable in size over the past 45 years, had an area of 8.29 ± 0.22 km<sup>2</sup> and with a mean surface slope of ~18.28°, which has also remained a largely unchanged area over the last 45 years. However, the The glacier ablation zone, however, underwent an intense thinning at a speed of -6.5 m/a experienced a thinning process of 6.5 m/a. One of the major tributaries of the upper Yi'ong Zangbo, The flow of Bienong Co
- 120 converges into Xiong Qu ("Qu" means "river" in Tibetan), receives the flow from Bienong Cowhich is one of the two main tributaries of the upper Yi'ong Zangbo\_(Fig. 1b). The flow channel from Bienong Co to the confluence of Xiong Qu and Song

Qu (another majormain tributary of the upper Yi'ong Zangbo) isstretenes ~53 km\_long, with a river longitudinal drop ratio of 14.48‰. There are 18 settlements, and 13 bridges, and a substantial amount of cultivated landdensely distributed along the flow channel., as well as a large amount of agricultural land. In aAdditionally, the Jiazhong Highway extends\_closely-adjacent to along the river (Fig. 1d).



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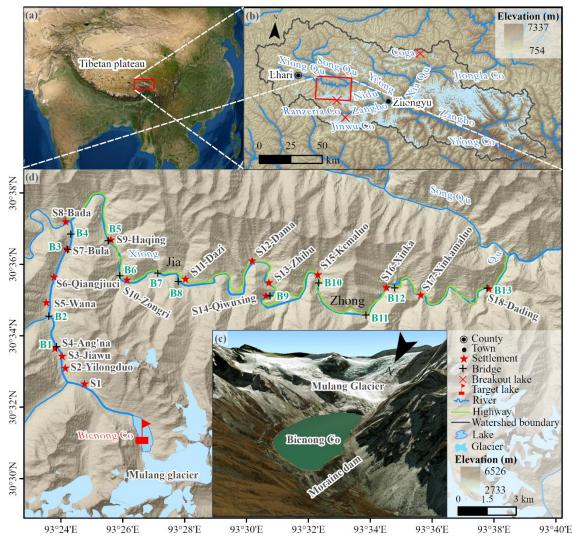


Figure 1. Overview of the study area. (a) The location of the Yi'ong Zangbo basin watershed, (b) the location of Bienong Co, (c) a close view of Bienong Co, and (d) the distribution of settlements, as well as bridges, within ~53 km downstream of Bienong Co. The background of Fig. 1a and c is a MapWorld image, based on which settlements, bridges, and the Jiazhong Highway along the flow channel were identified. The background of Fig. 1b and d is the Advanced Land Observing Satellite's (ALOS) mission Phased Array type L-band Synthetic Aperture Radar (PALSAR) Digital Elevation Model (DEM).

The area of Bienong Co has changed minimally over the past 40 years. In 2021, remained basically stable in the past 40 years, but its area of the area of 1.15  $\pm$  0.05 km<sup>2</sup>, in 2021 was almost nearly twice as large as the size of the two nearby outburst moraine-dammed glacial lakes, one of which is Jinwu Co (Zheng et al., 2021) and the other is-Ranzeria Co (Sun et

- 135 al., 2014; Zhang et al., 2022), which were are located justonly 24 km and 9 km to the southeast of Bienong Co, respectively. With an average height of 72 m, The moraine dam of Bienong Co's moraine dam has an average height of 72 m, enclosing encloses a waterlake volume of  $65.2 \times 10^6$  m<sup>3</sup>, accounting for 64% of the total lake volume (Fig. 2e). Overall, the greater is the volume of water retained in the lake, the greater is the volume of water available for a potential flooding (Westoby et al., 2014), and the greater is the hazard caused by a\_GLOFs. GLOFs are highly complex complicated phenomena, and each one is of
- 140 which constitutes a distinct, ly unique individual event with characteristics influenced determined by the triggering mechanism, lake hypsometry, geometrygeometries, the composition, and structural integrity of the moraine dam, as well as and the

topography and geology of the flood flow path (Westoby et al., 2014). According to historical GLOF studies, the most common cause of glacial lakes' failure in the Himalayas is <u>overtopping and erosion of moraine dams (Risio et al., 2011) triggered by</u> mass movements (snow, ice, <del>or</del>-rock, <u>or mixtures</u>) entering lakes (Richardson and Reynolds, 2000; Wang et al., 2012a; Emmer

- 145 and Cochachin, 2013; Worni et al., 2014), and subsequently overtopping and eroding of the moraine dam (Risio et al., 2011). The Mulang Glacier directly connects Bienong Co; its tongue (here is the ablation zone) contains well-developed ice crevasses with an average slope of 20° (Fig. 2a and b). Bienong Co is directly connected to the Mulang Glacier, whose ablation zone is defined as the mother glacier tongue in this study, and has an average slope of 20° with well developed ice crevasses (Fig. 2a and b). According to Lv et al.; (1999), ice avalanches are more likely to occur when proposed that a slope of the mother glacier
- 150 tongue <u>slope is greater than 8°.</u> is conducive to the occurrence of ice avalanche. In the context of global warming, glacial <u>Moreover, glacial</u> meltwater can lubricate the glaciers <u>due to climate warming, itself</u>, increasing the <u>likelihood-possibility that</u> of overhanging ice <u>will sliding slide</u> into the lakes (Wang et al., 2015). Therefore, ice disintegration from the Mulang Glacier could be a potential trigger for GLOFs of Bienong Co. In a<u>A</u>dditionally, the GLOF of Jinwu Co was <u>caused-triggered</u> by an initial moraine landslide with a slope range of 30° 45° on the left side (Zheng et al., 2021). <u>According to Bolch et al.</u> (2011)
- 155 and Rounce et al. (2016), both reported that non-glacierized areas around a lakes with a slopes greater than > 30° are potential rock fall, landslide, or other solid mass movement locations regions. Around Bienong Co, multiple places with lateral moraines There are multiple locations with lateral moraines around Bienong Co that fit into this slope range (Fig. 2c, d, and e). Therefore, lateral moraine landslides may could also be a potential trigger offor Bienong Co's GLOF.
- The stability of a dam is affected by several parameters, includingDam characteristics, such as dam the geometry (freeboard, width-to-height ratio, distal face slope), dam the material properties, and the ice-cored moraine conditions, govern the stability of the dam (Huggel et al., 2004; Prakash and Nagarajan, 2017Wang et al., 2011a; Prakash and Nagarajan, 2017 Wang et al., 2011a). Freeboard is refers to the vertical distance between the lake level and the lowest point on the dam crest, which reflects the minimum requisite wave amplitude necessary for overtopping the to occur (Emmer and Vilímek, 2014). rence of overtopping, and a <u>A</u> higher freeboard doesis not favor conducive to the occurrence of overtopping (Emmer and
- 165 Vilímek, 2014). A natural outlet with a width of ~50 m is in on the right of the dam (facing downstream) (Fig. 2e and f). As a result, indicating that the freeboard of Bienong Co is 0 m, indicating which signals the a high potential offor overtopping of the lake. The moraine dam has a width of ~520 m and an average height of ~72 m, giving the width-to-height ratio of 7.2 moraine dam is ~520 m wide and the height is variable with an average height of ~72 m, and the width to height ratio is 7.2
- (Fig. 2e). According to the thresholds favoring GLOFs of dam widths smaller than 60 m proposed by Lv et al. (1999) and width-to-height ratios smaller than 0.2 proposed by Huggel et al. (2004), the moraine dam of Bienong Co is stable. However, the freeboard of 0 m and the distal facing slope of 35° are conditions that are conducive to GLOFs based on favorable thresholds of smaller than 25 m (Mergili et al., 2011) and larger than 20° (Lv et al., 1999). The <u>surface layer of the</u> moraine dam of Bienong Co is <u>made of larger-grained stones</u> covered with vegetation., the surface layer is a larger particle size of the stone, and be Small granules of loose moraines make up the lower layerthe smaller, particle size, the material is loose and poorly
- 175 cemented, which is <u>easily destroyed susceptible to destruction</u> by water forces (Fig. 2e). The existence of ice core<u>s</u> inside within of the moraine dam of Bienong Co is unknown, <u>. However</u>, <u>but</u> there is no <u>ice coreone</u> in Jinwu Co's breached dam, which is lower ~320 m than the former. The dam crest elevation of Bienong Co is 320 m higher than that of Jinwu Co. <u>Furthermore</u>, <u>Additionally</u>, <u>according to</u> McKillop and Clague (2007), <u>argued that</u> moraine <u>dam</u>s with rounded surfaces and minor superimposed ridges are considered ice-cored; <u>in contrast</u>, <u>whereas</u> narrow, sharp-crested moraines with angular cross-
- 180 sections are interpreted regarded as ice-free.<sup>5</sup> and tThe dam of Bienong Co elearly fits the latter category. In aggregate, we consider that the potential threats to Bienong Co are mainly ice avalanches from the mother glacier and lateral moraine landslides.

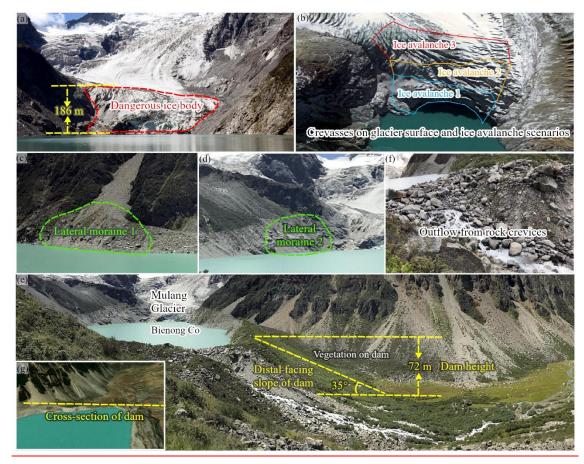


Figure 2. The hazard assessment of Bienong Co. (a) The connection condition of the Mulang Glacier and Bienong Co, (b) the
crevasses on the glacier surface and the assumed ice avalanche scenarios of the Mulang Glacier, (c) and (d) the assumed lateral
moraine location, (e) and (f) the moraine dam of Bienong Co, and (g) a cross-section of the moraine dam for statistical purposes.
Fig. 2(b) and (g) are based on a MapWorld image, and the other photographs were taken by Xiaojun Yao and Qi Wang on
August 27, 2020.

