

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD

**Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report
(1.5.2023 – 31.8.2023)**

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 1.5.2023 and 31.8.2023. 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 31.8.2023	Item	Total no. as at 31.8.2023
Barbecue Site	157	Shelter	289
Picnic Site	155	Refreshment Kiosk & Cafeteria	8
Camp Site	41	Public Toilet	90
Morning Walker Garden	19	Portable Toilet	120

Amount of refuse collected (metric tonnes)

May., 2023	Jun., 2023	Jul., 2023	Aug., 2023	Total
188 (176)	168 (141)	179 (150)	145 (137)	680 (604)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

1.2 Fire Protection

The 2022-2023 fire season commenced on 3.9.2022 and ended on 30.4.2023. There were no fire incidents inside or threatening the country parks during the reporting period.

1.3 Permitted Events

During the reporting period, 176 permits were given under Reg. 11 of the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations to hold events in country parks. The monthly breakdown of permitted events during the reporting period is provided below:

Month	Sporting competition	Location filming	Other events
May., 2023	3	28	3
Jun., 2023	12	25	2
Jul., 2023	14	30	2
Aug., 2023	31	19	7
Total	60	102	14

1.4 Control of Development

A total of 126 development proposals were handled during the reporting period. This includes 25 new proposals and 101 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Electric Supply	Telephone Supply	Water Supply	Road/Path Improvement	Slope Works	Others*	No Objection	Being Processed	Withdrawn / Cancelled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	35	5	2	2	0	23	3	5	25	5
Hong Kong	14	2	0	0	1	11	0	1	13	0
Lantau	15	3	3	0	1	7	1	0	15	0
North	10	3	0	0	0	5	2	4	4	2
Sai Kung	36	7	2	1	8	10	8	2	32	2
West	16	1	0	0	0	15	0	4	12	0
Total	126	21	7	3	10	71	14	16	101	9

Remarks: * Other proposals mainly include installation of mobile radio station, 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 3,770,000 persons visited the country parks and special areas. The monthly breakdown is provided below:

May, 2023	Jun., 2023	Jul., 2023	Aug.,2023	Total
1,050,000 (960,000)	917,000 (742,000)	922,000 (823,000)	881,000 (789,000)	3,770,000 (3,314,000)

Remarks:

() denotes figures of same month last year.

2.2 Visitor Centres

The monthly visitor statistics of the Country Park Visitor / Education Centres are summarised below:

Country Park Visitor Centre / Education Centre	No. of Visitors			
	May, 2023	Jun., 2023	Jul., 2023	Aug.,2023
Lions Nature Education Centre	40,792	35,360	34,416	30,312
Clear Water Bay Country Park Visitor Centre	919	980	780	602
Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre	3,275	3,071	3,192	3,447
Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre *	0	0	0	0
Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre	667	341	569	459
Ngong Ping Nature Centre	851	1,015	1,080	1,343
Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre	2,121	825	885	750
Aberdeen Tree Centre	345	40	130	231
Volcano Discovery Centre	5,618	8,483	10,041	12,330
Total	54,588	50,115	51,093	49,474

Remarks: *The centre was temporarily closed for renovation works

2.3 Country Park Volunteer Scheme

The Country Park Volunteer Scheme commenced in March 2010. Detailed figures of the Country Park Volunteer Scheme in the reporting period are summarised below:

Country Park Volunteer Scheme	May, 2023	Jun., 2023	Jul., 2023	Aug.,2023
No. of volunteers/trainees	754	754	754	754
Total volunteer service hours	1506.5	181.5	472.5	394

2.4 School Visit Programme

School visit programme was launched again in 2022-23 school year to convey nature conservation message to students. The number of participants in the reporting period is summarised below:

School Visit Programme	No. of Participants
Kindergartens	3,898
Primary Schools	8,423
Secondary Schools	1,300

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
“Take Your Litter Home” Photo Exhibition	May – Aug.,2023	20,734
Country Parks Fixed Point Interpretation	May – Aug.,2023	2,175
World Orienteering Day Carnival	May, 2023	5,293
Bioblitz @ Country Parks	Jun. – Aug., 2023	888
Promotion on Code of Firefly Appreciation	Jul. – Aug.,2023	1,538
Curriculum-based Outdoor Learning Programmes in Country Parks - Teacher Online Seminar	Jul.,202	339
Nature Interpretation for National Ecology Day	Aug.,2023	995

2.6 Assistance

Assistance was offered to the public on:

Nature	May, 2023	Jun., 2023	Jul., 2023	Aug.,2023
First aid	9	5	9	2
Handicapped persons	7	8	8	4
Return of lost properties	4	3	3	1

2.7 Free Distribution of Publicity Materials

Nature	May, 2023	Jun., 2023	Jul., 2023	Aug.,2023
Pamphlets	1,289	1,354	1,327	1,500
Posters	21	26	21	31
Booklets	106	169	168	184

3. Law Enforcement

A total of 155 enforcement actions were taken in connection with the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208) and other relevant legislation. The details are as follows:

Nature of offence	No. of cases
Illegal entry of bicycle	32
Illegal entry of vehicle	49
Illegal possession of hunting appliances	2
Damaging / cutting of plant	12
Illegal digging of soil	1
Illegal construction of building	1
Illegal carrying on business activity	3
Illegal operating power driven model boat	1
Illegal camping	12
Littering	1
Spitting	1 [#]
Illegal feeding of wild animal	40
Total	155

