

Country and Marine Parks Board (CMPB)
Confirmed Minutes of the 67th Meeting

Date : 20 July 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 Jan CHAN

Mr CHAN Ka-kui, SBS, JP

Ms Suzanne M. GENDRON

Dr HE Shen-jing

Honourable HO Chun-yin, Steven, BBS

Ms KIU Kin-yan, Judy

Dr LAU Tai-wai, David

Dr LEE Nam-yuk, Amelia

Dr MAN Chi-sum, JP

Mr MO Ka-hung, Joseph

Ms WONG Pik-yan, Nicole

Dr SO Ping-man, JP

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Ag.) /
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, JP Assistant Director of Marine (Port Control), Marine Department

Secretary

Miss Phyllis CHAN Assistant Secretary (Boards)¹, AFCD

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)

Mr Alan CHAN Senior Marine Parks Officer

Dr T W TAM Country Parks Ranger Services Officer (Hong Kong)

Home Affairs Department (HAD)

Mrs HO WONG Nga-kiu, Ann Chief Executive Officer (2)¹

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

Task Force on Land Supply

Mr Stanley WONG, SBS, JP	Chairman
Dr Greg WONG, BBS, JP	Vice-chairman
Professor LAM Kin-che, SBS, JP	Member
Ms Iris HOI	Member

For Agenda Item IV only

Urbis Limited

Mr David MORKEL	Director
Mr TO Yuen-gwun Adrian	Senior Planner

Mott MacDonald

Mr Gary CHOW	Principal Environmental Consultant
--------------	------------------------------------

Waters Economics trading as Cistri

Mr HUI Wai-chuen Jackson	Consultant
--------------------------	------------

ABSENT WITH APOLOGIES

Ms CHAN Po-kam, Beatrice
Mr LAM Chung-lun, Billy, GBS, JP
Mr LEE Chung-ming, Eric

Mr LEE Yee-keung, Charles

Professor LEUNG Mei-yee, Kenneth, JP

Ms MA Miu-wah, Katherine

Professor NG Sai-leung

Ms SO Ka-man

Mr SO Kwok-yin, Ken

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 Wilson CHAN

Assistant Director of Planning (New Territories),
Planning Department

Mr CHAU Sai-wai, JP

Assistant Director of Water Supplies (Development),
WSD

OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN

54/18 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He informed members that Dr SO Ping-man, JP, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation, was doubling up as Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation.

55/18 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 66th Meeting held on 13 April 2018

56/18 The minutes of the 66th meeting held on 13 April 2018 were confirmed without amendments.

II. Matters Arising

(a) Country Parks Public Education Programme: Take Your Litter Home (Para. 4/18)

57/18 Mr Alfred WONG of AFCD reported that the Department had launched the “Take Your Litter Home” programme in 2015 to encourage the public to take their own litter away from country parks after hiking and develop a sense of responsibility towards the environment. Litter containers and recycle bins along hiking trails in country parks had been removed in phases in accordance with the action plans of the programme, and hiking trails in country parks had become litter-bin-free by the end of 2017. He informed members that there was a notable decrease in the amount of litter collected along the trails selected for intensive monitoring after the removal of litter containers and recycle bins. He added that monkey-proof litter containers were installed at the recreation sites in Shing Mun and Kam Shan Country Parks in April 2017 to address the issue of monkey searching for food. It was observed that the amount of litter collected along MacLehose Trail Section 6 and Pineapple Dam Nature Trail had considerably reduced.

58/18 Mr WONG also reported that in the past year, the Department had continued to promulgate the “Take Your Litter Home” message through various publicity and education activities and had also continued collaborating with green groups and hiking groups to monitor the hygiene conditions of the trails. In November and December 2018, the “Take Your Litter Home” message would be further promoted to the public through bus body advertisements.

59/18 Regarding a member’s recommendation of expanding the programme to barbecue sites, Mr WONG indicated that AFCD would instead continue to promote waste reduction in country parks and encourage country park users to reduce and avoid the use of disposable plastic products.

