

Administration of national parks and national nature parks

Implementation status of national park and national nature parks planning

In order to conserve the natural scenery, wild life animals and plants and heritages, the Construction 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 1982, and managed by national park headquarters respectively. Shoushan National Nature Park was formally opened on December 6th, 2011, becoming the first national nature park in Taiwan. A temporary preparatory office was established to handle related affairs. Among all national parks and national nature parks, Dongsha Atoll Park is not open and no residents live there. More detailed information of administration and operation of other national parks and Shoushan National Nature Park are listed as below.

A. Area of the National (Nature) Parks

- (1) The area of the national (nature) parks (land areas and marine areas) is 714,228.33 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 311,118.26 hectares, which is 8.6% of the country (3,600,948.99 hectares). In terms of the land and sea area covered by each national park, Dongsha Atoll National Park, 353,667.95 hectares (49.5% of all national parks), is the largest national park, followed by Yushan National Park, 103,121.40 hectares (14.4%) and Taroko National Park, 92,000 hectares (12.9%).
- (2) The national (nature) 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 331,312.89 hectares (46.4%), followed by ecological conservation areas, 260,479.47 hectares (36.5%) and general protection areas, 120,097.76 hectares (16.8%). The national parks of high mountains are mainly composed of ecological conservation areas: Yushan National Park, 73,622.30 hectares (71.4%), Taroko National Park, 66,240 hectares (72.0%), and Shei-Pa National Park, 51,595.58 hectares (67.1%). Marine and Volcanic national park emphasizes mainly on special scenic area: Dongsha Atoll National Park, 294,071.82 hectares (83.1%), and Yangmingshan National Park, 5,378 hectares (47.4%). For other parks with large general protection areas, there are Kenting National Park 23,926.45 hectares (71.9%), Kinmen National Park, 1,735.63 hectares (49.2%), Taijiang National Park, 37,274.5 hectares (94.8%), and 846.45 hectares of Shoushan National Nature Park (75.4%).

B. Species and resources

- (1) Analysis of animal species: Kenting National Park has the most variety of animal species: 5,164 species, includes 1,441 of fish species; and followed by 2,592 species in Dongsha Atoll National Park, includes 710 of fish species; 1,531 species in Taroko National Park(1,150 insect species), 1,487 species in Kinmen National Park (843 insect species), and 1,147 species in Yushan National Park (826 insect species), 996 species in Taijiang National Park (367 fish species), 936 species in Yangmingshan National Park(662 insect species), 890 species in Shei-Pa National Park (580 insect species), and 328 species in Shoushan National Nature Park (117 bird species).
- (2) Analysis of numbers of plant species: Yushan National Park has the most variety of plant species (2,716), followed by Shei-Pa National Park (2,422), Taroko National Park (2,093), Kenting National Park (1,922), Yangmingshan National Park (1,814), Kinmen National Park (877), Shoushan National Nature Park (867), Taijiang National Park (392) and Dongsha Atoll National Park (387). In terms of plant species, Dicotyledons are the most common species among all national parks: Taijiang National Park (the ratio 76.8% of Dicotyledons ranking the first), Shoushan National Nature Park (69.8%) and Kinmen National Park (60.3%).

C. Violation cases of National Park Law

The violation cases of National Park Law in all national parks in 2013 were 587, which increased 29.9% of 135 cases compared with the figure of last year.

- (1) Violating behavior: Except 98 cases of other behaviors prohibited by headquarters and 59 cases of other behaviors not permitted by headquarters, 125 cases of hunting animals or fishing (21.3%), 89 cases of illegal constructions (15.2%), and 65 cases of illegal street peddling (11.1%).
- (2) In each National Park: 281 cases in Kenting (60 cases of illegal street peddling, 21.4%), 113 cases in Taijiang (95 cases of hunting animals or fishing, 84.1%), 94 cases in Yangmingshan (48 cases of illegal constructions, 51.1%), 63 cases in Taroko (38 cases of other behaviors prohibited by headquarters, 60.3%), 15 cases in Yushan (10 cases of entering ecological conservation areas and forbidden areas illegally, 66.7%), 14 cases in Kinmen (4 cases of polluting environment, 28.6%), and 7 cases in Shoushan National Nature Park (3 cases of other behaviors prohibited by headquarters, 42.9%).
- (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. Marine National Park Headquarter and relational units cooperate for each other to reach the operation goal of Dongsha Atoll National Park.

- (4) Shoushan National Nature Park announced prohibited items on June 22nd, 2012 and gave a grace period; penalties were imposed starting on April 1st, 2013.

D. Important public facilities

By the end of 2013, the important public facilities in each national park are: trails (611,981 meters), 167 parking lots, 163 public toilets, 53 tourist centers, 26 service stations, 180 scenic sites, 7,495 signboards of warning, forbidding, indicating, explaining, image logos and 22 food centers. In terms of facility categories, Yushan National Park has the longest trails (288,880 meters) and Yangmingshan National Park has the most signboards (2,066 signs).

