

Exploration and Analysis of Natural Resources Utilization and Ecological Environment Protection

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Abstract

The economic and social development makes the natural resources increasingly scarce and the ecological environment pollution increasingly serious. Global warming has brought great challenges to the construction of the human ecological environment and the protection of natural resources. In the world of globalized development today, mankind must face this common issue in a scientific way, abandon traditional outmoded thinking and understandings, and strike a balance between natural resources development and environmental protection. Natural resources shall not be excessively and predatorily exploited and the environment shall not be destroyed without restrictions. It is necessary for us to offer publicity and education on environmental protection, increase citizens' awareness of environmental protection to create an atmosphere of loving nature and protecting the environment, strengthen the restoration of the environment, make rational use of waste resources, and develop the circular economy to improve the utilization rate of natural resources. To ensure sustainable economic and social development, it is necessary to protect natural resources, protect the ecological environment, and coordinate the relationship between them.

Keywords

Natural Resources, Ecological Environment, Coordination

1. Introduction

Human beings need to develop and utilize various natural resources in the process of their own development, which is easy to pollute the ecological environment, lead to ecological imbalance, and harm sustainable economic and social development. To achieve long-term sustainable development, human beings should coordinate the relationship between natural resources and the ecological environment, protect the ecological environment while developing and utilizing natural resources, and realize the coordinated development between the two.

2. Importance of natural Resource Protection and Ecological Environment Construction

The literature published by the United Nations defines natural resources as "all kinds of components found by people in the natural environment belong to natural resources as long as they can provide human welfare in any way", "such as plants, animals, landscape elements, terrain, water, air, soil, fossil resources, etc." Therefore, it can be said that the ecological environment, whether from the primitive society or to the later industrial age" [1], is the foundation for the development of human society. For the process of human development of natural resources, however, for a long time in the past, humans' understanding of the development and utilization of natural resources and the protection of the ecological environment is not scientific, which has damaged the ecological environment while realizing the rapid industrial development. The problems brought about by global warming make humans realize the importance of the ecological environment for human life. They have started to take various efforts to strengthen the scientific management of industrial enterprises, coordinate the relationship between natural resources and ecological environment protection, utilize natural resources according to objective laws, and make positive

efforts to build an ecological civilized society, so as to develop in a balanced way with the ecological environment.

3. Problems in Natural Resource Utilization and Ecological Environment Protection

3.1. Excessive development and utilization of natural resources

The earth is the shared home of mankind and is the most basic guarantee for human survival and development. This planet provides all the resources necessary for human beings to survive. However, the earth has limited resources and its land area is less than one-third of its total area. In this limited space, the resources on the earth are limited and non-renewable. Excessive exploitation and unreasonable development and utilization of these non-renewable resources will result in resource exhaustion and a negative impact on the earth's environment. As the No. 15 chemical element, phosphorus exists in all cells of the human body and is a necessary substance for maintaining bones and teeth, participating in almost all physiological chemical reactions. This element is also an important substance that enables the heart to beat regularly; maintains the normal functions of kidneys and transmits nerve stimulation. For all plants and animals (including humans) on the earth, phosphorus is an indispensable mineral. It is not only a non-renewable resource but also an irreplaceable substance. However, we have not provided sufficient protection for this element although we are aware of its importance to plants and animals, including humans ourselves. Currently, almost no effective measures are available to protect this key element in the world. Moreover, phosphorus is used by humans in a very simple way, by adding it to fertilizers to increase agricultural output, for example. For such an important element, its application by mankind is so simple and primitive. Due to the substantial increase in the consumption of phosphorous fertilizer in recent years, there is increasing consumption of phosphorous resources. According to a survey by scientists, the consumption of phosphorous fertilizer has seen a six-fold increase in the past half a century, and this demand is expected to double by 2050. The increasing consumption of phosphorus resources has made scientists see the crisis of mankind. As a result, some scientists issued a warning that phosphorus resources, as important substances, are on the verge of depletion, which may bring a crisis to human beings. This warning was issued by a group of 40 renowned international experts. At the current pace of consumption, humans may use up all the phosphorous reserves on the earth within 80 years.

