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**Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation**

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**Replies to written questions raised by Finance Committee Members  
in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12**

**Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
Head : 22**

<b>Reply Serial No.</b>	<b>Question Serial No.</b>	<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Session No.</b>	<b>Programme</b>
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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**ENB001**

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Question Serial No.

1566

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

In 2010, 19 hill fires were attended to. Please provide the following details of each hill fire: the date it occurred, the location, areas affected and the number of trees destroyed. In addition, it is estimated that the number of hill fires attended to in 2011 will be increased to 34. What are the reasons? What is the estimated expenditure on hill fire prevention in 2011-12?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

(1) The particulars of hill fires affecting country parks (CP) and special areas (SA) in 2010 are as follows:

<b>Serial No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>CP/SA</b>	<b>Area Affected (Hectare)</b>	<b>Trees Affected (Number)*</b>
01	15.01.10	Tai Lam CP	1	0
02	15.01.10	Lantau North CP	1.5	150
03	14.03.10	Pat Sin Leng CP	1	0
04	24.03.10	Lantau North CP	4	0
05	28.03.10	Lantau North CP	5	0
06	21.10.10	Lantau North Extension CP	1.5	0
07	28.10.10	Tai Lam CP	2	0
08	30.10.10	Pat Sin Leng CP	1	0
09	28.11.10	Ma On Shan CP	0.5	0
10	10.12.10	Tai Lam CP	0.5	30
11	10.12.10	Kam Shan CP	0.2	250
12	14.12.10	Pat Sin Leng CP	0.3	80
13	25.12.10	Pat Sin Leng CP	1	0
14	25.12.10	Plover Cove CP	0.1	0
15	25.12.10	Plover Cove CP	0.1	0
16	26.12.10	Shing Mun CP	120	15 000
17	27.12.10	Shing Mun CP	8	0
18	27.12.10	Lam Tsuen CP	420	0
19	31.12.10	Lantau South CP	5	650
<b>Total</b>			<b>572.7</b>	<b>16 160</b>

\*Rounded figures

- (2) The estimated number of hill fires to be attended to in 2011 is based on the average of the number of hill fires in the past three years. Since the weather was relatively humid in 2010, the number of hill fires in 2010 was lower than that in previous years.
- (3) In 2011-12, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has earmarked \$33 million for the prevention and fighting of hill fires in country parks and special areas.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 15 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**ENB002**

Question Serial No.

1567

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

The estimated numbers of seedlings to be produced or planted in 2011 are lower than those in 2010. Please explain.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The numbers of seedlings to be produced and planted in 2011 are estimated to be 650 000 and 700 000 respectively after taking into account the need and availability of suitable sites for large scale tree planting programmes. As the majority of country park areas are now well wooded or covered with good vegetation, opportunities for large scale tree planting activities are not readily available. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will focus more on enhancing the quality of planting instead of quantity. Apart from planting for rehabilitation of areas damaged by hill fires and controlling soil erosion, more attention will be paid to enriching the existing exotic plantations through inter-planting with native tree species.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 14 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**ENB003**

Question Serial No.

3660

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

Will the Department refer to the report "Conserving Biodiversity in Protected Areas: Recommendations for the Extension of Protected Areas in Hong Kong" submitted to the Government by the University of Hong Kong in 2000 to facilitate the identification of sites of high scientific value and to allocate more resources to facilitate the listing of such sites as "Sites of Special Scientific Interest"? What are the details of the work involved and the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply :

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has been conducting territory-wide ecological surveys with a view to establishing a comprehensive ecological database for Hong Kong. We regularly update and review the conditions of ecologically important sites, making reference to results of the surveys and other studies, including the study conducted by the University of Hong Kong in 2000. Where appropriate, sites of high conservation value would be considered for designation as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Currently, 67 sites have been designated SSSI. In 2011-12, a total of \$5.2 million has been earmarked for conducting the territory-wide ecological surveys, identifying new SSSI sites, and monitoring the vegetation management of existing SSSI.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 14 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**ENB004**

Question Serial No.

3661

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

- (a) Will the Department allocate resources and manpower to review the penalties for illegal tree felling under the Country Parks Ordinance? If yes, what are the details of the work and the estimated expenditure?
- (b) Regarding the increase in cases of illegal vandalism in country park areas in recent years, will the Department allocate more resources to step up efforts in patrol and the enforcement of legislation related to nature conservation? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply :

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will review from time to time the Country Parks Ordinance and its subsidiary legislation including their penalty provisions. Such reviews will be funded by the recurrent expenditure of law enforcement in country parks.
- (b) In 2011-12, AFCD will allocate an additional \$2.5 million for the strengthening of the related patrol and enforcement work.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 14 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**ENB005**

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Question Serial No.

0531

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

Under Programme 2, it is estimated by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department that 700 000 seedlings will be planted in 2011. Please provide the number of seedlings of native species to be planted in 2011 and the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

It is estimated that 500 000 seedlings of native species will be planted and the estimated expenditure involved will be \$8.9 million in 2011-12.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 14 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**ENB006**

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Question Serial No.

0532

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

Under Programme 2, it is stated that the number of hill fires attended to in 2010 was 19 whereas the estimated number of hill fires to be attended to in 2011 is 34. Please inform the Committee of the following details of each hill fire in 2010: areas affected, the number of trees destroyed, the expenditure on fighting hill fires, and the estimated expenditure involved in this aspect in 2011.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

(1) The particulars of hill fires affecting country parks (CP) and special areas (SA) in 2010 are as follows:

Serial No.	Date	CP/SA	Area Affected (Hectare)	Trees Affected (Number)*
01	15.01.10	Tai Lam CP	1	0
02	15.01.10	Lantau North CP	1.5	150
03	14.03.10	Pat Sin Leng CP	1	0
04	24.03.10	Lantau North CP	4	0
05	28.03.10	Lantau North CP	5	0
06	21.10.10	Lantau North Extension CP	1.5	0
07	28.10.10	Tai Lam CP	2	0
08	30.10.10	Pat Sin Leng CP	1	0
09	28.11.10	Ma On Shan CP	0.5	0
10	10.12.10	Tai Lam CP	0.5	30
11	10.12.10	Kam Shan CP	0.2	250
12	14.12.10	Pat Sin Leng CP	0.3	80
13	25.12.10	Pat Sin Leng CP	1	0
14	25.12.10	Plover Cove CP	0.1	0
15	25.12.10	Plover Cove CP	0.1	0
16	26.12.10	Shing Mun CP	120	15 000
17	27.12.10	Shing Mun CP	8	0
18	27.12.10	Lam Tsuen CP	420	0
19	31.12.10	Lantau South CP	5	650
Total			<b>572.7</b>	<b>16 160</b>

\*Rounded figures

- (2) The total expenditure involved in the prevention and fighting of hill fires in country parks and special areas was \$32 million in 2010-11.
- (3) The estimated number of hill fires to be attended to in 2011 is based on the average of the number of hill fires in the past three years. Since the weather was relatively wet in 2010, the number of hill fires in 2010 was lower than that in previous years. In 2011-12, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has earmarked \$33 million for the prevention and fighting of hill fires in country parks and special areas.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 14 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**ENB007**

Question Serial No.

0534

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

Please inform the Committee of the respective numbers of plastic refuse bags used in managing country parks and the related expenditure in each year from 2008-09 to 2010-11.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

The numbers of plastic refuse bags used in country parks and the related expenditure from 2008-09 to 2010-11 are given as follows:

Year	No. of plastic refuse bags used	Expenditure
2008-09	380 000	\$0.23 million
2009-10	384 000	\$0.29 million
2010-11	379 900	\$0.30 million

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will start the trial use of biodegradable plastic bags to collect litter in country parks in 2011.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 17 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**ENB008**

Question Serial No.

0102

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

Please advise on the details of the provision for the Hong Kong National Geopark in 2011-12.

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

In 2011-12, a total of \$29.2 million has been earmarked for the management and operation of the Hong Kong National Geopark. Major tasks include (a) conducting patrols and enforcement operations; (b) arranging cleaning and litter collection services; (c) setting up and maintenance of visitor facilities such as visitor centres and geo-trails; (d) organising education, promotional and publicity activities; (e) promoting local community and fishermen's participation in geo-conservation and tourism activities; and (f) conducting research and studies on geological science.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 14 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**ENB009**

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Question Serial No.

0103

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

In 2010, 668 000 seedlings were produced whereas an estimated number of 650 000 seedlings will be produced in 2011. Please advise on the expenditure on fertilizers for producing seedlings under the estimate for 2011-12 and the amount involved in organic fertilizers.

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

The estimated expenditure on fertilizers for seedlings production and planting is \$1.2 million in 2011-12, of which \$40,000 will be for purchasing organic fertilizers.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ ALAN WONG \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 15 March 2011 \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**ENB010**

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Question Serial No.

0104

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

In 2010, 19 hill fires were attended to. Please advise on the details of each hill fire, including the date it occurred, the location, areas affected and the number of trees destroyed. It is estimated that there will be 34 hill fires in 2011-12. Please advise on the estimated expenditure on hill fire prevention.

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

(1) The particulars of hill fires affecting country parks (CP) and special areas (SA) in 2010 are as follows:

<b>Serial No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>CP/SA</b>	<b>Area Affected (Hectare)</b>	<b>Trees Affected (Number)*</b>
01	15.01.10	Tai Lam CP	1	0
02	15.01.10	Lantau North CP	1.5	150
03	14.03.10	Pat Sin Leng CP	1	0
04	24.03.10	Lantau North CP	4	0
05	28.03.10	Lantau North CP	5	0
06	21.10.10	Lantau North Extension CP	1.5	0
07	28.10.10	Tai Lam CP	2	0
08	30.10.10	Pat Sin Leng CP	1	0
09	28.11.10	Ma On Shan CP	0.5	0
10	10.12.10	Tai Lam CP	0.5	30
11	10.12.10	Kam Shan CP	0.2	250
12	14.12.10	Pat Sin Leng CP	0.3	80
13	25.12.10	Pat Sin Leng CP	1	0
14	25.12.10	Plover Cove CP	0.1	0
15	25.12.10	Plover Cove CP	0.1	0
16	26.12.10	Shing Mun CP	120	15 000
17	27.12.10	Shing Mun CP	8	0
18	27.12.10	Lam Tsuen CP	420	0
19	31.12.10	Lantau South CP	5	650
<b>Total</b>			<b>572.7</b>	<b>16 160</b>

\*Rounded figures

- (2) In 2011-12, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has earmarked \$33 million for the prevention and fighting of hill fires in country parks and special areas.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 15 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**ENB011**

Question Serial No.

0198

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

Please advise on the details of and the estimated expenditure on “the inclusion of selected country park enclaves into country parks” in 2011-12.