60/18 With respect to the news about the installation of water dispensers in country parks mentioned by the Chairman, Mr Franco NG of AFCD remarked that the Department would install about 20 additional water dispensers in phases by the end of 2019 with the aim of encouraging hikers to bring their own water bottles and thereby reducing plastic waste

generated from beverage bottles.

61/18 The Chairman supported the installation of water dispensers in country parks which would give hikers a stronger incentive not to buy bottled water. A member also expressed support and suggested AFCD to cease the sale of plastic bottled water measuring one litre or less by food kiosks in the vicinity of the water dispensers. Besides, he pointed out that apart from one-off disposable plastics, food waste, including leftover food, was another major component of the waste found in barbecue sites. He recommended AFCD to advise people to take away the leftover food and consider measures to reduce food wastage in barbecue sites.

62/18 A member considered the overall results of the programme satisfactory and asked AFCD to continue to closely monitor the situation. He also enquired how AFCD got the figures of the amount of litter and whether there was any observation of wild pigs searching litter bins for food and affecting the hygiene condition of the trails. In response, Mr WONG explained that before the removal of litter containers and recycle bins, AFCD staff had recorded the amount of litter collected from litter containers and recycle bins along the trails as well as those picked up on the trails as baseline data. After the removal, they recorded the amount of litter picked up on the trails and then compare such data with the baseline data to evaluate the effectiveness of the removal on reducing the amount of litter. Regarding the enquiry about wild pigs, Mr WONG said that according to their observations on the trails under intensive monitoring, it was macaques, not wild pigs, that searched for food from litter containers.

(Ms Suzanne M. GENDRON attended the meeting at this juncture.)

(b) Consultancy Study on Review of Fisheries Management Measures in Marine Parks – Management Options and Stakeholder Engagement (Para. 29/18 to 40/18)

63/18 Mr Alan CHAN of AFCD reported that the Department briefed members on the findings of the Consultancy Study on Review of Fisheries Management Measures in Marine Parks in the last CMPB meeting. In the meeting, members provided their views on the seven fisheries management options explored by the consultant and generally expressed support for management option 4A (i.e. fishing ban in four existing marine parks¹ and allowing all

¹ They are the Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park, Yan Chau Tong Marine Park and Tung Ping Chau Marine Park in the eastern waters, as well as Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park in the western waters.

registered fishing vessels under the Fisheries Protection Ordinance (Cap. 171) to fish in the remaining existing and proposed marine parks²). The Department was currently examining the implementation details of the management option, including legislative amendments, management arrangement as well as resources requirement. After that, the Department would consult major fishermen representatives and fishing permit holders of the affected marine parks on the implementation arrangements. CMPB members would be kept informed of the progress.

64/18 A member indicated that the fishermen groups were mainly concerned that the Government's current marine parks policy had rather big impact on the development of Hong Kong fisheries industry. The Government had already proposed compensatory marine parks for the Expansion of Hong Kong International Airport into a Three-runway System (3RS) and for the development of Integrated Waste Management Facilities. He believed that if the Government decided to create land through reclamation to develop the East Lantau Metropolis, it would likely to propose a compensatory marine park again in order to meet the requirement under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance. Given the limited sea area, it was getting more difficult to establish marine parks in Hong Kong. Therefore, he asked the Government to improve the existing fisheries management measures and set out a good direction for the sustainable development of the Hong Kong fisheries industry before it put forward any new marine park proposal.

65/18 Furthermore, the member reflected that fishermen could not differentiate between marine parks and fisheries protection areas. In his opinion, their objectives were very similar. If the fisheries management measures within marine parks were good enough, there was no need to designate fisheries protection areas separately. He also asked AFCD to further consult the fishermen groups on the fisheries management options explored in the consultancy study.

III. Public Engagement Exercise of the Task Force on Land Supply (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/7/2018)

66/18 The Chairman informed members that the Task Force on Land Supply (the Task

² They are The Brothers Marine Park, the proposed Southwest Lantau Marine Park, the proposed South Lantau Marine Park, and the proposed compensatory marine park for the Expansion of Hong Kong International Airport into a Three-runway System.

Force) launched a five-month public engagement exercise on 26 April 2018 to engage the community in discussing the pros and cons of 18 land supply options and their priorities. The Task Force initiated this agenda item with a view to exchanging views with CMPB members.

