

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 Planning Agency has started the planning of 7 national park planning in 1981 and established Kenting, Yushan, Yangmingshan, Taroko, Shei-Pa, Kinmen and Dongsha Atoll National Park. Taijiang National Park had also just been duly to be the 8th national park on October 15, 2009 which enriches with historical relics, natural ecologies, and commercial materials resources. It is the only one estuary wet land ecology terrain in Taiwan featuring ecology preservation. Among all National parks, Dongsha Atoll Park is not open and no residents live there, and Taijiang National Park has just been founded as shortly as on December 28, 2009. Only statistics of area can be provided for these two parks. The other national parks can provide more detailed information of administration and operation as listed as below.

A. Area of the National Parks

1. The area of the national parks (land areas and marine areas) is 715,782.18 hectares; if deducting the marine area (15,206.09 hectares) of Kenting National Park, and 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 312,672.11 hectares, which is 8.6% 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 330,277.76 hectares (46.1%), followed by ecological conservation areas, 260,155.54 hectares (36.3%) and general protection areas, 123,055.68 hectares (17.2%). The national parks of high mountains are mainly composed of ecological conservation areas: Yushan National Park, 74,000 hectares (70.2%), Taroko National Park, 66,000 hectares (72.0%), 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%), Yangmingshan National Park, 5,000 hectares (47.7%), Kinmen National Park, 2,000 hectares (51.1%) and 37,000

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: 4,344 species, includes 1,373 of fish species; and followed by 1,762 species in Dongsha Atoll National Park, includes 577 of fish species; 1,496 species in Taroko National Park(1,150 insect species),1223 species in Kinmen National Park (597 insect species), and 1,145 species in Yushan National (826 insect species), 904 species in Yangmingshan National Park(650 insect species), and 864 species in Shei-Pa National Park (580 insect species). In addition, Kenting National Park has the most species of birds (340 species). Yushan National Park has the most species of mammals (58 species). Yangmingshan National Park has the most species of reptiles (53 species).
2. Analysis of plant species: Yushan National Park has the most variety of plant species (2,659) followed by Shei-Pa National Park (2,266), Taroko National Park (2,093), Kenting National Park (1,931), Yangmingshan National Park (1,814), Kinmen National Park (599) and Dongsha Atoll National Park (387). Dicotyledons are the most common species among all national parks: Kinmen National Park (the ratio 58.6% of double-foliage plants ranking the first), Taroko National Park (55.7%) and Shei-Pa National Park (55.2%).

C. Violation cases of National Park Law

The violation cases of National Park Law in all national parks in 2009 were 645, which increased 23.1% of 121 cases compared with the figure of last year.

1. Violating behavior: 270 cases of other violations (41.8%), 101 cases of illegal constructions (15.7%), and 66 cases of Illegal Street peddling (10.2%).
2. In each National Park: 412 cases in Kenting (233 cases of other violations, 56.5%), 144 cases in Yangmingshan (67 cases of illegal constructions, 46.5%), 33 cases in Shei-Pa (24 cases of entering ecological conservation areas and forbidden areas illegally, 72.7%), 24 cases in Taroko (8 cases of entering ecological conservation areas and forbidden areas illegally,33.3%) , 21 cases in Yushan (11 cases of other violations, 45.8%), 11 cases in Kinmen (5 cases of other violations, 45.5%).
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 2009, the important public facilities in each national park are: trails (578,201 meters), 156 parking lots, 154 public toilets, 47 tourist centers, 24 service stations, 143 scenic sites, 6,139 signboards of warning, forbidding, indicating or explaining and 26 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 (1,429 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 park research development plan for 2009 includes 61 research cases about natural conservation, tourism and entertainment, construction engineering and planning with an expense of 105,204,000 dollars. In which, 44 (72.1%) studies on natural conservation with the expense of 54,990,000 dollars (52.3%) was the most. In terms of the number of research cases and the budgets, 24 cases of Shei-Pa National Park ranked the first, and the budgets of Kenting National Park totaling 50,139,000 dollars ranked the top.

