

**Country and Marine Parks Board
Confirmed Minutes of the 82nd Meeting**

Date : 10 November 2023 (Friday)

File Ref: AF CPA 01/1/0

Time : 2:30 p.m.

Venue : Room 701, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)
Headquarters

PRESENT

Chairman

Professor LING Kar-kan, SBS

Members Attending in Person

Mr CHEUNG Siu-keung, BBS, MH

Dr Apple CHUI Pui-yi

Miss Natalie CHUNG Sum-yue

Dr Jeffrey HUNG Oi-shing

Professor LI Xin

Mr Ian LEUNG Kin-wai

Dr Caroline LAW Man-yee

Mr LO Pui-lam

Dr Angie NG Ying-sim

Professor QIU Jian-wen

Mr Alex WONG Lap-kei

Dr LEUNG Siu-fai, JP

Mr Mickey LAI Kin-ming

Miss Sapphire LO Pui Yiu

Mr Desmond WU Chia-chun

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Deputy Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and
Conservation

Assistant Director of Lands (Specialist 2) (Lands
Administration Office/Headquarters)

Principal Assistant Secretary for Environment and
Ecology (Nature Conservation)

Members Attending via Zoom Video Conferencing

Professor Desmond HUI Cheuk-kuen

Mr Henry YAU Yik-chung

Mr YU Hon-kwan, MH, JP

Ms Vivian CHEUNG Mei-yee, JP

Ms Kathy CHAN Cheuk-ling

Assistant Director of Home Affairs (2)

Senior Town Planner/New Territories District
Planning Division Headquarters 1, Planning
Department

Mr Wicky CHEUNG Wing-keung

Chief Leisure Manager (Management), Leisure and
Cultural Services Department

Mr Davis WAN Chin-man

Senior Engineer/Planning Policy 1, Water Supplies
Department

Mr WU Kouqing

General Manager/Operations, Marine Department

Secretary

Ms Lily CHEUNG Man-lee

Assistant Secretary (Boards) 1 (Acting), AFCD

In Attendance**AFCD**

Mr Patrick LAI Chuen-chi

Assistant Director (Fisheries and Marine
Conservation)

Dr Jackie YIP Yin

Assistant Director (Country Parks)

Ms Louise LI Wai-hung

Senior Marine Parks Officer

Mr CHEUNG Ka-shing

Senior Country Parks Officer (Management) 1

Ms NGAR Yuen-ngor

Senior Country Parks Officer (Management) 2

Mr Alfred WONG Kwong-chiu

Senior Country Parks Officer (Ranger Services) 1

Mr William CHOW Siu-hung

Senior Country Parks Officer (Recreation
Development) (Acting)

Ms Karen PO Ka-wai

Country Parks Ranger Services Officer (Special
Projects) 2

For Agenda V Only

Mr Gary CHOW

Technical Director, Mott MacDonald Hong Kong

Ms NG Pui-kee

Environmental Consultant, Mott MacDonald Hong
Kong

Dr KWONG Chi-man

Historian

Absent with Apologies

Mr SHUM Si-ki

Ms Vriko YU Pik-fan

OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN

148/23 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

149/23 The Chairman informed members that, as an established practice, audio recording would be made during the meeting to facilitate the taking of minutes. It would be destroyed after the confirmation of the minutes.

OPENING REMAKRS BY THE COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS AUTHORITY

150/23 Dr LEUNG Siu-fai, JP, the Country and Marine Parks Authority, gave an opening remark and welcomed members to the Country and Marine Parks Board (CMPB). He also thanked the retired members for their contributions to the CMPB over the past years.

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS BY THE CHAIRMAN

151/23 The Chairman introduced himself as well as all attending members and government representatives.

AGENDA ITEMS

I. Confirmation of Minutes of the 81st Meeting held on 29 June 2023

152/23 The minutes of the 81st meeting held on 29 June 2023 were confirmed without amendments.

