
Research on Ecological Construction and Alternative Livelihood Choices in Sanjiang Nature Reserve

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Abstract: Based on clarifying the concepts of ecological construction and alternative livelihoods, this paper analyzes the relationship between the two and believes that the implementation of ecological construction is a driving factor for seeking alternative livelihoods. The implementation of alternative livelihoods can provide guarantees and support for ecological construction, eliminate the negative impact of ecological construction, and solve economic and social problems. By analyzing the current situation and problems of the Sanjiang Nature Reserve, three ecological construction projects, namely returning farmland to wetlands, returning farmland to grasslands, and facility construction, are proposed to promote the healthy development of wetlands in the Sanjiang Nature Reserve, as well as alternative livelihood models for ecological migration, traditional agricultural transformation, and diversified industrial development.

Keywords: Wetland ecological construction; Alternative livelihoods; Sanjiang Nature Reserve

1. The relationship between wetland ecological construction and alternative livelihoods

Ecological construction was proposed in the context of China's pursuit of sustainable development, and there is much controversy in the academic community over its scientific connotation. Wetland ecological construction refers to all actions aimed at protecting, restoring, and improving the wetland ecological environment, guided by the principles of ecology and ecological economics, in a certain temporal and spatial context. Its core includes taking various measures to limit or eliminate various natural and human disturbances that cause wetland ecosystem degradation, fully utilizing the system's self repair function, and successfully restoring the structure, function, and ecological potential of wetland ecosystems to a certain or original or even higher level as soon as possible. At the same time, in areas where conditions permit, wetland ecosystems can be rebuilt to promote the healthy development of wetland ecosystems.

Similarly, due to different research interests and objectives, different scholars have different understandings of the concept of livelihood. Summarize the concept of livelihood as a mode of production and business activities that people are allowed to engage in under certain resource, environmental, and technological constraints; Correspondingly, "alternative livelihood" refers to a production and operation model that is suitable for the resource environment and technological level, as it is difficult for the resource environment to support the existing production and operation model, or the existing production and operation model has already or is causing damage to the resource environment within the scope allowed by the system and policy. In research, alternative livelihoods are seen as a way out to address issues such as changes in land use patterns, changes in people's rights and behaviors towards resource development and utilization caused by the implementation of ecological construction. At the same time, it is also an effective model for solving social and economic problems, improving local quality of life, and seeking local economic development without damaging the ecological environment.

From the concept of wetland ecological construction and alternative livelihoods, the two are inseparable. On the one hand, the implementation of ecological construction is a driving factor in

seeking alternative livelihoods. Firstly, the actions taken by ecological construction in the process of protecting, restoring, and rebuilding wetlands, such as establishing nature reserves, returning farmland to wetlands, limiting wetland resource development and development models, often change the way land and resources are used, leading to changes in the natural capital in the concept of livelihood; Secondly, implementing policies such as establishing nature reserves, returning farmland to wetlands, and returning farmland to lakes to restrict local access to resources has led to changes in the rights and behaviors of livelihood concepts, namely changes in livelihood models; These two aspects force people to seek new development models and alternative livelihood solutions for sustainable resource utilization. On the other hand, the implementation of alternative livelihoods can provide guarantees and support for ecological construction, eliminate the negative impact of ecological construction, and solve economic and social problems; The selection of alternative livelihood options involves many factors, such as resource conditions, knowledge, abilities, rights, etc. A comprehensive evaluation of available livelihood methods and the search for a wetland resource protection and sustainable utilization model that is harmonious with nature is the key to forming a positive interaction between the wetland ecological environment system and the surrounding socio-economic system, and to ensuring the achievement of wetland ecological construction goals.

2. Alternative Livelihood Choices in Sanjiang Nature Reserve

The ecological construction of wetlands in the Sanjiang Plain has resulted in the loss of farmers' interests and the disruption of their original way of livelihood. Therefore, providing economic compensation and seeking new livelihood models for farmers in wetland areas is currently the most important practical issue. At present, the economic compensation provided is far from being able to offset the loss of interests of relevant parties, and it belongs to low compensation. Land, as the most important form of social security for farmers, has a stronger demand for social security after returning farmland to wetlands. This lower level of social security demand can be achieved through higher level development needs, namely providing employment opportunities. Based on the degree of impact of ecological construction within the protected area on the region, local environmental background, economic development level, and differences in the development willingness of farmers, corresponding alternative livelihood development models were constructed and evaluated.