

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD

Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report (1.9.2011 – 31.12.2011)

A. Country Parks & Special Areas

I. CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

	Progress	Anticipated Completion Date
(1) Provision of Sewage Treatment Facilities for Toilet in Chung Pui, Pat Sin Leng Country Park	Works completed on 9 December 2011.	-
(2) Sewage Storage Tank for Wan Tsai Campsite Toilet, Sai Kung West (Wan Tsai Extension) Country Park	Works commenced in September 2011.	March 2012.
(3) Improvement of trail from Pak Mong to Sheung Tung Au - Phase I	Works commenced in November 2011.	February 2012.

II. RECREATION FACILITIES AND SERVICES

(1) Management Services

Refuse collected (tonnes)

Year	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
2010	251	351	410	344	1,356
2011	322	382	428	435	1,567

Path maintained/upgraded	712	Km
No. of trees planted	1,600	No.
No. of trees produced in the nursery	1,600	No.
No. of trees tended	313,200	No.

(2) Provision of Facilities

Item	Total at 31.12.2011	Item	Total at 31.12.2011
Barbecue Site	180	Fitness Equipment	104
Picnic Site	168	Refreshment Kiosk	8
Camp Site	39	Flushing Toilet	47
Morning Walker Garden	25	No. of Portable Toilet	111
Information Board	348	Warden Post	16
Shelters	270	Visitor Centre/ Education Centre	8
Play Equipment	43		

(3) Fire Protection

The 2011-2012 fire season commenced on 10.9.2011:

Month	No. of fires inside or threatening country park		Area affected (Ha)		No. of trees affected	
		()		()		()
Sep., 11	3	(0)	8.20	(0)	0	(0)
Oct., 11	2	(3)	4.13	(4.50)	204	(0)
Nov., 11	0	(1)	0	(0.50)	0	(0)
Dec., 11	6	(10)	7.60	(555.20)	285	(16,010)
Total	11	(14)	19.93	(560.20)	489	(16,010)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

III. VISITOR STATISTICS

During the report period there was an overall increase of 3.42% of visitor number compared with the corresponding period of last year. The monthly breakdown is as below:

Year	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
2010	885,000	1,142,000	1,234,000	1,247,000	4,508,000
2011	916,000	1,144,000	1,249,000	1,353,000	4,662,000
% change	+3.50%	+0.18%	+1.22%	+8.50%	+3.42%

In 2011 the number of visitors to each country park is given below:

