

Analysis of Legal Issues in Environmental Administrative Public Interest Litigation

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Abstract: The Civil Procedure Law of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as the 'Civil Procedure Law'), which was amended for the second time in August 2012, provided for the first time for an environmental public interest litigation system, stressing that relevant departments or organisations can initiate litigation in the People's Courts in the face of incidents of damage to the environment and endangering the legitimate rights and interests of the public^[1]. Nowadays, the 20th CPC National Congress proposes to 'improve the public interest litigation system', which provides a policy basis and direction for the further development and improvement of environmental public interest litigation, and promotes its better functioning in the fields of ecological environment and resource protection, solving ecological and environmental governance problems by means of the rule of law, forming a synergy of public interest protection and promoting the construction of a beautiful China, which has become a major challenge for the protection of social public interests. It has become an important legal means to protect social public interests and safeguard social justice. This paper will analyse the value pursuit and legal relationship of the environmental public interest litigation system from the perspective of jurisprudence, but because the public interest litigation system in China has not been established for a long time, and has not yet formed a strict legal system of public interest litigation, there are problems such as rough specification of the main litigation body, greater resistance to litigation, and special role of the procuratorate, which are not conducive to the environmental public interest litigation system to play the role of resource conservation and protection of the environment, and will analyse the problems raised above and highlight the ways to improve the situation by combining with the sectoral law. This paper will analyse the above problems and highlight the improvement methods.

Keywords: Public interest litigation; Environmental protection; Values

1. Value Pursuit of Environmental Public Interest Litigation

In environmental administrative public interest litigation, it is of great significance to make use of professional power to help evidence work and improve the rules of evidence determination.

At the level of professional institutional support, professional environmental monitoring and assessment institutions should be actively promoted to participate deeply in the litigation process. Such organisations, with their professional advantages, can provide independent and professional environmental monitoring and assessment services to both parties to litigation. In the case of water pollution disputes, for example, when there is a dispute over the degree of pollution in a certain piece of water, a professional water quality testing agency will analyse the water samples in detail according to scientific testing methods and standards, and issue an authoritative testing report, which can be presented to the court as key evidence and provide strong support for the trial of the case.

From the perspective of improving the rules for the determination of evidence, it is necessary to formulate a special standard for the determination of evidence that suits the characteristics of environmental administrative public interest litigation. In view of the complexity and dynamics of environmental problems, such standards should be more flexible and scientific. In determining the extent of environmental damage, the actual state of pollution cannot be limited to the current situation, but must also take into account the self-repairing capacity of the environment, the long-term cumulative effect of pollutants and other factors, so as to achieve a precise and reasonable determination of evidence.

1.1 The embodiment of the value of justice

1.1.1 Fairness and justice are reflected in resource distribution

Natural environmental resources belong to the common property of human society, and all people enjoy equal rights and obligations, so the distribution should follow the principle of fairness. The core objective of environmental public interest litigation is to regulate the uneven

distribution of environmental benefits, so as to better guarantee the fair distribution of natural resources for both present and future generations. For example, in the process of economic development, it is important to prevent some enterprises from wantonly encroaching on and destroying the natural environment in order to obtain profits, which will infringe on the environmental rights of civil society over natural resources and will not be conducive to the harmonious coexistence of human beings and nature.

1.1.2 Fairness and justice are reflected in the responsibility distribution

In order to maintain social justice, it is necessary to make environmental public interest litigation reflect fairness and justice in the distribution of responsibilities, which requires that when illegal acts of damaging the environment occur, it is necessary to actively play the role of qualified environmental protection organisations or procuratorates to promote the maintenance of the natural environment, for example, when certain enterprises illegally discharge pollutants and cause the quality of the surrounding ecological environment to deteriorate, the environmental public interest litigation can force these enterprises to take remedial measures and restore the natural environment to its original state. For example, when certain enterprises illegally discharge pollutants and cause the quality of the surrounding ecological environment to deteriorate, environmental public interest litigation can force these enterprises to take remedial measures and restore the natural environment to its original state, with the costs especially borne by them, in order to make up for the damage done to the social public interest and the negative impact on the natural environment.