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

B. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve

1. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve Management

1.1 Facilities

As at 31.8.2023, the following facilities had been installed in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve:

Facilities	Total no. as at 31.8.2023	Facilities	Total no. as at 31.8.2023
Warning Sign	146	Boundary Marker Post	66
Information Sign Board	55	Marine Buoy	232

1.2 Litter

In the reporting period, the amount of litter collected in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve was as follows:

Marine Park/ Marine Reserve	Amount of litter collected (tonnes)				
	May, 2023	Jun., 2023	Jul., 2023	Aug., 2023	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	0.82 (0.66)	0.67 (0.57)	0.66 (0.71)	0.54 (0.64)	2.69 (2.58)
Yan Chau Tong	1.19 (1.07)	0.73 (1.67)	0.91 (1.28)	0.70 (1.01)	3.53 (5.03)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	1.81 (1.65)	1.69 (1.80)	1.76 (1.66)	1.84 (0.52)	7.1 (5.63)
Tung Ping Chau	1.33 (0.79)	2.07 (0.65)	2.14 (0.91)	1.54 (0.82)	7.08 (3.17)
Cape D'Aguiar	0.20 (0.28)	0.55 (1.46)	0.37 (2.34)	0.60 (1.23)	1.72 (5.31)
The Brothers	1.28 (0.91)	1.09 (0.76)	0.99 (0.92)	1.23 (1.04)	4.59 (3.63)
Southwest Lantau	0.44 (0.32)	0.35 (0.41)	0.54 (0.79)	0.55 (0.58)	1.88 (2.1)
South Lantau*	0.65 (--)	0.62 (--)	0.71 (0.41)	1.07 (0.41)	3.05 (0.82)
Total	7.72 (5.68)	7.77 (7.32)	8.08 (9.02)	8.07 (6.25)	31.64 (28.27)

Remarks:

() denotes figures of same month last year.

*Designated with effect from 30 June 2022.

2. Visitor Services / Education

2.1 Visitor Statistics

In the reporting period, the visitor statistics were as follows:

Marine Park/ Marine Reserve	May., 2023	Jun., 2023	Jul., 2023	Aug., 2023	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	2,588 (3,296)	2,531 (3,460)	3,711 (6,908)	3,821 (6,317)	12,651 (19,981)
Yan Chau Tong	1,082 (289)	435 (1,292)	362 (1,709)	406 (1,933)	2,285 (5,223)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	802 (217)	103 (103)	172 (468)	41 (459)	1,118 (1,247)
Tung Ping Chau	1,979 (2,193)	418 (2,157)	1,092 (1,185)	330 (1,598)	3,819 (7,133)
Cape D'Aguilar Marine Reserve and nearby areas	2,989 (4,631)	763 (2,332)	924 (1,437)	1,194 (1,071)	5,870 (9,471)
The Brothers	129 (15)	184 (58)	75 (95)	62 (82)	450 (250)
Southwest Lantau	334 (227)	60 (67)	162 (145)	49 (153)	605 (592)
South Lantau*	93 (--)	61 (--)	21 (67)	87 (16)	262 (83)
Total	9,996 (10,868)	4,555 (9,469)	6,519 (12,014)	5,990 (11,629)	27,060 (43,980)

Remarks: () denotes figures of same month last year.

* Designated with effect from 30. 6.2022.

2.2 Visitor Centre

The Hoi Ha Visitor Centre resumed public eco-tour activities in December 2022. Relevant statistics are as follows :

	No. of Visitors			
	May., 2023	Jun., 2023	Jul., 2023	Aug., 2023
Hoi Ha Visitor Centre	861	444	386	533
Public eco-tour	54	59	22	25

2.3 Marine Parks Ambassador Scheme

The Marine Parks Ambassador Scheme has been commenced since August 2005. Up to 31.8.2023, there are a total of 635 Marine Parks Ambassadors. Ambassador activities have been resumed in early 2023. Details in the reporting period are summarised below:

Activity	No. of Participants
Marine Parks Ambassador Induction Training	10
Kayaking safety promotion	27

2.4 Education Programmes and Publicity

Seminars and eco-tours have been resumed in early 2023. Details in the reporting period are summarised below:

Activity	Total No. of Participants
School Educational Seminar	1,040
Guided eco-tour for school / communities	113

2.5 Enquiries

In the reporting period, enquiries were received and resolved. Details are listed below:

Nature	May., 2023	Jun., 2023	Jul., 2023	Aug., 2023	Total
General information	25	19	12	34	90
Visitor Centre and Education	2	0	1	0	3
Total	27	19	13	34	93

2.6 Free Distribution of Publicity Materials

Items	May., 2023	Jun., 2023	Jul., 2023	Aug., 2023
Leaflets	680	250	360	710
Others	400	557	210	161

3. Enforcement

The department established the taskforce on sea enforcement work related to the Marine Parks Ordinance (Cap. 476) and Fisheries Protection Ordinance (Cap. 171) to enhance synergistic effect. During the report period, there were 3 successful prosecutions on illegal fishing activities related to Cap. 171. In addition, 3 cases of illegal fishing were successfully prosecuted under Cap. 476 while a total of 104 advices, 27 verbal warnings were given and 4 written warning were issued.

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
November 2023**