#### **3** Methodology

#### 190 **3.1 Bathymetry and modeling**

Lake bathymetric information<u>data can be used to depict the underwater topography and calculate the lake volume, which</u> is one of the most important-critical inputs-parameters forin the dynamic modeling of the GLOFs process chain simulation (Westoby et al., 2014)., and can accurately reflect the topography of the lake basin below the water surface and used to calculate the potential flood volume released in different breach scenarios (Westoby et al., 2014). In this study, the

- 195 bathymetrydepth data of Bienong Co were was obtained by a USV (APACHE 3) system, which consists of four main parts: the data acquisition module; the data transmission module; the positioning and navigation control module; and the power module (Li et al., 2021) (Fig. 3a and b). The USV system has a draft of 10 cm, which is smaller than the inflatable kayak used in previous investigations (Haritashya et al., 2018; Sattar et al., 2019, 2021). The D230 Single-Frequency Depth Sounder mounted on the USV has is designed to measure a measurement range of 0.15 300 m with a depth resolution of 1 cm and a
- bathymetry error of ± 1 cm+0.1%×h (water depth). The sounder can operate at 200 kHz and a water temperature range of -30°C 60°C. Meanwhile, a real-time kinematic system enables precise positioning for the bathymetric position with a horizontal error of ± 8 mm, a vertical error of ± 15 mm, and a directional error of 0.2° on the 1 m baseline. Field measurementinvestigations wereas carried out on August 27, 2020. We designed four longitudinal routes and 13 transverse routes prior tobefore the survey, along which the USV-based measurement was conducted (Fig. 3c). The maximum speed of

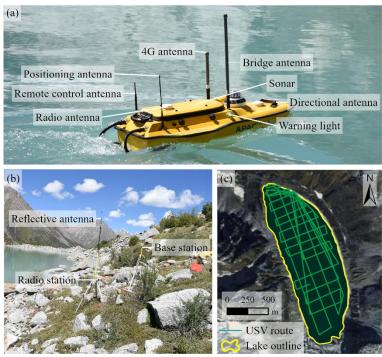
- the USV can reach 8 m/s, and our survey was conducted at a speed of 2 m/s for a total route of 22.58 km in Bienong Co. With 205 no obstructions on the lake, the USV's strong performance and the real-time monitoring allowed the survey to be accurately completed along the designed route. Due to absence of any obstructions on the lake, such as ice or small islands, the high performance of the USV and the real time monitoring, the survey was accurately completed along the designed route. A total of 16,020 valid sounding points were measured, essentially covering the entire glacial lake, were measured, which well fulfilled the data density requirement to model the lake basin topography (Fig.3c).
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The <u>DEM of the lake basin</u>bathymetric map was created within ArcGIS Pro software using the natural neighbor interpolation algorithm (Thompson et al., 2016; Haritashya et al., 2018; Watson et al., 2018). In addition, Surfer software was employed to simulate the 3D morphology of Bienong Co's lake basin. Lake capacity can be understood as the volume of water storage below a certain water level, which is the volume between a certain spatial curved surface and a certain horizontal surface (Shi et al., 1991). In this study, the volume of Bienong Co was obtained by multiplying the depth data and map-the **<u>DEM</u>** resolution (5 m) as follows:

$$V = \sum_{i=1}^{n} H_i \cdot \lambda \tag{1}$$

where V is the volume ( $m^3$ ) of Bienong Co;  $H_i$  is the depth (m) at the *i*-th pixel; n is the number of pixels in the lake area; and  $\lambda$  is the pixels resolution (m<sup>2</sup>) of the <u>DEM of the lake basin bathymetric map</u>.



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Figure 3. The bathymetry of Bienong Co. (a) The USV sampling equipment in water and (b) on land; (c) the sampling path of USV on Bienong Co covering the base map of the MapWorld image. Photographs were taken by Xiaojun Yao on August 27, 2020.

# 3.2 Potential GLOF modeling

- 225 Emmer and Vilímek (2014) and Haeberli et al. (2001) suggested that the assessment of glacial lake hazards should be carried out based on a systematic and scientific analysis of lake types, moraine dam characteristics, outburst mechanisms, downstream processes in the river valley, and possible process cascades. The methodology used in of this study is based on refers to the GLOFs process chain proposed by Worni et al. (2014), which was has been utilized used by Somos-Valenzuela et al. (2016) and Lala et al. (2018) to researchstudy Imja Tsho in Nepal and Palcacocha and Huaraz lakes in Peru, respectively. In this study, we intend to aim to depict the potential GLOFs triggeredinduced by ice avalanches originating from the mother Mulang
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gGlacier (Fig. 2a and b) and landslides from the lateral moraine (Fig. 2c and d)., and assess potential inundation in the

downstream region. The wave resultant from material entering Bienong Co might overtop the moraine dam and initiate an erosive breaching process, releasing considerable amounts of water and debris into the downstream flow channel (Somos-Valenzuela et al., 2016). Three models were used to simulate the GLOFs process chain: the <u>Rapid Mass Movement Simulation</u>

235 (RAMMS) model (<u>RAMMS, 2017</u>) was used to for simulation simulate of the potential mass movement (Christen et al., 2010); the <u>Basic Simulation Environment for Computation of Environmental Flow and Natural Hazard Simulation (BASEMENT</u>) model (<u>Vetsch et al., 2022</u>) was used to simulate the displacement wave in the lake; and the Heller-Hager model (<u>Heller et al., 2009</u>) was used to <u>simulate the for BASEMENT's results model</u>. The BASEMENT model was also adopted to simulate the dynamic breaching process of the moraine dam, the propagation of the flood wave, and the inundation downstream. In the

next-following sections, simulation methods for ice avalanches and landslides, displacement waves in lakes, overtopping flow

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and erosion on the moraine dam, and downstream inundation are described in detail.

#### 3.2.1 Triggers determination and simulation

Ice avalanches are the most common GLOFs trigger in Tibet in China (Yao et al., 2014; Liu et al., 2019). Displacement waves caused by Mass mass movements into entering a lakes might result in generate impulse waves that may produce overtopping 245 flows that scouring and erosion destroy of the moraine dams, or disrupt the hydrostatic pressure-bearing capacity of the moraine dams. Based on a-the investigation survey of the environment surrounding Bienong Co, ice avalanches from the Mulang Glacier and landslides from the lateral moraine landslides at two locations were selected as potential triggers offor GLOFs. Wang et al. (2012) defined the dangerous ice volume body of a dangerous glacier as either the volume from the location of the abrupt changing slope to the glacier termini or the volume of the glacier tongue where ice cracks are well 250 developed. We adopted the latter, i.e. In this study, the crevasse-developed ice body of the Mulang Glacier with a surface area of 0.19 km<sup>2</sup>, as shown in the MapWorld image (Fig. 2a)-with a surface area of 0.19 km<sup>2</sup>, was selected as the potential ice avalanche source of Bienong Co. (Fig. 2a). For convenience of the subsequent description, the ice avalanche-triggered situation was named after Scenario A. we name it Scenario A. The elevation difference between the top of the dangerous ice body and the lake surface was measured to be approximately 155 - 208 m based on ALOS PALSAR DEM. We divided the dangerous 255 ice body into three parts according to elevation ranges as ice avalanche scenarios to simulate subsequence processes from ice avalanches of of different magnitudes (ice avalanche 1, 2, and 3 in Fig. 2b). Scenario A1 was defined as a low-magnitude trigger, and the ice body with an elevation below 4,844 m at an elevation below 4,844 m yields a release area of 0.05 km<sup>2</sup> with the maximum and average elevation differences of 99 m and 75.8 m from the lake surface, respectively. Scenario A2 was defined as a moderate-magnitude trigger, <u>; the</u> ice body at elevation below 4,889 m yields a release area of 0.11 km<sup>2</sup> with the 260 maximum and average elevation differences of 144 m and 102.7 m from the lake surface, respectively. Scenario A3 was defined as an extreme-magnitude trigger; the total ice body of crevasses with an area of 0.19 km<sup>2</sup> was set as a release area, with the average elevation difference between the glacier surface and the lake surface of 131 m. In the above three scenarioseases, we assumed that the release depths of ice avalanches are the average elevation differences from the glacier surface to the lake surface, i.e., the glacier is supported by a flat bedrock located at the height of the lake surface-water table.

- Lateral moraine landslides as <u>a-the\_GLOFs</u> trigger are not common on the Tibetan Plateau, but the GLOF of Jinwu Co in 2020 was caused by a lateral moraine landslide (Liu et al., 2021; Zheng et al., 2021). <u>Therefore, it, and thus</u> was taken as a trigger of the potential GLOF <u>offor</u> Bienong Co. Two <u>areas-locations</u> of lateral moraine within the slope range of 30° - 45° were selected as potential landslide sites.<u>5</u> one-<u>Oneof which</u> is located on the left bank (in this study, the left and right sides are defined in a downstream oriented manner) of Bienong Co, near the moraine dam with an area of 0.015 km<sup>2</sup>, and we named it
- 270 Scenario B (Fig. 2c). <u>The other Another</u> is located on the right bank, near the mother glacier with an area of 0.024 km<sup>2</sup>, we named it Scenario C (Fig. 2d). Furthermore, we set three different release depths of 2 m (Scenario B1 and C1), 5 m (Scenario B2 and C2), and 10 m (Scenario B3 and C3) for each release area as low-, moderate-, and extreme-magnitude triggers, respectively. Therefore, a total of two different types, three different locations, and nine different magnitudes of materials mass

movements entering the lake were designed to enter the lake as the potential triggers for the GLOF of Bienong Cofor GLOFs 275 in this study. The above design fully considers the impact of triggers on Bienong Co under different magnitudes, and the results are used as the input for the subsequent disaster chain simulation.

In this study, ice avalanches and lateral moraine landslides of Bienong Co were modeled-simulated using the Avalanche module of the Rapid Mass Movement Simulation RAMMS model (Bartelt et al., 2013), which has been successfully used for simulating triggers of GLOFs (Somos-Valenzuela et al., 2016; Lala et al., 2018; Sattar et al., 2021). The RAMMS model adopts

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the Voellmy-Salm finite volume method to solve depth-averaged equations governing mass flow in two dimensions (Christen et al., 2010). Based on the basic-inputs of DEM data, the initial release area and depth, the calculation domain, the friction parameters  $\mu$  (the velocity-independent dry Coulomb term) and  $\zeta$  (the velocity-dependent turbulent friction terms), the outputs of runout distances, flow height, and flow velocity can be obtained calculated. Then, In addition, the time series of the volume of material-mass entering the glacial lake can was takenserve as the input condition for subsequent simulations. For this study 285 case, the initial release area was determined by combining the MapWorld image with a spatial resolution of 0.5 m (https://www.tianditu.gov.cn/) and ALOS PALSAR DEM with a spatial resolution of 12.5 m (https://asf.alaska.edu/datasets/derived-data-sets/alos-palsar-rtc/alos-palsar-radiometric-terrain-correction/). Values of  $\mu$ =0.12,  $\zeta$ =1,000 m s<sup>-2</sup>, and  $\rho$ =1,000 kg m<sup>-3</sup> for ice avalanche and  $\rho$ =2,000 kg m<sup>-3</sup> for landslide were used, which agree with values used in previous

avalanche-induced GLOF studies-producing avalanche models (Schneider et al., 2014; Somos-Valenzuela et al., 2016).

