

Country and Marine Parks Board (CMPB)
Confirmed Minutes of the 66th Meeting

Date : 13 April 2018 (Friday) File Ref.: AF CPA 01/1/0
Time : 2:30 p.m.
Venue : Room 701, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)
Headquarters

PRESENT

Chairman

Mr TANG King-shing, GBS, PDSM

Members

Mr CHAN Ka-kui, SBS, JP

Ms CHAN Po-kam, Beatrice

Mr LAM Chung-lun, Billy, GBS, JP

Dr LAU Tai-wai, David

Mr LEE Chung-ming, Eric

Dr LEE Nam-yuk, Amelia

Mr LEE Yee-keung, Charles

Professor LEUNG Mei-yee, Kenneth

Ms MA Miu-wah, Katherine

Dr MAN Chi-sum, JP

Mr MO Ka-hung, Joseph

Ms SO Ka-man

Dr LEUNG Siu-fai, JP

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Dr SO Ping-man, JP

Deputy Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Ms Daisy LO	Assistant Director (Conservation Policy Review), Environmental Protection Department (EPD)
Mr Alan LO	Assistant Director of Lands (Specialist 2), Lands Department
Mr LAI Chi-tung	Assistant Director of Marine (Port Control), Marine Department
Mr Wilson CHAN	Assistant Director of Planning (New Territories), Planning Department

Secretary

Miss Phyllis CHAN	Assistant Secretary (Boards) ¹ , AFCD
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IN ATTENDANCE

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Mr Patrick LAI	Assistant Director (Country and Marine Parks)
Ms Y N NGAR	Senior Country Parks Officer (North-west)
Mr Franco NG	Senior Country Parks Officer (South-east)
Mr Alfred WONG	Senior Country Parks Officer (Ranger Services)
Dr YEUNG Ka-ming	Senior Geopark Officer
Mr Alan CHAN	Senior Marine Parks Officer
Dr T W TAM	Country Parks Ranger Services Officer (Hong Kong)
Ms LI Hiu-yan	Marine Parks Officer (Development) ¹

Home Affairs Department (HAD)

Mrs HO WONG Nga-kiu, Ann	Chief Executive Officer (2) ¹
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Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD)

Mr CHEUNG Koon-lam Chief Leisure Manager (Management)

Water Supplies Department (WSD)

Mr LIN Tang-tai Senior Engineer (Planning Policy)

For Agenda Item III only

Urbis Limited

Mr Alan MACDONALD Director (Planning and Urban Design)

Miss Magdalene TAM Planner

Mott MacDonald

Mr Gary CHOW Principal Environmental Consultant

For Agenda Item IV only

Environmental Resources Management – Hong Kong, Limited (ERM)

Dr Jasmine NG Partner

Mr Raymond CHOW Consultant

ABSENT WITH APOLOGIES

Mr Jan CHAN

Ms Suzanne M. GENDRON

Dr HE Shen-jing

Honourable HO Chun-yin, Steven, BBS

Ms KIU Kin-yan, Judy

Professor NG Sai-leung

Mr SO Kwok-yin, Ken

Ms WONG Pik-yan, Nicole

Ms Eugenia CHUNG, JP

Assistant Director of Home Affairs (2), HAD

Mr LIU Wai-shing, Simon

Assistant Director of Leisure and Cultural Services
(Leisure Services)³, LCSD

Mr CHAU Sai-wai

Assistant Director of Water Supplies (Development),
WSD

OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN

1/18 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular Ms Daisy LO, Assistant Director (Conservation Policy Review) of EPD, who was attending the meeting for the first time.

2/18 The Chairman informed members that, as an established practice and to facilitate the taking of minutes, sound recording would be made during the meeting. The audio records would be destroyed after the minutes were confirmed.

AGENDA ITEMS

I. Confirmation of Minutes of the 65th Meeting held on 24 November 2017

3/18 The minutes of the 65th meeting held on 24 November 2017 were confirmed without amendments.

