



Global Forest  
Observations Initiative

Plenary  
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# **Forest and Grassland Types Mapping in China Using GF-1/6 Chinese Satellite Data**

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# Outline

1. Backgrounds
2. Forestry and Grassland Type Classification System
3. Methodology of Classification for Forestry and Grassland
4. Validation
5. Mapping



# 1. Backgrounds

## ➤ Composition of Gaofen (GF) satellite system



Model	Payload	Launch Date
GF-1	2m/8m/PMS, 16m/WFV	April 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2013
GF-2	1m/4m PMS	August 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
GF-3	1m C-SAR	August 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2016
GF-4	Geostationary, 50m/PMS + 400m/MWIR	December 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2015
GF-5	Hyperspectral, 30m AHSI (Land, Atmosphere, etc.)	May 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2018
GF-6	2m/8m/PMS, 16m/WFV	June 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2018
GF-7	Stereo Mapping, 0.65m/0.8m DLC, 3.2m MS	November 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2019



# 1. Backgrounds

## ■ Duties of National Forestry and Grassland Administration



**Supervision of forestry resources**



**Supervision of wetland resources**



**Supervision of grassland resources**



**Supervision of desert resources**



**Supervision of wild animals and plants resources**

**Remote sensing plays a key role for the management of the resources.**



# 1. Backgrounds

- **The objectives of this work are:**
- **Constructing the classification system for the distribution of forest and grassland types in China based on the separability of GF-1 and GF-6 WFV satellite imagery;**
- **Mapping forest and grassland types on national scale.**



# 1. Backgrounds

## ➤ Reference data for classification system

- ① 30-meter resolution land cover/land use taxonomy.
- ② Classification standards for the third national land survey.
- ③ Technical regulations for continuous forest inventory (GB/T 38590-2020).
- ④ Classification and codes for forestry resources - Forest types (GB/T 14721-2010).
- ⑤ Grassland classification (NY/T 2997-2016).
- ⑥ Technical specifications for desertified grassland treatment (DB15/T 1878—2020).
- ⑦ Wetland resource monitoring method based on TM remote sensing imagery (LY/T 2021-2012).
- ⑧ Technical regulations for wetland survey, 2010 edition.
- ⑨ Fourth national technical regulation on desertification and sandification monitoring.



## 2. Forestry and Grassland Type Classification System

**Primary level : 7 types,**

**Including: forest land, grassland, wetland, desert/sandy land, cultivated land, construction land, and others**

**Secondary level: 38 classes**



# 2. Forestry and Grassland Type Classification System

## Forest Land

### Secondary Level:

10 classes

Primary Level	Secondary Level		Descriptions
	Type Name	Class Code	
forest land	1	101	<b>coniferous forest</b> A general term for all types of forests composed of coniferous species, including evergreen and deciduous coniferous pure forests and mixed forests, with conifers accounting for more than 65%.
	2	102	<b>broad-leaved forest</b> Forests composed mainly of broad-leaved tree species, including evergreen and deciduous, as well as broad-leaved pure forests & mixed forests composed of broad-leaved tree species, where broad-leaved trees accounting for more than 65%.
	3	103	<b>mixed broadleaf-conifer forest</b> Mixed broadleaf-conifer forest land is a transitional type between cold-temperate coniferous forests and summer-green broadleaved forests, consisting of a mixture of conifers and broad-leaved trees. The proportion of conifers and broad-leaved trees in the vertical projection area of the canopy ranged from 0.3 to 0.7, respectively.
	4	104	<b>shrub forest</b> Forest land type with shrub as the main vegetation type; come with single-layer crown/forest layer generally about 5 meters in height, clustered and without a trunk; swamp thicket is excluded.
	5	105	<b>bamboo forest</b> Forest land with a monodominant community composed of bamboo plants, where the breast diameters of bamboo plants are larger than 2 cm, and canopy density $\geq 0.2$ .
	6	106	<b>mangrove forest</b> Forest land where mangrove plants grow along the coast, referring to the woody biome of evergreen shrubs or trees in the tidal wetlands with mangrove plants as the main body, growing in the upper intertidal zone of tropical and subtropical low-energy coasts.
	7	107	<b>swamp forest</b> Freshwater marshland with arbor forest plants as the dominant group, with canopy density $\geq 0.2$ . The soil is excessively moist, waterlogged or has shallow water layers, and the peat has developed
	8	108	<b>swamp thicket</b> Freshwater marsh shrubland with shrub plants as the dominant community, with $FVC \geq 30\%$ .
	9	109	<b>sparse forest</b> Forest land with canopy density between 0.1 and 0.2.
	10	110	<b>other forest</b> Forest land such as nursery land, other unforested afforestation land and forest land without standing tree.



## 2. Forestry and Grassland Type Classification System

### Grassland

Secondary Level:

6 classes

Primary Level	Secondary Level		Descriptions	
Type Name	Class Code	Class Name		
grassland	11	201	artificial grassland	The dominant species are formed by artificial cultivation. The biomass and coverage of natural plants account for less than 50. This land type includes improved grassland, cultivated grassland, green grassland, football field, golf course and other special purpose artificial grassland.
	12	202	swamp meadow	This type is dominated by natural herbaceous plants, swampy lowland meadows, alpine meadows; also, prolonged or frequent flooded, with vegetation cover $\geq 30$ .
	13	203	shrubland	Grassland dominated by natural shrubs and perennial grasses. The height of the shrub is generally less than 5 meters, and the degree of coverage for the shrub is between 30% to 40% in general. The ecological type is from xerocolous to humidogene, and the temperature ecological type is from low temperature to high temperature.
	14	204	natural grassland with high coverage	Natural grassland with degree of coverage above 50%. Such grasslands generally have good moisture conditions and densely-grown grass.
	15	205	natural grassland with medium coverage	Natural grassland with degree of coverage between 20% to 50%. Such grassland generally have inadequate moisture and relatively sparse vegetation.
	16	206	natural grassland with low coverage	Natural grassland with degree of coverage below 20%. Such grassland lack moisture, and have sparse vegetation.

# 2. Forestry and Grassland Type Classification System

## Wetland

### Secondary Level:

5 classes

Mangrove, swamp forests, and swamp shrublands with forests as elements are categorized into forest lands.

swamp meadow is categorized into grasslands.

Primary Level	Secondary Level		Descriptions	
Type Name	Class Code	Class Name		
wetland	17	301	offshore and coastal	In the coastal and coastal areas, shallow seas, coasts, estuaries and coastal lakes formed by natural coastal waterforms are collectively referred to as offshore and coastal wetlands, including shallow sea areas with a low tide depth of no more than 6 meters, and areas (except mangroves) where the high tide level (including the high tide line) can be directly infiltrated by seawater.
	18	302	river	River wetland is a collective term for riverbeds, river beaches, flood areas, deltas, sandbars and other natural bodies formed around natural river water bodies. These include permanent rivers, seasonal (rainy season) or intermittent rivers, and flooded river wetlands.
	19	303	lake	Wetlands consisting of natural depressions of various sizes and shapes on the ground, filled with water bodies, including freshwater lake wetlands and saltwater lake wetlands.
	20	304	marsh	A natural complex with the following basic characteristics: (1) the surface is often too wet or has a thin layer of water; (2) there is swampy, partially wet, aquatic or halophytic plants growing; (3) there is peat accumulation, or the soil layer has a clear latent layer. In this taxonomy, forest swamps, shrub swamps, and everglades are excluded from marsh.
	21	305	artificial waters	Artificial wetlands built for certain function or purpose, or wetlands formed by transforming natural wetlands. This type also includes constructed wetlands built for aquacultural purpose, ditches and canals built for irrigation, as well as sites for salt production by evaporation.

## 2. Forestry and Grassland Type Classification System

### Desert/Sandy Land

#### Secondary Level:

6 classes

Primary Level	Secondary Level		Descriptions	
Type Name	Class Code	Class Name		
desert/sandy land	22	401	flowing sandy	The soil texture is sandy; the vegetation coverage is less than 10%; the surface is covered by sands in a flowing state.
	23	402	fixed sandy	The soil texture is sandy; the vegetation cover is $\geq 30\%$ (when there is no other vegetation under the arbor canopy, and the canopy density is $\geq 0.50$ ). The surface is stable or basically stable, including artificial fixed sand and natural fixed sand.
	24	403	semi-fixed sandy	The soil texture is sandy; vegetation coverage is between 10% to 30% (when there is no other vegetation under the arbor canopy, and the canopy density is $< 0.50$ ). The wind and sand flow is blocked but the quicksand texture is still prevalent. This type includes artificial semi-fixed sand and natural semi-fixed sand.
	25	404	wind-eroded mounds/ wind-eroded badland	Wind erosion mound refers to the wind erosion land such as Yadan, Tulin, and Bai Gong Dun formed by wind erosion in arid areas.
	26	405	gobi desert	Vast flat land in arid areas. The surface is covered with gravel, gravelly sand and sparse vegetation.
	27	406	non-biological sand-control project site	Dunes and sandy areas that are immobilized or semi-fixed by non-biological means, such as mechanical sand barriers, and sand fixed by earth, rock or other materials. For lands where biological measures are used on top of non-biological sand control projects, they are classified as fixed or semi-fixed sandy land.

