

6

Unit

Live Green, Live Better



Lead-in

Man and nature are a community of life. Human activities and economic development have caused environmental problems. How to conserve and restore nature while developing the economy is a question the whole world needs to answer. Facing the challenge of meeting people's expectation for a better life while protecting the eco-environment, the CPC has established resource conservation and environmental protection as a fundamental national policy. Plans have been made and measures are being taken to realize sustainable development and build an eco-civilization. In this unit, you will learn about China's green development model, measures, and achievements.

Objectives

At the end of this unit, you should be able to

- discuss China's green development model, measures, and achievements;
- understand, organize, and report information presented in diagrams;
- use effective strategies to begin and end your speeches.

Task for the unit

You are to give a 5-minute speech on World Earth Day to a group of international students who are visiting your university. Imagine yourself as the head of the Environmental Protection Department (or a society with a similar mission) of your university's Student Union, and introduce what your department has done and what you have achieved.

Pre-Class Work

Red-Crowned Cranes in Coastal Wetlands Nature Reserve, Yancheng, Jiangsu Province



- 01 Search on the internet for answers to the following questions.
 1. What are the Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations?
 2. What are the biggest environmental challenges the world is facing?
 3. What is biodiversity? How many species are currently threatened with extinction?
 4. Why is it important to protect biodiversity?
 5. What action plans have been proposed to protect biodiversity?
- 02 Read the speech in Activity 2 and do research on China's green development measures and achievements.

Warming-up

- 1** Have you seen any changes in the natural environment of your hometown (e.g. better air quality and better water condition) or read about measures taken in China to improve the environment (e.g. measures taken in Saihanba)? Share what you know with your classmates.

- 2** Practice saying the following tongue twister.


Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers;
A peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked.
If Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers,
Where's the peck of pickled peppers Peter
Piper picked?

Articulation

Articulation refers to the action of pronouncing a sound or word clearly. It involves the coordination of muscles used when speaking. The more you practice using these muscles, the clearer your pronunciation will be, and the easier it will be for the audience to understand you.

- 3** Listen to the recording and then read it out loud.

Man and nature form a community of life; we, as human beings, must respect nature, follow its ways, and protect it. Only by observing the laws of nature can humanity avoid costly blunders in its exploitation. Any harm we inflict on nature will eventually return to haunt us. This is a reality we have to face.

The modernization that we pursue is one characterized by harmonious coexistence between man and nature. In addition to creating more material and cultural wealth to meet people's ever-increasing desire for a better life, we need also to provide more quality ecological goods to meet people's ever-growing demands for a beautiful environment.  Audio-05

Understanding Contemporary China

Activity 1 Understanding environmental protection as a global issue

- 1 Work in groups of three or four and make a list of the biggest environmental problems the world is facing, according to your pre-class research. Discuss and decide which are the top five most urgent and serious problems on your list.

Biggest environmental problems

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- 2 Form new groups with a member from each of the previous groups. Compare your lists and explain why you think the problems on the lists are the most urgent and serious.
- 3 Give a 2-minute impromptu speech on “The Biggest Environmental Problem We Are Facing.” You have five minutes to prepare.

Activity 2 Understanding China's green development model

- 1 Read the speech and give a definition of green development in one sentence. Discuss in pairs and then share your definition with the rest of the class.

Green development means _____.



- P**romoting the green development model and a green way of life is an essential requirement of our new development concepts. We must give top priority to ecological progress in our overall plan, follow the basic state policy of resource conservation and environmental protection, and give high priority to saving resources, protecting the environment, and promoting its natural restoration. We must develop a resource-saving and eco-friendly land-utilization planning system, industrial structure, mode of production, and way of life. We should strive for the coordinated development and common progress of the economy, society, and environmental protection, and create a good environment for our people to work and live in.

* Main points of the speech made by President Xi Jinping at the 41st group study session of the Political Bureau of the 18th CPC Central Committee on May 26, 2017.

