

National Park Operation and Management

1. Land area of national parks

- (1) The land area of national parks in the Taiwan and Fukien area, including land and sea areas totals to 322,845 hectares. If the 15,186-hectare sea area of the Kenting National Park were to be deducted from the land area, total land area would be 307,659 hectares; that is 95.3% of the entire national park land area or 8.5% of the entire Taiwan and Fukien area territory. The largest park area is found in the Yushan National Park, 105,491 hectares; the park alone occupies 2.9% of the Taiwan and Fukien area territory. The second largest national park is the Taroko National Park with its area of 92,000 hectares, occupying 2.5% of the Taiwan and Fukien area territory. The smallest national park is the Kinmen National Park, 3,780 hectares; it occupies only 0.1% of the Taiwan and Fukien area territory.
- (2) Pursuant to the present land use and natural resource zoning laws of the region, ecological conservation zones took up the largest national park land allocation, 60.1%. The second largest allocation went to regular reservation zones, which occupy 28.3% of the national park land area; whereas, the special scenic zones occupy 10.8% of the land area. The development of each of these national parks had been unique; for instance, Kenting Park (71.6%), Kinmen Park (51.6%) and Yangmingshan Park (49.2%) were developed into regular reservation zone national parks; whereas Taroko Park (69.3%), Shei-pa Park (67.2%) and Yushan Park (66.9%) were developed into ecological conservation zone national parks.

2. Wildlife resources

- (1) Kenting National Park has the largest number of animal wildlife species, 4,149; majority of which is fish wildlife, 1,202 species or 29.0%. Taroko Park is second in line with 1,220 species; followed by Yushan Park (1,018 species), Yangmingshan Park (889 species), Kinmen Park (868 species) and Shei-pa Park (779 species).
- (2) The largest plant wildlife variety is also found in Kenting National Park, 1,931 species. The second largest variety is in Yangmingshan Park (1,762 species); followed by Yushan Park (1,569 species), Taroko Park (1,355 species), Shei-pa Park (1,185 species) and Kinmen Park (542 species).

3. National park law violations

In 2003, 1,377 cases of national park law violations were processed in the Taiwan and Fukien area; that is, 3.8% higher than the cases of the previous year.

(1) Case statistics by illegal acts showed that majority of the violations had been illegal peddling, 544 cases or 39.5%; followed by trespassing into restricted ecological conservation zones, 164 cases or 11.9, and illegal constructions, 137 cases or 10.0%.

(2) Case statistics by national park showed that the highest number of violations were committed at Taroko National Park, 588 cases; followed by Yangmingshan Park, 470 cases, and Kenting Park, 202 cases.

4. Significant public facilities

As of yearend 2003, the significant public facilities found in the six national parks included: walkways, 678,092 meters; parking lots, 140 lots; restrooms, 122 units; tourist service centers, 31 centers; administration stations, 22 stations; sightseeing decks, 115 decks; signs and signals (warnings, prohibitions, instructions, introductions, maps, and symbols), 4,560 units; and food and beverage areas, 14.

5. Research and development

The research and development projects conducted in national parks in 2003 totaled 90 projects, ranging from tourism and recreation, public work and construction, to orientation and education, and nature conservation. Annual research and development budget allocation amounted to NT\$56,926,000; most of which went to the nature conservation research studies, that is, 64 cases (71.1%) and NT\$33,408,000 (58.7%).

6. Tourist and traffic volume of recreation spots

(1) The tourist volume statistics of the six national parks were tabulated based on the number of visitors flocking to the 38 national park recreation areas. As of yearend 2003, a total of 14,809,000 tourists visited the six national parks; affected by the SARS epidemic that hit Asia, tourist volume dropped by 2.0%. The national parks had an average daily tourist volume of 41,137 tourists. Yangmingshan National Park posted the largest average daily tourist volume,

12,665 tourists; following by Kenting National Park, which posted a daily average of 10,183 tourists, and Taroko National Park, which posted a daily average of 9,256 tourists.

- (2) The 2003 annual vehicle traffic (excluding regular park service buses) of the six national parks reached 1,889,000 vehicles, that is 7.3% higher than the previous year volume. Majority of which were small vehicles, 67%; except for Kinmen National Park, where large vehicles constituted majority of the vehicle traffic, small vehicles constituted the rest of the traffic.

7. Briefing and orientation services

- (1) Most of the brief presentation and orientations services provided by the six national parks in 2003 were given to student groups, social organizations, government establishments, domestic tourist groups and foreign tourists. A total of 97,522 group, and 2,664,413 tourists listened to the orientations.
- (2) Visitor statistics by national park showed that Yangmingshan National Park provided the most number of tourist services, 786,815 tourists (29.5% of total). It is followed by Kinmen Park, 697,632 tourists (26.2%), and Shei-pa Park, 345,004 tourists (13.0%).
- (3) Visitor statistics by foreign tourists showed that the most frequented park in 2003 was the Yangmingshan National Park, 5,458 tourists or 46.1%; followed by Taroko Park, 3,517 tourists or 29.7%.

8. Approved building construction permits

- (1) Approved building construction permit issued: A total of 54 construction permits were issued to the six national parks. The building constructions occupied a total floor area of 24,382 square meters; compared to the permits and floor area constructed in 2002, 2003 posted a growth of 10.2% and 6.8%.
- (2) Approved usage permits issued: A total of 26 usage permits were issued to the six national parks. Permit number is 31.6% less than the permits issued in 2002; however, total floor area covered by the permits amounted to 12,761 square meters, which is 17.9% higher than that of 2002.

9. Entry permits to ecological conservations zones

Except for Kinmen National Park, which has no ecological conservation zone, the administration offices of the five other national parks issued entry permits for their ecological conservation zones to 27,063 tourist groups and 209,574 persons in

2003. Kenting National Park issued the most number of permits, 14,267 groups or 52.7% of total permits, followed by Yushan Park, 6,016 groups or 22.2%. An analysis of the permits showed that, based on individual counts, Kenting Park issued permits to a total of 111,990 tourists, or 53.4% of the total count; followed by Yushan Park, 21.5% and Sheipa Park, 18.8%.