

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD

**Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report
(1.1.2022 – 30.4.2022)**

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 1.1.2022 and 30.4.2022. It provides various figures and information for facilitating members to understand 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 no. as at 30.4.2022	Item	Total no. as at 30.4.2022
Barbecue Site	157	Shelter	289
Picnic Site	154	Refreshment Kiosk	9
Camp Site	41	Public Toilet	90
Morning Walker Garden	19	Portable Toilet	121

Amount of refuse collected (metric tonnes)

Jan., 2022	Feb., 2022	Mar., 2022	Apr., 2022	Total
185 (172)	143 (190)	126 (166)	158 (174)	612 (702)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

1.2 Fire Protection

The 2021-2022 fire season commenced on 18.9.2021, and ended on 30.4.2022. Detailed figures during the reporting period are summarized below:

Month	No. of fires inside or threatening country park		Area affected (Ha)		No. of trees affected	
		()		()		()
Jan., 2022	4	(6)	1.7	(54.4)	60	(1040)
Feb., 2022	2	(3)	12.2	(0.4)	6	(45)
Mar., 2022	1	(4)	3.3	(1.2)	50	(5)
Apr., 2022	4	(2)	84.6	(0.2)	2425	(0)
Total	11	(15)	101.8	(56.2)	2541	(1090)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

1.3 Permitted Events

During the reporting period, 92 permits were given under Reg. 11 of the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations to hold events in country parks. In light of the situation of the COVID-19 in Hong Kong, some of the permitted events were cancelled/postponed. The monthly breakdown of permitted events during the reporting period is provided below:

Month	Sporting competition	Location filming	Other events
Jan., 2022	4 (10)	35 (0)	0 (3)
Feb., 2022	0 (4)	17 (12)	0 (2)
Mar., 2022	0 (6)	12 (6)	0 (7)
Apr., 2022	0 (7)	24 (0)	0 (8)
Total	4 (27)	88 (18)	0 (20)

() denotes figures of events cancelled/postponed during the reporting period.

1.4 Control of Development

A total of 139 development proposals were handled during the reporting period. This includes 15 new proposals and 124 proposals carried forward from the last reporting period. Most of the proposals were related to minor works concerning slope works and electricity supply. The breakdown of all proposals is provided below:

District	No. of Case	Electric Supply	Telephone Supply	Water Supply	Road/Path Improvement	Slope Works	Others*	No Objection	Being Processed	Withdrawn / Cancelled
Central	39	9	4	2	0	24	0	5	34	0
Hong Kong	16	1	0	0	0	15	0	1	14	1
Lantau	21	1	4	2	1	13	0	4	15	2
North	7	0	1	0	0	3	3	1	6	0
Sai Kung	41	7	6	3	8	7	10	6	35	0
West	15	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	15	0
Total	139	18	15	7	9	77	13	17	119	3

Remarks: * Other proposals mainly include installation of mobile radio station/solar system, small house development, erection of agricultural structures and provision/improvement of public utilities and facilities.

2. Visitor Services / Education

2.1 Visitor Statistics

In the reporting period, a total of 4,491,000 persons visited the country parks and special areas. The monthly breakdown is provided below:

Jan., 2022	Feb., 2022	Mar., 2022	Apr., 2022	Total
1,326,000 (1,150,000)	1,049,000 (1,008,000)	1,002,000 (967,000)	1,114,000 (1,022,000)	4,491,000 (4,147,000)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

2.2 Visitor Centres

In light of the situation of the COVID-19 in Hong Kong, Country Park Visitor / Education Centres, except the outdoor exhibition area of Lions Nature Education Centre and permit counter of Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre, were temporarily closed from 7 January to 20 April 2022. The country park school and public education programmes at visitor / education centres remain suspended. The monthly visitor statistics of the Country Park Visitor / Education Centres are summarised below:

Country Park Visitor Centre / Education Centre	No. of Visitors			
	Jan., 2022	Feb., 2022	Mar.,2022	Apr., 2022
Lions Nature Education Centre (incl. outdoor exhibition area)	17,744	12,264	18,352	26,072
Clear Water Bay Country Park Visitor Centre	62	0	0	87
Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre (incl. permit counter)	3,514	2,383	1,043	874
Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre	155	0	0	42
Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre	1,259	0	0	201
Ngong Ping Nature Centre	202	0	0	294
Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre	1,466	0	0	1,224
Aberdeen Tree Centre	131	0	0	105
Volcano Discovery Centre	1,335	0	0	1,813
Total	25,868	14,647	19,395	30,712

2.3 Country Park Volunteer Scheme

The Country Park Volunteer Scheme commenced in March 2010. In light of the situation of the COVID-19, volunteer services were suspended during the reporting period. The number of volunteers and trainees was maintained at 759 persons.

2.4 School Visit Programme

School visit programme was launched again in 2021-22 school year to convey nature conservation message to students. To facilitate the special class arrangements of schools, an online programme was introduced from April 2021. Education Bureau announced a special vacation arrangement for all schools from 7 March to 19 April 2022 due to the fifth wave of the COVID-19 epidemic, the school visit programme was suspended for that period. The number of participants in the reporting period is summarised below:

School Visit Programme	No. of Participants
Kindergartens	746
Primary Schools	678
Secondary Schools	180

2.5 Other Education Activities

Details of the education activities organised in the reporting period are summarised below:

Name of the Activity	Date	No. of Participants
"Hiking Etiquette" Photo Exhibition	Jan – Apr 2022	17,027
Country parks fixed point interpretation	Jan - Apr 2022	14,682

2.6 Assistance

Assistance was offered to the public on:

Nature	Jan., 2022	Feb., 2022	Mar., 2022	Apr., 2022
First aid	1	3	5	6
Handicapped persons	0	0	0	0
Return of lost properties	7	2	0	2

2.7 Free Distribution of Publicity Materials

Nature	Jan., 2022	Feb., 2022	Mar., 2022	Apr., 2022
Pamphlets	728	474	599	751
Posters	58	69	79	69
Booklets	247	175	161	109

3. Law Enforcement

A total of 917 enforcement actions were taken in connection with the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap.208), Forests and Countryside Ordinance (Cap.96), Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap.170), Prevention and Control of Disease (Wearing of Mask) Regulation (Cap.599I) and Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Gathering) Regulation (Cap.599G). A breakdown of offences is summarised below:

Nature of offence	No. of cases
Illegal entry of bicycle	86
Illegal entry of vehicle	56
Illegal possession of hunting/trapping appliance	1
Illegal possession of cooking stove	19
Illegal use of fire	26
Damaging and cutting of plant	21
Possession of protected plant	2
Illegal digging of soil	2
Illegal operation of power driven model vehicle	3
Illegal camping	386
Littering	1 [△] + 7 [#]
Entry of campsites/barbecue sites that have been closed	238
Obstructing authorized officer in the lawful discharge of duty	1
Not wearing mask	1 [△] + 23 ^{##}
Participating in prohibited group gathering	38 ^{##}
Illegal feeding of monkey	42
Total	953

Remarks: # Fixed Penalty Notice @\$1,500.

Fixed Penalty Notice @\$5,000.

△ Summons.

B. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve

1. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve Management

1.1 Facilities

As at 30.04.2022, the following facilities had been installed in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve:

Facilities	Total no. as at 30.04.2022	Facilities	Total no. as at 30.04.2022
Warning Sign	128	Boundary Marker Post	60
Information Sign Board	57	Marine Buoy	226

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	Amount of litter collected (tonnes)				
	Jan., 2022	Feb., 2022	Mar., 2022	Apr., 2022	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	0.67 (6.07)	0.76 (4.66)	0.64 (4.88)	0.64 (1.43)	2.71 (17.04)
Yan Chau Tong	1.34 (3.27)	0.76 (2.84)	1.74 (2.463)	1.29 (1.53)	5.13 (10.27)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	1.68 (3.85)	1.12 (3.66)	0.90 (3.38)	1.50 (1.07)	5.2 (11.96)
Tung Ping Chau	2.33 (6.26)	1.42 (4.89)	1.01 (6.40)	0.68 (3.65)	5.44 (21.2)
Cape D' Aguilar	0.24 (0.38)	0.29 (0.40)	0.22 (0.57)	0.24 (0.41)	0.99 (1.76)
The Brothers	0.68 (0.69)	0.64 (0.73)	0.73 (1.03)	0.56 (0.70)	2.61 (3.15)
Southwest Lantau	0.18 (1.15)	0.24 (1.04)	0.14 (1.04)	0.34 (1.06)	0.9 (4.29)
Total	7.12 (21.67)	5.23 (18.22)	5.38 (19.93)	5.25 (9.85)	22.98 (69.67)

Remarks:

() denotes figures of same month last year.