Visitor Data Jan - Dec 2011

Region	Country Parks/ Special Area*	No. of Visitors												Sub-total
		1/2011	2/2011	3/2011	4/2011	5/2011	6/2011	7/2011	8/2011	9/2011	10/2011	11/2011	12/2011	
Hong Kong	Aberdeen	102,400	92,600	98,200	101,200	77,900	70,300	67,900	65,700	61,100	66,300	67,700	63,800	935,100
	Tai Tam	65,900	51,300	60,100	63,200	59,200	52,700	40,600	53,700	49,500	59,500	99,800	77,400	732,900
	Lung Fu Shan	23,400	22,600	22,100	19,400	17,600	18,500	19,000	19,800	18,200	22,500	21,400	21,800	246,300
	Quarry Bay	52,600	39,600	60,400	64,500	63,200	58,800	64,500	63,200	61,600	72,300	69,800	66,000	736,500
	Pokfulam	19,000	18,200	19,000	18,000	17,200	16,000	17,500	16,800	14,100	18,300	17,700	18,600	210,400
Lantau	Sub-total	263,300	224,300	259,800	266,300	235,100	216,300	209,500	219,200	204,500	238,900	270,400	247,600	2,861,200
	Lantau (N&S)	148,600	200,900	151,200	198,500	154,300	105,300	254,200	214,100	144,500	176,500	171,400	215,200	2,134,700
West	Sub-total	148,600	200,900	151,200	198,500	154,300	105,300	254,200	214,100	144,500	176,500	171,400	215,200	2,134,700
	Tai Mo Shan	21,000	15,200	15,300	24,300	20,700	13,500	19,000	15,600	16,600	28,700	22,900	25,900	238,700
	Tai Lam	21,500	14,300	14,400	22,500	17,700	11,500	14,100	11,100	12,900	28,000	37,500	40,600	246,100
	Sub-total	42,500	29,500	29,700	46,800	38,400	25,000	33,100	26,700	29,500	56,700	60,400	66,500	484,800
North	Plover Cove	278,200	266,200	246,300	281,200	269,800	241,200	243,000	226,300	229,700	243,700	246,500	296,700	3,068,800
	Pat Sin Leng	34,200	32,100	33,100	38,300	33,400	27,200	27,000	26,800	27,100	31,100	33,200	36,700	380,200
	Tai Po Kau	5,800	5,100	3,800	7,400	5,500	5,100	5,500	5,400	6,500	7,700	6,600	9,900	74,300
	Lam Tsuen	400	300	800	500	500	300	300	300	200	200	300	500	4,600
Central	Sub-total	318,600	303,700	284,000	327,400	309,200	273,800	275,800	258,800	263,500	282,700	286,600	343,800	3,527,900
	Shing Mun	48,700	49,200	37,300	55,600	55,600	32,600	33,400	30,600	35,000	59,100	47,300	59,900	544,300
	Kam Shan	9,700	8,900	8,200	8,500	8,500	7,700	6,400	6,500	7,000	10,400	18,000	14,200	114,000
	Lion Rock	13,400	11,900	11,200	11,800	11,800	10,400	10,500	10,000	11,100	13,400	21,100	17,800	154,400
Sai Kung	Ma On Shan	48,200	43,600	41,600	43,300	41,800	38,100	41,900	42,600	39,400	42,300	49,900	49,000	521,700
	Sub-total	120,000	113,600	98,300	119,200	117,700	88,800	92,200	89,700	92,500	125,200	136,300	140,900	1,334,400
LNEC	Sai Kung (E&W)	167,700	177,500	183,400	208,300	200,600	153,500	149,000	146,500	120,400	181,400	205,700	237,500	2,131,500
	Sub-total	167,700	177,500	183,400	208,300	200,600	153,500	149,000	146,500	120,400	181,400	205,700	237,500	2,131,500
	Tsui Hang*	39,400	38,500	47,400	41,200	37,200	31,000	41,300	45,800	34,600	55,200	64,800	48,200	524,600
	Clear Water Bay	46,400	23,100	23,900	26,900	21,200	32,200	24,500	29,800	26,800	27,000	47,600	53,200	382,600
Total	Sub-total	85,800	61,600	71,500	68,100	58,400	63,200	65,800	75,600	61,400	82,200	112,400	101,400	907,200
		1,146,500	1,111,100	1,077,700	1,234,600	1,113,700	925,900	1,079,600	1,030,600	916,300	1,143,600	1,249,200	1,352,900	13,381,700

IV. LAW ENFORCEMENT

A total of 313 prosecution cases had been handled in connection with the Country Parks Ordinance, Forests and Countryside Ordinance and Wild Animals Protection Ordinance. The number of prosecutions is summarized below

Nature of offence	No. of cases *
Littering	2 [△] +94 [#]
Camping in non-designated site	10
Illegal entry of bicycle	131
Illegal entry of vehicle	56
Damaging and cutting plant	1
Illegal possession of fire-ballon (Hung Ming Lanterns)	3
Illegal use of fire	5
Illegal displaying banner	1
Illegal digging of soil	2
Illegal operating power driven model vehicle	3
Illegal feeding of monkey	3
Illegal holding fund-raising activities	1
Illegal business activity (filming)	1
Total	313

Remarks: *No. of cases denotes the number of persons being prosecuted during the reporting period. Total fines for the period is \$178,450, which also includes the fines partly collected from cases carried forward from previous reporting periods and partly from current period. There is no unsuccessful prosecution case in the reporting period.

Fixed Penalty Notice @\$1,500.

△ Summons.

V. ORGANIZED EVENTS

In the report period, 278 permits were given under Reg. 11 of the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulation to organized events (mainly sporting activities) in country parks.

