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VU THI NGOC

THE DEVELOPMENT OF ECOLOGICAL CULTURE AMONG RESIDENTS IN ĐẮK LẮK PROVINCE TODAY

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INTRODUCTION

1. Rationale for the Study

Theoretical rationale: Marxism–Leninism views human beings as part of nature and emphasizes the close, inseparable relationship between humanity and the natural world. To survive and adapt to nature, humans have created values and norms to regulate this relationship and foster harmony, enabling humans and nature to coexist. In Vietnam, where wet-rice agriculture has historically shaped society, people developed diverse understandings of nature at an early stage, giving rise to values, norms, and nature-worship practices intended to maintain a balance between humans and the natural environment. These constitute ecological culture.

Practical rationale: In Vietnam, the Party's policy orientation toward modern, digitalized, sustainable, and environmentally friendly production creates a need to develop among residents values, norms, behaviors, and lifestyles that are harmonious with nature. This makes the development of ecological culture an urgent requirement.

Đắk Lắk Province possesses diverse and distinctive ecosystems and cultural traditions. Following its merger with the former Phú Yên Province, the province's ecological space has expanded and livelihoods have become more diverse, giving rise to a wide range of ways of adapting to, exploiting, and interacting with nature, and thus a diverse ecological culture. However, the province faces considerable pressure in terms of environmental protection and public health. Traditional cultural values are at risk of fading or becoming less compatible with new modes of production, while production, consumption, and economic development continue to expand. Developing residents' ecological culture is therefore important for promoting positive ecological values, addressing inappropriate perceptions, customs, and behaviors, and gradually establishing modes of production and lifestyles that are harmonious with nature. Accordingly, the study entitled "*The Development of Ecological Culture among Residents in Đắk Lắk Province Today*" is significant both theoretically and practically.

2. Research Aim and Tasks

2.1. Research Aim

This dissertation clarifies the theoretical foundations and current state of efforts to develop ecological culture among residents in Đắk Lắk Province. It identifies issues arising from the current situation and proposes several groups of solutions to improve the effectiveness of ecological culture development among the province's residents in the coming years.

2.2. Research Tasks

- To review published scientific studies relevant to the topic, identify their contributions, and determine the issues requiring further investigation in this dissertation.

- To clarify the theoretical foundations, including the actors, content, approaches, and factors influencing the development of ecological culture among residents in Đắk Lắk Province.

- To analyze the current situation and identify issues arising from the development of ecological culture among residents in Đắk Lắk Province from 2016 to the present.

- To propose key solutions to improve the effectiveness of ecological culture development among residents in Đắk Lắk Province in the coming years.

3. Research Subject and Scope

3.1. Research Subject

The research subject is the development of ecological culture among residents in Đắk Lắk Province today.

3.2. Research Scope

- Content scope: The dissertation examines the development of ecological culture among residents in Đắk Lắk Province.

- Geographical scope: The study focuses on Đắk Lắk Province. For the period before 2025, it uses data relating to the former Đắk Lắk Province. From 2025 onward, it uses data relating to the new Đắk Lắk Province, established through the administrative reorganization of Đắk Lắk and Phú Yên provinces under National Assembly Resolution No. 202/2025/QH15, dated 12 June 2025.

- Time scope: 2016 - 2026.

4. Theoretical Foundations and Research Methods

4.1. Theoretical Foundations

The dissertation draws on the principles of Marxism - Leninism concerning the relationship between humans, society, and nature, as well as theories of culture and cultural values. It also draws on Hồ Chí Minh’s views on environmental protection; the Party’s perspectives and the State’s policies and laws on ecological protection and sustainable development; and theories of ecological culture developed in relevant previous studies.

4.2. Research Methods

The dissertation adopts the methodological approach of dialectical and historical materialism.

It also employs several specific research methods.

Analysis and synthesis are used to examine concepts and perspectives on ecological culture presented in relevant studies and to clarify their content and approaches. Based on this analysis, the dissertation synthesizes and selects

valuable insights for inheritance and further development in formulating concepts of culture, ecology, ecological culture, the development of ecological culture, and the development of ecological culture among residents generally and among residents in Đắk Lắk Province specifically. These methods are also used to synthesize the theoretical arguments that underpin the analysis of the current situation and the formulation of proposed solutions.

Statistical methods are used to collect, classify, systematize, and synthesize secondary data from reports, research studies, and relevant documents. These data provide information on natural conditions, socioeconomic characteristics, population, natural resources, the environment, and the current state of ecological culture development among residents in Đắk Lắk Province. The data are selected according to their relevance to the research content and tasks and serve as a basis for analyzing the context, assessing the current situation, and identifying issues arising in the development of ecological culture among the province's residents.

Comparative methods are used in the literature review to identify similarities and differences in the approaches, content, and findings of relevant studies. This comparison helps determine which insights can be inherited and further developed, as well as the research gaps that the dissertation needs to address. The methods are also used to compare the theoretical requirements for ecological culture development with evidence derived from secondary sources. This provides a basis for assessing achievements, clarifying outstanding issues, and proposing appropriate solutions.