1.2 The embodiment of the value of the order

1.2.1 Favourable to the maintenance of ecological order

From the ecological point of view, order is the basic value of law, when the illegal acts of destroying the environment occur, the environmental public interest litigation will be punished according to law, which will help to effectively combat the destruction of natural resources by the illegal groups, and ensure that the various elements of the environment can be more lawful and compliant, so as to safeguard the stability of the natural environment. For example, after 2018, the number of marine environmental public interest litigation cases showed a sharp rise and was dominated by illegal fishing cases, which seriously damaged China's marine environment and ecological resources. In 2019, China began to implement the special supervision of 'guarding the ocean', and with the joint efforts of multiple departments, by 2023, the number of marine environmental public interest litigation cases showed a sharp rise and was dominated by illegal fishing cases, which seriously damaged China's marine environment and ecological resources. With the joint efforts of many departments, the number of cases of public interest litigation in the marine environment has shown a levelling off trend, which indicates that the protection of the marine environment has been effectively promoted, and the diversity of marine species and the integrity of the ecosystem have been safeguarded.

1.2.2 Favourable promotion of socio-environmental order

From a social perspective, environmental public interest litigation is of great significance in building a perfect environmental regulatory system, on the one hand, environmental public interest litigation can effectively promote government agencies to effectively fulfil their environmental regulatory responsibilities in accordance with the law, and urge the government to strengthen the supervision and enforcement of environmental violations, effectively curbing the illegal discharge of polluting behaviours of enterprises, and can also send signals to the society that the government has strengthened its environmental supervision, and on the other hand it can guide enterprises to conscientiously comply with environmental laws and regulations, and promote the disclosure of environmental information of enterprises. On the other hand, it can guide enterprises to consciously comply with environmental laws and regulations, regulate their environmental behaviour and promote the disclosure of their environmental information. At the same time, it will enable the public to better monitor the fulfilment of environmental responsibilities by enterprises, thus forming a trend of joint efforts by many parties to maintain the social and environmental order.

1.3 The value of efficiency

1.3.1 Improving efficiency in the allocation of natural resources

In society, some people engage in peat soil poaching, which leads to the destruction of the local ecological environment. Peat soil is an important ecological resource, and its exploitation has an important impact on soil structure, vegetation growth and ecosystem stability, and the illegal exploitation seriously harms the public interest. Environmental public interest litigation can take coercive measures to effectively stop this kind of mining and prevent the unreasonable consumption of resources. In addition, some enterprises have outdated production methods that lead to serious pollution of the environment and waste of resources, so public interest litigation will prompt some enterprises to accelerate the green transformation of their development methods, update their production equipment for the efficient utilisation of resources, and adopt a more reasonable way of resource utilisation, which will help to improve the optimal allocation and efficiency of environmental resources. This will be conducive to improving the optimal allocation and efficiency of environmental resources and promoting the greening and low-carbonisation of economic development.

1.3.2 Optimising efficiency in the allocation of judicial resources

When an offence against the environment occurs, the victim is often not an individual, and in the course of the development of environmental public interest litigation, a uniform judicial standard of general applicability will gradually be formed as a result of the occurrence of the case, which will help to resolve disputes arising from the inconsistency of the rules of adjudication of similar cases in a dispersed manner, and effectively avoid the duplication of the waste of judicial resources, and improve the efficiency of the allocation of judicial resources in the handling of environmental disputes. It can also effectively avoid wasting judicial resources and improve the efficiency of judicial resources in dealing with environmental disputes. At the same time, it is also conducive to guiding enterprises and the public to act in accordance with the law, thus fundamentally reducing the frequency of environmental disputes.

1.4 Embodiment of human rights values

Environmental public interest litigation also protects the right to life and health. On the one hand, when environmental violations have not yet occurred, and when there is evidence that certain enterprises may have long-term negative impacts on the life and health of the surrounding population due to inappropriate siting, e.g., in the vicinity of a source of drinking water, and the potential for pollution, environmental public interest litigation can prompt the relevant authorities to reassess the project plan, prevent the project from being constructed, or require the project to take strict pollution prevention and control measures to prevent residents from suffering from various diseases due to long-term exposure to polluting substances. When environmental public interest litigation can prompt the relevant departments to reassess the project plan, stop the construction of the project or require it to take strict pollution prevention and control measures, the right to life and health will be protected at source by preventing the residents from contracting various kinds of diseases due to long-term exposure to polluting substances. On the other hand, when environmental harm has already occurred, such as in the case of certain chemical plants, where sewage, dust and exhaust gases are discharged freely during the production process, the surrounding environment is seriously polluted with 'smelly air and bad water', and nearby residents suffer from a variety of discomforts. The environmental public interest litigation may require the polluter to bear the corresponding compensation liability, and bear the costs of restoring the ecological environment and of medical treatment and rehabilitation for the victims.