Sep., 11	Oct., 11	Nov., 11	Dec.,11	Total
40	85	89	64	278

VI. CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT

A total of 54 development proposals were received. There was no objection to 27 of them, the other 26 were being processed and one was cancelled. Most of these were related to minor works concerning telephone service and slope works.

VII. EDUCATION/VISITOR SERVICES

(1) No. of Visits to Visitor Centres

A total of 198,607 persons visited the Country Park Visitor Centres at Sai Kung, Aberdeen, Shing Mun, Clear Water Bay, Tai Mo Shan and Plover Cove; 202,887 persons visited Lions Nature Education Centre and 18,952 persons visited Ngong Ping Nature Centre.

(2) Video Shows of Country Parks

A total of 9,646 video shows on country parks and nature conservation were given, reaching an audience of 37,495. Besides, the "Songs of Nature" were played at various Visitor Centres to promote the voted Best Scenic Sites of Hong Kong.

(3) Guided Tour

A total of 638 participants from 17 organizations joined the guided tour at Lions Nature Education Centre; 992 participants from 127 groups joined the guided walk at Ngong Ping Nature Centre.

(4) Fixed Point Guided Tour

From September to December 2011, a total of 52,874 participants from 2,535 organizations joined the Fixed Point Guided Tour at Lions Nature Education Centre; a total of 533 participants from 60 organizations joined Tung Ping Chau Fixed Point Guided Tour; a total of 380 participants from 38 organizations joined Tai Po Kau Forest Walks Fixed Point Guided Tour; and 82 participants from three organizations joined Aberdeen Tree Centre Fixed Point Guided Tour.

(5) Country Park Volunteer Scheme

The Country Park Volunteer Scheme has been commenced since March 2010. For the period from 1 September to 31 December 2011, a total of 167 volunteers completed the basic training. At present, there are 610 volunteers. After the volunteers completed the training, they will assist the organization of various nature conservation and education activities of the country parks. From 1 September to 31 December 2011, total number of volunteer served hours are 11,784 hours.

(6) “Nature in Touch” 2011 Country Parks Education Programme

The education programme has been commenced since October 2011. From October to December 2011, there were 31,730 people participated in the roving exhibition. A total of 127,242 people participated in “Nature in Touch” 2011 Country Parks Education Programme.

(7) Great Outdoors Hong Kong

A total of 1,623 people participated the department and Hong Kong Tourism Board organized "Great Outdoors Hong Kong!" hiking activities at Sai Kung High Island Reservoir East Dam on 13 November 2011 while a total of 1,192 people participated at Hong Kong Dragon's Back on 27 November 2011. Also, a total of 1,226 people participated at Shing Mun to Tai Po on 4 December 2011. A total of 4,355 people participated in “Great Outdoors Hong Kong!”.

(8) School Visit Programme

A school visit programme was launched from November to December 2011 to convey nature conservation message to students, a total of 4,243 students from 14 primary schools and 2,800 students from 32 kindergartens participated.

(9) Tree Walks Guided Tour

From October to December 2011, a total of 813 participants from about 85 organizations joined the Tree Walks Guided Tours at Quarry Bay Tree Walks, Ngong Ping Tree Walks and Tai Tong Tree Walks.

(10) “Nature Appreciation - Practice” Country Park Education Activities

From October to December 2011, a total of 6 “Nature Appreciation - Practice” activities were carried out. A total of 183 kindergarten and primary students joined the activities.

(11) School Guided Tour 2011

A total of 3,629 primary and secondary students from 223 groups participated in the Guided Tour to explore geological features, nature ecology and human activities in Sai Kung and Northeast New Territories Country Parks and Special Areas. There are six routes, including Double Haven in Plover Cove Country Park, Lai Chi Wo, Ma Shi Chau, Tolo Channel and High Island, Sharp Island and Jin Island in Sai Kung.