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

There are currently 77 country park enclaves, of which 23 have already been covered by Outline Zoning Plans (OZP) under the Town Planning Ordinance (TPO). Amongst the remaining 54 enclaves, seven have been covered by draft Development Permission Area (DPA) plans gazetted under TPO since August 2010. The remaining 47 enclaves, covering an approximate area of 1 219 hectares, will be incorporated in country parks or included into DPA plans under TPO depending on the specific circumstances of individual cases.

In 2011-12, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will allocate \$2.5 million for the strengthening of patrol and enforcement relating to the country park enclaves.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 14 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**ENB012**

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Question Serial No.

0337

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

Please provide details on the estimated expenditure for the management and operation of the Hong Kong National Geopark in 2011-12.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond

Reply :

In 2011-12, a total of \$29.2 million has been earmarked for the management and operation of the Hong Kong National Geopark. Major tasks include (a) conducting patrols and enforcement operations; (b) arranging cleaning and litter collection services; (c) setting up and maintenance of visitor facilities such as visitor centres and geo-trails; (d) organising education, promotional and publicity activities; (e) promoting local community and fishermen's participation in geo-conservation and tourism activities; and (f) conducting research and studies on geological science.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 14 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**ENB013**

Question Serial No.

1915

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

Regarding the territory-wide survey programme for collecting information and maintaining an ecological database, please provide the following information:

- (a) the projects covered by the survey programme;
- (b) the date the survey programme was launched and the estimated date of completion; and
- (c) the estimated expenditure on the survey programme.

Asked by : Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply :

- (a) The territory-wide biodiversity survey programme is a long-term programme which covers different habitats and locations in Hong Kong. The programme includes the collection of data on (a) the status and species composition of about 100 plant and wetland communities; and (b) the distribution and abundance of over 1 200 animal species, including amphibians, beetles, birds, butterflies, dragonflies, freshwater fish, mammals and reptiles. Besides, the programme includes the implementation of conservation action plans for selected species of conservation concern. The data collected in the programme have been computerised and incorporated in a Geographic Information System to enable the storage of the data in digital format and the performance of spatial analysis. Part of the data collected has also been uploaded to the internet for public access through the website of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department.
- (b) The programme has started since 2002-03. Since the ecological environment and its components are constantly changing, continuous monitoring and surveys are required to update the database in order to obtain the most up-to-date information for policy/decision making on environmental issues.
- (c) \$4 million has been earmarked for the programme in 2011-12.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 14 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**ENB014**

Question Serial No.

1916

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

Regarding the project of the promotion of geo-conservation, please inform the Committee of the following:

- 1) details of the project, the expenditure and manpower involved over the last year; and
- 2) details of the project, the expenditure and manpower involved in the coming year.

Asked by : Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply :

- (a) In 2010-11, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has conducted a variety of education and publicity activities to promote geo-conservation. On-going activities include: (a) production of books and learning kits for the general public, and field guides for professionals; (b) implementation of training programmes for geopark guides, tour operators and fishermen operating in the geopark; (c) organisation of educational programmes for teachers and students; (d) holding exhibitions and public seminars; (e) production of videos on geo-conservation and the history of the Earth; and (f) setting up of education and interpretative facilities of geo-trails, visitor centres and local geological education centres. Besides, AFCD has collaborated with the local communities and non-governmental organisations in setting up three local geo-heritage centres and launching a Recommended Geopark Guide Scheme to improve the quality of the geopark guides. The expenditure and manpower involved in 2010-11 were \$8 million and 10 staff respectively.
- (b) In 2011-12, AFCD will continue to conduct the above-mentioned on-going education and publicity activities to promote geo-conservation. It is also planned to set up an earth science discovery centre together with school programmes supported by school-based paleontological exhibits and a series of science popularisation videos. \$8 million and 10 staff have been earmarked for these activities in 2011-12.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 14 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**ENB015**

Question Serial No.

0366

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

Regarding the Indicators of the programme "Nature Conservation and Country Parks" of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, please inform the Committee of the following:

- (a) the reasons for the drop in the estimated numbers of seedlings produced, seedlings planted, ecological impact assessment applications and studies handled, participants in educational activities, visitors to country parks and endangered species inspections this year (i.e. 2011-12), in comparison with the actual numbers of the last two years (i.e. 2009-10 and 2010-11); and
- (b) the total expenses of the Indicators, and the proportion of such expenses to the overall expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. KAM Nai-wai

Reply :

(a) The reasons are as follows:

(i) Numbers of seedlings produced and planted

The numbers of seedlings to be produced and planted in 2011 are estimated to be 650 000 and 700 000 respectively after taking into account the need and availability of suitable sites for large scale tree planting programmes. As the majority of country park areas are now well wooded or covered with good vegetation, opportunities for large scale tree planting activities are not readily available. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will focus more on enhancing the quality of planting instead of quantity. Apart from planting for rehabilitation of areas damaged by hill fires and controlling soil erosion, more attention will be paid to enriching the existing exotic plantations through inter-planting with native tree species.

(ii) Number of ecological impact assessment applications and studies handled

The number of applications and studies varies from year to year depending on the number of development projects that may have potential ecological impact. Therefore, the average number of ecological impact assessment applications and studies handled over the past ten years is adopted for estimating the number for the year ahead.

(iii) Participants in educational services

The figures in 2009 and 2010 were particularly high due to some additional 150 000 participants attracted in 2009 by a series of new educational and publicity programmes organised in connection with the opening of Hong Kong National Geopark, and another additional 100 000 participants attracted in 2010 by a series of diversified community activities in various country parks and Hong Kong National Geopark organised in collaboration with the Home Affairs

Department. In 2011, the estimated number of participants in education services will return to the normal figure of 280 000 as in the years before 2009.

(iv) Visitors to country parks

The higher number of visitors in 2010 was mainly due to the novelty effect of the newly opened Hong Kong National Geopark. It is anticipated that such effect would gradually vanish in 2011 and hence the estimated number of visitors to country parks.

(v) Endangered species inspections

The number of inspections fluctuates from year to year. The higher number of inspections (24 000) in 2010 as compared with that (21 000) in 2009 was due to an upsurge in import shipment of endangered species requiring inspection. It is anticipated that the number of import shipment requiring inspection will return to an average level of 22 000 in 2011.

(b) The expenditure of the above mentioned indicators are given in the following table:

Indicators	Expenditure	
	Expenditure under this indicator	% of overall expenditure
Number of seedlings produced	\$8.6 million	1.7%
Number of seedlings planted	\$12.8 million	2.6%
Participants in educational activities	\$8.7 million	1.8%
Visitors to country parks	\$170.1 million	34.6%
Endangered species inspections	\$10.9 million	2.2%

Regarding the ecological impact assessment (EIA), the work is an integral part of the AFCD's effort in dealing with EIA and conservation aspects of development projects. The expenditure is absorbed under Programme (2) ("Nature Conservation and Country Parks Programme") under Head 22 – AFCD.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 15 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**ENB016**

Question Serial No.

0367

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

Regarding the nature conservation and management of wetlands in Hong Kong, please inform the Committee of:

- (a) the annual expenditure involved for the conservation and management of the Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay Ramsar site, and the respective percentages to the overall expenditure under the Programme of Nature Conservation and Country Parks over the past three years (i.e. from 2008-09 to 2010-11);
- (b) the expenditure involved for the management of the Hong Kong Wetland Park over the past three years (i.e. from 2008-09 to 2010-11).

Asked by : Hon. KAM Nai-wai

Reply :

- (a) The expenditure on the conservation management work of the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site and as a percentage of the total expenditure of the Conservation and Country Park Branches in the past three years are tabulated as below:

2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
\$13.0 million	\$15.0 million	\$14.5 million
3.3%	3.7%	3.3%

- (b) The expenditure on the management of Hong Kong Wetland Park in the past three years are as follows:

2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
\$43.4 million	\$49.8 million	\$45.5 million

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 14 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB017

Question Serial No.

0368

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

In connection with Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2011-12, please inform the Committee of the following:

- (a) the progress of “the inclusion of selected country park enclaves into country parks” over each of the past three years (i.e. from 2008-09 to 2010-11), future action plans and the expenditure involved.
- (b) the progress of the promotion of geo-conservation over each of the past three years (i.e. from 2008-09 to 2010-11), future action plans and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. KAM Nai-wai

Reply :

- (a) There are currently 77 country park enclaves, of which 23 have already been covered by Outline Zoning Plans (OZP) under the Town Planning Ordinance (TPO). Amongst the remaining 54 enclaves, seven enclaves have been covered by draft Development Permission Area (DPA) plans gazetted under TPO since August 2010. The remaining 47 enclaves, covering an approximate area of 1 219 hectares, will be considered whether they are suitable for inclusion in country parks or to be covered by DPA plan followed by OZP under TPO. Upon the completion of the selection process, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will then initiate the process for incorporating the selected country park enclaves into the relevant country parks in accordance with the procedures stipulated in the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208). In 2011-12, AFCD will allocate \$2.5 million for the strengthening of patrol and enforcement relating to the country park enclaves.
- (b) Since the opening of Hong Kong National Geopark in September 2009, AFCD has been conducting a variety of education and publicity activities to promote geo-conservation. On-going activities include: (a) production of books and learning kits for the general public, and field guides for professionals; (b) implementation of training programmes for geopark guides, tour operators and fishermen operating in the geopark; (c) organisation of educational programmes for teachers and students; (d) holding exhibitions and public seminars; (e) production of videos on geo-conservation and the history of the Earth; and (f) setting up of education and interpretative facilities of geo-trails, visitor centres and local geological education centres. Besides, AFCD has collaborated with the local communities and non-governmental organisations in setting up three local geo-heritage centres and launching a Recommended Geopark Guide Scheme to improve the quality of the geopark guides. The expenditure involved in 2009-10 and 2010-11 were \$7 million and \$8 million respectively.

In 2011-12, AFCD will continue to conduct the above-mentioned on-going education and publicity activities to promote geo-conservation. It is also planned to set up an earth science discovery centre together with school programmes supported by school-based paleontological exhibits and a series of science popularisation videos. \$8 million has been earmarked for these activities in 2011-12.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Name in block letters ALAN WONG  
Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
Date 14 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**ENB018**

Question Serial No.