3.2. Severe damage to the environment

Human activities are closely correlated with the development and utilization of natural resources. The waste water, waste gas and waste residue arising from these activities are discharged into the natural environment. For pursuing economic benefits, human beings are over-cultivating land and cutting trees excessively, all of which affect the integrity of the environment. The natural environment on which human beings rely mainly consists of six elements, such as the atmosphere and water. If one element is destroyed, the other five will change and the entire environment will be affected, thus intensifying the contradictions between the destruction of the natural environment and ecological integrity. Usually, humans adopt the method of first development and then conservation on the path to ecological conservation. This solution will damage the environment and it will take a long time to restore the damaged environment. As predicted by experts, if no effective protection is provided to natural resources, all natural resources on the earth will be exhausted by 2075. The Amazon Rainforest has traditionally been the largest rainforest on this planet. Each year, it absorbs billions of tons of carbon dioxide through the effect of photosynthesis and converts carbon dioxide, energy and water into biologically beneficial substances through processing. Meanwhile, it can help lower temperatures and regulate the climate by removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. According to a new NASA study, over the past 20 years, the atmosphere above the Amazon Rainforest has dried up, thus increasing the demand for water and making the ecosystem vulnerable to fire and drought. It also pointed out that such an increase in dryness was mainly caused by human activities. Scientists at NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, California analyzed decades of surface and satellite data on the Amazon Rainforest so as to track the content of moisture in the atmosphere and that is needed to maintain the rainforest system. They indicated that both dryness in the atmosphere and the atmospheric demand for water above the rainforest have increased significantly over the past two decades. Atmospheric drought is changing far faster than the expected natural climate change. The intensifying greenhouse gas effect accounts for nearly half of the causes of this drought, with the remaining causes being ongoing human activities such as burning forests and cutting trees. When a forest burns, it will release some aerosol particles into the atmosphere. Darker aerosols will absorb radiation when brightly colored or translucent aerosols reflect radiation. They absorb heat from the sun and make the atmosphere become even warmer and also form interfering clouds, which in turn affect rainfall. Trees and other plants need water for photosynthesis and to cool them down when they get too hot. When increased dry air disrupts the cloud-rain cycle, some trees may experience a dry season that lasts more than four or five months. Forests cannot maintain their own systems. If this trend continues for a long time and rainforests reach a state in which they cannot function properly, lots of trees and species that live in rainforest ecosystems may be unable to survive. As trees die, especially large and old trees, they will release carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. And fewer trees mean less carbon dioxide the Amazon Rainforest absorbs. This also means that we will lose an important element of climate

regulation.

3.3. Unscientific Thoughts and Ideas

In some countries, especially in developing countries, what determines the value of commodities is the labor time consumed in commodity production. Things will have no value if they are not invested in labor or cannot be traded. Affected by this idea, most people lack a scientific understanding of the value of natural resources and the ecological environment, develop resources in an excessive and predatory way and destroy the ecological environment without restrictions when carrying out economic activities, making the ecological environment constantly deteriorate [2]. When calculating GNP, some countries often ignore the loss of natural resources and fail to calculate the damage and loss to the ecological environment. While the economic indicators of some developing countries are constantly improving, the utilization rate of natural resources is not high, with many resources destroyed to varying degrees and the ecological environment further deteriorating, which threatens human survival.

3.4. Imbalance between Utilization and Protection

There are still gaps, duplications, and conflicts in the laws and regulations on ecological environment protection in some countries. Although some countries have stipulated the control measures of forest harvesting, they have not clearly pointed out the prevention and evaluation measures of the ecological environment of large forests; The fishery administration department is responsible for the protection of aquatic resources and the management of fishery production, and the overlapping of the operation authority and administration authority of the competent departments leads to the unreasonable development and allocation of natural resources. In the development and utilization of natural resources, some countries fail to depend on the actual situation of resource distribution and local ecological environment, which has further deepened the issue of uneven distribution of natural resources, seriously damaged the ecological environment, and hindered the sustainable development of society, economy and ecological environment. In some countries, the per capita occupancy rate of natural resources is low, but there is an unreasonable phenomenon in the use of natural resources, which intensifies the contradictions and conflicts between population, natural resources, and the ecological environment and does not facilitate maintaining the ecological balance.

4. Coordinated Development between Natural Resource Utilization and Ecological Environment Protection

4.1. Strengthen Publicity and Education and Establish Awareness of Ecological Environment Protection

With a large number, people in developing countries generally lack the awareness of ecological environment protection, most of whom cause serious damage to the ecological environment and ultimately threaten their own survival. To well protect the ecological environment depends on whether citizens of a country have a strong awareness of environmental protection. This requires the government of each country to properly carry out publicity and education regarding natural resource utilization and ecological environment protection, and strengthen citizens' awareness of ecological environment protection. Newspapers and radio stations should give full play to their own advantages, publicize the value of natural resources and the ecological environment to people, and awaken their awareness of ecological environment protection. Large companies should organize employees to carry out various forms of public welfare activities of natural resource utilization and ecological environment protection, and actively interact with people in the community to create an atmosphere of loving nature and protecting the ecological environment. The government should set up educational content related to the utilization of natural resources and the protection of the ecological environment in primary and secondary schools, so as to improve citizens' awareness of environmental protection.