Document analysis is used to examine the works of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, Hồ Chí Minh's writings, Party documents, State policies and legislation, reports, statistical data, and documents relating to Đắk Lắk Province. These materials are analyzed to select information and data relevant to the dissertation's aims and tasks, thereby supporting the development of its theoretical foundations, analysis of the current situation, and justification of the proposed solutions.

5. Original Scientific Contributions

The dissertation advances an approach that explains the origins of ecological culture in terms of social existence and examines the content of ecological culture and its development from the perspective of residents' agency. Residents are understood both as direct creators and developers of ecological values and as the actors who put these values into practice in everyday life. This clarifies that ecological culture is not developed solely through the influence of external actors and institutions; it is also created and sustained through residents'

own practical activities under specific economic, cultural, social, and ecological conditions.

6. Theoretical and Practical Significance

6.1. Theoretical Significance

- The dissertation establishes a theoretical framework for ecological culture and its development, focusing on the actors, content, and approaches involved. It also identifies key factors influencing ecological culture development among residents in Đắk Lắk Province.

- It provides an overview of the current situation and the issues arising from ecological culture development among residents in Đắk Lắk Province.

- It proposes three groups of solutions to improve the effectiveness of ecological culture development among residents in Đắk Lắk Province.

6.2. Practical Significance

- The dissertation's findings provide a scientific and practical basis for Đắk Lắk Province to develop residents' ecological culture, thereby contributing to environmental protection and sustainable development.

- The findings provide an overview of the current state of ecological culture development among residents in Đắk Lắk Province.

- The research helps enhance the doctoral researcher's understanding and serves as a reference for developing ecological culture among residents in other provinces of Vietnam.

7. Structure of the Dissertation

In addition to the introduction, conclusion, and references, the dissertation consists of four chapters divided into twelve sections.

CHAPTER 1
LITERATURE REVIEW

1.1. Studies on the Theoretical Foundations of Ecological Culture Development

The dissertation reviews studies on the theoretical foundations of ecological culture development. These studies propose various definitions of ecological culture from different perspectives and examine its structure and the role of ecology in sustainable development in Vietnam and specific regions of the country. They provide valuable references for this dissertation.

1.2. Studies on the Current State of Ecological Culture Development

The dissertation reviews studies on the current state of ecological culture development in four main areas. First, some studies examine specific models and practices implemented in localities, as well as international models from which Vietnam may draw lessons. Second, studies analyze the roles of the State, businesses, and residents in environmental protection. Third, research examines the environmental impacts of socioeconomic development. Fourth, studies assess the effectiveness of education, communication, and changes in production practices in promoting environmental protection.

1.3. Studies on Solutions for Ecological Culture Development

The dissertation reviews studies proposing solutions for ecological culture development. These studies emphasize measures such as strengthening education and communication to raise residents' ecological awareness; improving state environmental management; preserving indigenous cultural values; transitioning to green production; and applying digital technologies to production. Most of these proposals remain general in nature.

1.4. Overview of the Contributions of Existing Studies and Issues Requiring Further Research

1.4.1. Contributions of Existing Studies Relevant to the Dissertation

First, regarding the theoretical foundations of ecological culture development in Vietnam, existing studies have established an important theoretical basis for research on ecological culture and its development. They have introduced concepts related to ecological awareness, ecological lifestyles, and ecological civilization. Some have explicitly defined ecological culture and examined its structure, characteristics, and role in environmental protection and sustainable development. These studies emphasize the need to establish harmonious relations between humans and nature and to reconcile socioeconomic development with environmental protection. Research adopting a cultural-values perspective also highlights the importance of preserving and

promoting indigenous knowledge and traditional values, including customary laws and community lifestyles harmonious with nature. Other studies examine the roles of social actors, particularly individuals and communities, in forming, maintaining, and practising ecological values. These theoretical contributions provide a foundation for the dissertation to build upon, refine, and develop further, while identifying issues that previous studies have left unresolved.

Second, regarding the current state of ecological culture development in Vietnam, existing studies examine ecological culture, its relationship with sustainable development, environmental conditions, ecological lifestyles, and human interactions with nature in different regions and nationwide. Some analyze how industrialization, modernization, the market economy, and outdated production methods affect people's perceptions, behaviors, and living conditions. Others identify the positive effects of changes in the environmental awareness and behavior of residents, businesses, and local authorities, while also highlighting limitations in environmental protection, natural-resource exploitation, and the promotion of traditional ecological values. Studies also examine the roles of communities, customary laws, village elders, respected individuals, and indigenous knowledge in the Central Highlands - including Đắk Lắk - in environmental protection and resource management. These findings provide empirical material and suggest analytical approaches that help the dissertation identify and synthesize issues arising in ecological culture development among residents in Đắk Lắk Province.

