

Country and Marine Parks Board
Confirmed Minutes of the 88th Meeting

Date : 10 October 2025 (Friday)

File Ref: AF CPA 01/1/0

Time : 10 a.m.

Venue : Room 701, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)
Headquarters

PRESENT

Chairman

Professor Kenneth LEUNG Mei-yee, BBS, JP

Members Attending in Person

Professor James FANG Kar-hei

Ir Dr LAU Chee-sing

Ms LAU Kam-fung

Professor LI Xin

Mr LO Pui-lam

Mr Elton NG Chun-ting

Dr Jasmine NG So-shan

Dr Angie NG Ying-sim

Mr Henry YAU Yik-chung

Mr Mickey LAI Kin-ming, JP

Mr Patrick LAI Chuen-chi

Mr Desmond WU Chia-chun

Director, AFCD

Deputy Director, AFCD

Principal Assistant Secretary (Nature
Conservation), Environment and Ecology
Bureau

Mr Mike YAU Sai-yuen

Chief Leisure Manager (Management), Leisure and
Cultural Services Department

Members Attending via Zoom Video Conferencing

Miss Natalie CHUNG Sum-yue	
Dr Jeffrey HUNG Oi-shing	
Dr Caroline LAW Man-yee	
Mr Ian LEUNG Kin-wai	
Miss Carmen CHAN Ka-man	Assistant Director/Port Control, Marine Department
Mr CHIU Man-fat	Senior Engineer/Planning Policy 1, Water Supplies Department
Ms Stephanie LAI Pik-hung	Senior Town Planner/New Territories District Planning Division Headquarters 1, Planning Department
Mr Paul LEE Chung-yam	Senior Engineer/Planning (Special Duties) 2, Water Supplies Department
Miss Sapphire LO Pui-yiu	Assistant Director (Specialist 2) (Lands Administration Office/Headquarters), Lands Department
Mr John LEUNG Chung-sun	Chief Executive Officer (2)1, Home Affairs Department
<u>Secretary</u>	
Ms Lily CHEUNG Man-lee	Assistant Secretary (Boards)1, AFCD

IN ATTENDANCEAFCD

Dr Jim CHU Chun-wa	Assistant Director (Fisheries and Marine Conservation)
Dr Jackie YIP Yin	Assistant Director (Country Parks)
Ms Aidia CHAN Sin-wai	Senior Country Parks Officer (Ranger Services)1
Dr Janet LEE Ka-wai	Senior Marine Conservation Officer (East)
Ms Louise LI Wai-hung	Senior Marine Conservation Officer (West)
Mr Alvin NG Sin-pan	Geopark Officer (Education)
Ms Francis TSANG Kit-man	Country Parks Ranger Services Officer (Education)

ABSENT WITH APOLOGIES

Professor QIU Jianwen
Mr SHUM Si-ki
Mr Alex WONG Lap-kei

OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN

59/25 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

60/25 The Chairman informed Members that, as an established practice, an audio recording would be made during the meeting to facilitate the taking of minutes. It would be destroyed after the confirmation of the minutes.

OPENING REMARKS BY THE COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS AUTHORITY

61/25 Mr Mickey LAI Kin-ming, JP, the Country and Marine Parks Authority, gave an opening remark and welcomed Members to the Country and Marine Parks Board (CMPB). He also thanked the retired Members for their contributions to the CMPB over the past years.

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS BY THE CHAIRMAN

62/25 The Chairman introduced himself as well as all attending Members and government representatives.

AGENDA ITEMS

I. Guidelines on Declarations of Interests

63/25 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 CMPB prior to the discussion of the item. Declaration of interests

could be made verbally during a CMPB meeting or in writing to the Chairman or the Secretary before the meeting.

II. Formation of Committees of the CMPB and Election of Committee Chairmen

64/25 The Chairman invited Dr Jackie YIP Yin to explain the election matter. Dr Jackie YIP Yin informed Members that there were two committees under the CMPB, namely the Country Parks Committee (CPC) and the Marine Parks Committee (MPC). Each Member had informed the Secretary of their intention to join the two committees prior to the meeting. She said that as an established practice, the Chairmen of the two committees would be elected by and from among Members of the respective committees.