To sum up, within the scope of environmental public interest litigation, the four values interact with each other, and we have to continuously promote the balanced development of system design and legal practice without losing sight of one or the other; human rights are the foundation, and in the pursuit of the value of justice, the statute of limitations of the litigation should be taken into account; and in the pursuit of the value of order, we should be guided by the value of justice, so as to build up a fairer and more reasonable public order.

2. Legal relations in environmental public interest litigation

2.1 Subjects of environmental public interest litigation

2.1.1 In terms of the main body of plaintiffs

Using the comparative analysis method, due to different national conditions, the main body of plaintiffs has different regulations in different countries. For example, in Japan, due to the seriousness of environmental hazards in the past, private citizens, as the direct sensors of and stakeholders in the environment, can file lawsuits to protect public interests when their own environmental rights and interests or the public interest in the environment have been infringed upon; in the common law system of the United Kingdom, the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) was the main body of the lawsuits in the beginning. Under the English common law system, the Attorney General was the main prosecutor at the beginning, and with the further development of the environmental public interest litigation system, social organisations, local administrative organs, private individuals and ordinary citizens have gradually played an important role. However, according to China's laws, the plaintiffs of environmental public interest litigation mainly include qualified social organisations and procuratorial organs. Social organisations, as representatives of public interest, derive their right of action from the provisions of the Environmental Protection Law and Civil Procedure Law on the qualifications for suing in the public interest, in which environmental protection organisations usually have strong environmental protection knowledge and professional ability, and have a better understanding of environmental problems, and are able to quickly and accurately find out the environmental damaging acts and the problems. Environmental protection organisations usually have strong environmental protection knowledge and professional ability, and they can quickly and accurately find out environmental damages and formulate reasonable restoration plans according to the degree of damages, therefore, they play an irreplaceable role in environmental public interest litigation. Procuratorates play the role of legal supervisors, which can enhance the power and credibility of litigation. In addition, when environmental organisations are limited by their financial resources and litigation qualifications, procuratorates can play a supplementary role to the main body of the litigation, and protect the interests of the public environment.

2.1.2 Main body of the defendant

The defendants are mainly units or individuals who have committed environmental offences, such as polluting enterprises and illegal

miners. The behaviour of these entities directly or indirectly causes damage to the public interest in the environment, and they are responsible for compensating the victims and for the costs of ecological restoration.

2.2 Objects of environmental public interest litigation

The object of environmental public interest litigation is the public environmental interest that has been infringed upon. Such interests include not only individual and private interests, but also the environmental rights and interests of an unspecified majority of people, including the ecological functions of the natural environment, the rational use of natural resources and other aspects. For example, abusive exploitation of forest resources infringes not only on the material resources of the forest itself, but also on the role of the forest in preventing winds and fixing sands, improving soil and beautifying the environment, and maintaining biodiversity in the ecological environment.

2.3 Elements of environmental public interest litigation

The content of the legal relationship of environmental public interest litigation mainly includes the litigation rights and obligations of the plaintiff and the legal responsibilities of the defendant. The plaintiff enjoys the right to bring an action in accordance with the law, to request compensation for damages and to demand the cessation of the infringement, and at the same time bears the obligations to provide evidence and to comply with the litigation procedures. The defendant bears the legal responsibility to stop the unlawful behaviour, compensate for environmental losses and restore the environment to its original state. For example, in a public interest litigation concerning the pollution of a river by an enterprise, the plaintiff has the right to demand that the enterprise stop the discharge of pollutants and pay compensation for the costs of ecological restoration of the river, while the defendant must fulfil the corresponding obligations in accordance with the court's judgement, and assume the responsibility of treating the pollution and restoring the environment.

3. Status and Limitations of Environmental Public Interest Litigation in China

3.1 Higher resistance to public interest litigation by public interest litigants

Environmental public interest litigation often has a large social impact and is related to the practical interests of the people. The defendants faced by the subject of public interest litigation are often large enterprises, administrative organs and other entities with powerful resources and influence. These defendants have an important position in social and economic life, and are able to use their economic power, social relations and ability to guide public opinion to counter public interest litigation. For example, large polluting companies may hire teams of well-known lawyers and conduct public relations campaigns to influence the outcome of the litigation, putting enormous pressure on the subject of the public interest litigation.

