

Country and Marine Parks Board (CMPB)
Confirmed Minutes of the 71st Meeting

Date : 22 October 2019 (Tuesday) File Ref.: AF CPA 01/1/0
Time : 2:30 p.m.
Venue : Room 701, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)
Headquarters

PRESENT

Chairman

Professor LING Kar-kan, SBS

Members

Mr CHAN Ka-kui, SBS, JP

Professor HE Shen-jing

Professor HUI Cheuk-kuen Desmond

Dr LAU Tai-wai, David

Dr LEE Nam-yuk, Amelia, MH

Mr LEE Yee-keung, Charles

Professor NG Sai-leung

Mr SO Kwok-yin, Ken

Ms WONG Pik-yan, Nicole

Ms YIP Yan-yan

Mr YU Hon-kwan, MH, JP

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 (Nature Conservation), Environmental

Protection Department (EPD)

Ms Eugenia CHUNG, JP	Assistant Director of Home Affairs (2), Home Affairs Department
Ms CHAN Suet-ching, Angela	Assistant Director of Lands (Specialist 2), Lands Department
Mr LAI Chi-tung, JP	Assistant Director of Marine (Port Control), Marine Department
Mr WONG Yan-lok, Roger	Assistant Director of Water Supplies (Development) (Acting), Water Supplies Department

Secretary

Ms Phyllis CHAN	Assistant Secretary (Boards)1, AFCD
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IN ATTENDANCEAgriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Mr Patrick LAI	Assistant Director (Country and Marine Parks)
Mr Franco NG	Senior Country Parks Officer (Management 1)
Ms Y N NGAR	Senior Country Parks Officer (Management 2)
Mr Alfred WONG	Senior Country Parks Officer (Ranger Services 1)
Dr YEUNG Ka-ming	Senior Geopark Officer
Ms Louise LI	Senior Marine Parks Officer
Mr Michael LEUNG	Geopark Officer (Planning)

Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD)

Mr CHEUNG Wing-keung, Wicky	Chief Leisure Manager (Management)
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Planning Department (PlanD)

Ms CHIU Kit-ye, Kitty

Senior Town Planner (New Territories Headquarter 1)

ABSENT WITH APOLOGIES

Ms CHAN Po-kam, Beatrice

Mr CHEUNG Siu-keung, MH

Dr CHEUNG Ting-on Lewis

Dr CHUI Pui-yi, Apple

Ms KIU Kin-yan, Judy

Dr TANG Chin-cheung

Professor LEUNG Mei-ye, Kenneth, JP

Mr LIU Wai-shing, Simon

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

Mr YIP Chi-kwai, Tom

Assistant Director of Planning (New Territories)
(Acting), Planning Department

OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN

99/19 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

100/19 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.

OPENING REMAKRS BY THE COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS AUTHORITY

101/19 Dr LEUNG Siu-fai, JP, the Country and Marine Parks Authority (the Authority),

gave an opening remark and welcomed the Chairman and seven non-official members who newly joined CMPB for the current term. He also thanked the retired Chairman, Mr TANG King-shing, GBS, PDSM, and nine retired members for their contributions to the Board in the past years.

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS BY THE CHAIRMAN

102/19 The Chairman introduced himself and all attending members and government representatives.

AGENDA ITEMS

I. Confirmation of Minutes of the 70th Meeting held on 16 July 2019

103/19 The minutes of the 70th meeting held on 16 July 2019 were confirmed without amendments.

II. Guidelines on Declaration of Interests

104/19 The Chairman drew members' attention to the "Guidelines on Declaration of Interests" and advised them to disclose any direct personal or pecuniary interest in any matter under consideration by the Board prior to the discussion of the item. Declaration of interests could be made verbally during a Board meeting or in writing to the Chairman or the Secretary before the meeting.

III. Formation of Committees of the Board and Election of Committee Chairmen

105/19 The Chairman informed members that there were two committees under CMPB, namely Country Parks Committee (CPC) and Marine Parks Committee (MPC). He referred members to the membership list of the two committees tabled at the meeting.

106/19 The Chairman advised that as an established practice, the Chairmen of the two committees would be elected by and from among members of the respective committees. The Chairman called for nominations for the chairmanship of the two committees one by one and presided over the election process. The election results were as follows:-

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chairman</u>
Country Parks Committee	Professor NG Sai-leung
Marine Parks Committee	Professor LEUNG Mei-yee, Kenneth, JP

107/19 The membership list of CPC and MPC are at Annexes I and II respectively.