Third, regarding solutions for ecological culture development in Vietnam, previous studies have proposed a broad range of measures. Some emphasize improving environmental protection mechanisms, policies, and legislation; strengthening management, inspection, monitoring, and sanctions against pollution and illegal resource exploitation; and integrating environmental protection with green economic development, clean technologies, and corporate social responsibility. Others focus on education and communication to enhance ecological awareness and responsibility and promote norms and lifestyles that are environmentally friendly. They also highlight the roles of residents, communities, and social organizations in environmental protection. In addition, some studies advocate preserving and promoting indigenous knowledge, customary laws, and positive traditional cultural values associated with environmental protection, as well as developing and expanding community-based environmental initiatives. These proposals provide important references for the dissertation in selecting and developing solutions suited to the role of residents and the specific conditions of Đắk Lắk Province.

Overall, scholars have approached ecological culture from various perspectives and at different levels of analysis. The doctoral researcher draws on and incorporates this body of knowledge throughout the dissertation. However, no scientific study has yet examined in depth the development of ecological culture specifically among residents in Đắk Lắk Province. This constitutes the research gap that the dissertation seeks to address.

1.4.2. Issues Requiring Further Research

Building on the contributions of previous studies, the dissertation examines ecological culture development from the perspective of dialectical and historical materialism and addresses the following issues.

Theoretically, although previous studies have proposed various concepts for research on ecological culture, none has explicitly defined "ecological culture development," "the development of ecological culture among residents," or "the development of ecological culture among residents in Đắk Lắk Province." Nor have previous studies systematically examined the actors, content, and approaches involved in this process in a way that identifies residents as the agents of their own ecological culture development. Such an approach clarifies that residents are not merely recipients of external influences but also direct agents in developing their own ecological culture.

The dissertation therefore further analyses the concepts of culture, ecology, ecological culture, and ecological culture development from a philosophical perspective. It clarifies the content and constituent elements of ecological culture, as well as the meaning of ecological culture development among residents. Treating ecological culture as a form of social consciousness that reflects social existence and expresses the relationship between humans and nature under specific historical conditions, the dissertation examines the roles of the actors, the content, and the approaches involved in ecological culture development among residents. It also identifies the key factors influencing this process in Đắk Lắk Province today.

Empirically, the dissertation analyses and evaluates the current state of ecological culture development among residents in Đắk Lắk Province by examining the actors involved, the content of development, and the approaches employed. On this basis, it identifies the issues arising from the current situation.

In terms of solutions, the dissertation proposes several key groups of measures to improve the effectiveness of ecological culture development among residents in Đắk Lắk Province in the coming years. These measures aim to strengthen residents' agency in forming, consolidating, and practicing the constituent elements of ecological culture through approaches suited to the province's specific conditions.

CHAPTER 2
THE DEVELOPMENT OF ECOLOGICAL CULTURE AMONG RESIDENTS IN ĐẮK LẮK PROVINCE: THEORETICAL ISSUES

2.1. Key Concepts

2.1.1. Ecological Culture

2.1.1.1. The Concept of Ecological Culture

The concept of culture

Culture comprises the material and spiritual values created by humans through production, transmitted and developed across generations, and reflected in how people work, think, behave, and interact with the natural and social environments.

The concept of ecology

Ecology refers to the natural system and to how humans perceive and interact with the environment; it thus concerns the relationship among humans, nature, and society.

The concept of ecological culture

Ecological culture is a system of values, norms, and patterns of behavior that humans develop in their relationship with nature and their living environment.

2.1.1.2. Origins and Characteristics of Ecological Culture

First, ecological culture emerges and develops on the basis of each community's natural, economic, and social conditions.

Second, ecological culture reflects how humans perceive, adapt to, use, and transform nature.

Third, ecological culture continuously evolves through the preservation of inherited values and the introduction of new ones in response to changing natural, economic, and social conditions.

2.1.1.3. The Role of Ecological Culture

First, ecological culture shapes perceptions, values, and norms concerning the natural environment.

Second, it regulates human behavior and lifestyles in relation to nature.

Third, it strengthens community cohesion in ecological protection, thereby providing a social foundation for sustainable development.

2.1.2. Constituent Elements of Ecological Culture

2.1.2.1. Ecological Knowledge

Ecological knowledge refers to the body of human understanding of nature, its laws of development, and the relationship between humans and nature. It is formed, accumulated, tested, and developed through practical activity, providing the basis for the formation of ecological values, symbols, behaviors, lifestyles, and institutions.

2.1.2.2. Ecological Values

Ecological values are conceptions and evaluative criteria recognized by a community concerning the significance of nature, its role, and appropriate forms of interaction between humans and nature. They are formed, tested, and developed through the practical activities of successive generations.

2.1.2.3. Ecological Symbols

Ecological symbols are a form of cultural symbolism in which objects, images, representations, spaces, behaviors, or cultural practices associated with nature convey a community's meanings, values, beliefs, and norms concerning the relationship between humans and nature.

