

Research on the Environmental Protection Effect of Local Ecological Transfer Payment

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Abstract

Local ecological transfer payment refers to a policy tool used by the central government to provide financial support to local governments according to the ecological compensation mechanism for ecological protection. With the increasingly serious ecological and environmental problems in China, local ecological transfer payment has become an important way to protect the ecological environment and achieve sustainable development. The purpose of this paper is to explore the effect of local ecological transfer payment on environmental protection and analyze its impact on local economy and society.

Keywords

Local Ecological Transfer Payment; Ecological Compensation; Environmental Protection Effect.

1. Introduction

1.1. Background

With the development of economy and society, the damage to the natural environment caused by human activities is becoming more and more serious, which seriously threatens the stability of the ecosystem and the survival of human beings. In order to slow down the rate of environmental damage, China has put forward the concept of "ecological civilization construction", and regards ecological environmental protection as an important part of development. It is in this context that local ecological transfer payments are proposed, which refers to the financial support provided by the central government to various regions for ecological and environmental protection. This policy tool can help regions obtain financial support for ecological protection and restoration efforts to promote environmental sustainability. At the same time, China's local ecological transfer payment policy was proposed in the "Reform Plan of the Central Transfer Payment System" issued in 2008, which aims to encourage local governments to pay more attention to ecological environmental protection and promote the construction of ecological civilization through financial subsidies. With the increasing prominence of environmental problems in China, local ecological transfer payment policies have gradually received attention and are playing an increasingly important role in continuous improvement and adjustment.

1.2. Research Implications

Local ecological transfer payment is an important policy tool to support the construction of local ecological civilization and ecological environmental protection. The significance of this policy study lies in many aspects. First of all, local ecological transfer payments can help promote local ecological and environmental protection. By providing financial compensation

to local governments, local governments can be incentivized to take more environmental protection measures and improve the quality of the ecological environment. This can increase the enthusiasm and initiative of local governments to protect the ecological environment, and promote the attention of the whole society to the ecological environment. Second, it also contributes to a balance between ecological compensation and economic development. This policy can help local governments find a balance between economic development and ecological environmental protection, and avoid destroying the ecological environment due to excessive pursuit of economic growth. Through financial compensation, the coordinated development between economic development and ecological environment can be promoted, and the goal of sustainable development can be achieved.

In addition, local ecological transfer payments can help promote the democratization of ecological environmental protection and the participation of the whole people. This policy can attract more social forces to participate in the management of the ecological environment, promote the protection and governance of the ecological environment by all parties in society, and realize the democratization of ecological environmental protection. Through financial compensation, the goal of national participation in ecological environmental protection can be achieved, and the continuous improvement of ecological environmental protection can be promoted. At the same time, it also helps to promote the construction of ecological civilization and sustainable development. This policy can promote local governments to actively implement the ecological civilization strategy and promote the construction of ecological civilization and sustainable development. Through financial compensation, local governments can enhance their ability to pay attention to and manage the ecological environment, and promote the in-depth development of ecological civilization construction and sustainable development.

1.3. Literature Review

In the government-led and multi-participatory environmental governance system, the ecological transfer payment system is an effective tool to explore China's green development. Ma Jun believes that judging a country's financial management ability is mainly analyzed from the three dimensions of fund allocation, allocation efficiency and operation efficiency, and institutional design and target coordination are the key to improving the incentive effect. Shen Manhong et al. emphasized the active role of the government in ecological protection compensation, and believed that the driving role of fiscal transfer payments between upper and lower governments is the innovation point of compensation for the transboundary basin of the "Xin'an River". Liu Jiong believes that the key to the design of the ecological transfer payment system is to improve the governance willingness and governance ability of local governments, give priority to clarifying the ecological service functions of local governments, and weaken the motivation of "sacrificing the environment for growth", so as to effectively achieve goal coordination. For example, Lu Hongyou et al. believe that "structural reform" can achieve incentive compatibility and reshape the "basic financial index".

