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Cover photo. The Khall Amayshan-1 palaeolake, dated to around 120–100 ka, is located in the western Nefud Desert, Saudi Arabia. It is just one of thousands of ancient middle and late Pleistocene lakes in the region. Together, such lakes formed part of a palaeohydrological corridor that connected the western Nefud Desert to the Levant and northeastern Africa, providing crucial freshwater resources and habitable landscapes for people and animals. The utilisation of these lakeside environments by humans and animals is shown by growing archaeological and palaeontological records. Photo: Palaeodeserts (see the article by Stewart et al., pages 1–22 this issue).