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# Poverty Reduction with Eco-Compensation: PRC’ s Experiences and Challenges

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## Company Profile

### Chinese Poverty Alleviation Services Co.

**Ltd.** Established in 1988, It is an enterprise that serves poor areas. Since the establishment of the company, it has carried out project for China's poverty alleviation, taking "poverty alleviation with industry" as the main direction and participating in the poverty alleviation projects in China. Four service platforms have been set up for poor areas: industrial service platform, planning consulting service platform, financial service platform, and market transaction service platform.



**Both China and International communities  
attach great importance to ecological  
compensation and poverty reduction**

# 变革我们的世界：2030年可持续发展议程SDG 2030 Agenda For Sustainable Development



UNDP



Green development

Poverty reduction

## “Five Approaches” to alleviate poverty

### Poverty Alleviation by Eco-compensation



In November 2015, Xi Jinping hosted the CPC Central Committee's Poverty Alleviation and Development Work Conference.

“Five Approaches” to alleviate poverty: fostering distinctive industries; advancing relocation; **Eco-compensation**; strengthening education; improving social security



Implementing major ecological projects such as returning farmland to forests and grasslands, natural forest protection, and rocky desertification control, and further tilting to poverty-stricken areas in terms of projects and funding arrangements to increase the participation and income level of the poor. Increasing the ecological protection and restoration of poverty-stricken areas and increasing the transfer payment of key ecological functional areas. Using ecological compensation and ecological protection project funds turn some of the local poor working people into ecological protection personnel such as forest guards.

Handling the relationship between ecological protection and poverty alleviation, strengthening ecological protection and remediation in poverty-stricken areas, and improving the sustainable development capacity of poverty-stricken areas. Gradually expanding the compensation for ecological protection of poor areas and to poor people, and adding ecological public jobs to enable the poor to realize poverty alleviation through participation in ecological protection.

- Specific measures: Strengthen ecological protection and construction, **focus on implementing 11 major ecological construction poverty alleviation projects**, organizing and mobilizing poor people to participate in ecological protection construction projects, improving the income level of poor people, and jointly developing ecological forestry with economic benefits in line with national major ecological engineering construction Industry; establishing and improving the ecological protection compensation mechanism .

## 11 major ecological construction poverty alleviation projects

### （一）退耕还林还草工程。

在安排新一轮退耕还林还草任务时，向扶贫开发任务重、贫困人口较多的省份倾斜。各有关省份要进一步向贫困地区集中，向建档立卡贫困村、贫困人口倾斜。

### （二）退牧还草工程。

继续在内蒙古、辽宁、吉林、黑龙江、四川、贵州、云南、西藏、陕西、甘肃、青海、宁夏、新疆和新疆生产建设兵团实施退牧还草工程，并向贫困地区、贫困人口倾斜，合理调整任务实施范围，促进贫困县脱贫攻坚。

### （三）青海三江源生态保护和建设二期工程。

继续加强三江源草原、森林、荒漠、湿地与湖泊生态系统保护和建设，治理范围从15.2万平方公里扩大至39.5万平方公里，从根本上遏制生态整体退化趋势，促进三江源地区可持续发展。

### （四）京津风沙源治理工程。

继续加强燕山—太行山区、吕梁山区等贫困地区的工程建设，建成京津及周边地区的绿色生态屏障，沙尘天气明显减少，农牧民生产生活条件全面改善。

### （五）天然林资源保护工程。

扩大天然林保护政策覆盖范围，全面停止天然林商业性采伐，逐步提高补助标准，加大对贫困地区的支持。

### （六）三北等防护林体系建设工程。

优先安排贫困地区三北、长江、珠江、沿海、太行山等防护林体系建设，加大森林经营力度，推进退化林修复，提升森林质量、草原综合植被盖度和整体生态功能，遏制水土流失。加强农田防护林建设，营造农田林网，加强村镇绿化，提升平原农区防护林体系综合功能。

### （七）水土保持重点工程。

加大长江和黄河上中游、西南岩溶区、东北黑土区等重点区域水土流失治理力度，加快推进坡耕地、侵蚀沟治理工程建设，有效改善贫困地区农业生产生活条件。

### （八）岩溶地区石漠化综合治理工程。

继续加大滇桂黔石漠化区、滇西边境山区、乌蒙山区和武陵山区等贫困地区石漠化治理力度，恢复林草植被，提高森林质量，统筹利用水土资源，改善农业生产条件，适度发展草食畜牧业。

### （九）沙化土地封禁保护区建设工程。

继续在内蒙古、西藏、陕西、甘肃、青海、宁夏、新疆等省（区）推进沙化土地封禁保护区建设，优先将832个贫困县中适合开展沙化土地封禁保护区建设的县纳入建设范围，实行严格的封禁保护。

