

The sensitive soil chemical properties reflect the vegetation changes caused by overgrazing in Mongolia.

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Human activities and climate changes have altered grassland ecosystems in Mongolia. Especially, overgrazing causes deterioration of vegetation and soil degradation. The process of soil degradation with vegetation deterioration in Mongolian grassland is not clearly understood. We need to find out which soil properties can be a sensitive index of soil degradation to promote sustainable use of grassland in Mongolia. Therefore, to obtain preliminary data for establishing a soil degradation index, we observed soil profile morphology and measured soil physicochemical properties under different grazing pressure in the steppe grassland Mongolia.

Keywords: soil physicochemical properties , soil degradation, overgrazing, Mongolia