

Siaoliuciou Opens Fourth Wastewater Treatment Plant

Siaoliuciou Island, a small island about 13km off the southwestern coast of Taiwan, is the only coral reef island with significant human activity in Taiwan. It is just under 7 km² and is home to under fifteen thousand residents. It is, by and large, a tourist destination, popular with visitors who want to enjoy its beaches, reefs, caves, and rock formations.

However, Siaoliuciou did not have the infrastructure to properly treat the generated wastewater—especially not the amount produced by the large numbers of tourists. In the past, wastewater was directly discharged into the ocean. However, this has polluted the nearby environment and ecosystems. In 2017, Siaoliuciou opened its first wastewater treatment plant. This was followed by two more in 2021, and now, a fourth has been opened. Operations for the fourth wastewater treatment plant started in late October 2023, allowing about 90% of the island's wastewater to be properly treated.

Concerns about the environmental impact of tourist and resident activity rose when experts



realized that the coral reefs have been disappearing and that fish density has dropped severely. Greenpeace, an organization dedicated to protecting the natural world, conducted a marine ecology survey in August 2023. They sampled and examined reef fish across multiple tourist sites around the island and made a shocking discovery: The number of fish per meter is extremely low, reaching less than 25% of what it was in 2010 in some areas.

Both Pingtung County Government and Greenpeace believe that the new wastewater treatment plant will effectively help the environment, protecting the ecosystem and biodiversity of this beautiful and unique island.

Reading Comprehension

- () 1. What can we infer from the last paragraph? (main idea)
- (A) There will be an increasing number of tourists visiting Siaoliouciou Island.
 - (B) The ecosystem and biodiversity of Siaoliouciou Island will be better preserved.
 - (C) Greenpeace will cooperate with Pingtung County Government to conduct more surveys.
 - (D) The construction of a new wastewater treatment plant is going to start early in 2024.
- () 2. Which of the following statements about Siaoliouciou Island is **NOT** true? (supporting details)
- (A) Its population is less than 15,000.
 - (B) It's located off the southwestern coast of Taiwan.
 - (C) It's the only coral reef island that belongs to Taiwan.
 - (D) It's generally regarded as a popular tourist destination.
- () 3. 請從下列(A)到(E)中，選出對於小琉球的污水廠敘述正確的選項。(多選題) (supporting details)
- (A) The first one was opened in 2010.
 - (B) The second one was opened in 2021.
 - (C) The third one started operation in 2022.
 - (D) The fourth one was opened in October 2023.
 - (E) Four-fifths of the island's wastewater is treated properly now.
4. 請根據文章內容，從文章中選出一個單詞 (word)，填入下列句子的空格，並視語法需要作適當的字形變化，使句子語意完整、語法正確，且符合全文文意。(填空) (words in context)

In August 2023, Greenpeace sampled and examined reef fish across multiple tourist sites around Siaoliouciou Island, making a discovery that ____ (A) ____ many people.

(A) _____

Vocabulary and Phrases

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. resident n. 居民，住戶 | 4. ecosystem n. 生態系統 | 7. conduct v. 實施，進行 |
| 2. destination n. 目的地 | 5. density n. 密度 | 8. ecology n. (通常指一個特定區域的) 生態 |
| 3. generate v. 造成，引起 | 6. dedicate v. 獻出 (全部精力、時間等) | 9. biodiversity n. 生物多樣性 |
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Romania's Bear Troubles

A brown bear naps peacefully after a tasty sandwich, curled up in the middle of a sunny forest road. While it is not an entirely unusual sight in wooded areas around the world, this sort of scene is growing terrifyingly common in Romania. After Russia, Romania has the largest population of brown bears, and they are making their way into human communities. Over 150 people have been attacked between 2016 and 2021, including multiple 1. Those living in farmlands have also had a problem with bears attacking and killing livestock.

This clash between nature and mankind has caused a 2 between farmers and conservationists. To 3 both people and the natural world, Romanian authorities have a set number of bears that can be killed each year. This rise in the bear population, though, has meant an extreme uptick in the allowed numbers, raising it 150% from the previous allowance; some lawmakers even want to 4 this number, claiming that the bears are a danger to people and their livelihoods. However, this worries conservationists, who believe



that raising the number of bears that are allowed to be killed will open the door to trophy hunting, where people kill bears for the thrill of it rather than out of necessity. Already, some believe that bears are being unnecessarily 5 instead of tranquilized and safely removed.