- ² Humanity must respect, protect, and stay in harmony with nature in its development activities; otherwise nature will take its revenge. This is a law that everyone should observe. Humanity relies on nature, and the relationship between the two is one of symbiosis. Harm to nature will eventually hurt humanity. Only by following the law of nature can we effectively avoid going astray in our exploitation and utilization of nature. Since the introduction of reform and opening up in 1978, our achievements in social and economic development, of which we are rightly proud, have been historic. At the same time, however, many environmental problems have arisen. These problems have become prominent deficiencies and have become pressing concerns to the public. We must redouble our efforts to address them.
- ³ Promoting the green development model and a green way of life represents a profound revolution in people's mindset on development. This requires us to adopt and implement the new development concepts, and strike a proper balance between economic growth and environmental protection. We should protect the ecosystems as preciously as we protect our eyes, and cherish it as dearly as we cherish our lives. We must be resolute in casting aside the growth model that harms or even destroys the environment, and in abandoning the practice of development at the expense of the environment for temporary economic growth in certain localities. The protection and improvement of the ecosystems will help improve quality of life, sound and sustainable social and economic development, and present an image of an environmentally friendly China. We should strive to build a beautiful China where skies are blue, mountains green, and waters lucid.
- ⁴ We must be aware that it is an important, pressing, but difficult task to adopt the green development model and a green way of life. We must place it high on our agenda and speed up the building of a rational, appropriate, and well-designed plan for land use, an industrial system for green, circular, and low-carbon development, a complete supporting system for ecological progress which attaches equal importance to incentives and restraints, and an environmental governance system jointly implemented by the government, enterprises, and the public. We will speed up our work on drawing three red lines for protecting the ecosystems, covering ecological function security, basic environmental quality standards, and natural resource utilization. We will step up environmental protection in all respects, in all places, and in all the processes of production, distribution and consumption.

- 5 In regard to promoting the green development model and a green way of life, I want to propose the following six key tasks:
- 6 First, accelerate the shift of the economic growth model. To fundamentally improve the ecosystems, we must abandon the model based on an increase in material resource consumption, extensive development, high energy consumption, and high emissions. We should rely on innovation to pursue a more innovation-driven development which is oriented towards the future and gives full play to first-mover advantage. This is an important part of supply-side structural reform.
- 7 Second, intensify the comprehensive control of environmental pollution. We will resolve the pressing problems of air, water, and soil pollution on a priority basis, and redouble our efforts in environmental pollution prevention and control. We will carry out the Action Plan on Air Pollution Prevention and Control, strengthen water pollution prevention and control, conduct soil pollution control and soil restoration projects, reinforce prevention and control of wide-spread pollution in agriculture, and intensify comprehensive environmental governance in urban and rural areas.
- 8 Third, accelerate environmental protection and restoration. We must prioritize conservation and promote natural restoration, carry out an integrated program of protection and restoration for mountains, waters, forests, farmlands and lakes, launch large-scale land greening campaigns, and step up comprehensive control of soil erosion, desertification, and stony desertification.
- 9 Fourth, promote all-round resource conservation and efficient resource utilization. Environmental problems, in the final analysis, are caused by over-exploitation, inefficient utilization, and wasteful consumption of resources. We exploit and utilize natural resources to guarantee a happy life for the people, but at the same time we should leave to our future generations sufficient resources for their needs. We should establish a mindset of conserving, recycling, and efficiently using resources, and strive to obtain maximum social and economic benefits at a minimum cost in resources and environment.
- 10 Fifth, advocate and popularize green consumption. Ecological progress is a matter for everyone. Each of us should pursue and advance ecological progress. We should enhance publicity and education on the need to promote

ecological progress, and raise environmental consciousness among the people, encourage them to develop a green way of life and a consumption model characterized by economy, moderate consumption, and low carbon, and foster a social trend in favor of eco-conservation.

- 11 Sixth, refine the overall mechanism for ecological progress with complete supporting systems. To promote green development and guarantee ecological progress, it is imperative to have the strictest possible institutions and legislation in place. We must improve the natural resource assets management system, strengthen natural resources and environmental regulation, implement environmental inspections and an eco-compensation system, and refine the system of public participation in the protection of the environment.
- 12 Officials have a key role to play in implementing eco-conservation programs. We must implement an eco-conservation responsibility system for officials during their tenure of office and an audit of natural resource assets when they leave their posts. We must clearly identify, in accordance with laws and regulations, the items for which officials at all levels are to be held accountable throughout their life-time. In doing so, we will follow the principles of objectivity and fairness, rational conclusions, and balance between power and responsibility. Any official responsible for damage to the environment must be held accountable. All party committees and governments must attach great importance to this and provide stronger leadership. Party discipline inspection commissions and organization departments, together with the government's oversight agencies, must assume their responsibilities and join efforts to form a synergistic force.

