

**Country and Marine Parks Board (CMPB)**  
**Confirmed Minutes of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Meeting**

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Date : 11 April 2017 (Tuesday) File Ref.: AF CPA 01/1/0  
Time : 2:30 p.m.  
Venue : Room 701, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)  
Headquarters

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**PRESENT**

**Chairman**

Mr TANG King-shing, GBS, PDSM

**Members**

Ms CHAN Po-kam, Beatrice

Professor CHIU Lai-har, Rebecca, JP

Mr CHOW Kwok-keung

Dr HAU Chi-hang

Ms KIU Kin-yan, Judy

Dr LAU Tai-wai, David

Mr LEE Chung-ming, Eric

Professor LEUNG Mei-yee, Kenneth

Ms MA Miu-wah, Katherine

Dr MAN Chi-sum, JP

Mr MO Ka-hung, Joseph

Dr NG Cho-nam, SBS, JP

Ms WONG Pik-yan, Nicole

Dr LEUNG Siu-fai, JP

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Dr SO Ping-man	Deputy Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Mr AU Wai-kwong, Elvis, JP	Assistant Director (Nature Conservation & Infrastructure Planning), Environmental Protection Department
Miss Charmaine WONG, JP	Assistant Director (2), Home Affairs Department
Ms Doris CHOW	Assistant Director (Estate Management), Lands Department
Mr Wilson CHAN	Assistant Director of Planning (New Territories), Planning Department

Secretary

Miss Phyllis CHAN	Assistant Secretary (Boards)1, AFCD
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**IN ATTENDANCE**

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Mr Patrick LAI	Assistant Director (Country and Marine Parks)
Mr Alan CHAN	Senior Marine Parks Officer
Mr Franco NG	Senior Country Parks Officer (South-east)
Ms Pauline TONG	Senior Country Parks Officer (North-west) (Acting)
Mr Alfred WONG	Senior Country Parks Officer (Ranger Services) (Acting)
Dr Y M MAK	Marine Parks Officer (West)

Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD)

Mr FUNG Wai-kuen, Samuel	Senior Leisure Manager (Contracts) 2
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Marine Department (MD)

Mr WONG Wing-hung

General Manager (Vessel Traffic Services)

**ABSENT WITH APOLOGIES**

Mr Jan CHAN

Mr CHAN Ka-kui, BBS, JP

Ms Suzanne M GENDRON

Mr LAM Chung-lun, Billy, GBS, JP

Honourable HO Chun-yin, Steven, BBS

Ms KWAN Sau-wan

Ms SO Ka-man

Mr LAI Chi-tung

Assistant Director of Marine (Port Control), MD

Ms Rebecca LOU

Assistant Director (Leisure Services)<sup>3</sup>, LCSD

Mr CHAU Sai-wai

Assistant Director of Water Supplies (Development),  
Water Supplies Department

*(The meeting began with the closed-door session in which public attendance was not allowed.)*

**OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN**

41/17 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular Mr FUNG Wai-kuen, Samuel, Senior Leisure Manager (Contracts) 2 of LCSD, who was attending the meeting for the first time.

42/17 The Chairman informed members that, as an established practice and to facilitate the taking of minutes, sound recording would be made during the meeting. The audio records

would be destroyed after the minutes were confirmed.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**I. Closed-door Session**

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*(End of the discussion under the closed-door session. The meeting was opened for public attendance.)*

**II. Confirmation of Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 6 December 2016**

45/17 The minutes of the last meeting held on 6 December 2016 were confirmed without amendments.

**III. Matters Arising**

(a) Draft Replacement Maps of Plover Cove Country Park and Lantau South Country Park (Para. 125/16)

46/17 Ms Pauline TONG of AFCD reported that a Gazette Notice was published on 30 September 2016 to notify the public that the draft replacement maps of Plover Cove Country Park (PCCP) and Lantau South Country Park (LSCP) and the related explanatory statements were available for public inspection. In accordance with the Country Parks Ordinance (CPO), any person aggrieved by any of the draft maps may, within the inspection period of 60 days, raise objections. During the 60-day period, which ended on 28 November 2016, the Country and Marine Parks Authority (the Authority) received one written objection to the draft replacement map of PCCP. No objection against the draft replacement map of LSCP was received. In accordance with Section 11(3) of CPO, the Authority submitted a written representation concerning the objection to the Secretary of the Board.