# 2. Forestry and Grassland Type Classification System

## Cultivated land, construction land, and others

Primary Level	Secondary Level		Descriptions	
Type Name	Class Code	Class Name		
cultivated land	28	501	paddy field	Cultivated land used for planting aquatic crops such as rice and lotus root, including cultivated land that implements the rotation of aquatic and dry crops.
	29	502	dry crop land	Cultivated land without irrigation facilities and mainly relies on natural precipitation to grow dry-growing crops, including cultivated land without irrigation facilities and relying only on flood diversion and siltation.
	30	503	irrigated land	Arable land that has guaranteed water sources and irrigation facilities, and can be irrigated normally in ordinary years to grow dry-growing crops (including vegetables). Including non-factory greenhouse land for growing vegetables.
construction land	31	601	urban construction	Artificially constructed impervious surface.
	32	602	rural settlement	Lands where rural populations are concentrated.
	33	603	road	This type mainly refers to the traffic road dominated by expressways, which can be recognized via imagery with spatial resolution of 16 meters.
	34	604	other construction land	This type includes industrial and mining land, mining land, etc.
others	35	701	glacier and permanent snowfields	Lands perennially covered by glaciers and permanent snow cover.
	36	702	alkaline land	Lands where the surface layer of salt and alkali accumulates, and only natural salt-tolerant plants grow.
	37	703	bare rock	Lands whose surface layer is rocky, and rocks covers more than 70% of the area.
	38	704	bare land	Lands where the surface layer is covered by soil, and FVC is below 5%.

# 3. Methodology of Classification for Forestry and Grassland

## ➤ GF data

① GF-1 satellite data for the year 2015; ② GF-1 and GF-6 satellite data for the year 2020.



parameters	GF-1 WFV		GF-6 WFV	
spectral range	B1	0.45~0.52 $\mu$ m	B1	0.45~0.52 $\mu$ m
	B2	0.52~0.59 $\mu$ m	B2	0.52~0.59 $\mu$ m
	B3	0.63~0.69 $\mu$ m	B3	0.63~0.69 $\mu$ m
	B4	0.77~0.89 $\mu$ m	B4	0.77~0.89 $\mu$ m
	B5	—	B5	0.69~0.73 $\mu$ m
	B6	—	B6	0.73~0.77 $\mu$ m
	B7	—	B7	0.40~0.45 $\mu$ m
	B8	—	B8	0.59~0.63 $\mu$ m
spatial resolution	16m		$\leq 16$ m	
swath width	800km		$\geq 800$ km	

Nearly **700** scenes of GF-1 imagery were screened for winter and summer in the year 2015 .

**658** scens of GF-1/6 imagery are screened for winter and summer in the year 2020.

# 3. Methodology of Classification for Forestry and Grassland

## ➤ Supplementary data

Basic Data	Data Name	Timing	Resolution	Data Usage
Administrative division data	national provincial boundaries	2012	—	Division of administrative areas
DEM data	national DEM data	—	30m	Support the interpretation of target land types
Full coverage data	national land use data of 10 types	2010	30m	Revise the primary land type
	national land use data of 25 classes	2015	30m	Revise the secondary land class
	Chinese vegetation distribution map (1: 1 million)			Trend consistency analysis
Thematic data	forest distribution map from the eighth Chinese national forest resources inventory	2014	1000m	Verification and update of the secondary land type
	national gobi type distribution map, map of Chinese desert distribution in the year 1979	1979	1000m	
	national mangrove type distribution map	2015	16m	
	national bamboo type distribution map	—	1000m	
other business data	national level-1 road vector map	2015/2020	—	Revision and update

# 3. Methodology of Classification for Forestry and Grassland

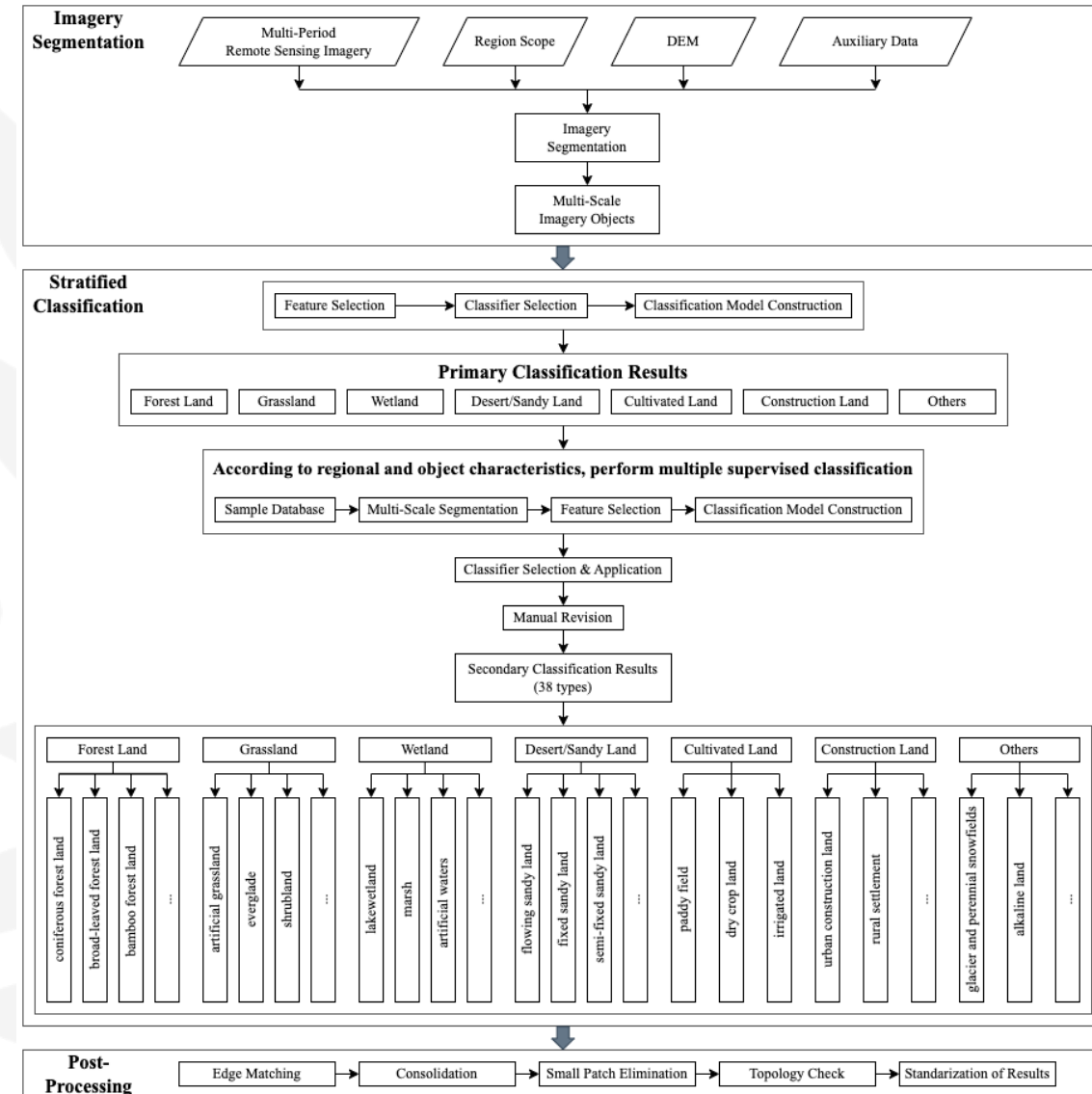
## ➤ Overall technical workflow

◆ **Method:** object-oriented automatic classification approach with manual collaboration to improve classification results.

