

Administration of national parks

Implementation status of national park planning

In order to conserve the natural scenery, wild life animals and plants and heritages, the Construction and Planning Agency has started the planning of 8 national park planning in 1981 and established Kenting, Yushan, Yangmingshan, Taroko, Shei-Pa, Kinmen Dongsha Atoll National Park, and Taijiang National Park since 1984, and managed by national park headquarters respectively. Among all National parks, Dongsha Atoll Park is not open and no residents live there. Other national parks can provide more detailed information of administration and operation as listed as below.

A. Area of the National Parks

1. The area of the national parks (land areas and marine areas) is 715,783.18 hectares; if deducting the marine area (15,206.09 hectares) of Kenting National Park, the marine area (353,498.98 hectares) of Dongsha Atoll National Park and that of 34,405 hectares of Taijiang National Park, the remain land areas are 312,673.11 hectares, which is 8.6% of the country (3,619,281.55 hectares). In terms of the land and sea area covered by each national park, Dongsha Atoll National Park, 353,667.95 hectares (49.4% of the country), is the largest national park, followed by Yushan National Park, 105,490 hectares (14.7% of the country) and Taroko National Park, 92,000 hectares (12.9 of the country) .
2. The National Parks are divided into several areas: general protection areas, recreation areas, historic areas, special scenic areas, and ecological conservation areas according to the land usage and resources. The area of special scenic areas is 330,279.28 hectares (46.1%), followed by ecological conservation areas, 260,186.50 hectares (36.3%) and general protection areas, 123,053.37 hectares (17.2%). The national parks of high mountains are mainly composed of ecological conservation areas: Yushan National Park, 74,050.90 hectares (70.2%), Taroko National Park, 66,240 hectares (72.0%), , and Shei-Pa National Park, 51,640 hectares (67.2%). Marine national park emphasizes mainly on special scenic area, e.g., special scenic area in Dongsha Atoll National Park, 294,071.82 hectares, is 83.1% of the total area. For other parks with large general control areas are Kenting National Park 23,926.44 hectare (71.9%), Yangmingshan National Park, 5,459 hectares (47.7%), Kinmen National Park, 1,899.40 hectares (51.1%) and 37,275 hectares of Taijiang National Park (94.8%).

B. Species and resources

1. Analysis of animal species: Kenting National Park has the most variety of animal species: 4,825 species, includes 1,425 of fish species; and followed by 1,926 species in Dongsha Atoll National Park, includes 679 of fish species; 1,505 species in Taroko National Park(1,150 insect species), 1,241 species in Kinmen National Park (597 insect species), and 1,147 species in Yushan National Park (826 insect species), 907 species in Yangmingshan National Park(650 insect species), 888 species in Shei-Pa National Park (580 insect species), and 883 species in Taijiang National Park (303 bird species). The above indicated that insect species are the most common species among all national parks. In addition, Kenting National Park has the most species of birds (335 species). Yushan National Park and Shei-Pa National Park have the most species of mammals (58 species). Kenting National Park has the most species of reptiles (58species).
2. Analysis of numbers of plant species: Yushan National Park has the most variety of plant species (2,684) followed by Shei-Pa National Park (2,422), Taroko National Park (2,093), Kenting National Park (1,921), Yangmingshan National Park (1,814), Kinmen National Park (877), Dongsha Atoll National Park (387) and Taijiang National Park (238). In terms of plant species, Dicotyledons are the most common species among all national parks: Taijiang National Park (the ratio 76.1% of Dicotyledons ranking the first), Kinmen National Park (60.3%) and Taroko National Park (55.7%).

C. Violation cases of National Park Law

The violation cases of National Park Law in all national parks in 2011 were 559, which increased 46.3% of 177 cases compared with the figure of last year.