67/18 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. Then, the Chairman invited and welcomed the Task Force representatives to the meeting.

68/18 Mr Stanley WONG, SBS, JP, the Task Force Chairman, briefed members on the composition and objectives of the Task Force, the 18 land supply options for the public to consider and discuss, as well as the ongoing public engagement exercise. He highlighted that the estimated land shortfall of at least 1,200 hectares (ha) in the long run up to 2046 was a conservative estimate and the actual shortfall might be much higher. Moreover, he stressed that any land supply option, despite gaining majority support in the public engagement exercise, would have to go through the relevant statutory procedures before implementation, such as environmental impact assessment (EIA) and obtaining rezoning permission from the Town Planning Board. Similarly, any land supply option involving country parks would require the consent from the Country and Marine Parks Authority (the Authority) in consultation with CMPB before implementation. Lastly, Mr WONG invited CMPB members to provide their views.

69/18 The Chairman informed the meeting that a written submission was received from a member who was unable to attend the meeting. The member took the view that country parks were valuable assets of Hong Kong and had the important functions of nature conservation, countryside recreation and outdoor education. The term “periphery of country parks” was ambiguous and might mislead the public into believing that they were of relatively low ecological value. He pointed out that developing areas on the periphery of country parks was no different from developing country parks. Any development on the periphery of country parks would not only set a bad precedent but also cause irreversible impacts on the ecological, landscape, recreational and educational values of country parks. The member considered that the Government should accorded priority to the utilisation of brownfield sites and idle government lands for meeting the needs for housing and elderly welfare.

70/18 A member believed that the Government had a predetermined position on the land

supply issue to a certain extent as it had already mentioned on a number of occasions that reclamation was inevitable. He would like to know whether the reclamation option would result in the designation of new marine park(s) and how the Government would deal with the livelihood of fishermen. He expected the Task Force to propose some feasible solutions for the problems arising from reclamation, including solutions to the livelihood of marine users and stakeholders. For example, the Task Force could suggest the Government to consider the restructuring of the fisheries industry or proposing to the Central People's Government that local fisheries be developed using the approach of Hengqin (i.e. marine fish culture activities could extend beyond the Special Administrative Region's boundary) in order to solve the problem of shortage of space in Hong Kong waters.

71/18 Another member enquired how much weight would be given to the view of the Government in the consultation exercise and how it would be incorporated into the final recommendations of the Task Force. Regarding the option of brownfield sites, the member suggested the Task Force to make recommendations to the Government on the suitable approach to resume the brownfield sites and arrangement for affected property owners, farmers and brownfield operators. Besides, the member remarked that some owners of agricultural lands in the New Territories relayed to him that they did not welcome the resumption of agricultural lands by the Government and wished the Government to follow Shenzhen's example and develop urban villages and introduce share ownership of agricultural lands instead. He suggested the Task Force to take these into consideration and raised them up for discussion with the Government.

72/18 A member suggested that the Task Force should include in the final report recommendations specifically on how the planning should be done to ensure that the lands identified by the Task Force could actually be used to meet the housing need of the society. Moreover, the member expressed concern about developing country parks. She pointed out that country parks were Hong Kong's precious natural resources. Once they were developed, the natural environment and landscape would be lost and could not be easily restored. She took the view that brownfield sites and idle government lands should be the first choices for land supply because they were close to the urban areas, easily accessible by transport and able to meet the land demand in the short term.

73/18 Another member believed that given the acute land shortage problem in Hong Kong, the society should consider the 18 land supply options with an open mind and make choices based on the overall interests of Hong Kong. He suggested the Government to carry out

in-depth study on the 18 options, in particular those short-to-medium term options, in order to provide more comprehensive information for the society to discuss. Among the 18 options, the member supported reclamation because it could supply a considerable amount of land and help resolve the problem of housing shortage and support the overall development of the society.

