

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 started the national park planning in 1981 and established Kenting, Yushan, Yangmingshan, Taroko, Shei-Pa and Kinmen national parks continually started from 1984. Dongsha Atoll National Park became the seventh national park, also the first marine national park in January 2007. Meanwhile, marine national park headquarters established in October 2007 was an integrated management organization. In the future, it will take charge of Dongsha atoll and evaluate the possibility of setting parks for Green Island, Three Northern Islands and Penghu Islands. Except Dongsha Atoll National Park which was just established, had not been open for visiting, no one lived there and not reached the time of discussing, the operation status for other national parks are described as below:

A. Area of the National Parks

1. The area of the national parks (land areas and marine areas) is 676,472.18 hectares; if deducting the marine area (15,206.09 hectares) of Kenting National Park, and the marine area (353,558.95 hectares) Dongsha Atoll National Park, the rest of the land areas are 307,707.14 hectares, which is 8.5% of the country (3,618,803.54 hectares). Yushan, 105,490 hectares (2.9% of the country), is the largest national park, and Kinmen National Park, 3,719.64 hectares (0.1%) is the smallest one.
2. The National Parks are divided into several areas: ecological conservation areas, special scenic areas, archeological protection areas, recreation areas and general protection areas according to the land usage and resources. The area of special scenic areas is 329,056 hectares (48.6%), followed by ecological conservation areas, 255,990 hectares (37.8%) and general protection areas, 89,032 hectares (13.2%). The national parks of high mountains are mainly composed of ecological conservation areas: Taroko National Park, 66,000 hectares (72.0%), Shei-Pa National Park, 52,000 hectares (67.2%) and Yushan National Park, 71,000 hectares (66.9%). Marine national park emphasizes mainly on special scenic area, e.g., special scenic area in Dongsha Atoll National Park is 83.1% of the total area. For other parks with large general control areas are Kenting National Park 24,000 hectare (71.9%), Kinmen National Park, 2,000 hectares (51.1%) and Yangmingshan National Park, 5,000 hectares (47.7%).

B. Species and resources

1. Analysis of animal species: Kenting National Park has the most variety of animal species: 4,176 species, includes 1,202 of fish species; and followed by 1,392 species in Dongsha Atoll National Park, includes 556 of fish species; 1,266 species in Taroko National Park (920 insect species), 1,029 species in Yushan National Park (780 insect species), 1,026 species in Kinmen National Park(400 insect species), 891 species in Yangmingshan National Park (650 insect species) and 863 species in Shei-Pa National Park (580 insect species). In addition, Kenting National Park has the most species of birds (333 species). Kenting National Park and Shei-Pa National Park have the most species of mammals (56 species). Kenting National Park and Yangmingshan National Park have the most species of reptiles (48 species).
2. Analysis of plant species: Yushan National Park has the most variety of plant species (2,566) followed by Taroko National Park (2,093), Kenting National Park (1,931), Yangmingshan National Park (1,774), Shei-Pa National Park (1,304) and Kinmen National Park (542) and Dongsha Atoll National Park (386). Dicotyledons are the most common species among all national parks: Kinmen National Park (64.8%), Taroko National Park (55.7%) and Yushan National Park (54.4%).

C. Violation cases of National Park Law

The violation cases of National Park Law in all national parks in 2007 were 454, which decreased 37.4% compared with the figure of last year.

1. Violating behavior: 84 vendor cases (18.5%), 57 cases of entering ecological conservation areas or forbidden areas (12.6%), and 43 illegal constructions (9.5%). All the violating behavior cases have decreased in comparison with last year's (2006), except the case of hunting animals or catching fishes.
2. In each National Park: 217 cases in Yangmingshan (55 vendor cases, 25.4%), 167 cases in Kenting (23 vendor cases, 13.8%), 28 cases in Yushan (12 cases of entering ecological conservation areas and forbidden areas, 42.9%), 26 cases in Taroko (6 vendor cases, 23.1%), 15 cases in Kinmen (2 cases of illegal cultivation or usage conversion and mining folded flowers and trees , 13.3%) and 1 cases in Shei-Pa (entering ecological conservation areas and forbidden areas).

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.

D. Important public facilities

By the end of 2007, the important public facilities in each national park are: trails (611,309 meters), 145 parking lots, 136 public toilets, 32 tourist centers, 23 service stations, 129 scenic sites, 6,760 signboards of warning, forbidding, indicating or explaining and 18 food centers. In terms of facility categories, Yushan National Park has the longest trails (288,800 meters) and Yangmingshan National Park has the most signboards (1,388 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 2007 national park research development plan included: natural conservation, tourism and interpretation education, and had 56 research cases with an expense of 52,923,000 dollars. The research was mostly on natural conservation: 54 (96.4%) studies and the expenses were 51,763,000 dollars (97.8%); Shei-Pa National Park had 17 cases with the expense of 21,895,000 dollars.