E. Research development

The national (nature) park research development plan for 2013 includes 80 research cases about natural conservation, tourism and entertainment, and education tour with an expense of 121,642,000 dollars. In which, 43 (53.8%) studies on natural conservation with the expense of 60,894,000 dollars (50.1%) was the most. In terms of the number of research cases and the budgets, 19 cases of Yangmingshan National Park ranked the first, and the budgets of Shoushan National Nature Park totaling 26,993,000 dollars ranked the top.

F. Numbers of tourists and vehicles in scenic spots

- (1) The statistics of 2013 tourist numbers in each national park were gathered according to the numbers of tourists in 45 recreation areas in national parks. The total number of tourists was 24,490,000, which increased 26.0% of tourist number (19,435,000) in comparison with 2012. The average daily tourist number was 67,096. In which, Kenting National Park had the most visitors (19,353), followed by Taroko National Park (13,086) and Yangmingshan National Park (11,198).

- (a) In terms of seasons: 1st season had the most tourist number: 6,823,000

visitors (27.9%) due to Chinese New Year's vacation and winter vacation, followed by the 3rd season: 6,035,000 (24.6%) due to Summer vacation. The tourist number for the 2nd and 4th season were 5,888,000 (24.0%) and 5,744,000 (23.5%).

- (b) In comparison with the figures in 2012, except Taroko and Kinmen National Park (decreased 0.9% and 6.1%), the tourist number of national parks was increased. Shei-Pa National Park had the most increased tourist number (increased 62.5%), followed by Yangmingshan (increased 12.7%) and Yushan National Park (increased 11.9%)
- (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 2013 was 2,414,000, which increased 23.0% in comparison with that of 2012. Among all vehicles, small size car were the most common ones (51%). Compared with vehicle numbers in 2012, the number of large vehicles decreased 22,000 (9.1%); mid-size car increased 48,000(31.9%), small size car increased 247,000 (20.2%); motorcycles increased 178,000 (52.3%).
- (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 2013, the presentation and tour services were provided to school groups, social groups, government administrations, general tourists and foreign tourists for 414,854 groups and 10,444,932 visitors — 9,530,649 general tourists (91.2%), 487,973 tourists of social groups (4.7%) and 291,641 foreign tourists (2.8%).
- (b) National Parks: Kenting National Park had the highest tourist number – 4,964,906 (47.5%) and followed by 1,765,455 tourists in Taroko National Park (14.8%) and 936,211 tourists in Kinmen National Park (10.2%).

(2) Activities

The presentation and tour service included tourist center visiting, video watching, exhibition hall tour and outdoor tour in 2013. The services were provided to 484,218 groups, in a total of 11,541,413 tourists; the most visited places were tourist centers -- 10,158,825 tourists (88.0%), followed by video watching activity – 893,011 tourists (7.7%) and exhibition hall tour – 305,541 tourists (2.6%).

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 2013 are listed as below:

- (1) The quantity of construction permits: In 2013, the National Park Headquarters issued 51 permits; the total floor area is 23,505 square meters. In comparison with 2012, the number of issued permits (44) increased by 7 and the total floor area (18,048 square meters) increased 30.2%. Kenting National Park issued the most permits – 26 permits (16,308 square meters), followed by Kinmen National Park issued– 18 permits (5,312 square meters) and Yushan National Park– 3 permit (669 square meters).
- (2) The quantity of usage permits: 25 permits were issued by all national parks in 2013, 6 permits more than the 19 permits of the previous year. The total floor area was 16,834 square meters in the previous year. In comparison with 2012, the total floor area (9,993 square meters) decreased 40.6%. Kenting National Park issued the most permits – 13 permits, and Kinmen National Park issued 9 permits. In terms of total floor area, Kenting National Park had the largest area – 6,433 square meters, followed by Kinmen National Park– 2,141 square meters and Yushan National Park– 636 square meters.

I. Ecological conservation area permits

To assure the ecology and environment of national park ecological protection area, each national (nature) park has established ecological conservation areas entering application; except Kinmen National Park and Shoushan National Nature Park which has no conservation areas, according to National Park Law. 33,158 teams (196,778 people) were allowed to enter conservation areas in 2013. In terms of the numbers of teams allowed, Kenting National Park had the most teams – 10,444 (31.4%), followed by 7,959 teams (24.0%) in Taroko National Park and 7,954 teams (23.9%) in Shei-Pa National Park. In terms of numbers of persons allowed, Kenting National Park had the most people – 86,783(44.1%), followed by 39,152 (19.8%) in Taroko National

Park, and 33,905 (17.2%) in Shei-Pa National Park. 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.