74/18 In response to members' comments on the development of areas on the periphery of country parks, Mr Stanley WONG, SBS, JP explained that Hong Kong country parks were protected by law and could not be easily utilised for any kind of development unless it was for the purpose of meeting the public needs. Therefore, out of the 18 options, only the two options related to the development of areas on the periphery of country parks had specified uses (i.e. for public housing and elderly homes). The Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS), on the invitation of the Government, had undertaken to conduct feasibility studies on the potential of housing development on the periphery of country parks. The studies covered two pilot areas in Tai Lam and Shui Chuen O on the periphery of Tai Lam and Ma On Shan Country Parks respectively, each covering an area of approximately 20 ha. Only if the studies found that the two pilot areas were of lower ecological value and the public supported developing areas on the periphery of country parks would the Government proceed to carry out planning and engineering study. As there was no scientific standard to determine how big a "periphery" should be, the Government would need to define the term "periphery", decide whether an exact size of "periphery" should be determined and consider developing a mechanism to make sure the land to be excised from country parks was of lower ecological value. If there was a need to revise the boundary of country parks, it must go through the relevant statutory procedures.

75/18 Mr WONG supplemented that during the public engagement exercise, some people had suggested a compensation mechanism to make up for any loss of country park areas. For example, if 40 ha of country park land of lower ecological value were used for public housing, the Government must incorporate land equal to or bigger than 40 ha back into the country parks so that the overall area of country parks would not be reduced as a result. The newly incorporated land would conceivably be of higher ecological value than the land lost, meaning that the compensation mechanism might be able to enhance the ecological value of country parks in the end.

76/18 Mr WONG noted members' view that development of brownfield sites should be the first priority. He remarked that the Task Force also found the option worth considering because it would not only provide land for housing and other purposes but also restore the damaged rural environment in the New Territories and bring environmental benefits. Regarding the

concern on the impact of reclamation on fisheries development, Mr WONG considered that the existing gate-keeping mechanisms, including statutory procedures and bodies, would ensure proper compensation for the impacts on marine ecology and fisheries development.

77/18 In response to the comment on villages and private agricultural land, Mr WONG explained the options of “Increasing Development Intensity of “Village Type Development” Zone” and “Tapping into the Private Agricultural Land Reserve in the New Territories” in detail. Concerning the suggestion of developing urban villages, he pointed out that the development of the Kwu Tung North and Fanling North new development areas would be moving in the “urban-rural integration” direction which was similar to the development approach of urban villages in Mainland China.

78/18 Furthermore, Mr WONG explained that the Task Force could not plan and specify the land uses for every option at the moment, mainly because it was currently impossible to determine the optimal use of land released by certain options. In addition, as the public engagement exercise was still ongoing, the land supply options preferred by the public were not yet known at this stage. As regards the suggestion of utilising idle government lands, Mr WONG remarked that the current strategy and ongoing initiatives in respect of idle government lands were covered in Chapter 3 of the public engagement booklet.

79/18 With reference to the suggested compensation mechanism to make up for any loss of country park areas, a member questioned whether it was possible to find compensatory land of higher ecological value than the land excised from country parks.

80/18 A member pointed out that the 18 options did not fully reflect all the land supply options available, for example, the military sites used by the Chinese People's Liberation Army Hong Kong Garrison and abandoned fish ponds were not included in the options for the public's consideration. Furthermore, the member expressed two major concerns. First of all, the Task Force was only responsible for conducting the public consultation and played no role in the future decision-making and implementation process. Secondly, developing areas on the periphery of country parks would have devastating and irreversible effect on the ecology of Hong Kong. He stressed that keeping the integrity of country parks was important for the protection of the ecology. Besides, apart from nature conservation, country parks also had the important functions of countryside recreation and outdoor education. They should be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of the future generations. Regarding the options about

developing areas on the periphery of country parks, he questioned what the definition of “lower ecological value” was and how the comparison on ecological value would be made. In addition, he doubted whether such options could pass the statutory EIA when there were other practical and reasonable alternatives available, and also whether it was feasible to offer land of higher ecological value as compensation for the loss.

