

National Parks Administration Management

The establishment of nation parks is aimed for protecting the specific national nature landscapes, wild animals and places of historic interest, and functioning as recreational places for people and as research bases. Furthermore it improves the environmental concept for the citizens and the ecological balance to the nature.

The Construction and Planning Agency, in accordance with the spirit of National Park Act, is actively working on the scheming, setting and administering the national parks. From 1982 to 1994, we have consecutively established six national parks, i.e. Kenting, Yushan, Yangmingshan, Taroko, Xueba and Kinmen national parks with their administration offices, which are rich in their own characteristics and covered the most abundant natural or cultural areas. They provide people the best conservational fields for research and environmental education.

1. National Parks area

- A. At present the total land and sea area of the national parks in the Taiwan and Fujian area totals 322,804.23 hectares. Excluding the sea area of 15,206.09 hectares in Kenting National Park, the land area of national parks is 307,598.14 hectares, which accounts for 8.50% of whole Taiwan and Fujian area. Yushan National Park is the largest with 105,490 hectares, which accounts for 2.9% of whole Taiwan and Fujian area. Kinmen National Park is the smallest with only 3,719.64 hectares, which accounts for 0.1% of whole Taiwan and Fujian area.
- B. In accordance with the type of land use and the features of resources within the premises current national parks are divided into ecological protection zones, special landscape zones, historical preservation zones, recreational zones and general control zones. The area of the ecological protection zones is

the largest with 196,444 hectares, which accounts for 60.9 of the total, followed by the general control zones with 88,982 hectares (27.6%) and the special landscape zones with 34,984 hectares (10.8%).

2. Resources of wild animals and plants

In terms of the number of wild animal resources, Kenting National Park is the most resourceful with 4,175 species, among which fishes make up the majority with 1,202 kinds. Insects top the wild life lists of most national parks. In terms of the number of bird species, Kenting leads the pack with 332, trailed by Kinmen with 287. Kenting also has the largest number of mammals (56), and Yushan comes in second with 50. In the reptile category Kenting and Yangmingshan tie for the first with 48 species apiece.

In terms of the number of wild plant resources, Yushan National Park tops the list with 2,493 and Taroko National Park comes in second with 1,994, followed by Kenting (1,931), Yangmingshan (1,773), Xueba (1,304) and Kinmen (542).

3. Violation penalty cases against National Park Act

There were totally 1,096 cases of violation of the National Park Act in 2004, down by 20.6% from the previous year (2003). A breakdown of the violation activities shows that 188 cases, or 17.2%, were illegal peddling; 157 cases, or 14.3%, were about illegal construction; and 129 cases, or 11.8%, involved entering restricted area without permit. In terms of increase in number of violations from the previous year, environmental pollution tops the list with 133.3%, followed by illegal dumping of wastes (100.0%) and illegal construction (14.6%). In terms of decrease in number of violations from the previous year, with illegal setting up of fire excepted, “illegal setting up peddler stalls” leads the categories with 65.4%, followed by “illegal hunting or illegal fishing by poisoning, electrocuting or explosion” (55.6%) and “illegal picking up of plants” (52.9%).

4. Current important public facilities

At the end of 2004, the important public facilities in six national parks included: 337,991 meters of walking trails, 143 parking lots, 124 public restrooms, 32 visitor centers, 24 managing stations, 135 view platforms, 14 dining and beverage centers, and 4,990 signal stands for warning, stop, direction, explanation and associated pictures. Xueba National Park has the longest walking trails (115,270 meters), and Yangmingshan National Park has more signaling facilities than any other national parks.

5. Research and development

In 2004 there were 82 national park research and development cases on natural preservation, guide education and construction with total funding of NT\$61,283,000 dollars. In terms of research subject, natural preservation projects top the list with 76 cases (92.7%) and NT\$55,227,000 (90.2%). In terms of national parks, Xueba National Park comes in first with 34 cases and NT\$19,500,000.

6. Recreation places, visitors and vehicles

The number of visitors to the 6 national parks was obtained through calculation of the number of visitors to the 40 scenic spots of the national parks. In 2004 there were 15,576,000 person/times visiting six national parks, up slightly by 5.2% from the 14,809,000 person/times of previous year (2003). On average 42,673 visitors visited the national parks.

In 2004, 2,020,000 visitor vehicles/times (buses and facility-touring vehicles not included) entered the recreational spots of the six national parks, showing a 7.0% increase from the previous year. Small vehicles accounted for 67%. Except Kinmen where large vehicles prevailed, small vehicles are the most populous means of transportation in other national parks.

7. Briefing and Guide Services

In terms of visitors' attributes, 99,235 tour groups/times and 2,733,966 visitors/times visited the six national parks and listened to the briefing and park information services in 2004. General visitors accounted for 2,354,745 visitors/times (86.1%); social groups accounted for 174,092 visitors/times (6.4%); school groups accounted for 135,829 visitors/times (5.0%).

In terms of contents of visit activities, 136,879 tour groups/times and 4,043,451 visitors/times visited the six national parks and listened to the briefing and park information services in 2004. Out of the total 3,041,604 visitors/times (75.2%) toured the visitor centers; 708,408 visitors/times (17.5%) viewed the films; 164,934 visitors/times (4.1%) received outdoor guide services.

8. Issuance of Construction Permits

- A. Number of construction permits issued: In 2004, 34 construction permits with a total floorage of 15,556 square meters, were issued from the six administration offices, showing decreases of 58.8% and 56.8% respectively from the 54 cases and 24,391 square meters of the previous year (2003).
- B. Number of use permits issued: In 2004, 47 construction permits with a total floorage of 22,503 square meters, were issued from the six administration offices, showing increases of 80.8% and 76.3% respectively from the 26 cases and 12,761 square meters of the previous year (2003).

9. Permission to enter ecological protection zones

In order to maintain the ecology and environment in national park ecological protection zones, all national parks, except Kinmen where there is no ecological protection zone, have set up the application system for permission to enter ecological protection zones in accordance with National Park Act. There were 27,124 team groups

and 196,169 person/times permitted to enter ecological protection zones in 2004.