#### 290 3.2.2 Hydrodynamic wave simulation

Processes following mass movements entering the lake, such as the generation and propagation of displacement waves, the overtopping flow and erosion on the moraine dam, and the downstream inundation were modeled using the BASEMENT model v2.8.2 (Vetsch et al., 2022), developed by the Laboratory of Hydraulics, Glaciology and Hydrology (VAW), ETH Zurich. BASEMENT is both a hydrodynamic model and a sediment transport model, making it well suited to model much of the

- 295 GLOF process chain (Worni et al., 2014). It solves the 2D shallow water equations (SWEs) in combination with sediment transport equations, primarily the Shields parameters and the Meyer-Peter and Müller (MPM) equations (Vetsch et al., 2022). The simulation of hydrodynamic waves in the lake is performed using the **BASEMENT**2D module modeling of BASEMENT based on unstructured grids. The BASEmesh plugin infor QGIS software (QGIS Development Team, 2016) developed by BASEMENT greatly facilitates the generation of mesh. The lake bathymetry data were was produced as a entered into-DEM
- 300 with a spatial resolution of 5 m using ArcGIS Pro software to reflect the topography of Bienong Co's lake basin topography. The triangular irregular network (TIN) within the lake-area was set to a maximum area of 500 m<sup>2</sup> to simulate the generation and propagation of hydrodynamic-displacement waves in the lake effectively and accurately. The input-inflow boundary conditions is are the time series of ice avalanches and or landslides generated by the RAMMS model. In each time period, the The RAMMS model can calculates the sediment volume for each timestep. The time series of ice avalanches or landslides can
- 305 be determined by counting the sediment volumes within the lake boundary in different timesteps. the total amount of sediment, and the inflow rate can be determined by calculating the difference of sediment entering the lake at two time points. The density of Pure-pure rock landslides have been investigated with densities ranging ranges from 1,950 kg m<sup>-3</sup> to 2,200 kg m<sup>-3</sup> (Wang et al., 2017), and most ice-dominated avalanches have densities a density of approximately 1000 kg m<sup>-3</sup>. In this study, the densities of ice avalanches and landslides were density was set as 1,000 kg m<sup>-3</sup>, and the landslide density was set as 2,000 kg m<sup>-3</sup>.
- 310 respectively. Since The BASEMENT model only accepts water as an inflow. Therefore, the densities of ice avalanches and landslides to water are scaled at 1.0 and 2.0 (i.e., 1,000 kg m<sup>-3</sup> of water is equivalent to 1,000 kg m<sup>-3</sup> of ice, and only 500 kg m<sup>-3</sup> of moraine) to accurately describe the momentum transfer of ice avalanches and landslides into the lake. , this difference due to density is considered by expanding the landslide material entry rate by a factor of two (i.e., 1,000 kg m <sup>3</sup>-of water is equivalent to 1,000 kg m<sup>3</sup>-of ice avalanche volume, and only 500 kg m<sup>3</sup>-of landslide material), which is the usual
- approach used in the simulation process (Byers et al., 2018, 2020). 315

It was shown that the 2D SWEs <u>used byin</u> the BASEMENT model inherently leads to excessive wave attenuation. The Heller-Hager model (Heller et al., 2009) is a combination combines of analytical and empirical equations used to simulate impulse wave generation, propagation, and run-up resulting from the mass movement of material entering a lake (Lala et al., 2018). Although the approach relies on simplifying measurements about lake geometry, it has been used to successfully

- 320 simulate multiple real-actual events successfully. and It characterizes performs well in characterizing impulse waves within lakes well, making it a simple, but helpfuluseful, calibration measure for more complex hydrodynamic models (Somos-Valenzuela et al., 2016). The BASEMENT model simulated waves are were usually considered more accurate when they are were inof the same order of magnitude as that of magnitude simulated by theas Heller-Hager model waves, however However, when they are were not, the mass entry rate is was varied by adjusting the inflow hydrograph and boundary width to match the
- 325 amplitude of the initial wave trajectory near the dam of for the Heller-Hager empirical-model near the dam of the initial wave trajectory (Byers et al., 2018; Lala et al., 2018). In this study, we adjusted the wave amplitude near the moraine dam in the BASEMENT model to be close to (difference within 1 m) that calculated by the Heller-Hager model by modifying the width of the inflow boundary. The Heller-Hager model simulates waves in two cases: (a) with longitudinal impacting slide and confined transverse wave propagation; and (b) with the slide impacting across the reservoir and completely free radial wave
- 330 propagation. In present-this study, ice avalanches belong to case (a), and landslides belong to case (b). Compared to case (a), the impulse wave (its amplitude and energy) in case (b) decreases more rapidly because it propagates over a larger area and, and is accompanied by wave refraction and reflection.

#### 3.2.3 Moraine dam erosion simulation

- Overtopping flows are the most common trigger for moraine-dam breaching (Richardson and Reynolds, 2000). The overflow
  initiates dam erosion, leading to greater outflow and increasing hydrodynamic forces that progressively enlarge the breach (Singh, 1996). Abnormally high lake outflow has the potential to destroy the surface protection layer of the outlet streambed and triggers vertical dam erosion. After the initial cut, more lake water will flow out, followed by an increase in sediment transport rate and a gradual widening of the rift. In this study, hydro-morphodynamic simulations of potential erosion-driven breach failures of Bienong Co were carried out by the BASEMENT model The model characterizes sediment transports using the Meyer-Peter and Müller (MPM) equation\_to characterize sediment transport and estimates suspended and nudged
- mass fluxes by calculating the shear stress in the flow through the modified Shields parameter (Vetsch et al., 2022). The overtopping flow leading to erosion of the moraine dam is generated by the wave amplitude of the BASEMENT model calibrated by the Heller Hager model. In the previous step, we adjusted the wave amplitude near the moraine dam in the BASEMENT model to be close to (difference within 1 m) that calculated by the Heller Hager model by modifying the width
- 345 of the upstream boundary. ALOS PALSAR DEM is the base data for tThe mesh generation of the moraine dam\_with the maximum TIN area of 200 m<sup>2</sup> was generated from ALOS PALSAR DEM, having a maximum TIN area of 200 m<sup>2</sup>. We set a cross-section along the crest of the moraine dam (Fig. 2g), where at which the erosion of the moraine dam moraine dam deformation, i.e., erosion and , overtopping, as well as outflow discharges, were analyzed. The BASEMENT model provides both single-grain (MPM) and multi-grain (MPM-multi) algorithms to simulate material transport. The MPM-multi
- 350 <u>algorithmmodel</u> simulates hiding and armoring processes, <u>potentially leading that may lead</u> to unrealistically low\_-levels of erosion (Vetsch et al., 2022). The MPM <u>algorithmmodel</u> ignores these processes, however, which can lead to an overestimation of erosion. In this study, we <u>applied used</u> the MPM-multi <u>algorithmmodel</u> to simulate bed-load transport of the moraine dam, which is composed of materials <u>of with</u> different grain sizes. <u>In addition, a correction factor of 2.0 was used to increase the bed</u> <u>load transport rate. Values between 0.5 (low transport) and 1.7 (high transport) are generally realistic (Wong and Parker, 2006);</u>
- 355 whereas a value of 2.0 provides high sediment transport conditions (Somos-Valenzuela et al., 2016) to compensate for the lower erosion of the MPM-multi algorithm. The specific grain size distribution of Bienong Co's moraine dam was not measured., but-It was instead taken from an inventory of glacial lakes in the Indian Himalayas (Worni et al., 2013) that had

performed well in recreating previous GLOFs in Nepal (Byers et al., 2020). Despite uncertainty in the actual grain size distribution, a similar GLOF modeling study in the Barun Valley (Byers et al., 2018) found little difference in simulated

- 360 moraine erosion between the grain size distributions listed in Worni et al. (2013). The moraine dam of Bienong Co consists of a-large grains cover with a thickness of approximately 0.5 m at the top and fine-small grains underneath, which is elearly visible on the side walls of the channel scoured by water (Fig. 2e). We set two soil layers in the BASEMENT model to represent the above situation. The upper layer with the large largest particle grain size ( $d_{50} = 180$  mm) in the upper layer with has a depth of 0.5 m; , and the lower layer with the grain size distribution same as Worni et al. (2013) of the lower layer with has a depth
- 365 of 71.5 m (considering the mean height of moraine dam of 72 m)., are consistent with Worni et al. (2013). Finally, a correction factor of 2.0 was used in the model to increase the rate of bed load transport. Values between 0.5 (low transport) and 1.7 (high transport) are generally realistic (Wong and Parker, 2006); whereas a value of 2.0 provides high sediment transport conditions (Somos Valenzuela et al., 2016) to compensate for the lower erosion of the MPM multi model.

#### 3.2.4 Downstream impact analysis

- The flow channel from Bienong Co to the convergence with Song Qu stretches ~53 km (Fig. 1d), along which 18 settlements, 13 bridges, and the Jiazhong Highway are distributed. In tThis study used; the BASEMENT model was used to simulate the hydrodynamic behavior of potential GLOFs along the flow channel<sub>27</sub> and tWe assessed the hazard of floods GLOFs was assessed by analyzing the inundation areaextent and depth, flow velocity, and flood arrival time at these settlements. The BASEMENT 2D modulemodel for an unsteady hydraulic simulation requires inputs of terrain data and boundary conditions.
  The terrain data were was represented by a 2D mesh covering the entire flow areachannel, which was obtained from ALOS PALSAR DEM. The mesh was also generated by the BASEmesh plugin of QGIS software, and the maximum TIN individual cell-areas for of the main flow channel and other regions were set to as 500 m<sup>2</sup> and 5,000 m<sup>2</sup>, respectively, eonsidering for the accuracy requirements of the simulation and the computational efficiency of the model. The fFriction of the a river flow channel to a given flow was determined by the Manning's roughness coefficient (Coon, 1998), which is dependent on the land use and land cover of the modeling river channel in the study area. In this study, the GLC10 LULC product (http://data.ess.tsinghua.edu.cn/fromglc10\_2017v01.html) with a spatial resolution of 10 m was used to obtain the value of
- Manning's N in the flow channel. The <u>upstream-inflow</u> boundary is the outflow hydrograph from the <u>lake</u>.moraine dam simulated by the BASEMENT model. The <u>downstream outflow</u> boundary is the water level-discharge relationship of the cross-section in the downstream <u>boundary of the simulation area</u>, and was estimated by the critical depth method (Byers et al., 2018).

