

## **COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD**

### **Summary Report of the Country Parks Committee**

#### **1. Purpose**

1.1 This paper aims to inform members of the major issues discussed at the Country Parks Committee (CPC) meeting held on 14 April 2023.

#### **2. Assessment of the Suitability of Re-incorporating an Excised Area into Shek O Country Park (SOCP)**

2.1 The AFCD reported that about nine hectares of land in the SOCP were excised in 1993 for the rehabilitation projection of the Shek O Quarry on the condition that, upon project completion, the area should be re-designated as the country park. The subject was discussed in CMPB meeting in 2001 but had no conclusion as the rehabilitation and planting works had not yet been completed. Recently, after the official handover of the rehabilitated quarry to the Lands Department, the AFCD conducted ecological baseline surveys and assessed the suitability of re-incorporating the area into the SOCP. The assessment revealed that the excised area was low in conservation value, landscape and aesthetic value, and recreation potential, indicating that the overall intrinsic value of the site was low. The AFCD recommended not to re-incorporate the excised area and surrounding engineered slopes as part of the SOCP.

2.2 Members in general agreed to the recommendation not to re-incorporate the excised area into the SOCP, given the low overall intrinsic value. Members concurred that resources should be prioritised to conserve areas with higher conservation value, such as the Robin's Nest Country Park. Some members were concerned that the recommendation would set a precedent case for similar development project in the country park. The AFCD confirmed that there was no planned or on-going projects that involved excision of land from the country park. The feasibility of building visitor facilities such as viewing points in the excised area was explored but considered impractical owing to technical limitations and safety concerns. It was concluded that the excised area and the surrounding engineered slopes are not suitable to be incorporated into the country park.

### **3. Improvement of Orienteering Facilities in Country Parks**

3.1 The AFCD collaborated with the Orienteering Association of Hong Kong to conduct a comprehensive review of the orienteering facilities in country parks, aiming to improve the existing country park orienteering facilities and identify suitable locations for new orienteering courses. The improvement included revamping the five existing orienteering courses, setting up five new orienteering courses, creating new orienteering maps, installing new wooden poles at control points, introducing sprint orienteering courses, and designing cross-country orienteering courses of different difficulty levels. Some revamped and new courses had been completed. The remaining courses would be gradually completed by 2024. The details of the orienteering programmes and promotion plan were explained in the meeting.

3.2 In response to members' suggestions to add new orienteering courses in North and Tai Po districts, as well as on Lantau Island, the AFCD would review the popularity of existing orienteering course and consider opening new courses on their individual merit. Some members also suggested improving mobile signal in country parks so that participants could use mobile applications in the orienteering programme. Some members asked if the AFCD would provide briefing to the participants on the orienteering programme and the appropriate use of facilities. The AFCD had provided introductory information of the orienteering programme and a demonstration video on its website for the public to better understand orienteering activities.

### **4. Presentation**

4.1 This paper is prepared for Members' information.

Country and Marine Parks Authority  
June 2023