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ACE Paper 1/2018

For discussion on 5 February 2018

Progress of Implementation of Hong Kong Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2021

PURPOSE

This paper updates Members on the latest progress of implementation of the Hong Kong Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) 2016-2021.

PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTATION

2. Since the launch of the BSAP on 21 December 2016, all relevant Government bureaux and departments (B/Ds) and other external stakeholders have been taking forward the implementation of initiatives under their respective purviews. Highlights of major achievements made so far under the four key action areas are set out in the ensuing paragraphs. Detailed descriptions of the actions, expected deliverables and progress to date are provided at **Annex**.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

Area 1 – Enhancing conservation measures

3. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has commenced a series of studies and enhancement projects with a view to maintaining and enhancing the management of existing protected areas, including country parks, marine parks, Hong Kong Wetland Park, Mai Po Nature Reserve, and Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

4. In addition to the designation of The Brothers Marine Park in December 2016, the Government has been taking forward the designation of the Southwest Lantau Marine Park, Soko Islands Marine Park and Robin's Nest Country Park, as well as the incorporation of the country park enclaves at Fan Kei Tok, Sai Lau Kong and the site near Nam Shan into country parks, to extend protection and management to these areas.

5. To enhance the conservation and sustainable development of other countryside areas with high conservation value outside the existing protected areas, the Government has been supporting various revitalisation projects and minor improvement works at Lai Chi Wo, in collaboration with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the local community. As announced by the Chief Executive in the Policy Address of October 2017, a Countryside Conservation Office will be set up to coordinate conservation projects that promote sustainable development of remote countryside.

6. To step up control against wildlife crime for the protection of threatened species, the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants (Amendment) Bill 2017 was tabled in the Legislative Council in June 2017, to phase out the local trade in elephant ivory and impose heavier penalties for smuggling and illegal trading of endangered species by 2021. A Bills Committee has been formed by the Legislative Council to scrutinise the Bill. The Bills Committee completed the scrutiny of the Bill in December 2017 and the second reading debate is scheduled to resume on 31 January 2018.

Area 2 – Mainstreaming biodiversity

7. The Planning Department (PlanD) is analysing the public comments received during the public engagement exercise of the Hong Kong 2030+ study, which ended in April 2017, and is working on the technical assessments. Biodiversity considerations will be strengthened where appropriate in the finalised territorial development strategy to support the sustainable long-term growth of Hong Kong.

8. Through the implementation of the BSAP, biodiversity conservation is being incorporated by B/Ds into relevant policies, plans and projects. For example, the Drainage Services Department (DSD) and the Water Supplies Department (WSD) have been undertaking various enhancement measures in works projects in water bodies for biodiversity conservation, and adopting ecologically friendly designs in the development of blue-green infrastructure. Meanwhile, the Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section of the Development Bureau is taking forward initiatives to

enrich and promote appreciation for biodiversity in the urban environment, and to improve the liveability of urban space. Knowledge sharing and capacity building events on relevant concepts, designs and technologies have been organised to foster collaborations among B/Ds, as well as to extend the mainstreaming efforts to relevant professional bodies and sectors.

Area 3 – Improving our knowledge

9. AFCD has commissioned various studies on priority topics to fill important gaps in our knowledge of the local biodiversity. In addition, AFCD has formulated the approach for coordinating funding to support biodiversity research, through mobilising relevant existing funding sources, such as the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF), the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund and the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund. This approach, as well as the proposed priority research topics to be supported, was endorsed by the Nature Conservation Subcommittee under the ACE (ACE-NCSC) in September 2017. The priority research topics were shared with the research community in November 2017 to encourage submissions.

Area 4 – Promoting community involvement

10. AFCD has continued to raise awareness and promote community involvement in biodiversity conservation, through enhancing existing education programmes and facilities, and partnering with B/Ds, NGOs, tertiary institutes and other stakeholders in organising the annual Hong Kong Biodiversity Festival. In addition, funding support has been provided to NGOs for organising activities related to biodiversity education and sustainable consumption of biological resources, through ECF's Environmental Education and Community Action schemes, and AFCD's Subventions for Biodiversity Education.

11. To inform future planning of education programmes and to track the effectiveness of the BSAP in raising awareness on biodiversity, AFCD has commissioned a study to document the baseline level of the knowledge and attitude of the general public and relevant stakeholder groups towards biodiversity in Hong Kong. Telephone and online surveys, as well as focus group discussions, have commenced.

12. The Council for Sustainable Development (SDC) completed a public engagement exercise on the promotion of sustainable consumption of biological resources, and submitted 20 recommendations to the Government in June 2017. The Government has responded to the SDC's recommendation and formulated a strategy to

promote sustainable consumption of biological resources through “Community Engagement” and “Facilitating Access to Knowledge”.

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP ON BSAP

13. An Inter-departmental Working Group on BSAP (IWGB) comprising relevant Government B/Ds (including Environment Bureau, Development Bureau, Education Bureau, Food and Health Bureau, AFCD, Civil Engineering and Development Department, DSD, Environmental Protection Department, Leisure and Cultural Services Department, PlanD and WSD), and chaired by the Secretary for the Environment, has been established to oversee the overall implementation of the BSAP, monitor progress, coordinate implementation efforts and facilitate biodiversity mainstreaming among Government B/Ds. The IWGB met in April and December 2017, and will continue to meet regularly to facilitate timely monitoring of the implementation programme. The views and feedback received from the ACE and ACE-NCSC related to BSAP implementation have also been conveyed to the IWGB.

ADVICE SOUGHT

14. Members are invited to note and comment on the progress of implementation of the BSAP.

Environment Bureau

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

January 2018

Implementation of Hong Kong Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) 2016-2021
Progress update for Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE) - February 2018