3.2 Qualifications for Environmental Public Interest Litigation

The main body of environmental civil public interest litigation requires comprehensive consideration in terms of human and financial resources, professional identification, identification of public interest litigants and their coordination of plaintiffs' qualifications, and the ability to provide evidence. Currently in China, the Environmental Protection Law and the Civil Procedure Law make relatively clear provisions, specifically including social organisations with professionalism and credibility, as well as the People's Procuratorate, which has the function of legal supervision. These entities play an important role in safeguarding environmental public interests and promoting environmental protection. However, China has not explicitly granted individual citizens the right to bring environmental public interest litigation directly under general circumstances.

3.2.1 Lack of citizens as subjects of environmental public interest litigation

Environmental administrative public interest litigation is directly related to everyone's living environment, and the qualifications of plaintiffs should be diversified to ensure that more people can enjoy the dividends of green development. Since the current law only provides for social organisations and the People's Procuratorate to meet specific conditions, there is no clear direct legal support for individual citizens to become plaintiffs in environmental public interest litigation, thus limiting the scope of environmental public interest litigation. This limitation may result in some important environmental issues not being able to receive timely legal relief. Professor Xiao Jianguo argues that, given the low credibility of China's environmental public law enforcement and the fact that local protectionism and sectoralism have not yet been eradicated, there is a need to give private individuals other than public authorities, including social organisations or concerned citizens, the status of plaintiffs in environmental civil public interest litigation^[2]. Based on China's national conditions, after all, procuratorial organs may not be able to detect all the violations in a timely manner due to limited energy, and relevant social organisations may not be able to file lawsuits against environmental violations in a timely manner due to high funding or lack of manpower and difficulties in obtaining evidence, etc. Moreover, environmental protection involves the interests of all the people in the public interest, and the environment is the space for people to live in from a constitutional perspective, and the right to the environment has the nature of a basic human right. From a constitutional point of view, the environment is the space in which people live, and environmental rights have the nature of basic human rights^[3]; precisely

because environmental rights are of vital importance to everyone, and because they are indivisible, they are regarded as a public right^[4]; however, the law does not provide for citizens to enjoy the right to file public interest lawsuits against environmental offences, which is not conducive to the protection of citizens' rights to the environment and their right to life and health through the administration of justice, and does not enable the public to participate in the monitoring and protection of the environment in a genuine manner.

3.2.2 The special status of the subject matter of the Procuratorate

Pursuant to Article 58 of the Civil Procedure Law, the people's procuratorate, in the course of its duties, may bring a lawsuit to the people's court when it discovers that pollution of the environment or other acts detrimental to the public interests of society have been committed, provided that no social organisation that meets the aforementioned conditions has initiated a lawsuit, or that such social organisation has not initiated a lawsuit. On the one hand, due to the special status of the procuratorate, which may affect its judgement of neutrality, the procuratorate, as one of the parties to the environmental public interest litigation, may over-emphasise the protection of the public interest to the detriment of the defendant's legitimate rights and interests, and find it difficult to maintain a completely neutral position of judgement, which may affect the normal business activities of enterprises as a result of the exercise of the right of environmental public interest litigation in an excessively broad manner, and is not conducive to the balance between the protection of the environment and economic development. On the other hand, because the procuratorial organs play the role of legal supervisors, they have only limited human and material resources, and environmental public interest litigation cases are long-term and complex, which puts pressure on the allocation of resources and leads to a reduction in the overall efficiency of the case.

3.2.3 Difficulties in evidence collection and identification

There are many difficulties in China's environmental administrative public interest litigation, among which the dilemmas of evidence collection and professional capacity are particularly prominent. In terms of evidence collection, administrative authorities, as the main bodies responsible for environmental supervision, are in possession of a large amount of key information, such as the environmental approval data and daily monitoring data of enterprises. These data are crucial to environmental administrative public interest litigation, but plaintiffs, whether they are prosecutors or social organisations, often face obstacles when trying to obtain such evidence. Administrative authorities often refuse to provide information to plaintiffs on the grounds that it involves state or commercial secrets, which greatly increases the difficulty of collecting evidence for the plaintiffs, and thus seriously affects the process of litigation, making it difficult to move the case forward smoothly. From the perspective of professional capacity, environmental administrative public interest litigation is highly professional, covering a large amount of environmental expertise. When the plaintiff needs to prove that the administrative organ has failed to supervise the discharge of pollutants by the enterprise, resulting in environmental pollution, the plaintiff needs to carry out a scientific appraisal and assessment of the type of pollutants, the amount of discharge, the scope of the impact of the pollution, as well as the extent of the damage to the ecological system. This undoubtedly requires the plaintiff to have professional environmental monitoring and assessment capabilities. In reality, however, both procuratorial authorities and social organisations often have insufficient professional resources to meet the high demand for professional competence in this type of litigation.