(12) Enquiries

Enquiries concerning Country Parks were received and handled. Details are listed below:

Nature	Sep., 11	Oct., 11	Nov., 11	Dec., 11	Total
Information on public transport	4,317	5,494	4,116	5,304	19,231
Information on hiking routes	3,155	4,302	3,908	5,332	16,697
Location of recreation facilities	1,811	2,181	3,001	3,150	10,143
Location of utility facilities	1,810	2,074	2,313	3,113	9,310
Location of scenic places and similar information	1,846	2,586	2,177	3,682	10,291
Organized activities	1,635	2,197	1,417	1,829	7,078
Others *	3,576	4,651	4,606	5,604	18,437
Total	18,150	23,485	21,538	28,014	91,187

* Mainly related to Pak Tam Chung barrier permit, coach permit, country parks publications, fishing licence, wild animals, marine parks, cycling permits, ordinances and regulations, dog vaccination.

(13) Advice

Advice was given to 191,009 visitors in the Country Parks as follows:

Nature	Sep., 11	Oct., 11	Nov., 11	Dec., 11	Total
Littering	40,511	56,498	47,674	46,171	190,854
Others	38	44	32	41	155
Total	40,549	56,542	47,706	46,212	191,009

(14) Assistance

Assistance was offered to the public on:

Nature	Sep., 11	Oct., 11	Nov., 11	Dec., 11	Total
First aid	4	6	7	10	27
Handicapped persons	680	360	310	240	1,590
Search and rescue	0	1	1	3	5
Return of lost properties	1	3	4	3	11
Total	685	370	322	256	1,633

(15) Free Distribution of Publicity Materials

Nature	Sep., 11	Oct., 11	Nov., 11	Dec., 11	Total
Pamphlets	9,779	9,890	13,907	11,919	45,495
Posters	131	141	132	134	538
Bookmarks	104	101	107	110	422
Transportation/Scenic Cards	32	48	51	58	189
Booklets	2,530	3,303	4,036	1,522	11,391
Others	63	85	77	70	295
Total	12,639	13,568	18,310	13,813	58,330

B. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve

1. FACILITIES

As at 31.12.2011, the following facilities had been installed in marine parks and marine reserve:

Facilities	Constructed/replaced between 1.9.2011 – 31.12.2011	Total nos. at 31.12.2011
Warning/information sign	10 (replaced)	128
Park sign	-	21
Interpretative sign	21 (replaced)	19
Boundary marker buoy	-	14
Boundary post	-	17
Marker buoy	7 (replaced)	38
Mooring buoy for divers	3 (replaced)	32
Sign post	-	21
Information board	-	6
Litter bin	1 (replaced)	21
Way mark	-	10
Buoy for Mechanized Vessel Restricted Zone	-	205
Banners	-	2
Buoy for Inboard Vessel Prohibited Zone	-	4

2. LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ADVICE

2.1 During the report period, a total of 651 advices, 135 verbal warnings and 3 warning letters were given to fishermen and visitors and 18 prosecutions were taken against offenders in marine parks and marine reserve.

2.2 A total of 6 prosecution cases charged under the Marine Parks Ordinance were heard in Magistracies and all defendants pleaded guilty. Among the six cases, three prosecutions for commercial fishing were committed by Mainland fishermen. According to Marine Police, the defendants were repatriated back to Mainland from land, and their operating vessel was detained for future delivery to the relevant Mainland enforcement agency. Though a relatively low fine was sentenced for each case, the defendants might be punished in accordance with other Mainland regulations.

Nature of offence	Nos. of cases	Fines (HK\$)
Collection of Marine Lives	3	3,500
Commercial Fishing	3	300
Total	6	3,800

2.3 A joint enforcement operation with Fisheries Enforcement Agency of Guangdong Province and Hong Kong Marine Police had been carried out on 16 November 2011 to combat illegal cross-boundary fishing activities at Mirs Bay. AFCD inspected and intercepted 7 mainland vessels involving 14 mainland fishermen during this operation. The vessels were found within Hong Kong waters and none was reported in the marine park areas. With the assistance of Hong Kong Marine Police, all the arrested fishermen and their fishing vessels were returned to Mainland counterparts. A debriefing meeting was held on 17 November 2011 at Shenzhen to share experience of the operation and discuss areas for further collaboration among the 3 parties to combat cross-boundary illegal fishing activities. The joint enforcement operation is considered successful.

