

REPEAT PHOTOGRAPHY



Repeat photography can be a valuable tool to provide insights regarding historic and contemporary changes in pastoral landscapes in the Tibetan Plateau and Himalayas. It can also help provide a better understanding of the impact of man and his animals on the rangelands over time and furnish insights into improved range management and pastoral development. Repeat photography is the precise replication and interpretation of historic landscape scenes. Older landscape photographs are replicated, or taken again, from the same position and ideally at the same season, time of day, and in the same weather conditions. If possible, older photographs should be replicated using the same camera equipment as with the originals. Comparisons between 2-3 or more photos at different times allow preliminary assessments of landscape change processes to be made. When combined with ground truth analyses of vegetation, especially disturbance patterns, discussions with local people knowledgeable about land-use patterns, and literature review, the sequential replication of photographs over time can provide accurate assessments of landscape changes.

Repeat photography has been used in the last thirty years in the USA to monitor rangeland condition and trends. In the last decade it has also been used in the Mount Everest region of Nepal to assess the patterns and possible causes of landscape and land-use changes. Repeat photography can clarify landscape processes and is becoming increasingly valuable as a management, policy-influencing, and monitoring and evaluation technology. Comparing old and new photos reduces uncertainty about landscape change and can qualitatively, and in some instances quantitatively, confirm changes in the landscape. For nomadic pastoral areas, repeat photography can provide significant insight on changes in rangeland conditions, historical and contemporary forest and shrubland loss, village and nomadic settlement growth, developments (fences, roads, etc.), impacts of grazing, and the effectiveness of management practices. Photographs can also be used to document changes in nomads' lifestyles. The following pages illustrate photos from this book that are believed to have potential for repeat photography.