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- 2 Summarize the main ideas of the speech by completing the following outline. After you complete it, compare it with your partner's. If there is any difference, discuss it and reach an agreement.

Introduction

Thesis statement: We must promote the green development model and a green way of life. (Para. 1)

Body

I. The need to protect the environment (Para. 2)

A. _____

B. _____

II. _____ (Para. 3)

A. Adopt a new mindset on development

B. _____

C. _____

III. _____ (Para. 4)

A. Design a plan for land use and build a green industrial system, a supporting system, and a governance system

B. _____

C. _____

IV. Specific key tasks (Paras. 5-11)

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

D. _____

E. _____

F. _____

Conclusion

Officials play a key role in implementing eco-conservation programs. (Para. 12)

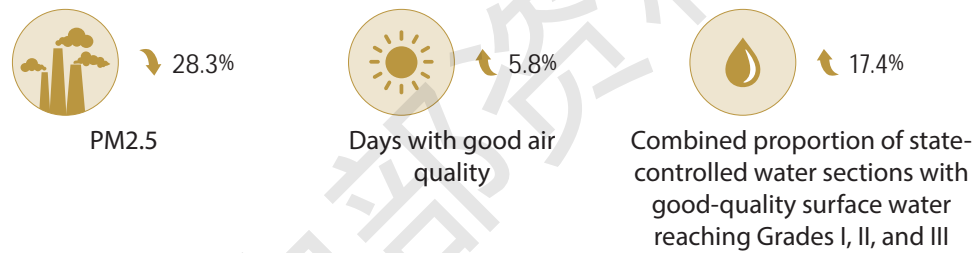
3 Look at the achievements China has made in environmental protection shown in the following diagrams and discuss in groups of three or four how these achievements have been made. Consider the development concepts, plans, and measures mentioned in President XI's speech in your discussion.

Improving the eco-environment

China has contributed 25% of the global vegetation growth.

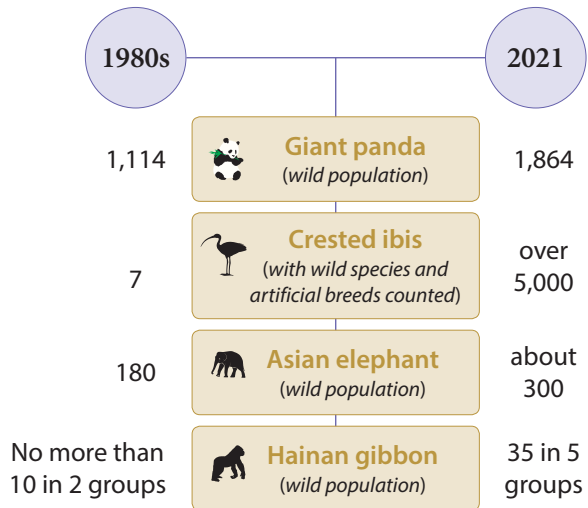
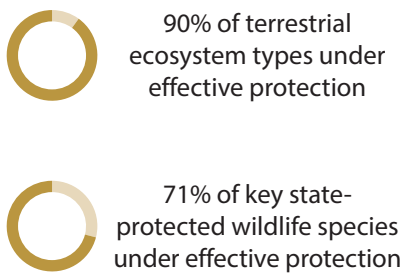


China has tightened pollution control. (compared to 2015)



Optimizing in-situ conservation

What has China achieved?



Understanding Public Speaking

Beginning and ending your speech

“A good beginning is half done.” This saying tells the importance of a good beginning for a speech. A good beginning of a speech realizes the following functions: It 1) attracts the attention of the audience, 2) sets the tone of the speech, 3) establishes the speaker’s credibility, and 4) states the main argument of the speech and previews the main points.

