

Country and Marine Parks Board (CMPB)
Confirmed Minutes of the 80th Meeting

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| Date | : 2 February 2023 (Thursday) | File Ref.: AF CPA 01/1/0 |
| Time | : 2:30 p.m. | |
| Venue | : Room 701, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department Headquarters | |

PRESENT

Chairman

Professor LING Kar-kan, SBS

Members attending in person

Professor HUI Cheuk-kuen, Desmond

Mr. LAW Wing-fai, Teddy

Dr. LEE Nam-yuk, Amelia, MH

Mr. LEE Yee-keung, Charles

Mr. LO Pui-lam

Mr. SO Kwok-yin, Ken

Mr. WONG Lap-kei, Alex

Mr. YAU Yik-chung, Henry

Ms. YIP Yan-yan

Dr. LEUNG Siu-fai, JP

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Mr. LAI Kin-ming, Mickey

Deputy Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Mr. WU Chia-chun, Desmond

Principal Assistant Secretary for Environment & Ecology (Nature Conservation), Environment and Ecology Bureau

Members Attended via Zoom Video Conferencing

Mr. CHEUNG Siu-keung, MH

Dr. CHUI Pui-yi, Apple

Professor HE Shen-jing

Professor QIU Jian-wen

Mr. YU Hon-kwan, Randy, MH, JP

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| Ms. CHAN Suet-ching, Angela | Assistant Director of Lands (Specialist 2), Lands Department |
| Mr. LAI Chi-tung, JP | Assistant Director of Marine/Port Control, Marine Department |
| Mr. MA Hon-wing, Wilson | Assistant Director/Development, Water Supplies Department |
| Mr. CHEUNG Wing-keung, Wicky | Chief Leisure Manager (Management), Leisure and Cultural Services Department |
| Ms. CHUI Wai-ye, Brenda | Chief Executive Officer (2)1, Home Affairs Department |
| Mr. YING Kong-chau, William | Town Planner/New Territories Headquarters 2, Planning Department |

Secretary

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| Ms. CHEUNG Man-lee, Lily | Assistant Secretary (Boards)1 (Acting), Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department |
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IN ATTENDANCE**Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)**

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| Dr. YIP Yin, Jackie | Assistant Director (Country and Marine Parks) |
| Ms. LI Wai-hung, Louise | Senior Marine Parks Officer |
| Ms. NGAR Yuen-ngor | Senior Country Parks Officer (Management 2) |
| Dr. CHAN Kwok-kuen, Ivan | Marine Parks Officer (Development)2 |
| Mr. LAM Chun-pong | Marine Parks Officer (West)1 |

For Agenda III only - Airport Authority Hong Kong (AAHK)

Mr. Peter LEE

General Manager, Sustainability

ABSENT WITH APOLOGIES

Ms. CHAN Kwai-fun, Brenda

Dr. CHEUNG Ting-on, Lewis

Dr. LAW Man-yee, Caroline

Mr. LEUNG Kin-wai, Ian

Ms. YU Pik-fan, Vriko

OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN

1/23 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially the following two members who attended the meeting for the first time:

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| Mr. WU Chia-chun, Desmond | Principal Assistant Secretary for Environment & Ecology (Nature Conservation), Environment and Ecology Bureau |
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| Mr. YING Kong-chau, William | Town Planner/New Territories Headquarters 2, Planning Department |
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2/23 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.

3/23 The Chairman reminded members attending via Zoom to press the “raise hand” button on Zoom to raise questions and comments.

AGENDA ITEMS

I. Confirmation of Minutes of the 79th Meeting held on 1 November 2022

4/23 The minutes of the 79th meeting held on 1 November 2022 were confirmed without amendment.

II. Matters Arising

(a) Preparation of Draft Map for the Proposed Robin's Nest Country Park (Para. 90/22 to 104/22)

5/23 Ms. NGAR Yuen-ngor reported on the progress of the preparation of the draft map for the proposed Robin's Nest Country Park. The draft map was gazetted on 2 December 2022, followed by a 60-day public inspection period which ended on 30 January 2023. The Country and Marine Parks Authority (the Authority) and the Secretary of the CMPB had received objections to the draft map. The Secretary would arrange a special meeting for members to hear the objections and the representations from the Authority. The Secretary would invite members to attend the special meeting when the date and time were fixed.