Action	Specific Action ¹	B/Ds ²	Expected Deliverables	Description of progress ³
1 - Maintain and enhance the management of protected areas	a) Prepare and implement biodiversity management plans, outlining the approach to biodiversity conservation in country parks, special areas, marine parks and marine reserve. Timeframe: M/L	AFCD	1(a)(i) Adoption of a biodiversity management plan for the proposed Robin's Nest Country Park by 2019.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD has commissioned a consultancy study on the planning, design and consultation of the proposed Robin's Nest Country Park in the process of preparing for its designation. The consultant is conducting a baseline review for the study, and will formulate a biodiversity management plan for the proposed Robin's Nest Country Park in the later stage of the study.
		AFCD	1(a)(ii) Enhanced fisheries management measures within marine parks, to better achieve the conservation objectives while promoting sustainable fisheries, by 2019.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD has commissioned a consultancy study to review and enhance the current fishing control mechanism in marine parks. The consultant is looking into various fisheries management strategies and will carry out a stakeholder consultation in the later stage of the study.
	b) Carry out the Plantation Enrichment Project (PEP) to enhance the biodiversity of plantations in country parks. Timeframe: O	AFCD	1(b)(i) PEP conducted in 50 ha of plantations in country parks in 2016-21.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2016/17, PEP was conducted in 14 ha of exotic plantations in country parks. Three NGOs (Friends of the Earth (HK), The Conservancy Association and The Green Earth) and about 3,800 members of public and corporates were engaged in tree planting events organised by AFCD and NGOs. For 2017/18, over 10 ha of plantations would be identified for conducting PEP, and five NGOs were recruited.
	c) Review the management plan for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) to enhance the conservation and monitoring work carried out. Timeframe: S	AFCD	1(c)(i) Management and monitoring plan of SSSI reviewed by 2018.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD has reviewed and updated information on SSSIs, and assessed the extent of amendments required due to reported changes in scientific interest, and is preparing to make recommendations for the necessary revisions and prioritise the updating process for all SSSIs. AFCD has drafted a management and monitoring plan of SSSIs, which is undergoing internal review.
	d) Review the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site Management Plan (RSMP). Timeframe: M	AFCD	1(d)(i) Existing RSMP reviewed and updated RSMP implemented by 2021.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Task will commence in 2019 (after Ramsar Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP)13 in late 2018).
	e) Enhance habitat management work in the Mai Po Nature Reserve (MPNR). Timeframe: O	AFCD	1(e)(i) Improved habitat management in accordance with the management objectives specified in the RSMP. Habitat enhancement work carried out in gei wais, mudflats and other wetland habitats.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD has issued service contracts to World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong (WWF-Hong Kong) for 2017/18 to enhance the habitat enhancement work in MPNR. Capital works conducted included desilting of ponds and gei wais. Other works conducted included vegetation management on mudflat and gei wais and removal of exotic species.
f) Review and enhance the ecological monitoring and habitat management plan of the Hong Kong Wetland Park (HKWP). Timeframe: S	AFCD	1(f)(i) Ecological monitoring and habitat management plan of the HKWP reviewed and updated plan implemented by 2018.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD has commissioned a consultancy study to review and enhance the ecological monitoring and habitat management plan of HKWP. The consultant has completed comprehensive plant surveys, reviewed the ecological survey data from 2003 to 2016, and conducted visitor satisfaction surveys to facilitate the review of the habitat management work. Working Paper No. 1 (review on ecological condition in HKWP), and Working Paper No. 2 (review on habitat management measures) have been submitted and are under review by AFCD. 	

¹ The "Timeframe" of Specific Actions are categorised as follows:

- "O" (Ongoing) = continuing existing programmes;
- "S" (Short term) = targeted completion within 1-2 years (i.e. by end 2018);
- "M" (Medium term) = targeted completion within 3-5 years (i.e. by end 2021);
- "L" (Long term) = targeted completion beyond term of the first BSAP

² "B/Ds" listed includes both leading and supporting bureaux and departments.

³ Descriptions reflect the progress made as at end of 2017 where appropriate.

Action	Specific Action ¹	B/Ds ²	Expected Deliverables	Description of progress ³
2 - Conserve ecologically important habitats outside the existing protected areas	a) Designate new marine parks in the waters near The Brothers, Soko Islands and Southwest Lantau. Timeframe: S	ENB, AFCD	2(a)(i) Designation of The Brothers Marine Park in December 2016.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new Brothers Marine Park was designated on 30 December 2016 as the fifth marine park in Hong Kong.
		ENB, AFCD	2(a)(ii) Designation of a new marine park at Southwest Lantau by 2018. Designation of a new marine park at Soko Islands and a compensatory marine park associated with the development of the Integrated Waste Management Facilities (IWMF) by 2019.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The draft map of the proposed Southwest Lantau Marine Park was gazetted for 60-day public inspection in the period of 23 June to 21 August 2017 and two objections were received during the period. The hearing for the two objections by the Country and Marine Parks Board (CMPB) was conducted on 20 October 2017. AFCD will continue to work on the statutory procedures for marine park designation, with an aim to complete the statutory procedures by 2018. AFCD is working with EPD to take forward the South Lantau Marine Park proposal (which combines the proposed marine parks at Soko Islands and the one associated with the development of IWMF), with an aim to complete the statutory procedures of marine park designation by 2019.
		ENB, AFCD	2(a)(iii) Designation of a compensatory marine park associated with the Three-Runway System (3RS) by 2023/24.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD is assisting the Airport Authority Hong Kong to take forward the marine park proposal, with an aim to complete the statutory procedures of marine park designation before the operation of the 3RS, tentatively by 2024.
	b) Designate new country park at Robin's Nest, and extend country park to cover country park enclaves at appropriate locations. Timeframe: M/L	ENB, AFCD	2(b)(i) Designation of Robin's Nest Country Park by end of 2020.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD has commissioned a consultancy study on the planning, design and consultation of the proposed Robin's Nest Country Park in the process of preparing for its designation. The consultant is conducting baseline review for the study, and will formulate an overall management and operation plan for the proposed Robin's Nest Country Park in the later stage of the study.
		ENB, AFCD	2(b)(ii) Assessment of remaining enclaves and designate suitable enclaves as country parks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The statutory procedures for incorporating the enclaves at Fan Kei Tok, Sai Lau Kong and the site near Nam Shan into country parks were completed in October 2017. The designation order became effective on 1 December 2017. Assessment on the suitability of the remaining enclaves for incorporation into country parks is in progress. Suitable enclaves will be incorporated into country parks according to the statutory procedures.
	c) Develop a nature park at Long Valley for supporting conservation and agriculture in this ecologically important area. Timeframe: M	CEDD	2(c)(i) Commencement of Long Valley Nature Park (LVNP) construction by 2020. Establishment of LVNP by CEDD and management by AFCD by 2023.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Habitat Creation and Management Plan (HCMP) for LVNP had been finalised and established the framework for planning, design, implementation, maintenance and monitoring aspects of the LVNP. CEDD and AFCD jointly held a debriefing forum on 26 January 2017 to disseminate the findings of the HCMP study and collect the views of major green groups. The feedbacks from green groups attending the forum were generally positive and in support of the HCMP. Detailed design for LVNP is underway. The layout and features of LVNP and its visitor centre are being developed by the consultants.
	d) Continue to implement the Management Agreement and Public-Private Partnership schemes to actively conserve ecologically important sites under private ownership, including the 12 priority sites, country park enclaves and private land in country parks through collaboration with NGOs and rural communities. Timeframe: O	ENB, DEVB, AFCD	2(d)(i) Enhanced conservation of at least six sites of high ecological value.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management Agreement (MA) projects are being implemented at Fung Yuen, Long Valley, fishponds within and outside Ramsar Site, Sai Wan, and Lai Chi Wo.
		ENB, DEVB, AFCD	2(d)(ii) Long-term conservation of areas with high ecological value at Sha Lo Tung.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In June 2017, the Chief Executive in Council gave in-principle agreement to the non-in-situ land exchange for the designated private land with high ecological significance at Sha Lo Tung by offering the Shuen Wan Restored Landfill in Tai Po for the long-term conservation of Sha Lo Tung. An NGO submitted an application for implementing an MA project for primarily the private land at Sha Lo Tung during the interim period before the site is handed over to the Government. The Nature Conservation Sub-committee (NCSC) of ACE offered support to the MA application with conditions in December 2017. The ECF Committee will meet on 31 January 2018 to consider the application.
	e) Explore innovative methods to enhance, support and promote the conservation of rural areas with high ecological value. Timeframe: O	ENB, AFCD	2(e)(i) Revitalisation project(s) implemented at Lai Chi Wo.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NGOs, in collaboration with local villagers, are implementing various revitalisation projects and minor improvement works at Lai Chi Wo. Projects funded through private funding sources (Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust and HSBC) are conserving and renovating a group of village houses to develop a Hakka life experiential learning programme with visitor accommodation, and promoting the sustainable development of Lai Chi Wo and nearby areas through social innovation and cross-sector cooperation. An MA project is engaging the local farming community to rehabilitate the farmlands and enhance the ecological value at Lai Chi Wo (see Specific Action 2d).
		ENB	2(e)(ii) Countryside revitalisation and ecological conservation projects at key remote countryside areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ENB is making preparation to set up a Countryside Conservation Office to coordinate conservation projects that promote sustainable development of remote countryside.