II. Guidelines on Declarations of Interests

153/23 The Chairman drew members' attention to the "Guidelines on Declaration of Interests" and advised them to disclose any direct personal or pecuniary interest in any matter under consideration by the CMPB prior to the discussion of the item. Declaration of interests could be made verbally during a CMPB meeting or in writing to the Chairman or the Secretary before the meeting.

III. Formation of Committees of the CMPB and Election of Committee Chairmen

154/23 The Chairman informed members that there were two committees under the CMPB, namely the Country Parks Committee (CPC) and the Marine Parks Committee (MPC). He referred members to the membership list of the two committees tabled at the meeting.

155/23 The Chairman advised that as an established practice, the Chairmen of the two committees would be elected by and from among members of the respective committees. The Chairman called for nominations for the chairmanship of the two committees one by one and presided over the election process. The election results were as follows:

| <u>Committee</u> | <u>Chairman</u> |
|------------------|------------------------|
| CPC | Mr LO Pui-lam |
| MPC | Professor QIU Jian-wen |

156/23 The membership lists of the CPC and the MPC are at Annexes I and II respectively.

IV. Matters Arising

(a) Preparation of Draft Map for the Proposed Robin's Nest Country Park (RNCP) (Para. 115/23)

157/23 Ms NGAR Yuen-ngor reported that the Chief Executive in Council had approved the draft map of the proposed RNCP on 27 June 2023. The approved map was deposited in

the Land Registry in accordance with the relevant legislation, and the deposit of the map was notified in the Gazette on 4 August 2023. In accordance with section 14 of the Country Parks Ordinance, the Chief Executive would make a designation order for designating the area shown in the approved map. The designation order had been submitted to the Chief Executive in Council for consideration. The AFCD expected that the designation order would be gazetted and introduced into the Legislative Council for negative vetting by the end of the current year, and all statutory designation procedures would be completed in the first half of 2024.

(b) Preparation of Draft Map for the Proposed North Lantau Marine Park (NLMP) (Para. 116/23)

158/23 Ms Louise LI Wai-hung reported that the Chief Executive in Council had approved the draft map of the proposed NLMP on 5 September 2023. The approved map was deposited in the relevant government department(s) and available for public inspection in accordance with the relevant legislation, and the deposit of the map was notified in the Gazette on 29 September 2023. The AFCD expected that all statutory designation procedures would be completed in 2024.

**V. Conceptual Designs and Stakeholder Engagement on Setting Up of an Open Museum of Historical Relics in Country Parks
(Working Paper: WP/CMPB/9/2023)**

(Representatives of Mott MacDonald Hong Kong and Dr KWONG Chi-man
joined the meeting at this juncture.)

159/23 The Chairman welcomed representatives of Mott MacDonald Hong Kong and Dr KWONG Chi-man to the meeting.

160/23 Mr William CHOW Siu-hung introduced the background of the project. With a PowerPoint presentation, Mr Gary CHOW of Mott MacDonald Hong Kong explained the conceptual designs of the project.

161/23 A member was concerned whether the setting of opening hours for the open museum (OM) would restrict public access to the historical relics.

162/23 Another member enquired about the details of the crowd management plan. He also suggested that in addition to promoting history and culture, the OM could incorporate educational elements on country park protection. He was also concerned whether barrier-free facilities would be available on-site.

163/23 A member suggested building connections between the four proposed historical periods of Pinewood Battery and the changes in the overall natural environment, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals and criteria for conservation of intangible cultural heritage set out by the United Nations. She also suggested that similar experimental element proposed for Pinewood Battery should be included in Shing Mun Redoubt to introduce the relationship among history, culture and biodiversity.

164/23 A member enquired whether the coverage of mobile network signals in country parks was sufficient to support the use of augmented reality (AR). In addition, she would like to know whether the OM could be linked to the school curriculum, and how the country park education elements would be promoted to schools.