(b) Annual Board Visit (Para. 134/22)

6/23 With a Powerpoint presentation, Ms. CHEUNG Man-lee, Lily reported on the Annual Board Visit 2022 held on 20 December 2022. Members visited the Soko Islands to learn about AFCD's management work at the South Lantau Marine Park, and subsequently visited the recently opened Mui Wo Mountain Bike Practice Ground.

III. Preparation of Draft Map of the Proposed North Lantau Marine Park (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/1/2023)

(Mr. Peter LEE, General Manager, Sustainability, AAHK and Professor HE Shen-jing joined the meeting at this juncture.)

7/23 The Chairman welcomed Mr. Peter LEE to the meeting.

8/23 With a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. LAM Chun-pong briefed members on the preparation of a draft map for the proposed North Lantau Marine Park (NLMP).

9/23 A member enquired if the proposed NLMP would have a core area and whether there were speed restrictions on high-speed vessels using the area. He asked if the agenda would be discussed again in the Marine Parks Committee (MPC) meeting.

10/23 A member enquired about the conservation plans for corals, especially the gorgonian corals with large population in the area, as well as the goals for the conservation of marine resources. She also sought clarification on the purpose of the monitoring programme on Chinese White Dolphins using acoustic survey.

11/23 Another member enquired if the AFCD would consider merging the two existing marine parks i.e. the Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park (SCLKCMP) and The Brothers Marine Park, with the proposed NLMP, for the convenience of management.

12/23 Ms. LI Wai-hung, Louise replied that the proposed NLMP would not have a core area where fishing activities were prohibited. The nearby SCLKCMP, with commercial fishing ban in place, would serve the function of core area in the northern Lantau waters. Moreover, high-speed vessels were rarely seen in the area because of the re-routing arrangement of the AAHK in recent years. She explained that the draft map of the proposed NLMP would be gazetted for public inspection after consultation with members. In future MPC meetings, members could discuss the management and monitoring plans of the proposed NLMP.

13/23 Mr. Peter LEE supplemented that the high-speed ferries travelling between the SkyPier and Zhuhai or Macau had been diverted from using the waters near the Three-runway System (3RS) project for several years. As for the gorgonian corals, the AAHK implemented transplantation of corals to a recipient site on North Lantau. Separately, gorgonian corals were also observed along a section of the eco-seawall on 3RS. Concerning the goals of the proposed NLMP, the AAHK followed the recommendation of the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE) and established SMART goals focusing on Chinese White Dolphins' use of the North Lantau waters. The SMART goals were presented to the ACE in 2020 with an aim to provide a framework for monitoring the effectiveness of the proposed NLMP following its designation. The monitoring programme would employ vessel line-transect survey, supplemented by underwater acoustic survey.

14/23 Ms. LI Wai-hung, Louise continued that a team of AFCD staff would be responsible for overseeing the management of the two existing marine parks and the proposed NLMP, in

order to achieve a synergy among the management of the three connected marine parks. In addition, enhancement measures on marine resources, such as fish fry restocking, would be implemented in the northern Lantau waters, with a view to providing enriched habitats for nurturing different marine life, which would eventually provide more food for dolphins.

15/23 A member asked about the use of high-speed vessels in the proposed NLMP and nearby waters. He enquired if the MPC would look into the subject again.

16/23 Dr. YIP Yin, Jackie answered that the 10 knots vessel speed restriction would apply to all vessels using the proposed NLMP, and it was not expected that there would be many high-speed vessels using this area. After seeking members' views, the draft map of the proposed NLMP would be published in the Gazette. The management measures and other follow-up matters regarding the proposed NLMP could be discussed in the future MPC meetings.

17/23 A member enquired if SMART goals focusing on corals would be established.

18/23 Mr. Peter LEE responded that the SMART goals monitoring framework focusing on Chinese White Dolphins was agreed by the ACE. Due to limited data about the abundance of the gorgonian corals before the 3RS, it was difficult to establish SMART goals on corals similar to those for Chinese White Dolphins.

(Mr. YU Hon-kwan, Randy, MH, JP left the meeting at 3:55 p.m.)

19/23 A member enquired if the boundary delineation of the proposed NLMP would limit the future expansion of the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA).

20/23 A member enquired whether there would be any difference in management measures between the two existing marine parks and the proposed NLMP.

21/23 A member enquired whether the AAHK could collaborate with the AFCD to patrol the area, and to adopt technology in the enforcement against illegal fishing in the marine parks. He also asked if the variety of species of fish fry and shrimp fry for the fish restocking pilot

scheme could be increased under the fisheries resource enhancement plan for the proposed NLMP.