3. LITTER COLLECTION

During the report period, the amount of litter collected in marine parks and marine reserve is as follows:

Marine Park / Marine Reserve	Nos. of tonnage (1.9.2011 – 31.12.2011)	
	Hoi Ha Wan	18
Yan Chau Tong	19	(19)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	25	(25)
Tung Ping Chau	48	(48)
Cape D'Aguilar	2	(4)
Total	112	(112)

() denotes figures of same period last year

4. FISHING PERMITS

Number of fishing permits renewed during the report period:

Marine Park	Nos. of renewal	Total nos. of valid permits (as at 31.12.2011)
Hoi Ha Wan (HHW)	1	9
Yan Chau Tong (YCT)	3	13
HHW & YCT	10	64
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	54	89
Tung Ping Chau (TPC)	5	46
TPC & HHW	1	5
TPC & YCT	2	4
TPC & HHW & YCT	48	174
Total	124	404

Starting from 1 May 2005, the validity period of renewed fishing permit is 2 years.

5. MONITORING

5.1 Water Quality Monitoring

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology was commissioned to carry out water quality monitoring in marine parks and marine reserve in 2011-12. The results are generally good and in compliance with the Water Quality Objectives. A summary result of water quality statistics of 2004 – September 2011 has been uploaded onto the AFCD's homepage (http://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/country/cou_vis/cou_vis_mar/cou_vis_mar_mon/cou_vis_mar_mon_wat.html).

5.2 Fishing Survey

5.2.1 Fishing survey at Cape D' Aguilar Marine Reserve continued. The objective is to investigate the long-term enhancement effect of the marine reserve on fisheries resources. The recent result showed that the Catch-per-unit-effort and the diversity of fish remain stable inside the marine reserve and is higher than surrounding waters.

5.2.2 Quarterly fishing surveys at Hoi Ha Wan, Yan Chau Tong and Tung Ping Chau Marine Parks have been carried out to monitor the fisheries stocks in the 3 marine parks. The Catch-per-unit-effort and the diversity of fish inside the marine park are general better than outside the marine parks area.

5.3 Dolphin Sightings

Off-effort dolphin sighting were conducted during the course of patrol of Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park. It was evident that Chinese White Dolphins utilize the marine parks and the waters around as usual.

6. EDUCATION AND VISITOR SERVICES

6.1 During the report period, there was a general decrease in visitor number in the three marine parks at the north-eastern waters when compared with the same period in the last year. The decrease may be attributed to the higher frequency of bad weather during the report period. The accumulated number of visitors in all marine parks showed an approximately 5% decrease when compared with last year. The number of visitors in marine parks during the report period and the 2011 accumulated are as follows:

Marine Park	Nos. of Visitors (1.9.2011 – 31.12.2011)		Accumulated Nos. of Visitors (1.1.2011 – 31.12.2011)	
		()		()
Hoi Ha Wan	27,400	(34,200)	90,800	(95,100)
Yan Chau Tong	7,400	(27,500)	45,800	(58,700)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	4,100	(3,400)	13,200	(9,300)
Tung Ping Chau	19,500	(25,400)	69,300	(69,500)
Total	58,400	(90,500)	219,100	(232,600)

() denotes figures of same period last year

6.2 During the period from 1.9.2011 - 31.12.2011, a total of 335 enquiries were received and answered. Details are listed below:

Nature	Nos.
Park facilities	68
Education activities	171
Renewal for fishing permit	92
Ordinance and Regulation	3
Others	1
Total	335

6.3 During the report period, a total of 5,208 educational and publicity materials were distributed to the public. Details are listed below:

Items	Nos.
Leaflets	2,860
Bookmarks	1,896
DVD	14
Field Guides	19
Others	419
Total	5,208

6.4 During the report period, a total of 149 educational activities involving 4,753 participants were organized. Details are listed below:

Items	Nos.	Nos. of participant
Marine Based Guided Tours – Exploration of fishermen culture and marine resources in Hong Kong	82	2,756
Marine Based Guided Tours – Exploration of fishermen culture and marine resources in Hong Kong – Teacher Workshop	1	23
Marine Based Guided Tours – Exploration of fishermen culture and marine resources in Hong Kong – Commercial Tours	15	462
Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park Ecotour	25	209
School Guided Tour	11	282
School Seminar	10	900
Field Studies	1	19
Coastal Cleanup	1	20
Dolphin-watching	1	61
Others	2	21
Total	149	4,753

6.5 During the report period, Marine Parks Ambassador Scheme (The Scheme) participated in the following volunteer services: Yan Chau Tong Marine Park Coastal Clean-up, “Nature In Touch” Kick-off Ceremony cum Funday, Hong Kong Reef Check 2011 Closing Ceremony, and preparation meeting for the Ocean Park Conservation Day. The Scheme also organized a Dolphin-watching activity at Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park. A total of 33 ambassadors joined the above activities.