F. Numbers of tourists and vehicles in scenic spots

1. The statistics of 2009 tourist numbers in each national park were gathered according to the numbers of tourists in 41 recreation areas in national parks. The total number of tourists was 18,239,000, which increased 10.4% of tourist number (16,528,000) in comparison with 2008. The average daily tourist number was 49,971. In which, Taroko National Park had the most visitors

(17,813), followed by Kenting National Park (12,300) and Yangmingshan National Park (11,523).

(a). In terms of seasons: Due to Chinese New Year's vacation and winter vacation, first season had the most tourist number: 5,386,000 visitors (29.5%), followed by the second season 5,073,000 (27.8)%. The tourist number for the 3rd and 4th season were 4,234,000 (23.2%) and 3,546,000 (19.4%) due to tourism ban on mountains for reconstruction which was caused by typhoon Morakot.

(b). In comparison with the figures in 2008, except Yushan and Kinmen National Park (decreased 16.4% and 9.1%), the tourist number of national parks was increased. Shei-Pa National Park had the most tourist number (increased 29.9%), followed by Taroko National Park (increased 21.1%)

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 2009 was 1,855,000, which increased 1.2% in comparison with that of 2008. Among all vehicles, small size car were the most common ones (64%). Compared with vehicle numbers in 2008, the number of large vehicles increased 26,000 (22.4%); midsize car increased 4,000(1.9%), small size car decreased 11,000 (0.9%); motorcycles increased 3,000 (1.3%).

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 2009, the presentation and tour services were provided to school groups, social groups, government administrations, general tourists and foreign tourists for 207,021 groups and 6,148,529 visitors — 5,438,724 general tourists (88.5%), 468,210 tourists of social groups (7.6%) and 101,209

tourists of school groups (1.6%).

(b) National Parks: Kenting National Park had the highest tourist number – 3,023,059 (49.2%) and followed by 859,992 tourists in Yangmingshan National Park (14.0%) and 772,724 tourists in Taroko National Park (12.6%).

(c) Foreign tourists: The presentation and tour services were provided to 83,383 (1.4%) foreign tourists in 2009; 59,024 tourists in Kinmen National Park (70.8%) of all foreign tourists, followed by 16,490 in Yangmingshan National Park (19.8%) and 3,206 tourists in Kenting National Park (3.8%).

2 Activities

The presentation and tour service included tourist center visiting, video watching, exhibition hall tour and outdoor tour in 2009. The services were provided to 257,554 groups, in a total of 7,015,144 tourists; the most visited places were tourist centers -- 5,968,231 tourists (85.1%), followed by video watching activity – 753,503 tourists (10.7%) and exhibition hall tour – 174,604 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 2009 are listed as below:

1. The quantity of construction permits: In 2009, the National Park Headquarters issued 30 permits; the total floor area is 21,700 square meters. In comparison with 2008, the number of issued permits (51) decreased 41.2% and the total floor area (20,297 square meters) decreased 1.4%. Kinmen National Park issued the most permits – 16 permits, Kenting National Park issued 11 permits. In terms of total floor area, Kinmen National Park had the largest area – 14,741 square meters, followed by Kenting National Park– 4,396 square meters and Dongsha Atoll National Park– 487 square meters.
2. The quantity of usage permits: 30 permits were issued by all national parks in 2009, less than 47 cases (56.67%) of the previous year, and the total floor area was 12,528 square meters, In comparison with 2008, the total floor area (19,698 square meters) decreased 36.4%. Kenting National Park issued 14 permits, Yushan National Park and Yangmingshan National Park issued 1

permit. The total floor area of Kenting National Park was 6,404 square meter, 3,710 square meters in Kinmen National Park and 2,392 square meters in Yangmingshan National Park.

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. 25,322 teams (164,289 people) were allowed to enter conservation areas in 2009. Kenting National Park had the most teams – 9,219 (36.4%), followed by 6,572 teams (25.9%) in Yushan National Park and 6,513 teams (25.7%) in Shei-Pa National Park. Kenting National Park had the most people – 75,237(45.8%), followed by 38,770 (23.6%) in Yushan National Park, and 33,226 (20.2%) 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.