### ◆ Technical workflow:

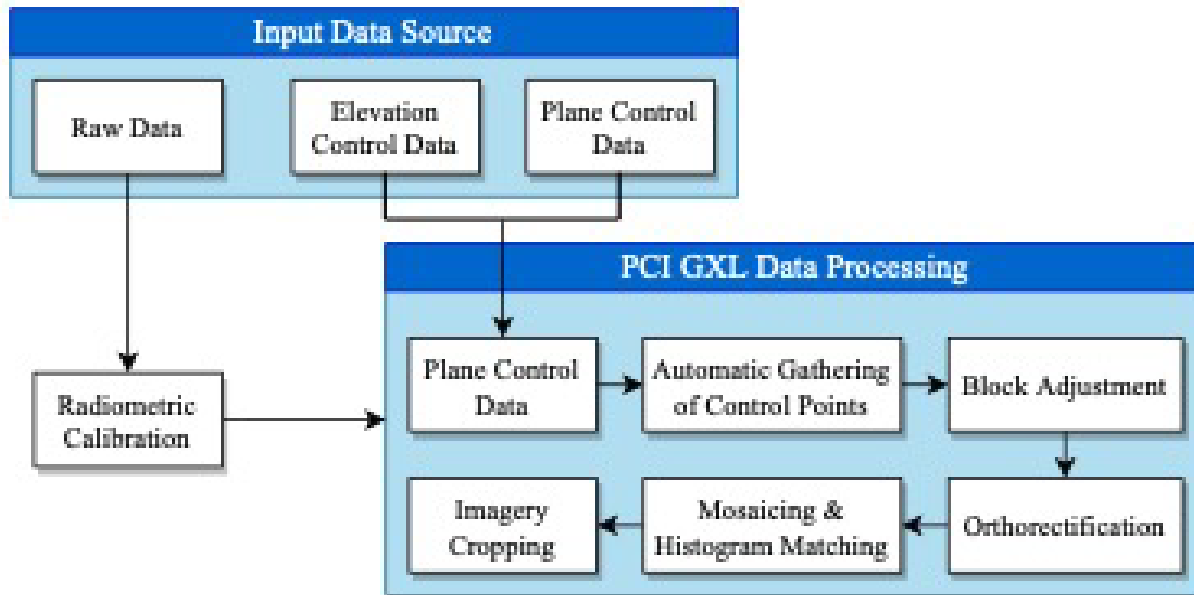
- ✓ data preprocessing
- ✓ imagery segmentation
- ✓ feature-optimizing hierarchical classification
- ✓ post-processing

## Roadmap of automatic imagery interpretation

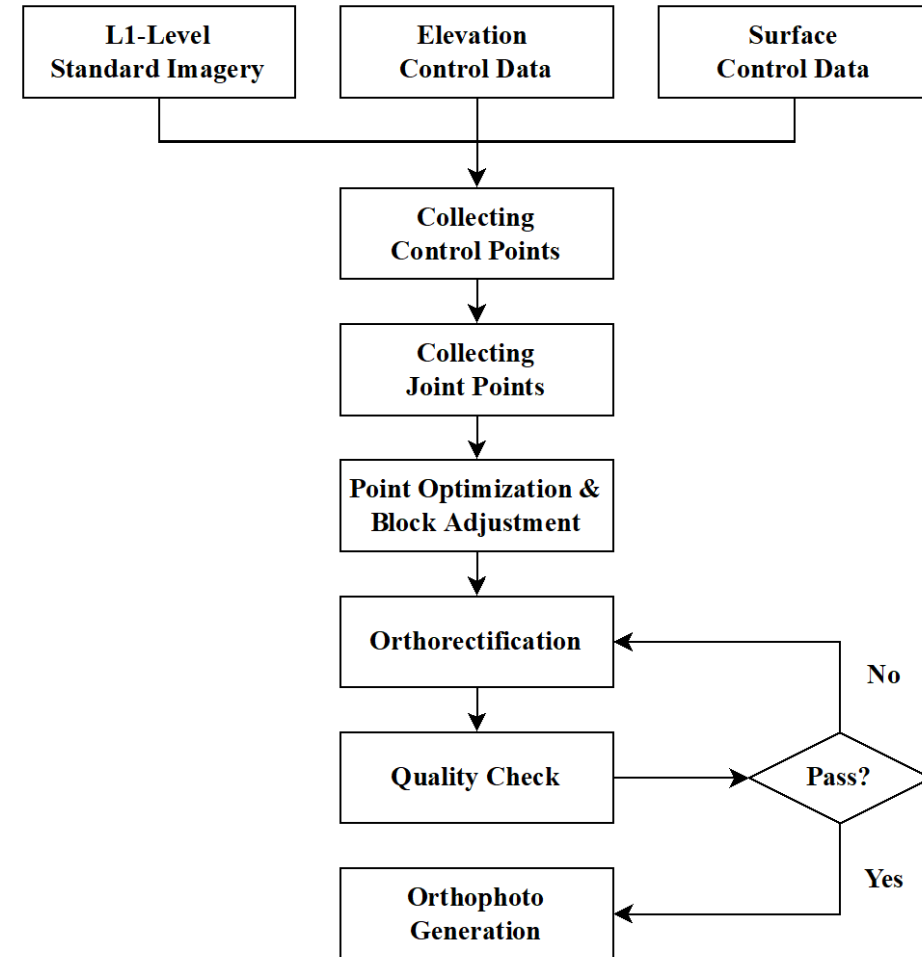


# 3. Methodology of Classification for Forestry and Grassland

## ➤ Data pre-processing



GF-1 data processing workflow



Imagery Orthorectification



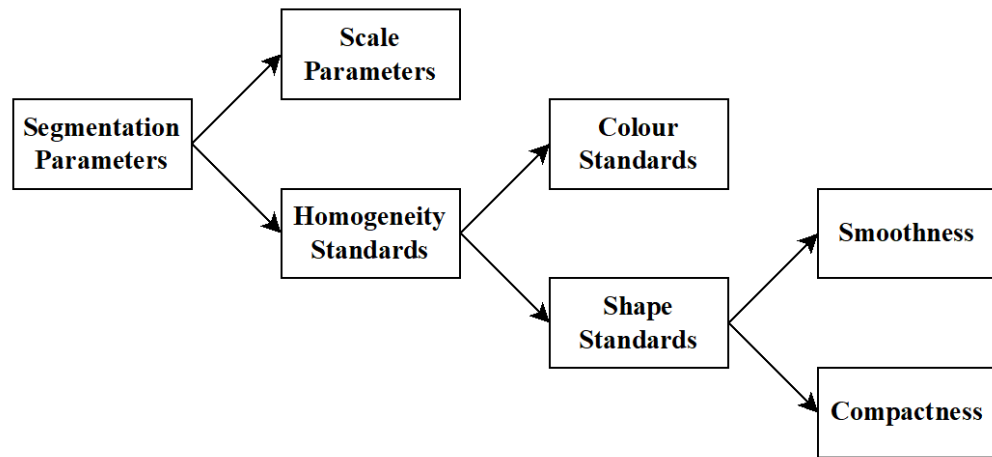


# 3. Methodology of Classification for Forestry and Grassland

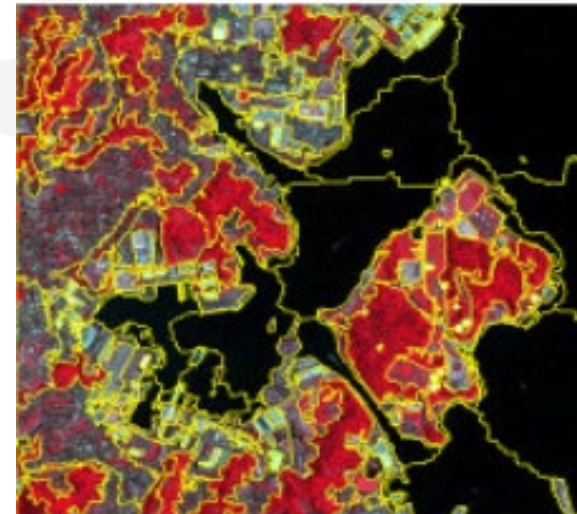
## ➤ Multi-scale segmentation

The formula for regional heterogeneity of the merged objects is as follows:

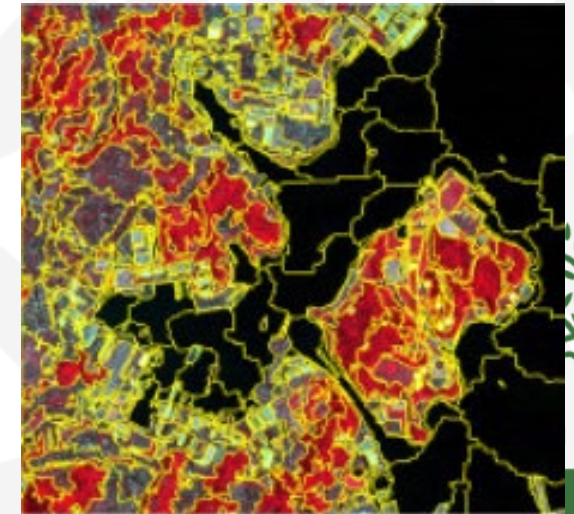
$$f = w_{color} h_{color} + (1 - w_{color}) h_{shape}$$



- ✓ Multi-scale: to use different **segmentation scales** for the difference of land types;
- ✓ Object layer network establishing: when present segmentation scale cannot effectively separate different land types, adjust the scale parameter to form a finer object layer on top of previous one. In such way, the **segmentation results at multiple scales** can be obtained, and an object layer network is established.



large-scale object layer



small-scale object layer



# 3. Methodology of Classification for Forestry and Grassland

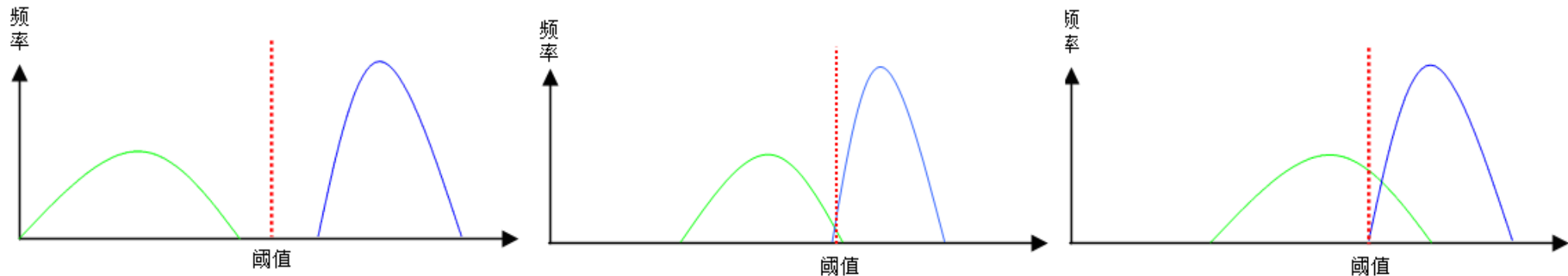
## ➤ Feature selection

- ✓ Separability and thresholds algorithm: to evaluate the degree of association between two categories on a certain feature;
- ✓ the Jeffries-Matudita distance (JM distance): to measure the separability between categories.

For two categories C1 and C2, the JM distance is:

$$J = 2(1 - e^{-B}) \quad B = \frac{1}{8}(m_1 - m_2)^2 \frac{2}{\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2} + \frac{1}{2} \ln \left[ \frac{\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2}{2\sigma_1\sigma_2} \right]$$

$m_i$  and  $\sigma_i^2$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) represents the mean and variance of feature distribution of two types of sample objects, respectively.



( 1 ) No spectral overlap

( 2 ) Partial spectral overlap

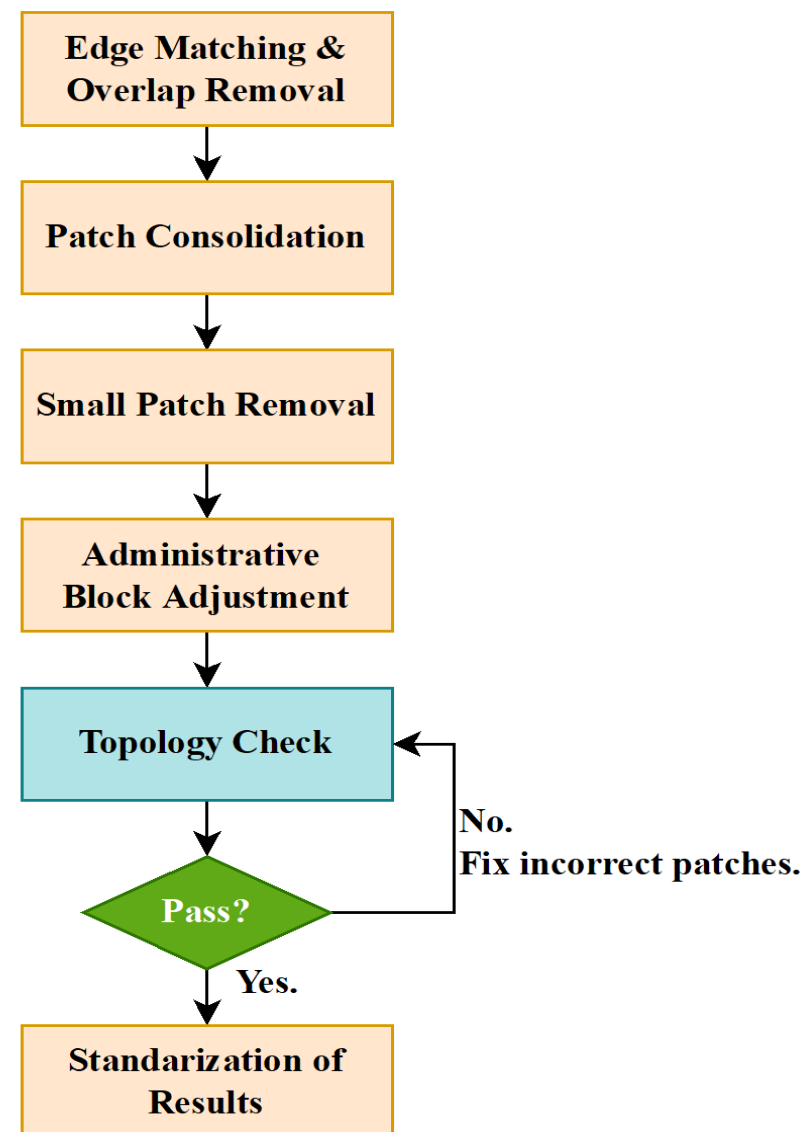
( 3 ) Severe spectral overlap



# 3. Methodology of Classification for Forestry and Grassland

## ➤ Post-processing

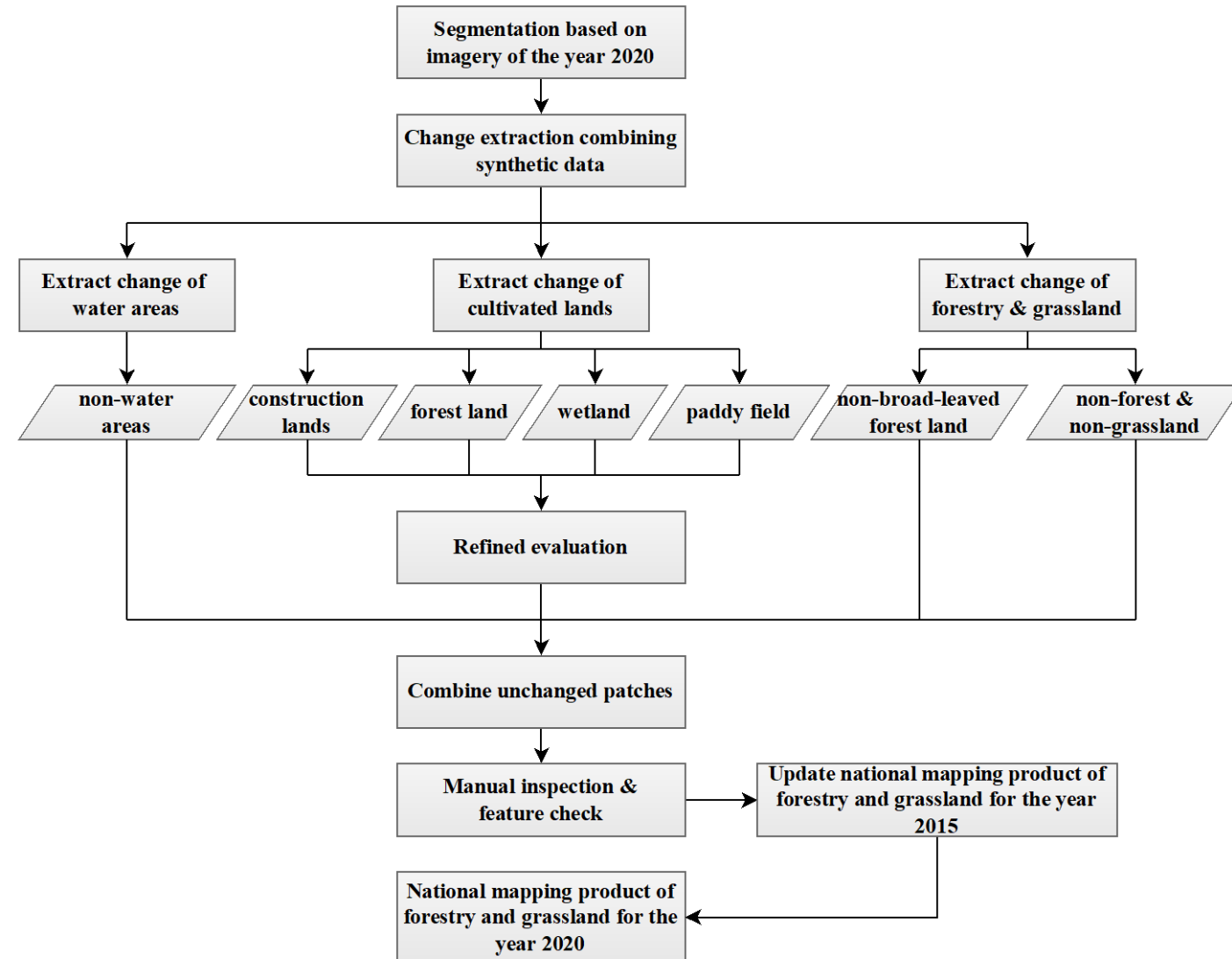
- ✓ overlapping edges of operation blocks
- ✓ merging plots
- ✓ removing small patches
- ✓ cutting administrative areas
- ✓ checking topology of patches, and standardizing results.