0222

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department's work in pursuit of its aim involves the monitoring and auditing of ecological mitigation measures for development projects approved under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Cap. 499). Will the Administration inform the Committee of:

- (a) the number of development projects in progress that have been approved under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Cap. 499) and the total expenditure involved; and
- (b) the details of ecological mitigation measures for the above approved development projects and the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply :

- (a) In the last three years (2008-2010), a total of 26 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) reports of development projects involving ecological issues have been approved under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Cap. 499). The implementation of these projects is currently under different stages of development. The work of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in processing EIA is an integral part of the AFCD's effort in dealing with EIA and conservation aspects of development projects.
- (b) Ecological mitigation measures recommended in the above approved EIA reports include avoidance of ecologically sensitive areas, restoration and enhancement of disturbed habitats, translocation of rare species, compensatory planting as well as habitat compensation. AFCD is responsible for monitoring and auditing these ecological mitigation measures. About \$1.7 million has been earmarked for this task in 2011-12.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 15 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**ENB019**

Question Serial No.

0406

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

What is the existing staffing involved in the enhancement of biodiversity of country parks and special areas? Please provide the respective figures of the staff costs and total operating expenditure required.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply :

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will continue its conservation measures, including the Country Parks Plantation Enrichment Scheme, to enhance biodiversity in country parks and special areas. These include removal of trees of poor conditions, in-planting of native seedlings in existing plantations and creating suitable habitats to propagate rare and special plant species to enhance the species diversity of woodlands. For example, out of the 700 000 tree seedlings estimated to be planted in country parks and special areas in 2011, about 500 000 seedlings are native species which could effectively enhance the biodiversity of the country parks and special areas. About 15 000 seedlings of these 500 000 seedlings are rare or protected native species, which could better support flora conservation. About 500 staff will be involved in planting 700 000 tree seedlings during the planting season between mid-March and May and the estimated total expenditure required is \$12.4 million, of which \$4.0 million is staff cost.

Besides, AFCD will continue its territory-wide survey programme to monitor the ecological status of different habitats in Hong Kong including country parks and special areas as well as to update the ecological database. \$4.0 million and five staff have been earmarked for the programme in 2011-12.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 14 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**ENB020**

Question Serial No.

1975

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

It is learnt that the area near Nam She Tsim in Sai Kung is classified as dangerous path by the Administration, where members of the public are not encouraged to go hiking. However, this path is very popular amongst hikers and many people will go there at their own risk. Does the Administration have any plans to restore the eroded section in order to safeguard the safety of hikers?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply :

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is aware that some hikers who like challenging hiking experiences are interested in hiking up the Nam She Tsim (Sharp Peak) in Sai Kung East Country Park. However, the extremely steep terrain and narrow ridge of Sharp Peak, together with poor accessibility for rescue and escape, warrant its classification as a dangerous path where hiking by the general hikers are discouraged. As such, a "no through access" sign has been erected at the Tai Long Au, where an unmaintained path leading to Sharp Peak, to alert hikers. AFCD has no plan to restore the eroded section of the path due to its extreme conditions. In parallel, AFCD will further deter hikers from attempting the dangerous section through public education and publicity. Nonetheless, AFCD will carry out essential erosion-control measures to contain degradation of the natural landscape in the area.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 15 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**ENB021**

Question Serial No.

1976

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

What was the expenditure on the promotion of the Hong Kong National Geopark in 2010-11? Please set out the numbers of local and overseas visitors to the Geopark last year respectively.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply :

The expenditure on the promotion of the Hong Kong National Geopark in 2010-11 was \$2 million. According to the visitor survey conducted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, it is estimated that some 1.2 million visitors have visited the Geopark since its opening in November 2009. As the survey does not collect separate statistics on the numbers of local and overseas visitors, such data is not available.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 14 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**ENB022**

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Question Serial No.

0226

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

In Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2011-12, "the inclusion of selected country park enclaves into country parks" is indicated. Will the Department advise on:

- (a) the principles and criteria for the selection of enclaves;
- (b) the distribution and sizes of enclaves that are to be included into country parks; and
- (c) whether there will be any consultation? If yes, please give details. If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

- (a) Country parks are designated for the purposes of nature conservation, countryside recreation and nature education. In considering whether a country park enclave is suitable to be incorporated into a country park, the conservation value, landscape and aesthetic value and recreation potential of the enclave are the main criteria. Other factors such as geographical location, land status and existing land use of the enclave would also be considered during the selection process.
- (b) There are currently 77 country park enclaves, out of which 23 have already been covered by Outline Zoning Plans (OZP) under the Town Planning Ordinance (TPO). Amongst the remaining 54 enclaves, seven enclaves have been covered by draft Development Permission Area (DPA) plans gazetted under the TPO since August 2010. The remaining 47 enclaves, covering an approximate area of 1 219 hectares, will be considered whether they are suitable for inclusion in country parks according to the selection criteria mentioned in (a) above. As such, the list of enclaves planned to be incorporated into country parks is not available at this stage.
- (c) For the purpose of incorporating a country park enclave into a country park, the Country and Marine Parks Authority (the Authority) will follow the procedures stipulated in the Country Parks Ordinance (CPO) on replacement of the approved map of the country park. According to the CPO, the Authority is required to consult the Country and Marine Parks Board (CMPB) on the preparation of the draft map, to publish a notice in respect of the draft map in the Gazette, to publish the notice in three issues of daily newspapers (1 English Language and 2 Chinese language), and to display the notice in some conspicuous parts of the country park. In addition, a copy of the draft map shall be made

available for inspection by the public at various offices of the Government, and AFCD will actively consult the relevant District Councils during inspection period. Any person aggrieved by the draft map may within the inspection period of 60 days lodge an objection to the CMPB. Upon the hearing of the objection, the CMPB may reject the objection or direct the Authority to amend the draft map.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 14 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB023

Question Serial No.

0227

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

Regarding "the enhancement of biodiversity in country parks and special areas" under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2011-12, please advise on the following:

- (a) how to assess the effectiveness;
- (b) what are the resources earmarked; and
- (c) what were the measures adopted in the past three years (i.e. from 2008 to 2010) to combat the illegal hunting activities by cross-border hunters and please state the effectiveness of such measures.

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

- (a) The Government has been carrying out regular territory-wide biodiversity surveys which also cover country parks and special areas since 2002. Results showed that country parks and special areas are rich in biodiversity. In Hong Kong, there are currently over 3 100 species of vascular plants, of which about 2 100 of them are native species. There are over 240 species of butterflies, some 50 species of mammals, 500 species of birds, 80 species of reptiles, 20 species of amphibians, 180 species of freshwater fish, and 110 species of dragonflies. Among them, over 98% of the native species are represented in country parks and special areas, suggesting that conservation management measures are effective in enhancing the biodiversity of these sites.
- (b) In 2011-12, \$12.4 million has been earmarked for planting 700 000 tree seedlings in country parks and special areas. Out of the 700 000 seedlings, about 500 000 are native species which could effectively enhance the biodiversity of the country parks and special areas. Besides, an estimated expenditure of \$4.0 million will be provided for the territory-wide biodiversity survey programme in 2011-12, of which the biodiversity surveys for country parks and special areas will be covered.
- (c) Regular patrols and special joint operations with Police are conducted to deter any illegal hunting activities in the Ramsar Site and other countryside areas in the territory. In the past three years, there is no prosecution case involving cross-border hunters.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 14 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)022**

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Question Serial No.

0105

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

A total of 13 781 and 10 837 stray animals were caught in 2009 and 2010 respectively. Please set out the numbers of dogs and cats caught, the number of euthanised animals and the estimated number of animals to be euthanised in 2011-12.

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

The numbers of stray animals caught, given up by owners, received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)'s Animal Management Centres through other channels (such as through seizure) as well as the number of such animals rehomed and euthanised in 2009 and 2010 are at **Annex**.

If health conditions permit, stray dogs and cats caught by AFCD will usually stay at an AFCD Animal Management Centre for at least four days, pending possible retrieval by their owners. Unclaimed dogs and cats will be passed to animal welfare organisations collaborating with AFCD for re-homing if they are found to be healthy and of an acceptable temperament. Only animals which are assessed to be unsuitable for re-homing due to health or temperament reasons, or could not be re-homed by animal welfare organisations will be euthanised.

AFCD has recently strengthened collaboration with and support to animal welfare organisations in re-homing animals, including inviting more organisations to partner with AFCD and providing free de-sexing services for dogs and cats to be re-homed through its partners. It is expected that there would be a modest increase in the number of successful re-homed cases and hence a corresponding decrease in the number of animals to be euthanised in 2011.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ ALAN WONG \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 15 March 2011 \_\_\_\_\_

Annex

Calendar Year	Animals Caught			Animals Given Up by Owners			Animals Received by AMCs Through Other Channels			Animals Rehomed			Animals Euthanised		
	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others
2009	7,850	4,570	1,361	2,990	190	427	1,175	150	40	650	90	18	9,085	3,497	1,161
2010	6,519	3,907	411	2,345	204	68	1,689	204	31	789	119	32	7,420	3,047	482

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)023**

Question Serial No.

0177

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

What is the provision, including compensation to be paid to affected fishermen, earmarked for the implementation of the ban on trawling in Hong Kong waters? Please provide details of the criteria for the compensation.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

To assist the fishermen affected by the trawl ban in Hong Kong waters, the Government proposes to provide ex-gratia allowances and introduce a voluntary vessel buy-out scheme for the affected trawler owners, and to offer one-off grants to local deckhands employed by the trawler owners who surrender their vessels. We are discussing with the trawler fishermen and other stakeholders to gather their views on the implementation details. We will present the finalised proposals with detailed arrangements including financial implications to the Legislative Council in the second quarter of 2011.

The eligibility criteria for the proposed ex-gratia allowance, voluntary buy-out of trawler vessels and one-off grants for local deckhands are at Annex.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 17 March 2011

**Proposed Ex-gratia Allowance, Voluntary Buying out  
of Trawler Vessels, and One-off Grants**

**Eligibility Criteria for Applicants**

**(A) Ex-gratia Allowance (EGA)**

The eligibility criteria are to be determined by an inter-departmental working group (IWG) established before the commencement of the registration for applying for EGA. Only applicants who can meet the criteria are eligible for the EGA. The criteria should include the following:

- (a) the applicant must be the owner of a trawler vessel which is used for fishing only and not engaged in other commercial activities as at 13 October 2010, and at the time of application is still the owner of that trawler;
- (b) the applicant must be the holder of a valid certificate of ownership and operating licence of a Class III vessel issued by the Marine Department (MD) under the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Certification and Licensing) Regulation (Cap. 548D) in respect of the trawler vessel on or before 13 October 2010; or has obtained an approval-in-principle letter for construction of a Class III vessel issued by the MD on or before 13 October 2010, and submit a document proving that the vessel under construction is a trawler vessel;
- (c) the trawler vessel in the application must wholly or partly fish within Hong Kong waters;
- (d) the applicant must provide the trawler vessel and fishing gear for inspection during registration;
- (e) the particulars of qualified coxswain and engineer operator of the vessel must be provided for registration; and
- (f) other criteria as determined by the IWG.