1. Violating behavior: Except 106 cases of other behaviors not permitted by headquarters and 56 cases of other behaviors prohibited by headquarters, 134 cases of entering ecological conservation areas and forbidden areas illegally (24.0%), 115 cases of illegal constructions (20.6%), and 47 cases of deforestation or changing the usage (8.4%).
2. In each National Park: 216 cases in Kenting (63 cases of illegal constructions, 29.2%), 210 cases in Yangmingshan (51 cases of illegal constructions, 24.3%), 68 cases in Shei-Pa (66 cases of entering ecological conservation areas and forbidden areas illegally, 97.1%), 26 cases in Yushan (18 cases of entering ecological conservation areas and forbidden areas illegally, 69.2%) , 24 cases in Taroko (8 hunting animals or fishing, 33.3%), 15 cases in Kinmen (2 cases of illegal street peddling and environmental pollution, 13.3%).

3. Since Dongsha Island belongs to control area of Coast Guard Administration, Executive Yuan, there is no inhabitant in the island, therefore nothing will happen there. As for the maintenance of marine environment protection and fishery resources, some people in Coast Guard Administration are planned to execute such mission to save the manpower and avoid mission duplication. Police brigade of national parks would not be considered at present. The marine resource maintenance of Dongsha Atoll National Park is performed by Coast Guard Administration according to current laws and plans. Coast Guard Administration and relational units cooperate for each other to reach the operation goal of Dongsha Atoll National Park.
4. For Taijiang National Park is still in the period of foundation, it has not announced the prohibited items and was in the stage of instruction till the end of 2011.

D. Important public facilities

By the end of 2011, the important public facilities in each national park are: trails (592,896 meters), 165 parking lots, 157 public toilets, 47 tourist centers, 25 service stations, 149 scenic sites, 6,497 signboards of warning, forbidding, indicating, explaining, image logos and 24 dining centers. In terms of facility categories, Yushan National Park has the longest trails (288,800 meters) and Shei-Pa National Park has the most signboards (1,472 signs). Moreover, Dongsha administration station had been set in Dongsha Island to move various maintenance management and facility improvement, repair rain water collection system for both sides of Dongsha Island, plan the regeneration of energy, water resources usage and waste water processing facility, plan to establish international marine research station, and strengthen the cooperation with academic organizations.

E. Research development

The national park research development plan for 2011 includes 56 research cases about natural conservation, tourism and entertainment, and education tour with an expense of 108,750,000 dollars. In which, 32 (57.1%) studies on natural conservation with the expense of 65,074,000 dollars (59.8%) was the most. In terms of the number of research cases and the budgets, 16 cases of Yangmingshan National Park ranked the first, and the budgets of Shei-Pa National Park totaling 27,946,000 dollars ranked the top.

F. Numbers of tourists and vehicles in scenic spots

1. The statistics of 2011 tourist numbers in each national park were gathered according to the numbers of tourists in 44 recreation areas in national parks. The total number of tourists was 17,305,000, which increased 3.9% of tourist number (16,658,000) in comparison with 2010. The average daily tourist number was 47,411. In which, Kenting National Park had the most visitors (16,888), followed by Taroko National Park (10,102) and Yangmingshan National Park (9,226).
 - (a). In terms of seasons: Due to summer vacation, 3rd season had the most tourist number: 4,512,000 visitors (26.1%), followed by the first season: 4,336,000 (25.1)% due to Chinese New Year's vacation and winter vacation. The tourist number for the 4th and 2nd season were 4,259,000 (24.6%) and 4,198,000 (24.3%).
 - (b). In comparison with the figures in 2010, except Kenting, Yangmingshan and Taroko National Park (decreased 2.9%, 10.9% and 0.4%), the tourist number of national parks was increased. Taijiang National Park would not be compared for its statistics started from August 2010. Yushan National Park had the most increased tourist number (increased 35.5%), followed by Kinmen National Park (increased 29.2%) and Shei-Pa National Park (increased 10.4%)
2. Number of vehicles (not containing bus and cars in park, uncountable cars in outsourcing operation parking lot) entering recreation areas in national parks in 2011 was 1,847,000, which increased 11.3% in comparison with that of 2010. Among all vehicles, small size car were the most common ones (65%). Compared with vehicle numbers in 2010, the number of large vehicles decreased 4,000 (2.1%); midsize car increased 2,000(1.7%), small size car increased 158,000 (15.3%); motorcycles increased 31,000 (11.3%).
3. Due to the damaging methods of overfishing, exploding fish, poisoning fish and abnormal rising of ocean temperature in Dongsha islands, it causes the coral bleaching inside the area. Therefore, Executive Yuan indicates that Dongsha Atoll National Park Plan must process the jobs of resource recovering, monitoring and ecology researching first while checking that plan. In the first five years, it is not properly to lead activities of tourism. When the good result in recovering appears, follow-up ecological tourism and environmental education can be considered.

