

**COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD**

**Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report  
(1.1.2023 – 30.4.2023)**

**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 1.1.2023 and 30.4.2023. 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**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Total no. as at 30.4.2023</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Total no. as at 30.4.2023</b>
Barbecue Site	157	Shelter	289
Picnic Site	154	Refreshment Kiosk & Cafeteria	9
Camp Site	41	Public Toilet	91
Morning Walker Garden	19	Portable Toilet	121

**Amount of refuse collected (metric tonnes)**

<b>Jan., 2023</b>	<b>Feb., 2023</b>	<b>Mar., 2023</b>	<b>Apr., 2023</b>	<b>Total</b>
324 (185)	237 (143)	243 (126)	234 (158)	1,038 (612)

( ) denotes figures of same month last year.

## 1.2 Fire Protection

The 2022-2023 fire season commenced on 3.9.2022. 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., 2023	3	( 4 )	200.7	( 1.7 )	89	( 60 )
Feb., 2023	5	( 2 )	3.4	( 12.2 )	76	( 6 )
Mar., 2023	2	( 1 )	0.1	( 3.3 )	0	( 50 )
Apr., 2023	2	( 4 )	8.4	( 84.1 )	0	( 2,425 )
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>( 11 )</b>	<b>212.6</b>	<b>( 101.3 )</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>( 2,541 )</b>

( ) denotes figures of same month last year.

## 1.3 Permitted Events

During the reporting period, 155 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
Jan., 2023	7	21	2
Feb., 2023	12	30	9
Mar., 2023	12	27	5
Apr., 2023	10	19	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>17</b>

## 1.4 Control of Development

A total of 137 development proposals were handled during the reporting period. This includes 23 new proposals and 114 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	31	6	2	2	0	19	2	3	28	0
Hong Kong	23	1	0	0	0	22	0	12	11	0
Lantau	15	3	3	0	1	7	1	1	14	0
North	13	3	0	0	1	6	3	3	9	1
Sai Kung	39	8	1	2	10	8	10	6	30	3
West	16	1	0	0	0	15	0	6	9	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>5</b>

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 4,709,000 persons visited the country parks and special areas. The monthly breakdown is provided below:

Jan., 2023	Feb., 2023	Mar., 2023	Apr.,2023	Total
1,301,000 (1,326,000)	1,092,000 (1,049,000)	1,141,000 (1,002,000)	1,175,000 (1,114,000)	4,709,000 (4,491,000)

Remarks:

( ) denotes figures of same month last year.

## 2.2 Visitor Centres

The country park school and public education programmes at visitor / education centres were gradually resumed from December 2022. The monthly visitor statistics of the Country Park Visitor / Education Centres are summarised below:

Country Park Visitor Centre / Education Centre	No. of Visitors			
	Jan., 2023	Feb., 2023	Mar., 2023	Apr.,2023
Lions Nature Education Centre	34,208	32,664	56,136	62,192
Clear Water Bay Country Park Visitor Centre	860	806	879	900
Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre	3,563	3,130	3,487	3,208
Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre *	0	0	0	0
Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre	1,218	666	830	1,073
Ngong Ping Nature Centre	1,126	962	585	1,054
Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre	5,231	2,947	3,487	3,587
Aberdeen Tree Centre	410	226	227	478
Volcano Discovery Centre	6,380	4,835	6,056	7,512
<b>Total</b>	<b>52,996</b>	<b>46,236</b>	<b>71,687</b>	<b>80,004</b>

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	Jan., 2023	Feb., 2023	Mar., 2023	Apr.,2023
No. of volunteers/trainees	754	754	754	754
Total volunteer service hours	1,892	2,122	1,284	1,584

## 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	5,871
Primary Schools	4,058
Secondary Schools	831

## 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” and “Clean Country Parks, You Have a Share” Photo Exhibition	Jan. – Apr., 2023	26,898
Country Parks Fixed Point Interpretation	Jan. – Apr., 2023	21,956
Hong Kong Hiking Challenge	Sep., 2022 – Jan., 2023	12,469
Country Parks “Hiking Etiquette” Roving Exhibitions	Jan. – Feb., 2023	33,717
Country Parks Hiking and Planting Day	Apr., 2023	2,449

## 2.6 Assistance

Assistance was offered to the public on:

Nature	Jan., 2023	Feb., 2023	Mar., 2023	Apr., 2023
First aid	4	2	4	11
Handicapped persons	0	3	4	5
Return of lost properties	5	3	7	4

## 2.7 Free Distribution of Publicity Materials

Nature	Jan., 2023	Feb., 2023	Mar., 2023	Apr., 2023
Pamphlets	843	871	1,168	1,326
Posters	32	40	40	20
Booklets	130	68	111	72

## 3. Law Enforcement

A total of 303 enforcement actions were taken in connection with the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208), Forests and Countryside Ordinance (Cap. 96) and Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap.170). The details are as follows:

Nature of offence	No. of cases
Illegal entry of bicycle	31
Illegal entry of vehicle	42
Illegal possession of cooking stove	5
Illegal use of fire	13
Damaging / cutting of plant	17
Illegal digging of soil	5
Illegal construction of building	1
Illegal holding of sporting competition	1
Illegal camping	183
Littering	4 <sup>#</sup>
Illegal feeding of wild animals	63*
<b>Total</b>	<b>365</b>

Remarks: <sup>#</sup> Fixed Penalty Notice @\$1,500.