### （十）湿地保护与恢复工程。

对全国重点区域的自然湿地和具有重要生态价值的人工湿地，实行优先保护和修复，扩大湿地面积。对东北生态保育区、长江经济带生态涵养带、京津冀生态协同圈、黄土高原—川滇生态修复带的国际重要湿地、湿地自然保护区和国家湿地公园及其周边范围内非基本农田，实施退耕（牧）还湿、退养还滩。

### （十一）农牧交错带已垦草原综合治理工程。

在河北、山西、内蒙古、甘肃、宁夏、新疆开展农牧交错带已垦撂荒地治理，通过建植多年生人工草地，提高治理区植被覆盖率和饲草生产、储备、利用能力，保护和恢复草原生态，促进农业结构优化、草畜平衡，实现当地可持续发展。

## Establish and improve the eco-compensation mechanism

- **Establish a stable financial input mechanism.** The central government increases the transfer payments to poverty-stricken counties in key national ecological function zones, expands the scope of policy implementation, improves transfer payment subsidies, and gradually increases the level of capital investment in ecological protection and restoration of key ecological function zones.
- **Create job for ecological protection.** The central government adjusts the structure of ecological construction and compensation funds, and supports to offer more jobs for poor people by purchasing services or establishing ecological public welfare jobs in forests, grasslands, wetlands, and desertified land in poverty-stricken to make them participate in ecological management work. Enriching and improving the management and protection posts of national parks, and increasing the employment opportunities of poor people in national parks, national nature reserves, and national-level scenic spots to participate in patrol and public welfare services.
- **Explore diversified eco-compensation.** According to the principle of “Beneficiary pays” , to improve the ecological compensation mechanism. Pilot ecological comprehensive compensation in poverty-stricken areas and gradually increasing compensation rate. Improving the dynamic adjustment mechanism for compensation standards for fiscal forest ecological benefits at all levels. Studying and formulating policies and measures to encourage social forces to participate in desertification control. Promoting compensation for horizontal ecological protection, and encouraging horizontal compensation relationships between beneficiary areas and protected areas, downstream and upstream of river basins. Exploring market-based compensation methods such as carbon trading and green product labeling.



## China's eco-compensation and poverty alleviation: experiences and lessons learned

# Government-led + market operation

- Carry out ecological compensation practices and implement a series of ecological compensation projects or policies such as returning farmland to forests, forest ecological benefit compensation funds, natural forest protection projects, and transfer of national key ecological functional areas. Effective assistance to poverty-stricken areas through specific actions of poverty alleviation through ecological compensation.



- For example, Shaanxi Province launched the “Ecological Poverty Alleviation Channel” in 2016, and selected 10,000 people in 43 poverty-stricken counties and 13 national poverty counties in the three concentrated areas of Qinba Mountain, Luliang Mountain and Liupan Mountain. The registered poor people were recruited as ecological forest guards. At the same time, the local forestry department guides the poverty-stricken households in the scientific management of the farmland, and accurately constructs a number of high-quality and high-efficiency cash trees, woody oils and characteristic orchard such as apples, walnuts, peppers and teas in the mountains. The per person possessed orchard is more than 1 mu.



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## 发展改革委关于印发《生态扶贫工作方案》的通知

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【字体：大 中 小】 打印 分享 微信 微博 更多

### 关于印发《生态扶贫工作方案》的通知

发改农经〔2018〕124号

有关省、自治区、直辖市、新疆生产建设兵团发展改革委、林业厅（局）、财政厅（局）、水利厅（局）、农业（农牧）厅（局）、扶贫办：

为贯彻落实《中共中央 国务院关于打赢脱贫攻坚战的决定》《“十三五”脱贫攻坚规划》精神，充分发挥生态保护在精准扶贫、精准脱贫中的作用，切实做好生态扶贫工作，按照国务院扶贫开发领导小组统一部署，国家发展改革委、国家林业局、财政部、水利部、农业部、国务院扶贫办共同制定了《生态扶贫工作方案》，现印发你们。

请把生态扶贫工作作为重点工作进行部署安排，进一步细化落实《生态扶贫工作方案》各项工作，逐项明确责任单位、责任人、时间进度，切实加大对贫困地区、贫困人口的支持力度，推动贫困地区扶贫开发与生态保护相协调、脱贫致富与可持续发展相促进，使贫困人口从生态保护与修复中得到更多实惠，实现脱贫攻坚与生态文明建设“双赢”。

附件：[生态扶贫工作方案](#)

国家发展改革委  
国家林业局  
财政部  
水利部  
农业部  
国务院扶贫办  
2018年1月18日

Further playing the role of ecological protection in precision poverty alleviation and striving to set up 12,000 ecological poverty alleviation professional cooperatives by 2020, absorbing 100,000 poor people to participate in ecological engineering construction, and adding 400,000 new ecological jobs. Developing the ecological industry and driving the income increase for about 15 million poor people.



