

## **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 8<sup>th</sup> 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. 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 715,783.18 hectares; if deducting the marine area (15,206.09 hectares) of Kenting National Park, the marine area (353,498.87 hectares) of Dongsha Atoll National Park and that of 34,405 hectares of Taijiang National Park, the remain land areas are 312,673.22 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 Dongsha Atoll National Park, 169.08 hectares (less than 0.1% of the country) is the smallest one.
2. The National 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 330,277.76 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, 74,050.90 hectares (70.2%), 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 is 83.1% of the total area. For other parks with large general control areas are Kenting National Park 23,929.75 hectare (71.9%), Yangmingshan National Park, 5,459 hectares (47.7%), Kinmen National Park, 1,899.40 hectares (51.1%) and 37,275

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: 4,454 species, includes 1,425 of fish species; and followed by 1,866 species in Dongsha Atoll National Park, includes 643 of fish species; 1,496 species in Taroko National Park(1,150 insect species), 1,223 species in Kinmen National Park (597 insect species), and 1,147 species in Yushan National Park (826 insect species), 904 species in Yangmingshan National Park(650 insect species), and 882 species in Shei-Pa National Park (580 insect species). The above indicated that insect species are the most common species among all national parks. 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 numbers of plant species: Yushan National Park has the most variety of plant species (2,684) followed by Shei-Pa National Park (2,358), Taroko National Park (2,093), Kenting National Park (1,931), Yangmingshan National Park (1,814), Kinmen National Park (877), Dongsha Atoll National Park (387) and Taijiang National Park (219). In terms of plant species, Dicotyledons are the most common species among all national parks: Taijiang National Park (the ratio 82.6% of Dicotyledons ranking the first), Kinmen National Park (60.3%) and Taroko National Park (55.7%).

## **C. Violation cases of National Park Law**

The violation cases of National Park Law in all national parks in 2010 were 382, which decreased 40.78% of 263 cases compared with the figure of last year.

1. Violating behavior: 100 cases of illegal constructions (26.2%), 34 cases of entering ecological conservation areas and forbidden areas illegally (8.9%), and 30 cases of illegal Street peddling (7.9%).
2. In each National Park: 172 cases in Kenting (51 cases of illegal constructions, 29.7%), 164 cases in Yangmingshan (47 cases of illegal constructions, 28.7%), 25 cases in Kinmen (3 cases of deforestation or changing the usage, 12.0%), 9 cases in Taroko (5 cases of illegal street peddling, 55.6%) , 9 cases in Shei-Pa (6 cases

of entering ecological conservation areas and forbidden areas illegally, 66.7%), 3 cases in Yushan (2 cases of picking flowers and folding the branches, 66.7%).

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 2010, the important public facilities in each national park are: trails (592,014 meters), 163 parking lots, 156 public toilets, 47 tourist centers, 25 service stations, 149 scenic sites, 6,304 signboards of warning, forbidding, indicating, explaining, image logos and 26 food centers. In terms of facility categories, Yushan National Park has the longest trails (288,800 meters) and Shei-Pa National Park has the most signboards (1,464 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 2010 includes 84 research cases about natural conservation, tourism and entertainment, and education tour with an expense of 141,393,000 dollars. In which, 46 (54.8%) studies on natural conservation with the expense of 56,399,000 dollars (39.9%) was the most. In terms of the number of research cases and the budgets, 26 cases of Kinmen

National Park ranked the first, and the budgets of Kenting National Park totaling 62,281,000 dollars ranked the top.

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

1. The statistics of 2010 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 16,658,000, which decreased 8.7% of tourist number (18,239,000) in comparison with 2009. The average daily tourist number was 45,639. In which, Kenting National Park had the most visitors (17,396), followed by Yangmingshan National Park (10,354) and Taroko National Park (10,142).
  - (a). In terms of seasons: Due to Chinese New Year's vacation and winter vacation, first season had the most tourist number: 4,677,000 visitors (28.1%), followed by the third season: 4,382,000 (26.3)% due to summer vacation. The tourist number for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> season were 3,873,000 (23.2%) and 3,726,000 (22.4%).
  - (b). In comparison with the figures in 2009, except Kenting, Shei-Pa and Kinmen National Park (increased 41.4%, 4.4% and 26.6%), the tourist number of national parks was decreased. Yushan National Park had the least tourist number (decreased 49.7%), followed by Taroko National Park (decreased 43.1%)
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 2010 was 1,660,000, which decreased 10.5% in comparison with that of 2009. Among all vehicles, small size car were the most common ones (62%). Compared with vehicle numbers in 2009, the number of large vehicles increased 65,000 (45.7%); midsize car decreased 76,000(35.1%), small size car decreased 159,000 (13.4%); motorcycles decreased 25,000 (8.3%).
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 2010, the presentation and tour services were provided to school groups, social groups, government administrations, general tourists and foreign tourists for 296,542 groups and 7,759,600 visitors — 6,976,683 general tourists (89.9%), 514,259 tourists of social groups (6.6%) and 113,223 tourists of school groups (1.4%).

(b) National Parks: Kenting National Park had the highest tourist number — 4,346,304 (56.0%) and followed by 963,466 tourists in Yangmingshan National Park (12.4%) and 829,174 tourists in Taroko National Park (10.7%).

### **2. Activities**

The presentation and tour service included tourist center visiting, video watching, exhibition hall tour and outdoor tour in 2010. The services were provided to 355,368 groups, in a total of 8,580,347 tourists; the most visited places were tourist centers -- 7,500,045 tourists (87.4%), followed by video watching activity — 759,543 tourists (8.9%) and exhibition hall tour — 182,143 tourists (2.1%).

## **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 2010 are listed as below:

1. The quantity of construction permits: In 2010, the National Park Headquarters issued 33 permits; the total floor area is 13,349 square meters. In comparison with 2009, the number of issued permits (30) increased 10.0% and the total floor area (20,017 square meters) decreased 33.3%. Kinmen National Park issued the most permits — 15 permits, followed by Kenting National Park

issued– 13 permits. In terms of total floor area, Kenting National Park had the largest area – 8,184 square meters, followed by Kinmen National Park– 3,703 square meters and Yushan National Park– 686 square meters.

2. The quantity of usage permits: 29 permits were issued by all national parks in 2010, less than 30 cases (3.3%) of the previous year, and the total floor area was 9,807 square meters, In comparison with 2009, the total floor area (12,528 square meters) decreased 21.7%. Kinmen National Park issued the most permits – 14 permits, and Kenting National Park issued 11 permits. In terms of total floor area, Kenting National Park had the largest area – 6,012 square meters, followed by Kinmen National Park– 2,515 square meters and Yangmingshan National Park– 1,090 square meters.

#### **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. 28,490 teams (193,183 people) were allowed to enter conservation areas in 2010. In terms of the numbers of teams allowed, Kenting National Park had the most teams – 12,241 (43.0%), followed by 8,657 teams (30.4%) in Shei-Pa National Park and 4,584 teams (16.1%) in Yushan National Park. In terms of numbers of persons allowed, Kenting National Park had the most people – 105,593(54.7%), followed by 41,274 (21.4%) in Shei-Pa National Park, and 28,347 (14.7%) in Yushan 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.