

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD

Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report (1.1.2015 – 30.4.2015)

Purpose

This paper aims to provide Members a general overview on management and protection work conducted by the Country and Marine Parks Authority during the period between 1.1.2015 – 30.4.2015. It provides various figures and information for facilitating Members to discuss and offer advice to the Authority regarding the management of country and marine parks.

A. Country Parks & Special Areas

1. Country Parks Management

1.1 Management Services

Routine maintenance of all recreational facilities within county parks and special areas was carried out regularly for public enjoyment. Major country parks facilities provided and amount of refuse collected are shown below for reference.

Major facilities provided for public enjoyment

Item	Total at 30.4.2015	Item	Total at 30.4.2015
Barbecue Site	179	Shelters	293
Picnic Site	165	Refreshment Kiosk	8
Camp Site	41	Flushing Toilet	49
Morning Walker Garden	22	No. of Portable Toilet	118

Amount of refuse collected (tonnes)

Jan., 15	Feb., 15	Mar., 15	Apr., 15	Total
360	312	296	306	1,274

1.2 Fire Protection

The 2014-2015 fire season completed on 1.5.2015. Detailed figures are summarized below:-

Month	No. of fires inside or threatening country park		Area affected (Ha)		No. of trees affected	
Jan., 15	4	(9)	18	(6.63)	1,225	(0)
Feb., 15	0	(3)	0	(146.06)	0	(0)
Mar., 15	0	(4)	0	(38)	0	(24,200)
Apr., 15	4	(2)	62.5	(1.52)	20	(25)
Total	8	(18)	80.5	(192.21)	1,245	(24,225)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

1.3 Organized Event

In the report period, 241 permits were given under Reg. 11 of the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulation to organized events in country parks. Most of these events were related to sport competition, location filming and raising funds for charity.

1.4 Control of Development

A total of 30 development proposals were received. There was no objection to 10 of them, the other 20 were being processed. Most of these were related to minor works concerning electricity supply and slope works.

2. **Visitor Services/Education**

2.1 Visitor Statistics

In the reporting period, a total of 4,530,000 persons visited the country parks and special areas. The monthly breakdown is as below for reference.

Month	Jan., 15	Feb., 15	Mar., 15	Apr., 15
No. of Visitors	1,159,000	1,073,000	1,085,000	1,213,000

2.2 Visitor Centres

In the reporting period, a total of 8,743 persons joined the guided tours organized by the Country Park Visitor Centres and Education Centres. The monthly visitor statistics of the Country Park Visitor Centres and Education Centres are summarized below:-

Country Park Visitor Centre/ Education Centre	No. of Visitors			
	Jan., 15	Feb., 15	Mar., 15	Apr., 15
Lions Nature Education Centre	25,768	24,512	30,312	40,608
Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre	6,594	4,711	4,899	6,511
Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre	2,729	2,228	2,902	3,212
Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre	2,081	2,390	3,030	2,417
Ngong Ping Nature Centre	3,050	4,319	2,911	5,936
Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre	6,106	4,506	4,177	5,675
Aberdeen Tree Centre	730	505	568	1,308
Volcano Discovery Centre	7,123	9,169	9,841	13,886

2.3 Country Park Volunteer Scheme

The Country Park Volunteer Scheme has been commenced since March 2010. Detailed figures of the Country Park Volunteer Scheme in the reporting period are summarized below:-

Country Park Volunteer Scheme	Jan., 15	Feb., 15	Mar., 15	Apr., 15
No. of volunteers/ trainees	559	415	834	473
Total volunteer service hours	3,368.5	2,380	4,251	2,913

2.4 School Visit Programme

School visit programme was launched again in 2014-15 school year to convey nature conservation message to students. Detailed figures of the programme in the reporting period are summarized below:-

School Visit Programme	No. of Participants
Kindergartens	5,987
Primary Schools	4,689
Secondary Schools	816

2.5 Other Education Activities

Details of the education activities organized in the reporting period are summarized below:-

Name of the Activity	Date	No. of Participants	Remarks
“Country Parks Education Programmes” Roving Exhibitions	15-18 January 2015 5-8 March 2015 12-15 March 2015	16,850	–
“My Country Parks Waste Reduction Plan” Role Play Competition for Kindergartens	24 January 2015	230	–
“Seasons • Excursions” Country Parks Photography Competition and Public Voting (Winter)	1-30 January 2015	59 Participants 277 Entries 1,964 Votes	–
Country Park Visitor Centre Family Day	4-7 April 2015 11-12 April 2015 18-19 April 2015 25-26 April 2015	1,841	–
Hiking and Planting Day 2015	8 March 2015 22 March 2015 12 April 2015	3,485	–
Hong Kong Tree Planting Day 2015	28 March 2015	1,530	–

2.6 Assistance

Assistance was offered to the public on:-

Nature	Jan., 15	Feb., 15	Mar., 15	Apr., 15
First aid	10	6	21	20
Handicapped persons	18	15	6	3
Search and rescue	0	0	0	2
Return of lost properties	3	2	2	1