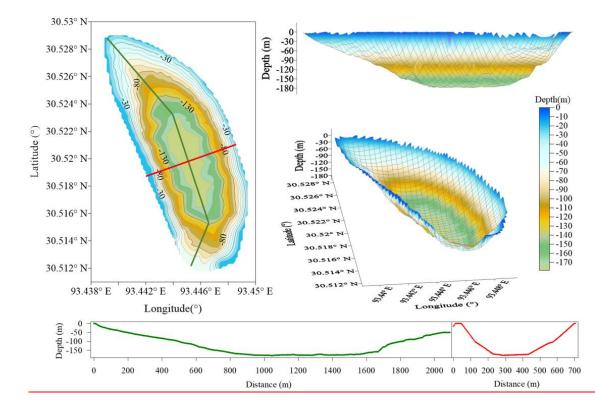
#### 385 4 Results

#### 4.1 Morphology and lake volume estimation of Bienong Co

The basin morphology of Bienong Co was modeled based on the TIN grid created by the field bathymetry depth data (Fig. 3). As shown in Fig. 4, Apparently, tthise lake has a relatively flat basin bottom, and steep both flanks are deep (Fig. 4). The slope of the lake shore near the glacier is steeper than that near the moraine dam, which is Similar similar to most moraine-dammed glacial lakes (Yao et al., 2012; Zhou et al., 2020), the slope of the lake shores near the glacier is steeper than that near the moraine dam. The water depth profile from the moraine dam to the mother glacier shows that the lake's depth of the lake reaches a maximum of ~181 m at approximately 1,000 m from the moraine dam, corresponding to a slope of 11.3°. The depth remains stable at the distance of 1,000 m to 1,500 m from the moraine dam.<sup>57</sup> and tThe distance from the Mulang Glacier to the deepest point of the lake is 600 m with a slope of 16.5°. A depth profile facing the moraine dam from the left bank to the right

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bank shows that the left side is steeper than the right side. The glacial lake reaches its deepest point at 200 m from the left shore with a slope of 43.4°, then remains flat to 430 m, and the distance between the bottom and <u>the</u> right shore is 273 m with a slope of 32°. The volume of Bienong Co<del>, calculated using the surface elevation and the lake bed derived from the TIN grid,</del> was approximately 102.3×10<sup>6</sup> m<sup>3</sup> in 2020<del>, which is a generally accurate estimate of the magnitude of this moraine dammed lake</del>.



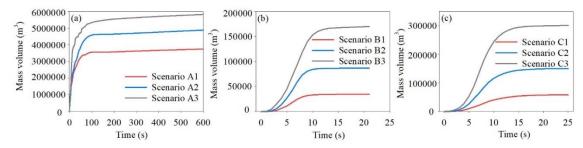
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**Figure 4**. Morphology modeling of Bienong Co in 2020, and equal-scale profiles of distance and depth from the moraine dam to the Mulang Glacier (green line) and from the left shore to right shore (red line).

# 4.2 Potential GLOFs modeling

# 4.2.1 Ice avalanches and lateral moraine landslides

As calculated by RAMMS, the volumes of ice avalanches entering Bienong Co for Scenarios A1, A2, and A3 are 3.8 × 10<sup>6</sup> m<sup>3</sup>, 4.9 × 10<sup>6</sup> m<sup>3</sup>, and 5.8 × 10<sup>6</sup> m<sup>3</sup> (Fig. 5a), respectively. Most of the materials ice body enter the lake within approximately 120 s. Based on the area of ~1.15 km<sup>2</sup> in 2021, the above three scenarios could result in a rise of approximately 3.3 m, 4.2 m, and 5.1 m in the lake surface, respectively. Material-The volumes of landslides entering the lake by both landslides-are much smaller than those of the-ice avalanches (Fig. 5b and c). In Scenarios B1, B2, and B3 and C1, C2, and C3, dump-the volumes of moraines entering the lake are 0.03 × 10<sup>6</sup> m<sup>3</sup>, 0.09 × 10<sup>6</sup> m<sup>3</sup>, and 0.17 × 10<sup>6</sup> m<sup>3</sup>, and 0.06 × 10<sup>6</sup> m<sup>3</sup>, 0.15 × 10<sup>6</sup> m<sup>3</sup>, and 0.30 × 10<sup>6</sup> m<sup>3</sup> of mass volume into the lake, respectively. It takes less time for the moraines to enter the lake, The time for materials entering the lake is less than in Scenario A, with Scenarios B<u>1-3</u> being completed in approximately 10 s and Scenarios C<u>1-3</u> in approximately 15 s.



415 Figure 5. Volume of material entering Bienong Co for different (a) ice avalanche scenarios and (b) and (c) landslide scenarios.

The impact area-zones caused by material-mass entering the lake differs for different scenarios. They are 0.27 km<sup>2</sup>, 0.31 km<sup>2</sup>, and 0.38 km<sup>2</sup> impact zones caused by for Scenarios A1, A2, and A3 are 0.27 km<sup>2</sup>, 0.31 km<sup>2</sup>, and 0.38 km<sup>2</sup>, with horizontal distances of 549 m, 629 m, and 752 m from the upper-inflow boundary, respectively (Fig. 6). In contrast, each of these three scenarios for Scenarios B and C result in a the relatively small impact zones, with Scenario C3 being the largest at of 0.14 km<sup>2</sup> and Scenario B1 being the smallest at of 0.04 km<sup>2</sup>. Scenarios A1, A2, and A3 produce the maximum flow heights of 39.5 m, 46.2 m, and 53.5 m, and the average flow heights of 12.2 m, 14.6 m, and 12.3 m in the impact areazones, respectively. The maximum and the average flow height of Scenarios B1, B2, and B3 range from Scenarios B1, B2, and B3 is 6.8 m -to 14.6 m and, and the average flow height range is from 1.8 m to -3.5 m, respectively. The ranges of the maximum and average flow height are 5.7 - 29.2 m and 2.0 - 4.7 m, respectively (Fig. 6). The maximum flow velocities of 11.1 m/s, 12.3 m/s, and 16.8 m/s, respectively. The maximum and average flow velocities of 11.1 m/s, 12.3 m/s, and 16.8 m/s, respectively. The maximum and average flow velocities of 11.1 m/s, 12.3 m/s, and 16.8 m/s, respectively. The maximum and average flow velocities of 11.2 m/s, respectively (Fig. 6).

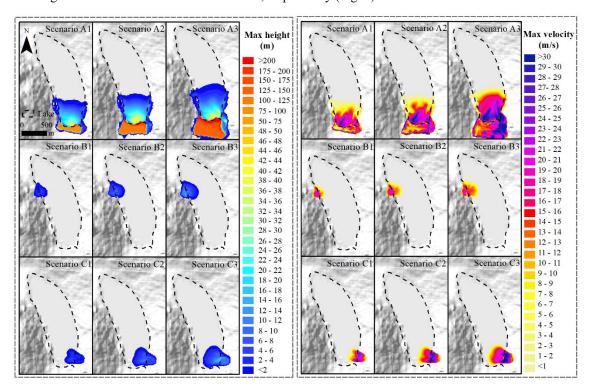


Figure 6. Maximum flow height (left) and maximum flow velocity (right) for different ice avalanches and landslides scenarios.

# 430 **4.2.2** Generation and propagation of displacement waves

By counting material the mass volumes of ice avalanches and landslides entering Bienong Co inat different timesteps periods based on the RAMMS model, we derived the time series of the material mass entering rate, as shown in Fig. 7. Compared to Scenarios A2 and A3, Scenario A1 has the highest peak flow rate of 439,952.57 m<sup>3</sup>/s,-; but however, it decreases rapidly after reaching the peak within 2 s of the ice avalanche, i.e., the ice avalanche occurs in a moment. Scenarios A2 and A3 exhibit

- 435 <u>apparentobvious</u> fluctuations in the process of ice avalanches <u>into-entering</u> the lake, with sub-peaks <u>in both scenarios that are</u> comparable to the <u>first-peaks</u>, after which the flow rates still possess strong fluctuations. The peak and sub-peak flow rates of Scenarios A2 and A3 are 263,922 m<sup>3</sup>/s and 238,086 m<sup>3</sup>/s as well as 386,359 m<sup>3</sup>/s and 373,449 m<sup>3</sup>/s, respectively, both occurring at the 2nd and 8th seconds of the ice avalanches. <u>Scenarios A2 and A3 have the larger volumes of ice avalanches and the further</u> transfer distances than Scenario A1, leading to a more complex process of ice bodies entering the lake. <u>This is because the ice</u>
- 440 avalanches of Scenarios A2 and A3 are further away from the lake than Scenario A1, and total volumes of ice avalanches are larger than Scenario A1, and thus they undergo a more complex process when they enter the lake. The process of landslide moraines entering the lake is simpler in Scenarios B and C. The peak flows increase sequentially from Scenarios B1 and C1,

B2 and C2, to B3 and C3, with peak The values of Scenarios B3 and C3 of are 50,849 m<sup>3</sup>/s and 92,529 m<sup>3</sup>/s for Scenarios B3 and C3, respectively. which are The peak flow for Scenario B3 is approximately 3.8 times and 6.5 times that of Scenarios B1, and that of Scenario C3 is 6.5 times that of Scenario C1, respectively. The peak flows for the six scenarios of Scenarios B and C occur in the range of 6 - 8 s seconds (Fig. 7).

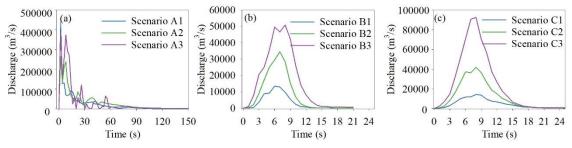


Figure 7. Time series of material entry into the lake for different ice avalanche and landslide scenarios.