2.1.2.4. Ecological Behavior

Ecological behavior refers to the ways in which people interact with specific elements of nature through work, daily activities, and social life. Such behavior is guided by the ecological knowledge, values, and symbols recognized by individuals and communities.

2.1.2.5. Ecological Lifestyles

Ecological lifestyles emerge when ecological behaviors are no longer isolated acts but are practiced regularly, voluntarily, and consistently in work, production, daily life, and social relations. These behaviors become everyday habits and routines grounded in ecological values and symbols recognized by individuals and communities.

2.1.2.6. Ecological Institutions

From the perspective of Marxism–Leninism, ecological institutions comprise the rules, norms, organizations, and mechanisms established by the State and communities to regulate the relationship between humans and nature, while protecting and developing ecological values recognized by the community.

2.2. The Development of Ecological Culture among Residents in Đắk Lắk Province: Conceptualization, Actors, Content, and Approaches

2.2.1. The Concept of Ecological Culture Development

The concept of ecological culture development

Ecological culture development is the process of forming and developing human values, perceptions, behaviors, and lifestyles that promote harmony with nature, environmental protection, and sustainable development.

The concept of ecological culture development among residents

The development of ecological culture among residents is a process through which individuals, families, and residential communities combine indigenous knowledge with modern science to establish and maintain lifestyles, customs, practices, and socioeconomic activities that are harmonious with nature. It integrates environmental conservation—including forests, seas, land, water, and biodiversity—with the preservation of cultural identity, while providing a foundation for sustainable development.

2.2. The Development of Ecological Culture among Residents in Đắk Lắk Province: Concepts, Actors, Content, and Approaches

2.2.1. The Concept of Ecological Culture Development

The concept of ecological culture development among residents in Đắk Lắk Province

The development of ecological culture among residents in Đắk Lắk Province is the process through which individuals, families, and ethnic communities living in the province combine indigenous knowledge with modern science to establish lifestyles and socioeconomic activities that are harmonious with nature.

2.2.2. Actors in the Development of Ecological Culture among Residents in Đắk Lắk Province

2.2.2.1. Residents of Đắk Lắk Province

First, the concept of residents in Đắk Lắk Province

In this dissertation, residents of Đắk Lắk Province are defined as individuals, households, and residential communities living within the province who directly engage in work, production, daily life, and economic, cultural, and social activities within the local natural and cultural environment.

Second, characteristics of the province’s residents

The population is characterized by ethnic diversity, diverse livelihoods, differences in access to and use of natural resources, and variations in awareness, capacity, and levels of participation.

Third, the composition of the population and its role in ecological culture development

The population of Đắk Lắk can be classified by ethnicity and occupation. Ethnic communities play a role in accumulating, preserving, and maintaining ecological cultural values, while occupational communities practice and develop modern ecological values.

2.2.2.2. Residents as Agents of Ecological Culture Development

First, residents acquire, apply, create, maintain, and transmit knowledge, values, symbols, and norms governing interactions with nature.

Second, they put the elements of ecological culture into practice by choosing and adjusting their behaviors, lifestyles, and modes of production, consumption, and daily living to meet personal and social needs.

Third, residents participate in organizing community life, maintaining shared norms, and cooperating with other actors in environmental protection.

2.2.3. The Content of Ecological Culture Development among Residents in Đắk Lắk Province

2.2.3.1. Forming and Developing Ecological Knowledge, Values, and Symbols

First, developing residents' ecological knowledge in Đắk Lắk Province.

Second, establishing residents' ecological value system in Đắk Lắk Province. This involves:

Fostering the value of living in harmony with the ecological environment.

Promoting the rational, economical, and efficient use of natural resources.

Developing the value of protecting and restoring the ecological environment.

Promoting community cooperation in ecological protection.

Third, forming and developing ecological symbols. This involves preserving, enriching, and promoting symbols that retain, transmit, and disseminate ecological cultural values in residents' lives.

2.2.3.2. Developing Ecological Behaviors and Lifestyles Based on Values and Norms for Ecological Protection

First, developing ecological behaviors among residents in Đắk Lắk Province, including: (1) Establishing modern production practices and sustainable livelihoods as the province promotes sustainable agriculture and links forest- and sea-based economies, ensuring that economic development does not damage ecosystems; (2) Encouraging compliance with legal standards alongside community self-governance; (3) Promoting active participation in economic arrangements and livelihood activities associated with ecological protection; (4) Encouraging residents to proactively prevent, monitor, and challenge violations of environmental law.

Second, developing ecological lifestyles among residents, including: (1) Discouraging materially oriented consumer lifestyles that increase pressure on natural resources and the environment; (2) Promoting green and clean lifestyles that reduce waste from production and daily activities; (3) Developing lifestyles grounded in sustainable livelihoods; (4) Fostering community-oriented lifestyles and responsibility for shared living environments.

2.2.3.3. Creating and Developing a New Ecological Environment through Greater Community Awareness and the Integration of Tradition and Modernity

First, residents should actively transmit ecological cultural values to younger generations.

