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Monitoring and Assessment of Ecosystems in China

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China's economical growth has been remarkable and the nation's path toward industrialization has been accelerating since economic reforms initiated in the late 1970s. The rapid growth was accompanied with sort of environmental degradation. The more and more severe environmental issues, e.g., soil erosion, desertification, water shortage and pollution, loss of biodiversity, etc., have to be tackled before China can achieve a sustainable development target.

Fortunately, all levels of governments and environmental administrative bureaus in China have laid great emphases and invested much in the monitoring of ecosystems and begun to prefer an adaptive and sustainable management of ecosystems in the reform era. To strength the environmental monitoring capacity is always one of the top priorities for Chinese scientists. In the sense, widely distributed environmental monitoring stations were established across all kinds of ecosystems. Meanwhile, receiving and handling centers of multi-resolution satellite remote sensing data set up by Chinese Academy of Science have dramatically improved the environmental monitoring capacity. Apart from building the research network, designing the model base for environment and ecosystem studies, scientists from environmental and/or ecological research fields have also carried out activities on ecosystem monitoring and assessment and achieved some valuable achievements as well, which become the scientific basis to support a promising international collaboration in East Asian environment and issues.