# 3. Methodology of Classification for Forestry and Grassland

## ➤ Thematic information extraction

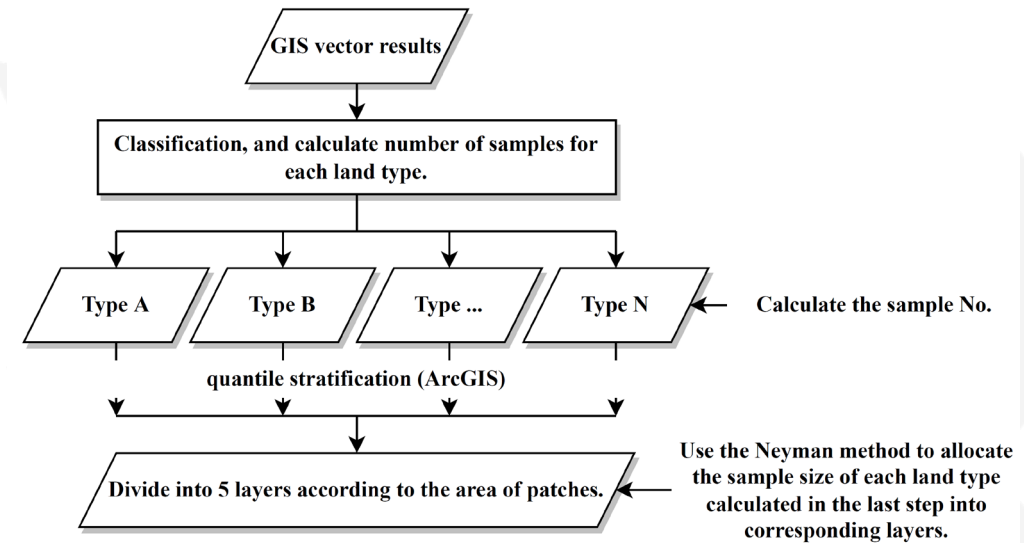
- ✓ multi-scale segmentation for the imagery of the year 2020;
- ✓ change detection based on the thematic vector product of national forest and grassland in the year 2015;
- ✓ Update the thematic vector map of the year 2015 to generate the map products for the year 2020.



## 4. Method of validation

Random stratified sampling is used in the whole country, and **sample patches are drawn from full-coverage vector patches on a provincial basis**. The procedure is as follows:

- ✓ sampling is performed by province, and converted into random points.
- ✓ Based on random point, create circle buffer with areas of 100,000 square meters (diameter = 178 m).
- ✓ Check the consistency of the image properties within this circle with the information extraction patch properties: correct is consistent, otherwise incorrect.
- ✓ Count the number of correct and incorrect numbers by province.  
 $\text{Precision} = \text{Correct} / \text{Total} * 100\%$



Schematic diagram of the sampling process for precision evaluation

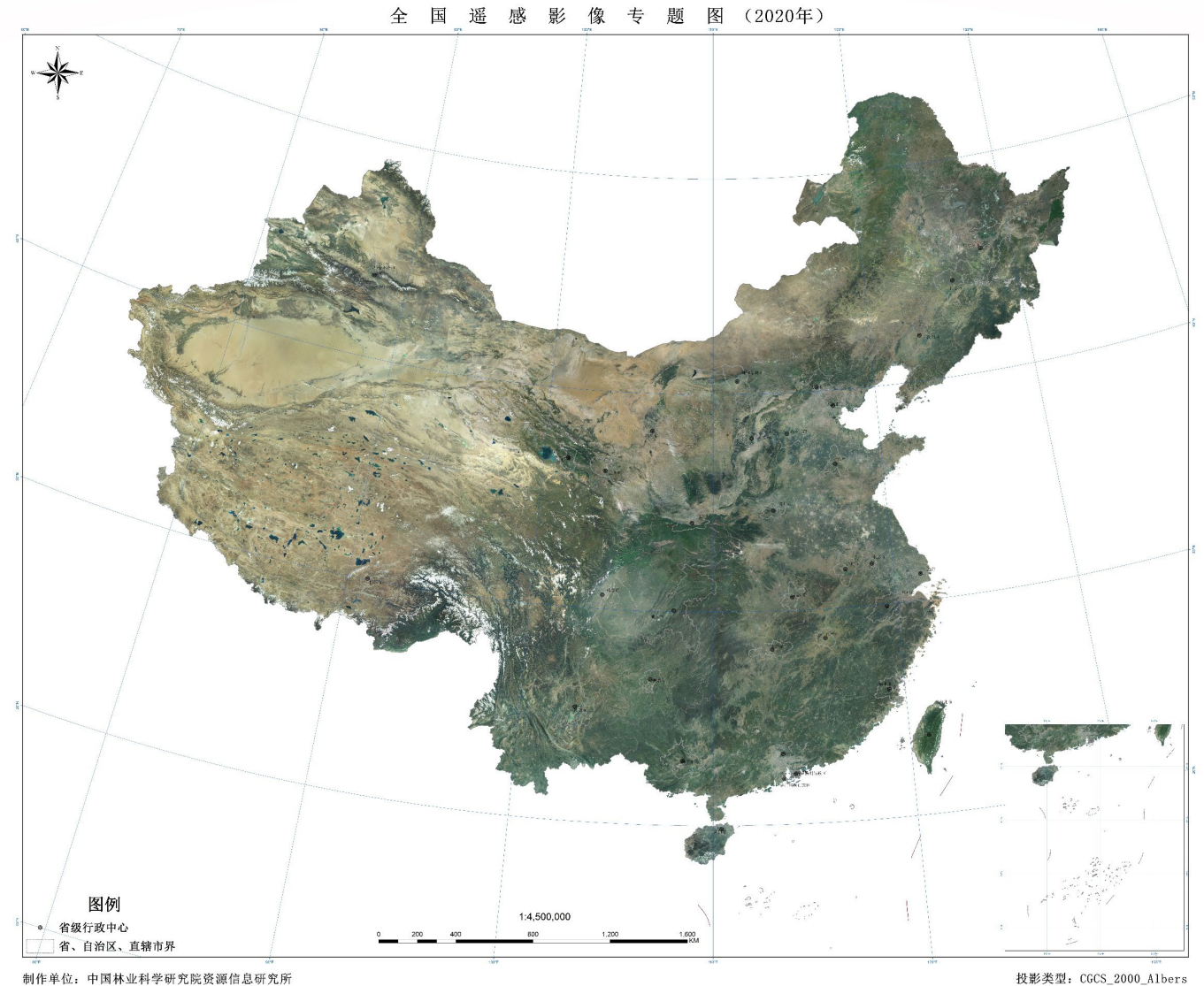
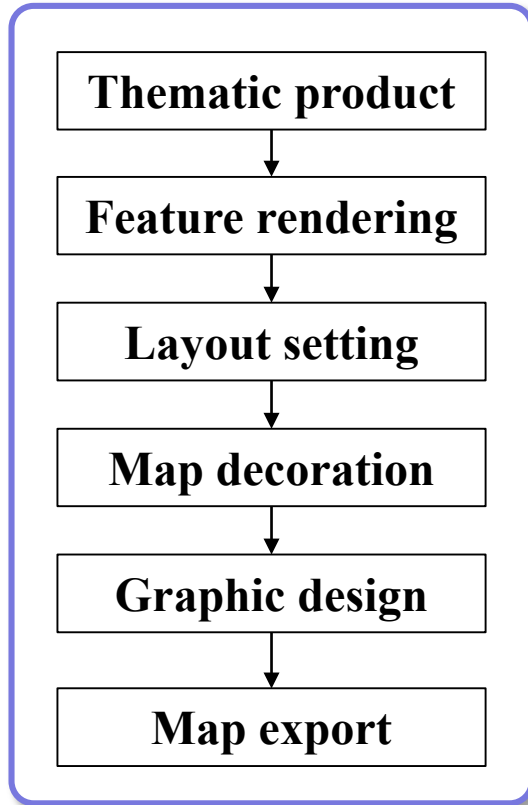