II. Matters Arising

(a) Country Parks Public Education Programme: Take your Litter Home (Para. 101/17 to 111/17)

4/18 Mr Alfred WONG of AFCDD reported that the remaining litter containers and recycle bins along all hiking trails in country parks had been removed by the end of 2017. The Department had put up banners and notices about the bin-free arrangement at suitable locations and would continue to promote “Take Your Litter Home”.

(b) Preparation of Draft Map of the Proposed Southwest Lantau Marine Park (Para. 204/17)

5/18 Mr Alan CHAN of AFCDD reported that in February 2018, the Country and Marine Parks Authority (the Authority) had, in accordance with section 13 of the Marine Parks Ordinance (MPO), submitted the draft map of the proposed Southwest Lantau Marine Park (SWLMP) together with a schedule of objections and representations made under section 12 of MPO to the Chief Executive in Council (CE in C) for approval.

6/18 Mr CHAN also informed members that AFCDD was carrying out a consultancy study to review the existing fisheries management measures in marine parks and investigate possible enhancement measures. The enhanced fisheries management measures would be incorporated into the management plan of the proposed SWLMP as appropriate. He informed members that detailed information on the abovementioned study would be provided to members under agenda item IV.

(c) Annual Field Visit 2017 (Para. 259/17)

7/18 Mr Patrick LAI of AFCDD briefed members on the report of the Annual Field Visit conducted on 19 December 2017.

(Dr LEE Nam-yuk, Amelia attended the meeting at this juncture.)

III. Consultancy Study on Enhancement of the Recreation and Education Potential of Country Parks and Special Areas – Public Opinion Survey and Stakeholder Engagement (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/1/2018)

8/18 The Chairman reminded members to declare if there were any potential conflicts of interest in the matter to be discussed under this agenda item. No member made such declaration.

9/18 Dr T W TAM of AFCD briefed members on the background and progress of the Consultancy Study on Enhancement of the Recreation and Education Potential of Country Parks and Special Areas (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/1/2018).

(Mr CHAN Ka-kui, SBS, JP and Mr LEE Chung-ming, Eric attended the meeting at this juncture.)

10/18 The Chairman invited and welcomed the representatives of Urbis Limited and Mott Macdonald to the meeting.

11/18 Mr Alan MACDONALD of Urbis Limited briefed members on the results of the baseline review as well as the findings of the public opinion survey and engagement workshops with key stakeholders.

12/18 With regard to the survey findings, a member opined that large scale overnight accommodations in country parks and building of any accommodations amounting to hotels should not be encouraged as they would defeat the conservation purposes of country parks. Besides, although grass sliding was the most wanted adventurous activity, she believed not many Hong Kong people had experienced it before and the Government should provide them with more information about such activity and the cost of having it in country parks. She also doubted whether grass sliding was technically feasible in Hong Kong and whether resources were available to make it happen.

13/18 A member expected the consultant to include in the final report recommendations for improving the convenience for the public to use country parks and promoting the enjoyment of country parks by members of different social strata. He considered that the implementation of the recommended proposals should not only rely on public resources as they were not without limits. He suggested the consultant to explore resources from the private and commercial sectors to support the recommended enhancement projects.

14/18 A member would like to know if there were any lessons to be learnt from the international case studies, apart from the good practices, and whether they would be included in the final report. In his opinion, given the existence of private lands and ecologically sensitive areas in country parks, the locations of the proposed activities and facilities should be carefully considered. He suggested that the final report should provide information on the potential impact of the proposed activities and facilities on the environment and ecology, the estimated number of visitors they could accommodate, and the amount of manpower required for the management. The member also suggested the study to investigate whether the existing country parks facilities, such as visitor centres, could be improved or expanded for better usage of country parks.

