

8 特别策划 | Special Focus

Forging a Blue Engine: Building a Strategic Pillar for China's Maritime Strength

As the only national-level new marine economic area approved by the State Council, the Qingdao West Coast New Area has been working hard to materialize President Xi Jinping's vision of making China into a maritime power. Driven by the strategic aim to build stronger maritime strength, the area has acted on multiple fronts: reforming marine policies and mechanisms, fast-tracking sci-tech commercialization with top talent and resources, strengthening modern marine industries, and stepping up involvement in global ocean governance. These efforts are giving a powerful boost to its maritime ambitions.

From "Reclaiming Land from the Sea" to "Turning Blue Carbon into Gold": A Decade of Transformation of Marine Ecological Restoration in the Qingdao West Coast New Area

The Qingdao West Coast New Area is endowed with a long coastline, vast sea areas, and numerous islands, making it a critical hub for the marine ecology and economy in northern China. Bearing in mind President Xi Jinping's call to build China into a maritime power, the area has been committed to eco-conservation and green development. It has advanced marine ecological restoration projects across the board, actively developed blue carbon resources (ocean, mangroves, salt marshes, seagrass meadows that capture and store carbon), and proactively converted ecological assets into economic returns. After more than a decade of sustained efforts, the area's marine environment has improved significantly. It has developed the earliest Beautiful Bay of China and the first carbon-negative island, shifting from extensive development to eco-driven growth and forging a distinctive path for marine eco-protection and sustainable development.

From Yellow Sands to Green Lands: Zhangye's Integrated Governance Model for the Three-North Shelterbelt Program

This article focuses on Zhangye City's hard-won eco-victory in preventing the Hexi Corridor - Taklimakan Desert from further expansion and its practices of integrated conservation and systematic governance of mountains, rivers, farmland, lakes, grasslands, and deserts. It summarizes Zhangye's achievements in desertification prevention and control during the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025) and analyzes innovative management mechanisms for Three-North Shelterbelt Program projects, especially the synergic control of external and internal desertification, technological empowerment and industrial integration. The author introduces Zhangye's model of "desertification control and afforestation + eco-restoration + distinctive eco-industries" which has effectively turned yellow sands into green lands and wealth, and its success story of tapping into the value of eco-products through desertification prevention and control, and proposes strategic measures for further deepening integrated governance during the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-2030).

32 文化采撷 | Cultural Highlights

The Ecological Beauty of the Qilian Mountains, Where All Life Thrives in Lasting Harmony A New Chapter in Eco-conservation in Zhangye's Qilian Mountain National Park

Qilian Mountain National Park, under the jurisdiction of Zhangye in Gansu Provincial National Park Administration, spans three cities and eight counties and districts. It serves as a vital eco-security barrier and water-conservation area in northwestern China. Rich in forest, grassland, and wetland resources, the park features a full range of wetland types and exceptional eco-endowments. Generations of forestry and grassland workers have put down root here, committed to eco-restoration. They have strengthened the eco-management and protection network. Through joint prevention, local governance and digitally empowered conservation, they have fostered eco-culture and reinforced eco-defenses. Their sustained efforts have continued to improve core eco-functions such as water conservation and biodiversity protection. Now a new chapter of the green Qilian Mountains and better-off local people is unfolding.

The "Homeland of the Giant Panda" is Keeping Score in Eco-conservation The Giant Panda National Park in the Gansu Section

Thanks to 48 years' hard work, the Giant Panda National Park in the Gansu Section keeps scoring in protecting lucid waters and lush mountains. It has shifted from emergency protection to scientific and standardized management, and from tension to co-management and shared benefits with the local communities. In the section where the forest coverage exceeds 90%, endangered species have returned to the forests, owing to expanded habitats. The innovative community co-management model has been recognized as a global best practice in biodiversity conservation. The forest chief system has strengthened the fire prevention barrier, while scientists dedicated to the area's eco-conservation have made several breakthroughs in their research. This gene bank of northwestern species, in its new capacity as a national park, showcases the harmony between humanity and nature in Chinese modernization and embarks on a new journey in global eco-conservation.

An Innovative "Inclusive Community" Development Model for Gaoligong Mountain UNESCO Biosphere Reserve

Gaoligong Mountain UNESCO Biosphere Reserve is one of China's most biodiverse areas and used to be one of the most impoverished places of the country. Since 2010, especially since the 18th National Congress of the CPC, thanks to poverty alleviation policies and the vision of achieving humanity-nature harmony in Chinese modernization, the reserve has innovatively developed a locally rooted governance model of "government leadership + multi-stakeholder co-construction." This has become a replicable and scalable Chinese practice in large-community development for nature reserves, offering a Chinese approach for community-based collaborative governance in biosphere reserves worldwide.