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The time-volume relationships of materials-mass entering a lake have-has an important effects on the generation and 450 propagation of displacement waves in the a lake. Ice avalanche scenarios (A1, A2, and A3) have a much greater impact on Bienong Co than the two-landslide scenarios (B1, B2, B3, C1, C2, and C3) because the assumed-release volumes of ice avalanches is are much greater than that of landslides. The wave height near the moraine dam is the result of the BASEMENT model calibrated by the Heller Hager model. By adjusting the inflow boundary's width, we made the BASEMENT model produce wave amplitudes near the dam with a difference smaller than 1 m of those calculated by the Heller Hager model, 455 which is important for subsequent simulations, although the maximum wave amplitude in the lake is exaggerated. In Scenario A, displacement waves propagate straight from the glacier to the moraine dam, and arrive arriving at the vicinity of the moraine dam at approximately 70 s. Scenarios A1, A2, and A3 produce the highest wave amplitudes in the lake of 35.2 m, 39.0 m, and 66.4 m, respectively, and the wave amplitudes near the moraine dam of are 17.1 m (72 s), 20.2 m (74 s), and 25.2 m (72 s), respectively (Fig. 8). Compared with Scenario A, the wave amplitudes of Scenarios B and C are markedly lower. In Scenario B, a-the landslides occurs at the left shore of Bienong Co near the moraine dam (Fig. 2c). The Displacement displacement 460 waves first propagate to the opposite shore in a perpendicular direction to the inflow boundary, and then they propagate to the moraine dam with the expansion. The maximum wave amplitudes in Bienong Co of Scenarios B1, B2, and B3 are 6.5 m, 14.1 m, and 18.0 m, respectively, and the wave amplitudes near the moraine dam are 1.2 m, 3.0 m, and 5.3 m, respectively (Fig. 8). The landslides in Scenario C occurs on at the right bank-shore of Bienong Co near the Mulang glacier Glacier. - The displacement waves propagate in a the same manner way as that in Scenario B, in which waves propagate to the opposite bank 465 shore first after morainesaterials enter the lake, with the maximum wave amplitudes of 4.8 m, 9.6 m, and 24.7 m for Scenarios C1, C2, and C3, respectively. Unlike Scenario B, displacement waves in Scenario C cross the entire lake, reaching the moraine dam with wave amplitudes of 0.6 m, 2.2 m, and 4.9 m near the moraine dam, respectively (Fig. 8). Therefore, although the volumes of landslides volume of in Scenario C is are larger than that those in of Scenario B, the wave amplitudes near the 470 moraine dam are smaller than those of in Scenario B.

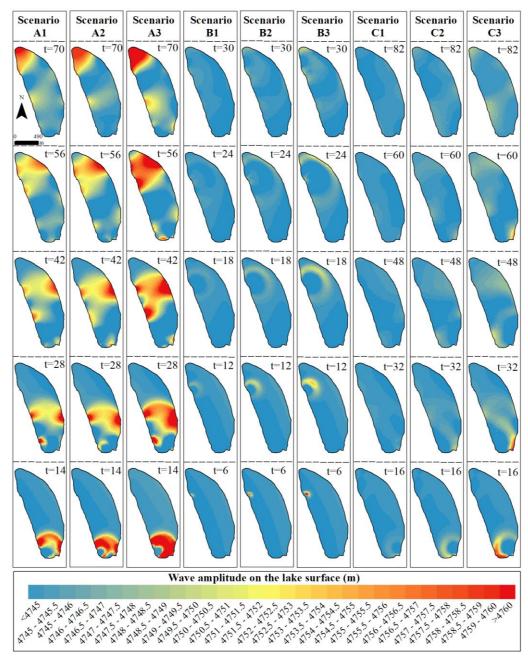
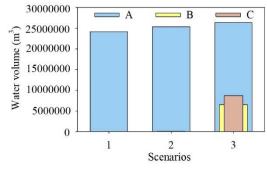


Figure 8. Propagation of displacement waves in the lake for different ice avalanches and landslide scenarios.

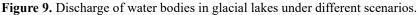
# 4.2.3 Overtopping flow and erosion on the moraine dam

Since the freeboard of the moraine dam is 0 m, the occurrence of overtopping flow-is inevitable in all scenarios, but there are differences in magnitude. In Scenarios A1, A2, and A3, the moraine dam is eroded by enormous discharges, forming a breach. The peak discharges at the breaches of the moraine dam are 4,996 m<sup>3</sup>/s, 7,817 m<sup>3</sup>/s, and 13,078 m<sup>3</sup>/s, corresponding to a total released volume of 24.1×10<sup>6</sup> m<sup>3</sup>, 25.3×10<sup>6</sup> m<sup>3</sup>, and 26.4×10<sup>6</sup> m, respectively (Fig. 9). The Discharges discharges at the moraine dam stabilize after ice avalanches enter Bienong Co at approximately 18,000 s, 10,800 s, and 7,200 s, respectively. Therefore, the erosion of the moraine dam and the total volume of water lost in from the lake were counted based on the above time points.
The moraine dam is eroded by enormous discharge output in Scenarios A1, A2, and A3, forming breaches. Due to the similar volume of water released waterin Scenarios A1-3, the depth of the breach is are similar, slightly different for Scenarios A1, A2, and A3, which are approximately 19.0 m, 19.1 m, and 19.3 m, respectively (Fig. 10). MoreoverHowever, the peak discharges is quite different for the three scenarios, resulting in different breach widths of 295.0 m, 339.4 m, and 368.5 m, respectively. Scenarios B1, B2, and B3 and C1, C2, and C3 resulted in overtopping flows of 0.6 × 10<sup>6</sup> m<sup>3</sup>, 1 × 10<sup>6</sup> m<sup>3</sup>, and 2.6

 $\times 10^6$  m<sup>3</sup>, and  $0.1 \times 10^6$  m<sup>3</sup>,  $0.9 \times 10^6$  m<sup>3</sup>, and  $3.4 \times 10^6$  m<sup>3</sup>, respectively, in which only Scenarios B3 and C3 cause erosion of the moraine dam and form a breach. In Scenarios B3 and C3, the dDischarges at the breach become stable beginning atafter 18,000 s following of landslide moraines aterial entry into the lake in Scenarios B3 and C3<sub>2</sub>. The peak discharges are 504 m<sup>3</sup>/s and 733 m<sup>3</sup>/s, with breach depths of 6.5 m and 7.9 m, and breach widths are of 153 m and 169 m with peak discharges of 504 m<sup>3</sup>/s and 733 m<sup>3</sup>/s, respectively.



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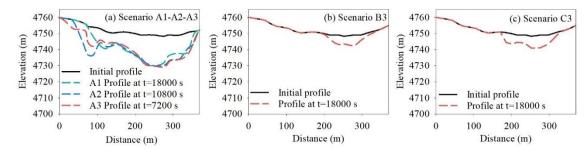


Figure 10. Erosion of the moraine dam under different conditions at the cross-section in Fig. 2g.

# 4.2.4 GLOFs impact in the downstream region

- The hydraulic behavior of GLOFs in the flow channel <u>from immediately downstream of the</u> moraine dam to the convergence with Song Qu with the distance of (~53 km) was simulated using the BASEMENT model. <u>The small baseflows in the flow channel baseflows in the flow channel, they were neglected in the simulation.</u> Considering the <u>differences betweenpropagation of floods in different scenarios</u>, we <u>evaluated assessed</u> the propagation of GLOFs in the downstream channel within 20 h from ice avalanche and landslide materials entry into the lake.
  The <u>Peak-peak discharges at the breach of Scenarios A1, A2, and A3 at the breach are 4,996 m<sup>3</sup>/s, 7,817 m<sup>3</sup>/s, and 13,078 m<sup>3</sup>/s,</u>
- respectively, outlet of Scenarios A1, A2, and A3 all occur<u>ring</u> approximately 600 s after the ice <u>bodies</u>avalanche material enters the lake<u>, and they are 4,996 m<sup>3</sup>/s, 7,817 m<sup>3</sup>/s, and 13,078 m<sup>3</sup>/s, respectively, based on which GLOFs of the three scenarios</u> floods all pass through 18 settlements in the downstream <del>river flow channel</del> in 20 h<u>, with the The inundation</u> areas of <u>Scenarios</u> <u>A1, A2, and A3 are</u> 7.6 km<sup>2</sup>, 8.0 km<sup>2</sup>, and 8.5 km<sup>2</sup>, <u>respectively, with as well as the</u> average water depths of 8.4 m, 9.1 m, and
- 505 10.0 m, respectively (Fig. 11). Scenarios B1 and C1 only result in small overtopping flows, with peak discharges of 106 m<sup>3</sup>/s (after 40 s) and 12 m<sup>3</sup>/s (after 50 s), respectively. have a small volume of overtopping flow from the lake (peak discharges of 106 m<sup>3</sup>/s (after 40 s) and 12 m<sup>3</sup>/s (after 50 s)), and fail to generate runoff downstream of the dam. Scenarios B2 and C2 produce very-limited overtopping flows with peak discharges of 177 m<sup>3</sup>/s (after 240 s) and 186 m<sup>3</sup>/s (after 480 s), respectively, and outflows remain only within approximately 1 km downstream of the moraine dam. Peak discharges at the breach-outlet of
- 510 Scenarios B3 and C3 are 504 m<sup>3</sup>/s (after 240 s) and 733 m<sup>3</sup>/s (after 480 s), yielding inundation areas of 1.7 km<sup>2</sup> and 2.2 km<sup>2</sup> with average water depths of 1.9 m and 2.4 m in the downstream region, respectively. Both GLOFs pass through the first eight settlements, but the flood of Scenario C3 flows farther (Fig. 11). Among-In the nine scenarios-that we considered, only Scenarios A1, A2, A3, B3, and C3 result in caused GLOFs propagation-propagating in the downstream region-flow channel overwith a far considerable distance; in which Scenario A3 had has the largest largest flood magnitude, whereas and Scenario

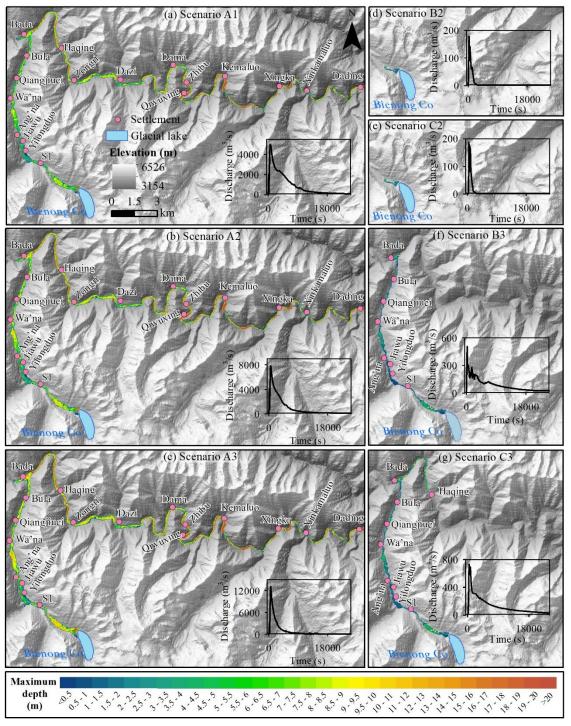


Figure 11. Propagation of flood water downstream and the time series of discharge at the breach outlet (inset) for different scenarios.

