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Monitoring indicators in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with Multi-source Data in China

Chunlin Huang, Xiaoyu Song, and Bao Wang

Northwest Institute of Eco-Environment and Resources, Chinese Academy of Sciences, RS&GIS, Lanzhou, China (huangcl@lzb.ac.cn)

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) proposed by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in September 2015, provided a global development agenda for all countries to use as a blueprint for progress on economic, social, and environmental sustainability. There are 17 Goals, 169 Targets and 230+ Indicators in SDGs, which specifically depends on multi-source data for monitoring and reporting on progress towards the associated targets and indicators. The existing evaluation methods are mainly based on statistic and survey data with lower spatiotemporal resolution, longer evaluation cycle, and higher cost. To monitor indicators of the SDGs quickly and accurately, it required us to explore new data sources and technology. In this paper, firstly, we reviewed comprehensively all indicators information (concepts and definitions, computation method, and data sources) in three Goals (SDG6, SDG11, and SDG15). Then, we analyzed the feasibility of monitoring accurately and quickly the above indicators on basis of available multi-source data (statistics, remote sensing, ground-based observations and internet data). Finally, a series of integration methods are developed to monitor several specific indicators with multi-source data. The methodology of this study provided experience for monitoring SDGs indicators in developing countries and filled the gap for the assessment of SDGs indicators at fine scale.