60 美丽乡村 | Beautiful Countryside

Baima Ancient Village: A Love Letter to Nature Caoheba Village, a Gateway Community of Giant Panda National Park

Nestled along the Baima River, Caoheba Village is a gateway community to the Giant Panda National Park in the Gansu Section. Home to many rare species like wild giant pandas, it has long been the homeland for generations of Baima Tibetans, who have lived and thrived here. The millennium-old tradition of mask dancing, a vibrant intangible cultural heritage, continues to carry ancient charm. Initiatives including afforestation on barren hills, eco-corridor restoration, clean energy transition, microcredit development, eco-beekeeping, and community co-management, have helped Caoheba Village address habitat fragmentation and integrate eco-protection, preservation of folk culture and heritage, and cultural tourism. While safeguarding lucid waters and lush mountains and carrying forward its thousand-year cultural heritage, the village has steadily transformed its resource advantages into development advantages that enrich local residents.

A Green Tripartite Win-Win Development Path Through Tea-Tourism Integration Shuihaoping: A Village within Giant Panda National Park

Located at the junction of Gansu, Shaanxi, and Sichuan provinces, Shuihaoping Village is nestled within the Giant Panda National Park in the Gansu Section. With lush forests and extensive tea plantations, the village has long upheld a tradition of revering nature and protecting forests. By innovatively implementing a contractual conservation model, it encourages villagers to participate in eco-management and protection. Drawing on its vast tea plantations and rich tea culture, the village has developed tea-tourism integration, making itself the go-to place for nature-based education. It has forged a tripartite win-win path that brings together eco-protection, cultural tourism development, and income generation for local residents.

Millennia-Old Cultural Heritage in the Qilian Mountains: Echoes of Time Mati Tibetan Township, the Gateway to Qilian Mountain National Park

As the gateway to Qilian Mountain National Park in the Gansu Section, Mati Tibetan Township enjoys exceptional eco-resources, a brilliant millennia-old cave temple culture, and a cultural tapestry of multiple ethnicities. Following the steady progress in the national park system pilot program, the township has employed classrooms in tents and on horsebacks to communicate policies to people, which has helped herders to transition into livestock farming and to participate in eco-management and protection. It has pioneered a joint management model engaging both forest chiefs and rangers to safeguard lucid waters and lush mountains. By fostering new models of cultural tourism, it is working to build itself into a model gateway community of national parks. The township has transformed from passive preservation of cultural heritage to proactive industrial development and eco-conservation.

84 古树史话 | Story of Trees

Safeguarding the Eco-environment and Carrying Forward the Revolutionary Legacy The Red Army Locust Tree in Gaotai County, Zhangye

In the courtyard of the Gaotai County Government in Zhangye stands a 300-year-old ancient locust tree. Named the "Red Army Locust Tree" in 2006, it bears witness to the heroic and tragic Battle of Gaotai fought by the Western Route Army in 1937; the history is recorded in a stone tablet next to it. It is a living cultural relic that carries the loyal spirit of the army and embodies both ecological and patriotic values. Local authorities, who have ensured full-process, meticulous management and restoration for the tree, have connected it with the Western Route Army Memorial for patriotic education. Evergreen and enduring, the tree integrates ancient-tree conservation with the inheritance of revolutionary traditions. It stands as a landmark in Gaotai, a place of revolutionary legacy and eco-strength.

Memories of the Ancient Home-Longing Locust Tree

The Homesick Locust Tree in Liuba Town, Minle County, Zhangye, is over 600 years old. Planted by migrants from Shanxi during the Ming Dynasty, it embodies the ancestors' longing for their homeland. When the Western Route Army were ambushed in Liuba in the 1930s, the ancient locust tree was set ablaze; only part of the tree trunk survived. Rising from the ashes, it still stands tall today with luxuriant branches and leaves. It has become an important carrier for passing on revolutionary traditions and history, and a vivid symbol of Minle's integration of ancient tree conservation and patriotic heritage.

88 理论视点 | Theoretical Point

From Top-Level Design to Practices of Applying Xi Jinping Thought on Eco-Conservation A Study on the Pathways of the Norm-Activation Theory in Shandong Universities

With Xi Jinping Thought on Eco-conservation as its fundamental guiding principle, this paper bridges the top-level design of ecological civilization education with its practical implementation. Employing norm-activation theory as the core framework and drawing on large-sample empirical research among faculty and students at universities in Shandong, it examines the current challenges in eco-conservation education in higher education, including rigid educational models, superficial content, disconnection from practice, and a gap between knowledge and action. The paper proposes a core logic of dynamic education rooted in cultural immersion, technological empowerment, and experiential learning. Building on the origins and development of traditional Chinese ecological culture, cutting-edge achievements in contemporary carbon technologies, real-world scenarios of green industrial development, and the practical implementation of the "Two Mountains" theory, it constructs a multidimensional, flexible, and immersive pathway for cultivating awareness for eco-conservation.