

## 8 理论视点 | Theoretical Views

### Combing through the Reform of the Collective Forest Tenure System: A Balance Between Income Generation and Ecological Conservation

Collective forest areas account for half of China's forest stock volume. Looking back, the reform of the collective forest tenure system has gone through two phrases: first, separating "the right to land contractual management" from "forest ownership", known as the separation of the two rights; second, separating "the management right of forest land" from "the right to land contractual management", known as the separation of the three rights. The reform, which has clearly defined property rights, has enabled high-level and large-scale operation of forest asset portfolios. It has facilitated the development of diversified, multitype, and multiform forestry industries, as well as differentiated management of public forests and commercial forests. By establishing and improving a "forest ecological benefit compensation system", the ecological benefits of forests have been monetized. By innovating financial and credit mechanisms, abundant forest resources have been turned into financial assets. By establishing forest tenure transfer markets and carbon trading exchanges and developing green banks, forest resources have been transformed into forest assets.

## 18 文明回眸 | Civilization Glimpse

### The Past and Present of the Reform of the Collective Forest Tenure System

The success of the reform of the collective forest tenure system, which started at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, lies in a timely response to the needs of the reality and the aspirations of the people, and an alignment with a well-informed and science-based assessment of the situation. Thanks to the successful reform, now China's forestry sector has transitioned from timber forestry to ecological forestry and ultimately to a multifunctional forestry (the four major roles of forest: water conservation and purification, income generation, food production, and carbon sequestration). As China has already drawn a new blueprint for furthering reform of the collective forest tenure system in the new era, concerted efforts at all levels are expected, so that the country can better integrate forest land resources, enhance the comprehensive benefits of collective forests, improve the diversity, stability, and sustainability of its ecosystem, and strike a balance between income generation and ecological protection.

## 30 特别策划 | Special Focus

### Nanping in Fujian Province: Turning Green Mountains into Their Best Assets

Nanping in Fujian Province has always kept in mind the important instruction from President Xi Jinping: Forest reforms should deliver tangible benefits to the people. Taking the opportunity of being a pilot city for national comprehensive forestry reform and development and the roll-out of the "forest chief system", Nanping has launched a raft of innovative programs. Just to name a few, "Forest Ecological Bank", and "One Platform for One Village, One Share for One Household, Dividend Paid Once a Year, One Database for One County"—a program to promote forestry joint-stock cooperative business model. The city aims to achieve scaled management and specialized operation of forest resources, striving to balance ecological protection, green development, and the improved well-being of residents.

### Fuzhou in Jiangxi Province: Turning Rich Forest Resources into Staggering Wealth

Fuzhou in Jiangxi Province, one of the pilot areas for national comprehensive forestry reform and development, has furthered the reform of the collective forest tenure system. It has made a good use of nearly 20 million mu (approximately 3.3 million acres) of forest land resources, especially in realizing value transformation of the high-quality forest land resources. In the process, Fuzhou has identified 24 reform tasks and delivered ten top-notch development results. It has accelerated the transition from traditional quantity-based forestry to modern performance-oriented forestry, turning rich resources into immense industrial value. The city actively explores a new path of forestry reform and development that integrates development and protection and promotes ecological conservation, industrial growth, and people's wellbeing.

### Quzhou in Zhejiang Province: Easement Reforms in Natural Protected Areas

Under the guidance of Xi Jinping's ecological philosophy, Quzhou in Zhejiang Province has been pressing for easement reforms in natural protected areas. In the Jiangshan Pilot Area, the Taohuayuan Ecological Protection Fund has been introduced. With the People's Government of the Nianbaodu Town as the easement holder, this is the first case in China's nationwide easement reform that has brought a non-governmental organization on board, which has pioneered a new benefits-combined mechanism for public good. This innovation has boosted ecological conservation, unleashed potential in ecological industrial models, and spurred poverty alleviation and rural revitalization in the mountainous areas. It also explores a path for the promotion, duplicability and sustainability of ecological conservation and green development in collective forest areas.

### Chengdu in Sichuan Province: Exploring Development Paths to Urban Modern Forestry

As the only provincial capital and sub-provincial city among all the pilot areas for national comprehensive forestry reform and development, Chengdu Municipality has implemented Xi Jinping's ecological philosophy, by targeting the greatest demand for the accelerated transformation of forestry products' functions into ecological services, especially those in key areas and key processes. It has innovatively carried out initiatives such as "Forestry Cooperative System 2.0", policy trails for operating service facilities, precise improvement of forest quality, and mechanisms for realizing ecological value. It has actively explored new mechanisms, new paths, and new models for the reform and development of urban modern forestry.

### Green Green Dublin: A Love Song of Ireland

Ireland is a mysterious island that keeps a comfortable distance from the European continent. Dublin, an ancient and artistic city, has a great literary tradition, world-renowned bands, the largest city park in Europe—Phoenix Park, and the serene and emerald-like River Liffey that crisscrosses the entire city. Strolling through Dublin, steeped in its culture and history, one feels the vicissitudes of life and a harmonious coexistence between humanity and nature.

### Yeyahu Wetland of Beijing: A Paradise for Migratory Birds

Yeyahu Wetland at the foot of the Badaling Great Wall is the only wetland in Beijing of international prestige. It boasts the largest area, the greatest variety of wetland types, the richest biodiversity, and the best-preserved close-to-nature wetland ecosystem in the Chinese capital. For migratory birds living in the northern part of the North China Plain, the wetland is also the most critical stopover, as well as breeding and wintering ground. It is home to a wide variety of wildlife and plants. In recent years, since it has attracted an increasing number of Beijing residents who have come to observe and study birds, it has become an essential destination to showcase progress in ecological conservation.

### Honghe Wetland: Where Oriental Storks Call Home

Honghe Wetland stretches out like a pristine painting on the vast Sanjiang Plain. As one of the best-preserved primitive wetlands in China, it represents the authenticity of the original marshland landscape of the Sanjiang Plain. Being a highly representative and typical inland wetland, it serves as a critical stopover and breeding ground for migratory birds of Northeast Asia. It is also a designated breeding area for internationally endangered species. In 2009, this wetland was awarded the title of "Hometown of Oriental Storks (*Ciconia boyciana*) in China" by China Wildlife Conservation Association.

### Zhaling Lake and Eling Lake: Twin Lakes at the Source of the Yellow River

Maduo County, known as "a County of a Thousand Lakes", is blessed with abundant water and lush grasslands, and adorned with many lakes and wetlands. It is home to Zhaling Lake and Eling Lake, the two largest plateau freshwater lakes at the source of the Yellow River. In the Tibetan language, the two lakes respectively mean "a white and long Lake" and "a long lake of turquoise color". Like twin sisters standing hand in hand and shoulder to shoulder, they look affectionately at the Yellow River and the snow-capped grasslands in winter. Together they guard this beautiful land.

### Science: A Force to Protect Wetlands

Wetlands are the cradle of life and a home for thousands of waterbirds. To encourage more people to better understand and protect wetlands, Chinese Academy of Forestry's Institute of Ecological Conservation and Restoration, in partnership with Beijing Yeyahu Wetland and Heilongjiang's Honghe International Wetland, have launched a series of popular science activities, including bird-watching and ecological photography exhibitions. Through those inclusive campaigns to communicate science, they aimed to disseminate the knowledge and ecological importance of protecting wetlands and nature to the public. Hopefully, science can be leveraged as a force to safeguard the homeland of migratory birds.