

60/10 The minutes of the last meeting held on 14 January 2010 were confirmed with the following amendments:-

(a) Paragraph 7/10

The 1st sentence: To replace “pacific” with “Pacific”

The 2nd sentence: To replace “the” with “any”

(b) Paragraph 8/10

The 3rd sentence: To replace “some” with “all”

The 3rd sentence: To add ...of which “except the Toco Toucan,” were bred in captivity”, mainly” in the Philippines ...

(c) Paragraph 9/10

The 2nd sentence: To delete “from Russia”

The 3rd sentence: To delete “temporarily”

(d) Paragraph 21/10

The 2nd sentence: To replace “Besides” with “In addition”

(e) Paragraph 26/10

The 1st sentence: To replace “to two weeks” with “month”

II. Matters Arising from the Last Meeting

(b) Education and Publicity Work in 2010 (Para. 47/10 to 51/10)

61/10 The Chairman invited Ms. Karrie WU to report education and publicity work in 2010 before agenda item II(a). The Ocean Park’s representatives would then update members on Giant Pandas in Ocean Park and Animal Acquisitions Plan of Ocean Park consecutively.

62/10 Ms. Karrie WU remarked that the Department made continuous efforts to educate traders, the general public and students on the need to regulate trade in endangered species and publicize the existing legal control. She briefed members of major activities, including broadcasting video of the licensing requirements under Cap 586 on buses, MTR trains and MTR stations in March 2010, distribution of leaflets on endangered species protection in the centres of NGOs including WWF-Hong Kong, Friends of the Earth and Green Power, and organization of The Endangered Species Protection Wallpaper Design Competition in March 2010.

63/10 Ms. WU reported that legislative amendments were being made to reflect changes adopted in the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP15), which was held in Qatar in March 2010. She briefed members on Department’s preparation work for the

CoP15 Meeting. These work included issuing more than 20,000 circular letters to inform traders and concerned parties about proposals to amend the listing of animals and plants under CITES Appendices; collecting views from trades involving ivory, fur, pet, jewelry, seafood, timber and cosmetics by letters; and conducting three consultation meetings with representatives from trades involving shark fin, ivory and Bluefin Tuna.

64/10 Ms. WU also reported that under the joint education and publicity programme between Guagndong and Hong Kong, a trader seminar on regulation of trade in endangered species between Hong Kong and Mainland China co-organized with CITES Guangzhou Office was held in Shenzhen in December 2009.

(a) An Update on Giant Pandas in Ocean Park (Para. 3/10 to 5/10)

65/10 The Chairman welcomed the Ocean Park's representatives, Ms. Suzanne M. GENDRON, Mr. Timothy NG and Mr. Grant ABEL.

66/10 Ms. Suzanne M. GENDRON updated members of the conditions of the Giant Pandas. The four Giant Pandas were doing well though An An and Jia Jia were receiving medication and supplement. Ms. GENDRON added that Jia Jia was at present the third oldest panda in captivity. Ocean Park would closely monitor the health conditions of all Giant Pandas.

67/10 Ms. GENDRON supplemented that Le Le had gained six kilograms since the last meeting and was the heaviest among the four Giant Pandas in Ocean Park. It was expected that Le Le would come to sexual maturity in six to twelve months.

68/10 On the conditions of the four Red Pandas, Ms. GENDRON advised that Tai Shan and Rou Rou, being one pair, and Cong Cong and Lizi, being another pair, had acclimatized well to the new living environment. The four Red Pandas were expected to become sexually mature towards the end of this year. She supplemented that similar to Giant Pandas, behaviour training was provided to Red Pandas to facilitate veterinary care.

69/10 Ms. GENDRON remarked that Ocean Park Conservation Foundation Hong Kong (OPCFHK) had supported 23 projects dedicated to the conservation of Giant Panda or Red Panda since 1999, including abundance and habitat monitoring, habitat restoration, sponsorship of equipment and infra-structure at nature reserves, as well as capacity building

and community education. In 2009/10, OPCFHK supported anti-poaching activities and habitat restoration in nature reserves for Giant Pandas, and monitoring of wild population of Red Pandas.