## **Distribution of China's Poor Population in Ecological Functional Areas and Results of Poverty Alleviation**



According to the classification of ecological functions, ecological poverty alleviation areas can be divided into water conservation areas, soil and water conservation areas, wind break and sand fixation areas, and biodiversity conservation areas.

全国生态保护脱贫对象分布图

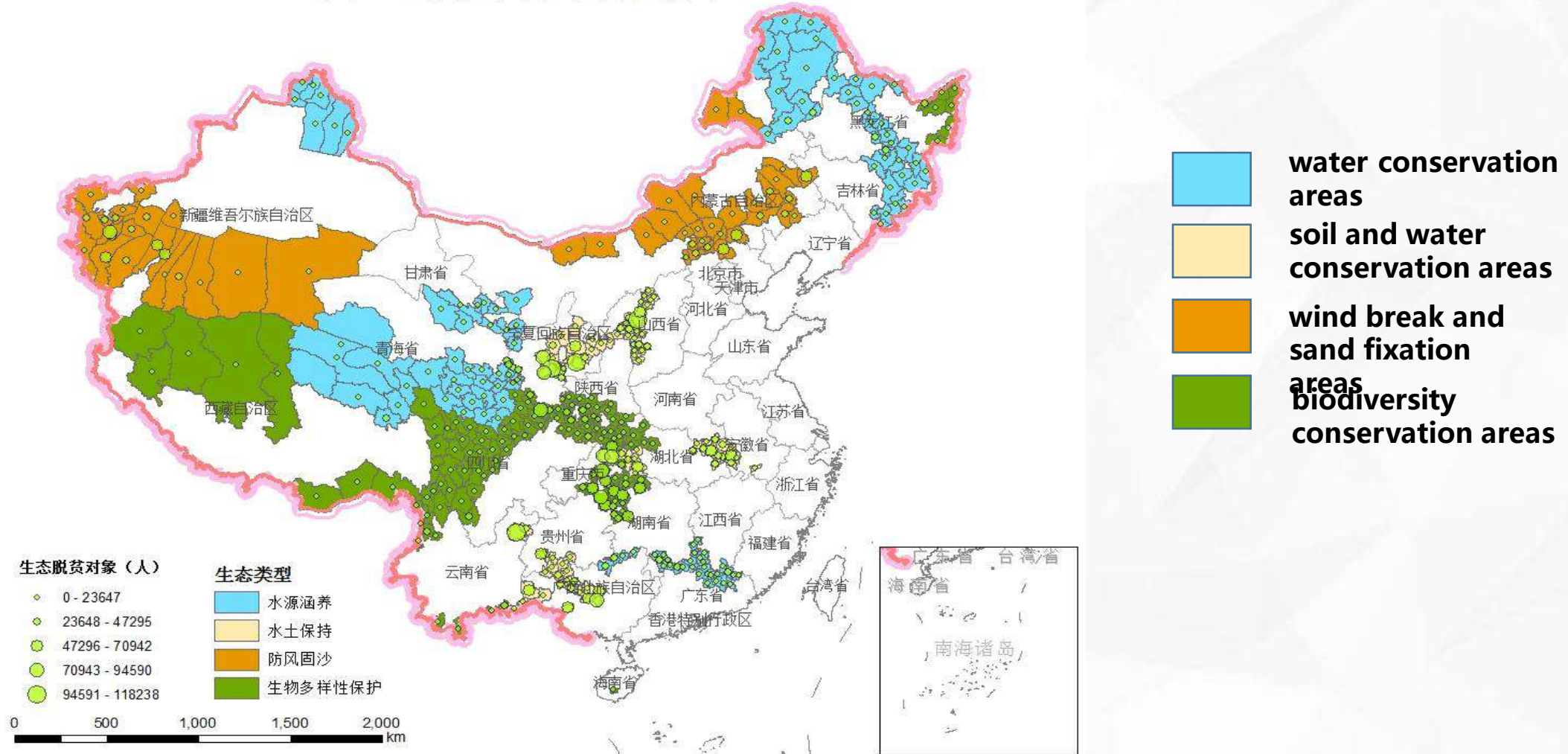




Table 1 Distribution of poverty-stricken counties, poor villages and poor people in ecological function counties

Region	Poverty county	Poor village	Poor household (ten thousand)	Poor people (ten thousand)
East	0	348	3.90	14.9
Central	88	9,435	264.1	792.3
West	222	18,431	346.3	1,230.0
Total	310	28,214	614.4	2,037.2

China's key ecological functional areas involve 436 county-level administrative regions, of which 310 are poverty-stricken counties (270 in districts and counties, 40 in key counties outside the district), 28,214 poor villages, 6.144 million poor households, and 20.732 million poor people. .