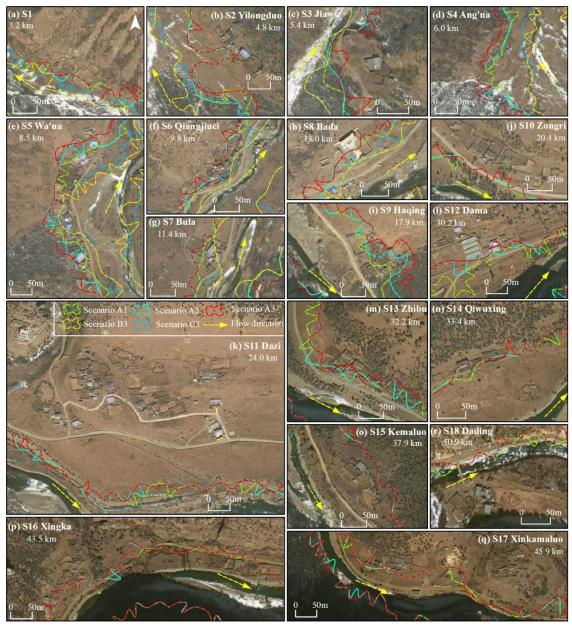
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GLOFs of different magnitudes pose different potential hazards to each settlements along the flow channel. Scenario A3 produces the most severe threat of GLOF to the downstream region. Six settlements are entirely submerged by flooding, including Ang'na Ang'na, Wa'na, Haqing, Kemaluo, Xinka, and Dading., will be completely submerged by flooding. Kemaluo village, located 37.9 km downstream of Bienong Co, will-experiences the relatively-largest maximum flow depth of 19.8 m, and the village of Ang'naAng'na, having a distance of 6.0 km from Bienong Co, will experiences the relatively smallest maximum flow depth of 6.1 m. Wa'na is the village is the most affected of all of the villages by GLOFs due to the largest 525 flooded area. most flooded houses. Eight settlements are partially flooded, including S1, Qiangjiuci, Bula, Bada, Dama, Zhibu, Qiwuxing, Xingka, and Xinkamaluo. The maximum flow depth in Bada village is the largest (11.0 m) The maximum flow depth of 11.0 m; in Bada village is the largest, and that in Dama village and Zhibu village is the smallest (7.2 m)that of 7.2 m in both Dama and Zhibu villages is the smallest. Four settlements, Yilongduo, Jiawu, Zongri, and Dazi, are spared from floods, in Among them, which Yilongduo village may be slightly affected, while Dazi is the safest village due to its far distance from

- 530 the river. Flooding The GLOF in of Scenario A2 has a relatively small minor impact on downstream villages compared to that of that of Scenario A3, withshowing the reduced extent of inundation extent and flow depth. The flooding extents in Ang'na and Haqing villages have a reduction have been reduced. However, The villages of Wa'na, Kemaluo, Xinka, and Dading are will still be completely entirely flooded, however, but the maximum flow depths is are decreased reduced from 16.5 m,
- 19.8 m, 12.5 m, and 17.5 m, to 13.6 m, 19.3 m, 12.0 m, and 16.6 m, respectively. For tThe nine villages that are partially
  affected inby Scenario A2A3, they are still affected by flooding of Scenario A2 except for Dama village, but the impact magnitude of flooding is diminished. Scenario A1 differs from Scenario A3 in that the villages of Dama and Xingkamaluo villages were are spared from the flooding, while and other villages experienced significant greatly reduced tions in flooding extent and inundation depth. The GLOFs of Scenarios B3 and C3 have a significantly minor impact in on the downstream flow channel than Scenarios A1, A2, and A3. Only Wa'na Wa'na, Qiangjiuci, and Bula villages will beare partially affected, with the maximum flow depths of 3.1 m, 1.9 m, and 2.0 m in Scenario B3 and 4.0 m, 2.4 m, and 2.7 m in Scenario C3, respectively
- (Fig. 12). The total areas of houses, courtyards, and farmlands (around settlement) affected by Scenarios A1, A2, A3, B3, and C3 were-<u>are estimated to be-</u>23,984 m<sup>2</sup>, 32,076 m<sup>2</sup>, 41,038 m<sup>2</sup>, 3,820 m<sup>2</sup>, and 3,918 m<sup>2</sup>, respectively. In Scenarios A1, A2, <u>and</u> A3, all 13 bridges and <u>approximately 35 km of roads (including the Jiazhong Highway) with a length of approximately 35 km are within the flood zones. and In Scenarios B3 and C3, there are four bridges as well as and approximately 3.6 km and 6.7</u>
- 545 <u>km of roads with a length of approximately 3.6 km and 6.7 km withare in the flood zones. Here we only assess the potential impact of floods GLOFs on these man madeartificial structures, but the concrete impact magnitude of the impact is beyond the scope of this study.</u>

<u>The pP</u>eak discharges and <u>velocity velocities</u> of GLOFs <u>gradually decrease</u> in these villages from upstream to <u>downstream experience a gradually decreasing process</u>, <u>Meanwhile</u>, <u>while</u> the arrival times of peak discharges is are prolonged,

- 550 favoring the evacuation of residents in the downstream area. <u>The Peak-peak</u> discharges <u>atin</u> S1, Yilongduo, Jiawu, and Ang'na villages are similar for each scenario, <u>they are</u> ~4,000 m<sup>3</sup>/s <u>inof</u> Scenario A1, ~6,000 m<sup>3</sup>/s <u>inof</u> Scenario A2, and ~10,000 m<sup>3</sup>/s <u>inof</u> Scenario A3. <u>Wa'na</u>, Qiangjiuci, and Bula villages have similar peak discharges, which are ~3,800 m<sup>3</sup>/s, ~5,000 m<sup>3</sup>/s, and ~8,000 m<sup>3</sup>/s for Scenarios A1, A2, and A3, respectively. <u>Beginning withFrom</u> Bula village, <u>the</u> peak discharges of <u>each scenario</u>-decrease significantly towards the downstream. Taking Scenario A3 as an example, <u>at Bula village</u>, the peak
- 555 discharge is 7,512 m<sup>3</sup>/s at Bula village; then it is gradually less than 6,000 m<sup>3</sup>/s, 4,000 m<sup>3</sup>/s, 3,000 m<sup>3</sup>/s, and 1,000 m<sup>3</sup>/s from at-Haqing village, Dama village, Qiwuxing village to Xinka village village, it becomes smaller than 6,000 m<sup>3</sup>/s, at Dama village, it drops below 4,000 m<sup>3</sup>/s, at Qiwuxing village it drops below 3,000 m<sup>3</sup>/s, and at Xinka village it decreases to below 1,000 m<sup>3</sup>/s (Fig. 13). The flood flow velocity velocities of GLOFs varies vary dramatically from upstream to downstream. At village S1, the maximum velocities of with Scenarios A1, A2, and A3 are corresponding to maximum velocities of 8.9 m/s, 12.2
- 560 m/s, and 14.9 m/s, respectively, at village S1. At Dading village, the maximum flow velocity velocities of GLOFs in Scenarios A1, A2, and A3 are allis approximately 2m/s.



**Figure 12.** The potential threat of GLOFs to settlements and roads downstream under different ice avalanche and landslide scenarios (the background is the MapWorld image).

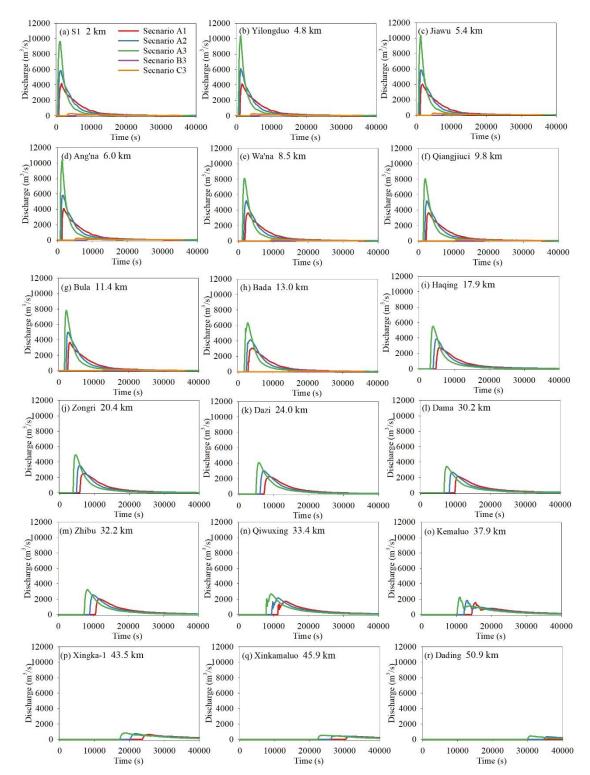
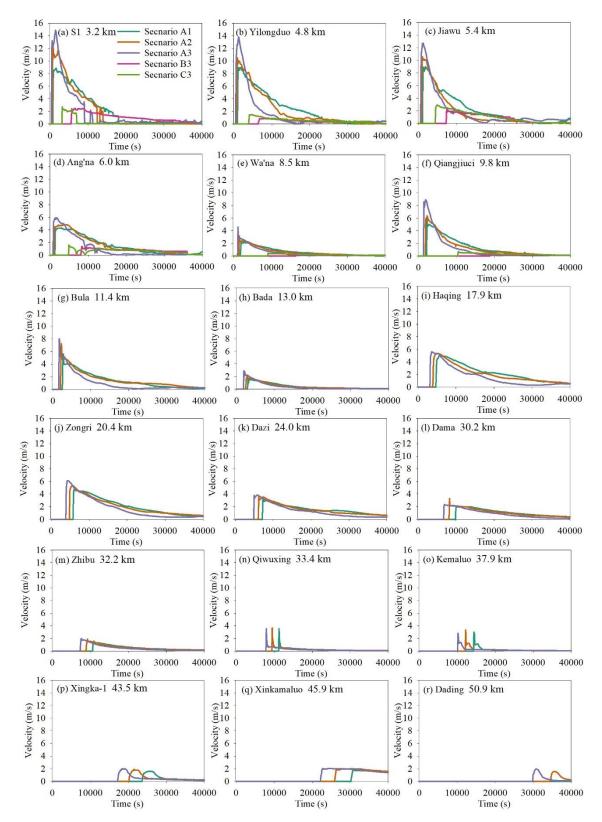


Figure 13. Time series of discharge at different settlements along the flow channel (locations in Fig. 1) of different scenarios.



570 Figure 14. Time series of velocity at different settlements along the flow channel (locations in Fig.1) of different scenarios.