22/23 A member enquired if the monitoring technology against illegal fishing, piloting in the South Lantau Marine Park (SLMP), could be utilised for recreational dolphin watching to minimise the need for boating in the proposed NLMP.

23/23 Dr. YIP Yin, Jackie answered that the overall management measures of the two existing marine parks and the proposed NLMP would be consistent, yet specific measures, such as core area, would be implemented in particular marine parks. She also acknowledged the fisheries sector's concern about sea enforcement and fisheries enhancement measures. The management plan of the proposed NLMP, which covered the said matters, would be discussed in detail in the future MPC meetings. The AFCD would also continue to maintain dialogue with the fisheries sector in these respects. As regards the use of technologies to facilitate efficient management and monitoring in marine parks, a system similar to that in the SLMP would be installed in the proposed NLMP as well.

24/23 Ms. LI Wai-hung, Louise supplemented that the release of fish fry would adopt a scientific approach to promote biodiversity and enhance fisheries resources. The AFCD would maintain continuous communication with the fisheries sector to collect their views.

25/23 Mr. Peter LEE replied that the boundary delineation of the proposed NLMP had taken into consideration the operations of the HKIA, with 50-meter offsets from neighboring seawalls and breakwaters. Regarding the release of fish fry, the AAHK conducted the first phase of pilot scheme of fish fry release in 2019 in the western waters of the Airport. The second phase of the pilot scheme would be conducted later this year. The AAHK would also consider releasing shrimp fry to see the effect.

26/23 A member enquired how the effectiveness of the ecological enhancement measures arising from the 3RS project would be made known to the public.

27/23 The Chairman enquired about the AFCD's collaboration work with Mainland China on the conservation of Chinese White Dolphins. He also asked if the AFCD would set up a visitor centre for the marine parks in the western waters for education and promotion purposes.

28/23 Dr. YIP Yin, Jackie answered that the proposed NLMP and the Guangdong Pearl River Estuary Chinese White Dolphin National Nature Reserve would be interconnected, for better protection of the important habitat of Chinese White Dolphins. The AFCD had collaborated with the Guangdong counterpart in exchanging information on the stranding of cetaceans, and would continue to enhance the collaboration for the further conservation of Chinese White Dolphins. While the marine parks in the western waters were relatively remote and inaccessible by public transport, the AFCD was discussing with the AAHK on the feasibility of setting up appropriate visitor facilities at more accessible locations, for conducting educational and promotional activities on marine conservation.

29/23 Mr. Peter LEE supplemented that the AAHK maintained communication with various stakeholders via liaison groups, through which updates on ecological enhancement measures were shared. In addition, AAHK had provided make regular reports and updates in the ACE.

30/23 The Chairman summarised that members supported the gazettal of the draft map of the proposed NLMP for public inspection. He asked the AFCD to brief members about the ecological monitoring programme and effectiveness evaluation measures in future MPC meetings.

IV. Summary Report of Country Parks Committee (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/2/2023)

31/23 Professor HE Shenjing, Chairperson of the Country Parks Committee (CPC), briefed members on Working Paper WP/CMPB/2/2023, which provided a summary of the issues discussed at the CPC meeting held on 18 November 2022.

32/23 A member stressed the importance of adequate compensation for the loss in plantation due to the expansion of the Lion Rock Tunnel.

V. Summary Report of Marine Parks Committee (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/3/2023)

33/23 Professor Qiu Jian-wen, Chairperson of the Marine Parks Committee (MPC), briefed members on Working Paper WP/CMPB/3/2023, which provided a summary of the issues discussed at the MPC meeting held on 9 December 2022. Members noted the report.

**VI. Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report
(Working Paper: WP/CMPB/4/2023)**

34/23 Dr. YIP Yin, Jackie reported on the Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report from 1 October to 31 December 2022 (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/4/2022). She remarked that the barbecue sites and campsites in country parks had reopened from November 2022. After the relaxation of social distancing measures, education and volunteer activities, as well as guided tours had also resumed gradually. She highlighted that the “Take Your Litter Home” and “Clean Country Parks, You Have a Share” Photo Exhibitions received over 24 000 participants during the reporting period. The messages of the exhibitions could reach families and members of the public who were occasional visitors to country parks. As for the Hong Kong Hiking Challenge, over 12 000 participants had registered for the event and more than 1 100 of them had completed all the checkpoints by the end of December 2022. Due to the overwhelming response, the event was extended for one month. Concerning marine parks and marine reserve, the guided tours, education and volunteer activities, as well as visitor centre services had also resumed gradually.