Among the 436 ecological function counties, there are 26,301 poverty-stricken villages, and 18.873 million poor people are distributed among 310 poverty-stricken counties, accounting for 93.2% and 92.5% of the poverty-stricken villages and poor people in the ecological function areas, respectively.

Table 2 Distribution of poor villages and poor people in 310 poverty-stricken counties

Region	Poverty county	Poor village	Poor household (ten thousand)	Poor people (ten thousand)
East	88	8,758	230.1	698.8
West	222	17,543	330.2	1179.5
Total	310	26,301	560.3	1878.3



Table 3 Targets and distribution of ecological protection poverty alleviation in 436 ecological function counties

Ecological type	Poor village	Poor household (ten thousand)	households poverty alleviation (ten thousand)	People poverty alleviation (ten thousand)
Water conservation	3,768	89.1	33.5	103.9
water and soil conservation	9,456	236.1	89.9	278.8
Wind and sand fixation	3,930	86.9	39.5	122.5
Biodiversity maintenance	11,060	202.3	56.2	174.1
Total	28,214	614.4	219.1	679.2

Table 4 Scale and distribution of poverty alleviation objects in 310 poverty-stricken counties

Ecological type	Poor village	Poor household (ten thousand)	households poverty alleviation (ten thousand)	People poverty alleviation (ten thousand)
Water conservation	2,746	60.7	23.6	73.0
water and soil conservation	8,991	219.3	84.8	262.7
Wind and sand fixation	3,666	82.9	36.5	113.3
Biodiversity maintenance	10,898	197.3	54.4	168.7
Total	26,301	560.3	199.3	617.7

According to the type of ecological function, the ecological poverty alleviation target of water conservation area is 1.039 million, the ecological poverty alleviation object of the soil and water conservation area is 2.788 million, the ecological poverty alleviation target of the wind and sand fixation area is 1.225 million, and the ecological poverty reduction target of the biodiversity maintenance area is 1.741 million. people.

# Case of Zilinshan Village, Dushan County, Guizhou Province

Zilinshan Village is located in the hinterland of Zilin Mountain National Forest Park and Duliujiang Provincial Wetland Protection Area. It is an important ecological function area and water source conservation area, and one of the most remote mountain villages in Dushan County. The development lagging of the village caused by remote geographical conditions, poor climatic conditions, backward production methods and outdated ideas.

In 2015, there were 400 poor households with 1,040 people in the village. Among them, there were 200 generally poor households with 718 persons, 200 Low-security households with 322 persons. The incidence of poverty has reached 41.0%. Among them, the old Zilinshan Village is a poverty-stricken village in the country. Weak grassroots organizations, poor basic conditions, deep poverty, and heavy development tasks are the most obvious features of Zilinshan Village. Due to its location in the alpine region, there is no viable industrial drive before.



During the investigation, we found that the local native peat moss is an important wetland plant that conserves water. Local villagers often go to pick and sell it, which has become an important source of income for them, but it has also caused adverse effects on the local ecological environment.

In response to this situation, we suggest that the local government adopt a combination of “blocking” and “dredging” and explore the development model of wetland reward compensation and poverty alleviation in Zilinshan Village. On the one hand, we established a team of 50-person as ecological forest guards to comprehensively protect the wild peat moss area; on the other hand, to guide the villagers to use the farmland to cultivate peat moss, and successively mobilize nearly 5 million yuan of forestry and other funds to support the cooperatives and villagers to plant it in the farmland; at the same time, they applied for more than 800,000 yuan of central wetland protection award funds.



At present, the planting area of peat moss farmland in the whole village has reached 2000 mu, which not only effectively controls agricultural pollution, but also realizes the scale and industrialization of planting, and forms the ecology of “full protection on the mountain, moderate development under the mountain, and combination of farming and collection” . This protection and regional development poverty alleviation model will increase the annual income of farmers by more than 2,500 yuan per mu. By the end of 2017, the number of poor households in Zilinshan Village had dropped from the original 200 households and 718 people to 71 households with 262 persons. Among them, The Zilinshan Village in no longer an absolute poor village.



**Ecological protection and poverty alleviation are important issues in both China and the world, which need to be solved. Combining ecological compensation with poverty alleviation is an inevitable choice to ensure the long-term welfare of people in poverty-stricken areas. China Poverty Alleviation Service Company will continue to devote itself to the development of poverty alleviation, and will continue to work hard to achieve the goal of absolute poverty alleviation in China by 2020 and absolute poverty alleviation in the world by 2030. !**



**THANK YOU**

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