Action	Specific Action ¹	B/Ds ²	Expected Deliverables	Description of progress ³
		DEVB, CEDD, EPD	2(e)(iii) Rural conservation pilot projects to be implemented in areas such as Tai O, Shui Hau and Pui O, to underpin the sustainable development and conservation of Lantau.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Nature conservation in South Lantau” has been set as a special theme for the second round in 2017/18 of ECF’s Environmental Education and Community Action (EE&CA) project applications, to encourage NGOs to apply for funding to organise relevant environmental education projects, and an associated briefing session was held on 29 August 2017. The application period ended on 18 December 2017. Applications are being considered. CEDD commenced a consultancy study titled “Ecological Study for Pui O, Shui Hau, Tai O and Neighbouring Areas – Feasibility Study” in December 2017.
3 - Enhance conservation of natural streams	a) Conduct ecological surveys and compile ecological database on natural streams, especially Ecologically Important Streams (EIS). Timeframe: M	AFCD	3(a)(i) List of EIS updated by 2019.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Task will commence in 2018.
	b) Improve practices in minor maintenance and hygiene works in natural streams and catchwaters, with a view to minimising ecological impacts arising from these works. Timeframe: S/M	WSD, AFCD	3(b)(i) Pilot projects on adopting ecologically friendly design for catchwaters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WSD has carried out trials of animal escape route at catchwaters, and is preparing the standard drawing of animal escape measures. WSD is carrying out trials of ecologically friendly material for the improvement works of catchwaters. AFCD has provided advice from conservation perspective to WSD to evaluate its various options of ecologically friendly measures for catchwaters.
		DSD	3(b)(ii) Planting at selected engineered river channels and water bodies to re-introduce riparian and in-stream habitats with a view to increasing spatial heterogeneity and species richness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site trials of the ecological enhancement are being conducted at various channels at Ma Wat River, Lower Lam Tsuen River, Kwan Tei River, Kam Tin River, Ping Yuen River and Yuen Long Bypass Floodway (YLBF). Initial observations have shown signs of biodiversity improvements at the trial sites. DSD will examine further designs of structures for habitat enrichment and conduct further trials in channels of different environmental settings. On-going nursery trials and out-planting trials will help derive propagation method and choice of native plant species for greening drainage channels, open areas and living roofs.
		DSD	3(b)(iii) Adopting green channels design principles in appropriate drainage projects to promote connectivity for freshwater life within the drainage basin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DSD and AFCD have collaborated and shared experience in enhancing biodiversity in drainage channels and the development of blue-green infrastructure, through conducting technical exchange meetings, joint visits, capacity-building seminars, and providing comments on projects. To promote public awareness on green measures in drainage projects, over 390 visits to YLBF wetland, San Tin Polder, Tai Hang Tung Stormwater Storage Scheme, Happy Valley Underground Stormwater Storage Scheme and various sewage treatment works were organised between 1 January and 30 November 2017, involving more than 9,900 visitors. DSD was an event partner in the Hong Kong Biodiversity Festival 2016 and 2017 (Specific Action 20c) and arranged eco-tours for the public to visit the San Tin Stormwater Pumping Station, YLBF Engineered Wetland and Nam Sang Wai, receiving 112 visitors in total.
		DSD	3(b)(iv) Reviewing current guidelines, and seeking improvements and refining techniques in enhancing biodiversity in river channels and water bodies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R&D studies on wet floodplain technique, floating planters/platforms, channel side planting, flow deflectors, habitat enhancement for macro-invertebrates, propagation of native plants, eco-landscape designs and engineered wetland are continuously being conducted with a view to developing further techniques and design criteria suitable in the local context to promote ecosystem services and biodiversity.
	FEHD, AFCD	3(b)(v) Guidelines for best practices in malaria prevention and control programmes on natural streams prepared by 2018.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FEHD’s guideline on malaria control work in streams has been sent to AFCD for reviewing any impact of current malaria control work to biodiversity in streams. 	
	c) Control discharge of effluents from unsewered areas and its adverse impacts on streams. Timeframe: L	EPD	3(c)(i) Provision of sewerage system to unsewered village areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sewerage construction works for 47% of the targeted unsewered villages / areas are completed to date.
4 - Maintain habitat connectivity for wildlife	a) Enhance habitat connectivity and establish ecological corridors across the boundary. Timeframe: O	EPD, AFCD	4(a)(i) Enhanced function of the ecological corridor between Shenzhen and Hong Kong through the protection and management of Robin’s Nest as country park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD conducted two exchange visits to Shenzhen Wutongshan National Forest Park in April and September 2017. Initial scope of collaboration on conservation measures that enhance the conservation management for both Robin’s Nest in Hong Kong and Wutongshan in Shenzhen, under the concept of ecological corridor between the two protected areas, was discussed and agreed with Shenzhen counterparts during the visits. AFCD will continue to maintain dialogue with the Forestry Administration of Guangdong and Shenzhen Futian National Nature Reserve to enhance the conservation management of the Deep Bay wetlands.