65/25 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>
CPC	Mr LO Pui-lam
MPC	Professor QIU Jianwen

66/25 The membership lists of the CPC and the MPC are at Annexes I and II respectively.

III. Confirmation of Minutes of the 87th Meeting held on 30 May 2025

67/25 The minutes of the 87th meeting held on 30 May 2025 were confirmed without amendments.

IV. Matters Arising

- (a) Revalidation of Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark (Paras. 8/25 to 14/25)

68/25 Mr Alvin NG Sin-pan reported that Hong Kong Geopark passed the quadrennial revalidation and at the same time was honoured with the Best Practice Award by the Global Geoparks Network, in recognition of the dedicated efforts in preserving and promoting the

cultural heritage of the geopark communities for sustainable development, thus serving as an exemplary model for other geoparks. This award was presented every two years, and only five geoparks in the world received such an honour this time.

69/25 The Chairman enquired whether there had been any publicity regarding Hong Kong Geopark being named one of the top five geoparks in the world.

70/25 Dr Jackie YIP Yin said that the AFCD had already announced the news of the award on social media and would continue to expand its publicity efforts to raise public awareness of Hong Kong Geopark.

71/25 The Chairman suggested actively showcasing the achievements of Hong Kong Geopark to international and local communities, such as publishing feature articles in English-language media and press releases in local media at the same time to strengthen publicity.

72/25 A Member suggested that in the next revalidation four years later, innovative technology should be used to further enhance the effectiveness of publicity and education.

**V. Hong Kong Trail 40th Anniversary Celebration Programme
(Working Paper: WP/CMPB/10/2025)**

73/25 With a PowerPoint presentation, Ms Francis TSANG Kit-man briefed Members on the celebration programme for the 40th anniversary of Hong Kong Trail.

74/25 A Member pointed out that the trailhead of Dragon's Back was relatively narrow and suggested improving the gathering point and water filling facilities there. He observed that the middle section of Hong Kong Trail received less attention and proposed organising a public poll to vote for the top ten scenic wonders along Hong Kong Trail, with an aim to divert the visitor flow away from Dragon's Back. Furthermore, he proposed rolling out a trail guide training programme in partnership with suitable organisations, such as the Hong Kong Mountaineering Association and local tour operators, and the training should incorporate elements on environmental education for the purpose of enhancing the public's awareness and experience of the countryside.

75/25 A Member proposed creating a dedicated webpage supported by the Search Engine Optimisation for the 40th anniversary celebrations of Hong Kong Trail to consolidate event

details and historical materials systematically. In parallel, the celebrating events should be publicised and promoted through the promotional channels of the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) and social media platforms in order to reach the target visitor groups effectively.

76/25 A Member proposed erecting signage at each trailhead to indicate and introduce the animals, plants, landscapes and historical heritage that could be seen along the trail. He suggested enhancing promotional efforts at the airport and border control points, and enquired about the arrangements for the 50th anniversary celebrations of the establishment of country parks in 2027.

77/25 A Member remarked that country parks in Hong Kong possessed both historical and cultural distinctiveness, yet visitors might not fully recognise that. She recommended that promotional efforts should place more emphasis on biodiversity and cultural elements. Drawing reference from overseas examples of national parks, she suggested that hiking routes and their dedicated maps should be designed by themes so that overseas visitors could plan their one- or two-day thematic itineraries according to their preference. She also suggested enhancing the safety reminders for hiking under adverse weather conditions or when the typhoon signals were in force.

78/25 A Member suggested leveraging the advantage of the transport convenience of Hong Kong Trail to, in collaboration with other organisations, organise activities such as orienteering and family treasure hunts, thereby inducing the public to discover the historical heritage of the trail. At the same time, by capitalising on the recent upsurge of interest in films featuring Hong Kong's countryside, the AFCD could collaborate with relevant bodies to jointly promote the territory's countryside resources.

79/25 A Member suggested enhancing promotional strategies for target groups and collaborating with schools and district groups to design educational activities featuring the charm of Hong Kong Trail for promotion to other groups.

80/25 A Member remarked that while the trailhead to Hong Kong Trail at the Peak offered comprehensive information, the one at Big Wave Bay lacked both information and facilities. He pointed out that one of the characteristics of Hong Kong Trail was its multiple trailheads, and suggested that information boards with QR codes should be installed at all trailheads to provide information and avoid displaying excessive details at one single location. He also suggested concluding the experience from the programme for reference by other trails,

while continuing to promote biodiversity and heritage knowledge through schools and organisations to ensure continuity in the promotional efforts.