47/17 Ms TONG continued to report that the Board conducted a special meeting on 13 February 2017 to hear the objection to the draft map of PCCP. After careful deliberation of the written objection, the Authority’s written representation and the representations of the two sides at the hearing, the Board rejected the objection in whole. The Secretary of the Board notified in writing the objector of the Board’s decision on 27 February 2017.

48/17 In accordance with Section 12 of CPO, the draft maps of PCCP and LSCP, as well as a schedule of the objection and representation regarding the draft map of PCCP were submitted to the Chief Executive in Council (CE in C) for approval. If the draft maps were approved by the CE in C, the Authority would sign the approved maps and deposit them in the Land Registry. The deposit of maps would be notified through the publication of a Gazette Notice. After that, the Chief Executive (CE) would, by order in the Gazette, designate the areas shown on the approved maps to be country parks. Lastly, the designation order in respect of the approved maps of PCCP and LSCP would be gazetted and tabled at the Legislative Council for negative vetting. The designation procedure was expected to be completed by 2017.

(b) Preliminary Boundaries and Management Plans of the Proposed Southwest Lantau and Soko Islands Marine Parks (Para. 126/16)

49/17 Mr Alan CHAN of AFCD reported that the latest development of the proposed Southwest Lantau Marine Park (SWLMP) and Soko Islands Marine Park (SIMP) had been reported in the last meeting. In response to the sentiments of stakeholders on the preliminary boundary of the proposed SIMP, coupled with EPD's proposal of designating a marine park for the Integrated Waste Management Facilities (IWMF) Phase 1 in the nearby waters, AFCD would further study the preliminary boundary of the proposed SIMP, with a view to enhancing the coherence of the two proposed marine parks and taking effect their best conservation function. AFCD planned to consult the Board later on the boundaries of the proposed SIMP and the proposed marine park for the Integrated Waste Management Facilities (IWMF) Phase 1.

50/17 Mr CHAN said that detailed information on the latest development and the draft map of the proposed SWLMP would be provided to members under agenda item IV.

(c) Annual Field Visit 2016 (Para. 154/16)

51/17 Mr Patrick LAI of AFCD briefed members on the report of the Annual Field Visit (the Visit) conducted on 22 December 2016.

52/17 A member commented that the Lin Ma Hang Lead Mine cave in the proposed Robin's Nest Country Park (RNCP) was potentially dangerous for visitors who did not exercise caution during their visit. Hence, he advised AFCD to carefully assess the level of danger and take appropriate measures to minimise the potential hazard. Besides, the member was of the

opinion that it would be helpful to AFCD's future management of the proposed RNCP if clear guidelines on the do's and don'ts in the country park could be provided to the public.

53/17 Another member added that according to a retired engineer who was commissioned by the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) to check the abandoned lead mine caves in Hong Kong, the Lin Ma Hang Lead Mine cave was a dangerous cave. He advised that AFCD should be cautious with the cave management and consider providing temporary support to the cave. In addition, he pointed out that there were many ventilation shafts (豎井) on the slopes nearby, posing another potential danger to visitors. He advised AFCD to locate and close these ventilation shafts.

54/17 The Chairman asked AFCD to take note of the members' concerns about visitor safety in the proposed RNCP.

#### **IV. Preparation of Draft Map of the Proposed Southwest Lantau Marine Park (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/2/2017)**

55/17 The Chairman reminded members to declare if there were any potential conflicts of interest in the matters to be discussed under this agenda item. No member made such declaration.