#### 5.1 Lake volume of Bienong Co

Based on the accurate bathymetric-bathymetry results data of the from USV, we found obtained that the maximum and average depth of Bienong Co were as 181 m and 85.4 m in August 2020, respectively, with the a lake volume of  $102.3 \times 10^6$  m<sup>3</sup>. in 575 August 2020. Considering the rarity of bathymetric bathymetry data but the frequent occurrence of GLOFs in the Yi'ong Zangbo basin region, we attempted to obtain explore more information about glacial lakes in the region by usingfrom the bathymetry data and lake volume of Bienong Co. First, relationships with significant correlations for area-volume, area-depth, and depth-volume of Bienong Co were established (Fig. 15), and iI is hoped that this information could provide a valuable data-reference for future studies of Bienong Co and other glacial lakes in the region. Then, we compared the depth and lake 580 volume information of Bienong Co with other glacial lakes that have been measured. At present, Bathymetry data are currently available for a small number of there are few glacial lakes with measured bathymetry on the Tibetan Plateau, and they which are mainly concentrated in the Himalayas of Nepal and the Poiqu basin Basin Of Tibet, China. Longbasaba is a n end-morainedammed glacial lake located at the northern slope of the Himalayas, which had an area of  $1.22 \pm 0.02$  km<sup>2</sup> in 2009, with an average and maximum depths of  $48 \pm 2$  m and  $102 \pm 2$  m, respectively, and a volume of  $64 \times 10^6$  m<sup>3</sup> (Yao et al., 2012). 585 Although the area of Longbasaba is approximately 6% larger than that of Bienong Co, the lake-volume is only 60% of that of Bienong Co. This example shows that a glacial lake in the temperate glaciation zone is significantly larger in volume than a similarly sized glacial lake in the continental glaciation zone. However, due to the lack of measured bathymetric data of glacial lakes in the continental glaciation zone, no more comparisons can be made. We compared the depth and lake volume of Bienong Co with other glacial lakes in the temperate glaciation zone. The area of Lugge glacial lake in Bhutan had was an area 590 of approximately 1.17 km<sup>2</sup> in 2004, corresponding to the maximum and average depth of 49.8 m and 126 m, respectively, and an volume of 58×10<sup>6</sup> m<sup>3</sup> (Yamada, 2004). in 2004, which The area of Lugge glacial lake is slightly larger than that of Bienong Co,-\_but theits average-depth and maximum depth were 49.8 m and 126 m, respectively, with a lake volume of 58×10<sup>6</sup> m<sup>3</sup> (Yamada, 2004), which wasis smaller than the corresponding values of Bienong Co. At the time of bathymetry, both South Lhonak lake in India and Imja glacial lake in Nepal had an area of approximately 1.3 km<sup>2</sup>, which is approximately 13% larger 595 than that of Bienong Co, but both lakes have 64% and 76% of Bienong Co's volume, respectively (Sharma et al., 2018; Haritashya et al., 2018). Areas of Raphsthren glacial lake in Bhuhtan and Tsho Rolpa glacial lake in Nepal were 1.4 km<sup>2</sup> and 1.5 km<sup>2</sup> when bathymetries were carried out (Geological Survey of India, 1995; ICIMOD, 2011), which are 22% and 30% larger than that of Bienong Co, but their lake volumes is are 65% and 84% of that of Bienong Co, respectively (Geological Survey of India, 1995; ICIMOD, 2011). The area of Lower Barun glacial lake in Nepal was 1.8 km<sup>2</sup> when it was measured (Haritashya et al., 2018), which is 57% larger than that of Bienong Co., but However, the lake-volume was  $(112 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3)_{\tau}$ 600 which is only 9% larger than that of Bienong Co-(Haritashya et al., 2018), showing that Bienong Co is deeper form a same area.and has larger volume.

Additionally, due to the scarcity of glacial lake bathymetry data and <u>itstheir importance-significance</u> for <u>glacial lake</u> <u>GLOF</u>-hazard<u>studies</u>s, scholars have proposed relationships to estimate <u>volumes of glacial lakes volumes</u> through by area, width, and length (<u>O'Connor-O'Connor</u> et al., 2001; Huggel et al., 2002; Sakai, 2012; Wang et al., 2012a; Yao <u>er et</u> al., 2012, Cook and Quincey, 2015; Qi et al., 2022). We estimate the lake volume of Bienong Co using published <u>relationshipsequations</u> based on glacial lakes on the Tibetan Plateau,-<u>. and t</u>The results show that the eight published volume-area/width-length relationships all underestimate the volume of Bienong Co to varying degrees. It can be inferred that Bienong Co is the <u>relative</u> deepest glacial lake <u>in a same surface area among the glacial lakes with bathymetry data on the Tibetan Plateau</u>.among these on the Tibetan Plateau that currently have been measured. Whether this is unique to Bienong Co or a common feature of glacial lakes in the region is not yet known, as few glacial lakes in this region have field bathymetry. Future bathymetry is necessary

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for more typical glacial lakes in the region.

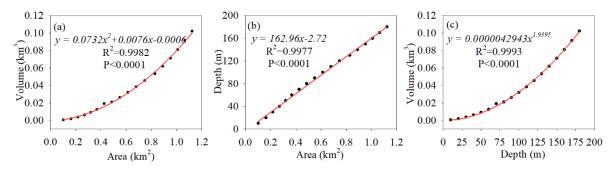


Figure 15. Fitting relationship of (a) area and volume, (b) area and depth and (c) depth and volume of Bienong Co.

615 Table 1. Calculated volumes of Bienong Co based on published volume-area relationships for glacial lakes in the Tibetan Plateau.

No	Source		Relationships	Calculated Volume	Error (%)
1	Qi et al., (2022)	(1)	$V\!\!=\!\!0.04066A^{1.184}\!\!-\!0.003207w_{mx}/l_{mx}$	$46.9 \times 10^{6} \text{ m}^{3}$	-54%
2		(2)	V=0.0126A <sup>2</sup> +0.0056A+0.0132	$36.3\times10^6m^3$	-65%
3	Wang et al., (2012)		V=0.0354A <sup>1.3724</sup>	$42.9\times 10^6\ m^3$	-58%
4	Sakai (2012)		V=0.04324A <sup>1.5307</sup>	$53.6\times 10^6\ m^3$	-48%
5	Yao et al., (2012)		V=0.0493A <sup>0.9304</sup>	$56.1\times 10^6\ m^3$	-45%
6	Fujita et al., (2013)		$V = 0.055 A^{1.25}$	$65.5\times10^6\ m^3$	-36%
7	Khanal et al., (2015)		$V = 0.0578 A^{1.5}$	$71.3  imes 10^6 \text{ m}^3$	-30%
8	Zhou et al., (2020)		$V{=}0.0717 \; w_{mx}{}^2 l_{mx}$	$70.3  imes 10^6  \text{m}^3$	-31%

Note: Error = (volume of empirical formulas – bathymetrically-derived volume) / bathymetrically-derived volume  $\times$  100%.

# 5.2 Modelling explanation

The GLOF process chain simulated in this study starts with triggers, including ice avalanches from the mother glacier and landslides from the lateral moraines. Other triggers are not considered, such as increased glacial meltwater and heavy 620 precipitation. Triggers are the beginning of the simulated GLOFs process chain in this study, and we only consider ice avalanche and landslide scenarios, instead of other factors, such as increased glacial meltwater and heavy precipitation. The magnitude, location, and probability of ice avalanches and landslides constitute are the this study's largest-most significant uncertainty sources of uncertainty in this study. Ice avalanches are the triggered for over more than 70% of GLOFs on the Tibetan Plateau, but there is no reliable reference data for on the magnitude, including the release area and depth, of from 625 previous ice avalanche events are scarce. Ice avalanches in this study come from the mother glacier tongue, where the slope is relatively steep and the fissures are well-developed. We simulated three different-magnitude ice avalanches, and each scenario assumes that the ice body breaks off in the vertical direction until it reaches the lake surface, which is unrealistic and may overestimate the volume of the ice avalanche. The RAMMS model can estimate the possible release volume based on the input 630 DEM data, and the release area and - as well as the release depth., with tThe estimated released volume of Scenarios A1, A2, and A3 is  $5 \times 10^6$  m<sup>3</sup>,  $13.1 \times 10^6$  m<sup>3</sup>, and  $41.3 \times 10^6$  m<sup>3</sup> for Scenarios A1, A2, and A3, respectively. However, simulations show that approximately 76% ( $3.8 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3$ ), 37% ( $4.9 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3$ ), and 14% ( $5.8 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3$ ) of the estimated release volume enter the lake in Scenarios A1, A2, and A3, respectively. The simulation duration is set to 600 s to ensure the integrity of the ice avalanche process, with most of the ice body and most of the ice avalanche has already entered entering the lake within the first 100 s. 635 The difference between the volume of the ice avalanche entering the lake and the estimated release volume is mainly determined by the slope and distance between the released ice bodysources and the lake and the distance from the lake. In

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Scenarios A2 and A3, the ice body entering the lake accounts for little of the estimated release volume due to a gentler slope and far distance between the released source and the lake. The gentler slope and far distance from the lake of the ice body in Scenarios A2 and A3 result in fewer ice avalanches entering the glacial lake, and The ice avalanche affect the process of ice avalanche material entering the lake is also affected, e.g., for example, Scenarios A2 and A3 fluctuated more dramatically have stronger fluctuations in the ice avalanche process than Scenario A1. In addition, we also consider landslides are determined as a trigger, given the failure of Jinwu Co in 2020. We selected Two-tworelease areas release areas were selected by referring to the slope and location of Jinwu Co's landslide. However, the release depth has no specifically quantified reference, data and we-We assumed three release depths of 2 m, 5 m, and 10 m for each release area area for the to simulate multiple scenarios the consequences resulting from as many scenarios as possible.

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In this study, A a reliable simulation of potentially future disaster-causing events, such as ice avalanches or landslides, in the future using scientific methods can assist people in understanding the possible risks and raise prevention awareness. However, accurate prediction is generally difficult due to limited geological information and details of triggering mechanisms such as extreme rainfall event. In this study, the RAMMS model was used to simulate the movements estimate the 650 consequences of potential ice avalanches and landslides events. The accuracy and resolution of DEM data is crucial for the calculation of this the model, calculations, which can significantly greatly affect the paths, precision, and processes of mass movements topography and the avalanche and landslide pathways, and is concerned with the accurate reflection of the process of an ice avalanche event (Schneider et al., 2010). The accuracy of DEM is mainly related to two aspects. One is The issue of DEM accuracy in glacial environments is mainly due to the topographic changes of the glacial environment that occurs in the 655 period between the times of the DEM data acquisition and the avalanche event. The other is the spatial resolution of DEM, with lower resolution one can lead to an overestimation of sediment area and an underestimation of sediment thickness (Cesca and D'Agostino, 2008). The ALOS PALSAR DEM data product-used in this study was released globally in October 2014, with a spatial resolution of 12.5 m, which can generally reflect the intensity and pathway of the ice avalanches and landslides events-simulated in this study.\_The volumes of future ice avalanches or landslides will almost certainly be smaller than the 660 volumes formulated in this study due to glacier melting caused by climate warming. Moreover, the dry-Coulomb type friction  $\mu$  and the viscous-turbulent friction  $\xi$ -can also influence on the model ing results (Bezak et al., 2019). Mikoš and Bezak (2021) suggested-found that the magnitude of mass movement ice avalanche or landslide magnitude slightly decreases and increases with increasing friction parameters  $\mu$  and  $\xi$ , respectively, while the correlation is not strong. Schneider et al. (2014) found that a higher  $\mu$  and  $\zeta$  combinations leads to a higher peak velocities, faster stopping mechanisms, and hence shorter process durations. The values of  $\mu$  and  $\zeta$  cover wide ranges in the past applications (Mikoš and Bezak, 2021), and they were usually 665 calibrated by actual events. In this study, We we chose the values of 0.12 and 1,000 m s<sup>-2</sup> as the values of for  $-\mu$  and  $\zeta$  in this