15/18 A member mentioned about the famous 3D glass bridge in China and expressed her expectation that the study would suggest forward-looking proposals for enhancing the attractiveness of country parks and introduce innovative and inspiring activities and facilities, making country parks the new landmark of Hong Kong. She also recommended the study to include a long-term vision and strategy for the development of country parks which would be useful for guiding the selection of enhancement proposals.

16/18 A member appreciated that the consultant had put up a comprehensive list of activities and facilities that could be done in Hong Kong. He suggested that apart from drawing on the international experience and practices, the study should also recognise the advantages of Hong Kong country parks over others and make recommendations on how the Government could leverage these advantages to make Hong Kong country parks better than others. In addition, the study should make focused enhancement proposals based on the needs and preferences of Hong Kong people as well as the climate in Hong Kong. Furthermore, the member considered that the existence of local villages and village culture was a special feature of Hong Kong country parks and worth highlighting. The study could explore the possible ways of involving the local villages in the provision and operation of the proposed activities and facilities. He believed home-stay lodgings ran by the local villages would be very attractive to both local and foreign visitors.

17/18 Regarding the above comments and suggestions, Mr MACDONALD made the following responses:-

- (1) There were different opinions in the society on the types of accommodations to be put in country parks. Some people did not want the accommodations to be too formal whereas others wanted accommodations like “glamping” to be

introduced. In any case, they had to be cautious about the type of accommodation to be put in country parks.

- (2) It was the purpose of the study to increase the attractiveness of country parks, thereby encouraging more people to visit them. The private sector could be encouraged to undertake more activities in country parks, but it should be subject to scrutiny and control.
- (3) They were mindful that the activities and facilities going into the country parks, the way they should be managed, and the possible impacts had to be carefully considered. The next stage of the study was to figure out how the activities and facilities could be introduced and to ensure that they would not be detrimental to the character of the overall country parks.
- (4) They would look at the vision and strategy for the development of country parks as suggested by a member.

18/18 A member enquired if the survey respondents had raised any new ideas that were not among the enhancement options. Besides, pointing out that there could be different geographical, safety and management requirements for different activities and facilities, he advised that a comprehensive management plan for each proposed activities and facilities would be necessary. As availability of funds was crucial, he suggested the consultant to include in the final report the funding requirements for the proposed activities and facilities for the Government's consideration.

19/18 Another member believed that many organisations or companies in the private sector would be interested in operating activities in the country parks. He suggested the study to make recommendations on which types of organisations or companies were suitable for operating the proposed activities and facilities. Moreover, the member commented that more venues might be needed in country parks for serving as assembly points and for carrying out educational activities. He recommended enhancing the functions of the existing country parks facilities, such as visitor centres, to support the recreational and educational activities organised by community groups.

20/18 With regard to members' discussion on the mode of operation, Dr LEUNG Siu-fai, JP said that the facilities within country parks were usually run by the Government or jointly operated by the Government and non-profit-making organisations but were seldom set aside for private sector to operate. He invited members to give views on whether they should go beyond

the existing mode of operation and whether certain facilities could be operated by private operators. He suggested that the consultant could also seek the views of the public and stakeholders on the mode of operation.

21/18 A member supported the idea of allowing private operators to operate certain facilities. He opined that the variety of facilities in country parks was limited by the Government policies and funding, and consequently, facilities preferred by the society sometimes could not be delivered. He suggested the Government to explore the feasibility of adopting the public-private partnership approach in the provision and operation of facilities in country parks. The participation of the private sector would bring about more creative ideas as well as resources for realising a greater range of activities and facilities and thereby attracting more locals and tourists to visit the country parks. He proposed that this initiative could be tested in the proposed Robin's Nest Country Park. Furthermore, taking barbecue sites as an example, the member suggested the consultant to look at areas of improvements of the existing facilities, in addition to the introduction of new activities and facilities.

