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The Relationship between the Biodiversity Conservation and the Traditional Beliefs of the Native People in Dalai Lake Biosphere Reserve

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Abstract	With the development of the economy, the positive influences of traditional beliefs on the biodiversity conservation have been ignoring and the traditional beliefs have been meeting the serious challenges since 80's of the last century. At the same time, the biodiversity, dependent on the traditional beliefs, have been declining dramatically. From 2008 to 2009, we adopted the main research methods such as semi-structured interviews and structured interviews, collection and analysis of historical and literature, and picture recording in Dalai Lake Biosphere Reserve to carry out the research on the relationship between the biodiversity conservation and the traditional beliefs of the native people in Dalai Lake Biosphere Reserve. The results revealed that the traditional beliefs, the traditional practices and the traditional ecological knowledge have the positive influences on biodiversity conservation.
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First page example

The relationship between the biodiversity conservation and the traditional beliefs of the native people in Dalai Lake Biosphere Reserve

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Keywords: Dalai Lake Biosphere Reserve; biodiversity conservation; the traditional belief

Abstract. With the development of the economy, the positive influences of traditional beliefs on the biodiversity conservation have been ignoring and the traditional beliefs have been meeting the serious challenges since 80's of the last century. At the same time, the biodiversity, dependent on the traditional beliefs, have been declining dramatically. From 2008 to 2009, we adopted the main research methods such as semi-structured interviews and structured interviews, collection and analysis of historical and literature, and picture recording in Dalai Lake Biosphere Reserve to carry out the research on the relationship between the biodiversity conservation and the traditional beliefs of the native people in Dalai Lake Biosphere Reserve. The results revealed that the traditional beliefs, the traditional practices and the traditional ecological knowledge have the positive influences on biodiversity conservation.

Around the Dalai Lake area, most of the native people belong to the Barga-Mongolian. Most of them have the traditional beliefs of the Shamanism and Lamaism. Before the 80's of the last century they led the nomadic life harmoniously. But now, the local closed communities are under the unprecedented impingement of the social globalization and market economy. The agricultural innovation experiences in China, the household contract responsibility system, also has been introducing into the local livestock farming. Animal husbandry in the fixed location has been replacing the rotational grazing system gradually. The local traditional beliefs on which grassland ecosystems depend also have been meeting the tremendous threat. Nowadays, economic benefits have been becoming the most important pursuit of the native people. Under such situations, the traditional belief and the local biodiversity could easily be ignored even impaired [1].

To promote regional sustainable development by integrating biodiversity conservation and local community development and achieve a balanced coordination between the conservation of habitats and species, land use needs of native people, as well as local indigenous cultures, we carried out the research "The relationship between the biodiversity conservation and the traditional beliefs of the native people in Dalai Lake Biosphere Reserve". The research is developed to gain an insight into the native people traditional beliefs and understand the functions of indigenous knowledge in biodiversity conservation, the changing trends of local resident traditional beliefs under the influences of economic development and the implications of these changes for the future economic development and biodiversity conservation around Dalai Lake area.

Study Area

Dalai Lake Biosphere Reserve is located in northeastern of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and the west of Hulunbeier, between N47°45'50"-49°20'20" and E116°50'10"-118°10'10" and spans an area of 7400, 000 hm². 653 plant species were recorded in the grasslands around Dalai Lake. Steppe, desert and semi-desert steppe were dominant vegetation, which were extensively concomitant with small patches of meadow, halomorphic meadow and marsh. Dominated species included *Aneurolepidium chinenses*, *Stipa krylovii*, *Stipa grandis*, *Allium mongolicum*, *Artemisia frigida*, *Artemisia halodendron*, *Caraganarob stenophylla*, *Sanguisorba officinalis*, *Potentilla anserine*, *Achnatherum splendens*, *Salsola collina*, *Phragmites awstalis* and *Carex korsinskii*. Local fauna included 30 fish, 303 birds and 35 mammals. Some of them, such as *Procapra guturosa*, *Lutra lutra*, *Felis manul*, *Stipa grandis*, are the specially protected species ranked in the National Key