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Emergy-based sustainability evaluation of Erhai Lake Basin in China

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16 Abstract

Rapid economic development has significantly degraded the environmental quality of 17 Erhai Lake and its basin. In order to assess the present sustainability of Erhai Lake 18 Basin and suggest improvement options, this study builds an emergy-based 19 framework, in which the whole basin system comprises five sub-systems divided 20 according to local economic structure and lake functions, including Erhai Lake 21 sub-system, Fishery sub-system, Agricultural sub-system, Industrial sub-system and 22 Household sub-system. Moreover, emergy performances of lake water consumption 23 are analyzed considering the vital role of lake water in the basin development. The 24 results of emergy-based indicators, e.g. EYR (1.31), ELR (60.98), ESI (2.15E-02) and 25 support area SA_(r) (1.56E+05 km², about 60 times the actually available area), reveal 26

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