22/18 Another member advised that when considering the adventurous activities, the Government had to take into account a number of matters, including the feasibility, the safety issues, the liability for personal injury by accident in the course of such activities, as well as the maintenance cost. For grass sliding, it would be desirable to look for a lawn with native grass species big enough for such activity. If exotic species were used, they might be invasive and contaminate the native species in the surrounding areas. As for tree top adventure / tree climbing, he stressed the importance of safety measures and tree maintenance. Furthermore, the member suggested utilising internet platforms, such as Facebook, to collect the public's feedback on the recreational and educational activities and facilities on a long-term basis.

23/18 The Chairman remarked that Hong Kong people mainly used country parks for hiking nowadays. With the introduction of the new activities and facilities in the future, there might be a considerable change in the use of country parks. It was vital that AFCD had sufficient resources to implement and manage these activities and facilities and gave careful thought to the provision of relevant education and ancillary facilities.

24/18 Mr MACDONALD responded to the above enquiry, comments and suggestions as follows:-

- (1) The survey respondents had come up with other enhancement options, of which

the major ones had been presented in this meeting and would be included in the final report.

- (2) In this study, a specialist consultant in their team would look at the financial viability and mode of operations. It was a good suggestion of looking at the possibility of private sector participation which could address the funding issue and perhaps expand the range of activities. In fact, various stakeholders had expressed that AFCD currently did not have enough financial and manpower resources to take forward the enhancement proposals, and they expected more financial support from the Government to AFCD.
- (3) The locations of particular facilities should be accessible and appropriate from the ecological and conservation perspectives, without adversely affecting the integrity of country parks. Concerning grass sliding, it would be hard to use entirely native species because of the climate in Hong Kong, but he agreed that introduction of exotic grass species into the country parks should be avoided. As regards tree top adventure / tree climbing, he believed the facilities should be designed with safety in mind and the participants should be warned about the risk of such activity.
- (4) In the course of the study, they had looked at areas of improvement or better usage of the existing facilities.
- (5) A dedicated website would be implemented shortly for this study, providing a platform for the public to give views on the enhancement options.

25/18 With respect to grass sliding, a member remarked that environmental groups would probably be against the use of natural grassland as it would damage the environment. In addition, growing and maintaining grasses were difficult and expensive. Therefore, he suggested that the Government could consider doing it in a smaller scale and using artificial turf instead. Regarding the overnight facilities, he thought it was normal to have fewer survey respondents choosing hotel because it was hard for people to imagine having a glamorous hotel in country parks. Nonetheless, the result would be different if the option was an eco-hotel instead of a hotel. He elaborated that eco-hotel was a hotel that had an eco-friendly and self-sustaining design in order to minimise its impact on the environment. It could be a forward-looking accommodation option to be considered putting into the country parks. Furthermore, he expected that the study would not only recommend individual facilities but also outline a forward-looking vision and a holistic blueprint for the overall development of country parks, providing a direction for the formulation of future management plans. In addition, he hoped to see, in the next stages of the study, more details on the application of

international experience and practices to the enhancement proposals. In particular, he wished to see the integration of the precious village heritage with the enhancement options, for example using village houses to provide overnight facilities, so that conservation of cultural heritage and enhancement of country parks could be achieved at the same time.

26/18 Mr MACDONALD responded that for grass sliding, the appropriateness of site from the environmental perspective was very important. While it should be accessible, it should not be destructive to the existing environment and assets. Regarding the suggestion of eco-hotel, he found it a good idea to have something low-key and would fit into the overall environment. Moreover, he agreed on the need for a vision for the development of country parks and said that they would further look at it. Furthermore, Mr MACDONALD said that some of activities and facilities in the overseas national parks would be found in Hong Kong country parks in the future, but perhaps they would be implemented in a different way that would be suitable for the situation in Hong Kong. He also assured that heritage would be one of the elements to be considered when they were planning activities and the future development of country parks.

27/18 As members made no further enquiry and comment, the Chairman thanked the representatives of Urbis Limited and Mott Macdonald for attending the meeting.