2. Practical Experience of Local Ecological Transfer Payments

Since 2006, China has implemented the local ecological transfer payment policy, and has achieved certain results. According to statistics, by the end of 2023, the central government has allocated more than 500 billion yuan of local ecological transfer payment funds. These funds are mainly used to improve the quality of the ecological environment, protect the ecosystem, restore ecological functions, and improve the ecological environment. Through the implementation of the ecological transfer payment policy, a series of ecological protection projects have been carried out in various regions, and significant environmental protection benefits have been achieved.

Taking Beijing as an example, the city has strengthened the protection of key ecological areas such as water conservation reserves, mountainous woodlands and wetlands through local ecological transfer payment support, and implemented a series of ecological protection projects to improve the water conservation function of water source protection areas, improve the ecological environment of wetlands, and increase the coverage rate of green space. At the same time, the local ecological transfer payment has also promoted the development of the local ecological industry, promoted the development of the ecological economy, and created good conditions for the sustainable development of the local economy and society. In addition, in addition to Beijing, other regions have also carried out a series of ecological and environmental protection work through local ecological transfer payment policies, and achieved positive results. For example, Yunnan Province has strengthened the protection of key ecological areas such as natural forests and wetlands through the implementation of local ecological transfer payment policies, improved the local ecological environment, increased biodiversity, attracted many tourists, and promoted the development of local tourism.

3. The Environmental Protection Effect of Local Ecological Transfer Payment

3.1. Improve the Quality of the Ecological Environment

Through local ecological transfer support, local governments can obtain additional financial resources for ecological environmental protection and restoration, thereby improving the quality of the ecological environment. At the same time, it can also help local governments implement more ecological and environmental protection projects, such as afforestation, wetland protection, soil and water conservation, etc., so as to reduce environmental pollution, protect ecosystems, and improve the ecological environment. In addition, local ecological transfer payments can also incentivize local governments to further improve the level of environmental management, increase the protection of key ecological areas such as water conservation reserves, mountainous woodlands, wetlands, etc., reduce environmental pollution, improve environmental elements such as air quality, water quality, soil quality, etc., and improve the quality of the ecological environment, thereby promoting the effect of local environmental governance.

3.2. Promote Ecosystem Restoration and Reconstruction

As a kind of transfer payment provided by the government to promote ecological environmental protection, local ecological transfer payment plays an extremely important role in promoting the restoration and reconstruction of ecosystems. With the continuous acceleration of economic and social development and the continuous increase of human activities, ecological and environmental problems have become increasingly prominent, such as the reduction of biodiversity, land desertification, water pollution, air pollution, etc., and the environmental crisis that directly threatens human survival has become increasingly realistic. In this context, local ecological transfer payments were introduced as a policy tool to promote more effective ecological and environmental protection by providing financial support to local governments with the will and ability to protect the ecology. This also provides more resources and support for local governments to better plan, build and manage their ecosystems as a whole. In this way, local governments can work on planting vegetation, restoring wetlands, and protecting wildlife to promote the healthy development of ecosystems. In this process, local ecological transfer payments not only provide economic support, but more importantly, guide and motivate local governments to make greater efforts in ecological and environmental protection.

In addition, the implementation of local ecological transfer payments can also promote the improvement of local governments' environmental management level. While accepting such payments, local governments need to establish corresponding ecological environment monitoring and assessment systems, strengthen monitoring and assessment of environmental conditions, formulate and implement corresponding environmental protection plans and policies, and promote the implementation of relevant laws and regulations, so as to improve their environmental awareness and management level. In this way, it can not only effectively protect and restore the local ecosystem, but also help promote the improvement of environmental protection awareness and capacity of the whole society.

Under the dual pressure of social and economic development and ecological protection, the role of local ecological transfer payment has become more and more prominent. In this way, the government can effectively mobilize the enthusiasm of local governments and all sectors of society, promote the in-depth development of ecological and environmental protection, and promote the restoration and reconstruction of ecosystems. At the same time, it will also help promote the construction of ecological civilization and promote sustainable economic and social development. Therefore, local ecological transfer payments play an important role in promoting the healthy development of ecosystems and realizing the sustainable development of ecological environment, and its importance and necessity are constantly highlighted. It is hoped that relevant departments can further increase policy support and capital investment, promote the continuous improvement of the local ecological transfer payment system, and make greater contributions to the development of ecological and environmental protection.