56/17 Dr YM MAK of AFCD briefed members on Working Paper WP/CMPB/2/2017, regarding the draft map of the proposed SWLMP, the proposed management plan and the way forward. He highlighted that the paper was to seek members' views on the draft map of the proposed SWLMP and the associated explanatory statement. Subject to members' comments, they would be made available for public inspection in accordance with Section 8 of the Marine Parks Ordinance (MPO).

57/17 In response to the Chairman's enquiry, Dr YM MAK explained the existing fisheries management measures in marine parks. While commercial fishing was prohibited under MPO, the Authority might exercise his discretion conferred by Section 17 of the Marine Parks and Marine Reserves Regulation and issue marine park fishing permits to fishermen from eligible homeports. As mentioned in the LegCo sub-committee meeting on the Marine Parks Designation (Amendment) Order 2016 for designating The Brothers Marine Park, AFCD would consider reviewing the existing marine park fishing permit system in response to the

request of fishermen. In this connection, a review of fisheries management measures in marine parks, which would last for a period of 9 months, commenced in April 2017, with a view to identifying suitable enhanced fisheries management measures. Subject to the recommendations of the review, such enhanced measures would be included in the management plan of SWLMP if deemed appropriate. The Chairman suggested, and a member agreed, that AFCD should also review its resources to ensure there would be sufficient manpower and vessels for implementing these measures in all existing and proposed marine parks, and to seek additional resources if necessary.

58/17 A member noted that the proposed SWLMP covered two sea areas. While the landward boundary of the eastern sea area was demarcated with reference to the high water mark along the coastline of Southwest Lantau (SWL), that of the western sea area was demarcated with reference to the high water mark along the coastline of Peaked Hill, instead of SWL. He pointed out that shores were important shelters for Chinese White Dolphins (CWD) and enquired if the members' suggestion of extending the boundary of the proposed SWLMP to the coastline of SWL had been brought up in the consultation with stakeholders. Dr YM MAK responded that villagers of Fan Lau Tsuen had made a strong demand to retain a narrow water channel between the landward boundary of the western sea area and the coastline of SWL as a corridor for vessel transit. Taken into account the relatively low CWD usage of the shallow waters near the shore, the landward boundary of the western sea area was revised as shown on the draft map in response to the villagers' request.

59/17 Since MPO did not prohibit vessels from navigating in marine parks, the member enquired further on the justifications of the villagers for retaining a water channel. He also explained that the reason for extending the boundary of the proposed SWLMP to cover the shore was to create a more effective protected area for dolphins. Given the rapid changes in Hong Kong waters, dolphins might expand their habitat or shift their range use. Hence, it was essential to cover the shore which was an important shelter for dolphins. Mr Alan CHAN indicated that AFCD had collected views from the villagers of Fan Lau Tsuen on the preliminary boundary of the proposed SWLMP. They expressed great concern that demarcating the marine park's boundary along the coastline of SWL would affect their vessels' operation and village development. Also, all forms of fishing activities near the shore including fishing by hook and line by villagers would be brought under the control of MPO. Having regard to the villagers' concerns, AFCD conducted an assessment on the marine traffic in SWL. It revealed that the water channel concerned was occasionally used by small vessels. Since wind and waves could be quite strong in SWL during winter, vessels sometimes needed to exceed 10 knots to offset the strong wind and waves. He added that, according to the latest

survey, the water channel which was very shallow had relatively low dolphin usage. In conclusion, the boundary of the proposed SWLMP as shown on the draft map had addressed the villagers' concern and at the same time covered the key habitats of dolphins.

60/17 Another member was also of the view that the landward boundary should be as close to the coastline of SWL as possible. As coastal areas and intertidal zones generally contained high biodiversity, they should be included in the proposed SWLMP so as to better conserve the marine ecology and species. In this regard, he enquired if AFCDC possessed any data about the biodiversity in the intertidal zone in SWL, and identified any ecologically sensitive area or Site of Special Scientific Interest. Dr YM MAK answered that based on the surveys conducted by AFCDC on the environmental, ecological and fisheries profiles of the waters of SWL and Soko Islands, the intertidal habitats around SWL and Soko Islands were common and widespread, whereas a rare coral species was found in the subtidal zone of Soko Islands. As marine parks included coastal area below the high water mark, this rare coral species would be protected within the proposed SIMP.

