

Why do we need forest towns with their own local governments?

Muhammad Jawad Sajid¹

¹School of Engineering Management, Xuzhou University of Technology, Xuzhou, Jiangsu, China

Opinion:

Forests are critical to the survival of life on Earth. However, forests are being lost at a rapid speed. The main issue is that those in power must answer to their constituents and even party funders. When it comes to economic benefits, both voters and funders have a vested interest in forest destruction. Governments (local, provincial, and national) will be hesitant to enact stringent regulations, which may result in dissatisfaction or criticism from both of these groups. As a result, most governments face a conflict of interest because they must answer to voters and, in some cases, party funders.

This problem is solvable if we have independent forest local governments. Whose main purpose is to protect the interests of its permanent residents, i.e., animal and plant species. Humans, on the other hand, should be regarded as temporary tourists who are not permitted to have permanent resident status in areas governed by forest local governments. They must pay for their stay in these forest towns when visiting as tourists, wildlife photographers, members of the media and entertainment industry, and so on. During their stay, they are bound by the laws of the forest towns, which are primarily designed with the interests of their permanent residents in mind. Any infraction can result in fines and even the expulsion (deportation) of people from the forest towns. The funds raised can be used for animal and plant welfare projects, as well as the long-term survival of forest towns.

Members of the forest government may be ecologists, lawyers, or members of civil society. They should have no vested interest in destroying forest towns. They are primarily in charge of enacting laws and regulations for the benefit of permanent residents. Recruiting forest police and other administrative personnel. And managing and raising funds for the permanent residents' well-being.

Finally, no human being should be allowed to live in these forest towns as a permanent resident. Even members of the forest government are temporary residents who represent the interests of their permanent residents. In this way, we can ensure that real residents' interests, rather than outsiders' interests, take precedence when developing laws to protect and sustain forest towns.