\* Starting from 31 December 2022, the Feeding Ban Area designated under Cap.170 was expanded to cover the entire territory of Hong Kong. The figure shows only the number of cases within the Country Parks and Special Areas.

## B. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve

### 1. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve Management

#### 1.1 Facilities

As at 30.4.2023, the following facilities had been installed in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve:

Facilities	Total no. as at 30.4.2023	Facilities	Total no. as at 30.4.2023
Warning Sign	146	Boundary Marker Post	63
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 is as follows:

Marine Park/ Marine Reserve	Amount of litter collected (tonnes)				
	Jan., 2023	Feb., 2023	Mar., 2023	Apr., 2023	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	0.61 (0.67)	0.48 (0.76)	0.51 (0.64)	0.54 (0.64)	2.14 (2.71)
Yan Chau Tong	0.83 (1.34)	1.09 (0.76)	1.27 (1.74)	1.27 (1.29)	4.46 (5.13)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	1.63 (1.68)	1.60 (1.12)	1.78 (0.90)	1.66 (1.50)	6.67 (5.20)
Tung Ping Chau	2.03 (2.33)	1.84 (1.42)	1.65 (1.01)	1.40 (0.68)	6.92 (5.44)
Cape D'Aguiar	0.26 (0.24)	0.54 (0.29)	0.58 (0.22)	0.41 (0.24)	1.79 (0.99)
The Brothers	1.03 (0.68)	1.18 (0.64)	0.96 (0.73)	1.10 (0.56)	4.27 (2.61)
Southwest Lantau	0.14 (0.18)	0.31 (0.24)	0.23 (0.14)	0.29 (0.34)	0.97 (0.90)
South Lantau*	0.61 (--)	0.57 (--)	0.94 (--)	0.55 (--)	2.67 (--)
<b>Total</b>	<b>7.14</b> <b>(7.12)</b>	<b>7.61</b> <b>(5.23)</b>	<b>7.92</b> <b>(5.38)</b>	<b>7.22</b> <b>(5.25)</b>	<b>29.89</b> <b>(22.98)</b>

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 are as follows:

<b>Marine Park/ Marine Reserve</b>	<b>Jan., 2023</b>	<b>Feb., 2023</b>	<b>Mar., 2023</b>	<b>Apr., 2023</b>	<b>Total</b>
Hoi Ha Wan	629 (1,818)	463 (677)	1,762 (624)	2,381 (2,716)	5,235 (5,835)
Yan Chau Tong	3,328 (470)	961 (560)	1,162 (307)	2,093 (492)	7,544 (1,829)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	416 (64)	293 (12)	402 (35)	378 (35)	1,489 (146)
Tung Ping Chau	1,445 (2,726)	1,040 (648)	1,348 (665)	1,560 (5,123)	5,393 (9,162)
Cape D'Aguiar Marine Reserve and nearby areas	6,995 (17,160)	4,884 (10,246)	5,030 (6,893)	5,376 (30,452)	22,285 (64,751)
The Brothers	75 (66)	53 (40)	173 (17)	92 (62)	393 (185)
Southwest Lantau	271 (335)	206 (69)	239 (25)	516 (672)	1,232 (1,101)
South Lantau*	64 (--)	71 (--)	44 (--)	11 (--)	190 (--)
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,223 (22,639)</b>	<b>7,971 (12,252)</b>	<b>10,160 (8,566)</b>	<b>12,407 (39,552)</b>	<b>43,761 (83,009)</b>

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 :

	<b>No. of Visitors</b>			
	<b>Jan., 2023</b>	<b>Feb., 2023</b>	<b>Mar., 2023</b>	<b>Apr., 2023</b>
Hoi Ha Visitor Centre	637	607	637	1,293
Public eco-tour	42	79	57	139

## 2.3 Marine Parks Ambassador Scheme

The Marine Parks Ambassador Scheme has been commenced since August 2005. Up to 30.4.2023, there are a total of 625 Marine Parks Ambassadors. Ambassador activities has resumed in early 2023. Details in the reporting period are summarised below:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>No. of Participants</b>
Public Seminar voluntary service	5
Coastal Clean-up	15

## 2.4 Education Programmes and Publicity

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

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Total No. of Participants</b>
School Educational Seminar	1,452
Public seminar	42
Guided eco-tour for school / communities	159

## 2.5 Enquiries

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

<b>Nature</b>	<b>Jan., 2023</b>	<b>Feb., 2023</b>	<b>Mar., 2023</b>	<b>Apr., 2023</b>	<b>Total</b>
General information	35	31	36	28	130
Visitor Centre and Education	10	9	18	24	61
<b>Total</b>	45	40	54	52	191

## 2.6 Free Distribution of Publicity Materials

<b>Items</b>	<b>Jan., 2023</b>	<b>Feb., 2022</b>	<b>Mar., 2022</b>	<b>Apr., 2022</b>
Leaflets	1,550	1,150	885	1,870
Others	314	212	198	273

## 3. 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, there were 4 successful prosecutions on illegal fishing activities related to Cap. 171. In addition, 5 cases of illegal collection of marine life were successfully prosecuted under Cap. 476 while a total of 76 advices and 9 verbal warnings were given.

### 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**  
**June 2023**