IV. Matters Arising

(a) MacLehose Trail 40th Anniversary Celebration Programme (Para. 6/19 to 7/19)

108/19 Mr Alfred WONG reported that the programme to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the opening of MacLehose Trail was launched in September and would last until December. The “Complete Walk on MacLehose Trail 2019”, from September to November, was well received by the public. More than 9 500 people registered for the event so far. “Excursion with Experts at MacLehose Trail”, which was a series of guided tours led by experts from AFCD and partner organisations, including the Association of Geoconservation Hong Kong, Sai Kung District Community Centre, and the Department of History of the Hong Kong Baptist University, was also rolled out in September.

109/19 Besides, Mr WONG introduced and invited members to join The MacLehose Trail 40th Anniversary Celebration Day to be held on 26 October 2019 along MacLehose Trail Sections 6 and 7. It was a carnival-type event that would include hiking challenge to Needle Hill, recreational tree climbing, war relics appreciation, sight-seeing at Grassy Hill, game booths, workshops and various performances. Invitation to the event had been sent to members through the Secretariat before this meeting. Moreover, Mr WONG introduced the publicity measures taken to promote MacLehose Trail and encourage public participation in the celebration programme. He said that AFCD produced a series of short videos showcasing the beautiful scenery and unique features of each section of MacLehose Trail. Some of these short videos were already uploaded onto the department’s dedicated social media pages and other publicity channels. At the end of his report, he played the trailer for the short video series for members to watch.

110/19 In response to the Chairman’s enquiry, Mr WONG said that a short video was produced for each section of MacLehose Trail and the names of the scenic spots were provided in the videos for viewers’ information.

(b) Consultancy Study of the Proposed Robin's Nest Country Park – Study Summary and Recommendations (Para. 60/19 to 86/19)

111/19 Ms Y N NGAR reported that AFCD was currently following up on members' views and recommendations on the proposed Robin's Nest Country Park (RNCP) given in the last CMPB meeting. She also informed members that Mr Ruy Barretto SC and The Hong Kong Countryside Foundation had written to CMPB on 11 and 15 October 2019 respectively, expressing their views on the proposed RNCP. The two letters were circulated to members on 18 October 2019. AFCD was studying their letters at present and planned to discuss the matter in the next CPC meeting scheduled for 12 November 2019.

[Post-meeting note: The letters from Mr Barretto and The Hong Kong Countryside Foundation were discussed in the 67th CPC meeting held on 12 November 2019.]

112/19 The Chairman asked about the timetable for the designation of the proposed RNCP. Ms NGAR responded that the tentative plan was to designate RNCP by the end of 2020 if everything went smoothly. It would greatly depend on the progress of the statutory process.

V. Briefing on the Management of Country Parks and Marine Parks

113/19 Mr Patrick LAI briefed members on the responsibilities of the Authority, and then he gave members an overview of the history, management and latest development of country parks, special areas, marine parks, marine reserve and geopark in Hong Kong.

[Post-meeting note: A copy of the PowerPoint used in this Agenda Item was distributed to members for reference on 23 October 2019.]

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

114/19 A member noticed from Mr LAI's briefing that AFCD planned to introduce an advance booking system for popular campsites in country parks. He said that Pui O Campsite was one of the popular campsites in Hong Kong where large number of Mainland tourists would visit and stay overnight during certain Mainland festive holidays. In view of that situation, LCSD had implemented the advance booking arrangements for camp bays at Pui O

Campsite for Hong Kong residents during the holidays of Lunar New Year, Labour Day and National Day. Under the arrangements, Hong Kong residents were given priority to book the camp bays for these specified dates. During other times of the year, the Campsite was open to the public (including tourists) on a first-come, first-served basis. He considered that AFCD could make reference to the booking arrangements of Pui O Campsite but needed not adopt exactly the same, because of the different public demands and expectations for camping activities in country parks. He suggested that AFCD could consider other arrangements, such as bringing in a quota system to allocate some spots for the reservation by Hong Kong residents only. He also cautioned AFCD that introduction of any advance booking system that gave priority to certain groups of people could be a sensitive issue, and thus should be considered carefully.

115/19 Regarding the enhancement proposals for country parks and special areas in Hong Kong, the Chairman suggested that apart from enhancing the recreation and ancillary facilities for disabled visitors, AFCD should also improve the recreation and ancillary facilities for the elderly, particularly those that could facilitate their access to country parks and use of hiking trails. Besides, the Chairman suggested two topics with regard to the management of marine parks for discussion in future MPC meetings. Firstly, he would like to acquire more information on the cooperation between AFCD and the Mainland counterparts in terms of protection of marine resources in Hong Kong and nearby waters. Secondly, he pointed out that water quality in Hoi Ha Wan had been a matter of concern to some villagers. Considering Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park Visitor Centre would be established in the near future, he believed that the issue of sewage treatment at the Hoi Ha Wan area might be raised by the villagers again. Furthermore, the Chairman enquired if AFCD had any regular monitoring and survey in respect of biodiversity so that it could evaluate the effectiveness in enhancing the number and diversity of species in Hong Kong.