70/10 In response to a member's enquiry, Ms. GENDRON replied that the average life expectancy of a Giant Panda ranged from 27 to 30 years and the oldest age recorded was 37 years old. She supplemented that Jia Jia was about 32 years old.

71/10 A member enquired about preferable ways of handling the last journey of old-aged Giant Panda, for example Jia Jia. Ms. GENDRON responded that Jia Jia was enjoying quality life at Ocean Park and would be vulnerable to predation and disease infection if she were in the wild. She highlighted that Ocean Park would maintain the quality life of Jia Jia in her old age and work closely with the Wolong Authority in taking care of Giant Pandas.

72/10 The member further commented that it was important to manage the expectation of the public. Given that many students grew up with the memory of Jia Jia and An An, the member suggested that Ocean Park should plan for communication or education programs in relation to the life expectancy of Giant Pandas.

73/10 Ms. GENDRON concurred with the member's suggestion and remarked that Ocean Park was well aware of the need for communication to the public. Recognizing that the age of Jia Jia had exceeded the usual life expectancy of Giant Pandas, Ms. GENDRON advised that Ocean Park would convey to the public that Jia Jia was old but in stable conditions.

74/10 A member enquired about the authority to decide the fate of the body of Jia Jia after she passed away. Ms. GENDRON replied that the disposal of Jia Jia's dead body had been written in the Memorandum of Understanding between the State Forestry Administration of the Mainland China and Home Affairs Department. However, there could be discussion with Mainland Authority on whether the dead body would be returned to the Mainland China or retained in Hong Kong.

[Post-meeting note: On 1 November 2016, Ms GENDRON clarified through email that the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) mentioned in para. 74/10 was not signed between the State Forestry Administration of the Mainland China and Home Affairs Department. Instead,

there was a MoU between Ocean Park Hong Kong and the China Conservation and Research Centre for the Giant Panda in Wolong.]

75/10 In response to the further enquiry of the member, Ms. GENDRON responded that, by projection based on the ages of the oldest Giant Panda and human, Jia Jia was about 98 years old of a human being (37 years old panda would be equivalent to about 114 years old for a human).

76/10 In response to a member's enquiry on Ocean Park's practice to handle dead body of animals, Ms. GENDRON pointed out that Ocean Park did not intend to exhibit dead body of animals like those in museums. As usual practice, Ocean Park would conduct necropsy (autopsy) to find out the cause of death of the animals with a view to improving animal care in Ocean Park.

77/10 In reply to a member's enquiry, Ms. GENDRON replied that Ocean Park participated in a research project on panda genome.

78/10 Mr. Alan WONG, J.P. noted that there was great difference in the weights between two young Giant Panda at the same age. He enquired whether obesity would be a problem for Giant Pandas.

79/10 Ms. GENDRON advised that male Giant Pandas were usually heavier than females and the weight of Le Le was normal. She advised that Ocean Park had been carrying out regular body check on Giant Pandas to prevent obesity.

III **Updates on the Animal Acquisitions Plan of Ocean Park**

80/10 Ms. Suzanne GENDRON informed members that Ocean Park was dedicated to conservation education of the youth and the community. She remarked that the combination of intimately seeing live animals and education at the same place were effective in changing mind and behaviour of participants.

81/10 Ms. GENDRON briefed members on the principle of Animal Acquisitions Plan of Ocean Park. She emphasized that Ocean Park would source surplus animals from other zoological facilities and rescues first for its acquisition of new animals. She advised that

Ocean Park was a member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and World Association of Zoos and Aquariums. The Park's good connection with many zoos and aquariums could facilitate the exchange of animals.

82/10 Ms. GENDRON elaborated that before acquiring any animals from the wild, especially marine mammals, Ocean Park would assess whether the capture was sustainable and non-detrimental to the wild population on the basis of scientific studies. She supplemented that some studies on population abundance, genetic diversity and animal behaviour would take years to complete and Ocean Park would not import those animals before the required study was completed.