(The representatives of Urbis Limited and Mott Macdonald left the meeting at this juncture.)

28/18 The Chairman said that as the study was still going on, members were welcomed to give their views on the matter to the secretariat who would convey them to the consulting team.

IV. Consultancy Study on Review of Fisheries Management Measures in Marine Parks – Management Options and Stakeholder Engagement (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/2/2018)

29/18 The Chairman reminded members to declare if there were any potential conflicts of interest in the matters to be discussed under this agenda item. No member made such declaration.

30/18 Mr Alan CHAN briefed members on the background of the Consultancy Study on Review of Fisheries Management Measures in Marine Parks (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/2/2018).

31/18 The Chairman then invited and welcomed the representatives of ERM to the meeting.

32/18 Dr Jasmine NG of ERM gave members the details of the study, including the study approach, the seven potential fisheries management options explored, the results of evaluation of these options using an ecosystem modelling, as well as the views of the relevant stakeholders. At the end of her presentation, she invited members to comment on the findings of the study and provide views on the fisheries management options explored for the Hong Kong marine parks.

(Dr YEUNG Ka-ming attended the meeting at this juncture.)

33/18 After Dr NG's presentation, the Chairman informed the meeting that a member who was unable to attend the meeting had submitted written comments on the subject matter. The written comments had been circulated to members for reference before the meeting.

34/18 In response to the member's query on the effectiveness of marine parks, Mr Alan CHAN said that Hong Kong marine parks were designated for the purpose of conservation, education and recreation. Various studies/ surveys had indicated that the marine parks served the function of protection and conservation of marine biodiversity and habitats. In terms of fisheries resources, a survey conducted by the University of Hong Kong from 2012 to 2014 showed that the three marine parks in the Northeastern waters had high fisheries resource biomass and played an important role as fisheries nursery ground. In addition, it showed that 113 juvenile fish species could be found in the three marine parks, which was 25% higher than the number of species that could be found in the waters outside the marine parks. Moreover, according to the annual Hong Kong Reef Check carried out by AFCD in collaboration with the Reef Check Foundation and other coral monitoring works conducted by local universities, it was found that the coral communities in marine parks were generally healthy and growing steadily. The previous surveys on dolphins in Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park also found that the marine park was an important habitat for Chinese White Dolphins. Furthermore, Mr CHAN pointed out that marine parks served important educational and recreational

functions in addition to the protection of marine biodiversity and habitats.

35/18 In response to the member's comment that the current requirements for the succession and transfer of marine park fishing permit were strict, Mr CHAN indicated that the requirements had been appropriately relaxed in 2015 to allow permit holders' immediate family members to apply for succession to fishing permits and restricted transfer of fishing permits to authorised persons of other fishing permits for fishermen in the same marine park. AFCD had handled more than 50 cases of permit succession and 2 cases of restricted transfer in the past few years. As regards the member's comment that more in-depth discussion on the fishing ban in four existing marine parks was needed if management option 4A (Fishing ban in four existing marine parks and allowing all registered fishing vessels under the Fisheries Protection Ordinance (Cap. 171) to fish in the remaining existing and proposed marine parks) was to be implemented, Mr CHAN said that after collecting the views of CMPB members and relevant stakeholders on the management options, AFCD would examine the specific details further and then discuss with the fisheries sector on issues identified. He added that the four existing marine parks which would be subject to the proposed fishing ban under management option 4A covered less than 2% of the waters in Hong Kong. Fishermen holding the marine park fishing permit could operate in the rest of the Hong Kong waters. Hence, the impact of management option 4A on fishing operations of the permit holders was considered acceptable.