81/18 A member shared the views of the above two members on country parks. From his point of view, lands should be incorporated into country parks for better protection once they were identified to have a certain level of ecological value and deserve preservation. The Government should not set those lands aside so that it could use them to make compensation for the loss of country park lands in the future. He believed the Government should review the Country Parks Ordinance and the current extent of country parks, and consider redrawing the boundaries of country parks where necessary. It should also set clear parameters or standards for the designation of country parks, so that it could justify any incorporation or exclusion of land. Moreover, the member commented that the Task Force seemed to have the false belief that the existing gate-keeping mechanisms were able to properly compensate for the impacts of development projects. He considered that the existing gate-keeping mechanisms did not always work. Taking reclamation as an example, with all the development projects and proposed marine parks in the Western waters, it would be extremely difficult to find a place for another marine park to compensate for a new reclamation project. Therefore, he advised the Task Force to recommend the Government to review the current gate-keeping mechanisms to see if they could be improved to serve the best interest of different sectors of the community.

82/18 Concerning the public engagement exercise, a member took the view that it was difficult for the public to give informed opinions back to the Task Force, without sufficient education on the subject in the first place. The consultation approach of the exercise might only result in mere opinions that might not be the best solutions to the land shortage problem of Hong Kong. Instead of asking the public to provide views on the 18 land supply options, the Task Force should make feasible proposals that could meet the need of 1,200 ha land supply and then seek the public’s views. As regards the options proposed by the Task Force, the member opined that country parks should be preserved for the benefits of the future generations and that it would be extremely hard to find lands with higher ecological value than country parks which had been established for many years and constantly enhanced. She considered that releasing the brownfield sites scattered across the New Territories for other beneficial uses should be more intensely explored. Furthermore, she alerted the Task Force about the situation of stranding of marine mammals in Hong Kong and advised them to be careful when planning reclamation.

83/18 Mr Stanley WONG, SBS, JP responded to the major comments of the above four members as follows:-

- (1) During the public engagement exercise, the Task Force had several times heard of the suggestion of a compensation mechanism to make up for any loss of country park areas. The Task Force could not advise on how to find land to compensate for the loss of country park land at the moment but would like to relay such suggestion for the consideration of the society.
- (2) The Task Force understood from the Government that all the existing military sites in Hong Kong were needed for defence purposes and the Government had no plan to make any changes to the use of these sites. For this reason, military sites were not presented as an option in the public engagement exercise. The Task Force would investigate the opportunities of using abandoned fish ponds as suggested by a member and it welcomed the society to suggest potential land supply options which had been overlooked.
- (3) The Task Force was aware of the lack of scientific standards to determine the size of “periphery” of country parks and the ecological value of a site. It was also mindful that any housing development on the periphery of country parks needed to be proceeded with a lot of caution.
- (4) The studies being carried out by HKHS were feasibility studies. The possibility to develop the two pilot sites on the periphery of country parks would hinge on the results of the feasibility studies and the public’s views received during the public engagement exercise of the Task Force.
- (5) The Task Force noted the suggestion of reviewing the current extent of country parks and redrawing the boundaries of country parks where necessary. Regarding the existing gate-keeping mechanisms, the Task Force considered that they had been effective in safeguarding public interests for many years. For example, the 3RS and HongKong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) projects had gone through the statutory EIA process and were required to carry out necessary compensation/ mitigation measures.
- (6) Apart from the approximately 540 ha of brownfield sites that had already been covered by large-scale development projects in Kwu Tung North/ Fanling North, Hung Shui Kiu, Yuen Long South and New Territories North, there remained around 760 ha of brownfield sites scattered across the New Territories. Through comprehensive planning, these sites could be merged or restructured to release land for other uses. It was estimated that they could supply around 110 ha of land in the short-to-medium term and 220 ha of land in the medium-to-long term.

(7) The public engagement exercise aimed at drawing on the collective wisdom of society and build consensus on how to increase the land supply in Hong Kong. In particular, it hoped to listen more to the silent majority and engage them in the discussion. From the past three months of public engagement, the Task Force observed that many participants were well-informed people in the community who had been paying close attention to the land supply situation. Besides, most respondents had read the public engagement booklet carefully to understand clearly what the options were about and completed the questionnaire seriously. The Task Force also observed that different organisations and stakeholders had different viewpoints on the land supply options. So, the suggestion of putting forward proposals that could meet the need of 1,200 ha land supply for the public to consider might not be an appropriate approach.