Action	Specific Action ¹	B/Ds ²	Expected Deliverables	Description of progress ³
	b) Review and update guidelines on design of wildlife crossings. Timeframe: S	AFCD	4(b)(i) Guidelines on design of wildlife crossings updated by 2018.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Task will commence in 2018.
5 - Step up enforcement against wildlife crime	a) Maintain high vigilance and enhance enforcement against illegal poaching or collection of local species and raise public awareness. Timeframe: O	AFCD, HKPF, C&ED	5(a)(i) Inter-departmental and cross-border cooperation, monitoring, education and community involvement to be continued.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD has arranged regular patrol and trap search operations, including joint operations with SPCA and/or the HKPF, to combat illegal poaching of local wild animals. A task force has been set up in AFCD to conduct targeted patrol of sites with Incense Tree, including joint operations with HKPF at black spots of illegal poaching of Incense Trees. Follow-up treatments for damaged trees such as wound dressing and tree stump removal were carried out.
	b) Establish an inter-departmental task force on wildlife crime, to strengthen collaboration and intelligence exchange. Timeframe: O	AFCD, ENB, HKPF, C&ED	5(b)(i) Regular meetings between the enforcement agencies and green groups. Joint enforcement operations organised according to the trend of wildlife crime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An inter-departmental Wildlife Crime Task Force has been established. The first and second meetings were held in August 2016 and May 2017.
	c) Strengthen enforcement and legislative measures to combat illegal trade in ivory. Timeframe: O/M/L	ENB, AFCD	5(c)(i) Local trade in ivory (except antique ivory) phased out by end of 2021. Introduction of indictable offences under the Protection of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) by 2018. Increased maximum penalty by 2018.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The bill for the legislative amendments to the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) to implement the phase-out plan of the local trade in ivory and to increase the penalty was gazetted on 2 June 2017, and introduced to the Legislative Council for first and second reading on 14 June 2017. A Bills Committee was formed to scrutinise the bill. The Bills Committee completed the scrutiny of the Bill in December 2017 and the second reading debate is scheduled to resume on 31 January 2018.
6 - Implement conservation action plans for priority species	a) Establish a standardised mechanism for formulating species action plans (SAPs). Timeframe: S	AFCD	6(a)(i) Guidelines for formulation of SAP produced by mid-2018.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD has reviewed international guidelines and overseas examples on formulating SAPs, and drafted the technical guidelines on the standardised formulation mechanism and format of SAPs, which are undergoing internal review.
	b) Formulate action plans for species that require immediate conservation actions. Timeframe: S/M	AFCD	6(b)(i) Chinese Pangolin SAP formulated and implemented by 2018.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD is carrying out desktop research and review of existing data obtained from camera trap surveys and other sources, to assess the current status of Chinese Pangolin in Hong Kong and identify information gaps. The first draft of the SAP is being prepared.
		AFCD	6(b)(ii) Incense Tree SAP formulated and implemented by 2018.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD has prepared the draft Incense Tree SAP, with input from HKPF and C&ED. AFCD is implementing a number of actions under the SAP, such as tree monitoring using infrared camera traps at trial stations, pilot scheme of engaging quarantine detector dogs, protecting large specimens using metallic tree guards and mesh fences, restoring damaged populations and establishing new populations, and providing funding support for education programmes.
		AFCD	6(b)(iii) Big-headed Turtle SAP formulated and implemented by 2020.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Task will commence in 2019.
		AFCD	6(b)(iv) Finless Porpoise SAP formulated and implemented by end of 2018.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD is preparing the Finless Porpoise SAP, with an aim for the draft SAP to be ready for stakeholders' comments by mid-2018.
AFCD	6(b)(v) Horseshoe Crab SAP formulated and implemented by 2019.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surveys at hotspot sites including Pak Nai, Tung Chung, Shui Hau and Yi O were conducted during June to September 2017, and horseshoe crab juveniles were recorded at all of these sites. 		

Action	Specific Action ¹	B/Ds ²	Expected Deliverables	Description of progress ³
		AFCD	6(b)(vi) Coral SAP formulated and implemented by 2019.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD has commissioned consultancy studies on coral bleaching and bio-erosion, as well as coral restoration and water quality monitoring, to provide the fundamental information for the formulation of the coral SAP. Baseline coral distribution and diversity data at 33 major coral areas in Hong Kong were collected, and in-depth surveys to monitor coral bleaching and bioerosion in some concerned areas were in progress. Fragments from 30 <i>Platygyra</i> coral colonies were collected from heavily eroded colonies in Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park and acclimatised at <i>in-situ</i> nursery platforms, after which all of them have been further transplanted onto the suitable natural substratum at the coral areas within Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park to accelerate the recovery process of the coral fragments. Real-time water quality at Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park was also being monitored. Further monitoring of the restored corals will be carried out to assess the rate of coral recovery after restoration and the effectiveness of the transplantation method.
	c) Review and strengthen existing species action plans. Timeframe: M	AFCD	6(c)(i) Chinese White Dolphin SAP updated by 2020.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A study on Passive Acoustic Monitoring to look into the diurnal distribution pattern of Chinese White Dolphin will commence in 2018.
		AFCD	6(c)(ii) Romer's Tree Frog SAP updated by end of 2019.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Task will commence in 2018.
		AFCD	6(c)(iii) Three-banded Box Turtle SAP updated by 2020.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD has commissioned a study to elucidate the genetic affinity of the Three-banded Box Turtles being kept in Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden. AFCD has commissioned a trap survey in key turtle population sites to assess the intensity of trapping activity.
		AFCD	6(c)(iv) Black-faced Spoonbill SAP updated by 2021.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Task will commence in 2018.
		AFCD	6(c)(v) Green Turtle SAP updated by 2019.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD has commissioned ghost nest surveys and removal in Sham Wan bay area. AFCD has commissioned a trial installation of remote monitoring system in Sham Wan Restricted Area.
7 - Improve management of invasive alien species	a) Build up capacity for the management of invasive alien species. Timeframe: M	AFCD	7(a)(i) An inventory of alien species prepared by 2020. High-risk invasive alien species identified, with management measures formulated and implemented, by 2021.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD is reviewing international strategies for management of invasive alien species as well as risk assessment protocols, and preparing the framework for screening, assessment of risk and prioritisation of invasive alien species.
	b) Enhance the monitoring, management and control plans for target invasive alien species. Timeframe: O	AFCD	7(b)(i) Effective control of <i>Sonneratia</i> in Inner Deep Bay by 2021.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2017, the control programme by AFCD removed about 12,000 <i>Sonneratia</i> in Inner Deep Bay.
		AFCD	7(b)(ii) Enhanced control of <i>Mikania</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD has taken stock of the current programme of <i>Mikania</i> removal to maintain/enhance the ecological value of SSSI, and would continue to review the need to extend <i>Mikania</i> control work as necessary, taking into considerations such as the updated scientific interest under Specific Action 1c.
	c) Conduct education programmes to raise awareness and to discourage release of alien species to the wild. Timeframe: O	AFCD	7(c)(i) Publicity materials on mercy release produced and distributed, and education programmes including seminars organised.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD has produced publicity materials about mercy release, and distributed them to relevant organisations (e.g. religious groups) and displayed them at various locations (e.g. Government venues, ferry piers). AFCD also disseminated messages to discourage mercy release through advertisements on relevant publications, social media, and a public seminar, and was producing a mini-movie on the topic.
8 - Control the environmental release of genetically modified organisms	a) Continue to control the environmental release of genetically modified organisms, monitor the development of related technology and expand screening programme. Timeframe: O	AFCD	8(a)(i) Implementation of control measures on genetically modified organisms in accordance with requirements of Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD is conducting regular inspection at border control points and market surveys, to survey the prevalence of genetically modified organisms (GMO) in local markets and farms, and distributing leaflets to educate and remind stakeholders about the requirements under Genetically Modified Organism (Control of Release) Ordinance (Cap. 607). The 4th GMO Expert Group was appointed in June 2017. AFCD is keeping in view the development of GMO through review of international practices and dialogue with relevant sectors.
9 - Incorporate biodiversity considerations in planning and development process	a) Update the Sustainability Assessment system, to better integrate biodiversity considerations in major policies and plans of the Government. Timeframe: S	ENB	9(a)(i) Computer-aided Sustainability Evaluation Tool (CASET) updated to incorporate the revised biodiversity parameters by 2018.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD is compiling technical information related to the new assessment parameters, with a view of providing such information to ENB by February 2018 for incorporation into the CASET.