Schematic diagram of the original results (left) and sample (right)



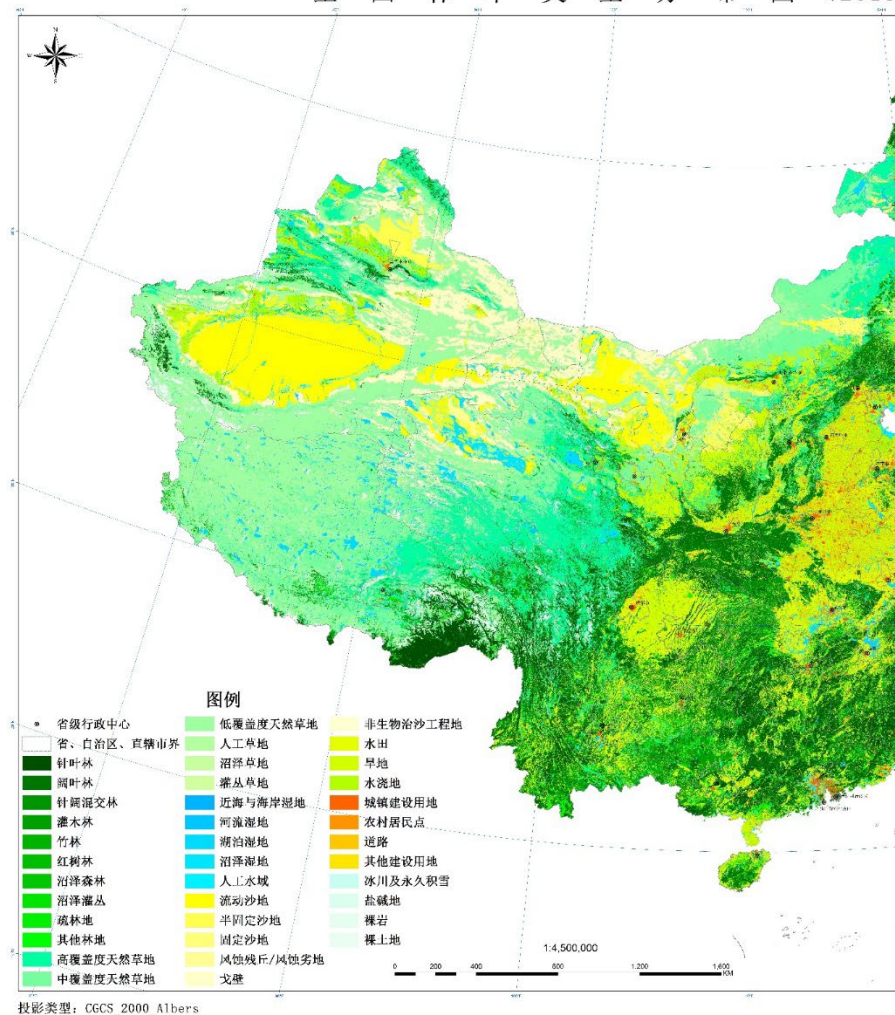
# 5. Mapping

## ➤ National Gaofen imagery mosaic

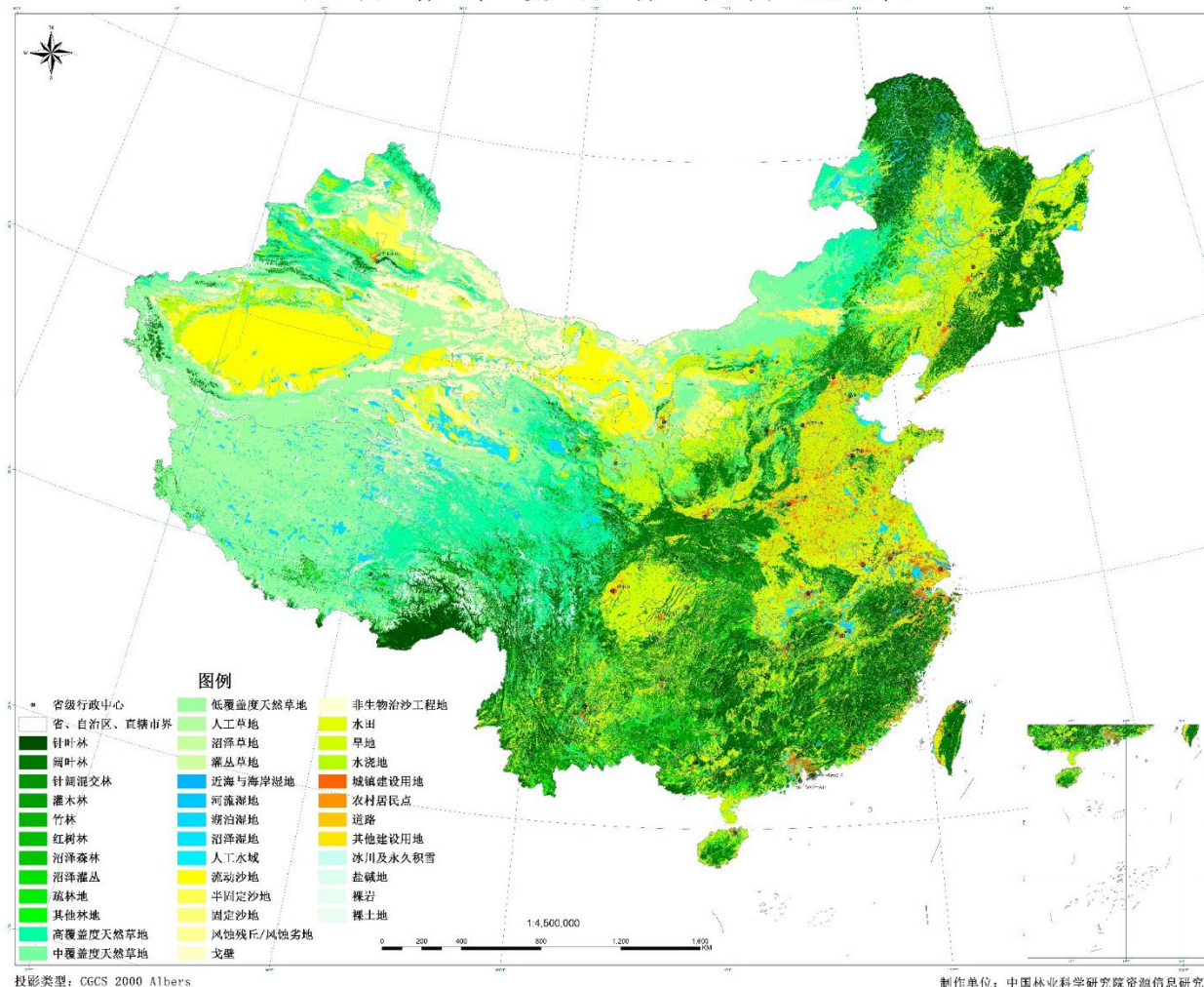


# 5. Mapping

全国林草类型分布图 (2015年)