**(B) Voluntary Buying out of Trawlers**

The applicant must be eligible for the EGA in (A) above.

**(C) One-off Grants for Local Deckhands**

- (a) the applicant must be a local deckhand and must, at the time of application, provide evidence proving that he/she has already been employed to work as at 13 October 2010 on the trawler vessel joining the above-mentioned Scheme, and has remained working on the trawler vessel until the owner of the trawler vessel has submitted an application for the Scheme;
- (b) the applicant must make a declaration on his/her employment status to support his claim in his/her employment on the trawler vessel;

- (c) the applicant must submit a declaration by his/her employer confirming his/her employment record; and
- (d) the applicant should as far as practicable provide relevant documentary evidence (e.g. Mandatory Provident Fund records, employment contracts, salary payment records, etc.) to support his claim in his/her employment on the trawler vessel.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)024**

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Question Serial No.

0178

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

How many pig farms and chicken farms are still in operation and please specify their sizes? What is the licensed rearing capacity of each farm?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The numbers of pig and chicken farms currently in operation are 43 and 30 respectively. The licensed area and licensed rearing capacity of each farm are shown in the attached table.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ **ALAN WONG** \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ **Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation** \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ **10 March 2011** \_\_\_\_\_

**Table : Area and rearing capacity of licensed livestock farms****Pig farm****Chicken farm**

	<b>Licensed Area (m<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>Licensed Capacity (Nos.)</b>
1	691.19	500
2	1,611.16	950
3	2,407.85	2,000
4	4,953.09	4,000
5	557.91	800
6	1,280.91	600
7	4,248.04	3,000
8	388.79	350
9	706.90	1,000
10	1,142.90	600
11	5,085.70	1,500
12	3,130.14	1,500
13	938.49	850
14	1,864.27	600
15	2,594.17	2,000
16	3,914.32	3,000
17	2,640.33	2,600
18	2,601.06	2,000
19	2,146.27	1,600
20	384.65	300
21	2,006.52	1,000
22	1,725.58	1,900
23	838.59	1,500
24	1,709.24	1,500
25	1,612.44	1,000
26	2,960.03	3,500
27	1,327.53	1,000
28	2,100.65	2,000
29	3,699.22	1,800
30	6,345.66	6,000
31	4,524.78	2,600
32	3,458.94	2,500
33	1,374.87	1,200
34	1,239.02	1,500
35	2,860.03	1,500
36	556.96	250
37	1,392.30	1,990
38	626.82	450
39	1,923.26	1,500
40	7,108.62	4,000
41	4,106.13	3,000
42	3,205.77	2,000
43	1,180.97	1,200
<b>Total :</b>	<b>101,172.07</b>	<b>74,640</b>

	<b>Licensed Area (m<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>Licensed Capacity (Nos.)</b>
1	433.41	10,000
2	708.10	18,000
3	2,597.37	50,000
4	387.23	10,000
5	648.36	20,000
6	723.86	19,900
7	974.59	20,000
8	569.30	25,000
9	682.16	19,000
10	2,648.58	35,000
11	775.26	20,000
12	1,336.34	39,000
13	2,004.75	41,000
14	4,518.98	48,000
15	4,604.03	102,000
16	3,226.20	108,000
17	948.17	18,000
18	2,623.25	70,000
19	2,944.67	62,800
20	1,568.95	38,500
21	758.15	26,000
22	9,091.32	162,300
23	4,831.83	80,000
24	1,563.39	48,000
25	1,137.70	48,000
26	873.34	27,000
27	1,610.01	26,000
28	1,655.73	36,000
29	1,250.84	42,000
30	1,067.54	31,000
<b>Total :</b>	<b>58,763.41</b>	<b>1,300,500</b>

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)026**

Question Serial No.

0180

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

Regarding animal and plant regulation:

- (a) please provide the respective numbers of stray animals caught over the past two years (2009-10 and 2010-11) by species.
- (b) please list the respective methods employed by the Government to handle stray animals over the past two years (2009-10 and 2010-11) by species. What was the expenditure involved?
- (c) how many animals without quarantine were found imported illegally for sale over the past two years (2009-10 and 2010-11) respectively?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

- (a) The numbers of stray animals, by types, caught by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), in 2009 and 2010 are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Dog</b>	<b>Cat</b>	<b>Others</b>
2009	7 850	4 570	1 361
2010	6 519	3 907	411

- (b) If health conditions permit, stray dogs and cats caught by AFCD will usually stay at an AFCD Animal Management Centre for at least four days, pending possible retrieval by their owners. Unclaimed dogs and cats will be passed to animal welfare organisations collaborating with AFCD for re-homing if they are found to be healthy and of an acceptable temperament. Only animals which are assessed to be unsuitable for re-homing due to health or temperament reasons, or could not be re-homed by animal welfare organisations will be euthanised.

Stray cattle caught by AFCD will also be kept in an AFCD Animal Management Centre and the public will be notified by gazette. If the cattle are not claimed by their owners within seven days of notice, arrangements will be made for the cattle to be sold or euthanised.

The expenditure involved in handling stray animals at the Animal Management Centres is as follows :

<b>Year</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>
2009-10	\$1.8 million
2010-11	\$1.6 million

- (c) The numbers of illegally imported animals, including those not meeting the quarantine requirements, seized by AFCD in 2009 and 2010 are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
Number of animals seized	1 765	1 518

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 16 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)027**

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Question Serial No.

1271

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

How many stray animals were caught in the past three years (2008-10)? How many of them were re-homed eventually? Please provide the numbers by species.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The numbers of stray animals caught and re-homed through collaborating animal welfare organisations by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, by types, in the past three years is as follows:

Year	Number caught			Number re-homed		
	Dog	Cat	Others	Dog	Cat	Others
2008	8 375	4 642	709	720	180	12
2009	7 850	4 570	1 361	650	90	18
2010	6 519	3 907	411	789	119	32

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 15 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)028**

Question Serial No.

1272

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

Please provide information on the numbers of licensed premises and establishments where animals were kept for trading purposes over the past three years (2008-10). How many inspections were carried out and how many irregularities were found during the period? Please give a detailed breakdown of the cases by nature.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The numbers of licensed animal trading premises over the past three years (2008-2010) are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Licensed Premises</b>
2008	433
2009	418
2010	426

The numbers of inspections carried out and cases of prosecutions over the past three years are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Inspections</b>	<b>No. of Prosecutions</b>	
		<b>Trading without licence</b>	<b>Breaching licence condition</b>
2008	4 999	5	22
2009	7 523	3	4
2010	4 456	13	5

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 10 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)029**

Question Serial No.

1368

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

Please provide the annual quantities of fresh vegetables consumed by Hong Kong people over the past 3 years (from 2008 to 2010). What were the annual percentages of vegetables marketed through the Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO) to the total vegetable sales in Hong Kong in the same period? What are the estimated total quantities consumed by Hong Kong people and the percentage of vegetables marketed through VMO to the total sales in Hong Kong for 2011?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

The annual consumption of fresh vegetables from 2008 to 2010, and the corresponding quantity and percentage marketed through the Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO) in the same period, are tabulated below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total consumption (tonne)</b>	<b>Throughput in VMO (tonne)</b>	<b>VMO throughput over total consumption (%)</b>
2008	654 858	176 796	27%
2009	657 892	172 764	26%
2010	651 557	156 495	24%

We expect the total consumption of vegetables in 2011 to be around 650 000 tonnes with 151 000 tonnes (23%) to be marketed through VMO.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 15 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)054**

Question Serial No.

0228

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

It is mentioned in the Budget that in the face of surging food prices, the Administration will continue to diversify the sources of our food imports. In this connection,

- (a) has the Department put in place any specific measures for the above pledge? If yes, what are the details, manpower and expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons? and
- (b) apart from guaranteeing local supply, has the Department studied or made any plans to develop local wholesale fish markets into a regional trading centre so as to give a boost to local tourism and catering industry? If yes, what are the details and what is the provision earmarked? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

- (a) The Government is committed to ensuring safe and stable supply of food for the general public. As a highly open economy, Hong Kong adheres to the principle of free trade in food import. Food from all over the world, as long as they are fit for human consumption, can be imported and distributed in Hong Kong according to market demand, thus promoting diversity in local food choices and maintaining price stability to cater for customers with different purchasing powers. The Food and Health Bureau encourages the trade to explore new food supply and food traders are suggested to source for alternatives e.g. chilled and frozen meat as an alternative to fresh meat. In this respect, Mainland chilled pork has been imported into Hong Kong since 2006, with a total import volume of about 18 300 tonnes in 2010, representing an increase by 17% as compared with that in 2009. Chilled beef from the Mainland also entered the Hong Kong market in December 2010 and the public response was positive. The Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO) and Fish Marketing Organization (FMO), statutory organisations under the purview of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), keep a close watch on the wholesale activities of vegetables and fish in Hong Kong. Both the VMO and FMO will continue to liaise with traders to encourage them to diversify their import source. As the above work is undertaken by existing staff as part of their regular duties, the expenditure cannot be separately identified.

- (b) The wholesale fish markets in Hong Kong are established and operated by the FMO to provide efficient and orderly wholesale marketing services to local fishermen and fish traders. They were not originally designed and built as scenic spots for tourists. If there is any proposal to develop any of these markets into a regional trading centre with a view to giving a boost to local tourism and catering industry, it can only proceed with improved visitor facilities and without affecting the existing market operation. Based on these premises, the AFCD is prepared to examine the feasibility of such proposals jointly with the FMO and other relevant departments.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 15 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)055**

Question Serial No.

0338

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

Please set out the numbers of stray dogs and cats caught over the past two years and the numbers of which being re-homed or euthanised, what are the estimated corresponding numbers of the coming year?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond

Reply :

The numbers of stray animals caught, given up by owners, received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)'s Animal Management Centres (AMCs) through other channels (such as through seizure) as well as the number of such animals rehomed and euthanised in 2009 and 2010 are at **Annex**.

If health conditions permit, stray dogs and cats caught by AFCD will usually stay at an AFCD Animal Management Centre for at least four days, pending possible retrieval by their owners. Unclaimed dogs and cats will be passed to animal welfare organisations collaborating with AFCD for re-homing if they are found to be healthy and of an acceptable temperament. Only animals which are assessed to be unsuitable for re-homing due to health or temperament reasons, or could not be re-homed by animal welfare organisations will be euthanised.