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ice avalanches and landslides. Much of the work on the generation, propagation and run-up of impulse wave has been focused on empirical models that replicate wave characteristics based on laboratory observations (Heller and Hager, 2010). Numerical simulations have been limited to simplified 2D SWE<u>s</u> simulations (Ghozlani et al., 2013)<sub>25</sub> howeverHowever, the 2D SWEs are <u>do</u> not perform very well in avalanche-generated adequate to simulate waves simulations generated by avalanches because of the large energy dissipation <u>due tocaused by</u> significant vertical accelerations (Lala et al., 2018). Therefore, empirical models are often used to calibrate the numerical simulations, <u>for examplesuch as</u> the Heller-Hager modeling result was employed to calibrate the simulation of the BASEMENT model in past studies (Byers et al., 2018; Lala et al., 2018). Nevertheless, the numerous parameters required by the Heller-Hager model are still subject to potential uncertainties <u>because most of them are simple quantifications of the lake's geometry</u>, <u>owing to its simple quantifications about the geometry of the lake. Additionally,</u> It is also mentioning that the BASEMENT model can only accept inflow in the form of water volume, <del>but</del> not <u>actualthe</u> mass itself, such as the-moraines, ice, snow, and <u>mixturestheir combinations</u> (Kafle et al., 2016). <u>Therefore, the actual situation of</u>

The BASEMENT model was applied to simulate the subsequent the GLOF process chains of GLOF process following

study, which were used in the avalanche simulation of Lake 513 (Schneider et al., 2014).

avalanches mixing with lake water cannot be simulated because the energy dissipation of water and avalanche entering the lake is different (Somos-Valenzuela et al., 2016). Generally, simulations are calibrated by controlling the height and depth of the release area and converting the density between the material and water to influence the flow height and flow velocity in the model as avalanches enter a lake. However, the energy dissipation between the water and the true avalanche mixture is different, and the model can't present the real situation of the avalanche fluid mixing with a lake (Somos Valenzuela et al., 2016). Furthermore, the maximum area of TIN representing a lake also has slightly influences on the wave amplitude, smaller areas lead to finer values, which have little influence on the absolute value of wave amplitude. The grain size distribution of Bienong Co's-a moraine dam is critical to its erosion simulation, an important parameter in simulating the moraine dam's erosions, but it is not obtained in this study. The SIn this study, simulations were performed by referencing an inventory of the grain size distribution of glacial lakes in the Indian Himalayas. The inventory that have has been validated as generally reliable (Worni et al., 2013), but the errors in Bienong Co are is inevitable.

The ALOS PALSAR DEM-with a spatial resolution of 12.5 m has been widely used in studies on cryospheric changes and disasters. In this study, It-the preprocessing of sink filling for the DEM was performed, pre-processed to fill sinks in this study, but there is still the phenomenon of flood water accumulating in deep puddles still exists, especially in the relatively narrow valleys. We manually smoothed several large bumps according to the elevation of the upstream and downstream. 695 However, there are still some smaller bumps that converge the floodw to some a section areas of the flow channel, mainly in the downstream arearegion. Therefore, the GLOF impact flooding situation in Qiwuxing, Kemaluo, Xingka, and Dading villages might be overestimated, especially in the former two villages because they are relatively far away from the river. The latter two villages are still very likely to be threatened by flooding GLOFs due to their proximity to the river. More accurate simulations of GLOFs in the flow channel is limited by the The resolution of the ALOS PALSAR DEM-is clearly insufficient 700 for accurate simulation of flooding in the river channel. Therefore, more precise topographic informationdata, such as DEM data-generated from panchromatic stereo images with spatial resolutions better than 0.8 m obtained by the Gaofen-7 satellite and UAV-derived DEM products with low-cost are prospective. The frictional resistance in the downstream flow channel of Bienong Co is derived from the GLC10 LULC data, which basically fits the reality and has litter error of the simulations. GLOF flow processes can be very complex (Zhou et al., 2019), and flows can transform from clear water flow to hyper-705 concentrated flow and then to debris flow, and these rheological transformations can occur in both space and time as the flow evolves (Worni et al., 2014). In this study, we do not consider the effects of sediment on flow rheology, as well as and the erosion and deposition of sediment along the flow path.

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Emmer et al. (2022) divided the research evolution of GLOF process chains simulations into three stages, and this study belongs to the second stage, i.e., applying tailored physically based simulation tools for each component of the process chain and coupling them at the process boundaries. The third stage is the two-phase (Pudasaini, 2012) and three-phase (Pudasaini and Mergili, 2019) mass flow models and related simulation tools (Mergili et al., 2017; Mergili and Pudasaini, 2021) and the integrated simulations of the entire GLOF process chain in one single simulation step. The main advantage of the methods in the second stage is the simplicity and operability, with the convenient GUI interface of software in different links. Models for different links have been matured and widely applied in the corresponding fields with reliable performance and accessibility of the required parameters. However, the third stage is undoubtedly the focus of future research to investigate the whole GLOF flooding process with more detail, in-depth, and better to reduce uncertainty in the coupling between different models. This will certainly involve more detailed parameters, increasing the difficulty of the simulation.

# 6 Conclusion

As a moraine-dammed glacial lake located in a temperate glaciation region<u>the SETP</u>, Bienong Co has been highly <u>focused on</u> regarded by local government due to its larger area and <u>the</u> high potential for GLOF hazards. Based on <u>bathymetric bathymetry</u>

data, remote sensing images and DEM data, combined with the multiple models of RAMMS, BASEMENT, and Heller-Hager, we completed a comprehensive investigation of the potential GLOF process chain of Bienong Co, including the initial mass movements from the mother glacier and the lateral moraines slope, displacement waves' generation and propagation in the lake, overtopping flows and erosion on the moraine dam, and subsequent downstream floodingfloods. The following main results were obtained:

- (1) According to the field bathymetric bathymetry data, the morphology of Bienong Co's lake basin morphology of Bienong Co-features a relatively flat basin-bottom and steep flanks, with the slope near the glacier (16.5°) being steeper than that near the moraine dam (11.3°). The water storage lake volume of Bienong Co was ~102.3 × 10<sup>6</sup> m<sup>3</sup> in August 2020, with a maximum depth of ~181 m. Bienong Co is highly prone to a potential GLOF due to the The-huge lake volume, enormous water storage combined with the fissure-developed mother glacier tongue, steep slope of lateral moraines storage, steep distal facing slope of the moraine dam, and low freeboard make it possess high GLOF potential.
- (2) The volume of materials-mass entering the lake for the three scenarios of ice avalanches (A1, A2, and A3) is much larger than that of the six scenarios of landslides (B1, B2, and B3 and C1, C2, and C3). Volumes of ice avalanches entering the lake in Scenarios A1, A2, and A3 are 3.8 × 10<sup>6</sup> m<sup>3</sup>, 4.9 × 10<sup>6</sup> m<sup>3</sup>, and 5.8 × 10<sup>6</sup> m<sup>3</sup>, respectively. Among the six landslide scenarios, Scenario B1 releases a-the minimum volume of 0.03 × 10<sup>6</sup> m<sup>3</sup>, and Scenario C3 releases a-the maximum volume of 0.30×10<sup>6</sup> m<sup>3</sup>. As a result, the impact zone, maximum flow height, and maximum flow velocity of Scenarios A1, A2, and A3 velocity in the lake also show that Scenarios A1, A2, and A3 are significantly larger than those of Scenarios B1-3 and C1-3. the other six scenarios, in which Scenario B1 is the smallest and Scenario A3 is the largest. Wave amplitudes near the moraine dam in Scenarios A1, A2, and A3 are 17.1 m, 20.2 m, and 25.2 m, respectively. The oQ vertopping flows of all three scenarios causes dam erosion of the dam, with little difference in breach depth (19.0 m, 19.1 m, and 19.3 m), but the larger difference in breach width (295.0 m, 339.4 m, and 368.5 m). The volumes of m<sup>3</sup>, with and the flood peak flows discharges of are 4,996 m<sup>3</sup>/s, 7,817 m<sup>3</sup>/s, and 13,078 m<sup>3</sup>/s, respectively. Among Scenarios B1-3 and C1-3 the other six scenarios B3 and C3 with larger magnitudes cause dam erosion formed breaches on the moraine dam, with breach depth es-of 6.5 m and 7.9 m in depth and breach width of 153 m and 169 m-in width, respectively.
- (3) Floods <u>GLOFs</u> all pass through 18 settlements in the downstream <u>river\_flow channel</u> in 20 h, with inundation areas of 7.6 km<sup>2</sup>, 8.0 km<sup>2</sup>, and 8.5 km<sup>2</sup>, as well asand average water depths of 8.4 m, 9.1 m, and 10.0 m, respectively. <u>The-GLOFs</u> threatened more than half of the villages in the downstream <u>region\_flow channel</u>. Scenarios B1, and B2, and C1, and C2 produce <u>very</u>-limited overtopping flow that cannot poses a threat to the downstream <u>region\_settlements</u>. Both Scenarios B3 and C3 produced <u>floods-GLOFs</u> that flow through eight downstream settlements within 20 h, and but the impact is had a relatively small impact on them.
  - (4) Bienong Co is the relative known deepest-glacial lake among those on the Tibetan Plateau in the same surface area. There are uncertainties in the GLOF process chain simulation in this study. However, it is significant for understanding the potential hazard of Bienong Co. that have currently been measured and is markedly different from glacial lakes on the south slope of the Himalayas. Furthermore, it is also important to use high precision topographic data for disaster simulation of GLOF lakes.

Code and data availability. The Landsat MSS/TM/OLI image are available from the United States Geological Survey (https://earthexplorer.usgs.gov/). The AST14DEM dataset and ALOS PALSAR DEM used in this study can be obtained from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) EARTHDATA website (https://earthdata.nasa.gov/). The MapWorld image is provided by the National Platform for Common Geospatial Information Services LULC (https://www.tianditu.gov.cn/). The GLC10 product is available from http://data.ess.tsinghua.edu.cn/fromglc10 2017v01.html.

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lake, as well as review and editing of the manuscript; YZ, HJ, and QW contributed the investigation of the glacial lake; ZD, BW and QW contributed the model progress; JH contributed the setting up the experimental equipment and obtaining data.

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