Analysis of the Rise and Characteristics of Environmental Diplomacy in Australia

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Abstract: In order to explore the rise and characteristics of environmental diplomacy in Australia, the rise and characteristics of environmental diplomacy in Australia through literature review and analysis methods was studied in this research. The results show that Australia’s environmental diplomacy is influenced by international environmental system, international public opinion, national interest and other factors, and its characteristics include diversified participation, strategic promotion of the status of domestic environmental diplomacy, and environmental diplomacy with national interests at the top. To sum up, Australia’s environmental diplomacy have been affected by both international environmental politics and domestic national interest protectionism since ancient times. Therefore, the analysis of the rise of environmental diplomacy in Australian and its characteristics has a positive effect on subsequent research.

1. Introduction

Environmental diplomacy means that countries, as major actors in international relations, deal with all activities of international relations in the field of environment, formulate relevant rules of conduct and take measures to meet environmental governance standards in stages by means of bilateral, multilateral and regional negotiations, representations, dialogues, and consultations [1, 2]. The main body of environmental diplomacy is the participant and implementer of environmental diplomacy activities [3]. In a narrow sense, environmental diplomacy refers to a variety of external activities that the state adjusts international environmental relations by negotiations and consultations on behalf of the state through diplomatic departments and environmental protection departments [4]. In a broad sense, the main body of environmental diplomacy is the country, but it is not limited to the country, but also regional or global. As a concept of environmental diplomacy in academic research, in a general sense, it is composed of three elements: the subject of environmental diplomacy, the governance object of environmental diplomacy, and the operation mode of environmental diplomacy [5, 6]. The environmental foreign policy of the country is brought by the pressure of domestic national interest protectionism and international global environmental politics. It can be concluded that Australia's environmental foreign policy must be an overall diplomatic strategy serving Australia, which is an important part of the whole diplomacy [7, 8, 9]. The nature of Australia's national environmental foreign policy is affected by its own national interests, and everything is focused on safeguarding national interests [10, 11].

The establishment of the international environmental system has promoted environmental diplomacy, and the international political environment has played a great role in the formulation of environmental foreign policy [12]. Global environmental improvement is the consensus of every country. As long as global environmental issues exist, international environmental politics policies will always have an impact on the environmental diplomacy of all countries in the world [13, 14].
To sum up, the rise and characteristics of Australian environmental diplomacy through literature review and analysis was studied in this research. It is hoped that this study can play a positive role in the subsequent research.

2. Analysis of the factors and characteristics of environmental diplomacy in Australian

2.1 The formation factors of Australian environmental diplomacy

External factors of Australian environmental diplomacy are as follows.

First, the promotion of the international environmental system. The international political environment has played a great role in the formulation of Australia's environmental foreign policy. Global environmental improvement is the consensus of every country. As long as global environmental issues exist, international environmental politics policies will always have an impact on the environmental diplomacy of all countries in the world. The impact of global environmental politics policy on Australian policy is sometimes consistent with Australia's national environmental foreign policy, which is a double force. But sometimes, it interferes with Australia's environmental foreign policy and becomes a drag.

Second, the pressure of international public opinion. Whether it is based on the controversial remarks made by the international side or those made by the international cooperation organizations, the impact of the controversial comments made by the international side on Australia's environmental foreign policy is not mandatory. However, as analyzed above, controversial remarks from the international perspective are translated into some specific interests within Australia, so as to get the government's response.

Internal factors of Australian environmental diplomacy are as follows.

First, national interests under environmental diplomacy. The deterioration of the global environment and climate causes Australia to find its own way of development is extremely vulnerable to big storms. Australia's environmental foreign policy begins to show a subtle change, all of which are in the interests of the country. At the same time, the Australian government is doing its best to find alliances with similar economic models, but the current realization of this idea is not smooth.

Second, the recent interests of environmental diplomacy countries: from the beginning to the end, Australia's national environmental foreign policy has been influenced by its own national interests in nature, and everything has been focused on safeguarding national interests. It is extremely important for the Australian national government to safeguard its own interests to integrate into the global family in an all-round way and appear in front of the global countries in a positive attitude. In today's globalized world, maintaining good relations with other countries is also to safeguard national interests, but the premise is Australia's environmental foreign policy.

2.2 Characteristics of Australian Environmental Diplomacy

First, diversified participation under pragmatism. Although in the opinions of most countries around the world, Australia is the biggest problem preventing the adoption of global climate issues. However, from a comprehensive perspective, the Australian government achieves fruitful results in international diplomacy. After analysis, it is found that the nature of Australia's national environmental foreign policy is affected by its own national interests, and everything has been given priority to safeguarding national interests. However, from the beginning of Australian history, Australia’s diplomatic environmental policy was initially proactive.