AFCD has recently strengthened collaboration with and support to animal welfare organisations in re-homing animals, including inviting more organisations to partner with AFCD and providing free de-sexing services for dogs and cats to be re-homed through its partners. It is expected that there would be a modest increase in the number of successful re-homed cases and hence a corresponding decrease in the number of animals to be euthanised in 2011.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ ALAN WONG

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 15 March 2011

Annex

Calendar Year	Animals Caught			Animals Given Up by Owners			Animals Received by AMCs Through Other Channels			Animals Rehomed			Animals Euthanised		
	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others
2009	7,850	4,570	1,361	2,990	190	427	1,175	150	40	650	90	18	9,085	3,497	1,161
2010	6,519	3,907	411	2,345	204	68	1,689	204	31	789	119	32	7,420	3,047	482

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)056**

Question Serial No.

1536

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

Why do the annual subventions to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong) remain \$608,000 from 2009-10 to 2011-12 onwards? What are the criteria for determining the amount? Will the Administration increase the subventions having taken into account the factor of inflation?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has been in collaboration with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) to implement various animal welfare programmes including stray dog control, animal rescue and educational activities. For planning purpose, the estimated funding support to be given to SPCA for 2011-12 is based on the actual expenditure for these activities provided by SPCA in 2010-11. The exact amount to be given will be worked out taking into account the budget to be submitted by SPCA.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ ALAN WONG \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 17 March 2011 \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)057**

Question Serial No.

1537

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

How many resources are earmarked for the application of other animal welfare organisations for the implementation of programmes or activities?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

In 2011-12, \$608,000 has been earmarked for providing funding support to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to implement various ongoing animal welfare programmes including stray dog control, animal rescue and educational activities. Besides, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will continue its efforts in strengthening support and assistance to animal welfare organisations in carrying out animal welfare and related activities. For example, AFCD has recently introduced new measures to facilitate animal welfare organisations in re-homing animals in partnership with AFCD by providing free de-sexing services for dogs and cats to be re-homed through them. The Department will also seek to engage or collaborate with more animal welfare organisations in implementing education and publicity activities.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 14 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)058**

Question Serial No.

1532

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

What were the expenditure of various animal management centres run by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department under the above subhead? Please list out the relevant operational expenses from 2008-09 to 2010-11 respectively.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department operates four animal management centres (AMC) which are located in the North New Territories (NTN), South New Territories (NTS), Kowloon (K) and Hong Kong Island (HK) respectively. Their expenditure from 2008-09 to 2010-11 are as follows:

Financial Year	AMC/NTN	AMC/NTS	AMC/K	AMC/HK
2008-09	\$14.41 million	\$9.78 million	\$12.35 million	\$9.78 million
2009-10	\$14.78 million	\$10.03 million	\$12.67 million	\$10.03 million
2010-11	\$15.87 million	\$10.77 million	\$13.60 million	\$10.77 million

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 14 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)059**

Question Serial No.

1533

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

Please provide in table form the numbers and types of animals received by various animal management centres over the past three years (namely 2008, 2009 and 2010) as well as the numbers of cases in which the animals were euthanised or treated otherwise during their stay in those centres? What was the expenditure involved in euthanasia of animals?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The numbers of stray animals caught, given up by owners, received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department's Animal Management Centres (AMCs) through other channels (such as through seizure) as well as the numbers of such animals rehomed and euthanised in the past three years are at **Annex**. The expenditure involved in euthanasia of animals in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Expenditure Involved</b>
2008-09	\$1.5 million
2009-10	\$1.5 million
2010-11	\$1.3 million

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 17 March 2011

**Annex**

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Animals Caught</b>			<b>Animals Given Up by Owners</b>			<b>Animals Received by AMCs Through Other Channels</b>			<b>Animals Rehomed</b>			<b>Animals Euthanised</b>		
	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others
2008	8,375	4,642	709	3,370	370	185	1,480	228	193	720	180	12	10,240	3,923	825
2009	7,850	4,570	1,361	2,990	190	427	1,175	150	40	650	90	18	9,085	3,497	1,161
2010	6,519	3,907	411	2,345	204	68	1,689	204	31	789	119	32	7,420	3,047	482

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)060**

Question Serial No.

1534

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

In Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2011-12, it is indicated that the Administration will tighten the control on the sources of dogs offered for sale in pet shops through implementing the revised conditions of the Animal Trader Licence. How is the progress in this regard? Has the Administration considered expanding the scope of work to tighten the control on the sources of other animals as well?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The additional licensing conditions for animal traders were introduced in February 2010 to tighten the control on the sources of dogs offered for sale. Since then, the Agriculture, Conservation and Fisheries Department (AFCD) has stepped up efforts both in publicising the new arrangements and the inspection of licensed pet shops to ensure their compliance with these additional licensing conditions. The trade has been able to cope with the new arrangements with no major difficulties. The Department is now analysing the data on the sources of dogs offered for sale in pet shops collected over the past year with a view to reviewing the effectiveness of the additional licensing conditions.

The AFCD reviews the licensing conditions for different types of animal traders from time to time in light of the prevailing situation and actual needs. For example, to prevent avian influenza, the AFCD amended the licensing conditions for bird traders in June 2007 to stipulate that all birds sold by animal traders had to come from approved sources.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 10 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)061**

Question Serial No.

1535

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

It is stated under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2011-12 that “measures for stray animals management” will be strengthened. In this connection, how many resources and manpower are earmarked for implementing the “Trap-Neuter-Return Programme” for dogs at the district level? Please provide the details.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will continue to assist the relevant animal welfare organisations in devising the implementation details of the Trap-Neuter-Return pilot scheme for dogs, including the management and legal liability issues as well as selection of suitable sites for the pilot scheme. The Department will also conduct local consultation in partnership with these organisations and provide technical support and assistance to them in implementing, monitoring and evaluating the success or otherwise of the trial scheme. A total of three staff and \$1.7 million will be allocated for this task in 2011-12.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 15 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)062**

Question Serial No.

0246

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

The estimated provision for the new financial year under the said Programme is increased by 6.8%. The Administration explained that it is mostly used for implementing a special training programme for trawler fishermen. Please specify if outside training institutions are engaged or staff of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department are deployed for implementing the training programme. Please also provide details of the staff costs involved.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply :

\$4 million of the increased provision under Programme 1 is intended for the special training programmes for trawler fishermen, which will be implemented through engaging non-government training institutions with the relevant knowledge and experience in providing such programmes.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 17 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)064**

Question Serial No.

0407

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

What is the existing staffing involved in the inspection of premises and establishments where animals are kept for exhibition or trading purposes? As there is an increase in recent years in the number of pet shops, please advise whether more staff will be deployed to discharge duties in this regard.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply :

While the number of pet shops has remained stable in recent years, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) introduced additional licensing conditions for animal traders in February 2010 to tighten the control on the sources of dogs offered for sale. Since then, AFCD has stepped up efforts both in publicising the new arrangements and the inspection of licensed pet shops to ensure their compliance with these conditions. Where necessary, enforcement action will be taken against illegal animal trading activities or breach of licensing conditions. To ensure effective implementation of the new measures, the Department has deployed additional staff resources in this connection. A total of 23 staff are involved in the inspection of animal trading and exhibition premises as well as the related enforcement and publicity activities.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 15 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)065**

Question Serial No.

0447

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

Please inform the Committee of the following:

- (a) out of the number of "stray animals caught" mentioned in "Indicators", how many were euthanised and how many were re-homed over the past three years (i.e. 2008-09, 2009-10, and 2010-11)?
- (b) regarding the catching of stray animals, what were the actual expenditure for 2009-10, the revised expenditure for 2010-11, and the estimated expenditure for 2011-12?
- (c) in 2011-12, what is the estimated cost of each euthanasia procedure?
- (d) at present, animal welfare organisations can apply for funding from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) to launch projects in promotion of animal welfare. When did AFCD start this initiative and how much provision is earmarked each year? Over the past three years (i.e. 2008-09, 2009-10, and 2010-11), which organisations had applied for funding and what were their projects about? How much funding did they apply for and how did AFCD assess the effectiveness of these projects?
- (e) AFCD has provided subsidies to the public to neuter their pets and has introduced outsourced free neutering service for re-homed animals (mainly cats and dogs) through its partner organisations in animal welfare. With adequate provision earmarked for this service, when will it take place? What is AFCD's annual provision allocated to this service? and
- (f) over the past three years (i.e. 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11), how many re-homed animals were neutered?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

- (a) The numbers of stray animals caught, given up by owners, received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)'s Animal Management Centres (AMCs) through other channels (such as through seizure) as well as the numbers of such animals rehomed and euthanised in the past three years are at **Annex**.
- (b) The expenditure involved in the catching of stray animals for 2009-10, 2010-11, and 2011-12 are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Expenditure involved</b>
2009-10	\$20.6 million (actual)
2010-11	\$21.3 million (revised estimate)
2011-12	\$21.3 million (estimated)

- (c) The estimated cost of each euthanasia procedure in 2011-12 is \$137.
- (d) At present, AFCD provides funding support to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) to implement various animal welfare programmes including stray dog control, animal rescue and educational activities. For planning purpose, the estimated funding support to be given to SPCA for 2011-12 is based on the actual expenditure for these activities provided by SPCA in 2010-11, which is \$608,000. SPCA had applied for the same amount of funding for 2008-09 and 2009-10. It is required to submit annual reports on the progress, results and financial accounts on the programmes. Other animal welfare organisations can also apply for funding for the implementation of animal welfare programmes. AFCD will consider each application on its merits.
- (e) AFCD is collaborating with 12 animal welfare organisations on re-homing of stray animals. In order to promote neutering of animals and strengthen support to these organisations, AFCD has introduced the new free de-sexing programme for these animals in February 2011. \$1 million has been earmarked for this programme in 2011-12.
- (f) All stray dogs and cats rehomed through those animal welfare organisations collaborating with AFCD are required to be neutered when they are adopted.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 17 March 2011

**Annex**

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Animals Caught</b>			<b>Animals Given Up by Owners</b>			<b>Animals Received by AMCs Through Other Channels</b>			<b>Animals Rehomed</b>			<b>Animals Euthanised</b>		
	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others
2008	8,375	4,642	709	3,370	370	185	1,480	228	193	720	180	12	10,240	3,923	825
2009	7,850	4,570	1,361	2,990	190	427	1,175	150	40	650	90	18	9,085	3,497	1,161
2010	6,519	3,907	411	2,345	204	68	1,689	204	31	789	119	32	7,420	3,047	482

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)066**

Question Serial No.