4. Environmental Public Interest Litigation Improvement Measures

4.1 Full utilisation of legal aid and web-based platforms

Given the enormous resistance to environmental public interest litigation, public interest litigators can, on the one hand, take the initiative to use the media and online platforms to release timely and accurate information about public interest litigation. Through the official microblogging and WeChat public platform to publish environmental inspection reports and citizen complaints, so that the general public can grasp the real situation of the case, and in the entire litigation process, regularly open to the public the latest progress of the case, on the other hand, environmental protection organisations filed environmental public interest litigation, environmental pollution can be filmed after the current situation of the documentary and broadcast through the network platform, in order to arouse the public's attention to the environmental problems, thus generating public opinion pressure and promote the defendant's attention to the lawsuit, so as to create public opinion pressure and promote the defendant's attention to the case. This will create public pressure and encourage the defendants to pay attention to the lawsuits. In addition, through legal aid channels, environmental organisations can obtain the support of a team of lawyers who are skilled in environmental law and who can provide expert advice on evidence collection, interpretation of legal provisions, and courtroom debates.

4.2 Legislating to give citizens the right to environmental public interest litigation

Aristotle once made a famous assertion: 'Public affairs belonging to the greatest number of people are often the affairs of the least number of people, and people care for their own affairs to the neglect of public affairs; and for all public affairs he pays attention at most to those which are more or less relevant to him^[5].' And China has a large number of citizens, and the public is also a real stakeholder of environ-

mental resources, so they have a keen sense of environmental problems and can quickly find out the behaviours that harm the environment. 'China has a large number of citizen groups, the people are also the environmental resources of the actual stakeholders, so the environmental problems have a keen sense of awareness, can quickly find out the damage to the environment, therefore, through the legislation to improve the existing environmental public interest litigation system to encourage citizens to actively participate in the environmental civil public interest litigation, the formation of the atmosphere of the whole country to monitor, can make up for the existing Scholars who hold the viewpoint of environmental rights emphasise the importance of substantive environmental rights, and realise citizens' participation in the management of environmental affairs through the constitutional relationship of "basic environmental rights - national environmental protection obligations"^[6]. In recent years, in response to the development trend of judicial practice and social demand, there have also been cases of citizens filing environmental public interest litigation and having it accepted by the court. For example, in 2015, a citizen of Nanping, Fujian found that someone had cut down trees on a large scale in the mountains and forests near his place of residence, resulting in ecological damage. The citizen filed an environmental public interest litigation with the court in his personal name, demanding that the logger bear the responsibility for ecological restoration, etc. The court accepted the case. The court accepted the case and, after hearing the case, held that although the current law did not specify that citizens could be the subject of environmental public interest litigation, the citizen's lawsuit was in line with the purpose of public interest litigation and the relevant legal basis, and ultimately ruled that the logger should bear the corresponding responsibility for ecological restoration and compensation. In this case, the court took into account the citizen's reasonable expectation of a favourable ecological environment and his status as an indirect stakeholder in environmental rights, and considered that he had the capacity to file a lawsuit to protect public environmental interests. At the same time, this is a restriction and a challenge to the filing of lawsuits on the basis of jurisprudence and legal principles, and it also puts higher demands on the exercise of the judge's discretionary power. While granting citizens the right to file environmental public interest lawsuits, corresponding problems will also arise. On the one hand, citizens may lack professional knowledge, resulting in limited litigation capacity, for which we can set up special counselling platforms or hotlines, and encourage professionals to provide legal assistance to citizens to continuously improve their professional capacity; on the other hand, in order to prevent abusive lawsuits and fragmentation of lawsuits, we can centralise and set up strict ex ante procedures to deal with certain issues. On the other hand, in order to prevent abusive litigation and the dispersal of litigation by citizens, it is possible to centralise the handling of certain issues and to establish a strict mechanism for prior review and subsequent prosecution and punishment, in which the evidence and litigation requests provided by citizens are examined for reasonableness and legality, and those who engage in false litigation are held legally responsible in accordance with the law.

