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Study on benefit detection of the grassland desertification control project in Xianghuang Banner , Inner Mongolia based on "3S" technology

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Introduction Desertification is now one of the worlds important environmental and social economy questions , that is threatening humanity's survival and development . Our country , is one of most seriously affected by desertification in the world . In order to effectively reduce grassland desertification , we started a series of grassland desertification control projects . But the project implementation's process is a non-natural process , and we don't know the projects' progress or benefit . Therefore , monitoring the benefit of the Grassland Desertification Control Project is urgent and essential .

Research method and technical route Through ground investigation based on Global Position System technology , we determined vegetation condition data at accurately located points . Using remote sensing , we collected image data about the project area . We analyzed multiple source spatial matching data to get the projects' area , biomass on the ground , vegetal composition , vegetation cover etc , based on GIS technology . Finally , we thoroughly and systematically monitored the grassland desertification control projects benefit . Technical route is as follows in Figure 1 .

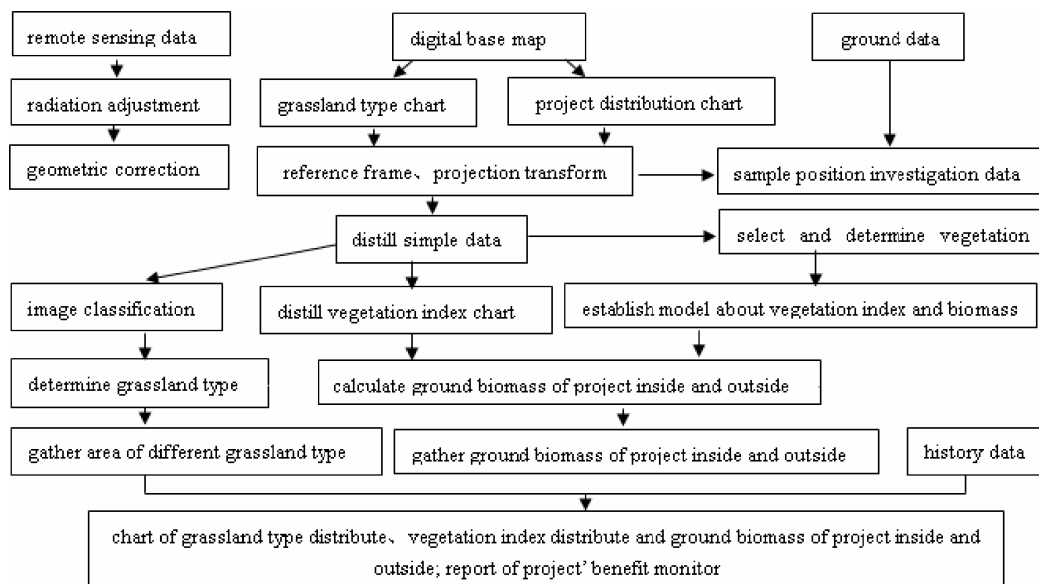


Figure 1 Flow chart of benefit monitor of project .

Results Vegetation cover is an important index to reflect health of a grassland ecosystem . Compared with 2003 , the vegetation cover has been improved by 8 .64% in the project area in 2004 .

Vegetal composition is an important component of a grassland ecosystem , and affects ecosystem function . Compared with outside of project , there were fewer *Artemisia frigida willd . .* , *Ceratoides arborescens (Losinsk .) Tsien et C .G .Ma* , *Lagochilus Bunge* , *Potentilla acaulis Linn .* etc . inside of the projects . In general , these plants grow in dry or degenerated habitats . The decrease in density of these species , shows the habitat inside of projects improved .

The above ground biomass is an important factor to appraise productiveness of a grassland . Compared with August , 2003 , the biomass on the ground increased by 56 .78% in the project area in August 2004 .

Conclusions The projects for controlling grassland desertification have effectively prevented grassland degradation , protected biodiversity , and promoted the sustainable balanced development of the grassland resource .