Second, residents should selectively adopt traditional ecological values that remain relevant under contemporary social conditions. These values may be combined with modern scientific knowledge and technology, or assessed using scientific knowledge to clarify the rationale behind traditional ecological values.

Third, residents in Đắk Lắk Province should proactively establish and maintain new ecological practices in everyday life.

2.2.4. Approaches to Ecological Culture Development among Residents in Đắk Lắk Province

2.2.4.1. Developing Ecological Culture through Education and Greater Awareness

First, by encouraging residents to participate in environmental protection campaigns, communication programs, and educational activities.

Second, by promoting formal and informal education.

Third, by transmitting knowledge to younger generations within families, schools, and communities by combining modern scientific knowledge with

indigenous knowledge and experience in interacting with the ecological environment.

2.2.4.2. Developing Ecological Culture by Preserving and Promoting Traditional Values Governing Interactions with the Ecological Environment

First, residents can preserve and promote traditional values by maintaining and participating in festivals and belief practices associated with nature.

Second, traditional knowledge and experience should be applied selectively, retaining elements suited to current development conditions while abandoning customs that no longer meet the requirements of sustainable development.

Third, by combining indigenous knowledge with modern science and technology.

Fourth, through community activities, traditional ecological values are maintained not only at the individual level but also become shared behavioral norms within villages and residential communities, enabling them to spread more widely throughout social life.

2.2.4.3. Developing Ecological Culture through Strict Compliance with Environmental Law

First, residents access, study and comply with environmental protection legislation.

Second, through the implementation of the law, legal provisions are gradually translated into ecological cultural behaviors.

Third, compliance with environmental law increasingly becomes an expression of residents' social responsibility and ecological ethics.

2.2.4.4. Developing Ecological Culture through the Application of Science and Technology and the Development of Green, Circular and Digital Economies

First, residents make use of renewable energy sources.

Second, they adopt cleaner production models and organic farming practices.

Third, they limit the use of single-use plastics and replace them with biodegradable materials, thereby directly influencing their production activities and daily lives.

2.2.4.5. Developing Ecological Culture through Cooperation and Linkages

First, residents cooperate with businesses and social organizations in implementing environmental projects.

Second, they participate in national and international environmental protection and climate change response programs and initiatives, thereby broadening their ecological culture.

Third, they share experience and strengthen linkages among residential communities and ecological regions within the province to replicate ecological culture development models.

2.3. KEY FACTORS AFFECTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF ECOLOGICAL CULTURE AMONG RESIDENTS IN ĐẮK LẮK PROVINCE

2.3.1. The Natural Environment and Climate Change in Đắk Lắk Province

The natural environment and climate change in Đắk Lắk provide the material foundation for human–nature relations, thereby shaping communities' environmental awareness, value systems, norms and behaviors.

2.3.2. The Level of Economic, Cultural and Social Development in Đắk Lắk Province

The level of economic, cultural and social development creates the material, educational, scientific, technological and living conditions necessary for ecological culture development. It also influences residents' awareness, values, modes of production, consumption patterns and lifestyles. Therefore, the level and model of socio-economic development determine the capacity to develop ecological culture and translate it into practice.

2.3.3. The Party's Orientations, State Policies and Laws, the Local Political System, and Community Charters and Customary Laws in Developing Ecological Culture among Residents in Đắk Lắk Province

These factors shape, institutionalize and regulate residents' awareness, values and behaviors in their relations with nature. They also establish organizational, inspection and monitoring mechanisms, together with community norms, to translate ecological values into practical conduct. Fundamentally, they guide and regulate the formation, practice and maintenance of residents' ecological culture.

2.3.4. The Capacity of Businesses and Residents in Đắk Lắk Province

This factor affects ecological culture through cognitive capacity, management, science and technology, production, and the organization of daily life. Higher levels of capacity among businesses and residents facilitate the acquisition of knowledge, adoption of green technologies, and translation of ecological awareness into practical behavior. Fundamentally, this factor determines their capacity to practice and realize ecological culture.

CHAPTER 3
THE DEVELOPMENT OF ECOLOGICAL CULTURE AMONG RESIDENTS IN ĐẮK LẮK PROVINCE TODAY: CURRENT SITUATION AND ISSUES ARISING

3.1. The Current State of Ecological Culture Development among Residents in Đắk Lắk Province

3.1.1. The Current State of Residents as Agents of Ecological Culture Development in Đắk Lắk Province

3.1.1.1. Residents' Awareness of Their Responsibility to Protect the Ecological Environment

Residents' awareness of their responsibility to protect the ecological environment has improved, with environmental protection increasingly linked to production and daily life. Residents have begun to take greater initiative in recognizing and fulfilling their ecological responsibilities, rather than viewing environmental protection solely as a requirement imposed by management authorities. However, these changes vary across geographical areas and residential communities, and levels of ecological responsibility remain uneven.