165/23 The Chairman asked whether the existing structures would be rehabilitated. Also, he noticed that there were people playing war games at Pinewood Battery. He asked if there would be a specific crowd management plan and any measures to control such activities.

166/23 Mr William CHOW Siu-hung replied that according to the current conceptual design, except for the tunnel at Shing Mun Redoubt that required crowd control due to structural safety concern, other parts of the OM would remain open. In parallel, the AFCD also had the idea of providing virtual tours so that members of the public could enjoy an immersive experience without entering the site. The AFCD would consider the member's proposal to integrate history with changes in the natural environment and biodiversity. Based on the current assessment, the mobile network signals at the two potential sites were sufficient to support the AR function. The AFCD would also provide WiFi services in some indoor venues, such as the visitor centre, for the convenience of visitors. In the next phase, the Consultants would explore in detail the connection between the OM and the History curriculum, as well as the rehabilitation plan of the structures, and would provide barrier-free facilities on-site as necessary.

167/23 Mr Gary CHOW supplemented that a lot of graffiti and carvings were found at Shing Mun Redoubt. He thought that the introduction of opening hours and crowd control measures could help preserve the historical relics.

168/23 Dr KWONG Chi-man supplemented that currently, the Secondary 3 Chinese History and History curricula covered the history of Hong Kong in the 20th century, including the period of the Japanese occupation and the Battle of Hong Kong. The relics were related to this part of the curriculum.

169/23 A member asked for clarification on whether only one of the two sites would be chosen for construction of OM. He also asked whether a visitor centre would be built at Pinewood Battery.

170/23 Another member asked whether estimates for the construction costs had been made in the Study. He opined that humanistic elements should be included in the interpretation of heritage sites to help visitors understand the history comprehensively. He was also concerned about the manpower cost if Pinewood Battery would implement crowd control measures.

171/23 A member commented that both sites were related to the War of Resistance in modern history. She asked if the AFCD had explored other potential sites for other historical education themes, such as rural traditional culture.

172/23 A member asked for the specific plan for crowd control at the underground tunnel at Shing Mun Redoubt. He also enquired about the length of the tunnel, and how to strike a balance between conserving the authenticity of the relics and upgrading them to tourist attractions.

173/23 Another member suggested that the design should tie in with nature as far as possible, for example, through utilising sustainable materials. On the operational front, he advised that a distributed power generation system could be installed to reduce carbon emissions.

174/23 A member suggested installing sensors in the middle section of the tunnel at Shing Mun Redoubt, in order to monitor the flow of visitors in the tunnel. She also suggested using natural timber available on-site to restore the relics.

175/23 Dr Jackie YIP Yin pointed out that there were other historical relics in the country parks, and that the AFCD would conserve them and conduct educational promotion through other means, such as constructing historical trails. She said that in addition to country parks, the Geopark also showcased other local themes and history topics, such as

rural landscape and lifestyle. The establishment of an OM in country park was a new project. Taking into account the resources to be involved, the AFCD planned to select a suitable site among the two to implement the project. Subject to the availability of resources and public responses in future, the AFCD would explore the feasibility of setting up other OMs.

176/23 Mr William CHOW Siu-hung replied that a nature appreciation corner was proposed to be set up at Pinewood Battery to introduce the wartime history, natural history and human history of the surrounding areas. He agreed that the relics should incorporate elements of humanities, and further details would be studied by the Consultants. He said that the Consultants would work on cost estimation in a later stage. Regarding members' comments on the crowd control in the tunnel of Shing Mun Redoubt, the Consultants would evaluate the optimal visitor capacity of the tunnel and explore appropriate crowd control arrangements. The AFCD would make reference to the online booking system launched by the Water Supplies Department for the Ex-Sham Shui Po Service Reservoir and study the suitability of introducing such crowd control arrangement at the two potential sites. The Consultants would strike a balance between conservation of historical relics and public safety, and restoration works would be conducted for the sites where necessary. He thanked the member for the suggestions on sustainable development and reduction of carbon emissions. The AFCD would join hands with the Architectural Services Department and the Consultants to explore the application of suitable techniques and technologies to the construction and management aspects.