116/19 A member said that according to her understanding, AFCD had always been conducting monitoring surveys on various animal and plant species. She suggested AFCD to allow public access to the reports of these surveys, which she believed could let the public have a better understanding of the reasons and rationale behind certain government policies and plans.

117/19 Another member suggested that in the next CMPB or CPC meeting, AFCD could update members on the Government's latest plan to incorporate country park enclaves into country parks.

[Post-meeting note: In response to the member's suggestion, an update on country park enclaves was given to CPC members in the 67th meeting held on 12 November 2019.]

118/19 Learning from Mr LAI's presentation that around 80% of the species being planted in the Plantation Enrichment Programme (PEP) were native species, a member advised AFCD to pay attention to whether these native species were the most suitable for the planting sites and whether they could help achieve a higher degree of biodiversity. The Chairman supported the planting of native species. Also, considering the success and popularity of Tai Tong Red Leaves Festival, he suggested that AFCD could explore the possibility of creating more similar scenic places through planting of ornamental trees.

119/19 A member suggested AFCD to look into the opportunities of cooperation with local villagers to enhance the recreational value of country parks. She believed that Tai O and Lai Chi Wo were potential places with such opportunities.

(Professor HUI Cheuk-kuen Desmond and Mr YU Hon-kwan, MH, JP left the meeting at this juncture.)

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

VI. Same Roots, Same Origins : The Synergy of Geology and Cultural Heritage in Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/11/2019)

120/19 Mr Michael LEUNG briefed members on Working Paper: WP/CMPB/11/2019, which is about the ongoing local engagement and intangible heritage conservation project of Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark (HKUGGp) named "Same Roots, Same Origins" ("the Project"). He also gave members the book titled "Same Roots Same Origins Series - The Story of Robinson Island" which contains the stories and materials about the history, culture and life stories of Ap Chau and its inhabitants, which were gathered in the Project.

121/19 In response to the Chairman's enquiry about the engagement of experts for the Project, Dr YEUNG Ka-ming said that the Project was quite challenging for his staff members since most of them had expertise only in ecology and geography. They interviewed quite a

number of villagers and spent a lot of time bonding with them to gain their trust. He added that experts were engaged in the Project to study areas like oral histories, intangible heritage, anthropology and architecture where professional knowledge was needed.

122/19 The Chairman commended the Geopark team for its effort. He considered that the history and stories of the old villages were what made Hong Kong an interesting city, and these intangible assets should be preserved systematically. The Chairman made three suggestions concerning the Project. Firstly, he suggested AFCD to explore the possibility of collaboration with universities to utilise the information to produce academic publications. Secondly, he suggested that AFCD could engage more professionals in the Project with a view to introducing more new ideas and elements to the Project. Taking Ap Chau as an example, he said that given its remoteness, new architectural elements, such as the use of renewable energy, could be incorporated into the old buildings to make the village green and sustainable. Thirdly, he encouraged AFCD to aim high and strive to gain worldwide recognitions under the UNESCO frameworks.

123/19 A member was pleased to see the encouraging progress of the Project. She found the Project very meaningful and thought that it should be expanded to cover areas outside the Geopark. Besides, she suggested that if the Project was to be expanded, the research focus could be on two important aspects of cultural heritage, namely traditional clan culture and religion, including folk religions and foreign religions.

124/19 Another member remarked that Hong Kong's cultural diversity should be valued and preserved since the city was developing rapidly. He suggested that since some other government departments were also doing similar researches and restoration works in other parts of Hong Kong, the Government should explore the opportunity of inter-departmental co-operation to create synergy. Moreover, to promote tourism in the countryside, the member advised AFCD to highlight the uniqueness of Hong Kong's Geopark in its publicity and promotional activities and improve accessibility of the remote villages.