3.1.1.2. Residents' Gradual Adoption and Adjustment of Production Methods and Livelihoods

Residents in Đắk Lắk are gradually taking a more proactive approach to choosing and adjusting production methods and livelihoods towards greater harmony with the ecological environment. New practices and production trends are beginning to emerge. However, the degree of initiative varies across localities and population groups, partly because of differences in capital, production organization capacity, access to science and technology, and policy support.

3.1.1.3. Residents' Proactive Participation in Self-Governance and Community Cooperation in Ecological Culture Development

Residents actively participate in self-governance and community cooperation in developing ecological culture. This is reflected in collective efforts to implement environmental protection agreements, preserve landscapes, and manage and use natural resources appropriately. Coordination among households, residential communities and grassroots organizations helps foster shared responsibility and ecological behavioral norms. Nevertheless, self-governance and cooperation remain uneven across localities and have yet to become regular and sustainable practices.

3.1.1.4. Residents' Emerging Role in Monitoring, Reporting and Challenging Actions that Harm the Ecological Environment

Through residential communities, grassroots organizations and reporting channels, residents have participated in identifying and reporting local environmental problems and requesting appropriate action. However, participation remains uneven, while initiative and monitoring effectiveness are limited. Such activities have yet to become a regular practice among the wider population.

3.1.1.5. Residents' Transmission and Creation of Ecological Culture in Community Life

The transmission of ecological cultural values in Đắk Lắk currently persists mainly in communities that have maintained their traditional institutions, cultural spaces and practices. New forms of ecological cultural creation are beginning to emerge in areas with distinctive livelihood conditions and advantages, such as coastal areas, traditional craft villages, and areas with significant cultural heritage supported by the State for preservation. Although this capacity has not yet become widespread, stable or evenly distributed throughout the province, it demonstrates the irreplaceable role of residents themselves as agents of ecological culture development.

3.1.2. The Current State of the Content of Ecological Culture Development among Residents in Đắk Lắk Province

3.1.2.1. The Formation and Development of Residents' Ecological Knowledge, Value Systems and Symbols

Ecological knowledge, value systems and symbols among residents in Đắk Lắk have begun to develop, as reflected in the combination of indigenous and scientific knowledge in understanding and interacting with nature. Values emphasizing respect for, protection of and the appropriate use of natural resources and the environment are receiving increasing attention and gradually becoming embedded in community life. However, this development remains uneven. Some ecological knowledge, values and symbols have not been adequately preserved, promoted or translated into ecological behaviors and lifestyles.

3.1.2.2. The Formation and Development of Residents' Ecological Behaviors and Lifestyles Based on Values and Norms for Ecological Environment Protection

Ecological behaviors and lifestyles among residents in Đắk Lắk have begun to take shape on the basis of environmental protection values and norms, as reflected in changes in production, consumption and daily activities. Residents are gradually translating ecological awareness and values into practical behavior, helping to reduce adverse environmental impacts. However, these practices remain uneven, and some residents have yet to maintain ecological behaviors and lifestyles consistently and sustainably.

3.1.2.3. The Formation and Development of a New Ecological Environment through Raising Community Awareness and Integrating Tradition with Modernity

A new ecological environment among residents in Đắk Lắk is gradually taking shape through greater community awareness and the integration of traditional knowledge and values with modern science and technology. This process helps create environmentally friendly living, production and recreational spaces while promoting shared ecological values. However, progress remains uneven, and the integration of tradition and modernity in developing a new ecological environment needs to be strengthened.

3.2. Issues Arising from the Current State of Ecological Culture Development among Residents in Đắk Lắk Province

3.2.1. Issues Concerning the Agents of Ecological Culture Development

First, residents' agency in ecological culture development must be fully promoted by balancing external guidance and support with residents' autonomy.

Support from the State, socio-political organizations, businesses and communities should strengthen residents' capacity for self-organization, self-regulation and the sustained practice of ecological behaviors, rather than create dependence on external intervention.

Second, the collective strength of the actors involved in ecological culture development must be mobilized through effective coordination. Their respective roles and resources should not operate in isolation but complement and reinforce one another, generating collective capacity for ecological culture development among residents in Đắk Lắk.

3.2.2. Issues Concerning the Content of Ecological Culture Development

First, ecological knowledge, values and norms must be translated into ecological behaviors and lifestyles. Residents need to apply the knowledge, values and norms they have acquired to production and daily life, embedding them in behaviors, habits and lifestyles. At the same time, disparities in the capacity to practice ecological culture across localities, population groups and spheres of life must be reduced.

Second, ecological culture development must be linked to livelihoods, economic interests and sustainable development. The key challenge is to ensure that ecological culture guides residents' livelihood choices in ways that reconcile economic benefits with ecological environment protection.

Third, traditional ecological cultural values and norms must be preserved and promoted under modern conditions. Residents need to maintain and develop traditional ecological knowledge, values and norms that remain relevant while incorporating new ones, ensuring that traditional ecological culture is not lost but continues to evolve and guide behavior and lifestyles in contemporary society.

