




Section 6 Natural Cultural Landscape

The protected regions, which exist for the purpose of nature protection, can be divided into four types: Nature Reserve Area, Wild Animals Reserve Area and Important Habitats for Wild Animals, National Parks, and National Forest Reserve Area. According to the regulations outlined in “Cultural Heritage Preservation Law”, cultural landscapes from nature include Nature Reserve Area, Ecological Protection Area, and Endangered animals and plants. The Ministry of Economy handled this particular heritage in the past. In 1984, however, with the establishment of the Council of Agriculture of the Executive Yuan, it took over the affairs of Natural Cultural Landscapes. The major responsibilities include the protection of endangered animals and plants, the organizing, publishing, and management of Nature Reserve Area, promotion of research studies regarding endangered species and geographical landscapes, educating the importance of natural cultural landscapes, development of related personnel, administrative duties for wild animal protection, management of the importing/exporting of wild animals, and international exchange of information. The content of this section will focus on nature preservation in general, not just the designated natural cultural landscape, in order to present the current condition of nature protection in Taiwan.

1. Nature Reserve and the Protection of Wild Animals and Plants

On June 27th, 1986, the Agricultural Committee of the Executive Yuan had announced the designation of 19 nature reserve areas. The area are listed as follows: Red Forest of Danshui River, Guandu, Taiwan You Fir of Pinlin, Hapeng, Chatian Mountain, Yuanyang Lake, Nan-au Broadleaf Forest, Huoyan Mountain in Sanyi Township of Miaoli, Xuenwuyan in Penghu, Taiwan Yiye Orchard in Ali Mountain, Chuyun Mountain, Taitung Sutie in Hongye village of Taitung, Nihuo Mountain on the top of Wu Mountain in Kaohsiung, Dawu Mountain, Taiwan Suihua Fir in Dawu Business Area, Waziwe, Wushibi Coast, Kaowei Coastal Reef in Kending, and Jiujiu Peak. Specific managing organizations are designated to manage these regions, in order to maintain and control these regions. These special reserves can serve as representatives of the ecological systems in Taiwan, or contain specific features of the topography and land quality. Or, these regions can be used for long-term observation of the preservation of genes. The regions can also possess special values for education and research. Each year, the Agricultural Committee has arranged budgets, and have cooperated with the Bureau of Forest Affairs, Forest Experimental Office, Forest Reserve Office of the Veterans Affairs Commission of the Executive Yuan, local governmental office of each city and county, and various academic research organizations to promote for the management and maintenance, investigation, education and raising of public awareness of the reserve area. Article 52 of the Cultural Heritage Preservation Law states, “Modification and damage of ecological reserve area and nature reserve area are strictly prohibited”. Thus, nature reserve areas are strictly protected by government organizations in order to maintain their original conditions,




provide opportunities for research, education and public awareness.

Since the year 1985, the Agricultural Committee has devoted its efforts in aggressively promoting animal protection. The most significant achievement is the public announcement of designating endangered animals and plants, according to the “Cultural Heritage Preservation Law Executive Summary”. From the announcement, 11 species of plants and 23 species of animals have been designated as endangered species. Also, 15 sites have been designated as “**wildlife refuges**” and 29 sites have been designated as “**major wildlife habitats**”, according to the Wild Animal Protection Policy publicized in 1989.

In order to effectively maintain and manage these ecological resources, the Agricultural Committee has designed projects to study the ecological conditions of the wild animals and the nature reserve, as well as the modes of wild animal usage. Also, efforts have been made to appoint experts in registering, protecting and management of landscapes in Taiwan. Conferences are held regularly to exchange practical experience. Also, information is provided via the Internet in the hopes of combining all relevant projects. Furthermore, the committee has participated in the National Land Utilization Plan, Significant Economical Development Plan, and Public Construction Plan from their initial stages because of their understanding of the interconnection between ecology and environment. A thorough tracking of environment influences and analysis can ensure the protection of the ecology. All the above efforts are practiced to fulfill the responsibility as the chief management organization. Most organizations have spent parts of their budgets to engage in investigation and research, in order to provide a complete basis for management and explanatory education. In recent years, the protection of geological parks has been emphasized. Using references from advanced International experiences, prioritized regions have been chosen, such as Yieliu, Jinguashi, Lijini Rocks, and Li rocks in Beinan Mountain, Paopaoni Volcano, Guishan Island, Bitoujiao, Longdongjia, and Sandiaojiao, and these sites can serve as good examples for geological protection.

After the passing of the first reading of “Cultural Heritage Preservation Law Amendment Draft” on January 5th, 2004, the major revisions in the part of Natural Cultural Landscape include: 1. Separation of nature and culture, and the cultural landscapes in this section are combined with the miscellaneous historical and cultural remains from the Ancient Monument section to form an independent concept of “**Cultural Landscape**”. And, the part about natural scenery was edited to become “**Natural Landscape**”. Also, with the release of “**Wildlife Protection Policy**”, the Natural Landscape category can be separated into subcategories of nature reserve area and natural memorial items. 2. Three categories for natural landscapes are devised and called Nationally designated, Municipal designated, and County (city) designated landscapes. 3. The addition of the “**Temporary Natural Landscape**” system.