83/10 Ms. GENDRON informed members of the anticipated import of five Chinese Giant Salamanders in November 2010. The salamanders of captive bred origin were donated by National Aquatic Wildlife Conservation Association and would be displayed at "Amazing Asian Animals". She advised that Ocean Park had gathered experience in husbandry of the animal since the adoption of confiscated salamanders donated by AFCDC in 2003.

84/10 Ms. GENDRON mentioned that Chinese sturgeons had settled well in the renovated Chinese Sturgeon Aquarium since June 2010 and were well received by visitors.

85/10 Ms. GENDRON introduced the development plan of the new thematic exhibits "Grand Aquarium", "Rain Forest" and "Polar Adventure". Animal acquisitions associated with these exhibits included Red-handed Tamarin, Pygmy Marmoset, Emerald Tree Boa, Peru Caiman Lizard, parrots, seahorse and corals. She added that these animals were captive born in zoological facilities except that wild corals would be acquired from sustainable sources.

86/10 A member commented that the development plan was a landmark in terms of the variety and diversity of animals. In relation to the plan, she enquired about risk assessments on the animal acquisitions, especially those animals introduced from regions of different climate and weather conditions. She also enquired about Ocean Park's human resource and specialist support for the care of these animals and how Ocean Park scheduled the opening of these exhibits.

87/10 Ms. GENDRON replied that the schedule would be tie in with Ocean Park's business plan, its loan agreement with the Government and the schedule of construction. She

said that Ocean Park had expanded its staff establishment on animal care. Mr. Grant ABEL further explained that staff would be sent to zoos and facilities in advance to work with the experts of the animal species to be acquired. Ocean Park also engaged overseas experts to accompany the animals to help them settle in the new living environment and to provide training to the Park's staff on the animals' husbandry.

88/10 In response to the enquiry about risk assessment, Ms. GENDRON elaborated that Ocean Park had employed consultants for assessing corporate risk, business risk and custody risk three-to-four years ago and developed its risk registry. Taking into consideration every possible scenario, Ocean Park identified risks in different aspects and had taken mitigation measures to minimize negative effects of these risks.

89/10 A member commented that Ocean Park had done a very good job on the importation of endangered species for conservation education. He viewed that Ocean Park would help achieve the objectives of endangered species protection.

90/10 A member enquired about whether the capture and import of wild animals, in particular marine animals, would affect their wild populations.

91/10 Ms. GENDRON replied that, before acquisition of animals from the wild, Ocean Park would follow IUCN guidelines to assess whether a live take would be detrimental to the wild population. Ocean Park was committed in assuring that the acquisition would not harm the wild population.

92/10 In response to a member's enquiry, Ms. GENDRON advised that most of the species to be imported were acquired from or exchanged with other zoos and facilities.

93/10 In response to the Chairman's enquiry about inclusion of local species in Ocean Park's acquisition plan, Ms. GENDRON said that local invertebrates and fish would be displayed at a tide pool with underwater camera in Grand Aquarium. She added that Ocean Park would take opportunity to introduce local species in other exhibits after rebuilding.

(Ms. Suzanne M. GENDRON, Mr. Timothy NG, Mr. Grant ABEL and Mrs. Justina LEUNG left the meeting at this juncture.)

**IV. Report on the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES
(Committee Paper: CP/ESAC/5/2010)**

94/10 Mr. Alfred WONG presented Committee Paper CP/ESAC/5/2010, informing members of the proposals to amend CITES Appendices I and II and Resolutions adopted at the CoP15 and follow-up actions to be taken by the Administration. He briefed members on newly listed endangered species that may have impacts on Hong Kong. Members noted the contents of the paper.

**V Summary Progress Report of CITES Work
(Committee Paper: CP/ESAC/6/2010)**

95/10 Mr. LAM Fung-ngai presented Committee Paper CP/ESAC/6/2010 on AFCD's work in relation to CITES implementation in Hong Kong from 1 December 2009 to 31 May 2010. He highlighted the significant cases involving import, possession and re-export of endangered species without licences.

96/10 A member appreciated the Department's effort to liaise with NGOs to help distribute leaflets on endangered species protection to the public and organize the Endangered Species Protection Wallpaper Design Competition. He enquired about whether the Department would liaise with traders to help distribute the leaflets to the public. He also proposed the Department to make use of resources of traders in promoting endangered species protection in future.