61/17 Mr Alan CHAN answered to a member's enquiry about the latest development of the proposed SIMP and the timetable for the designation. He said that as reported under agenda item III(b), stakeholders expressed strong sentiments on the preliminary boundary of the proposed SIMP. Added that the proposed SIMP and the adjacent proposed marine park for the Integrated Waste Management Facilities (IWMF) Phase 1 would cover a sizable sea area of over 2,000 hectares, stakeholders requested the department to take their views on the respective preliminary boundaries and management plans into consideration. In this regard, AFCDC would further study the refinement of the preliminary boundaries and management plans of the two proposed marine parks, and together with EPD, consult the concern groups again in mid-2017. As regards the timetable for designation of SIMP, AFCDC would consult the Board again when the revised proposal is available and aimed at completing the statutory procedures by 2019.

62/17 A member remarked that when deliberating the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report of the Three-Runway System (3RS) Project in a meeting of the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE), it was considered that while the designation of the proposed SWLMP and SIMP was independent of the 3RS Project, it could complement the mitigation measures set out in the EIA Report and help to relieve the environmental impacts of the 3RS Project on dolphins. Besides, they were informed that the designation of the two proposed marine parks was expected to complete by 2017, before the commencement of major marine works. Comprehended from this meeting that the designation of the proposed SIMP would not



be ready by 2017, he urged the government to closely monitor the designation progress so as to timely compensate for the construction impacts on dolphins. Mr AU Wai-kwong, Elvis, JP of EPD clarified that the designation of the two proposed marine parks at SWL and Soko Islands, which were initiated by the government for the protection of CWD and long-term conservation of the marine environment, was separate and independent of the 3RS Project.

63/17 As members had no further comments and questions, the Chairman concluded that the Board generally supported the draft map of the proposed SWLMP.

**V. Country Parks 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Programme (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/3/2017)**

64/17 Mr Alfred WONG of AFCD briefed members on Working Paper WP/CMPB/3/2017 which was about the programme to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of country parks (CP40).

65/17 A member found the Hiking and Planting Day held at Kam Shan Country Park on 9 April 2017 enjoyable and appreciated AFCD's arrangement. She said that she was a follower of the Facebook page called “郊野公園教育活動計劃 Country Parks Education Programmes” (the Facebook page) which was created and maintained by AFCD. She appreciated that the Facebook page had provided followers with information about country parks in Hong Kong, the education and publicity events held by AFCD and the related preparation work, and so on. As social media played an increasingly important role in disseminating messages and attracting public attention, she suggested taking the opportunities of organising the events for CP40 to boost the number of followers of the Facebook page. For example, AFCD could consider requiring participants of the events to like the Facebook page before giving out souvenirs to them.

66/17 A member supported the above member's suggestion and added that AFCD could encourage the participants to share their photos and experience in such events on the Facebook page. Besides, she commented that people with disabilities generally had limited exposure to nature. The needy and underprivileged members of the community were also less likely to spend time in nature as they were busy making a living. She hoped that efforts would be made to increase the opportunities of these groups of people to experience nature. A member shared the same view and supplemented that visually impaired people could also enjoy and engage

with the natural environment by using different senses. He suggested the government to organise country park visits for visually impaired people to experience nature.

67/17 Mr Patrick LAI responded that AFCD would take the members' suggestions on the use of social media into consideration. Besides, AFCD would explore opportunities for the disabled and underprivileged to visit country parks. He mentioned about the Deaf Cafeteria located at the AFCD Lions Nature Education Centre, which was set up by the Hong Kong Society for the Deaf and operated by people with hearing impairment. He said that feasibility to collaborate with suitable organisations in organising tours or activities for the disabled could likewise be explored.

