

## **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, Taijiang National Park, and Shoushan National Nature Park since 1982, and managed by national park headquarters respectively. South Penghu Marine National Park was formally opened on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014, becoming the ninth national 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 750,071.95 hectares; if deducting the marine area (15,206.09 hectares) of Kenting National Park, the marine area (353,489.38 hectares) of Dongsha Atoll National Park, the marine area (34,405 hectares) of Taijiang National Park, and that of 35,473.33 hectares of South Penghu Marine National Park, the remain land areas are 311,498.15 hectares, which is 8.7% of the country (3,600,948.99 hectares). In terms of the land and sea area covered by each national park, Dongsha Atoll National Park, 353,667.95 hectares (47.2% of all national parks), is the largest national park, followed by Yushan National Park, 103,121.40 hectares (13.7%) and Taroko National Park, 92,000 hectares (12.3%) .
- (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 350,101.84 hectares (46.7%), followed by ecological conservation areas, 258,665.54 hectares (34.5%) and general protection areas, 138,940.28 hectares (18.5%). 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, 51,595.58 hectares (67.1%). Marine and Volcanic national park emphasizes mainly on special scenic area: Dongsha Atoll National Park, 294,071.82 hectares (83.1%), and Yangmingshan National Park, 5,378 hectares (47.4%). For other parks with large general protection areas, there are Kenting National Park 23,926.45 hectares (71.9%), Kinmen National Park, 1,735.63 hectares (49.2%), Taijiang National Park, 37,274.5 hectares (94.8%),

South Penghu Marine National Park, 18,829.53 hectares (52.5%), and 846.45 hectares of Shoushan National Nature Park (75.4%).

## **B. Species and resources**

- (1) Analysis of animal species: Kenting National Park has the most variety of animal species: 5,170 species, includes 1,441 of fish species; and followed by 1,974 species in Dongsha Atoll National Park, includes 690 of fish species; 1,789 species in Taijiang National Park(800 insect species), 1,552 species in Taroko National Park (1,150 insect species), and 1,487 species in Kinmen National Park (843 insect species), 1,369 species in Yangmingshan National Park (1,091 insect species), 1,147 species in Yushan National Park(826 insect species), 890 species in Shei-Pa National Park (580 insect species), 578 species in South Penghu Marine National Park (254 fish species), and 441 species in Shoushan National Nature Park (167 insect species).
- (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), Yangmingshan National Park (2,121), Taroko National Park (2,093), Kenting National Park (1,922), Shoushan National Nature Park (917), Kinmen National Park (877), Taijiang National Park (422), Dongsha Atoll National Park (394) and South Penghu Marine National Park (229). In terms of plant species, Dicotyledons are the most common species among all national parks: Shoushan National Nature Park (the ratio 71.4% of Dicotyledons ranking the first), Taijiang National Park (68.5%) 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 2014 were 572, which decreased 2.6% of 15 cases compared with the figure of last year.

- (1) Violating behavior: Except 63 cases of other behaviors prohibited by headquarters and 31 cases of other behaviors not permitted by headquarters, 252 cases of driving into restricted areas (44.1%), 49 cases of illegal vending (8.6%), and 44 cases of illegal cultivating (7.7%).
- (2) In each National Park: 253 cases in Kinmen (223 cases of driving into restricted areas, 88.1%), 198 cases in Kenting (45 cases of illegal vending, 22.7%), 45 cases in Yangmingshan (14 cases of illegal cultivating, 31.1%), 33 cases in Taroko (22 cases of other behaviors prohibited by headquarters, 60.6%), 22 cases in Yushan (16 cases of entering ecological conservation areas and forbidden areas illegally, 72.7%), 14 cases in Shei-Pa (9 cases of entering ecological conservation areas and forbidden areas illegally, 75.0%), 5 cases in Shoushan National Nature Park (5 cases of other behaviors prohibited by headquarters, 100.0%), and 4 cases in Taijiang (2 cases of hunting animals

or fishing .

- (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.

#### **D. Important public facilities**

By the end of 2014, the important public facilities in each national park are: trails (612,010 meters), 168 parking lots, 168 public toilets, 55 tourist centers, 26 service stations, 180 scenic sites, 7,768 signboards of warning, forbidding, indicating, explaining, image logos and 22 food centers. In terms of facility categories, Yushan National Park has the longest trails (288,880 meters) and Yangmingshan National Park has the most signboards (2,067 signs).