6.6 The “Nature In Touch” Kick-off Ceremony cum Funday was held on 16 October 2011 at the Lions Nature Education Centre. The event marked the kickoff of the AFCD Country Parks Education Programme. To publicize Marine Parks and deliver the message of marine conservation, a game booth was set up by the Marine Parks Division, with assistance of 6 Marine Parks Ambassadors. Through the mini-game and souvenirs, the ambassadors passed the knowledge and message of marine conservation to the visitors.

6.7 Marine Parks Division has launched “Marine Based Guided Tours – Exploration of fishermen culture and marine resources in Hong Kong” for all secondary schools starting from October 2010. During the report period, 82 tours were held with 2,756 participants. Moreover, the division also hold a “Marine Based Guided Tours – Exploration of fishermen culture and marine resources in Hong Kong – Teacher Workshop”, with 23 teachers participated. To advance the sustainability of the Marine Based Guided Tours for long-term livelihood of the fishermen, the Division has coordinated the development of commercial tours for open public since October 2011. During the report period, 15 commercial tours were held with 462 participants.

6.8 Up to 31 December 2011, a total of 81 Marine Parks Ambassadors had completed 20 hours services; 31 Ambassadors had completed 40 hours services; 19 Ambassadors had completed 70 hours services; 12 Ambassadors had completed 100 hours services, 6 Ambassadors had completed 150 hours services and 1 Ambassador completed 200 hours service. They were awarded with the “Jellyfish Service Badge”, “Nautilus Service Badge”, “Fiddler Crab Service Badge”, “Starfish Service Badge”, “Humphead Wrasse Service Badge” and “Chinese White Dolphin Service Badge” respectively. Until the end of December 2011, the accumulated service hours of marine parks ambassadors are 5,610 hours.

C. Performance Pledges

I. Quarterly Performance Results ending September 2011

Item	Service/Application	Target turn around time	No. of Applications	No. of Applications Meeting Targets	% of Applications Meeting Targets
	<u>Conservation</u>				
1	Plant Collection Permit	3 working days	5	5	100%
2	Mai Po Marshes Entry Permit	3 working days	169	169	100%
		Sub-total	174	174	100%
	<u>Country and Marine Parks</u>				
3	Pak Tam Chung Barrier Permit	2 working days	287	287	100%
4	Location Filming Permit	3 working days	59	59	100%
5	Organized Event Permit in Country Parks	3 working days	95	95	100%
6	Permit to hold Sports Competition in Marine Parks	4 working days	0	0	N/A
7	Permit to hold Public Event in Marine Parks	4 working days	0	0	N/A
		Sub-total	441	441	100%
		Total	615	615	100%

II. Quarterly Performance Results ending December 2011

Item	Service/Application	Target turn around time	No. of Applications	No. of Applications Meeting Targets	% of Applications Meeting Targets
	<u>Conservation</u>				
1	Plant Collection Permit	3 working days	2	2	100%
2	Mai Po Marshes Entry Permit	3 working days	296	296	100%
		Sub-total	298	298	100%
	<u>Country and Marine Parks</u>				
3	Pak Tam Chung Barrier Permit	2 working days	327	327	100%
4	Location Filming Permit	3 working days	81	81	100%
5	Organized Event Permit in Country Parks	3 working days	72	72	100%
6	Permit to hold Sports Competition in Marine Parks	4 working days	0	0	N/A
7	Permit to hold Public Event in Marine Parks	4 working days	0	0	N/A
		Sub-total	480	480	100%
		Total	778	778	100%

Country and Marine Parks Authority
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
February 2012