- There are various ways to attract your audience’s attention, such as telling a story, using a quotation, asking a question, alerting the audience with shocking facts, or talking about something the audience can easily relate to (e.g. a current affair, a new movie).
- The beginning is a lead-in to the topic and the tone of the speech (e.g. light-hearted or serious) is also established in the beginning part.
- The credibility of the speaker is established when the listeners think that the speaker can be trusted and the speech is worth listening to. You establish your credibility by showing that you are knowledgeable about the topic and that you have a common interest with the audience.
- The beginning also contains the thesis statement and a preview of the main points to help the audience follow the speech.

The beginning of a speech is very important. So too is the ending. The ending offers you the last chance to drive your points home. Therefore, at the end you need to summarize your main points and repeat the message you want the audience to take home with. There are some techniques to give the speech a powerful ending, such as referring to the introduction to give the audience a sense of unity, ending with a quotation, calling for action, or making dramatic or inspiring statements.



Activity 3 Identifying the techniques used to begin a speech

1 Work in pairs. Identify the techniques used in the following speech introductions and write down your answers in brackets.

A Telling a story

B Alerting the audience with shocking facts

C Using a quotation

D Referring to an occasion, an event, or a movie/a book

E Asking a question

- () 1. As a Chinese saying goes, “All beings flourish when they live in harmony and receive nourishment from Nature.” Biodiversity makes the Earth full of vigor and vitality, and lays the foundation for human survival and development. Protecting biodiversity helps protect the Earth, our common homeland, and contributes to humanity’s sustainable development.

—*President Xi Jinping’s keynote speech at the leaders’ summit of the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity*

- () 2. Mother Nature is calling for our help. Global biodiversity is declining at unprecedented rates. One million plants and animal species face extinction, more than ever before in human history. Studies suggest we are overusing Earth’s biocapacity by at least 56 percent. And the COVID-19 crisis has served to highlight just how critical the health of our ecosystems is for human wellbeing and sustainable development.

—*Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, executive secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, on the occasion of International Mother Earth Day*

- () 3. When I was a kid, the river near my grandma’s house was a real paradise. The water was like flowing crystal. When I opened my eyes while swimming, I could see everything, from small sparkling stones to schools of colorful fish. I also liked to search for crabs on the riverbank. Every time I turned a big stone over, a clumsy cyan crab would be waiting there. Aren’t they wonderful? Not for me, because neither of them is true. These are my parents’ childhood memories. I stole them. I did go to see the river where my dad used to swim, but it had been polluted. I did try to find crabs as my mum did, but when I turned over a stone, guess what, a plastic bottle was lying there.

—*Luo Jiali, “Save Mother Nature, Savor a Better Future,”
“FLTRP·ETIC Cup” English Public Speaking Contest*



- () 4. Recently, the 3D version of the movie *2012* was released. People were presented with shocking and frightening scenery: Fire pours down from the sky; oceans bump and swallow the land; the massive earthquake rips ground into parts. The world is blanketed in ash and people are just like tiny ants compared with the vast mess.
—Yin Chuansheng, “What We Cannot Afford to Lose—The Green Planet We Live On,”
“FLTRP-ETIC Cup” English Public Speaking Contest
- () 5. Ladies and gentleman, now it is 2019. Can you imagine what the world will be like in another 30 years? Will it be a world like the one nowadays? Or, a clean world that is free of pollution, a harmonious world without species extinction, a beautiful world in which we can live in sunlight instead of haze? And that is what I think my story in 2049 should focus on.
—Yang Chengru, “My Big Story in 2049—A Green Community with a Shared Future for All Mankind,” “FLTRP-ETIC Cup” English Public Speaking Contest

2 Discuss the impact the above introductions may have had on the audience.

Activity 4 Identifying the techniques used to end a speech

1 Work in pairs. Identify the techniques used in the following speech conclusions and write down your answers in brackets.

A Referring to the introduction

B Calling for action

C Ending with a quotation

D Making inspiring statements

- () 1. If we humanity do not fail Nature, Nature will not fail us. Ecological civilization represents the development trend of human civilization. Let us join hands, follow the philosophy of an ecological civilization and shoulder our responsibility for future generations. Let us make joint efforts to build a community of all life on Earth, and a clean and beautiful world for us all.

