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***Public Participation in Environmental Decision-making Process: An Ecosystem Approach View***

The ecosystem approach is new management method in biodiversity conservation, which aims at reaching a balance of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity: conservation, sustainable use and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, and it is meaningful for the further development of Chinese law on natural resources. According to the ecosystem approach, public participation in environmental decision-making is an essential instrument for its implementation. Meanwhile, the right of participating in environment issues is now also regarded as a fundamental right of human beings throughout international law. So it deserves our attention and further research. This paper firstly gives a quick look at the content of the ecosystem approach and then turns to the content of public participation in environmental decision-making in general terms and international law. Since the Aarhus Convention is one of the most advanced legal texts in this field, a detailed analysis will be made on it. Finally, the paper will focus on specific requirements of the ecosystem approach on public participation in environmental decision-making and based on this contribute to a normative framework of public participation in environmental decision-making in the light of the ecosystem approach.