3.2.3. Issues Concerning Current Approaches to Ecological Culture Development among Residents in Đắk Lắk Province

First, education and communication approaches must be renewed to encourage residents' initiative and participation, moving from one-way transmission towards interaction and engagement. Knowledge should be linked to practice, scientific knowledge integrated with indigenous ecological knowledge, and approaches tailored to localities, communities and livelihood conditions.

Second, community self-governance must be strengthened. Communities should exercise greater initiative and autonomy, moving beyond participation primarily in activities mobilized and organized by local authorities and socio-political organizations. This would enable them to organize, monitor and sustain ecological norms and practices themselves.

Third, the role of science, technology and digital transformation in ecological culture development must be enhanced. These should move beyond primarily improving productivity, reducing costs and meeting market demands to transforming how residents produce, use natural resources and interact with the environment. At the same time, disparities in access to, use of and control over technology among communities, localities and livelihood groups must be addressed.

Fourth, traditional cultural values and institutions must be better integrated into ecological culture development. They should be connected with other approaches to ecological culture development in Đắk Lắk, becoming a sustained means of supporting and guiding residents' ecological behaviors.

CHAPTER 4
SOLUTION GROUPS TO IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ECOLOGICAL CULTURE DEVELOPMENT AMONG RESIDENTS IN ĐẮK LẮK PROVINCE BY 2035

4.1. Solutions Concerning the Agents of Eological Culture Development among Residents in Đắk Lắk Province

4.1.1. Strengthening the Leadership, Guidance and Coordination of the Provincial Political System

First, for the Đắk Lắk Provincial Party Committee:

1. Proactively formulate and improve policies and resolutions on ecological culture development in conjunction with the province's socio-economic development.

2. Translate ecological culture development into concrete policies, resolutions and implementation mechanisms that adhere to the Party's orientations and reflect local realities.

3. Strengthen inspection and oversight of the implementation of environmental legislation and the management activities of state agencies in ecological culture development, ensuring consistency between Party orientations, state law and local development practices.

4. Promote the exemplary role of officials and Party members in Đắk Lắk in ecological culture development, thereby generating wider social influence.

5. Establish a regular mechanism for reviewing practical experience in ecological culture development among residents throughout the implementation of relevant orientations and resolutions.

Second, for the Đắk Lắk provincial government:

1. Effectively translate the Provincial Party Committee's orientations on ecological culture into concrete measures and implementation.

2. Introduce and disseminate a set of "green living" criteria to translate ecological cultural norms into residents' everyday social practices.

3. Organize communication and educational activities to raise public awareness of ecological culture.

4. Strengthen the effectiveness of state management and enforcement of environmental legislation.

5. Establish mechanisms for co-management of natural resources and environmental protection between the provincial government and residential communities.

6. Transform livelihood models towards an ecological economy linked to sustainable value chains.

7. Improve the quality of the public workforce to meet the requirements of ecological cultural governance.

4.1.2. Promoting the Role of Businesses and Cooperatives in Creating Conditions for Sustaining Ecological Culture

First, create incentives and support residents in making substantial transitions to new production models.

Second, businesses operating in tourism, particularly community-based and ecotourism, help create conditions for spreading ecological cultural practices among visitors and residents.

Third, businesses should actively support community initiatives that contribute to greener living environments.

Fourth, cooperatives should play a stronger role in ecological culture development among residents by: (1) proactively guiding and organising residents' production activities; and (2) acting as intermediaries that help residents access the conditions needed to participate in ecological economic value chains and adopt digital technologies in production.

4.1.3. Promoting Residents' Agency, Autonomy and Capacity for Self-Organization

First, strengthen residents' role in preserving and promoting indigenous knowledge.

Second, promote community self-governance and monitoring in ecological environment protection by involving residents in developing community charters and conventions and overseeing their implementation.

Third, further encourage green living practices in production and everyday life.

Fourth, encourage residents to participate actively in community environmental protection movements. These provide opportunities not only to acquire ecological knowledge and learn about the Party's orientations and State policies and laws on environmental protection, but also to participate directly in developing and sustaining appropriate environmental behaviors.

4.2. SOLUTIONS CONCERNING THE CONTENT OF ECOLOGICAL CULTURE DEVELOPMENT AMONG RESIDENTS IN ĐẮK LẮK PROVINCE

4.2.1. Consolidating and Developing Ecological Knowledge and Values in Line with Residents' Practical Conditions

First, continue to reform education and community communication to consolidate, selectively inherit and promote indigenous cultural values associated with ecological environment protection.

Third, organize cultural festivals linked to environmental protection.

4.2.2. Translating Ecological Values into Residents' Ecological Behaviors, Habits and Lifestyles

First, maintain the connection between traditional ecological values and norms and community life, enabling them to directly guide human behavior towards nature.

Second, translate environmental protection legislation into voluntary and consistent compliance by residents.

Third, strengthen the role of local authorities in establishing mechanisms and conditions that support the maintenance of residents' ecological behaviors.

Fourth, sustain and reinforce ecological environment protection behaviors through community activities, green livelihoods and social role-modeling.