68/17 A member was of the opinion that AFCD should seize the occasion of CP40 to make a documentary film about the history, development and characteristics of country parks in Hong Kong, for educational and commemorative purposes. He suggested that AFCD could explore collaboration with Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) in making such documentary film. Mr Patrick LAI replied that while AFCD had planned to produce a publication for recording the events organised for CP40, they could also contact RTHK to explore the idea of producing a documentary film.

69/17 In view of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of country parks, a member suggested developing new attractions and introducing special tree and plant species into country parks for the public to appreciate. Mr Patrick LAI indicated that a consultancy study on enhancement of the recreation and education potential of country parks and special areas had commenced in early 2017, with the aim of increasing the attractiveness of these areas and meeting the public demand for countryside recreation. It would look at overseas examples and identify opportunities to introduce new recreational and educational facilities and activities in country parks, and there would be public consultation at various stages of the study.

70/17 A member pointed out that animal release activities were serious in Hong Kong and picking plants from countryside for medical use still existed. He advocated more publicity efforts to discourage these activities which had negative impacts on the ecosystem and biodiversity in country parks, and advised including the messages of "no animal release activity" (禁止放生) and "no picking of plants" (禁止採摘) in the CP40 roving exhibitions. Furthermore, the member emphasised the need to look after the transport arrangement of the Tai Tong Fun Carnival to be held in Tai Tong, Tai Lam Country Park, in view of the high

number of visitors to appreciate red leaves in previous years. In response, Mr Patrick LAI briefly explained the respective work of the Conservation Branch and the Inspection and Quarantine Branch of AFCD in addressing the problem of animal release activities. To further enhance public awareness of the issue, he said that AFCD would consider publicising countryside code in the roving exhibitions. Besides, AFCD would make reference to the previous experiences of organising the Tai Tong Red Leaves Festival and make suitable arrangements on transport and control of visitor flow for the Tai Tong Fun Carnival.

71/17 Another member viewed that the series of events to be organised for CP40 provided an opportunity for promoting green tourism in Hong Kong. Moreover, given the discussion in the society on the possibility of using country park land with low ecological value for housing, she considered CP40 was an important occasion to give the public a thorough understanding of the functions of country parks on nature conservation, protecting water catchment and so on. Mr Patrick LAI responded that the “ “Joy” us Hiking” was considered to have good potential to attract tourists. AFCD would liaise with the Tourism Commission in promoting the event with a view to encouraging participation of overseas tourists. He added that the functions of country parks in nature conservation, countryside recreation and outdoor education would be promoted in the roving exhibitions.

## **VI. Summary Report of Country Parks Committee (CPC) (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/4/2017)**

72/17 Professor CHIU Lai-ha, Rebecca, JP, Chairperson of the CPC, briefed members on Working Paper WP/CMPB/4/2017, which served to provide members with a summary of the issues discussed at the CPC meeting held on 7 March 2017.

73/17 The Chairman was glad to see that the “Rehabilitation Project for Sai Wan Area” under Management Agreement Scheme (hereinafter referred to as the Project) had commenced, which marked an important milestone in the history of country parks, for it was the first Management Agreement project involving a country park enclave and represented a concerted effort of the local villagers, the landowners and relevant non-government organisations in conservation. He thanked Mr MO Ka-hung, Joseph, the Convener of the Working Group on Sai Wan Management, for overseeing the development and implementation of the Project.

74/17 A member remarked that there was no irrigation facility for farming of the rehabilitated agricultural land in Sai Wan. He opined that restoration of canals and installation

of irrigation systems were essential for the agricultural activities there in the long run, and advised Sai Kung District Community Centre (SKDCC) to include these basic necessities for farming in the budget of the Project if the Project was to be renewed. As regards the lack of specific resource in the approved funding of the Project for conducting ecological surveys, the member suggested looking for other funding sources and seeking assistance from tertiary institutions.

75/17 Mr MO Ka-hung, Joseph informed members that since the commencement of the Project in mid-February 2017, SKDCC had been in search of reliable water sources for irrigation of the agricultural land in Sai Wan and identified a deserted pond in the upper part of a river course in the vicinity. AFCD had assisted in inspecting the deserted pond and would advise on the suitability of the water for irrigation. Moreover, while the initial proposal did not include any baseline ecological monitoring, SKDCC would review if the existing resource could be reallocated to cover the cost of ecological monitoring.