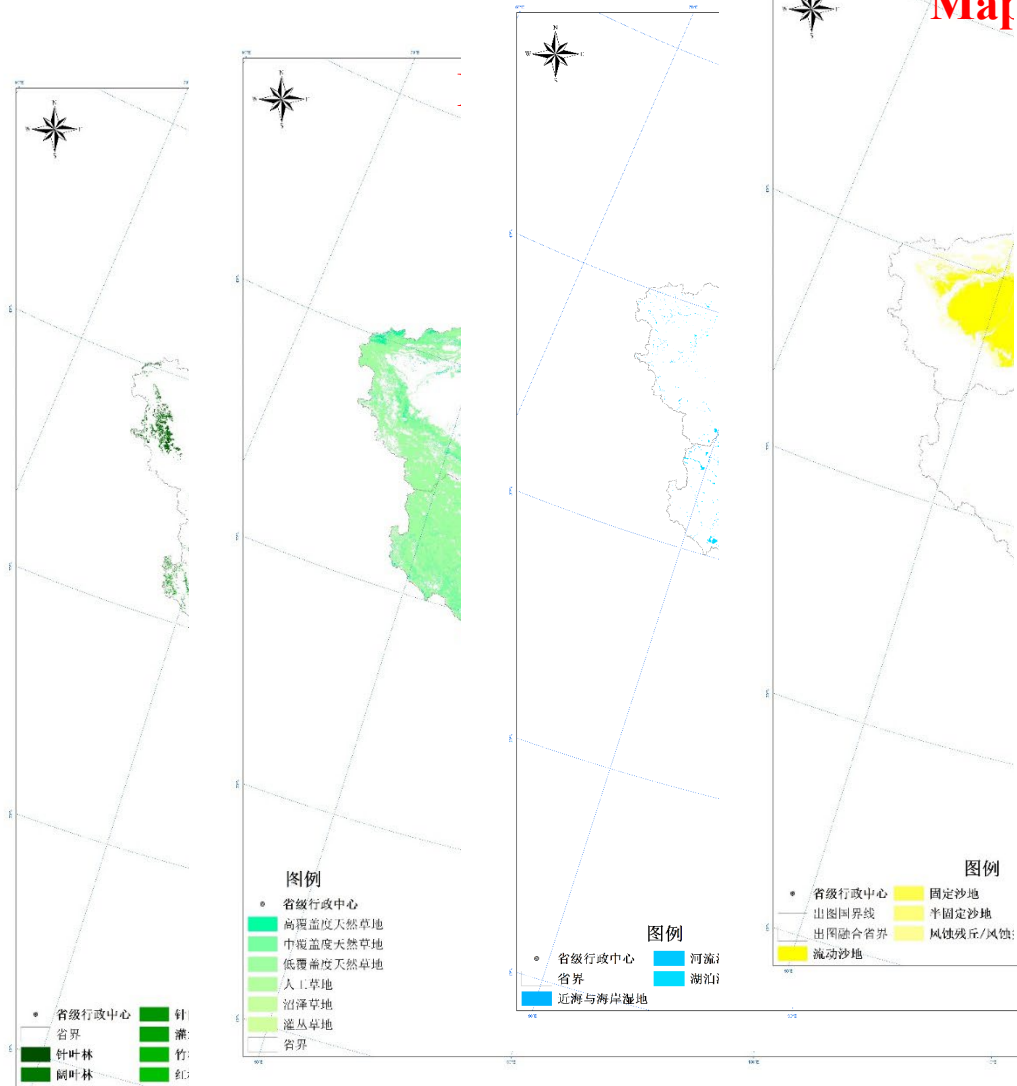


全国林草类型分布图 (2020年)

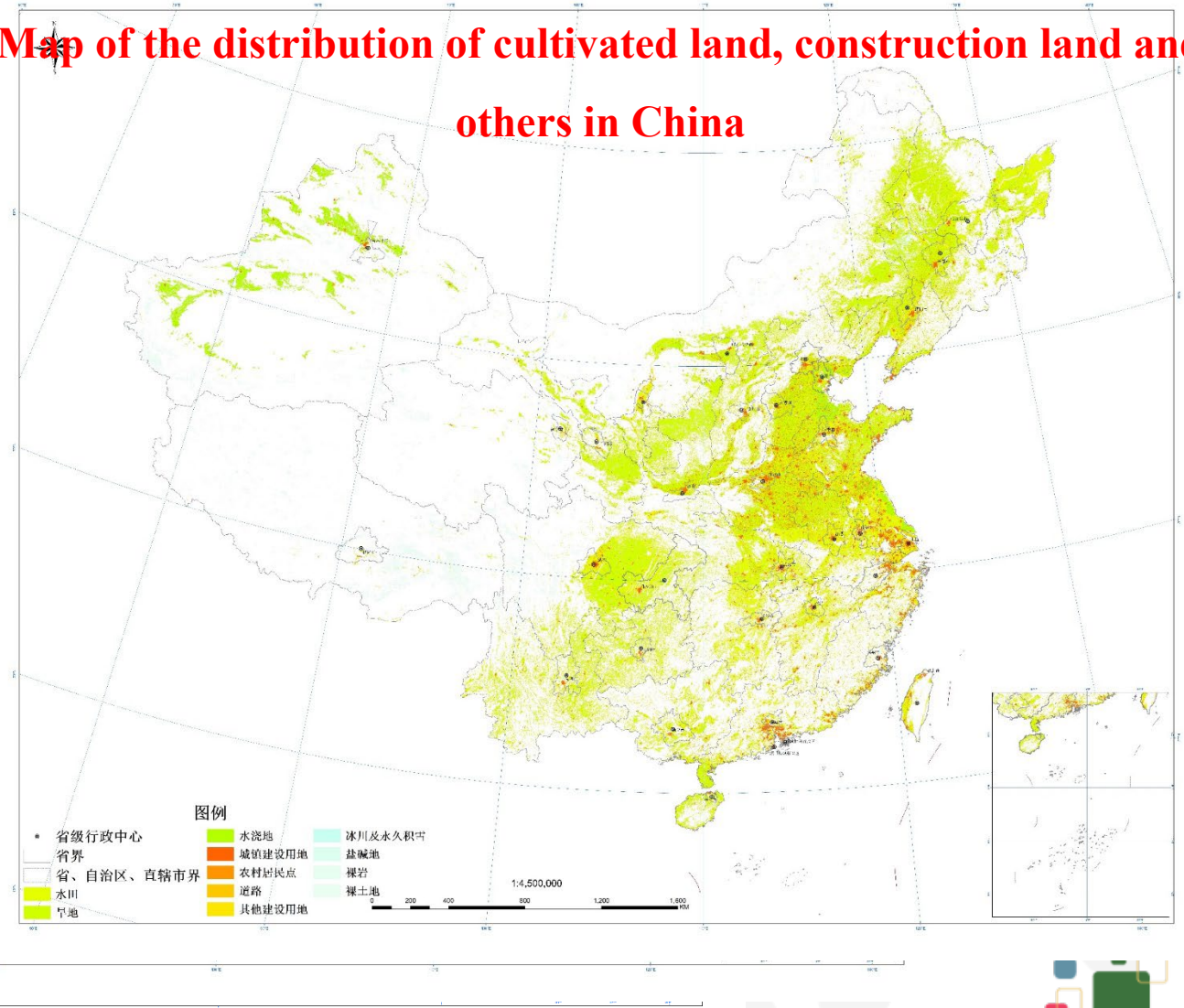


# 5. Mapping

## ➤ Map of forest and grassland types



## Map of the distribution of cultivated land, construction land and others in China





# 5. Mapping

## Precision analysis

2015 Special vector achievements	Total number of patches	Sample quantity	Sampling rate	Correct number of attributes	Attribute Precision
Henan Province	231479	3299	1.43%	2905	88.10%
Shanxi Province	183156	2958	1.62%	2691	91.00%
Shaanxi Province	150526	1281	0.85%	1101	85.90%
Beijing Tianjin Hebei	425252	3192	0.75%	2908	91.10%
Gansu Province	335231	2564	0.76%	2306	89.90%
Qinghai Province	587931	3717	0.63%	3303	88.90%
Shandong Province	157394	6037	3.84%	5672	94.00%
Liaoning Province	171918	1547	0.90%	1242	80.28%
Hunan Province	157673	1392	0.88%	1161	83.41%
Shanghai City	18466	372	2.01%	300	80.65%
Guizhou Province	112893	1194	1.06%	1012	84.76%
Zhejiang Province	142236	1846	1.30%	1488	80.61%
Fujian Province	91210	910	1.00%	748	82.20%
Guangdong Province	130497	1787	1.37%	1438	81.74%
Jilin Province	148121	1787	1.21%	1438	81.49%
Anhui Province	229497	2705	1.18%	2326	82.59%
Chongqing City	41717	510	1.22%	427	82.73%
Hubei province	274902	3310	1.20%	2710	82.22%
Yunnan Province	288771	1897	0.66%	1537	81.02%
Sichuan Province					
Hainan Province					
Heilongjiang Province					
Jiangsu Province					
Jiangxi Province					
Taiwan Province					
Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region					
Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region					
Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region					
Tibet Autonomous Region					
Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region					
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region					
Macau Special Administrative Region					
the Xisha Islands	1	1	100.00%	1	100.00%
Diaoyu Islands	4	4	100.00%	4	100.00%

