

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD

Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report (1.4.2021 – 31.7.2021)

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 1.4.2021 and 31.7.2021. 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 31.7.2021	Item	Total no. as at 31.7.2021
Barbecue Site	159	Shelter	290
Picnic Site	154	Refreshment Kiosk	9
Camp Site	41	Public Toilet	92
Morning Walker Garden	19	Portable Toilet	127

Amount of refuse collected (metric tonnes)

Apr., 2021	May, 2021	Jun., 2021	Jul., 2021	Total
174	167	116	116	573
(140)	(156)	(192)	(162)	(650)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

1.2 Fire Protection

The 2020-2021 fire season commenced on 30.9.2020 and was ended on 1.5.2021. 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	
		()		()		()
Apr., 2021	2	(4)	0.2	(232)	0	(3,670)
May 2021	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Jun., 2021	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Jul., 2021	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Total	2	(4)	0.2	(232)	0	(3,670)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

1.3 Permitted Events

During the reporting period, 122 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
Apr., 2021	1 (11)	28 (0)	2 (5)
May., 2021	1 (11)	22 (0)	1 (4)
Jun., 2021	4 (3)	36 (0)	1 (0)
Jun., 2021	1 (1)	24 (0)	1 (0)
Total	7 (26)	110 (0)	5 (9)

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

1.4 Control of Development

A total of 164 development proposals were handled during the reporting period. This includes 19 new proposals and 145 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	34	10	4	1	0	19	0	2	30	2
Hong Kong	21	3	0	0	0	18	0	0	20	1
Lantau	36	2	3	1	0	30	0	7	27	2
North	12	0	0	1	5	3	3	3	9	0
Sai Kung	39	6	8	3	6	7	9	2	34	3
West	22	0	0	0	1	20	1	5	16	1
Total	164	21	15	6	12	97	13	19	136	9

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 3,509,000 persons visited the country parks and special areas. The monthly breakdown is provided below:

Apr., 2021	May., 2021	Jun., 2021	Jul., 2021	Total
1,022,000 (940,000)	931,000 (872,000)	777,000 (822,000)	779,000 (766,000)	3,509,000 (3,400,000)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

2.2 Visitor Centres

The country park school and public education programmes at visitor / education centres remain suspended. The monthly visitor statistics of the Country Park Visitor Centres and Education Centres are summarised below:

Country Park Visitor Centre / Education Centre	No. of Visitors			
	Apr., 2021	May., 2021	Jun., 2021	Jul., 2021
Lions Nature Education Centre *	24,664	17,136	12,912	14,520
Clear Water Bay Country Park Visitor Centre	578	502	282	314
Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre	4,854	5,381	3,860	4,806
Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre	882	698	403	548
Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre	6,632	7,833	7,665	7,345
Ngong Ping Nature Centre*	0	0	0	0
Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre	6,480	2,417	1,012	1,237
Aberdeen Tree Centre	516	250	81	98
Volcano Discovery Centre	8,916	7,658	6,042	10,119
Total	53,522	41,785	32,257	38,987

Remarks: * Some indoor facilities of Lions Nature Education Centre and Ngong Ping Nature Centre were temporarily closed for renovation works.

2.3 Country Park Volunteer Scheme

The Country Park Volunteer Scheme commenced in March 2010. In light of the developments of the COVID-19 epidemic, volunteer services were suspended during the reporting period. Detailed figures of the Country Park Volunteer Scheme in the reporting period are summarised below:

Country Park Volunteer Scheme	Apr., 2021	May., 2021	Jun., 2021	Jul., 2021
No. of volunteers/trainees	653	653	653	653
Total volunteer service hours	0	0	0	0

2.4 School Visit Programme

School visit programme was launched again in 2020-21 school year to convey nature conservation message to students. To facilitate the special class arrangements schools, an online programme was introduced from April 2021. The number of participants in the reporting period is summarised below:

School Visit Programme	No. of Participants
Kindergartens	3,556
Primary Schools	3,564
Secondary Schools	734

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	Remarks
“Take Your Litter Home” promotional activities	April to July 2021	11,093	Exhibitions only due to COVID-19 epidemic
Country parks fixed point interpretation	April to July 2021	7,094	
Country Parks Webinar on Biodiversity	April to May 2021	1,335	
Geopark Roving Exhibitions	July 2021	4,890	

2.6 Assistance

Assistance was offered to the public on:

Nature	Apr., 2021	May., 2021	Jun., 2021	Jul., 2021
First aid	7	5	6	5
Handicapped persons	0	0	0	26
Return of lost properties	2	6	2	4

2.7 Free Distribution of Publicity Materials

Nature	Apr., 2021	May., 2021	Jun., 2021	Jul., 2021
Pamphlets	3,001	2,907	2,646	2,549
Posters	35	30	22	21
Booklets	263	257	210	263

3. Law Enforcement

A total of 349 enforcement actions were taken in connection with the Country Parks Ordinance, Forests and Countryside Ordinance, Wild Animals Protection Ordinance and Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation. A breakdown of offences is summarised below:

Nature of offence	No. of cases
Illegal entry of bicycle	69
Illegal entry of vehicle	50
Illegal possession of hunting/trapping appliance	2
Illegal possession of cooking stove	4
Illegal use of fire	32
Damaging and cutting of plant	18
Illegal digging of soil	5
Illegal hawking/trading	3
Illegal displaying banner/sign	1
Illegal holding sporting competition	1
Illegal camping	74
Littering	15 [#]
Spitting	1 [#]
Entry of campsites/barbecue sites that have been closed	69
Participating in prohibited group gathering	5 ^{##}
Illegal feeding of monkey	37
Total	386

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

Fixed Penalty Notice @\$5,000.

B. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve

1. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve Management

1.1 Facilities

As at 31.7.2021, the following facilities had been installed in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve:

Facilities	Total no. as at 31.7.2021	Facilities	Total no. as at 31.7.2021
Warning Sign	117	Boundary Marker Post	49
Information Sign Board	54	Marine Buoy	231

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)				
	Apr., 2021	May., 2021	Jun., 2021	Jul., 2021	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	1.43 (3.63)	1.48 (7.13)	1.09 (7.52)	1.27 (6.06)	5.27 (24.34)
Yan Chau Tong	1.53 (2.08)	1.2 (3.26)	0.7 (4.65)	0.64 (3.06)	4.07 (13.05)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	1.07 (6.57)	1.14 (2.88)	0.5 (3.15)	0.86 (5.50)	3.57 (18.10)
Tung Ping Chau	3.65 (5.82)	4.03 (6.39)	2.85 (6.03)	2.7 (6.11)	13.23 (24.35)
Cape D'Aguilar	0.41 (0.67)	0.69 (0.99)	0.38 (1.70)	0.79 (1.60)	2.27 (4.96)
The Brothers	0.7 (0.34)	0.64 (0.33)	1.23 (0.33)	0.68 (0.33)	3.25 (1.33)
Southwest Lantau*	1.06 (-)	0.76 (-)	0.34 (-)	1.32 (-)	3.48 (-)
Total	9.85 (19.11)	9.94 (20.98)	7.09 (23.38)	8.26 (22.66)	35.14 (86.13)

Remarks:

() denotes figures of same month last year.

* Designated with effect from 1 April 2020. Cleansing services in Apr to Aug 2020 were continued to be provided by Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. Cleansing services from Sep 2020 and onwards were arranged by AFCD.

2. Visitor Services / Education

2.1 Visitor Statistics

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

Marine Park	Apr., 2021	May., 2021	Jun., 2021	Jul., 2021	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	5,866 (1,425)	7,813 (3,985)	7,203 (3,345)	9,949 (4,587)	30,831 (13,342)
Yan Chau Tong	778 (388)	1,419 (216)	614 (332)	729 (963)	3,540 (1,899)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	93 (185)	33 (382)	18 (811)	48 (816)	192 (2,194)
Tung Ping Chau	7,832 (3,947)	6,763 (6,899)	1,194 (3,335)	2,619 (3,522)	18,408 (17,703)
Cape D'Aguilar Marine Reserve and nearby areas	28,900 (18,467)	8,423 (15,845)	2,176 (4,761)	2,486 (3,427)	41,985 (42,500)
The Brothers	19 (64)	18 (68)	9 (99)	9 (28)	55 (259)
Southwest Lantau	1,306 (236)	366 (278)	128 (95)	201 (74)	2,001 (683)
Total	44,794 (24,712)	24,835 (27,673)	11,342 (12,778)	16,041 (13,417)	97,012 (78,580)

() 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 Jun 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	
	Jun., 2021	Jul., 2021
Hoi Ha Visitor	828	1,499

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 31 July 2021, there are a total of 625 Marine Parks Ambassadors.

2.4 Education Programmes for Schools

In light of the development of the COVID-19 epidemic, all field studies and guided eco-tours for schools were suspended during the reporting period, whilst school talks were conducted online. During the report period, a total of one educational activities for schools involving 600 participants were organised. Details are listed below:

Education Programmes for Schools	No. of Participants
School seminar (via online means)	
Secondary Schools	600
Total	600

2.5 Enquiries

During the report period, a total of 128 enquiries was received and resolved. Details are listed below:

Nature	Apr., 2021	May, 2021	Jun., 2021	Jul., 2021	Total
General information	32	21	31	37	121
Visitor Centre and Education	1	1	3	2	7
Total	33	22	34	39	128

2.6 Free Distribution of Publicity Materials

During the report period, a total of 2,872 educational and publicity materials were distributed to public. Details are listed below:

Items	Apr., 2021	May,2021	Jun., 2021	Jul., 2021
Leaflets	400	414	405	992
Stickers	0	133	152	92
Folder	0	0	159	0
String bag	0	0	125	0

3. Law Enforcement

A taskforce on sea enforcement work related to the Marine Parks Ordinance (Cap. 476) and Fisheries Protection Ordinance (Cap. 171) has been established to enhance synergistic effect. During the report period, a total of 2 illegal fishing cases, both involving mainland fishermen, were successfully prosecuted in Hong Kong waters and 3 suspected offence cases were under investigation. In addition, a total of 335 advices and 20 verbal warnings were given in marine parks and marine reserve, as well as 2 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
September 2021