Second, the strategic advancement of the status of environmental diplomacy. Australia’s environmental foreign policy is influenced by the pressure of domestic national protectionism and the impact of international global environmental politics. Therefore, Australia's environmental foreign policy must be an overall diplomatic strategy serving Australia and an important part of the whole diplomacy. In order to assist the overall diplomatic strategy, the Australian government gives strategic importance to environmental diplomacy to some extent. The nature of Australia’s national environmental foreign policy is affected by its own national interests, and everything is focused on
safeguarding national interests.

Third, the environmental diplomacy of the supremacy of national interests. From the above analysis, it can be concluded that the attitude of the Australian government on environmental foreign policy is extremely hesitant. No matter what kind of environmental foreign policy is, whether it is positive or not is relative. Although Australia's environmental foreign policy under the ruling coalition party is disappointing, from a comprehensive perspective, the Australian government has also achieved relatively fruitful results in international diplomacy.

Fourth, the development trend of Australian environmental diplomacy. The future development of Australia's environmental foreign policy will be affected by both domestic interest protectionism and international environmental politics. In the context of new globalization, proactive environmental diplomacy is the measure to maximize the protection of Australia's national interests, which can change Australia's international impression, develop sustainable economy, find a green economic model, and avoid losing the discourse and initiative in the international environment. At the same time, the domestic protection of the environment has provided the impetus for the Australian government to formulate environmental foreign policy.

3. Results and discussion

![Figure. 1 GDP of Australia under active environmental diplomacy](image)

As is shown in figure 1, the gross national product of Australia has been growing steadily in recent decades. This is thanks to the mutual opening of countries around the world. The most important thing is that thanks to Australia's positive environmental diplomacy policy, Australia has a positive image internationally, thus finding a new model of economic and environmental development, which is a huge improvement for Australia and the global environment.

| Time  | 2010    | 2011    | 2012    | 2013    | 2014    | 2015    | 2016    | 2017    |
|-------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| GDP   | 15187   | 15602   | 14970   | 14231   | 13075   | 11814   | 12437   | 12646   |
| Growth rate (%) | 6.59   | 2.73    | -4.05   | -4.94   | -8.13   | -9.64   | 1.27    | 1.68    |
As shown in table 1, it can be observed that the growth rate of Australia's gross domestic product has been steadily increasing in recent years, which has changed the predicament of negative growth. This is mainly because Australia has changed the original environmental diplomacy in recent years. The positive environmental foreign policy has made Australia have a positive image in the international community and found a new mode of economic and environmental development, which has greatly improved the environment of Australia and the whole world.

Table 2 Australia’s CO$_2$ emissions under active environmental diplomacy

| Time | 2010  | 2011  | 2012  | 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  |
|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| CO$_2$ (100 million tons) | 2.86  | 2.83  | 2.85  | 2.89  | 2.91  | 2.96  | 3.02  | 3.06  |
| Growth rate (%) | -1.05 | 0.71  | 1.40  | 0.69  | 1.72  | 2.03  | 1.32  | 1.11  |

As shown in table 2, it can be concluded that in recent years, although the amount of carbon dioxide emission in Australia is increasing, the growth rate of carbon dioxide is decreasing, which is in line with the impact of environmental protection foreign policy on ecology. This is mainly due to the change of Australia's environmental diplomacy in recent years. The positive environmental foreign policy makes Australia have a positive image in the international community. Combined with economic growth, Australia finds a new model of economic and environmental development, which is a breakthrough for Australia and the global environment.

Table 3 Influencing factors and characteristics of Australia's environmental diplomacy

| Influencing factors | Characteristics |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Domestic interest protection | National interests first |
| International environmental politics | Improvement of strategic position |
|                              | Diversified participation |

It can be concluded from table 3 that Australia's environmental diplomacy is influenced by international environmental system, pressure from international public opinion, national interest, and other factors. Its characteristics include diversified participation, strategic promotion of domestic environmental diplomatic status, and the supremacy of national interests.

4. Conclusion

In this study, the rise of Australian environmental diplomacy and its characteristics were studied by consulting literature and analytical methods. The results show that Australia's environmental diplomacy is influenced by international environmental system, pressure from international public opinion, national interest, and other factors. And its characteristics include diversified participation, strategic promotion of domestic environmental diplomatic status, and the supremacy of national interests. To sum up, Australia's environmental diplomacy has been affected by both international environmental politics and domestic national interest protectionism since ancient times. There are still some deficiencies in the research process of this paper. Because a country's environmental foreign policy is extremely important and is influenced by many small internal and external factors, it mainly adopts the method of literature review in this study and lacks certain comprehensiveness. However, the most important factor affecting environmental diplomacy is what is mentioned in this research. With the results of this research as the foundation, the subsequent research results will be more detailed and comprehensive.

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