81/25 A Member advised to systematically connect the scenic spots for promotion to tourists in order to attract more tourists to come to Hong Kong to appreciate the beauty and experience the accessibility of Hong Kong's country parks. Besides, he suggested collaborating with the HKTB to promote Hong Kong's country parks as tourist attractions.

82/25 A Member considered that the 40th anniversary celebrations of Hong Kong Trail would present an opportunity to promote in-depth tourism. Other than celebrating the anniversary, historical and cultural conservation together with environmental education should be incorporated into the programme to encourage the public to cherish and value our environmental resources.

83/25 A Member suggested further utilising digitalisation and interactive quiz games to foster the interest of the public in culture, history and biodiversity. She noted that the Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre had not updated some of its exhibits and lacked public attention. On the contrary, recently there were tour groups charging tourists substantial fees for arranging a visit to the Hong Kong Biodiversity Museum of The University of Hong Kong, which indicated the development potential of related themes. She advised the AFCD to make effective use of the Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre and collaborate with schools to launch publicity and education campaign related to biodiversity.

84/25 A Member pointed out that the crux of the issue lay in the falling short of public awareness and channels to engage the public. He suggested that alternative promotion methods other than key opinion leaders or dedicated webpages should be considered to reach the public.

85/25 Dr Jackie YIP-yin thanked Members for their suggestions, stating that the AFCD would refine and study them. She said that the AFCD would launch a dedicated webpage and a series of publicity events from November onwards, and would continue to step up external publicity in future. The AFCD would continue to explore stories related to the history and culture of country parks and promote them to suitable target groups in an appropriate manner. Thanks to its high accessibility, the overall usage rate of Hong Kong Trail by tourists had increased in recent years. Therefore, tourists would be a key target group for future promotion. The AFCD would enhance tourists' travel experience by publicising, regulating and promoting eco-tours. To actively expand cross-sector collaboration, the AFCD had

co-organised trail maintenance workshops with the Scout Association, while identifying suitable organisations to participate in the preparatory work for the programme to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of country parks.

86/25 Mr Mickey LAI Kin-ming, JP thanked Members for their valuable opinions, stating that the AFCD would devise the publicity campaign and related initiatives according to the characteristics of various trails and target groups and optimise the use of country park resources to serve both the public and tourists. He pointed out that country parks served leisure, recreational, educational and conservation functions, and the AFCD would explore the enhancement of tourist experience through eco-tours. In future, the AFCD would continue to expand publicity channels including social media platforms in the Mainland and collaborate with the HKTB and relevant government departments in service enhancement.

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

87/25 Dr Jackie YIP yin and Dr Jim CHU Chun-wa briefed Members on the AFCD's work relating to the management of country parks and marine parks with a PowerPoint presentation.

88/25 Members noted the report.

VII. Summary Report of the Country Parks Committee (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/11/2025)

89/25 Mr LO Pui-lam, Chairman of the Country Parks Committee (CPC), briefed Members on Working Paper WP/CMPB/11/2025, which provided a summary of the issues discussed at the CPC meeting held on 12 June 2025. Members noted the report.

VIII. Summary Report of the Marine Parks Committee (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/12/2025)

90/25 As Professor QIU Jianwen, Chairman of the Marine Parks Committee (MPC) was absent, Dr Jim CHU Chun-wa briefed Members on Working Paper WP/CMPB/12/2025 on his

behalf, which provided a summary of the issues discussed at the MPC meeting held on 17 July 2025. Members noted the report.

**IX. Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report
(Working Paper: WP/CMPB/13/2025)**

91/25 Dr Jackie YIP yin presented the Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report for the period from 1 May to 31 August 2025 (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/13/2025).

92/25 The Chairman enquired whether the increase in the amount of refuse at Cape D'Aguilar Marine Reserve in different months was related to the increase in the number of visitors.

93/25 Ms Louise LI Wai-hung pointed out that most of the refuse at Cape D'Aguilar Marine Reserve was marine refuse, primarily washed ashore by wind and waves, and the amount was similar to that of the same period last year. She stated that tourists were generally self-disciplined and believed that the amount of refuse might not be directly related to the number of visitors.