**VII. Summary Report of Marine Parks Committee (MPC)  
(Working Paper: WP/CMPB/5/2017)**

76/17 Professor LEUNG Mei-yee, Kenneth, Chairman of the MPC, briefed members on Working Paper WP/CMPB/5/2017, which provided members with a summary of the issues discussed at the MPC meeting held on 21 March 2017. Members noted the Report.

**VIII. Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report  
(Working Paper WP/CMPB/6/2017)**

77/17 Mr Patrick LAI of AFCD briefed members on Working Paper WP/CMPB/6/2017 on Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report for the period from 1 November 2016 to 28 February 2017.

78/17 A member enquired the reason for the lower number of participants in the school visit programme for secondary schools compared to that for kindergartens and primary schools during the reporting period. Mr Alfred WONG indicated that kindergartens, primary and secondary schools were all welcomed to enrol in the respective school visit programme, and the demand from kindergartens and primary schools for school visit was indeed higher than that from secondary schools. Since last year, AFCD had been cooperating with the Hong Kong Observatory in conducting joint reach-out visits to secondary schools. With the enriched and

diversified contents of school visits, it was hoped that AFCD could reach out to more secondary schools for conveying nature conservation messages.

79/17 In response to the member's request for a comparison of the amount of refuse collected in country parks before and after the introduction of the "Take Your Litter Home" Programme, Mr Franco NG of AFCD elaborated the figures shown in Working Paper WP/CMPB/6/2017. Mr Patrick LAI supplemented that since the Programme mainly involved the removal of litter containers and recycle bins located along the trails in country parks and special areas, its effectiveness in waste reduction could not be clearly reflected in the figures shown in the Working Paper which had included all the litter collected within county parks and special areas. AFCD had been collecting relevant statistics throughout the Programme for evaluating its effectiveness and would report the results to the Board at an appropriate time.

80/17 A member suggested distributing publicity materials through electronic means. Besides, observing a considerable fluctuation in the monthly visitor statistics of Lions Nature Education Centre during the reporting period, the member suggested AFCD to add explanations for any large variations of figures in the future reports.

81/17 Another member enquired the reason for fewer trees being affected by fires during the reporting period, albeit more fires and larger affected area than in the previous year. Mr Patrick LAI explained that the fire happened at Kai Kung Leng in Lam Tsuen Country Park was the main reason for the large affected area during the reporting period. Since Kai Kung Leng was covered mostly by grassland, the number of trees being affected was small.

82/17 A member noticed that illegal entries of bicycle and vehicle made up the largest proportion of the offences committed during the reporting period. He suggested AFCD to analyse and find out the locations where illegal entries of bicycle and vehicle were commonly found and step up patrol in those locations to deter illegal cycling activity. The Chairman also remarked the importance of sufficient manpower for law enforcement in country parks.

83/17 A member disagreed with the total ban on bicycle entry to country parks. He was of the opinion that cycling which could be a leisure activity or a competitive sport required cycle tracks and training grounds, especially when the busy traffic in Hong Kong had made cycling on road unsafe. To meet the public demand for countryside recreation, AFCD should review the current restrictions on cycling in country parks and consider allowing such activity through

proper management, for example allowing cycling in specific periods or implementing permit quota system on cycling. Moreover, he used overseas examples to illustrate how planning and design in the urban area and the countryside could promote cycling. He also highlighted that promoting cycling could not only support green transportation, energy saving and low carbon living style, but also contribute to the development of tourism and economy.