2. Visitor Services / Education

2.1 Visitor Statistics

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

Marine Park	Jan., 2022	Feb., 2022	Mar., 2022	Apr., 2022	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	1,818 (1,727)	677 (1,963)	624 (2,699)	2,716 (5,866)	5,835 (12,255)
Yan Chau Tong	470 (632)	560 (446)	307 (468)	492 (778)	1,829 (2,324)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	64 (95)	12 (48)	35 (145)	35 (93)	146 (381)
Tung Ping Chau	2,726 (612)	648 (3,031)	665 (3,771)	5,123 (7,832)	9,162 (15,246)
Cape D'Aguilar Marine Reserve and nearby areas	17,160 (31,543)	10,246 (29,261)	6,893 (19,133)	30,452 (28,900)	64,751 (108,837)
The Brothers	66 (57)	40 (21)	17 (35)	23 (19)	146 (132)
Southwest Lantau	335 (738)	69 (327)	24 (446)	672 (1,306)	1,100 (2,817)
Total	22,639 (35,404)	12,252 (35,097)	8,565 (26,697)	39,513 (44,794)	82,969 (141,992)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

2.2 Visitor Centre

The first marine park visitor centre, Hoi Ha Visitor Centre (HHVC), officially opened on 8 June 2021. In light of the situation of the COVID-19 in Hong Kong, the public guided eco-tours organised by the HHVC have been suspended. The monthly visitor statistics of the HHVC is summarized below:

	No. of Visitors			
	Jan., 2022	Feb., 2022*	Mar., 2022*	Apr., 2022
Hoi Ha Visitor Centre	280	0	0	361

*In view of the situation of COVID-19, the Hoi Ha Visitor Centre was temporarily closed from 7 January to 20 April 2022.

2.3 Marine Parks Ambassador Scheme

The Marine Parks Ambassador Scheme has been commenced since August 2005. In light of the development of the COVID-19 epidemic, ambassador activities were suspended during the reporting period. Up to 30 April 2022, there are a total of 625 Marine Parks Ambassadors.

2.4 Education Programmes and Publicity

In light of the COVID-19 epidemic, all field studies and guided eco-tours for schools were suspended while school talks were changed to online format if there was any application. Details of education activities organised in the reporting period are summarised below:

Name of the Activity	Date	No. of Participants	Remarks
Online School Educational Seminar	5 Jan 2022	60	-
Hoi Ha Festival	1 and 2 Jan 2022	511	All activities were arranged in compliance with the related anti-epidemic measures

2.5 Enquiries

During the report period, a total of 144 enquiries was received and resolved. Details are listed below:

Nature	Jan., 2022	Feb, 2022	Mar., 2022	Apr., 2022	Total
General information	5	1	4	20	30
Visitor Centre and Education	22	35	24	33	114
Total	27	36	28	53	144

2.6 Free Distribution of Publicity Materials

Items	Jan., 2022	Feb, 2022	Mar., 2022	Apr., 2022
Leaflets	125	75	25	1,781

3. Law Enforcement

The taskforce on sea enforcement work related to the Marine Parks Ordinance (Cap. 476) and Fisheries Protection Ordinance (Cap. 171) was established to enhance synergistic effect. During the report period, one illegal fishing incident in Hong Kong waters involving one mainland fisherman was successfully prosecuted while 2 advisory letters were issued to 2 local fishing vessel owners. One case of illegal fishing was under investigation. In addition, for marine parks and marine reserve, a total of 280 advices and 6 verbal warnings were given, and 10 suspected offense cases were under investigation.

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 2022**