

A comparative study of the national park systems between mainland China and Taiwan
(中国本土と台湾の国立公園制度の比較研究)

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National parks are one of the most important types of nature reserves. Mainland China is rich in environmental resources, but the development of national-park system is backward and has not followed the international guideline. This study aims to compare the national-park system in mainland China, which has various concerns and that in Taiwan, which is much more advanced. Several aspects of the national-park systems in mainland China and Taiwan, such as history, laws and regulations, establishment processes, budget and funding sources, land, administrative and operational management, and public participation were examined through literature research and filed investigations. Two national parks of Shennongjia National Park in mainland China and Taroko National Park in Taiwan were selected for detailed comparison.

Various natural resources in mainland China have been operated according to the system of scenic attraction that was put forward in 1978. In 2017, the release of the general plan for the establishment of the new national-park system indicated that mainland China has begun to make scientific and effective attempts at their national-park system following the international guideline. Due to the particularity of the social and economic systems, the regulatory departments at all levels in mainland China are relatively complicated. Also, relevant laws and regulations are relatively deficient. At present, development of the new national-park system is still facing many difficulties in mainland China, and careful observation is needed to lead to success of the introduction and development of the new system in the future.

Taiwan has built nine national parks since its first establishment in 1982. On the basis of learning from Japan and other countries' advanced experiences in the national-park development, Taiwan has established a scientific national-park system and gradually improved its management strategy during the development process of more than 30 years. Although there are some problems in the status quo of national parks in Taiwan, the development experiences are worth learning for mainland China.

In Shennongjia National Park, the main budget of the park comes from ticket sales and related tourism revenue of local tourism companies, and the government's financial expenditure is still unknown. At the same time that management departments have opened the right to use various resources to enterprises. They lack relevant laws and regulations to supervise them. The problems of over-development and environmental pollution in the park are more prominent. In Taroko National Park, the national park management office has greater authority to deal with various affairs. The sufficient financial support from the government enables them to focus more on resource conservation and public activities. As part of the park landownership is private, individual development behavior is often difficult to restrain, causing some serious conflicts.