

# **Environmental Public Interest Litigation in China: Financial Challenges**

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Chinese environmental public interest litigation (EPIL) has a late start. Although local governments have already made a further try in their regulations, national legislation has long been leaving blanks in EPIL. In 2015, new *Environmental Protection Law (EPL)* for the first time makes it clear that eligible social organizations have the right to bring EPIL case to the court. While after two-year judicial practice, it shows that number of EPIL case is quite limited. Few social organizations dare to choose EPIL as their dispute resolution. Since most social organizations in China do not have official background, as grass-root organizations, their weak financial resources and material power often make them unwilling or difficult to raise EPIL.

This research could be divided into two parts. Firstly, this thesis collects EPIL cases since new *EPL* and does data analysis to present overview picture of current EPIL practices including case number, case result, type of case, geographical distribution of case, ability of plaintiff, as well as reality dilemma. Secondly, based on current legal practice, this research puts emphasis on financial difficulties of EPIL. Through analysis of current litigation fee regulation, the difference between EPIL with traditional private interest suits, and foundation support system, this research would explain reasons behind financial challenges. What's more, based on feasibility, suggestions to Chinese financial support system would be given by comparison with American practice.