Action	Specific Action ¹	B/Ds ²	Expected Deliverables	Description of progress ³
	<p>b) Integrate biodiversity considerations in the territorial development strategy.</p> <p>Timeframe: O</p>	PlanD, AFCD	<p>9(b)(i) Biodiversity considerations taken into account in relevant study tasks of HK2030+, and reflected in the territorial development strategy.</p> <p>Finalised territorial development strategy under Hong Kong 2030+ to guide the future planning, land and infrastructure development and the shaping of the built and natural environment of Hong Kong beyond 2030.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The public engagement exercise of the Hong Kong 2030+ study was completed in April 2017. PlanD is analysing the public comments received and continuing with the technical assessments including the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Sustainability Assessment (SA). Biodiversity considerations will be strengthened where appropriate in the finalised territorial development strategy.
	<p>c) Update and amend Chapter 10 of the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (HKPSG) by incorporating relevant guidelines on biodiversity considerations.</p> <p>Timeframe: M</p>	PlanD, AFCD	<p>9(c)(i) Chapter 10 of HKPSG amended by mid-2019.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PlanD and AFCD have communicated about initiating the update. AFCD is examining potential areas under BSAP for incorporation in relevant sections of Chapter 10 of HKPSG after which the amendment process would commence.
	<p>d) Enhance the practices in addressing ecological impacts of projects through environmental impact assessment process.</p> <p>Timeframe: O</p>	EPD, AFCD	<p>9(d)(i) Review of the international practices on incorporating biodiversity considerations in the planning and development process.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The task is ongoing.
10 - Promote biodiversity in urban environment	<p>a) Formulate an urban forestry strategy that contributes to a sustainable urban landscape and promotes the appreciation of urban biodiversity.</p> <p>Timeframe: S</p>	GLTMS	<p>10(a)(i) Urban Forestry Advisory Panel (UFAP) set up in January 2017.</p> <p>Urban Forestry Management Strategy formulated by 2018.</p> <p>Qualifications Framework Specification of Competency Standards (SCS) on urban arboriculture, horticulture and landscape works developed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UFAP was set up in January 2017 and Working Groups have been created to advise the Government on policies on urban arboriculture, urban ecology and urban landscapes. A framework has been created and priority policy topics were being developed to formulate an over-arching strategy. The Qualifications Framework Secretariat of the Education Bureau (EDB) appointed the Writing Team which commenced work in Q3 2017. GLTMS has already developed a number of SCS modules to facilitate the work of the Writing Team.
	<p>b) Promote diversification of our soft landscapes and optimise use of native species for enriching urban biodiversity.</p> <p>Timeframe: M</p>	GLTMS	<p>10(b)(i) Soft landscape specifications standardised between Hong Kong and Guangzhou.</p> <p>Availability of native seed stock improved.</p> <p>Government workflows and contracts reviewed to set baseline standards.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Association of Landscape Consultants (ALC) has commenced discussions with Guangzhou and signed a MOU. Actual agreements are being formulated. GLTMS will discuss with AFCD and local nurseries to promote the use of native species and improve supply of native seed stock. Initial review of Government contracts and workflows has been completed. Assessment is in progress.
	<p>c) Promote the concept of Place Ecology in urban landscape designs.</p> <p>Timeframe: M</p>	GLTMS	<p>10(c)(i) Concept of Place Ecology promoted through a series of public seminars and talks organised/attended by GLTMS.</p> <p>Promotion of place-based landscape approach with vegetation diversity with complementary species mix as a key component.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The outreach campaign to promote the concept of Place Ecology is ongoing.

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	d) Promote knowledge building and sharing among the public and private sectors in the latest landscape concepts, designs and technologies that contribute to a sustainable urban ecosystem. Timeframe: M/L	GLTMS, Works departments	10(d)(i) A series of outreach events organised by GLTMS and collaborating organisations. A holistic EDB Quality Framework System on building capacity and proper arboricultural practices developed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seminars, talks and exhibitions to raise public awareness on urban forestry, through collaboration with universities, professionals, overseas experts and other relevant departments are being organised by GLTMS and collaborating organisations. Arboriculture & Horticulture Industry Training Advisory Committee Sub-Committee on public relations will develop a Public Relations Plan.
	e) Explore opportunities to enhance the value of urban parks for biodiversity conservation and education. Timeframe: M	LCSD	10(e)(i) Further enhancement of the existing conservation corners to maintain a natural habitat and environment for attracting wildlife. Signage and educational boards displayed at the conservation corners for educational purposes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LCSD established three new conservation corners at Jordan Valley Park, Po Kong Village Road Park and Ma On Shan Park in February, September and October 2017 respectively, and hence the total number of conservation corners at urban parks has reached 38. Also, the enhancement of existing conservation corners at Lion Rock Park and Morse Park by increasing the floral density and plant cover are in progress.
	f) Adopt the concept of revitalising water bodies in large-scale drainage improvement works and planning drainage networks for New Development Areas (NDAs). Timeframe: O	DSD	10(f)(i) Study on revitalisation of water bodies to explore practicable options for applying the blue-green concept in large-scale drainage improvement works and planning drainage networks for new development areas, with an aim to promote greening, biodiversity, beautification and water friendliness in addition to achieving efficient drainage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The study on revitalisation of water bodies is in progress. Under the study, DSD has now established an inventory of water bodies and devised an evaluation methodology to evaluate revitalisation potential of river channels. Initial evaluation has identified that Tai Wai Nullah, Fo Tan Nullah, Middle Tuen Mun Channel and Jordan Valley Nullah have potential for revitalisation. DSD will carry out further in-depth investigation to work out revitalisation proposals. The project initiation for Jordan Valley Nullah, Tai Wai Nullah, Fo Tan Nullah and Middle Tuen Mun Channel is planned for progressive commencement in 2019.
		DSD	10(f)(ii) Revitalisation of urban nullahs into green river corridors through the urban area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reconstruction and rehabilitation of the upstream and midstream sections of Kai Tak River are in progress and are expected to be commissioned in 2018. Community engagement on the revitalisation of Tsui Ping River has been conducted while the detailed design commenced in end 2017.
		DSD, CEDD	10(f)(iii) Design of Tung Chung River Park to promote water-friendly culture and to preserve the ecology of the river.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CEDD has completed the final Preliminary River Park Proposal. The Final River Park Design Report will be completed by March 2018.
		DSD, CEDD	10(f)(iv) Blue-green infrastructure at Anderson Road Quarry New Development Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CEDD commenced construction works on the flood attenuation lake cum park, underground stormwater tank and drainage system at Anderson Road Quarry New Development Area in December 2016. Landscaping works will commence by 2020 for completion in 2023.
11 - Promote sustainable fisheries	a) Designate and manage Fisheries Protection Area(s) to protect important fish spawning and nursery grounds Timeframe: L	FHB, AFCD	11(a)(i) Designation of Fisheries Protection Area(s).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline information on potential Fisheries Protection Areas is being analysed.
	b) Continue to conduct fisheries monitoring programme in Hong Kong waters. Timeframe: O	AFCD	11(b)(i) Assessment of effectiveness of fisheries management measures completed in early 2018.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data analysis is being conducted for the study for monitoring the fisheries resources.
		AFCD	11(b)(ii) Study on ichthyoplankton, zooplankton, juvenile fish and crustacean completed in early 2018.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data analysis is being conducted for the consultancy study for providing updated information on ichthyoplankton, zooplankton, juvenile fish and crustacean around the potential Fisheries Protection Areas.
		AFCD	11(b)(iii) Inspection of artificial reefs completed by 2019.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD is preparing to commission a contract for underwater fisheries survey in artificial reefs. Fieldwork for geophysical survey on artificial reefs areas was completed.