4.3 Provide detailed legislative provisions on the qualifications of the prosecution service as a subject of litigation

The environmental administrative public interest litigation initiated by the procuratorate in China is still in the process of continuous improvement, and the construction of the relevant legal system and the issuance of legal interpretations have responded to the public's demand for openness, transparency and high efficiency of environmental administrative actions in the new era^[7]. Due to the special and professional nature of environmental public interest litigation, the advantages of the procuratorate in investigating and collecting evidence are not obvious, and there are even some difficulties in some cases^[8]. In view of the special role of procuratorial organs, in order to ensure the impartiality and professionalism of the cases, on the one hand, procuratorial organs can set up special departments in charge of environmental public interest litigation, provide skills training for procuratorial staff, and conduct professional examination of the cases to be filed, assessing whether the cases meet the conditions for prosecution and whether there is any conflict of interest, etc., so as to ensure that the decision to prosecute is professional and impartial; on the other hand, the internal division of responsibilities should be reasonably distributed, and the respective responsibilities should be clearly defined. On the other hand, it is necessary to reasonably allocate the internal division of responsibilities, clearly define their respective duties, and specialise in special tasks, which will more effectively improve the efficiency of environmental public interest litigation, and at the same time improve the internal supervision mechanism, and supervise each other, so as to prevent the abuse of rights.

4.4 Strengthening professional technical support

In environmental administrative public interest litigation, it is of great significance to make use of professional forces to help with evidence and to improve the rules for the determination of evidence. In terms of support from professional institutions, we should actively promote the in-depth participation of professional environmental monitoring and assessment institutions in the litigation process. Such organisations, with their professional advantages, can provide independent and professional environmental monitoring and assessment services to both parties to the litigation. In the case of land contamination disputes, for example, when there is a dispute over the degree of contamination of a certain piece of land, a professional testing agency will conduct a detailed analysis of the land samples based on scientific testing methods and standards and issue an authoritative testing report, which can be presented to the court as a key piece of evidence and provide strong support for the trial of the case. From the perspective of improving the rules of evidence determination, it is necessary to formulate special evidence determination standards that fit the characteristics of environmental administrative public interest litigation.

In view of the complexity and dynamics of environmental problems, such standards should be more flexible and scientific. In determining the degree of environmental damage, it cannot be confined to the actual state of pollution at the present time, but must also take into full consideration the self-healing ability of the environment, the long-term cumulative effect of pollutants and other factors, so as to realise a precise and reasonable determination of evidence.

5. Conclusion

In the context of the rule of law in the new era, environmental public interest litigation is of far-reaching significance for its development and improvement as an important judicial tool for safeguarding the public interest in the environment. The environmental protection concepts advocated at the 20th Party Congress, such as harmonious coexistence of human beings and nature, and the idea that green mountains are golden mountains, have injected a strong value orientation into environmental public interest litigation. From the level of jurisprudential value, environmental public interest litigation highlights fairness and justice, balances multiple conflicting interests, and builds a judicial bridge between individual environmental rights and interests and the overall environmental well-being of society. It is not only the pursuit of substantive justice, ensuring that those who have caused environmental damage bear due responsibility and restore the damaged ecological environment, but also the practice of procedural justice, giving relevant subjects a legitimate way to participate in environmental governance. However, environmental public interest litigation is still facing many challenges, such as the definition of the qualification of the litigant and the special role of the procuratorate, which need to be explored and refined in theory and practice. However, we firmly believe that under the guidance of the 20th Environmental Protection Concept, adhering to the jurisprudence's values of fairness, justice, and order, and through continuous improvement of the legal system, strengthening of innovation in judicial practice, and promotion of extensive public participation, environmental public interest litigation will play a more prominent role in promoting green development and building a beautiful China, and become a solid judicial bulwark for guarding the motherland's green water and green hills and safeguarding the people's rights and interests to a better life. It will become a solid judicial bulwark for guarding the green waters of the motherland and safeguarding the environmental rights and interests of the people for a better life, and will achieve a deep integration and synergy between the rule of law on the environment and the construction of an ecological civilisation, so as to make the beauty of nature and the development of human society complement each other, and to compose a harmonious movement of sustainable development.

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