(Mr. CHEUNG Siu-keung, MH left the meeting at this juncture.)

35/23 The Chairman remarked that the Cape D’Aguilar Marine Reserve (CDMR) and the area nearby were popular among visitors but lacked public toilet facilities. He asked if the AFCD would have any plan to provide the public toilet facilities there.

36/23 Dr. YIP Yin, Jackie replied that CDMR and the area nearby had recorded fewer visitors when compared with the same period in 2021. It revealed that following the subsiding of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a decline in popularity of Cape D’Aguilar. She explained that CDMR, with a sea area of 20 hectares, was set up for the purpose of conservation of marine resources, scientific studies and education. In order to protect the important organisms and their habitats, visit by the public to the CDMR for recreational purposes was not encouraged. Considering that CDMR should not be promoted as a tourist spot, no public toilet facilities would be provided. The AFCD would continue organising marine conservation-related education and public awareness programmes for the marine reserve.

37/23 The Chairman concurred that the marine reserve should not be promoted as a tourist spot. Nevertheless, still a lot of visitors were attracted to the area nearby the CDMR, for it being easily accessible by public transport and suitable for less experienced hikers. He asked the AFCD to consider striking the balance between the need of providing basic public toilet facilities and fulfilling its objective in marine conservation.

38/23 A member pointed out that Kai Kung Leng had severe soil erosion and was heavily damaged by motorbikes. He asked about the AFCD's management measures for restoration of the damaged trails.

39/23 Dr. YIP Yin, Jackie remarked that management measures of Kai Kung Leng were introduced to members in the Country Parks Committee meeting in October 2021. The AFCD had subtly waymarked a hiking route by erecting directional posts in Kai Kung Leng. For the degraded slopes with sparse vegetation and eroded gullies, the AFCD had arranged different rehabilitation measures to control the soil erosion. On 24 January 2023, a hill fire spanning over 16 hours broke out on the southern slope of Kai Kung Leng, affecting 200 hectare of shrubland and grassland inside the country parks. The fire was put out with the collaborative effort of the AFCD's fire crews, Fire Services Department (FSD) and Government Flying Service (GFS). The AFCD would re-plant seedlings to restore the lost vegetation, and would establish firebreaks at suitable locations of the country park with a view to preventing hill fires.

40/23 Ms. NGAR Yuen-ngor supplemented that Kai Kung Leng was not recommended for hikers of general ability. With due considerations of various factors, the existing path was not set as a formal hiking trail. As a rehabilitation measure to restore the gullies formed on the slopes, the AFCD had been filling up some of the eroded gullies with natural rocks and packed them in hemp bags to reduce the soil erosion. She said that the method had been found effective in other erosion control sites, but the restoration process would take time.

41/23 The Chairman said that Kai Kung Leng was part of the Northern Metropolis. Under the Northern Metropolis Development Strategy, there might be a surge in population in the area in the coming decade. He asked the Environment and Ecology Bureau and the AFCD to review and implement proactive conservation policy, and to maintain suitable country park facilities for the residents.

42/23 A member expected that Kai Kung Leng would receive more visitors in the coming years. For the safety of hikers, he said that the AFCD might consider providing a proper hiking trail in the area, as well as adding barriers at the entrance to prevent mountain bikes from using the trail.

43/23 A member enquired about the cause of the hill fire on 24 January 2023.

(Professor QIU Jian-wen left the meeting at this juncture.)

44/23 Dr. YIP Yin, Jackie answered that the hill fire was first reported at 7 p.m. After investigation, it was difficult to conclude a cause for the hill fire. It could have been caused by improper use of fire by hikers. The prevailing strong winds had also caused the hill fire to spread extensively. She said the AFCD would continue to collaborate with the FSD on the prevention of hill fire. Regarding the provision of a proper hiking trail in Kai Kung Leng, the AFCD would carefully study the feasibility of this suggestion.

VII. Any Other Business

45/23 There was no any other business to discuss.

VIII. Date of Next Meeting

46/23 The Chairman informed members that the Secretary would call for a special meeting regarding the hearing of objections to the draft map of the proposed Robin's Nest Country Park. The next regular CMPB meeting would be the last meeting of the current term and would be held on 29 June 2023 (Friday) at 2:30 p.m.

47/23 The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

– End –