—President Xi Jinping’s keynote speech at the Leaders’ Summit of the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

- () 2. As we say in China, “When people pull together, nothing is too heavy to be lifted.” Climate change poses pressing, formidable and long-term challenges to us all. Yet I am confident that as long as we unite in our purposes and efforts and work together with solidarity and mutual assistance, we will rise above the global climate and environment challenges and leave a clean and beautiful world to future generations.

—President Xi Jinping’s remarks at Leaders Summit on Climate

- () 3. Nature is resilient and it can recover if we ease our relentless assault. On the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations, this Summit presents a unique opportunity for you all to make the decisions that will shape our shared future. We need a healthy planet for our societies to thrive and our economies to rebuild. The world is counting on you, and I thank you.

—António Guterres, secretary-general of the United Nations, remarks to United Nations Biodiversity Summit

- () 4. I can never really steal my parents’ childhood memories, but we can create such memories for future generations. Hopefully, one day, a kid on the riverbank will joyfully call out, “Hey, Grandma, I’ve found another little crab here. Come to have a look!” How lovely that would be! Thank you.

—Luo Jiali, “Save Mother Nature, Savor a Better Future,” “FLTRP-ETIC Cup” English Public Speaking Contest

2 Discuss which type of conclusion you may use for your task for the unit. Explain why.

Activity 5 Writing an effective introduction and conclusion for a speech

- 1** Read the thesis statement of a speech and provide an introduction and a conclusion for it.

Thesis statement: We should adopt a green way of life because human activities have been proved to be a main cause of climate change. Only when everyone takes action can Mother Earth be saved.

Introduction:

Conclusion:

- 2** Work in groups of three or four. Share your introduction and conclusion and then work out a group version.
- 3** Each group chooses one speaker to share the group's introduction and conclusion with the rest of the class. Then the whole class discuss which one is the best and why.

Making Your Voice Heard

1 Prepare a 5-minute speech to be given on World Earth Day to a group of visiting international students (see Task for the unit). Here are some suggestions to help you prepare for it.

Step 1

Gather information about the Environmental Protection Department of the Student Union. If you are not a member, interview people who work there for information about its history, mission, and activities it has organized (e.g. activities to raise people’s environmental awareness, a bottle recycling project). You can also search for relevant information on the internet. Also, search for activities that college students in other countries do to protect the environment.

Step 2

Gather information on the difficulties in environmental protection (e.g. people’s lack of awareness or knowledge, their prioritizing of convenience). Brainstorm the activities that college students can do to help overcome these difficulties. Search for information about what ordinary people can do to protect the environment.

Step 3

Decide on the purpose of your speech (i.e. to inform the audience of what you have done and what you have achieved, to persuade the audience to take action, or to propose cooperation among universities around the world).

Step
4

Write an outline of the speech. Remember to arrange the main points in a logical order and use data to support your ideas.

Step
5

Give your speech an attractive beginning and a powerful ending.

Step
6

Do a timed rehearsal of your speech.

Language Bank

- eco-civilization 生态文明
- sustainable development 可持续发展
- biodiversity 生物多样性
- green development model
绿色发展方式
- natural restoration 自然恢复
- resource conservation 节约资源
- coordinated development 协调发展
- symbiosis 共生
- pressing concerns 突出问题
- lucid waters and lush mountains 绿水青山
- low-carbon development 低碳发展
- environmental governance system
环境治理体系
- natural resource utilization 自然资源利用
- high energy consumption, high emissions
高能耗、高排放
- innovation-driven development
创新驱动发展
- supply-side structural reform
供给侧结构性改革
- soil erosion 水土流失
- desertification and stony desertification
荒漠化和石漠化
- government's oversight agencies
政府监管部门
- All beings flourish when they live in harmony
and receive nourishment from Nature.
万物各得其和以生，各得其养以成。
- Heaven and earth coexist with me; all things
and I are one.
天地与我并生，而万物与我为一。
- Heaven and earth do not speak, yet the seasons
change and all things grow.
天不言而四时行，地不语而百物生。