F. Numbers of tourists and vehicles in scenic spots

A. The statistics of 2007 tourist numbers in each national park were gathered according to the numbers of tourists in 40 recreation areas in national parks, and the total number of tourists was 15,818,000, which decreased 13.1% compared to 18,203,000

tourists number in 2006. The average daily tourist number was 43,337 tourists; among all the national parks, Taroko National Park had the most visitors (13,185), followed by Yangmingshan National Park (12,665) and Kenting National Park (9,877).

1. In terms of seasons: Due to Chinese New Year's vacation and winter vacation, first season had the most tourist number: 4,952,000 visitors (31.3%), and in the third season was also during the summer vacation, the tourist number was 3,830,000 (24.2 %). The second season had 3,550,000 (22.4%) visitors while there were 3,486,000 (22.0%) visitors in the fourth season.

2. In comparison with the figures in 2006, except Shei-Pa National Park (increased 3.7%), the tourist number of national parks was decreased. Taroko National Park had the least tourist number (decreased 23.4%), followed by Kenting National Park (decreased 16.1%)

B. Number of vehicles (not containing bus and cars in park, uncountable cars in outsourcing operation parking lot) entering recreation areas in national parks in 2007 was 1,737,000, which decreased 17.5% in comparison with that of 2006. Among all vehicles, small size car were the most common ones (66%). Compared with vehicle numbers in 2006, the number of large vehicles decreased 13,000 (10.7%); small size car decreased 270,000 (19.1%); motorcycles decreased 103,000 (26.3%) whereas midsize car increased 18,000 (10.3%).

C. Due to the damaging methods of overfishing, exploding fish, poisoning fish and abnormal rising of ocean temperature in Dongsha island, 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 2007, the presentation and tour services were provided to school groups, social groups, government administrations, general tourists and foreign tourists for

141,923 groups and 4,981,636 visitors — 4,542,720 general tourists (91.2%), 205,690 tourists of social groups (4.1%) and 136,854 tourists of school groups (2.8%).

(b) National Parks: Kenting National Park had the highest tourist number – 2,130,220 (42.8%) and followed by 1,312,999 tourists in Yangmingshan National Park (26.4%) and 680,000 tourists in Kinmen National Park (13.7%).

(c) Foreign tourists: The presentation and tour services were provided to 49,863 (1.0%) foreign tourists in 2007; 29,587 tourists in Kinmen National Park (59.3% of all foreign tourists) followed by 10,116 in Yangmingshan National Park (20.3%) and 7,658 tourists in Taroko National Park (15.4%).

2 Activities

The presentation and tour service included tourist center visiting, video watching, exhibition hall tour and outdoor tour in 2007. The services were provided to 193,041 groups, in a total of 6,337,688 tourists; the most visited places were tourist centers -- 5,301,309 tourists (83.6%), followed by video watching activity – 689,960 tourists (10.9%) and exhibition hall tour – 192,749 tourists (3.0%).

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 2007 are listed as below:

1. The quantity of construction permits: In 2007, the National Park Headquarters issued 43 permits; the total floor area is 16,351 square meters. In comparison with 2006, the number of issued permits (31) increased 38.7% and the total floor area (23,039 square meters) decreased 29.0%. Kenting National Park issued the most permits – 20 permits, Kinmen National Park issued 15 permits and Yangmingshan National Park issued 6 permits. In terms of total floor area, Kenting National Park had the largest area – 6,970 square meters, followed by Yangmingshan National Park– 5,564 square meters and Kinmen National Park– 3,127 square meters.
2. The quantity of usage permits: 47 permits were issued by all national parks in 2007, and the total floor area was 28,008 square meters, In comparison with 2006, the number of issued permits (47) kept the same and the total floor area (23,455 square

meters) increased 19.4%. Yangmingshan National Park issued 14 permits, Kenting National Park issued 13 permits and Kinmen National Park issued 13 permits. The total floor area of Kenting National Park was 16,673 square meter, 6,313 square meters in Yangmingshan National Park and 2,984 square meters in Kinmen National Park.

3. The area of Dongsha island is small and no one lives there. The corresponding defense matters were controlled by Coast Guard Administration, Executive Yuan established in 2000. Also, the island belongs to Kaoshiung city government. After the Marine National Park Headquarters was established, it would contact with relational units to process the land usage and construction license of structures.

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. 31,479 teams (211,213 people) were allowed to enter conservation areas in 2007. Kenting National Park had the most teams – 13,624 (43.3%) and 107,136 people (50.7%) followed by 9,849 teams (31.3%), 57,649 people (27.3%) in Yushan National Park and 4,912 teams (15.6%), 27,658 people (13.1%) in Shei-Pa 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. The total number of the people is 158 in 2007.