84/18 A member disagreed with Mr WONG that there was no scientific way to measure ecological value. She pointed out that there were numerous ways to evaluate ecological and conservation value of land and waters, which had been used for making conservation efforts throughout the world. Mr WONG thanked for the information.

85/18 A member who always did researches on the peripheral areas of country parks pointed out that these areas were the habitats of many valuable species, including endangered species. Also, they overlapped with the ecological buffer areas which were to minimise the impact of human activities on the core area of high ecological value. He believed that the periphery of country parks should be protected against development; otherwise it would destroy the natural habitats of many animals and plants and make the core area more vulnerable to damages. Moreover, the member considered that developing the periphery of country parks would reduce the number of easily accessible public places for leisure and recreation.

86/18 With reference to the option of increasing development intensity of "Village Type Development" zones ("V" zones), a member commented that allowing "high-rise" small house developments could substantially optimise the use of land. To make it happen, the Government needed to first formulate clear and definite land policy for handling matters related to the ownership of land and compensation. Besides, she asked whether the 1,300 ha of brownfield sites included sites that were used for waste disposal, and if so, how the waste would be dealt with.

87/18 A member indicated that developers had been stockpiling agricultural land in the

past decades which had seriously jeopardised the agricultural development in Hong Kong. Regarding the proposed use of private agricultural land under public-private partnership (PPP), she was concerned that the participating developers might get the upper hand in the partnership and hindered the effective use of land. She thought that the Task Force should propose strategies to resume the idle agricultural land held by developers and make good use of them through comprehensive planning.

88/18 Mr Stanley WONG, SBS, JP noted the comments of the above three members and responded to the major comments as follows:-

- (1) There were suggestions that the Government should optimise the land use in "V" zones for housing development, including allowing "high-rise" small house developments to increase their development intensity. "V" zones were intended for indigenous villagers to build small houses (restricted to three storeys). If the indigenous villagers were allowed to build small houses exceeding three storeys, it would address the problem of insufficient land for small house development and alleviate the housing demand in other parts of Hong Kong. However, this conceptual option involved complicated issues, such as compensation and small house concessionary rights. If the public agreed that it should be taken further, the Government would need to further examine those issues.
- (2) The estimated 1,300 ha of brownfield sites in the New Territories included landfill sites. The land of landfill sites could be reused for other purposes after it was closed and left idle for a certain period of time. At present, all of the inert construction waste/ public fill generated in Hong Kong was delivered to Taishan in the Guangdong Province for use in land reclamation and the Government was required to pay fees for the disposal of public fill to the Mainland authorities. If there was land reclamation in Hong Kong, the inert construction waste/ public fill could be used for that purpose.
- (3) According to information available in the public domain and rough estimates, major developers were believed to be holding no less than 1,000 ha of agricultural land in the New Territories, most of which were left idle and not being used for farming. In cases where it was not possible to unlock the potential of the agricultural land through the statutory resumption under the Land Resumption Ordinance (Cap. 124), as in the case of taking forward the New Development Areas or other major development projects, PPP would be an approach to consider.

89/18 A member was dissatisfied with Mr WONG's response about reclamation and the delivery of inert construction waste/ public fill to Taishan as he believed it would give the public an impression that the Task Force was speaking on behalf of the Government and being

unfair. He advised Mr WONG to be careful when presenting the land supply options to the public.

90/18 Mr Stanley WONG, SBS, JP clarified that he was not promoting reclamation but repeating what the public engagement booklet had mentioned with respect to reclamation and use of construction waste/ public fill. He emphasised that the Task Force had been impartial in presenting the pros and cons of every option to the public through various channels, so that the society could have a rational and comprehensive discussion on the land supply options and ultimately generating a multi-pronged approach to address the land shortage problem of Hong Kong.

91/18 As members made no further enquiry and comment, the Chairman thanked the Task Force representatives for attending the meeting.

(The representatives of Task Force on Land Supply left the meeting at this juncture.)