G. Presentation and tour services

1. Visitors

- (a) In 2011, the presentation and tour services were provided to school groups, social groups, government administrations, general tourists and foreign tourists for 340,069 groups and 8,396,034 visitors — 7,425,413 general tourists (88.4%), 516,011 tourists of social groups (6.1%) and 312,636 foreign tourists (3.7%).
- (b) National Parks: Kenting National Park had the highest tourist number – 4,241,990 (50.5%) and followed by 1,209,982 tourists in Kinmen National Park (14.4%) and 915,085 tourists in Yangmingshan National Park (10.9%).

2 Activities

The presentation and tour service included tourist center visiting, video watching, exhibition hall tour and outdoor tour in 2011. The services were provided to 403,718 groups, in a total of 9,321,624 tourists; the most visited places were tourist centers -- 8,115,481 tourists (87.1%), followed by video watching activity – 801,315 tourists (8.6%) and exhibition hall tour – 228,206 tourists (2.4%).

H. Issue of construction permits

National park headquarters, specified by Ministry of the Interior, issues license for the building in each national park based on the laws. The construction licenses issued in 2011 are listed as below:

1. The quantity of construction permits: In 2011, the National Park Headquarters issued 16 permits; the total floor area is 5,743 square meters. In comparison with 2010, the number of issued permits (33) decreased 51.5% and the total floor area (13,349 square meters) decreased 57.0%. Kinmen National Park issued the most permits – 8 permits, followed by Kenting National Park issued– 6 permits. In terms of total floor area, Kenting National Park had the largest area – 3,617 square meters, followed by Kinmen National Park– 1,997 square meters and Taroko National Park– 104 square meters.
2. The quantity of usage permits: 26 permits were issued by all national parks in 2011, less than 29 cases (10.3%) of the previous year, and the total floor area was 12,001 square meters, In comparison with 2010, the total floor area (9,807 square meters) increased 22.4%. Kenting National Park issued the most permits – 13 permits, and Kinmen National Park issued 11 permits. In terms of total floor area, Kenting National Park had the largest area – 8,295 square meters, followed by Kinmen National Park– 2,756 square meters and Taroko National Park– 950 square meters.

I. Ecological conservation area permits

To assure the ecology and environment of national park ecological protection area, each national park has established ecological conservation areas entering application; except Kinmen National Park which has no conservation areas, according to National Park Law. 24,202 teams (160,982 people) were allowed to enter conservation areas in 2011. In terms of the numbers of teams allowed, Kenting National Park had the most teams – 9,213 teams (38.1%), followed by 8,484 teams (35.1%) in Shei-Pa National Park and 3,540 teams (14.6%) in Yushan National Park. In terms of numbers of persons allowed, Kenting National Park had the most people – 88,266(54.9%), followed by 36,092 (22.4%) in Shei-Pa National Park, and 20,238(12.6%) in Yushan National Park. The first five years of Dongsha Atoll National Park would be the recovering phase in considering that the natural resources and environment had been damaged by some people and the security facilities were not well. Only the people of resources investigation researching, environment recovering and security facilities planning can access into the park.