0360

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

How much manpower is deployed by the Department to assist in organic cultivation and its sales promotion? In this connection, what kind of work was implemented by the Department last year? Please also provide the respective figures of the Department's expenditure last year and the estimated expenditure this year on the promotion of organic cultivation.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, Sophie

Reply :

The manpower deployed and the expenditure incurred in the promotion of organic farming and marketing of local organic produce in 2010-11 are 16 staff and \$6.8 million respectively. Similar level of manpower and expenditure will be required in 2011-12. Relevant work in 2010-11 includes technical support and assistance to local farmers under the on-going Organic Farming Support Service Scheme, joint effort with the Vegetable Marketing Organization and the Federation of Vegetable Marketing Cooperative Societies in promoting the production and marketing of local organic produce, and rendering support to the Hong Kong Organic Resource Centre for the promotion of organic education and certification.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 15 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)067**

Question Serial No.

1823

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

In Programme 3, it is indicated that the Administration will tighten the control on the sources of dogs offered for sale in pet shops through implementing the revised conditions of the Animal Trader Licence in 2011. Please inform the Committee the policy details, the implementation timetable, and the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

The additional licensing conditions for animal traders were introduced in February 2010 to tighten the control on the sources of dogs offered for sale. Since then, the Agriculture, Conservation and Fisheries Department (AFCD) has stepped up efforts both in publicising the new arrangements and the inspection of licensed pet shops to ensure their compliance with these additional licensing conditions. Where necessary, enforcement actions will be taken against illegal animal trading activities or breach of licensing conditions. The trade has been able to cope with the new arrangements with no major difficulties.

In 2011-12, the Department will continue with the above-mentioned strengthened efforts to tighten the control on the sources of dogs offered for sale in pet shops and the regulation and enforcement on the trading of other pet animals. \$6.3 million has been earmarked for this activity in 2011-12.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 15 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)118**

Question Serial No.

1174

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

It is mentioned that the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will “implement the recommendations of the Committee on Sustainable Fisheries to regulate fishing activities including banning trawling in Hong Kong waters, with the aim of conserving and restoring marine resources.” In this connection,

- (a) what are the details of “banning trawling in Hong Kong waters”? Please advise the implementation timetable.
- (b) what is the estimated expenditure involved?
- (c) will the Administration reach a consensus with the trade before implementing the measures?
- (d) will the Administration compensate those in the trade who are affected by the measures? If yes, please give details. What is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

With the aim of conserving and restoring marine resources and promoting the sustainable development of the local fisheries industry, the Government is pursuing the policy initiative of introducing a trawl ban in Hong Kong waters through legislation. To assist the fishermen affected by the trawl ban, the Government proposes to provide them with ex-gratia allowances and introduce a voluntary vessel buy-out scheme for the affected trawler owners, and to offer one-off grants to local deckhands employed by the trawler owners who surrender their vessels. We are discussing with the trawler fishermen and other stakeholders to gather their views on the implementation details. We will present the finalised proposals with detailed arrangements including financial implications to the Legislative Council in the second quarter of 2011. Subject to the legislative progress and funding from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council, we envisage that the trawl ban will take effect from the end of 2012 at the earliest.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 17 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)119**

Question Serial No.

1175

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

Regarding the matter of “strengthening measures for stray animals management and promotion of animal welfare”,

- (a) what are the details of the measures?
- (b) what is the estimated expenditure involved?
- (c) please provide the numbers of stray cattle in various districts over the past five years. While the problem of stray cattle in the New Territories and on outlying islands remained unresolved over the years, will the Administration cope with this problem in 2011-12? If yes, what are the details and estimated expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) In 2011-12, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will strengthen its efforts in stray animals management and promotion of animal welfare through a number of new and enhanced measures. These include (a) implementation of an enhanced education and publicity programme to promote animal welfare and responsible pet ownership; (b) drawing up code of practices for the proper keeping of pets and other animals; (c) stepping up enforcement actions against pet owners and traders in contravention of relevant animal laws; (d) strengthening collaboration with and support to animal welfare organisations in re-homing of animals, including inviting more organisations to partner with AFCD and providing free de-sexing services for dogs and cats to be re-homed through its partners as well as assisting interested animal welfare organisations to apply for funds under the Sir Robert Ho Tung Fund for animal welfare and related activities; (e) assisting the relevant animal welfare organisations in devising the implementation details of the Trap-Neuter-Return pilot scheme for dogs, and providing technical support and assistance to them in implementing, monitoring and evaluating the success of the trial scheme upon its commencement; and (f) devising a long term strategy for the management of stray cattle population in consultation with relevant animal welfare organisations and local communities. Besides, AFCD will continue to explore further enhanced measures for stray animals management and promotion of animal welfare.
- (b) The implementation of the above-mentioned new and enhanced measures will be supported by an additional provision of \$7.6 million in 2011-12 as well as through re-deployment of existing resources.

- (c) According to a survey conducted by AFCD in 2008, there were around 1 000 stray cattle in the rural areas of Hong Kong and their distribution is shown below:

	<b>Estimated Number of Stray Cattle (Head) in 2008</b>				
	<b>Lantau Island</b>	<b>Sai Kung</b>	<b>Northeast New Territories</b>	<b>Northwest New Territories</b>	<b>Total</b>
Brown Cattle	200	190	250	260	900
Buffalo	80	0	0	50	130
Total	280	190	250	310	1 030

In order to minimise the nuisance and danger potentially caused by stray cattle to the public while at the same time safeguarding the cattle's welfare, AFCD is devising a long term, multi-pronged strategy for the proper management of stray cattle population in consultation with various stakeholders. In addition, AFCD is collaborating with the Society for the Prevention of Animal Cruelty and other interested animal welfare organisations to implement a Trap-Neuter-Return pilot scheme for stray cattle on Lantau Island with a view to exploring the feasibility or otherwise of this method in managing and controlling the growth of stray cattle population there. A total of \$2 million will be allocated for this task in 2011-12.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 17 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)120**

Question Serial No.

3511

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

- (a) What were the total expenditure involved in catching stray animals in the three financial years of 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11?
- (b) Please provide by species (e.g. cats, dogs, wild pigs etc) and in table form the numbers of stray animals caught and handed over to the Department, and the numbers of animals eventually euthanised and re-homed.
- (c) In the three financial years of 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11, how many days would the Department keep the stray animals caught before they were euthanised and what was the average daily expenditure required for each animal?

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply :

- (a) The expenditure involved in the catching of stray animals for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>
2008-09	\$19.9 million
2009-10	\$20.6 million
2010-11	\$21.3 million

- (b) The numbers of stray animals caught, given up by owners, received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)'s Animal Management Centres (AMCs) through other channels (such as through seizure) as well as the numbers of such animals rehomed and euthanised in the past three years are at **Annex**.

- (c) In the three financial years of 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11, the numbers of days that AFCD would keep the stray animals caught before they were euthanised and the average daily expenditure required for each animal are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Average number of days kept</b>	<b>Average daily expenditure for each animal</b>
2008-09	6.7	\$98
2009-10	6.6	\$113
2010-11	7.5	\$129

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 17 March 2011

**Annex**

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Animals Caught</b>			<b>Animals Given Up by Owners</b>			<b>Animals Received by AMCs Through Other Channels</b>			<b>Animals Rehomed</b>			<b>Animals Euthanised</b>		
	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others
2008	8,375	4,642	709	3,370	370	185	1,480	228	193	720	180	12	10,240	3,923	825
2009	7,850	4,570	1,361	2,990	190	427	1,175	150	40	650	90	18	9,085	3,497	1,161
2010	6,519	3,907	411	2,345	204	68	1,689	204	31	789	119	32	7,420	3,047	482

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)121**

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Question Serial No.

3512

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

In the three financial years of 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11, what were the total expenditure involved in euthanasia of animals, and what were the average expenditure for euthanising each dog and cat?

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply :

The expenditure involved in euthanasia of animals in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Expenditure involved</b>	<b>Average cost for euthanising each animal</b>
2008-09	\$1.5 million	\$98
2009-10	\$1.5 million	\$102
2010-11	\$1.3 million	\$137

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 15 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)122**

Question Serial No.

3513

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

What are the respective total expenditure involved in providing inoculation and de-sexing services for dogs and cats? What are the average expenditure for performing each inoculation and de-sexing treatment?

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply :

In 2011-12, \$2.4 million and \$1 million have been earmarked for providing rabies vaccine inoculation and de-sexing services for dogs and cats respectively. The average expenditure for performing each inoculation and de-sexing each animal is about \$41 and \$1,000 respectively.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ ALAN WONG \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 17 March 2011 \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)123**

Question Serial No.

3654

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

In 2010, what was the Department's expenditure on catching stray animals and euthanising them? How many animals were involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply :

The numbers of stray animals caught, given up by owners, received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department's Animal Management Centres (AMCs) through other channels (such as through seizure) as well as the numbers of such animals euthanised in 2010 are at **Annex**.

In 2010-11, the expenditure on euthanising animals is \$1.3 million and that on catching stray animals is \$21.3 million.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 17 March 2011

Annex

2010

Animals Caught			Animals Given Up by Owners			Animals Received by AMCs Through Other Channels			Animals Euthanised		
Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others
6,519	3,907	411	2,345	204	68	1,689	204	31	7,420	3,047	482

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)124**

Question Serial No.

3655

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

In 2010, how many complaints regarding dog poisoning did the Department receive? What resources were spent on processing the complaints? What was the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply :

In 2010, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department received about 20 000 complaints and reports requiring follow-up actions, of which only three cases involved suspected dog poisoning. A total of 17 staff (including 1 Senior Veterinary Officer, 4 Veterinary Officers, 4 Field Officers I and 8 Field Officers II) were deployed to handle these complaints and reports as well as other duties relating to animal management and animal welfare. There is no separate cost breakdown for handling dog poisoning-related work.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ ALAN WONG \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 17 March 2011 \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)125**

Question Serial No.

3662

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

The Department has pledged to look into the implementation of a "trap-neuter-vaccinate-return" programme. What is the estimated cost per stray dog under this programme? Please give a breakdown of the expenditure items.

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply :

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will continue to assist the relevant animal welfare organisations in devising the implementation details of the Trap-Neuter-Return pilot scheme for dogs, including management and legal liability issues as well as selection of suitable sites for the pilot scheme. The Department will also conduct local consultation in partnership with these organisations and provide technical support and assistance to them in implementing, monitoring and evaluating the success or otherwise of the trial scheme. \$1.7 million will be allocated for this task in 2011-12. As the pilot scheme is still at the planning stage, we do not have information on the estimated cost per stray dog to be handled under this scheme.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 15 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)126**

Question Serial No.

3663

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

- (a) Please advise the respective total expenditure for the past three financial years, i.e. 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, on the "trap-neuter-return" programme for cats.
- (b) Regarding animals caught and handed to the Department, will more resources be allocated in 2011-12 to keep them for a longer period of time so that they will have more chances to be re-homed and live a longer life?