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	c) Provide funding support to encourage local fishing community to adopt sustainable fisheries operations. Timeframe: O	AFCD	11(c)(i) Applications for the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF) processed to provide funding to projects that support the development of sustainable fisheries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applications are being invited on a continuous basis. As at end-November 2017, a total of eight applications involving a total commitment of about \$41 million have been approved. Among the approved projects, six are for promoting the development of aquaculture and the other two are for promoting fisheries-related eco-tourism.
	d) Conduct studies on measures to prevent cormorant predation on commercial pond fish in Deep Bay area. Timeframe: S	AFCD	11(d)(i) Measures to prevent cormorant predation tested for effectiveness, and promoted to fishpond operators.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The consultancy study on cormorant predation including literature review, cormorant monitoring and questionnaire surveys with fishpond operators was completed. Field trial of the recommended cormorant prevention measure in winter 2017/18 has commenced.
12 - Promote sustainable agriculture	a) Promote the modernisation and sustainable development of local agriculture as an integral part of the New Agriculture Policy. Timeframe: O	FHB, AFCD	12(a)(i) Establishment of an Agricultural Park (Agri-Park).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation on the road works for Agri-Park Phase 1 is being conducted.
		FHB, DEVB, AFCD	12(a)(ii) Study on Agricultural Priority Areas (APAs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation for the tender exercise of the consultancy study to identify suitable quality agricultural land for possible designation as APAs is underway.
		AFCD	12(a)(iii) Applications for the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund (SADF) processed to provide funding to projects that support the development of sustainable agriculture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applications are being invited on a continuous basis.
		AFCD	12(a)(iv) Assistance provided to farmers to raise productivity through modern agro-technologies and environmentally friendly farming practices (including organic farming).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farm visits, seminars and workshops were conducted to assist farmers in adopting modern agro-technologies (including farm mechanisation and automation) and environmentally friendly farming practices (including organic farming). Potential agro-technology projects were identified for collaboration with local research institutions or agricultural organisations.
13 - Conduct biodiversity survey	a) Enhance territory-wide biodiversity surveys on major groups of terrestrial and freshwater species. Timeframe: O	AFCD	13(a)(i) Programme of AFCD biodiversity survey reviewed, and survey manual compiled by 2018. Existing species checklist of major taxa groups updated by 2018.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD has consolidated and reviewed the survey objectives and sampling designs currently adopted in the biodiversity survey programme. Meetings were held within working groups to evaluate the effectiveness of the existing programme as a long-term monitoring tool, as well as to discuss and identify information gaps (sites, habitats, species) and areas for improvement.
		AFCD	13(b)(i) Long-term coral monitoring plan devised by 2020.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline coral distribution and diversity data at 33 major coral areas in Hong Kong were collected, and in-depth surveys to monitor coral bleaching and bio-erosion in some concerned areas were in progress (see Specific Action 6b).
	AFCD	13(b)(ii) Octocorals species list updated by 2019.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD is preparing to commission a consultancy study on local octocoral and black coral distribution and diversity. 	
	AFCD	13(b)(iii) Reef fish species list updated by 2019.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD has commissioned a consultancy study on local reef fish diversity. The field surveys are in progress. 	
	AFCD	13(b)(iv) Macroalgae species list updated by 2019.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD is preparing to commission a consultancy study on the diversity and distribution of macroalgae in Hong Kong. 	
	b) Conduct baseline and long-term surveys of priority marine habitats and species. Timeframe: O	AFCD	13(b)(v) Marine park surveys completed by 2021.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coral surveys at three marine parks (Tung Ping Chau, Yan Chau Tong and Hoi Ha Wan Marine Parks) were completed in 2016. Further surveys will be carried out to update the status and distribution of coral communities within marine parks and marine reserve. Quarterly fisheries resources surveys have been conducted in all existing marine parks and marine reserve, and potential marine parks, i.e. Southwest Lantau and South Lantau, since Q4 2016. Juvenile fishing surveys will be carried out to investigate the biomass and abundance of juvenile fish at different habitats of marine parks and marine reserve.