2. Promotion of Diversified Biological Protection




To follow the trends of the world and to solidify the basis of continuous human development, duties regarding diversified protection and continuous use of organisms have been aggressively practiced. The Executive Yuan has approved **“Promotion of Biodiversity”** in August of 2001, and divided rights and responsibilities between the departments and ministries. Through the cooperation of each department and ministry, the goal of diversified protection and continuous use of organisms in this country can be achieved. Furthermore, successful promotion can improve the international competitiveness of Taiwan, and help reach the goal of protection of biological diversity and continuous development of humans globally. The program utilizes the following strategies: 1. To promote a complete national system for biological diversity. 2. To strengthen the management of biological diversity. 3. To strengthen the research of biological diversity and the continuous use of the organisms. 4. To strengthen the education, training and public participation of biological diversity. 5. To facilitate partnerships between national and international programs related to biological diversity.

The research of the diversity of organisms is an important topic internationally in terms of its effect on people’s livelihood and technology. To research and develop the modes to continuously utilize our national resources on the diversity of organisms, and to investigate related regulations, the Agricultural Committee has entrusted numerous colleges and universities to organize **“Research into Genetic Diversity and Genetic Transmission Among Taiwan's Wildlife”**, **“Biodiversity and Sustainable Development in Taiwan”**, and **“Wildlife and Plant Survey and Database Establishment”**.

3. Development of Professional and Volunteer Personnel, and Education for Public Awareness

To raise public awareness of animal and plant protection, the Agricultural Committee negotiated with the Government Information Office, Executive Yuan and the Ministry of Education to produce advertisements related to wild animal protection and to incorporate wild animal protection into teaching materials of elementary schools and junior high schools. Also, educational classes are held to promote the concept of wild animal protection, and to truly and thoroughly increase public awareness of endangered species. The promotional events for the diversity of organisms include **“Special Exhibition on Biodiversity in Taiwan's Forests”**, **“Seminar on Biodiversity and Conservation”**, **“Biodiversity Workshop for Primary School, Junior High School and Senior High School Teachers”**, and **“Marine Biodiversity Workshop for Primary School and Junior High School Teachers”**. Also, events such as Ecological Photography Exhibition, Seasonal Bird Watch, and Butterfly Appreciation Watch have been organized. For each event, research articles, posters, promotional brochures, and photo albums have been printed out to effectively educate the public.

4. IV. The Creation of Nature Protection Information System and Ecological Database



In order to facilitate the spread of information related to nature protection, to assist in the education of nature protection, and to strengthen our participation in the business of international nature protection of our country, the Internet serves as the key to achieve these goals. Thus, a **World Wide Web (WWW)** site has been constructed that contains a database structure for nature protection. The contents include the current conditions, the administrative system, relative laws, pacts, and regulations of nature protection; the preservation of species and habitats, messages about nature protection and special topics for nature protection. The web site makes clear the strategies, achievements and future directions of nature protection in Taiwan. The Agricultural Committee has also made the effort to publish its publications online, for convenient viewing by everyone. From 1999 to present, several publications have been successfully put online, including Taiwan Weiguanshu Plants Magazine, volume one through six; Description of Trees in Taiwan, Volume (1) through (5); Leveling of Endangered Species in Taiwan: A Colored Illustration, Volume (I) through (VI); Plants Living in Water in Taiwan; Plants of the Coastal Wetland in Taiwan; Ying Plants in Taiwan; Common Spiders in Taiwan: A Colored Illustration; and Colored Illustration of Endangered Mammals.

Biological Resources are the basis for improving Biological Technology and Ecological Preservation in Taiwan as we go into the 21st century. The Executive Yuan appointed the Agricultural Committee in 1992 to establish an investigation team to partake in the investigation of biological resources in Taiwan. After several years of pioneering investigation and planning, several teams consisting of researchers and experts had been established in 1998 to start the documentation of biological resources. According to the plan, investigations would cover all four regions of Taiwan (North, Central, South and East), and the species investigated include mammals, birds, amphibians, fish, and insects. This project is the largest database of biological resources in Taiwan. Data collected from this research was put online and an Internet Transmission System was completed. Then, the “Taiwanese Biological Resources Database Center” was established and included the Forest Affairs Bureau of the Council of Agriculture. Its responsibilities are to collect, check for errors, examine, and analyze all data from the investigations, and simultaneously construct an online system that analyzes, models, and assembles the data, and combines with the geographical information system. It provides an immediate source of information for policy planning by the Agricultural Committee.

1. International Cooperation for Natural Protection

Our country is not a **member of the IUCN (World Conservation Union)**. However, to take responsibility for international protection of nature, the Agricultural Committee still sends special staff to participate in important conferences regarding international wildlife protection pact and related meetings, for example, the World Nature Protection League, the Washington Convention, and the Biological Diversity Convention. Partaking in these meetings ensures the most up-to-date understanding of trends



in international nature preservation.

To sponsor international nature protection projects, and strengthen the cooperation and promotion of nature protection internationally, the Agricultural Committee had sponsored 64 international projects for nature protection from 1996 to 2002. The 64 projects include the African anti-hunting project, Asian Black-cheek Egret Protection and Research Project, Seminars regarding the Protection of Tigers in Thailand and Nepal, Sainejar Curved-horn Sword Antelope Reintroduction Project, Assistance for the Washington Pact Execution Project, and other kinds of protection and promotional projects. In 1995, the Agricultural Committee signed a cooperation pact with the American Fish and Wildlife Office, and the pact was renewed in April 1999. To maintain professional contact with important International wildlife protection organizations, nature protection experts from England, Canada, South Africa, USA, Thailand, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Pakistan, and Hong Kong are invited to visit Taiwan. Special representatives from Taiwan are also sent abroad to learn new skills and technology. The English version of the following books has been published: Summary of Current Conditions for Nature Protection in Taiwan, Summary of Nature Reserve Area, and Nature Protection Communications. These translations will improve the promotion of our progresses in nature protection internationally.