84/17 A member concurred with the above member's opinion and suggested AFCD to investigate whether there were any trails that could be open for cycling in specific periods. Another member opined that cycling was prevalent in many cities around the world and should be further encouraged in Hong Kong as it was healthy and environmentally friendly. He suggested making reference to the cycle track network of Shenzhen East which was well-developed and included a long scenic cycle track along the coast that was popular among Hong Kong cyclists. Believing that developing similar cycle tracks in Hong Kong would be beneficial to the environment and greatly enhance the attractiveness of Hong Kong as a tourist destination, he suggested looking into the potential of country parks in such development.

85/17 Dr LEUNG Siu-fai, JP of AFCD thanked for the members' views. He said that as mentioned at this meeting, a consultancy study (the study) had commenced this year with the aim of exploring opportunities for enhancing the recreation and education potential of country parks and special areas. He indicated that the study area was not limited to such recreational facilities as treetop walkways, zip lines and grass sliding field, as highlighted in the press. Instead, the study would consider a wide range of possibilities concerning the introduction of new or enhancement of existing recreational and educational facilities and activities in country parks. At present, there were several designated mountain bike trails (MBT) and sites in country parks, which were only for mountain biking but not road biking. To also allow road biking, the safety of other country park users would be an important consideration. Having said that, the potential of cycling activity in country parks, as suggested by some members, could be explored in the study. Moreover, he said that other focuses of the study included but not limited to improving the facilities and services of Country Park Visitor Centres and Education Centres, and introducing more outdoor educational facilities and activities. Dr LEUNG said that members' views given in the meeting would be taken into account and he appealed for members' support and engagement in the consultation exercises with stakeholders and the public.

86/17 A member mentioned about the bicycle sharing system in Shenzhen which allowed people to borrow bicycles via mobile applications. She suggested that the study should also

look into the provision of supporting facilities and services, such as bicycle sharing system, when considering the potential of cycling activity in country parks.

87/17 Mr Patrick LAI briefly explained the differences between road bike and mountain bike, as well as their respective requirements on tracks and grounds. He also pointed out that while cycle track networks could be found across the territory, MBT networks only existed in country parks. In recent years, CEDD had been expanding and improving cycle track networks in response to the increasing demand. As far as MBT networks were concerned, any expansion or improvement proposals required careful assessment on their potential impacts on the environment and hikers. Indeed, many hikers had complained to AFCD that their hiking activities were affected by mountain biking activities. Hence, dedicated new MBTs were built in recent years as far as practicable to avoid user conflict. Mr LAI said that similar considerations were necessary if road bike was to be considered in country parks. Owing to topographical and environmental constraints, he envisaged that building an extensive road biking network in country parks might be technically difficult. Nonetheless, AFCD would keep an open mind in the consultancy study about enhancing country park recreational facilities.

88/17 A member also expressed reservation on the need and suitability to develop cycle tracks for road bike in country parks. He was of the view that cycle tracks could be constructed along rivers and borders, but not necessarily in country parks. Apart from the technical difficulty, constructions of cycle tracks in country parks would possibly arouse oppositions from environmental concern groups, as it might involve felling of trees.

89/17 A member suggested that cycle tracks could be constructed along the coastline of country parks, for example from Tung Chung to Tai O, as well as from Luk Keng to Fung Hang, Kuk Po and Lai Chi Wo. He also emphasised that for the enhancement of country parks, it was important to think out of the box and assume an open-minded attitude towards innovative ideas, and then the feasibility of such ideas could be left for the consideration of the experts.

90/17 A member had given some suggestions on the distribution of educational and publicity materials. He was of the opinion that a low proportion of educational and publicity materials was distributed to the country and marine park visitors during the reporting period. He suggested improving the situation as these materials were important in disseminating conservation messages and providing visitors information about relevant rules and regulations, the provision of facilities, the details of attractions, and so on. Also, he suggested that AFCD

could add QR codes on the information boards and interpretation plates in country and marine parks such that visitors could acquire relevant information through a mobile application.

**IX. Any Other Business**

91/17 Members did not raise any other business for discussion.

**X. Date of Next Meeting**

92/17 The Chairman informed members that the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 15 August 2017 (Tuesday) at 2:30 p.m.

93/17 The meeting adjourned at 4:41 p.m.

– End –