92/18 A member commented that Mr Stanley WONG's remarks on fisheries and agriculture were inaccurate, especially those on the effectiveness of the existing "gate-keeping mechanisms" in safeguarding the interests of these industries. He would reflect his views on fisheries and agriculture to the Task Force on other suitable occasions, and he hoped that AFCD would help to point out to the Task Force the current problems of the mechanisms.

(Honourable HO Chun-yin, Steven, BBS left the meeting at this juncture.)

IV. Consultancy Study on Enhancement of the Recreation and Education Potential of Country Parks and Special Areas – Conceptual Proposals (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/8/2018)

93/18 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.

94/18 After Dr T W TAM of AFCD briefed members on Working Paper:

WP/CMPB/8/2018, the Chairman invited and welcomed the representatives of Urbis Limited, Mott MacDonald and Waters Economics trading as Cistri to the meeting.

95/18 Mr TO Yuen-gwun Adrian of Urbis Limited briefed members on the conceptual proposals to enhance the recreation and education potential of country parks and special areas, and their site selection criteria and design considerations. Then, Mr HUI Wai-chuen Jackson of Waters Economics trading as Cistri introduced the possible modes of operation that the conceptual proposals could adopt and their pros and cons.

(Dr MAN Chi-sum, JP left the meeting at this juncture.)

96/18 In terms of modes of operation, a member advised that if any of the proposed activities/ facilities was to be outsourced to private operators, it would need to make good economic sense in order to attract operators to do the business. The consultant should think from the business perspective and analyse the cost-benefit when considering the appropriate mode of operation.

97/18 A member liked the conceptual proposals made by the consultant and she drew their attention to the impact of the lighting of the proposed facilities on nocturnal animals in country parks. Besides, she remarked that the Chinese word for “glamping” should contain the meaning of ‘glamorous’ and ‘camping’ instead of just be ‘comfortable’ in meaning.

98/18 Another member also supported the conceptual proposals in general, especially the enhancement of overnight facilities. He suggested that AFCD could make use of the relics or abandoned villages within country parks to provide campsites and other overnight facilities. Besides, some people demanded for quality lodges while others wanted more affordable options. AFCD could consider allowing diversified mode of operation so that there could be different types and levels of lodges to meet the different needs of people. He also suggested that AFCD could consider giving Hong Kong people priority to use the overnight facilities during festivals and public holidays. Overall, he believed that all the facilities to be introduced to country parks should be simple in design and compatible with the surroundings.

(Mr CHAN Ka-kui, SBS, JP left the meeting at this juncture.)

99/18 A member appreciated that the conceptual proposals included facilities to cater for the elderly and people with disabilities, and she enquired if there would be any provision of activities or facilities for young children from age 0 to 8. She indicated that the child and youth suicide rate in Hong Kong was high and studies showed that if children were exposed to nature from a very young age, they would be more resilient, healthier and have less youth problems. Therefore, she hoped there would be more opportunities for young children to participate in countryside activities. As for operation modes, she considered that different activities/ facilities could adopt different modes of operation.

100/18 A member remarked that the establishment of visitor hubs would conceivably attract more visitors to the country parks, so AFCD and relevant government departments needed to make sure the transport network had adequate capacity to cope with the increased visitors. He thought it would be best if people could make use of public transportation to get to the visitor hubs. Another member also reminded AFCD to monitor the possible environmental impacts due to the increase in visitors and the entry of private operators into country parks, such as litter problem.

101/18 A member commended on the conceptual proposals, particularly the ideas of tree-top adventure and viewing platforms. He said that canopy walk and viewing platforms could allow visitors to appreciate the landscape and serve as stations to monitor the distribution and change of species and habitats. Moreover, he stressed the importance of safety of these facilities raised above the ground. He also asked the consultant to take note of the fact that the scenery from the canopy walk and viewing platforms might change over time as the vegetation grew. In relation to tree-top adventure, another member alerted the consultant that the local tree species might not be big and tall enough to provide the tree-top adventure experience that people could have in overseas national parks.

102/18 A member expressed appreciation for the consultant's work. He recommended employing villagers residing in the country parks to provide and operate the proposed activities and facilities and converting abandoned village houses into overnight facilities. Besides, he suggested the consultant to consider the provision of emergency facilities and services in the proposed visitor hubs or other locations within country parks so that people in need could have immediate medical treatment.