4.2. Attaching great importance to ecological improvement

Starting with the coordinated development of economy, society and ecological improvement and focusing on "protecting resources and ensuring development", we should reform regulatory measures, proactively provide services, strictly regulate the management, take solid steps in cultivated land protection, mines' ecological environment management and the management of other resources, and strengthen resources and ecological improvement. Firstly, cultivated land should be properly protected. Laws and measures for the conservation of cultivated land shall be fully implemented in accordance with the laws and regulations on improving cultivated land protection and the mechanism for investigating and punishing legal violations. Secondly, land consolidation should be carried out. Land development and reclamation should be regarded as a focus of economic development. The key areas for reclamation and the objectives and requirements of reclamation should be identified according to the overall land use plan. Private investment should be attracted for reclamation based on the principle of "The one who invests will get benefits". Preferential measures should focus on the formulation of development and utilization plans. It is necessary to increase capital investment, improve policy measures, seek breakthroughs in development and utilization, and vigorously

develop lands and reclaim construction land to achieve a win-win scenario in economic and social benefits. Optimizing the land use structure, improving the input-output ratio and revitalizing the stock construction land should be regarded as priorities for further improving economical and intensive land use. Thirdly, mineral resource conservation and management should be strengthened. The adjustment of mine layout and mining structure should be accelerated to promote scaled mining and intensive utilization of mineral resources. The treatment of abandoned mines should be speeded up and the environment of mines should be protected. Close attention should be paid to mine management. It is necessary to investigate the issues related to mines' geological environment, continue to pursue practice and explorations, focus on absorbing and introducing private capital and investing it into the governance of mines' geological environment, and explore and formulate preferential policies for land and minerals, attract private capital for investment in governance and establish a new mechanism for the governance of mines' geological environment featuring "government investment and guidance, preferential policy support and private capital participation" [3].

4.3. Adhering to the principle of systematic natural resources

Natural resources such as land, organisms, water and other resources form a complete system through complex interactions. The destruction of any natural resource will affect some other elements, resulting in a series of ecological issues [4]. Once the ecological environment is destroyed, it is even more difficult to conserve natural resources. The principle of systematicness is the first principle to be followed in the conservation of natural resources and ecological improvement. Among natural resources, mountains, rivers, forests, fields, lakes and grasslands are a shared community of life. There, the laws of nature must be followed in use regulation and ecological restoration. If those who plant trees or regulate water only care about planting trees or regulating water, it is easy for them to ignore the other while dealing with one aspect, thus causing systematic ecological damage. One government authority's unified exercise of the duty of regulating all land spaces is beneficial for the overall conservation of natural resources, the systematic restoration of the environment and adapting to the inherent requirements of ecological improvement.

4.4. Prioritized conservation and rational development

Humans may cause damage to resources and the environment when developing and utilizing natural resources. Humans need to develop natural resources as a guarantee for their life. However, it should be pointed out that only by conserving natural resources in the process of development and utilization can human beings achieve sustainable development. The excessive exploitation of these resources will inevitably go against the laws of natural resources ecology and make the resources increasingly deplete. Thus, it is necessary to strictly manage the natural resources exploitation process and protect these resources, raise the market access threshold for natural resources development, improve relevant laws and regulations and realize national supervision so that every natural resource can be reasonably developed and utilized. It is also necessary to strike a balance between social development and environmental conservation, adhere to the principles of "those who develop natural resources should protect them and those who cause damage to these resources should be liable for their governance", and follow the laws of natural ecology and the principles of overall planning, prioritized conservation, scientific development, seeking advantages and avoiding disadvantages and rational utilization, preventing, controlling and reducing the impact of human activities on the environment. It is essential to scientifically promote the model of sustainable resources development and utilization, establish a natural resources development and utilization model featuring rational layout, intensive and efficient management, structural optimization and smooth response, rationally develop low-efficiency lands, improve the plot ratio of industrial land, develop underground space and take other measures for transformation, development and utilization to promote the more intensive, more efficient and more sustainable high-quality use of land resources.

4.5. Environmental Restoration and Resource Recycling

Continuous efforts should be taken to strengthen the restoration of the ecological environment and the rational utilization of waste resources. Ecological resource restoration should focus on desertification, rocky desertification, and water and soil loss. It needs to carry out planting and cultivating of vegetation, improve the stability of the soil, properly conduct energy conservation and emission reduction, guide people to make rational utilization of natural resources, reduce pollutant emissions, properly green the city, and enhance urban air quality. In addition, it should develop a circular economy, combine the distribution of natural resources in different places and the characteristics of the ecological environment, and improve the utilization rate of natural resources; develop and utilize new energy, reduce the emission of pollutants, and achieve the development goal of protecting the ecological environment.

4.6. Scientific legislation and Strict Law Enforcement

All countries should establish laws in terms of natural resource utilization and ecological environment protection, and strictly enforce the law. The legal content should prevent the overlap contradiction and intersection between various rules and regulations, clarify the division of rights and responsibilities of administrative authorities in natural resource utilization and ecological environment protection, and avoid mutual shirking of responsibilities when problems occur [5]. They should select personnel with strong professional ability and comprehensive quality to form a law enforcement team, strengthen the supervision of law enforcement, and ensure the effective execution of laws and regulations.

5. Conclusion

To sum up, for the future development of society and the normal reproduction of human society, it is necessary to speed up the practice of natural resource protection and ecological environment construction. To solve the contradiction faced by natural resource protection and ecological environment construction is the most urgent need at present.

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