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply :

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) provides annual funding support to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) to implement various animal welfare programmes, including the Cat Colony Care Programme (CCCP). According to SPCA, an amount of \$200,000 has been used to support the CCCP over the past three years in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11.
- (b) AFCD is collaborating with 12 animal welfare organisations (AWOs) on re-homing of stray animals. Animals assessed to be suitable for re-homing will be taken care of by staff of the Animal Management Centres until they are transferred to the relevant AWOs. These animals will then be kept by AWOs until being adopted.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 15 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)127**

Question Serial No.

3664

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

It is mentioned that the Department will strengthen enforcement of import control of animals in 2011-12. Please advise the details and the provision earmarked.

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply :

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has earmarked \$5.1 million in 2011-12 to strengthen import control of animals. The Department will expand the Quarantine Detector Dog Unit by recruiting and training up three more dogs and the same number of staff as handlers to bring the total number to eight dogs and eight handlers, thus enabling the Department to carry out more operations against illegal import of animals at various boundary control points for land and sea transport as well as the Hong Kong International Airport. In addition, the Department will continue its publicity effort in advising the public not to import animals illegally.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 17 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)128**

Question Serial No.

3665

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

The Department will introduce a new code of practice for pig farming in 2011-12. Please provide the details and the estimated expenditure in this regard.

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply :

The Code of Practice for Pig Farming (CoP) will be implemented by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) as general guidelines for pig farm operation. It covers husbandry and farm management, stock and visitor movement control, disease monitoring and control, waste treatment and hygiene. AFCD will provide farmers with advice on how to avoid and minimize food safety hazards posed by drug and pesticide residues, mycotoxins as well as environmental contaminants, etc. This, coupled with continued provision of appropriate education and training by AFCD, should enable pig farmers to comply with the requirements in CoP.

There will not be any additional expenditure as this task will form part of AFCD's ongoing efforts to promote good farm management and husbandry practices.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 15 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)129**

Question Serial No.

3858

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

In 2011-12, the Department will tighten the control on the sources of dogs offered for sale in pet shops through implementing the revised conditions of the Animal Trader Licence. Please provide the details and the estimated expenditure in this regard. Does it include the regulation and enforcement on the trading of dogs, cats, rabbits etc?

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply :

The additional licensing conditions for animal traders were introduced in February 2010 to tighten the control on the sources of dogs offered for sale. Since then, the Agriculture, Conservation and Fisheries Department has stepped up efforts both in publicising the new arrangements and the inspection of licensed pet shops to ensure their compliance with these additional licensing conditions. Where necessary, enforcement actions will be taken against illegal animal trading activities or breach of licensing conditions. The trade has been able to cope with the new arrangements with no major difficulties.

In 2011-12, the Department will continue with the above-mentioned strengthened efforts to tighten the control on the sources of dogs offered for sale in pet shops and the regulation and enforcement on the trading of other pet animals. \$6.3 million has been earmarked for this activity in 2011-12.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 17 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)130**

Question Serial No.

3859

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

In 2011-12, the Department will strengthen measures for stray animals management and promotion of animal welfare. Please provide the details and the estimated expenditure in this regard.

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply :

In 2011-12, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will strengthen its efforts in stray animals management and promotion of animal welfare through a number of new and enhanced measures. These include (a) implementation of an enhanced education and publicity programme to promote animal welfare and responsible pet ownership; (b) drawing up code of practices for the proper keeping of pets and other animals; (c) stepping up enforcement actions against pet owners and traders in contravention of relevant animal laws; (d) strengthening collaboration with and support to animal welfare organisations in re-homing of animals, including inviting more organisations to partner with AFCD and providing free de-sexing services for dogs and cats to be re-homed through its partners as well as assisting interested animal welfare organisations to apply for funds under the Sir Robert Ho Tung Fund for animal welfare and related activities; (e) assisting the relevant animal welfare organisations in devising the implementation details of the Trap-Neuter-Return pilot scheme for dogs, and providing technical support and assistance to them in implementing, monitoring and evaluating the success of the trial scheme upon its commencement; and (f) devising a long term strategy for the management of stray cattle population in consultation with relevant animal welfare organisations and local communities. Besides, AFCD will continue to explore further enhanced measures for stray animals management and promotion of animal welfare. The implementation of these new and enhanced measures will be supported by an additional provision of \$7.6 million in 2011-12 as well as through re-deployment of existing resources.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ ALAN WONG

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 17 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)139**

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead : 000 Operational  
expenses

Question Serial No.

1134

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

On engaging agency workers, please provide the following information:

	2011-12	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09
Number of contracts of engaging employment agencies	( )	( )	( )	( )
Contract sum paid to each employment agency	( )	( )	( )	( )
Total amount of commission paid to each employment agency	( )	( )	( )	( )
Length of contract for each employment agency	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of agency workers	( )	( )	( )	( )
Details of the positions held by agency workers				
Monthly salary range of agency workers				
• \$30,001 or above	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$16,001 - \$30,000	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$8,001 - \$16,000	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$6,501 - \$8,000	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$5,001 - \$6,500	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$5,000 or below	( )	( )	( )	( )
• number of workers with salary below \$5,824	( )	( )	( )	( )
• number of workers with salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500	( )	( )	( )	( )
Length of service of agency workers				
• 5 years or longer	( )	( )	( )	( )
• 3 - 5 years	( )	( )	( )	( )
• 1 - 3 years	( )	( )	( )	( )
• less than 1 year	( )	( )	( )	( )
Percentage of agency workers in the total number of staff in the department	( )	( )	( )	( )
Percentage of amount paid to employment agencies in the total departmental staff cost	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of workers with paid meal break	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of workers without paid meal break	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of workers on five-day week	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of workers on six-day week	( )	( )	( )	( )

( ) denotes percentage of increase or decrease per year

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

Details of the information are as follows:

	2011-12	2010-11 (as at 28 February 2011)	2009-10	2008-09
Number of contracts of engaging employment agencies	(Note 1)	5 (+400%)	1	1
Contract sum paid to each employment agency		\$0.3 to \$0.4 million (-63% to -73%)	\$1.1 million	\$1.1 million
Total amount of commission paid to each employment agency		(Note 3)	(Note 3)	(Note 3)
Length of contract for each employment agency		9 to 12 months	12 months	12 months
Number of agency workers		14 (+17%)	12	12
Details of the positions held by agency workers	(Note 1)	The workers mainly provide general clerical services.		
Monthly salary range of agency workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$30,001 or above</li> <li>• \$16,001 - \$30,000</li> <li>• \$8,001 - \$16,000</li> <li>• \$6,501 - \$8,000</li> <li>• \$5,001 - \$6,500</li> <li>• \$5,000 or below</li> <li>• number of workers with salary below \$5,824</li> <li>• number of workers with salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500</li> </ul>	(Note 2)	(Note 2)	(Note 3)	
Length of service of agency workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 years or longer</li> <li>• 3 - 5 years</li> <li>• 1 - 3 years</li> <li>• less than 1 year</li> </ul>	(Note 4)	(Note 4)	(Note 4)	(Note 4)
Percentage of agency workers in the total number of staff in the department	(Note 1)	1%	1%	1%
Percentage of amount paid to employment agencies in the total departmental staff cost	(Note 1)	0.3% (+50%)	0.2%	0.2%
Number of workers with paid meal break Number of workers without paid meal break	(Note 3)	(Note 3)	(Note 3)	(Note 3)
Number of workers on five-day week Number of workers on six-day week	(Note 3)	(Note 3)	(Note 3)	(Note 3)

( ) denotes percentage of increase or decrease per year

- Note 1: Statistics for 2011-12 are not available as the requirements vary from time to time in the light of changing service and operational needs.
- Note 2: While the exact wages of workers are not specified in the contract, contractors are required to pay their employees a wage not less than the latest wage level of similar industries published in the Census and Statistics Department's Quarterly Report of Wage and Payroll Statistics at the time the quotation is invited.
- Note 3: Relevant information is not specified in the contract and hence not available.
- Note 4: Under the contract, agencies may arrange any of their employees who meet the basic requirements specified in the contract to perform the required service. They may also arrange replacement workers during the contract period. Hence, the relevant information is not available.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 16 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)140**

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead : 000 Operational  
expenses

Question Serial No.

1135

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

On engaging "outsourced workers", please provide the following information:

	2011-12	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09
Number of outsourced service contracts	( )	( )	( )	( )
Total amount paid to outsourced service providers	( )	( )	( )	( )
Length of contract for each outsourced service provider	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers	( )	( )	( )	( )
Details of the positions held by outsourced workers (e.g. customer service, property management, security, cleaning, information technology etc)				
Monthly salary range of outsourced workers				
• \$30,001 or above	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$16,001 - \$30,000	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$8,001 - \$16,000	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$6,501 - \$8,000	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$5,001 - \$6,500	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$5,000 or below	( )	( )	( )	( )
• number of workers with salary below \$5,824	( )	( )	( )	( )
• number of workers with salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500	( )	( )	( )	( )
Length of service of outsourced workers				
• 5 years or longer	( )	( )	( )	( )
• 3 - 5 years	( )	( )	( )	( )
• 1 - 3 years	( )	( )	( )	( )
• less than 1 year	( )	( )	( )	( )
Percentage of outsourced workers in the total number of staff in the department	( )	( )	( )	( )
Percentage of amount paid to outsourced service providers in the total departmental staff cost	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of workers with paid meal break	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of workers without paid meal break	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of workers on five-day week	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of workers on six-day week	( )	( )	( )	( )

( ) denotes percentage of increase or decrease per year

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

Details of the information are as follows:

	2011-12	2010-11 (as at 28 February 2011)	2009-10	2008-09
Number of outsourced service contracts	(Note 1)	17 (-26%)	23 (-28%)	32
Total amount paid to outsourced service providers		\$13.3 million (-39.8%)	\$22.1 million (-46%)	\$41.3 million
Length of contract for each outsourced service provider		12 to 24 months	12 to 24 months	12 to 24 months
Number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers		202 (+3%)	196 (-15%)	231
Details of the positions held by outsourced workers (e.g. customer service, property management, security, cleaning, information technology etc)	(Note 1)	The workers are mainly deployed to carry out cleaning and security services.		
Monthly salary range of outsourced workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$30,001 or above</li> <li>• \$16,001 - \$30,000</li> <li>• \$8,001 - \$16,000</li> <li>• \$6,501 - \$8,000</li> <li>• \$5,001 - \$6,500</li> <li>• \$5,000 or below</li> <li>• number of workers with salary below \$5,824</li> <li>• number of workers with salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500</li> </ul>	(Note 2)	(Note 2)	(Note 2)	(Note 2)
Length of service of outsourced workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 years or longer</li> <li>• 3 - 5 years</li> <li>• 1 - 3 years</li> <li>• less than 1 year</li> </ul>	(Note 3)	(Note 3)	(Note 3)	(Note 3)
Percentage of outsourced workers in the total number of staff in the department	(Note 1)	11%	11% (-15%)	13%
Percentage of amount paid to outsourced service providers in the total departmental staff cost	(Note 1)	2.3% (-43%)	4% (-43%)	7%
Number of workers with paid meal break Number of workers without paid meal break	(Note 4)	(Note 4)	(Note 4)	(Note 4)
Number of workers on five-day week Number of workers on six-day week	(Note 4)	(Note 4)	(Note 4)	(Note 4)

( ) denotes percentage of increase or decrease per year

Note 1: Statistics for 2011-12 are not available as the requirements vary from time to time in the light of changing service and operational needs.