103/18 Mr TO Yuen-gwun Adrian thanked members for their comments and suggestions. He responded that they would take a look again to see which Chinese translation could best reflect the meaning of the word “glamping”. He agreed with members that the mode of operation of the proposed activities/ facilities should be diversified. However, since the use of abandoned village houses would probably involve complicated ownership issues related to private land, the site selection of overnight facilities should primarily focus on government land at this stage. Moreover, he indicated that they had taken into account the preferences and needs of young children when formulating the conceptual proposals, and would devote more coverage in the final report to the elaboration of the benefits of these proposals to people of different age groups. Mr TO also informed members that they would make recommendations to AFCD on the appropriate measures to manage the increase in visitor flow and road traffic and reduce the environmental impacts so caused. He said that other comments and suggestions from members would also be duly considered.

(Mr MO Ka-hung, Joseph left the meeting at this juncture.)

104/18 Mr HUI Wai-chuen Jackson concurred with members about the benefits of adopting diversified modes of operation of country park activities/ facilities. He believed it could enhance the recreation and education functions of country parks and ease the burden on public funds by leveraging the expertise and resources of different private operators. He also remarked that the terms and conditions for outsourcing the operation of facilities and services had to be considered carefully so as to achieve a win-win situation for both the Government and private operators.

105/18 As members made no further enquiry and comment, the Chairman thanked the representatives of Urbis Limited, Mott MacDonald and Waters Economics trading as Cistri for attending the meeting.

(The representatives of Urbis Limited, Mott MacDonald and Waters Economics trading as Cistri left the meeting at this juncture.)

[Post-meeting note: A copy of the PowerPoint used in this Agenda Item was distributed to members for reference on 23 July 2018.]

**V. Summary Report of Country Parks Committee
(Working Paper: WP/CMPB/9/2018)**

106/18 In the absence of Professor NG Sai-leung, Chairman of the Country Parks Committee (CPC), Mr Patrick LAI briefed members on Working Paper WP/CMPB/9/2018, which provided members with a summary of the issues discussed at the CPC meeting held on 16 May 2018.

107/18 In response to a member's enquiry about the addition of water dispensers in country parks, Mr LAI indicated that water would be drawn from the water mains of WSD to the water dispensers in country parks. In case the water dispensers needed to be maintained, AFCD would carry out the maintenance work as soon as possible and consider announcing that on the Department's website.

108/18 A member reminded AFCD that the water filters of water dispensers needed to be replaced more frequently during peak seasons.

**VI. Summary Report of Marine Parks Committee
(Working Paper: WP/CMPB/10/2018)**

109/18 In the absence of Professor LEUNG Mei-ye, Kenneth, JP, Chairman of the Marine Parks Committee (MPC), Mr Patrick LAI briefed members on Working Paper WP/CMPB/10/2018, which provided members with a summary of the issues discussed at the MPC meeting held on 15 June 2018. Members noted the Paper.

**VII. Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report
(Working Paper: WP/CMPB/11/2018)**

110/18 Mr Patrick LAI briefed members on the Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report for the period from 1 March 2018 to 31 May 2018 (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/11/2018). Members noted the Report.

VIII. Any Other Business**(a) Measures to Enhance Hiking Safety in Country Parks**

111/18 Mr Alfred WONG briefed members on the measures to enhance hiking safety in country parks. He informed members that in consultation with the Civil Aid Service (CAS), AFCD had compiled a list of high risk locations with records of fatal and serious accidents in country parks. The list had been made available on the “Enjoy Hiking” website since October 2017 for the reference of hikers in planning their trips. Besides, warning signs were erected at those high risk locations and their vicinity to alert hikers not to enter. In terms of publicity and education, AFCD and CAS would continue to work closely in promoting hiking safety. In 2018, AFCD would produce new television and radio announcements in the public interest and also promotional videos for broadcast on website and social media.

112/18 Members did not raise any other business for discussion.

IX. Date of Next Meeting

113/18 The Chairman informed members that the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 23 November 2018 (Friday) at 2:30 p.m.

114/18 The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

– End –