X. Any Other Business

(a) Report of Country Park Condition after Super Typhoon Ragasa

94/25 Dr Jackie YIP yin reported that the impact of Typhoon Ragasa on country parks was lighter than that of Typhoon Mangkhut in 2018. On 24 September, while the typhoon slightly abated but the tropical cyclone warning signal was not cancelled, the AFCD had already deployed the emergency tree-clearing teams to conduct patrols and inspect major facilities in country parks under safe conditions and promptly clear fallen trees blocking the roads. After the typhoon, the AFCD conducted comprehensive inspections of major forest tracks, hiking trails and country park facilities, and carried out repair works. The overall damage was minor, with over 200 trees pending removal and over 2 000 necessitating care. Damaged facilities were cordoned off for repair. Currently, restoration works of Yuen Tsuen Ancient Trail (from Tsing Fai Tong to the Kat Hing Bridge section) and some sections of Wu Kau Tang Country Trail (via Lai Tau Shek to Sam A Tsuen) were yet completed. Relevant information had been

announced via the “Enjoy Hiking” website. The AFCD would complete the restoration works as soon as possible.

(b) Annual Board Visit 2025

95/25 Dr Jackie YIP yin informed Members about the content of the Annual Board Visit 2025. Detailed arrangements would be forwarded to Members via the Secretary after the meeting.

(c) Others

96/25 The Chairman invited Dr Jackie YIP yin to explain to Members the concept of “Four Peaks” green tourism proposed in the Policy Address.

97/25 Dr Jackie YIP yin explained that “Four Peaks” Tourism was proposed by the Working Group on Developing Tourist Hotspots. “Four Peaks” referred to the Peak (Peak Trail (High West Section)), Lantau Peak (Ngong Ping Trail (Nei Lak Shan Section)), Sai Kung Hoi (Sharp Island Country Trail) and Tai Mo Shan (Rotary Park to Tai Mo Shan Viewpoint). The proposal aimed to connect scenic attractions within country parks that were near urban areas and had a higher carrying capacity and to cater for the needs of tourists and enrich the green tourism experience by improving ancillary facilities, enhancing management efficiency and connecting nearby tourist attractions. The AFCD would report on the progress to Members and seek their opinions in due course.

XI. Date of Next Meeting

98/25 The Chairman informed Members that the Secretary would notify them of the date of the next meeting in due course.

99/25 The meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

– End –

Country Parks Committee
Membership List
(1 September 2025 to 31 August 2027)

Chairman

Mr LO Pui-lam

Non-official Members

Miss CHUNG Sum-yue, Natalie

Dr HUNG Oi-shing, Jeffrey

Ir Dr LAU Chee-sing, M.H.

Ms LAU Kam-fung

Dr LAW Man-ye, Caroline

Mr LEUNG Kin-wai, Ian

Professor LEUNG Mei-ye, Kenneth, B.B.S., J.P.

Professor LI Xin

Mr NG Chun-ting Elton

Dr NG Ying-sim, Angie

Mr SHUM Si-ki

Mr YAU Yik-chung, Henry

Co-opted Members

Mr TSE Tze-fung, Tony

Mr TSE Yue-tak, Derek

Representative of Transport Department

Official Members

Deputy Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation or his alternate

Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment) 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

Marine Parks Committee
Membership List
(1 September 2025 to 31 August 2027)

Chairman

Professor QIU Jian-wen

Non-official Members

Miss CHUNG Sum-yue, Natalie

Dr FANG Kar-hei, James

Dr HUNG Oi-shing, Jeffrey

Ms LAU Kam-fung

Mr LEUNG Kin-wai, Ian

Professor LEUNG Mei-yee Kenneth, B.B.S., J.P.

Professor LI Xin

Mr NG Chun-ting Elton

Dr NG So-shan, Jasmine

Mr WONG Lap-kei, Alex

Co-opted members

Mr CHOW Chiu-yam

Ms CHEUNG Wing-yan, Sharon

Dr KOT Chin-wing, Brian

Ms TONG Sze-ping, Esther

Representative of Marine Police

Official Members

Deputy Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation or his alternate

Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment) 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

Director of Water Supplies or his alternate