**The Role of GIS and RS for Pastureland Study in Northern Mongolia**

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**ABSTRACT**

Mongolia is situated at the Central Asian highland and borders with Russia in the north and with China in the south. The geography of Mongolia is characterized by great diversity and is divided into such zones as forest taiga, forest steppe, steppe, dry steppe, rocky mountains and Gobi. The country is mainly mountainous with an average altitude of 1,580m above sea level. Pastureland plays an important role for the Mongolian animal husbandry, because they are grazing home to over 50 million head of livestock and are used by over 200,000 herding families. Mongolian livestock producers still contribute a lot to the national economy. For example, in 2013 agriculture dominated by the livestock sector accounted for about a quarter of GDP, while livestock products such as cashmere accounted for increased percentage of the recorded value of the country’s exports.

In recent years, due to rapid development in space, communication and information technologies, RS and GIS techniques and technologies have been greatly improved. As Mongolia has a very large pasture area in comparison with its over 2.9 million inhabitants, the country has a great potential to use a wide range of different RS and GIS techniques for the pastureland studies. This paper describes how to use RS and GIS techniques for improvement of the present pastureland studies in Mongolia selecting a test site in northern Mongolia.

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