

Do PV power plants reduce vegetation in China?

The PV power plants in China are more likely to be installed in suitable natural conditions but with low power demand or in areas with high local energy demand. We also found that installing PV power plants will generally decrease the vegetation. Our dataset is conducive to policy management and environmental assessment.

Does China need a comprehensive map of PV power plants?

With the world's highest cumulative and fastest built PV capacity, China needs to assess the environmental and social impacts of these established PV power plants. However, a comprehensive map regarding the PV power plants' locations and extent remains scarce on the country scale.

Do misclassified PV power plants still exist in China?

A large number of misclassified PV power plants due to commission errors in the machine learning step still exists in China. After transferring the pixel clusters to objects of vectors, we have spent dozens of hours on visual interpretation work to filter the misclassification regions with commission error.

Where are PV power plants located in China?

Eventually, we established a map of PV power plants in China by 2020, covering a total area of 2917 km². We found that most PV power plants were situated on cropland, followed by barren land and grassland, based on the derived national PV map. In addition, the installation of PV power plants has generally decreased the vegetation cover.

Can machine learning map PV power plants across China?

This study developed a workflow, combining machine learning and visual interpretation methods with big satellite data, to map PV power plants across China. We applied a pixel-based random forest (RF) model to classify the PV power plants from composite images in 2020 with a 30 m spatial resolution on the Google Earth Engine (GEE).

How big are PV power plants in China?

The total area of the PV power plants in China is about 897 km², based on Dunnett's dataset. We manually modified this dataset with Google Earth's background to ensure that the PV samples are located inside the PV power plants.

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Different types of power plants can be classified in the following ways: #1 Thermal Power Plant. A thermal power plant is a power station that generates electricity by converting heat energy. In a thermal power plant, heat ...

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