(Representatives of Mott MacDonald Hong Kong and
Dr KWONG Chi-man left the meeting at 3:35 p.m.)

177/23 A member asked whether the AFCD had conducted a survey on the historical relics at all country parks in Hong Kong. She opined that a knowledge about the distribution of wartime relics in Hong Kong would be very helpful in understanding the history. As the conditions of many relics were deteriorating, restoration of these relics would be necessary, in addition to conservation. She pointed out that the inclusion of the topic on historical relics in school curriculum could enhance students' interest in learning the progress of history, and not just individual historic events.

178/23 Mr William CHOW Siu-hung replied that experiential learning would be helpful in understanding history to a certain extent. While the AFCD had no plan for the time being to conduct surveys on historical relics in country parks, it was aware of the locations of a

considerable number of historical relics and had constructed historical trails and heritage trails accordingly.

179/23 Dr Jackie YIP Yin added that there were other local organisations, such as the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO), recording information on buildings of historical value in Hong Kong. Though the AFCD did not maintain a full record of all the historical relics in country parks at present, it had information relating to relics of higher historical significance and had taken various conservation measures as appropriate, such as the Pinewood Battery Heritage Trail, Wong Nai Chung Gap Military Site Heritage Trail and Luk Keng Pillboxes.

180/23 The Chairman asked whether it was the responsibility of the AFCD or the AMO to conserve historical ruins located in country parks.

181/23 Dr Jackie YIP Yin replied that the AFCD was responsible for the management of country parks. It would consult the AMO on heritage conservation if needed. She pointed out that the setting up of an OM required professional advice on different aspects, and the AFCD was consulting different departments with a view to optimising the design and content of the OM.

182/23 The Chairman concluded that members were generally supportive of the setting up of an open museum of historical relics. He advised that the AFCD and the Consultants should review the locations where crowd control was required and carry out restoration works for the structures as appropriate.

VI. Briefing on the Management of Country Parks and Marine Parks

183/23 Dr Jackie YIP Yin and Mr Patrick LAI Chuen-chi briefed members on the AFCD's work relating to the management of country parks and marine parks with a PowerPoint presentation.

184/23 A member enquired about the latest information on cetaceans in the north Lantau waters.

185/23 A member asked whether flying of drones was permitted over country parks and marine parks.

186/23 Mr Patrick LAI Chuen-chi responded that the AFCD had been monitoring Chinese white dolphins in local waters, and upon the completion of the marine works in the western waters and designation of the NLMP, the AFCD would carry out a series of conservation work jointly with the Airport Authority Hong Kong, including the deployment of artificial reefs and fish restocking exercise, with a view to enhancing the habitats of marine life. He also said that the AFCD had maintained close liaison with the Pearl River Estuary Chinese White Dolphins National Nature Reserve Management Office to achieve synergetic effect in conservation work.

187/23 Dr Jackie YIP Yin responded that the Small Unmanned Aircraft Order had come into effect, and operation of small unmanned aircrafts in country parks was also bound by the legislation.

188/23 A member asked whether there was a rising trend of illegal felling of rare and precious plants following the resumption of travel between Hong Kong and the Mainland. She further enquired if the AFCD would carry out *in situ* re-vegetation of rare and precious plants.

189/23 A member pointed out that the global target was to designate at least 30% of waters as marine protected areas by 2030. She asked whether the AFCD had formulated any plans to achieve such a target.

