

Grassland Ecological Compensation Policy (GECP) — National Grazing-Reduction Payments to Herders (China)

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · China

Quality score: 40/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

Since 2011, China's Grassland Ecological Compensation Policy has paid herders 37.5-112.5 yuan/ha to reduce grazing, investing over 150 billion yuan across 13 provinces and lifting grassland NDVI cover, though peer-reviewed studies find payments are unevenly distributed.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	2/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	2/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-07-16

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China / Ministry of Finance of China — accessed 2026-07-16

Nature Communications / PMC: Grassland ecological compensation policy in China improves grassland quality and increases herders' income — accessed 2026-07-16

MDPI Land: The Impact of China's Grassland Ecological Compensation Policy on the Income Gap between Herder Households — accessed 2026-07-16

Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems: The impact of grassland ecological compensation policy on overgrazing behavior of herdsman — accessed 2026-07-16

Grassland Science (Wiley): Impact of precipitation on the two-stage grassland eco-subsidy policy effect on stocking reduction in Inner Mongolia — accessed 2026-07-16

Journal of Natural Resources (China): The impact of China's grassland ecological compensation policy on herders' grassland use pressure and policy implications — accessed 2026-07-16

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