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14 - Conduct species assessment	a) Compile a list of threatened species for Hong Kong to guide conservation actions. Timeframe: M/L	AFCD	14(a)(i) List of threatened species drawn up for priority groups by 2021.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The institutional framework for compiling the Hong Kong List of Threatened Species is being formulated.
15 - Collate information on terrestrial and marine habitats	a) Compile relevant information on marine habitats for guiding conservation of marine habitats. Timeframe: M	AFCD	15(a)(i) Habitat maps of marine ecosystem prepared by 2021.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD is planning to commission a habitat mapping study to map out the important marine benthic habitats in a marine park.
	b) Review and develop a standardised classification of habitat types in Hong Kong, and prepare a Geographic Information System-based habitat map. Timeframe: M	AFCD	15(b)(i) Territorial habitat map of terrestrial ecosystems prepared by 2019.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Task will commence in 2018.
16 - Improve sharing of knowledge	a) Develop a web-based information hub to provide a one-stop shop for information on local biodiversity. Timeframe: M	AFCD	16(a)(i) A web-based information hub on biodiversity launched by 2020.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD is reviewing relevant local and international examples to explore the potential design and elements of the web-based information hub.
	b) Develop a Geographic Information System-based platform to facilitate sharing of data among different groups of users. Timeframe: L	AFCD	16(b)(i) Protocol of data-sharing developed. IT framework and data requirement of the GIS platform developed by 2020.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD has prepared a summary of the major marine and terrestrial biodiversity datasets from a list of potential data providers, and drafted a guide for managing sensitive biodiversity data. GIS data from ongoing/forthcoming territory-wide surveys of terrestrial and marine biodiversity carried out/commissioned by AFCD will be consolidated.
17 - Identify essential ecosystem services	a) Commission a study on the ecosystem services provided by major habitat types in Hong Kong. Timeframe: M	AFCD	17(a)(i) Baseline profile of ecosystem services of major habitats in Hong Kong available by 2020.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Task will commence in 2018.
18 – Enhance understanding on traditional knowledge	a) Encourage research on traditional knowledge relevant to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Timeframe: L	AFCD	18(a)(i) Studies on relevant topics conducted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research to document and promote traditional knowledge and practices in the sustainable use, preservation, restoration, and management of biological resources and ecosystem services has been listed as one of the priority research topics to be supported under Action 19. A documentary, “Ballad on the Shore” (《岸上漁歌》), which researched and recorded the traditional knowledge of local fishermen and their interactions with the marine biodiversity and environment was promoted in the HKBF 2017 under Specific Action 20c.
	b) Encourage the wise use of natural resources using traditional knowledge, especially through the Management Agreement (MA) scheme. Timeframe: O	AFCD	18(b)(i) MA projects that promote traditional knowledge in conservation of biodiversity continue to be implemented. Education activities that promote traditional knowledge in conservation of biodiversity organised.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional freshwater wetland crops are being grown in Long Valley and Lai Chi Wo MA projects, and the traditional fishpond drain-down practice is being implemented in the MA projects within and outside Ramsar Site, demonstrating the wise use of natural resources in contributing to the conservation of biodiversity. HKWP organised an array of public education activities including thematic exhibition, public lecture, guided tours and interpretation sessions from April to November 2017 to promote traditional knowledge and practices in the management, wise use and protection of wetland resources.
19 - Provide funding support to research and studies	a) Conduct studies that would directly and significantly contribute to the conservation of biodiversity. Timeframe: O	AFCD	19(a)(i) Studies on priority topics that support the implementation of BSAP commissioned.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ACE-Nature Conservation Subcommittee (ACE-NCSC) was consulted on 22 September 2017 on the approach for providing and coordinating funding to support biodiversity research and studies. The priority research topics proposed were supported. AFCD has commissioned/was preparing to commission studies on priority topics including a number of surveys, species-based studies and consultancy studies that support the implementation of BSAP.

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	b) Encourage research to fill key information gaps on local biodiversity, through funding support by the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF). Timeframe: O	EPD, AFCD	19(b)(i) Studies on priority topics that fill key information gaps supported by ECF. Provide funding support for meritorious research projects on the subject selected by the ECF through the competition mechanism.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The priority research topics were discussed by ACE-NCSC on 22 September 2017. AFCD issued a letter to the research community in November 2017 to share the list of priority research topics supported, outline the approach to support the relevant research through existing funding sources, and encourage submissions.
	c) Support research on sustainable agriculture and fisheries practices and management. Timeframe: O	AFCD	19(c)(i) Projects that support the development of sustainable fisheries supported by Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to Specific Action 11c.
		AFCD	19(c)(ii) Projects that support the development of sustainable agriculture supported by the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to Specific Action 12a.
20 - Promote biodiversity awareness	a) Review and enhance education activities that promote biodiversity, being conducted by AFCD. Timeframe: M	AFCD	20(a)(i) The review of HKWP's public awareness and education programmes completed by 2018.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD has commissioned consultancy studies to review the performance of HKWP's programmes in raising public awareness and understanding of wetland biodiversity conservation. Surveys and data analyses regarding the performance of HKWP in raising public awareness of wetland biodiversity conservation were completed. Questionnaires and data analyses regarding the public awareness of HKWP's education programme were completed and the relevant working paper is under review by AFCD. Data analysis on the performance of HKWP's education programme is being conducted.
		AFCD	20(a)(ii) Exhibition and education facilities of HKWP revamped by 2021.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The exhibition galleries and education facilities of HKWP are being revamped with interactive exhibits and improvement works to enhance experiential learning experience.
		AFCD	20(a)(iii) Education programmes including Inter-school Bird Race and Family Farming Experience Programme organised at HKWP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HKWP organised various publicity events showcasing wetland biodiversity conservation through playing and artistic mediums during the Easter and summer holidays in 2017, attracting over 44,000 visitors. HKWP also organised other biodiversity education and publicity programmes targeting the youth and families, including Family Farming Experience Programme and a series of walk-in education workshops, attracting over 1,000 participants in 2017. The 17th Inter-school Bird Race was held in December 2017 and about 150 students and teachers participated in the Race. The 10th Storytelling Competition will be held in January 2018, while other festive art and education workshops will be held by March 2018.
		AFCD	20(a)(iv) Public education programmes on marine biodiversity organised.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD is organising/co-organising a series of education and publicity programmes on marine biodiversity conservation, namely "Hong Kong Marine Biodiversity", "Ting Kok Coastal Conservation Plan" (Ting Kok+) and "Hong Kong Underwater Photo and Video Competition", which included roving exhibitions, seminars, field trips, coastal clean-ups, fishermen culture exploration, teacher workshops and competitions. AFCD is also working with the Education University of Hong Kong on a service-based learning programme and a train-the-trainers programme, to train young speakers to deliver talks at local schools to promote marine biodiversity conservation messages. Publicity and educational leaflets and booklets and field guides were published to enhance the understanding of the public on marine life and marine habitats.
		AFCD	20(a)(v) Education programmes including school and public programmes organised in country parks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD is organising various biodiversity education programmes in country parks, including school visit programmes and teachers' training tailored for different school levels, benefiting 200 schools, as well as public programmes such as tree planting event, family day, workshops, nature appreciation guided tours and roving exhibitions..