4.3. SOLUTIONS CONCERNING APPROACHES TO ECOLOGICAL CULTURE DEVELOPMENT AMONG RESIDENTS IN ĐẮK LẮK PROVINCE

4.3.1. Reforming Education and Communication to Promote Interaction, Experiential Learning and Residents' Agency

First, reform educational and communication content by linking it to indigenous cultural values and local ecological environment issues.

Second, adopt educational and communication methods that increase experiential learning and social interaction within residential communities.

Third, reform educational and communication approaches to strengthen the agency of residential communities.

4.3.2. Promoting Community Self-Governance, Self-Monitoring and the Sustained Practice of Ecological Behaviors

First, local authorities and socio-political organizations should continue to strengthen and improve the effectiveness of community-based environmental self-governance models.

Second, particular attention should be paid to strengthening self-governance groups in villages and hamlets of indigenous ethnic minority communities, including their scale, scope and operational effectiveness.

Third, in urban and rural residential areas across Đắk Lắk, existing environmental self-governance groups should be strengthened, while such groups should gradually be established in communities where they do not yet exist.

4.3.3. Promoting Science and Technology, Innovation and Digital Transformation in Ecological Culture Development

First, expand the application of science and technology in natural resource management, ecological environment protection and environmentally oriented

production, thereby helping residents develop and sustain appropriate ecological behaviors.

Second, promote innovation that connects ecological values with economic benefits in community life.

Third, leverage digital transformation to connect communities, strengthen social monitoring and disseminate ecological cultural values.

4.3.4. Promoting Traditional Culture, Beliefs, Customary Laws and Community Institutions in Ecological Culture Development

In the eastern part of the province: Preserve traditional cultural practices and maintain spaces in which traditional culture can sustain ecological values and norms. Strengthen the roles of village elders, hamlet leaders, artisans, respected community members and holders of traditional cultural knowledge.

In the western part of the province: Integrate marine environmental protection into community awareness and practice; promote customs and community conventions for protecting water resources and ecological landscapes; and orient festivals, cultural spaces and community-based tourism towards “green festivals” and “green tourism”, while limiting activities that damage ecosystems and coastal landscapes.

CONCLUSION

Ecological culture is an important component of cultural life, reflecting people's knowledge, attitudes, behaviors and interactions with nature in pursuit of harmony among humanity, society and the environment. Developing residents' ecological culture involves forming, consolidating and advancing environmentally friendly knowledge, values, norms, lifestyles, habits and behaviors, thereby helping protect ecosystems and ensure sustainable development. In Đắk Lắk Province, ecological culture development is not only an objective requirement arising from the need to protect the environment but also a condition for promoting the valuable cultural traditions of ethnic communities, conserving natural resources, safeguarding their living environments and improving people's quality of life.

Under the leadership of the Provincial Party Committee and the management of authorities at all levels, with the participation of socio-political organizations, businesses, cooperatives and residents, ecological culture development in Đắk Lắk has achieved several positive results. Residents' awareness of the ecological environment, environmental protection and sustainable development has gradually improved. Various environmental protection campaigns and models have been implemented; traditional cultural values associated with forest, water and natural resource protection have continued to be inherited and promoted; and compliance with environmental legislation has improved. These achievements have helped limit environmentally harmful behavior, encourage the rational use of natural resources and gradually foster environmentally friendly lifestyles.

However, ecological culture development still faces several limitations. Ecological awareness and behaviors remain uneven; littering, inefficient resource use and pollution from production and daily activities persist. Some valuable traditional cultural practices and customary laws have not been effectively promoted and are at risk of disappearing. Communication and education remain largely formalistic in some localities, coordination among stakeholders is insufficient, and the translation of ecological knowledge and values into voluntary, consistent behaviors remains slow.

To improve the effectiveness of ecological culture development, it is necessary to strengthen residents' awareness, responsibility and practical capacity; reform communication and educational content and methods; specify ecological values and norms suited to local conditions; preserve and promote valuable traditional cultural practices, community charters and customary laws; enhance the roles of schools, residential communities and other stakeholders; strengthen law enforcement, inspection and monitoring; and accelerate the development of a green economy, sustainable production and sustainable consumption.

LIST OF THE AUTHOR'S PUBLISHED WORKS RELATED TO THE DISSERTATION

1. Vu Thi Ngoc (2026), "Promoting the Role of Local Government in Building an Ecological Culture among Residents in Dak Lak Province", Electronic Journal of State Management, April 7, 2026, https://www.quanlynhanuoc.vn.
2. Vu Thi Ngoc (2026). "Fundamental Factors Affecting the Development of an Ecological Culture among Residents in Dak Lak Province." Journal of State Organization and Labour Affairs, No. 4, pp. 91–94.
3. Vu Thi Ngoc (2026). "Enhancing the Effectiveness of Coordination between State Management Agencies and the Community in Building an Ecological Culture in Dak Lak Province Today." Journal of State Organization and Labour Affairs, No. 6, pp. 36–39.