

## **Revision of the Wildlife Protection Law: we should not see wildlife as a resource**

Mang Ping, Professor of the Central College of Sociology, The Paper, January 7, 2016

The author considers the guiding principle of the draft to be out-of-date: *“To be revising a wildlife protection law in the 21<sup>st</sup> century that still treats wildlife as a resource, and expands utilisation rather than limiting it, is contrary to international trend for increasingly strict wildlife protection laws that aim to protect wildlife and avoid loss of biodiversity due to commercial use. It is also not in keeping with the national policy of establishing systems to safeguard ecological civilisation implemented after the 18<sup>th</sup> National Congress. Most wildlife protection laws enacted around the world today aim to maintain biodiversity, protect wildlife and their habitats and establish systems of protection for endangered species. The wildlife protection laws of India, South Korea, the USA, Australia and the EU all embody this spirit and objective.”*

She continues *“Then consider China, whose revised Wildlife Protection Law contains all kinds of stipulations for the utilisation of wildlife. For instance, Article 24 states “The state shall implement a permit system with regards to the captive breeding of wildlife under special state protection. Anyone intending to breed wildlife under special state protection shall obtain the approval of departments of wildlife protection under the people's government of the province, autonomous region or municipality.” No limits are placed on the intentions behind these captive breeding programmes, thereby providing a major legal opportunity for the development of commercial breeding operations.”*

If the draft goes ahead to become a law, she warns of potential damage it may cause to China's wildlife and the ecology of the country – *“This is the first time that China's Wildlife Protection Law has undergone a major revision in the 26 years since it was introduced. However, many articles within the current draft stipulate for the unrestricted utilisation of wildlife. If the draft in its current incarnation becomes law, this will undoubtedly open the door to all kinds of commercial operations.”*

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