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	b) Promote awareness and community involvement through citizen science monitoring programmes. Timeframe: M	AFCD	20(b)(i) Members of the public engaged to participate in citizen science projects.	Collaborations with NGOs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Citizen Science” has been set as one of the themes of the Subventions for Biodiversity Education 2017 under Specific Action 20c, and funding support was provided to NGOs to organise citizen science programmes to engage members of the general public. AFCD is co-organising various citizen science monitoring programmes with NGOs / institutions, viz. Hong Kong Reef Check (Reef Check Foundation), Coral Saver (WWF-Hong Kong) and Scientific Diver (City University). Citizen science projects at HKWP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers have been trained and were assisting with the assessment of trees and artificial bird nests at HKWP. Members of the public will be trained by an NGO (the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society) to participate in the International Black-faced Spoonbill Census 2018 to be held at HKWP in January 2018.
	c) Organise annual festivals to provide a platform for engaging partners and relevant stakeholders in promoting biodiversity to the public. Timeframe: O	AFCD	20(c)(i) Education programmes including guided tours, workshops and volunteer programmes organised. NGOs engaged as partners in organising events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hong Kong Biodiversity Festival 2017 was jointly organised by AFCD and NGOs, tertiary institutions as well as organisations in the public and private sectors, from October to December 2017. Under the theme “Nature Around Us”, HKBF 2017 offered over 100 biodiversity education activities to the public. In 2017, a total of 14 applications were approved under the Subventions for Biodiversity Education with a total funding amount of \$1.46 million.
	d) Conduct a survey on knowledge and attitudes towards biodiversity in Hong Kong. Timeframe: S	AFCD	20(d)(i) Baseline level and change of public knowledge and attitude to biodiversity documented.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD has commissioned a study to document the baseline level of the knowledge and attitude of the general public and stakeholder groups (teachers and members of relevant professional organisations) towards biodiversity in Hong Kong, to inform future education programmes and to track the change of attitude and awareness in relation to the implementation of the BSAP.
	e) Encourage partnership between government and business sector in biodiversity conservation. Timeframe: M	AFCD	20(e)(i) Mainstreaming events organised for various sectors including businesses, engineering, agriculture and fisheries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five mainstreaming events have been conducted since December 2016 for relevant sectors. Topics covered included BSAP, urban biodiversity, wildlife management and sustainable consumption of biological resources.
	f) Encourage programmes to promote biodiversity education and community involvement, through funding support by the Environment and Conservation Fund. Timeframe: O	EPD, AFCD	20(f)(i) Provide funding support for meritorious biodiversity-related EE&CA projects selected by the EE&CA Projects Vetting Sub-committee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Biodiversity” has been set as a special theme in both rounds of the 2016/17 and 2017/18 EE&CA project applications to encourage NGOs to carry out environmental education and community action projects that could effectively promote public awareness and community involvement in conservation of biodiversity. In 2016/17, eight biodiversity-related applications were approved with a total funding amount of \$ 4.35 million.
21 - Promote biodiversity in education	a) Incorporate the concept of biodiversity in the school curriculum. Timeframe: M	AFCD, EDB	21(a)(i) The concept of biodiversity is already included in the school curriculum.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The concept of biodiversity is already included in the school curriculum, including General Studies (P1-6), Science (S1-3), Biology (S4-6), Combined Science (S4-6) (Biology part) and Integrated Science (S4-6). The curricula will continue to be reviewed and updated as appropriate.
	b) Engage NGOs to provide capacity building for teachers on biodiversity. Timeframe: L	AFCD, EDB	21(b)(i) Teachers’ seminars/ workshops on biodiversity organised.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EDB organised a professional development programme (PDP) on biodiversity and conservation for secondary school teachers on 29 June 2017, with speakers from the University of Hong Kong, WWF-Hong Kong and AFCD; and another training programme on “Planning and Execution of a BioBlitz” on 3 November 2017 in collaboration with Tai Tam Tuk Foundation. Relevant PDPs will continue to be organised. “Teacher’s capacity building” has been set as one of the themes of the Subventions for Biodiversity Education 2017 under Specific Action 20c, and funding support was provided to NGOs to organise teachers’ training courses and develop teaching resources to support teachers in conducting outdoor field sessions.
		AFCD	21(b)(ii) Five sets of pamphlets and six sets of display panels on biodiversity conservation updated and produced by HKWP by 2019. HKWP website revamped by 2019.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HKWP is updating and producing education materials on biodiversity conservation to support teachers in conducting relevant education activities. Five sets of pamphlets had been updated and produced. Six sets of mobile display panels are being designed and are expected to be completed by February 2018. HKWP’s Teachers’ Page is also being revamped to facilitate access to new teaching resources (e.g. self-visit lesson plan and pictorial guide for interpretation).
	c) Enhance the resources for early childhood education on nature conservation.	AFCD, EDB	21(c)(i) Learning and Teaching (L&T) packages for kindergarten students’ activity-based learning at HKWP and Lion’s Nature Education Centre (LNEC).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EDB has commissioned the project to develop L&T resources for kindergarten education at HKWP and LNEC. Demonstration of the trial version of L&T package was conducted at HKWP and LNEC in August 2017. Pilot training sessions for kindergarten teachers and seminars for parents of kindergarten students were held in December 2017.

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	Timeframe: S/M	AFCD, EDB	21(c)(ii) Kindergarten resource centre set up in LNEC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EDB has commissioned the project to design the kindergarten resource centre to be set up at LNEC. Draft initial design of the resource centre was submitted in November 2017.
22 -Promote sustainable consumption	a) Conduct public engagement and explore relevant measures on promotion of sustainable consumption of biological resources. Timeframe: S	ENB	22(a)(i) The Council for Sustainable Development (SDC) has conducted a public engagement on promotion of sustainable consumption of biological resources and would put forward recommendations for the Government's consideration.	<p><i>SDC's public engagement exercise</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDC submitted the report on the public engagement to the Government on 2 June 2017, setting out 20 recommendations to promote sustainable consumption of biological resources under four aspects, namely to foster a culture of sustainable consumption of biological resources, to facilitate smart choice for consumers, to promote best practices among businesses and to show leadership on the part of the Government. The Government has responded to the SDC's recommendations and formulated a strategy to promote sustainable consumption of biological resources through "Community Engagement" and "Facilitating Access to Knowledge". <p><i>Implementing SDC's recommendations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Sustainable consumption of biological resources" has been set as a special theme for the second round in 2017/18 of ECF's EE&CA project applications to encourage NGOs to apply for funding to address some of the recommendations from SDC. An associated briefing session was held on 29 August 2017. NGOs (Business Environment Council and WWF-Hong Kong) are implementing a number of recommendations from SDC through funding support by the Sustainable Development Fund, including the production of an information platform on sustainable products, a recognition scheme, and sustainable consumption guides. EPD, AFCD and EDB are following up on the SDC's recommendations on the sustainable consumption of biological resources.
23 - Enhance facilities for biodiversity education and research	a) Open and maintain a permanent exhibition on biodiversity in the Hong Kong Science Museum. Timeframe: S	LCSD	23(a)(i) The Biodiversity Gallery in the Hong Kong Science Museum opened in September 2016.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Biodiversity Gallery was opened and Biodiversity Workshops on various topics were hosted by NGOs regularly at the Gallery.
	b) Support the establishment of biodiversity centres. Timeframe: M	AFCD	23(b)(i) Establishment of biodiversity centres at local tertiary institutions supported.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD is providing support to tertiary institutions, e.g. the Institute of Bioresource and Agriculture of Hong Kong Baptist University and the Swire Institute of Marine Science of the University of Hong Kong, for setting up new learning centres that will help to promote biodiversity.
	c) Explore the opportunity for setting up a natural history museum in the long term. Timeframe: L	ENB, AFCD	23(c)(i) [Unable to anticipate deliverables at this stage]	