

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 1984, 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 714,345.33 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 311,235.26 hectares, which is 8.6% of the country (3,619,281.55 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 330,293.89 hectares (46.2%), followed by ecological conservation areas, 259,757.89 hectares (36.4%) and general protection areas, 122,003.76 hectares (17.1%). 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, 51,640 hectares (67.2%). Marine national park emphasizes mainly on special scenic area, e.g., special scenic area in Dongsha Atoll National Park, 294,071.82 hectares, is 83.1% of the total area. For other parks with large general protection areas, there are Kenting National Park 23,926.44 hectares (71.9%), Yangmingshan National Park, 5,459 hectares (47.7%), Kinmen National Park, 1,735.63 hectares (49.2%) and 37,274.5 hectares of Taijiang National Park (94.8%).

B. Species and resources

- (1) Analysis of animal species: Kenting National Park has the most variety of animal species: 4,916 species, includes 1,430 of fish species; and followed by 1,876 species in Dongsha Atoll National Park, includes 679 of fish species; 1,515 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), 924 species in Yangmingshan National Park(650 insect species), 890 species in Shei-Pa National Park (580 insect species), and 889 species in Taijiang National Park (303 bird species). 328 species in Shoushan National Nature Park (117 bird species). In addition, Kenting National Park has the most species of birds (335 species). Shei-Pa National Park has the most species of mammals (60 species). Kenting National Park has the most species of reptiles (58species).
- (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 (1,921), Yangmingshan National Park (1,814), Kinmen National Park (877), Shoushan National Nature Park(867), Dongsha Atoll National Park (387) and Taijiang National Park (238). In terms of plant species, Dicotyledons are the most common species among all national parks: Taijiang National Park (the ratio 76.1% 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 2012 were 452, which decreased 19.1% of 107 cases compared with the figure of last year.

- (1) Violating behavior: Except 93 cases of other behaviors prohibited by headquarters and 23 cases of other behaviors not permitted by headquarters, 86 cases of illegal street peddling (19.0%), 69 cases of illegal constructions (15.3%), and 55 cases of entering ecological conservation areas and forbidden areas illegally(12.2%).
- (2) In each National Park: 219 cases in Kenting (76 cases of illegal street peddling, 34.7%), 98 cases in Yangmingshan (42 cases of illegal constructions, 42.9%), 54 cases in Taroko(45 cases of other behaviors prohibited by headquarters, 83.3%), 37 cases in Taijiang (23 cases of hunting animals or fishing, 62.2%) , 23 cases in Kinmen (8 hunting animals or fishing, 34.8%), 14 cases in Yushan (6 cases of other behaviors prohibited by headquarters,42.9%) and 7 cases in Shei-Pa (4 cases of other behaviors prohibited by headquarters,57.1%).

- (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) Taijiang National Park on June 29th, 2012 announced prohibited items that took effect the same day.
- (5) Shoushan National Nature Park announced prohibited items on June 22nd, 2012 and gave a grace period; penalties will be imposed starting on April 1st, 2013.

D. Important public facilities

By the end of 2012, the important public facilities in each national park are: trails (603,385 meters), 167 parking lots, 161 public toilets, 48 tourist centers, 25 service stations, 166 scenic sites, 7,073 signboards of warning, forbidding, indicating, explaining, image logos and 21 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 (1,747 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 national (nature) park research development plan for 2012 includes 72 research cases about natural conservation, tourism and entertainment, and education tour with an expense of 118,246,000 dollars. In which, 35 (48.6%) studies on natural conservation with the expense of 58,032,000 dollars (49.1%) was the most. In terms of the number of research cases and the budgets, 18 cases of Yangmingshan National Park ranked the first, and the budgets of Kenting National Park totaling 39,872,000 dollars ranked the top.

F. Numbers of tourists and vehicles in scenic spots

- (1) The statistics of 2012 tourist numbers in each national park were gathered according to the numbers of tourists in 44 recreation areas in national parks. The total number of tourists was 19,435,000, which increased 12.3% of tourist number (17,305,000) in comparison with 2011. The average daily tourist number was 53,246. In which, Kenting National Park had the most visitors (18,810), followed by Taroko National Park (13,203) and Yangmingshan National Park (9,934).
 - (a) In terms of seasons: 1st season had the most tourist number: 5,320,000 visitors (27.4%) due to Chinese New Year's vacation and winter vacation, followed by the 4th season: 4,828,000 (24.8%). The tourist number for the 2nd and 3rd season were 4,696,000 (24.2%) and 4,591,000 (23.6%).
 - (b) In comparison with the figures in 2011, except Marine, Shei-Pa and Taijiang National Park (decreased 24.2%, 9.8% and 6.8%), the tourist number of national parks was increased. Taroko National Park had the most increased tourist number (increased 30.7%), followed by Kenting (increased 12.3%) and Kinmen National Park (increased 12.2%)
- (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 2012 was 1,963,000, which increased 6.3% in comparison with that of 2011. Among all vehicles, small size car were the most common ones (62%). Compared with vehicle numbers in 2011, the number of large vehicles increased 42,000 (20.5%); mid-size car increased 8,000(5.3%), small size car increased 33,000 (2.8%); motorcycles increased 33,000 (10.9%).
- (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 2012, the presentation and tour services were provided to school groups, social groups, government administrations, general tourists and foreign tourists for 351,324 groups and 9,195,966 visitors — 8,336,726 general tourists (90.7%), 440,614 tourists of social groups (4.8%) and 302,621 foreign tourists (3.3%).

(b) National Parks: Kenting National Park had the highest tourist number – 4,873,779 (53.0%) and followed by 1,359,566 tourists in Kinmen National Park (14.8%) and 936,211 tourists in Yangmingshan National Park (10.2%).

(2) Activities

The presentation and tour service included tourist center visiting, video watching, exhibition hall tour and outdoor tour in 2012. The services were provided to 417,391 groups, in a total of 10,181,736 tourists; the most visited places were tourist centers -- 8,974,821 tourists (88.1%), followed by video watching activity – 77,946 tourists (7.6%) and exhibition hall tour – 276,020 tourists (2.7%).

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 2012 are listed as below:

(1) The quantity of construction permits: In 2012, the National Park Headquarters issued 44 permits; the total floor area is 18,048 square meters. In comparison with 2011, the number of issued permits (16) increased by 28 and the total floor area (5,743 square meters) increased 214.3%. Kenting National Park issued the most permits – 22 permits (11,805 square meters), followed by Kinmen National Park issued– 21 permits (5,748 square meters) and Taroko National Park– 1 permit (495 square meters).

(2) The quantity of usage permits: 19 permits were issued by all national parks in 2012, 7 permits less than the 26 permits of the previous year. The total floor area was 12,001 square meters in the previous year. In comparison with 2011, the total floor area (16,834 square meters) increased 40.3%. Kenting National Park issued the most permits – 10 permits, and Kinmen National Park issued 7 permits. In terms of total floor area, Kinmen National Park had the largest area – 13,155 square meters, followed by Kenting National Park– 3,550 square meters and Taroko National Park– 104 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. 24,383 teams (139,231 people) were allowed to enter conservation areas in 2012. In terms of the numbers of teams allowed, Shei-Pa National Park had the most teams – 8,898 (36.5%), followed by 5,945 teams (24.4%) in Taroko National Park and 5,188 teams (21.3%) in Kenting National Park. In terms of numbers of persons allowed, Kenting National Park had the most people – 50,214(36.1%), followed by 37,386 (26.9%) in Shei-Pa National Park, and 26,564 (19.1%) in Taroko 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.