#### **E. Research development**

The national (nature) park research development plan for 2014 includes 80 research cases about natural conservation, tourism and entertainment, and education tour with an expense of 95,693,000 dollars. In which, 44 (55.0%) studies on natural conservation with the expense of 53,464,000 dollars (55.9%) was the most. In terms of the number of research cases and the budgets, 18 cases and totaling 2,194,000 dollars of Yangmingshan National Park ranked the top.

#### **F. Numbers of tourists and vehicles in scenic spots**

- (1) The statistics of 2014 tourist numbers in each national park were gathered according to the numbers of tourists in 48 recreation areas in national parks. The total number of tourists was 27,649,000, which increased 12.9% of tourist number (24,490,000) in comparison with 2013. The average daily tourist number was 75,749. In which, Kenting National Park had the most visitors (22,596), followed by Taroko National Park (17,204) and Yangmingshan

National Park (11,251).

- (a) In terms of seasons: 1<sup>st</sup> season had the most tourist number: 7,183,000 visitors (26.0%) due to Chinese New Year's vacation and winter vacation, followed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> season: 6,964,000 (25.2%) due to Summer vacation. The tourist number for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> season were 6,753,000 (24.4%) and 6,749,000 (24.4%).
  - (b) In comparison with the figures in 2013, except Yushan and Shei-Pa National Park (decreased 10.0% and 11.0%), the tourist number of national parks was increased. Kinmen National Park had the most increased tourist number (increased 32.7%), followed by Taroko (increased 31.5%) and Taijiang National Park (increased 18.1%)
- (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 2014 was 2,827,000, which increased 17.1% in comparison with that of 2013. Among all vehicles, small size car were the most common ones (62%). Compared with vehicle numbers in 2012, the number of large vehicles increased 40,000 (17.8%); mid-size car decreased 37,000 (18.4%), small size car increased 283,000 (19.2%); motorcycles increased 127,000 (24.6%).
  - (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 2014, the presentation and tour services were provided to school groups, social groups, government administrations, general tourists and foreign tourists for 475,706 groups and 12,401,595 visitors — 11,402,025 general tourists (91.9%), 454,945 tourists of social groups (3.7%) and 429,414 foreign tourists (3.5%).
- (b) National Parks: Kenting National Park had the highest tourist number — 5,946,057 (47.9%) and followed by 2,285,862 tourists in Taroko National

Park (18.4%) and 1,815,889 tourists in Kinmen National Park (14.6%).

## (2) Activities

The presentation and tour service included tourist center visiting, video watching, exhibition hall tour and outdoor tour in 2014. The services were provided to 564,006 groups, in a total of 13,597,356 tourists; the most visited places were tourist centers -- 12,144,642 tourists (89.3%), followed by video watching activity – 951,268 tourists (7.0%) and exhibition hall tour – 346,307 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 2014 are listed as below:

- (1) The quantity of construction permits: In 2014, the National Park Headquarters issued 62 permits; the total floor area is 22,408 square meters. In comparison with 2013, the number of issued permits (51) increased by 11 and the total floor area (23,505 square meters) decreased 4.7%. Kenting National Park issued the most permits – 30 permits (12,478 square meters), followed by Kinmen National Park issued– 26 permits (7,848 square meters) and Taroko National Park– 2 permit (826 square meters).
- (2) The quantity of usage permits: 39 permits were issued by all national parks in 2014, 14 permits more than the 25 permits of the previous year. The total floor area was 9,993 square meters in the previous year. In comparison with 2014, the total floor area (16,642 square meters) increased 66.5%. Kenting National Park issued the most permits – 19 permits (10,918 square meters), Kinmen National Park issued 14 permits (3,806 square meters), Dongsha National Park issued 3 permits (1,174 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. 43,511 teams (241,719 people) were allowed to enter conservation areas in 2014. In terms of the numbers of teams allowed, Kenting National Park had the most teams – 15,605 (35.9%), followed by 11,289 teams (25.9%) in Taroko National Park and 8,036 teams (18.5%) in Yushan National Park. In terms of numbers of persons allowed, Kenting National Park had the

most people – 110,607(45.8%), followed by 50,353 (20.8%) in Taroko National Park, and 41,216 (17.1%) in Yushan National Park. 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.