3.3. Increase the Stability of the Ecosystem

By providing funds to local governments to implement ecological environmental protection and restoration projects, the state of ecosystems can be effectively improved, biodiversity can be increased, and the sustainable use of natural resources can be improved. At the same time, local ecological transfer payments can also prompt local governments to take more environmental protection measures and strengthen the management and supervision of the ecological environment, thereby reducing environmental damage and resource waste, improving the resistance and resilience of ecosystems, and reducing the risk of natural disasters.

In addition, local ecological transfer payments can also promote inter-regional cooperation and coordination, and promote the joint protection and management of ecosystems between different regions, so as to achieve ecological balance and promote sustainable development. Therefore, local ecological transfer payments are of great significance to increase the stability of ecosystems.

4. The Impact of Local Ecological Transfer Payments on Local Economy and Society

4.1. Promote Local Investment, Employment and the Development of Ecological Industries

The implementation of the local ecological transfer payment policy has provided financial support for local governments, promoted the implementation of ecological protection projects, promoted the development of related industries, increased employment rate, and promoted the growth of local economy. At the same time, it is also conducive to the development of ecological industries such as ecological agriculture, eco-tourism, and environmental protection industry, attracting a large number of investments and promoting the optimization and upgrading of the local economic structure.

4.2. Improve the Quality of Life of Residents and Promote Sustainable Development

Local ecological transfer payments can improve environmental quality, reduce pollutant emissions and ecological damage, improve the quality of life and health of residents, increase residents' satisfaction with the living environment, and promote social harmony and stability. At the same time, it can also help local governments adjust their economic structure in the direction of sustainable development, promote the development of green industries and ecotourism, and promote the transformation of the local economy from traditional high-energy-consuming and high-polluting industries to clean energy and low-carbon economy.

4.3. Promote Balanced Regional Development

Local ecological transfer payment can realize the transfer and compensation of resources between areas with rich ecological resources and areas with fragile ecological environment, promote balanced development between regions, reduce the overexploitation of resources and environmental deterioration, help improve the city's green environment, water environment, air environment, etc., improve the quality and image of the city, attract more tourists and investors, promote the social and economic development of the city, and realize the sustainable development of the ecological economy.

5. Conclusion and Suggestions

The implementation of the local ecological transfer payment policy has had a positive impact on the local economy and society. First of all, by investing funds, we can improve the level of protection of the ecological environment, improve the quality of the ecological environment, and enhance people's quality of life. Secondly, by promoting the development of ecological industries, we can promote the transformation and upgrading of the local economy and achieve sustainable economic development. In addition, local ecological transfer payments can also promote local governments to pay more attention to ecological environmental protection, increase investment, and improve the effect of ecological civilization construction.

However, there are also some problems and challenges in local ecological transfer payment policies. The first is the problem of misuse of funds. Some local governments may use the ecological transfer funds for other purposes, resulting in a waste of funds and difficulties in the implementation of ecological and environmental protection work. The second is the problem of non-implementation of the project. Some local governments may lack attention to ecological and environmental governance projects, resulting in projects not being carried out as planned, affecting the improvement effect of the ecological environment. The third is the problem of inadequate supervision. Some local governments may have problems such as insufficient supervision and diversification of regulatory methods, resulting in opaque use of funds and poor regulatory effectiveness.

Therefore, the government needs to continuously strengthen supervision and regulation, and do a good job in the implementation and implementation of policies. On the one hand, it is necessary to establish and improve the supervision and control mechanism and strengthen the supervision and inspection of the use of funds; on the other hand, it is necessary to increase the attention of local governments to ecological and environmental protection work, strengthen the planning and implementation of ecological environmental governance projects, and ensure the effective use of funds and the implementation of ecological and environmental protection work. Only in this way can the local ecological transfer payment policy play its due role, promote the smooth progress of environmental protection, and realize a virtuous circle of economic and social development and ecological environmental protection.

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