问题讨论

生态足迹分析应用于区域可持续发展生态评估的缺陷

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收稿日期 2006-2-27 修回日期 2006-5-10 网络版发布日期: 2006-8-25

可持续发展的生态评估是当前国际生态经济学与可持续发展研究的前沿问题之一,生态足迹从生物生 产的角度可以定量评估一个国家或地区发展的生态持续性程度,是近年来发展迅速的一种生物物理量衡量方 法。尽管生态足迹分析具有指标指示意义明确、评估结果全球可比与模型方法简便、资料易获取、可操作性强 等优点,但在理论方法上仍存在不足之处。综合国内外区域生态足迹分析的最新进展,生态足迹分析应用于区 域可持续发展生态评估的理论缺陷主要表现为以下6点:①弱可持续性评价,难以完整反映系统的可持续性状 态;②静态模型,缺乏预测功能;③长时间序列生态足迹研究的合理性有待商榷;④全球平均生产力的相对 性,导致评估结果的非绝对性;⑤过于强调土地的数量,而忽略土地的质量;⑥假定各类生物生产性土地类型 的空间互斥性,忽视兼业性。

关键词 生态足迹分析;区域可持续发展;生态评估;缺陷

分类号 S718

Shortcomings of applying ecological footprints to the ecol ogical assessment of regional sustainable development

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Abstract Ecological assessment of sustainable development is one of the leading fields of internat 文章反馈 ional ecological economics and of researches on sustainable development. Ecological footprintin g, which is a new biophysical method of ecological assessment, is developing rapidly. It quantifie s the ecological sustainability of the development of a nation or an area from the standpoint of biol ogical production. Ecological footprint analysis is superior to other biophysical methods of ecologi cal sustainability assessment in three respects: firstly, the indices used have specific meanings; sec ondly, the model is easy to comprehend and readily applied to different contexts; and thirdly, th e data required are widely obtainable, allowing global comparisons. However, ecological footprin t analysis is not without its shortcomings. As case studies accumulate, the need to adjust theoretic al models of ecological footprints is becoming increasingly apparent. Research on the theoretical s hortcomings of ecological footprinting is an important preliminary to such adjustments. From a rev iew of the latet research, we can identify six key issues in applying ecological footprint analysis t o ecological assessment of regional sustainable development. First, the weakness of sustainabilit y assessments makes it difficult to reflect the state of sustainability of the system as a whole. Seco nd, as it is a steady state model, it lacks predictive power. Third, how to apply ecological footprin t analysis over long time series is still being worked out. Fourth, the relativity of global mean prod uctivity means that the results of assessment are relative rather than absolute. Fifth, too much weig ht is put on land quantity while land quality is overlooked. Sixth, the assumption that biologically p roductive land use types are mutually exclusive (i.e. do not overlap) ignores the possibility that the y are compatible. Notwithstanding these theoretical shortcomings, the ecological footprint metho

d can effectively assess the ecological sustainability of regional development, at least in terms of th

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e supply and demand of biologically productive land, and at least at the global scale. However, a t national, regional and local scales, the shortcomings will significantly affect the validity and accur acy of assessments. It is therefore necessary to adjust the theoretical model of the ecological foot print. An important and feasible approach to such improvement would be to add a quality dimens ion to the measurement units of global hectares, hectares of bioproductive land, and global averag e productivity of sea areas. Also, extending the analysis to the supply and demand of all kinds o f biologically productive land could provide more information on ecological sustainability.

 Key words
 ecological
 footprint
 analysis
 regional
 sustainable
 development
 ecological

 gical
 assessment
 shortcoming

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