

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 national park, and established Kenting, Yushan, Yangmingshan, Taroko, Shei-Pa, Kinmen Dongsha Atoll National Park, Taijiang National Park, South Penghu Marine National Park, and Shoushan National Nature Park since 1982, and managed by national park headquarters respectively. 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. Further 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 750,773.81 hectares; if deducting the marine area (14,891.16 hectares) of Kenting National Park, the marine area (353,489.38 hectares) of Dongsha Atoll National Park, the marine area (35,641.10 hectares) of Taijiang National Park, and that of 35,473.33 hectares of South Penghu Marine National Park, the remain land areas are 311,278.84 hectares, which is 8.6% of the country (3,601,372.64 hectares). In terms of the land and sea area covered by each national park, Dongsha Atoll National Park, 353,667.95 hectares (47.1% 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 351,419.69 hectares (46.8%), followed by ecological conservation areas, 258,151.31 hectares (34.4%) and general protection areas, 138,838.21 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, 295,943.23 hectares (83.7%), and Yangmingshan National Park, 5,378 hectares (47.4%). For other parks with large general protection areas, there are Kenting National Park 23,727.44 hectares (72.9%), Kinmen National Park, 1,735.63 hectares (49.2%), Taijiang National Park, 38,431.44 hectares (94.4%), 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: 5,209 species, includes 1,441 of fish species; and followed by 2,388 species in Taijiang National Park, includes 800 of insect species; 2,336 species in Taroko National Park (1,920 insect species).
- (2) Analysis of numbers of plant species: Yushan National Park has the most variety of plant species (2,745), followed by Shei-Pa National Park (2,212), Taroko National Park (2,093). In terms of plant species, Dicotyledons are the most common species among all national parks.

C. Violation cases of National Park Law

The violation cases of National Park Law in all national parks in 2019 were 770, which decreased 17.4% of 162 cases compared with the figure of last year.

- (1) Violating behavior: Except 198 cases of other behaviors prohibited by headquarters and 50 cases of other behaviors not permitted by headquarters, 191 cases of driving into restricted areas (24.8%), 163 cases of trespassing through protected areas (21.2%), and 77 cases of hunting/fishing (10.0%).
- (2) In each National Park: 250 cases in Yangmingshan (113 cases of driving into restricted areas, 45.2%), 191 cases in Kenting (44 cases of squatter, 23.0%), 135 cases in Taroko (120 cases of other behaviors prohibited by headquarters, 88.9%).
- (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 2019, the important public facilities in each national park are: trails (614,353 meters), 171 parking lots, 177 public toilets, 58 tourist centers, 26 service stations, 189 scenic sites, 8,428 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 (2,195 signs).

E. Research development

The national (nature) park research development plan for 2019 includes 84 research cases about natural conservation, tourism and entertainment, and education tour with an expense of 107,436,000 dollars. In which, 56 (66.7%) studies on natural conservation with the expense of 70,579,000 dollars (65.7%) was the most. In terms of the budgets, totaling 26,097,000 dollars of Kenting National Park ranked the top (24.3%).

F. Numbers of tourists and vehicles in scenic spots

(1) The statistics of 2019 tourist numbers in each national park were gathered according to the numbers of tourists in 52 recreation areas in national parks. The total number of tourists was 21,607,114 which decreased 11.5% of tourist number (19,387,655) in comparison with 2018. The average daily tourist number was 59,198. In which, Taroko National Park had the most visitors (13,229), followed by Yangmingshan National Park (12,576) and Kenting National Park (11,292).

(a) In terms of seasons: 1st season had the most tourist number: 5,744,260 visitors (26.6%) due to Chinese New Year's vacation and winter vacation, followed by the 2nd season: 5,329,051 (24.7%). The tourist number for the 3rd and 4th season were 5,308,463 (24.6%) and 5,225,340 (24.2%).

(b) In comparison with the figures in 2018, except Dongsha atoll National Park (decreased 6.4%), the tourist number of national parks was increased. Taijiang National Park had the most increased tourist number (increased 56.1%), followed by South Penghu Marine National Park (increased 35.7%) and Taroko National Park (increased 15.8%).

(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 2019 was 3,071,065, which increased 15.4% in comparison with that of 2018. Among all vehicles, small size car were the most common ones (68%). Compared with vehicle numbers in 2018, the number of large vehicles increased 65,145 (36.6%); mid-size car increased 3,396 (2.6%), small size car increased 294,630 (16.3%); motorcycles increased 46,970 (8.7%).

(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 2019, the presentation and tour services were provided to school groups, social groups, government administrations, general tourists and foreign tourists for 532,426 groups and 8,734,812 visitors — 6,620,232 general tourists (75.8%), 1,059,272 tourists of foreign tourists (12.1%) and 722,569 social groups (8.3%).

(b) National Parks: Kinmen National Park had the highest tourist number – 2,458,720 (28.2%) and followed by 2,011,688 tourists in Kenting National Park (23.0%) and 1,495,033 tourists in Yangmingshan National Park (17.1%).

(2) Activities

The presentation and tour service included tourist center visiting, video watching, exhibition hall tour and outdoor tour in 2019. The services were provided to 624,590 groups, in a total of 9,775,615 tourists; the most visited places were tourist centers – 8,650,524 tourists (88.5%), all of other activities were under 7.6%.

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 2019 are listed as below:

(1) The quantity of construction permits: In 2019, the National Park Headquarters issued 12 permits; the total floor area was 3,603 square meters. In comparison with 2018, the number of issued permits (24) decreased by 12 and the total floor area (12,308 square meters) decreased 70.5%.

(2) The quantity of usage permits: In 2019, the National Park Headquarters issued 7 permits; the total floor area was 2,099 square meters. In comparison with 2018, the number of issued permits (26) decreased by 19 and the total floor area (15,701 square meters) decreased 86.6%.

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. 62,416 teams (284,655 people) were allowed to enter conservation areas in 2019. In terms of the numbers of teams allowed, Taroko National Park had the most teams – 23,731 (38.0%), followed by 18,051 teams (28.9%) in Yushan National Park and 15,522 teams (24.9%) in Shei-Pa National Park. In terms of numbers of persons allowed, Taroko National Park had the most people – 88,044 (30.9%), followed by 72,245 (25.4%) in Yushan National Park, and 58,740 (20.6%) in Shei-Pa 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.