36/18 A member expressed support for management option 4A as it could enhance the protection of the four existing marine parks and increase the overall fisheries resources in Hong Kong waters after 5 and 20 years of implementation. He anticipated that fishing operations in the western and southwestern waters would increase if management option 4A was to be implemented, and suggested that the Government should closely monitor the impact of such option on the fisheries resources and marine ecology in these regions in the long-term. If the monitoring results suggested there were considerable adverse impacts, the Government should consider whether additional fishing control, such as gear or catch control, was needed in these regions. Moreover, the member asked about the level of uncertainty in the ecosystem modeling.

37/18 Dr Jasmine NG noted the member's suggestion and agreed that attention should be given to the possible change in the distribution of fishing operations in Hong Kong waters if management option 4A was to be implemented. But she also pointed out that as compared between Option 4A and 4B, there was no significant effect of additional fishing control through temporal closure and gear control in marine parks on the level of fisheries resources in Hong

Kong waters. Regarding the modeling uncertainty, she explained that in the study, the project team had used the ecosystem modelling tools developed by the University of British Columbia to estimate the effect of different fisheries management options. Uncertainty inevitably existed in the ecosystem modelling, as in any other modelling. But as their presentation in this meeting mainly aimed to show members the percentage difference in fisheries resources under different management options, the standard deviation was not included in the figures shown.

38/18 A member also expressed support for management option 4A. In her view, option 5 (fishing ban in all existing and proposed marine parks) was not practicable because it would have greater impact on fishermen's livelihoods and food supply. Option 4A would be a better choice as it could bring about a prominent percentage increase in the level of fisheries resources but less effect to the livelihood of fishermen as compared to option 4B and 5. In addition, she supported the suggestion collected in the stakeholder engagement exercises that measures should be taken to minimise damages on marine lives. For example, more resources should be allocated to remove abandoned fishing nets/traps in marine parks in order to reduce the potential impacts on marine mammals and coral communities.

39/18 Another member commented that option 4A which could address the fishermen's need for fishing areas and increase the overall fisheries resources at the same time was an acceptable option. Nonetheless, various factors, such as illegal fishing activities and movement of the fish population, could influence the sustainability of fisheries resources in Hong Kong. He suggested that to ensure the sustainability of fisheries resources, the Government should implement option 4A in conjunction with other supporting measures, such as removal of abandoned fishing nets/traps, strengthening patrols and monitoring, enhancement of the diversity of fish species and so on. In response, Mr Alan CHAN said that AFCD would study in detail the supporting measures after deciding which management option to implement. He informed members that AFCD had already started fisheries resources surveys in the proposed marine parks to collect baseline data for evaluating the effectiveness of marine parks on the protection of fisheries resources in the future. After the designation of the proposed marine parks, there would be additional patrol vessels and patrol teams to discharge the management and law enforcement duties. In an attempt to enhance the fisheries resources, AFCD also considered to designate core area(s), deploy artificial reefs and release fish fry in the proposed marine parks. The Department would consult CMPB members on the management plans for the proposed marine parks in due course.

40/18 As members made no further enquiry and comment, the Chairman thanked the representatives of ERM for attending the meeting.

(The representatives of ERM left the meeting at this juncture.)

V. Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark: Current Status and Plans to Improve Its Functioning and Quality (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/3/2018)

41/18 The Chairman reminded members to declare if there were any potential conflicts of interest in the matters to be discussed under this agenda item.

42/18 Dr YEUNG Ka-ming of AFCD updated members the current status of the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark (HKUGGp) and brief them on the plans to improve its functions and quality before the next revalidation in 2021. (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/3/2018).

43/18 Mr LEE Chung-ming, Eric declared that he had participated in the project to develop the Hakka Life Experience Village at Lai Chi Wo (荔枝窩客家生活體驗村). He suggested that to improve the accessibility of HKUGGp and provide a different way to experience the park, AFCD could consider allowing bike rides to the High Island Reservoir East Dam with appropriate management measures.