One small town, Baile Tusnad, is trying to make themselves more “bear-smart.” Local residents have dealt with the bears by installing secure, bear-proof trash containers and electric fences around their homes. After all, as one resident says, bears and humans have to get used to living together. Anyone who says that they’re not scared of bears is either stupid or lying.

Fill in the Blanks

(A) struggle

(B) deaths

(C) protect

(D) double

(E) shot

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Vocabulary and Phrases

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. curl up <i>phr.</i> 蜷縮 | 4. clash <i>n.</i> 衝突 | 7. allowance <i>n.</i> 定量 |
| 2. farmland <i>n.</i> 農田 | 5. conservationist <i>n.</i> 自然環境保護主義者 | 8. trophy hunting <i>phr.</i> 戰利品狩獵 |
| 3. livestock <i>n.</i> 家畜 | 6. authority <i>n.</i> 當局；官方 | 9. tranquilize <i>v.</i> (用藥物) 使昏迷 |

譯

小琉球第四座污水處理廠啟用

小琉球是距離臺灣西南海岸約 13 公里的一個小島，是臺灣唯一有大量人類活動的珊瑚礁島嶼。它占地不到 7 平方公里，居住著不到一萬五千名居民。總的來說，它是一個旅遊地，深受想要欣賞其海灘、珊瑚礁、洞穴和岩層的遊客的喜愛。

然而，小琉球並沒有適當處理廢水產生的基礎設施，尤其是大量遊客產生的廢水。在過去，廢水是直接排放至海洋。然而，這卻污染了附近的環境和生態系統。2017 年，小琉球第一座污水處理廠啟用。隨後，在 2021 年又啟用了兩座廠，現在第四座已經開啟。第四座污水處理廠於 2023 年 10 月下旬開始運營，這使島上約百分之九十的污水得到妥善處理。

當專家意識到珊瑚礁正在消失且魚類密度嚴重下降時，人們對於旅遊和居民活動對環境影響的擔憂上升。致力於保護自然世界的綠色和平組織於 2023 年 8 月進行了一次海洋生態調查。他們對島周圍多個旅遊景點的礁魚進行了採樣和檢查，並得到了驚人的發現：每米的魚類數量極少，部分地區還不到 2010 年的百分之二十五。

屏東縣政府和綠色和平組織都相信，新的污水處理廠將有效幫助環境，保護這個美麗而獨特的島嶼的生態系統和生物多樣性。

譯

羅馬尼亞的熊問題

一隻棕熊在吃完美味的三明治後，蜷縮在陽光明媚的森林公路中央，平靜地打盹。雖然在世界各地的林地裡，這種景象並不罕見，但這種場景在羅馬尼亞卻變得異常常見。繼俄羅斯之後，羅馬尼亞擁有最多的棕熊族群，它們正在進入人類社區。2016 年至 2021 年間，已有超過 150 個人類遭受攻擊，其中多個死亡。生活在農田裡的人們也面臨熊攻擊和家畜死亡的問題。

自然與人類的衝突引發了農民與自然環境保護主義者之間的鬥爭。為了保護人類和自然世界，羅馬尼亞當局規定了每年一定數量可捕殺的熊。然而，熊數量的增加意味著允許捕殺數量的大幅增加，比之前的允許數量增加了百分之一百五十；一些立法者甚至希望將這個數字增加一倍，並聲稱熊對人類及其生計構成威脅。然而，這讓自然環境保護主義者感到擔憂，他們認為增加允許被獵殺的熊的數量將為戰利品狩獵敞開大門，人們獵殺熊是為了獲得刺激，而不是出於必要。有些人已經認為熊被射殺是非必要的，可以用藥物讓熊昏迷並安全地轉移來代替。

伯伊萊圖什納德 (Baile Tusnad) 小鎮正在努力讓自己變得更「智慧防熊」。當地居民透過在房子周圍安裝安全、防熊的垃圾箱和電圍欄來處理熊。畢竟，正如一位居民所說，熊和人類必須習慣一起生活。任何說自己不怕熊的人要不是欠缺考慮，就是在說謊。

閱讀測驗解答：1. B 2. C 3. BD 4. shocked

文意選填解答：1. B 2. A 3. C 4. D 5. E

Acknowledgments

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