97/10 Mr. CHAN Yiu-keung replied that the Department had been liaising with traders to help distribute leaflets in trade exhibitions and would consider appropriate means to promote education/publicity programme of the Department.

VI. Serving the Community – Service Standards Committee 30th Monitoring Report (Committee Paper: CP/ESAC/7/2010)

98/10 Ms. Karrie WU reported that for the quarter ended December 2009 and quarter ended March 2010, all items had met the target. She supplemented that no complaints had been received during the report periods and the overall service standard was satisfactory. Members had no comment on the Paper.

VII. Any Other Business

(a) Visit to The Ocean Park

99/10 The Chairman informed members that as agreed in the meeting on 14 January 2010, the Ocean Park arranged a visit for the Committee to inspect the Chinese sturgeons on 15 June 2010. The Chairman and three members attended the visit. They appreciated the design of the renovated Aquarium and were satisfied with the conditions of the Chinese sturgeons in the Aquarium.

(b) A letter of 14 May 2010 from Hon. CHEUNG Man-kwong

100/10 The Chairman informed members that Hon. CHEUNG had written to him to request the Committee to enhance the level of women participation to at least 30%.

101/10 Miss Vivien LI supplemented that Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) had given a consolidated reply on behalf of the Administration to Hon. CHEUNG on 3 June 2010 as he had also written to the Chairmen of other advisory and statutory bodies (ASBs), and that appointments to ASBs was a matter taken care of by the Administration. In the letter, HAB replied that the recommendation for increase in the level of women participation from 20% to 30% in ASBs was made after consulting the Women's Commission in early 2010. Noting as a matter of fact that the level of men participation might be higher in particular industries, HAB remarked that the recommendation was not compulsory, but bureaux and departments were encouraged to follow the recommended level set.

(c) Enquiry about using IT/Internet

102/10 A member enquired about using IT/Internet, such as Youtube, Facebook or iPhone Apps to promote endangered species protection to the youth.

103/10 Mr. CHAN Yiu-keung said that the objectives of the Department's publicity work were dissemination of relevant information about CITES and endangered species protection, promulgation of the legal control and requirements in local and international trade in endangered species, and raising public awareness of the importance of protecting endangered species.

104/10 Mr. CHAN supplemented that the Department had been well aware of the rapid development of IT and usage of Internet, as well as the extensive use of this channel by young

people to communicate and receive information. The Department was ready to employ, where appropriate, IT as a channel to publicize its work. He advised that the Department had been making use of department's homepage to disseminate the message of endangered species protection. Noting that the keeping of exotic and unusual pets has been gaining popularity among young people, the Department had posted notice together with hyperlink to the Department's homepage on pet trade forums and relevant websites to remind them of the licensing requirements and promote their awareness on endangered species protection.

105/10 Mr. CHAN viewed that personal contact with young people was still a very effective channel to convey the message of endangered species protection. He quoted the prize-presentation ceremony of the Endangered Species Protection Wallpaper Design Competition in the 1st half of 2010 as an example. He concluded that the Department would continue to keep watch for IT development and explore appropriate channels to facilitate its publicity and education work through the Internet, where necessary.

106/10 In response to a member's enquiry about the promotion of endangered species protection to visitors from Mainland China, Mr. CHAN Yiu-keung replied that the Department had displayed posters/banners and distributed leaflets of endangered species protection at border control points. He supplemented that travel agents had also been assisting the Department in disseminating the message.

107/10 A member suggested that apart from promulgation of law enforcement of endangered species protection in its publicity activities, the Department should also promote the spirit of law enforcement, namely nature conservation, in its publicity activities in layman terms.

108/10 Mr. Alan WONG, J.P. concurred with the member's view. He said that the Department would consider incorporating her suggestion in the Department's publicity and education activities in future.

(d) Confirmation of Draft Minutes by Circulation

109/10 After discussion, it was agreed that the draft minutes of the meetings in future would be confirmed by circulation.

VIII. Date of Next Meeting

110/10 The Chairman said that members would be informed of the date of next meeting in due course.

111/10 The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

- End -