44/18 In response, Dr YEUNG Ka-ming said that they hoped visitors could experience the geo-attractions leisurely and considered that hiking was the best mode of visiting HKUGGp. Mr Patrick LAI supplemented that the road leading to the High Island Reservoir East Dam was the Sai Kung Man Yee Road maintained by WSD and also the MacLehose Trail - Stage 1. It was open to pedestrians, taxis and works vehicles at present. If the road was also open to cyclists, it was necessary to ascertain whether it was safe and whether the capacity of the road could cater for vehicles, pedestrians and bicycles at the same time. He added that the Transport Department proposed to introduce green minibus service between the East Dam and Pak Tam Chung to deal with the high passenger flow during public holidays and was consulting relevant parties on this matter. He considered that when determining whether to allow bike rides to the East Dam, this potential development should be taken into consideration.

(Dr YEUNG Ka-ming left the meeting at this juncture.)

**VI. Summary Report of Country Parks Committee
(Working Paper: WP/CMPB/4/2018)**

45/18 In the absence of Professor NG Sai-leung, Chairmen of the CPC, Mr Patrick LAI briefed members on Working Paper WP/CMPB/4/2018, which served to provide members with a summary of the issues discussed at the CPC meeting held on 24 January 2018.

46/18 With reference to paragraph 2.1 to 2.2 of the summary report regarding the review of existing mountain bike trails (MBTs) in country parks, Ms Y N NGAR of AFCD updated members on the consultations with the mountain biking community and the final recommendations for MBTs. She informed members that the Cycling Association of Hong Kong and Hong Kong Mountain Bike Association were consulted on the recommendations of the review in February 2018. They had reservation about the deletion of Dragon's Back MBT but no objection to other recommendations. After further assessment, the original recommendation to delete the Dragon's Back MBT was revised to delete the ridge section of it only. To reduce user conflicts, it was also recommended that the Dragon's Back MBT be open only on weekdays but not on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays. Recommendations for other MBTs remained unchanged.

47/18 Ms NGAR answered a member's enquiry that the mid-hill section of the Dragon's Back MBT (i.e. the section to be retained) was relatively flat and was occasionally used by bikers. She believed there were no major safety and soil erosion issues in that section. In response to another question from the member, Ms NGAR said that AFCD would improve the relevant signage at the Dragon's Back trail so as to make clear which part of the trail could be used for mountain biking. To reduce user conflicts, they would put up a warning sign at appropriate location to alert bikers not to get uphill to the ridge section, and they would also put up a sign reminding hikers that the mid-hill section is a MBT and they should beware of the mountain biking activity there.

(Mr LAM Chung-lun, Billy, GBS, JP left the meeting at this juncture.)

48/18 A member suggested that the signage should be in different languages as the Dragon's Back trail was popular among both local and foreign hikers. He also suggested reviewing the situation of the Dragon's Back MBT after around two years and requiring bikers to dismount at the To Tei Wan entrance and push their bikes up the stairs to the starting point of the mid-hill MBT. Ms NGAR noted the suggestions and responded to the last one that the section concerned mainly consisted of stairs so bikers normally had to dismount from their mountain bikes and push them up the stairs. Regarding this condition, AFCD would alert bikers properly through the Department's website.

**VII. Summary Report of Marine Parks Committee
(Working Paper: WP/CMPB/5/2018)**

49/18 Professor LEUNG Mei-yee, Kenneth, Chairman of the MPC, briefed members on Working Paper WP/CMPB/5/2018, which provided members with a summary of the issues discussed at the MPC meeting held on 2 March 2018. Members noted the Report

**VIII. Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report
(Working Paper: WP/CMPB/6/2018)**

50/18 Mr Patrick LAI briefed members on the Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report for the period from 1 October 2017 to 28 February 2018 (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/6/2018). Members noted the Report.

IX. Any Other Business

51/18 Members did not raise any other business for discussion.

X. Date of Next Meeting

52/18 The Chairman informed members that the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 20 July 2018 (Friday) at 2:30 p.m.

53/18 The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

– End –