125/19 In response to the comments from the above two members, Ms Daisy LO of EPD indicated that the Countryside Conservation Office (CCO) under EPD was responsible for co-ordinating the efforts of different government departments on countryside conservation and revitalisation. CCO also supported collaboration of non-profit making organisations and villagers in organising conservation activities or projects in the remote countryside through the

Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme (CCFS). Projects conducted through management agreements between non-profit making organisations and landowners or tenants that would contribute to ecological enhancement, nature conservation, or revitalisation of architectural and cultural aspects of non-graded historical buildings were eligible for financial support under CCFS. It was hoped that CCFS could promote local tourism and facilitate villagers in developing suitable sustainable economic activities in the remote countryside. CCO was currently working on countryside revitalisation in Lai Chi Wo and Sha Lo Tung as a priority and would extend the initiative progressively to other remote countryside areas. She said that members could visit EPD's website for more details of CCFS or attend the briefing session to be held on 30 October 2019.

126/19 The Chairman was pleased to hear about the efforts of CCO. He hoped that more non-profit making organisations would participate in the projects to help conserve and revitalise the countryside.

127/19 A member remarked that while he was pleased that Hong Kong's Geopark emphasised cultural heritages in its direction of development in recent years, he considered that AFCD should give equal attention to its geological heritages and features because these were the fundamental aspects of a geopark. Besides, the member mentioned that some geopark tour guides in Hong Kong had fewer job opportunities in recent years, and he asked if the Government would take any measures to improve their development prospects.

128/19 A member suggested, and another member concurred, that AFCD should consider making the book "Same Roots Same Origins Series - The Story of Robinson Island" available on the Internet for public access.

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

VII. Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/12/2019)

129/19 Mr Patrick LAI briefed members on the Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report for the period from 1 July to 30 September 2019 (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/12/2019). Members noted the Report.

VIII. Any Other Business

(a) Annual Field Visit 2019

130/19 Mr Alfred WONG briefed members on the itinerary of the Annual Field Visit scheduled for 16 December 2019 (Monday) and the transport arrangement.

[Post-meeting note: The Annual Field Visit was conducted as scheduled.]

(Ms CHAN Suet-ching, Angela left the meeting at this juncture.)

(b) Any Other Business

131/19 A member understood from the minutes of the last meeting that some members had recommended AFCD to study the feasibility of extending the boundary of RNCP after the country park was successfully designated. He would like to know if there would be discussion on this matter in the coming meetings.

132/19 The Chairman asked AFCD to take note and follow up the member's enquiry.

IX. Date of Next Meeting

133/19 The Chairman informed members that the Secretary would inform them of the date of the next meeting in due course.

134/19 The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

– End –

Country Park Committee
Membership List
(1.9.2019 to 31.8.2021)

Chairman

Professor NG Sai-leung

Non-official members

Mr. CHAN Ka-kui, SBS, JP

Ms. CHAN Po-kam, Beatrice

Dr. CHEUNG Ting-on Lewis

Professor HE Shen-jing

Professor HUI Cheuk-kuen Desmond

Ms. KIU Kin-yan, Judy

Dr. LAU Tai-wai, David

Dr. LEE Nam-yuk, Amelia, MH

Mr. LEE Yee-keung, Charles

Professor LEUNG Mei-yee, Kenneth, JP

Professor LING Kar-kan, SBS

Mr. SO Kwok-yin, Ken

Dr. TANG Chin-cheung

Ms. WONG Pik-yan, Nicole

Ms. YIP Yan-yan

Mr. YU Hon-kwan, MH, JP

Official Members

Deputy Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation or his alternate

Director of Environmental Protection or his alternate

Director of Home Affairs or his alternate

Director of Lands or his alternate

Director of Leisure and Cultural Services or his alternate

Director of Planning or his alternate

Director of Water Supplies or his alternate

Co-opted members

Mr. SHUM Si-ki

Mr. SO Ngai-hung, Samson

Mr. WONG Chi-chun, Dickson

Representative of Transport Department

Marine Parks Committee
Membership List
(1.9.2019 to 31.8.2021)

Chairman

Professor LEUNG Mei-ye, Kenneth, JP

Non-official members

Mr. CHAN Ka-kui, SBS, JP

Mr. CHEUNG Siu-keung, MH

Dr. CHEUNG Ting-on Lewis

Dr. CHUI Pui-yi, Apple

Dr. LEE Nam-yuk, Amelia, MH

Mr. LEE Yee-keung, Charles

Professor LING Kar-kan, SBS

Ms. WONG Pik-yan, Nicole

Official Members

Deputy Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation or his
alternate

Director of Environmental Protection or his alternate

Director of Home Affairs or his alternate

Director of Lands or his alternate

Director of Leisure and Cultural Services or his alternate

Director of Marine or his alternate

Director of Planning or his alternate

Co-opted members

Mr. CHUI King-hang

Dr. FANG Kar-hei, James

Professor QIU Jian-wen

Representative of Marine Police