Note 2: While the exact wages of workers are not specified in the contract, contractors are required to pay their employees a wage not less than the latest wage level of similar industries published in the Census and Statistics Department's Quarterly Report of Wage and Payroll Statistics at the time the quotation is invited.

Note 3: Under the contract, contractors may arrange any of their employees who meet the basic requirements specified in the contract to perform the required service. They may also arrange replacement workers during the contract period. Hence, the relevant information is not available.

Note 4: Relevant information is not specified in the contract and hence not available.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 16 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)141**

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead : 000 Operational  
expenses

Question Serial No.

3187

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

Regarding the estimates of expenditure of the Information Technology Management Division of the Department:

- a. what is the estimated expenditure for 2011-12? What is the percentage change compared with the actual expenditure for 2010-11? What account for this percentage change in expenditure?
- b. what specific initiatives are involved in the estimates of expenditure for 2011-12? Which of them are ongoing and new initiatives respectively? What are the staff number, cost and implementation timetable of each initiative? Among the staff involved, how many of them are civil servants, non-civil service contract staff and staff of outsourced services respectively?
- c. whether funds have been reserved for promoting electronic civic participation and public sector information access? If yes, what are the specific details, including the titles and particulars of the initiatives, the manpower and cost involved, and the implementation timetable? If not, what are the reasons and will consideration be given to introducing the initiatives in the future?
- d. what are the permanent establishment and the number of existing staff and vacancies of the Information Technology Management Division? Is manpower expected to increase in the coming year? If yes, how many additional posts will be created? What ranks will be involved? Will they be permanent posts? Will they be appointed on civil service terms? If there will be no increase in manpower, what are the reasons?
- e. has there been any comprehensive review of the effectiveness of the Information Technology Management Division? If yes, what are the results and the specific improvement measures involved? If not, what are the reasons and will a review be conducted in the future?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson

Reply :

- a. In 2011-12, a total of \$11.9 million has been earmarked for the Information Technology Management Unit (ITMU) in the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), representing an increase of 2.6% over the revised estimate for 2010-11 to cater for increased maintenance costs.
- b. The earmarked expenditure covers initiatives including planning, coordination and monitoring of the provision of information systems services, and maintenance of information systems and system infrastructure. These are all on-going initiatives supported by the ITMU which consists of three civil service posts.

- c. In 2011-12, \$0.3 million will be allocated for maintaining and enhancing AFCD's websites to promote public sector information access. This is an on-going initiative which will be carried out throughout the year.
- d. Currently, there are three civil service posts in ITMU including one Senior Systems Manager, one Systems Manager and one Analyst Programmer (I), all of which have been filled. The manpower will be increased to four staff by adding one Analyst Programmer (II) civil service post in 2011-12 to strengthen the management of user relationship for the purpose of planning and implementing the replacement and enhancement of computer systems.
- e. AFCD has completed a review on its information technology plan in 2010-11. The review indicated that there is a need to increase the manpower of ITMU in order to strengthen the management of user relationship for the purpose of planning and implementing the replacement and enhancement of computer systems. As stated in part (d) above, a new post will be added to cater for such need in 2011-12.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Name in block letters ALAN WONG  
Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
Date 17 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**FHB(FE)142**

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead : 000 Operational  
expenses

Question Serial No.

1133

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

Regarding the employment of non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff, please provide information in the following format:

	2011-12	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09
Number of NCSC staff	( )	( )	( )	( )
Particulars of NCSC staff posts				
Expenditure on the salaries of NCSC staff	( )	( )	( )	( )
Distribution of monthly salary level of NCSC staff				
• \$30,001 or above	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$16,001 - \$30,000	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$8,001 - \$16,000	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$6,501 - \$8,000	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$5,001 - \$6,500	( )	( )	( )	( )
• \$5,000 or below	( )	( )	( )	( )
• Number of staff with monthly salary lower than \$5,824	( )	( )	( )	( )
• Number of staff with monthly salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500	( )	( )	( )	( )
Length of employment of NCSC staff				
• 5 years or above	( )	( )	( )	( )
• 3 – 5 years	( )	( )	( )	( )
• 1 – 3 years	( )	( )	( )	( )
• less than 1 year	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of NCSC staff successfully turning into civil servants	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of NCSC staff failing to turn into civil servants	( )	( )	( )	( )
NCSC staff as a percentage of the total number of staff in the department	( )	( )	( )	( )
Staff costs on NCSC staff as a percentage of the total staff costs in the department	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of NCSC staff with remunerated meal break	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of NCSC staff without remunerated meal break	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of NCSC staff working 5 days a week	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of NCSC staff working 6 days a week	( )	( )	( )	( )

*Figures in ( ) denote year-on-year changes*

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

Details of the information are as follows:

	2011-12	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09
Number of NCSC staff	(Note 1)	304 (-5%)	321 (-13%)	370
Particulars of NCSC staff posts	In this department, NCSC positions can broadly be categorised into four groups according to their job nature, namely professional support, technical support, administrative support and other services.			
Expenditure on the salaries of NCSC staff	(Note 1)	\$43,328,734 (-0.5%)	\$43,560,000 (-19%)	\$53,565,582
Distribution of monthly salary level of NCSC staff				
• \$30,001 or above		5 (+25%)	4 (-50%)	8
• \$16,001 - \$30,000		21 (+50%)	14 (-44%)	25
• \$8,001 - \$16,000		172 (+7%)	161 (-13%)	186
• \$6,501 - \$8,000		-	-	-
• \$5,001 - \$6,500	(Note 1)	106 (-25%)	142 (-6%)	151
• \$5,000 or below		-	-	-
• Number of staff with monthly salary lower than \$5,824		-	-	-
• Number of staff with monthly salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500		106 (-25%)	142 (-6%)	151
Length of employment of NCSC staff				
• 5 years or above		162 (-27%)	221 (-6%)	235
• 3 – 5 years	(Note 1)	17 (-39%)	28 (+17%)	24
• 1 – 3 years		38 (+65%)	23 (-70%)	76
• less than 1 year		87 (+78%)	49 (+40%)	35
Number of NCSC staff successfully turning into civil servants	(Note 1)	47 (+24%) (Note 2)	38 (+6%) (Note 2)	36 (Note 2)
Number of NCSC staff failing to turn into civil servants	(Note 3)	(Note 3)	(Note 3)	(Note 3)
NCSC staff as a percentage of the total number of staff in the department	(Note 1)	17% (-1%)	18% (-3%)	21%
Staff costs on NCSC staff as a percentage of the total staff costs in the department	(Note 1)	8% (-)	8% (-2%)	10%
Number of NCSC staff with remunerated meal break	(Note 4)	(Note 4)	(Note 4)	(Note 4)
Number of NCSC staff without remunerated meal break	(Note 4)	(Note 4)	(Note 4)	(Note 4)
Number of NCSC staff working 5 days a week	(Note 1)	304 (-5%)	321 (-13%)	370
Number of NCSC staff working 6 days a week	-	-	-	-

- (Note 1) - Statistics for 2011-12 are not yet available as the number of NCSC staff varies from time to time in the light of changing service and operational needs.
- (Note 2) - The statistics reflect the number of NCSC staff who have successfully been admitted to civil service posts of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) only.
- (Note 3) - Information is not available.
- (Note 4) - NCSC staff in AFCD are remunerated on a monthly-rated package which includes pay, meal breaks, annual leave, etc. as set out in the terms of employment.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 15 March 2011

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

**S-FHB(FE)05**

Question Serial No.

S053

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Food and Health

Question :

What are the details and arrangements of the neutering scheme for stray cattle implemented by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in the new financial year? When will the scheme be implemented? What is the progress of identifying suitable locations for accommodating stray cattle?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

Since late 2010, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been collaborating with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) and other interested animal welfare organisations such as the Lantau Buffalo Association (LBA) to implement a Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) pilot scheme for stray cattle on Lantau Island. The TNR scheme will form part of a multi-pronged approach in managing and controlling the growth of stray cattle population and reducing nuisance caused by the cattle on Lantau Island. Under the scheme, staff from AFCD and SPCA conduct joint operations to locate and catch stray cattle for neutering before releasing them back in the same area where they are found, unless it is against public health or safety to do so. If it is considered unsuitable to release the cattle back to the same area, arrangements will be made to relocate them to other suitable areas.

In 2011-12, AFCD will further expand the TNR pilot scheme on Lantau Island and to consider extending the scheme to other areas such as Sai Kung as appropriate. AFCD will also strengthen its efforts in exploring other feasible measures, including identifying suitable locations for accommodating neutered cattle with a view to minimizing public nuisance and public danger while at the same time safeguarding their welfare. AFCD will continue to involve local animal welfare organisations and keep local communities updated on the progress of the TNR pilot scheme.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_

**DR. LEUNG SIU FAI**

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_

**Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Acting)**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**30 March 2011**

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**CEDB(CIT)148**

Question Serial No.

1118

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question :

The expenditure on the management of the Hong Kong Wetland Park is not specified under this Programme. Please provide the details of such expenditure in 2010-11, including the expenses on administrative management, public education, marketing and promotion, and copyright royalty on comics and animation, and the details of the estimated expenditure on the management of the Hong Kong Wetland Park in 2011-12.

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

The revised estimated / estimated expenditure on the management of the Hong Kong Wetland Park for 2010-11 and 2011-12 is both \$45.5 million, breakdown as follows:

Items	Amount	
	2010-11 Revised Estimate	2011-12 Estimate
Administration (Staffing)	\$17.0 million	\$17.0 million
General operation	\$14.5 million	\$14.6 million
Public education	\$2.6 million	\$2.6 million
Marketing and promotion (including \$24,000 for copyright royalty on comics)	\$4.6 million	\$5.0 million
Exhibition maintenance	\$3.4 million	\$3.2 million
Habitat management	\$3.4 million	\$3.1 million
Total	\$45.5 million	\$45.5 million

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 15 March 2011