190/23 Dr Jackie YIP Yin replied that the figures on illegal felling of plants in country parks remained stable, but since many of the local Incense Trees were distributed outside country parks, the conservation status of Incense Trees should also take into account the situation outside country parks. To protect rare and precious plants of high conservation value from being illegally felled, the AFCD had taken different management measures, including patrolling, installation of sensor camera traps and tree guards, etc. Moreover, seedlings of Incense Trees were produced and planted on AFCD nurseries every year, and the seedlings would be transplanted to suitable areas in country parks through *in situ/ex situ* conservation to assist the propagation of the species in the Hong Kong countryside.

191/23 The Chairman asked whether the AFCD would work jointly with the Leisure and Cultural Services Department to grow and protect rare and precious plants in suitable parks.

192/23 Dr LEUNG Siu-fai, JP, supplemented that a series of measures had been put in place under the AFCD's Incense Tree Species Action Plan to protect and combat illegal felling

of Incense Trees, and that to conserve the species. The AFCD produced around 10 000 Incense Tree seedlings every year and planted them at suitable locations so as to enhance the distribution and abundance of Incense Trees in Hong Kong.

193/23 Mr Patrick LAI Chuen-chi responded that the AFCD had been taking enforcement actions under the Marine Parks Ordinance and the Fisheries Protection Ordinance and would review the enforcement and management measures from time to time to effectively conserve the marine environment. While the work on the designation of NLMP was in progress, the AFCD would also explore the feasibility of establishing other marine parks in suitable waters in future. The Fisheries Protection Ordinance which prohibited destructive fishing practices in all Hong Kong waters, provided for the designation of fisheries protection areas for management and control of fishing in designated waters. The AFCD would proactively review the need for designating fisheries protection areas at suitable locations.

194/23 Dr LEUNG Siu-fai, JP, added that according to the global target set out in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework endorsed at the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, all Parties, subject to their individual circumstances, should make every effort to ensure that by 2030 at least 30% of areas, including terrestrial, inland water, coastal and marine areas, were under effective protection. Dr LEUNG pointed out that country parks alone accounted for 40% of the land in Hong Kong, and that subsequent to the designation of NLMP, marine parks and marine reserve would account for 5% of Hong Kong waters. In the light of the new target set out in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the Environment and Ecology Bureau (EEB) and the AFCD would update the Hong Kong Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan having regard to the local situation with a view to protecting the important habitats and species in Hong Kong as appropriate.

195/23 The Chairman remarked that wetland conservation parks under the direct management of the Government would be set up in the Northern Metropolis, and though the area fell beyond the boundaries of country parks, it was a terrestrial protected area and should also be counted towards the target. Moreover, he urged the AFCD to work out long-term marine conservation strategies for sensitive areas of ecological importance, such as Tolo Harbour and Sai Kung Hoi.

196/23 In response to the Chairman's enquiry, Mr Desmond WU Chia-chun said the Chief Executive's 2023 Policy Address had stipulated that Sam Po Shue Wetland

Conservation Park (WCP) would be established in the Northern Metropolis. A strategic feasibility study on the development of the WCPs system in the Northern Metropolis was being conducted, covering the Sam Po Shue WCP, which would be completed by the first half of 2024. Regarding marine conservation, he said that apart from the designation of the NLMP expected to be completed in 2024, the Government would also explore other conservation initiatives, particularly in the context of the update of the Hong Kong Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

197/23 A member was of the view that marine conservation should cater for the local situation, including co-existence with fisheries activities.

198/23 A member opined that quality marine conservation should be carried out. She remarked that the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration called for injection of resources to ecosystem restoration from 2021 through 2030. She also suggested enhancing the habitats to achieve quality marine protection.

199/23 The Chairman agreed that marine conservation and fisheries activities could be carried out at the same time. He advised the Government to consider suitably expanding the aquaculture industry and liaise with the fisheries industry for reduction of capture fisheries and switching to mariculture industry.

VII. Summary Report of the Country Parks Committee (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/10/2023)

200/23 As Professor HE Shenjing, Chairman of the Country Parks Committee (CPC), had retired from the Committee, Dr Jackie YIP Yin briefed members on Working Paper WP/CMPB/10/2023 on behalf of her, which provided a summary of the issues discussed at the CPC meeting held on 21 July 2023. Members noted the report.