Precision of the year 2015

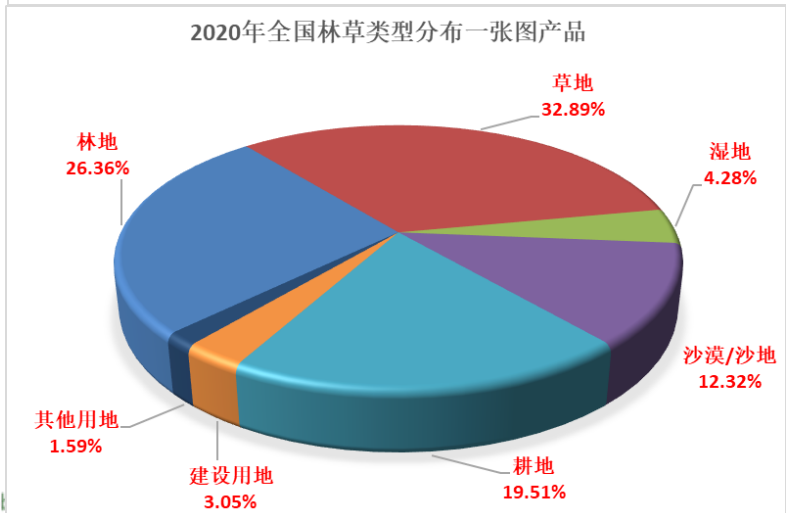
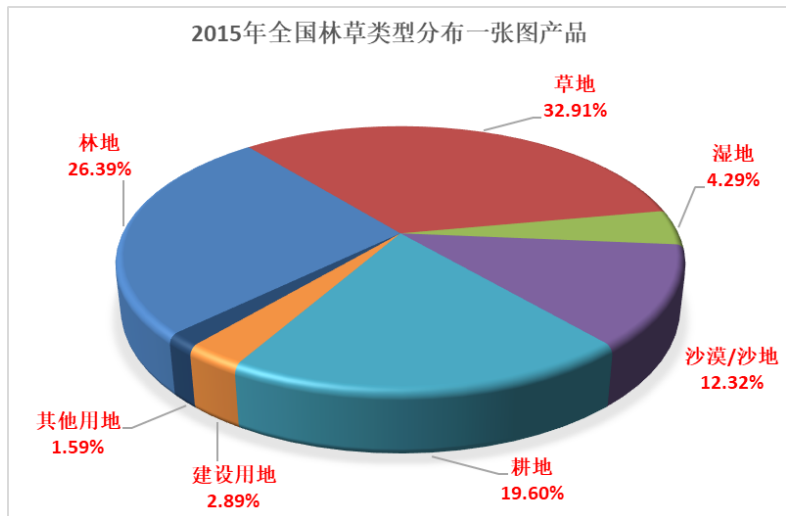
Thematic vector results	Total number of patches	number of samples	sampling rate (%)	number of correct samples	precision
year 2015	8083980	73495	0.9091	63838	86.86%
year 2020	9204691	115101	1.2501	100427	87.25%

2015 Special vector achievements	Total number of patches	Sample quantity	Sampling rate	Correct number of attributes	Attribute Precision
Henan Province	261819	2176	0.83%	1755	80.65%
Shanxi Province	214336	2760	1.29%	2422	87.75%
Shaanxi Province	227973	4708	2.07%	3945	83.79%
Beijing Tianjin Hebei	428156	4902	1.14%	4207	85.82%
Gansu Province	389327	5495	1.41%	4404	80.15%
Qinghai Province	642153	6604	1.03%	6069	91.90%
Shandong Province	203522	5360	2.63%	4553	84.94%
Liaoning Province	190227	2011	1.06%	1830	91.00%
Hunan Province	190388	2084	1.09%	1858	89.16%
Shanghai City	18331	556	3.03%	510	91.73%
Guizhou Province	186577	2730	1.46%	2345	85.90%
Zhejiang Province	151362	2326	1.54%	2089	89.81%
Fujian Province	116457	1312	1.13%	1091	83.16%
Guangdong Province	173454	2869	1.65%	2303	80.27%
Jilin Province	148121	1787	1.21%	1438	81.49%
Anhui Province	229497	2705	1.18%	2326	82.59%
Chongqing City	41717	510	1.22%	427	82.77%
Hubei province	274902	3310	1.20%	2710	83.83%
Yunnan Province	288771	1897	0.66%	1537	94.16%
Sichuan Province					68%
Hainan Province					75%
Heilongjiang Province					86%
Jiangsu Province					90%
Jiangxi Province					91%
Taiwan Province					91%
Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region					68%
Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region					81%
Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region					53%
Tibet Autonomous Region					07%
Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region					99%
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region					50%
Macau Special Administrative Region					95%
the Xisha Islands	1	1	100.00%	1	100%
Diaoyu Islands	4	4	100.00%	4	100%

Precision of the year 2020

# 5. Mapping

## ➤ Statistics



2015全国林草一张图38类面积统计(单位:万公顷)		2020全国林草一张图38类面积统计(单位:万公顷)	
类别	面积	类别	面积
<b>林地</b>	<b>25079.367</b>	<b>林地</b>	<b>25048.724</b>
针叶林	7635.560	针叶林	7633.743
阔叶林	8258.544	阔叶林	8241.990
针阔混交林	366.661	针阔混交林	365.789
灌木林	6330.799	灌木林	6325.149
竹林	500.809	竹林	500.519
其他林地	891.113	其他林地	887.363
疏林地	1095.881	疏林地	1094.171
<b>草地</b>	<b>31275.668</b>	<b>草地</b>	<b>31250.062</b>
人工草地	3.420	人工草地	3.617
沼泽草地	549.991	沼泽草地	541.279
灌丛草地	163.168	灌丛草地	163.168
高覆盖度天然草地	8796.497	高覆盖度天然草地	8785.715
中覆盖度天然草地	9025.429	中覆盖度天然草地	9020.426
低覆盖度天然草地	12737.162	低覆盖度天然草地	12735.858
<b>湿地</b>	<b>4078.138</b>	<b>湿地</b>	<b>4070.470</b>
近海与海岸湿地	40.585	近海与海岸湿地	35.411
河流湿地	1160.275	河流湿地	1171.791
湖泊湿地	927.354	湖泊湿地	926.060
沼泽湿地	988.326	沼泽湿地	988.485
红树林	2.292	红树林	2.137
沼泽森林	333.774	沼泽森林	333.203
沼泽灌丛	2.669	沼泽灌丛	2.675
人工水域	622.862	人工水域	610.708
<b>沙漠/沙地</b>	<b>11705.572</b>	<b>沙漠/沙地</b>	<b>11705.483</b>
流动沙地	4719.734	流动沙地	4719.734
固定沙地	795.994	固定沙地	795.987
半固定沙地	1277.416	半固定沙地	1277.416
风蚀残丘/风蚀劣地	142.677	风蚀残丘/风蚀劣地	142.593
戈壁	4769.590	戈壁	4769.590
非生物治沙工程地	0.162	非生物治沙工程地	0.162
<b>耕地</b>	<b>18628.538</b>	<b>耕地</b>	<b>18536.295</b>
水田	4459.397	水田	4424.361
旱地	12741.260	旱地	12689.061
水浇地	1427.882	水浇地	1422.873
<b>建设用地</b>	<b>2748.759</b>	<b>建设用地</b>	<b>2898.854</b>
城镇建设用地	918.064	城镇建设用地	958.211
农村居民点	1336.414	农村居民点	1356.091
道路	77.801	道路	101.279
其他建设用地	416.480	其他建设用地	483.273
<b>其他用地</b>	<b>1514.731</b>	<b>其他用地</b>	<b>1513.900</b>
冰川及永久积雪	389.894	冰川及永久积雪	389.446
盐碱地	274.588	盐碱地	273.698
裸岩	845.251	裸岩	845.782
裸土地	4.997	裸土地	4.975
<b>总计</b>	<b>95030.773</b>	<b>总计</b>	<b>95023.789</b>



# Thank you!

