

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 based on protection of coral reef ecosystem, 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 or marine national park. 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 (353,498.98 hectares) Dongsha Atoll National Park, the rest of the land areas are 307,767.11 hectares, which is 8.5% of the country (3,618,950.50 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 328,936 hectares (48.6%), followed by ecological conservation areas, 259,520 hectares (38.4%) and general protection areas, 85,782 hectares (12.7%). The national parks of high mountains are mainly composed of ecological conservation areas: Taroko National Park, 66,000 hectares (72.0%), Yushan National Park, 74,000 hectares (70.2%), and Shei-Pa National Park, 52,000 hectares (67.2%). 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 1,784 species in Dongsha Atoll National Park, includes 577 of fish species; 1,496 species in Taroko National Park (1,150 insect species), 1,048 species in Yushan National Park (799 insect species), 1,223 species in Kinmen National Park (597 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 (1,814), 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 2008 were 528, which increased 16.3% of 74 cases compared with the figure of last year.

1. Violating behavior: 85 vendor cases (16.1%), 64 cases of entering ecological conservation areas or forbidden areas (12.1%), and 62 illegal constructions (11.7%).
2. In each National Park: 329 cases in Kenting (80 vendor cases, 24.3%), 114 cases in Yangmingshan (59 vendor cases, 51.8%), 32 cases in Yushan (26 cases of entering ecological conservation areas and forbidden areas, 81.3%), 32 cases in Shei-Pa (29 cases of entering ecological conservation areas and forbidden areas, 90.6%), 17 cases in Taroko (7 cases of entering ecological conservation areas and forbidden areas, 41.2%), 4 cases in Kinmen (2 cases of illegal hunting animals and taking fishes, 50.0%).

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 2008, the important public facilities in each national park are: trails (611,439 meters), 156 parking lots, 134 public toilets, 32 tourist centers, 23 service stations, 129 scenic sites, 6,848 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 (1,424 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 2008 national park research development plan included: natural conservation, tourism and interpretation education, and had 68 research cases with an expense of 68,426,000 dollars. The research was mostly on natural conservation: 63 (92.6%) studies and the expenses were 66,692,000 dollars (97.5%); Shei-Pa National Park had 23 cases with the expense of 25,453,000 dollars.

F. Numbers of tourists and vehicles in scenic spots

A. The statistics of 2008 tourist numbers in each national park were gathered according to the numbers of tourists in 41 recreation areas in national parks, and the total number of tourists was 16,528,000, which increased 4.5% compared to 15,818,000

tourists number in 2007. The average daily tourist number was 45,823 tourists; among all the national parks, Taroko National Park had the most visitors (14,714), followed by Yangmingshan National Park (11,454) and Kenting National Park (10,331).

1. In terms of seasons: Due to Chinese New Year's vacation and winter vacation, first season had the most tourist number: 4,403,000 visitors (26.6%), and in the third season was also during the summer vacation, the tourist number was 4,201,000 (25.4 %). The fourth season had 4,119,000 (24.9%) visitors while there were 3,805,000 (23.0%) visitors in the second season.

2. In comparison with the figures in 2007, except Yangmingshan and Kinmen National Park (decreased 9.5% and 7.4%), the tourist number of national parks was increased. Shei-Pa National Park had the most tourist number (increased 29.1%), followed by Yushan National Park (increased 26.6%)

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 2008 was 1,833,000, which increased 5.5% in comparison with that of 2007. Among all vehicles, small size car were the most common ones (66%). Compared with vehicle numbers in 2007, the number of large vehicles increased 5,000 (4.1%); midsize car increased 23,000(11.9%), small size car increased 60,000 (5.2%); motorcycles increased 9,000 (3.0%).

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 2008, the presentation and tour services were provided to school groups, social groups, government administrations, general tourists and foreign tourists for

172,288 groups and 5,660,959 visitors — 5,040,628 general tourists (89.0%), 372,711 tourists of social groups (6.6%) and 136,384 tourists of school groups (2.4%).

(b) National Parks: Kenting National Park had the highest tourist number – 2,043,627 (36.1%) and followed by 1,411,910 tourists in Yangmingshan National Park (24.9%) and 740,000 tourists in Taroko National Park (13.1%).

(c) Foreign tourists: The presentation and tour services were provided to 64,190 (1.1%) foreign tourists in 2008; 36,863 tourists in Taroko National Park (57.4% of all foreign tourists), followed by 15,606 in Kinmen National Park (24.3%) and 7,865 tourists in Yangmingshan National Park (12.3%).

2 Activities

The presentation and tour service included tourist center visiting, video watching, exhibition hall tour and outdoor tour in 2008. The services were provided to 213,963 groups, in a total of 6,444,940 tourists; the most visited places were tourist centers -- 5,477,861 tourists (85.0%), followed by video watching activity – 696,448 tourists (10.8%) and exhibition hall tour – 160,921 tourists (2.5%).

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 2008 are listed as below:

1. The quantity of construction permits: In 2008, the National Park Headquarters issued 51 permits; the total floor area is 20,297 square meters. In comparison with 2007, the number of issued permits (47) increased 18.6% and the total floor area (16,351 square meters) increased 24.1%. Kenting National Park issued the most permits – 33 permits, Kinmen National Park issued 14 permits and Yushan National Park issued 2 permits. In terms of total floor area, Kenting National Park had the largest area – 16,325 square meters, followed by Kinmen National Park– 3,127 square meters and Yangmingshan National Park– 538 square meters.
2. The quantity of usage permits: 47 permits were issued by all national parks in 2008, same as the last year, and the total floor area was 19,698 square meters, In comparison with 2007, the total floor area (28,008 square meters) decreased 29.7%.

Kenting National Park issued 23 permits, Kinmen National Park issued 11 permits, and Yangmingshan National Park issued 8 permits. The total floor area of Kenting National Park was 8,378 square meter, 5,207 square meters in Yangmingshan National Park and 3,501 square meters in Taroko 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. 25,075 teams (164,298 people) were allowed to enter conservation areas in 2008. Yushan National Park had the most teams – 9,523 (38.0%), followed by 8,588 teams (34.2%) in Kenting National Park and 4,973 teams (19.8%) in Shei-Pa National Park. Kenting National Park had the most people – 65,679(40.0%), followed by 59,040 (35.9%) in Yushan National Park, and 27,235 (16.6%) 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 279 in 2008.