VIII. Summary Report of the Marine Parks Committee (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/11/2023)

201/23 Professor QIU Jianwen, Chairman of the Marine Parks Committee (MPC), briefed members on Working Paper WP/CMPB/11/2023, which provided a summary of the issues discussed at the MPC meeting held on 22 August 2023. Members noted the report.

**IX. Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report
(Working Paper: WP/CMPB/12/2023)**

202/23 Dr Jackie YIP Yin presented the Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report for the period from 1 May to 31 August 2023 (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/12/2023).

203/23 A member enquired whether education activities such as “Take Your Litter Home” and beach cleanup campaigns had led to a declining trend in the volume of refuse collected in marine parks and marine reserve. She also enquired whether the sources of the refuse collected could be traced. Moreover, she enquired whether special activities had been held in marine parks on the National Ecology Day.

204/23 Mr Patrick LAI Chuen-chi responded that marine parks and marine reserve were located in remote locations, subject to external factors such as wind directions and water current, the sources of the refuse collected in marine parks were difficult to trace, and that the figure on the volume of refuse collected could not reflect a change in the behaviour of visitors in disposal of garbage. He further said that the visitor centre of marine parks was open for eco-tours on the National Ecology Day.

X. Any Other Business

(a) Country Parks Public Education Activities

205/23 Mr Alfred WONG Kwong-chiu briefly introduced the strategies and objectives of the country parks public education activities. With a PowerPoint presentation, Ms Karen PO Ka-wai reported the various public education activities organised in country parks since June 2023. On the whole, the activities had received positive feedback.

(b) Impacts of Typhoons and Rainstorms on Country Parks Facilities

206/23 With a PowerPoint presentation, Mr CHEUNG Ka-shing reported on the damage caused to the facilities in country parks in the aftermath of the recent typhoons and rainstorms as well as the restoration progress.

207/23 The Chairman asked whether the AFCD had adequate equipment and tools to restore the trails.

208/23 Dr Jackie YIP Yin responded that the restoration work could be divided into three categories, the first one of which was undertaken by other government departments, whereas the second one was the AFCD's work involving restoration of ordinary trails manually or with existing tools, and the third one involved major maintenance work relating to slopes and so forth, for which the AFCD was required to redeploy internal resources and seek assistance from the works departments of the Government when necessary in taking forward the restoration work.

209/23 The Chairman said that extreme weather might cause more damages to country parks in future. As the trails were relatively narrow in general, he advised the AFCD to identify smaller transportation equipment to facilitate workers' maintenance work.

210/23 Dr LEUNG Siu-fai, JP, responded that certain maintenance work required a longer time and that the AFCD was reviewing the measures for the country parks to respond to extreme weather.

(c) Annual Board Visit 2023

211/23 Ms Lily CHEUNG Man-lee informed members that the Annual Board Visit 2023 would be held on 12 December 2023 and that the themes of the current annual visit were on the operation of Pak Tam Chung Management Centre in Sai Kung Country Park and the production of facilities, Hong Kong Geopark "Same Roots • Same Origins" Project, Kau Sai Village Story Room and the artwork of Sai Kung Hoi Arts Festival. She said that details of the visit would be disseminated to members by email after the meeting.

(d) Others

212/23 A member (Dr Jeffrey HUNG Oi-shing) suggested that the AFCD should set restrictions on access to information about certain sensitive species uploaded to the Centralised Environmental Database of the Environmental Protection Department as sensitive information should not be made public.

213/23 Dr LEUNG Siu-fai, JP, thanked the member for his reminder, and said that the AFCD had set different levels of access restriction according to the sensitivity of the information involved.

XI. Date of Next Meeting

214/23 The Chairman informed members that the Secretary would notify them of the date of the next meeting in due course.

215/23 The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

- End -