2.7 Free Distribution of Publicity Materials

Nature	Jan., 15	Feb., 15	Mar., 15	Apr., 15
Pamphlets	4,727	3,368	3,691	5,616
Posters	67	83	92	127
Booklets	1,173	1,127	1,251	1,675

3. **Law Enforcement**

A total of 332 enforcement actions were taken in connection with the Country Parks Ordinance, Forests and Countryside Ordinance and Wild Animals Protection Ordinance. A breakdown of offences is summarized below:

Nature of offence	No. of cases *
Illegal entry of bicycle	130
Illegal entry of vehicle	60
Illegal use of fire	5
Damaging and cutting of plant	2
Illegal digging of soil	2
Illegal constructing/erecting of building/hut/shelter	1
Illegal operation of power driven model vehicle/aeroplane	5
Camping outside designated camping site	26
Littering	71 [#]
Illegal possession of protected plant	1
Illegal feeding of monkey	29
Total	332

Remarks: * No. of cases denotes the number of persons intercepted for an offence during the reporting period.

[#] Fixed Penalty Notice @\$1,500.

B. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve

1. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve Management

1.1 Facilities

As at 30.4.2015, the following facilities had been installed in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve:

Facilities	Total nos. at 30.4.2015	Facilities	Total nos. at 30.4.2015
Sign (various warnings)	132	Mooring buoy for divers	22
Park sign	20	Boundary post	17
Sign (various purposes)	36	Sign post	10
Boundary marker buoy	6	Information board	6
Marker buoy	173	Litter bin	16
Buoy for Mechanized Vessel Restricted Zone	10	Banner	-
Buoy for Inboard Vessel Prohibited Zone	4	Way mark	20

1.2 Litter

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				
	Jan., 15	Feb., 15	Mar., 15	Apr., 15	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	6.24	5.34	6.14	5.80	23.52
Yan Chau Tong	4.80	3.68	3.78	4.54	16.80
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	6.81	7.27	6.99	10.30	31.37
Tung Ping Chau	3.95	3.70	6.8	9.70	24.15
Cape D'Aguilar	1.00	0.81	0.68	1.50	3.99
Total	22.80	20.80	24.39	31.84	99.83

2. Visitor Services / Education

2.1 Visitor Statistics

During the report period, the number of visitors is as follows:

Marine Park	Nos. of Visitors				
	Jan., 15	Feb., 15	Mar., 15	Apr., 15	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	2,591	1,853	2,929	4,035	11,408
Yan Chau Tong	1,058	713	2,013	1,581	5,365
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	584	168	280	326	1,358
Tung Ping Chau	2,867	1,208	2,426	4,117	10,618
Total	7,100	3,942	7,648	10,059	28,749

2.2 Enquiries

During the report period, a total of 112 enquiries was received and answered. Details are listed below:

Nature	Nos.				
	Jan., 15	Feb., 15	Mar., 15	Apr., 15	Total
Park facilities	10	10	5	6	31
Education activities	9	20	14	14	57
Renewal for fishing permit	5	5	5	9	24
Total	24	35	24	29	112

All enquiries have been resolved.

2.3 Distribution of Educational and Publicity Materials

During the report period, a total of 1,705 educational and publicity materials were distributed to the public. Details are listed below:

Items	Nos.				
	Jan., 15	Feb., 15	Mar., 15	Apr., 15	Total
Leaflets	180	5	50	100	335
Bookmarks	25	30	118	98	271
Others	148	151	100	700	1,099
Total	353	186	268	898	1,705

2.4 Educational and Publicity Activities

During the report period, a total of 26 educational/publicity activities involving 608 participants were organized. Details are listed below:

Items	Nos.	Nos. servicing Ambassador	Total nos. of participant
Education Activities			
Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park Ecotour	9	-	76
School Guided Tour	11	-	295
School Field Study	1	-	28
School Seminar	3	-	152
Marine Parks Ambassador Scheme			
Coastal Cleaning	1	18	18
Mai Po Nature Reserve Visit	1	39	39
Total	26	57	608

2.5 During the report period, Marine Parks Ambassador participated in the following volunteer services: Tung Ping Chau coastal cleaning and Ming Po nature reserve visit. A total of 57 ambassadors joined the above activities.

2.6 Up to 30 April 2015, a total of 110 Marine Parks Ambassadors have completed 20 hours services; 44 Ambassador have completed 40 hours services; 22 Ambassadors have completed 70 hours services; 15 Ambassadors have completed 100 hours services, 10 Ambassadors have completed 150 hours services and four Ambassadors 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 April 2015, the accumulated service hours of marine parks ambassadors are 8,093.5 hours.

3. Law Enforcement and Advice

During the report period, a total of 8,208 advices and 139 verbal warnings were given to fishermen and visitors and 5 prosecutions were taken against offenders in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve.

Nature of offence	Nos. of prosecution	Nos. completed hearing	Fines (HK\$)
Pleasure fishing	4	9	7,000
Other	1	2	5,000
Total	5	11	12,000

C. Advice Sought

Members are invited to comment on the management and protection work conducted by the Country and Marine Parks Authority in country and marine parks.

Country and Marine Parks Authority
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
May 2015