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**NATIONAL STANDARD OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

GB/T 20416-2026

Replacing GB/T 20416-2006

Technical regulation for ecotourism planning in protected areas

自然保护区生态旅游规划技术规程

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1 Scope

GB/T 20416-2026 is the Chinese national standard covering planning tourism inside a protected area - the zoning that keeps visitors out of the core, the carrying capacity, the facilities and trails and their impact, the interpretation and the monitoring that tells the manager when to close something. It replaces GB/T 20416-2006 and has been in force since 1 October 2026, under the National Forestry and Grassland Administration. It was issued on 31 March 2026 and takes effect on 1 October 2026, replacing GB/T 20416-2006. This page is published from the official record of the 2026 edition; the clause text of a standard this recent is not yet in circulation, and the figures, limits and tables it contains are those of the document itself, delivered in full with the English translation.

This document establishes the technical procedures for ecotourism planning in nature reserves and stipulates the basic principles for ecotourism planning in nature reserves. Ecotourism resource survey and evaluation, overall planning and coordination with higher-level authorities, functional zoning, visitor capacity calculation, recreational activities, and basic and service facilities. Technical requirements for construction, tourism management, and community development. This document applies to the planning, construction, and management of ecotourism in nature reserves.

4 General Principles

4.1 Planning Objectives The main goals of ecotourism planning for nature reserves include.

---Implement the policy guidance of scientific protection and rational utilization of nature reserves. Clearly define the important protected objects, boundaries, and areas within the planning scope. To protect its value, feasible and effective protection measures should be proposed, the spatial and temporal boundaries for ecotourism development should be delineated, and the intensity of development and construction should be controlled. Based on the requirements, relevant suggestions were put forward for the development of ecotourism activities and business models.

---Clarify the direction for ecotourism development. Identify and assess the advantages of ecotourism resources in nature reserves. With distinctive features, and under the premise of scientific protection, we should clarify the positioning and development direction of ecotourism.

---Leverage public education functions. Through activities such as nature education, outdoor sports, and nature tourism, popularize natural science knowledge and cultivate... Raising public awareness of ecological protection and fostering patriotism. Enhancing the value of ecotourism products in nature reserves and promoting the development of natural resources. The source of public value is shared by the whole society.

---Empowering the original residents and surrounding communities within nature reserves to develop the ecotourism industry, promoting the development of the original residents and surrounding communities within nature reserves. Residents of the border communities have increased their income and wealth, and the benefits of ecological protection are shared to support ecological conservation, thereby improving the lives of the original residents and surrounding communities within the nature reserve. The inherent positivity of ecological protection.

4.2 Planning Principles

4.2.1 Protection Priority Under the premise of scientific protection, the zoning and scope of ecotourism activities should conform to the functional zoning and management requirements of nature reserves, and should be minimized. The intervention principle aims to transform the ecological value of nature reserves into economic and social value through appropriate ecotourism activities, thereby enhancing the overall social value. The ecological benefits of the meeting.

4.2.2 Overall Planning At the spatial level, the internal and external aspects of nature reserves should be considered holistically, aligning with the overall plan for nature reserves and connecting with local territorial spatial planning or national plans. Park spatial planning; in terms of service function layout, the site selection of facilities such as parking areas, visitor reception, nature education, catering and accommodation, shopping and entertainment. The layout encourages the use of existing construction land and infrastructure.

4.2.3 Highlighting distinctive features Highlighting the characteristics of nature reserves, including ecosystem types, biodiversity, natural landscapes, natural phenomena, natural relics, and historical and cultural heritage. We will carry out ecotourism activities such as nature education, ecological experience, and outdoor sports to preserve our unique natural and cultural landscape.

4.2.4 Eco-friendly The development of ecotourism formats, infrastructure construction, and activities embody green and low-carbon principles; achieving harmonious functional layout, facility scale, construction materials, and construction processes. The process is environmentally friendly, energy-saving, and eco-friendly.

4.2.5 Scientific Management and Control For areas that possess both ecotourism and ecological conservation value, functional zoning, visitor capacity management, franchise mechanisms, and visitor management should be applied. Comprehensive measures, including a visitor guidance and accompaniment system, visitor behavior management, and seasonal and time-based control for ecotourism, aim to achieve scientific protection of important protected species and precise conservation. The goal of quasi-managed recreational activities is to minimize ecological impact.

4.2.6 Co-construction and sharing We encourage stakeholders in nature reserves, such as community residents, businesses, non-profit organizations, and research institutions, to actively participate and share the benefits.

4.3 Planning Period The planning period for ecotourism should be consistent with the overall planning period for nature reserves.

5.Planning and Development Procedures The planning process includes data collection, current situation surveys, compilation of results, public consultation, and planning review. Specific details are as follows: as follows:

---Data Collection. Collect information on nature reserves and their surrounding areas.

---Current Status Survey. Based on baseline data collection, this survey investigates the distribution of key protected species and flagship species in nature reserves, as well as the ecological corridor grid. The bureau conducted on-site investigations and assessments of the situation regarding ecotourism operations and visitor activities. This included assessing ecotourism resources and the needs for ecotourism development. A comprehensive assessment and analysis of the distribution of important protected objects and ecological corridors is required to propose the positioning and direction for ecotourism development. Preliminary results have been achieved in functional zoning, protection and restoration, activity implementation, and facility construction.

---Compilation results. Based on basic information, resource assessment, overall coordination, functional zoning, visitor capacity, recreational activities, infrastructure, and services. Services, resource protection, land use, recreation monitoring, tourism

management, ecological environment protection, community development, visitor education, security. The document includes content on obstacles, impact assessment, business management, funding estimates, and implementation recommendations, and is aligned with national land spatial planning or national park spatial planning. The overall plan for nature reserves and relevant statutory special plans at the local level shall be used to prepare ecotourism planning documents. Functional zoning and activities... The implementation and facility construction should be consistent with relevant plans, and necessary maps should be drawn. The planning results should be submitted to the nature reserve management agency. Ecotourism planning for nature reserves shall be prepared in accordance with the outline given in Appendix A, and the requirements for thematic map preparation shall be given in Appendix B.

---Public participation in consultation and planning review. The planning results will be made public in accordance with the law to solicit opinions from the public and stakeholders and to make revisions. Improve it.

6 Survey Evaluation

6.1 Basic Information This includes an overview of the area where the nature reserve is located and information about the nature reserve itself. See Table 1 for details.

6.2.1 Background Resources

6.2.1.1 Important protected objects Identify key protected objects and their conservation value, including but not limited to ecosystems, natural landscapes, natural heritage sites, wild animals and their habitats. Types include land, wild plants and their habitats, and historical and cultural heritage.

6.2.1.2 Ecosystem The types of ecosystems within the region and their typicality and representativeness within the country or region, including but not limited to forests, wetlands, grasslands, and wastelands. Types include desert and marine ecosystems. Marine ecosystems should clearly define coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass beds, kelp fields, oyster reefs, salt marshes, and coastal wetlands. The typicality and conservation value of important types.

6.2.1.3 Biodiversity Biodiversity mainly includes the following.

- a) Status of flora and fauna resources. Information on the species, distribution, and quantity of flora and fauna in protected areas.
- b) Important protected species, including flagship species, and their habitats. Nationally protected wild flora and fauna, endangered species, and their habitats. Distribution of habitats and migration routes.

6.2.1.4 Natural Relics Natural heritage sites mainly include the following.