

Country and Marine Parks Board (CMPB)
Confirmed Minutes of the 56th Meeting

Date	: 9 October 2014 (Thursday)	File Ref.: AF CPA 01/1/0
Time	: 2:30 p.m.	
Venue	: Room 701, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) Headquarters	

ATTENDANCE

Chairman

Mr TANG King-shing, GBS, PDSM

Members

Professor CHIU Lai-har, Rebecca, JP

Mr CHOW Kwok-keung

Professor CHU Lee-man

Ms Suzanne M. GENDRON

Dr HAU Chi-hang, Billy

Ms HUI Mei-sheung, Tennessy, JP

Mr LAM Chung-lun, Billy, GBS, JP

Mr LEE Chung-ming, Eric

Dr LI Shing-foon, Eric

Ms MA Miu-wah, Katherine

Dr MAN Chi-sum, JP

Mr MO Ka-hung, Joseph

Dr NG Cho-nam, SBS, JP

Ms SO Ka Man

Ms WONG Lai-yin, Idy

Mr Alan WONG Chi-kong, JP	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Dr LEUNG Siu-fai, JP	Deputy Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Miss Sian LI	Senior Administrative Officer (Nature Conservation), Environmental Protection Department (EPD)
Ms WOO Jacinta Kit Ching	Assistant Director of Planning (New Territories)
Ms Olga LAM, JP	Assistant Director of Lands (Estate Management)
Mr HUI, Eric Kwok Sun, JP	Assistant Director of Home Affairs (2)
Mr LAI Chi-tung	Assistant Director of Marine (Port Control)

Secretary

Mr Patrick TSANG	Assistant Secretary (Boards)1, AFCD
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IN ATTENDANCE

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Mr Joseph SHAM	Assistant Director (Country and Marine Parks)
Mr Franco NG	Senior Country Parks Officer (South East)
Ms Y N NGAR	Senior Country Parks Officer (North-west)
Mr Patrick LAI	Senior Country Parks Officer/Ranger Services
Mr Alan CHAN	Senior Marine Parks Officer
Dr W W CHENG	Marine Parks Officer/West
Ms LI Hiu-yan	Marine Parks Officer/Development

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mr CHEUNG Koon-lam	Chief Leisure Manager (Management)
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Water Supplies Department

Mr W K KAM

Chief Engineer/Development 2

ABSENT WITH APOLOGIES

Mr Jan CHAN

Honourable HO Chun-yin, Steven

Ms KWAN Sau-wan

Ms LO Po-man

Mr TANG Tat-chi, William

Mr Donald CHOY

Assistant Director (Leisure Services)3, LCSD

Mr MAK Shing-cheung, Vincent

Assistant Director of Water Supplies/Development

OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN

126/14 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

127/14 The Chairman informed members that, as an established practice and to facilitate the taking of meeting minutes, sound recording would be made during the meeting. The audio records would be destroyed after the meeting minutes were confirmed.

AGENDA ITEMS

I. Confirmation of Minutes of the 55th Meeting held on 13 June 2014 and Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 3 July 2014

128/14 The minutes of the last meeting held on 13 June 2014 were confirmed without amendments.

129/14 The minutes of the special meeting held on 3 July 2014 were confirmed with the following amendments:-

Para. 103/14: To add three sentences at the end of the paragraph: “In response to a member’s enquiry whether AAHK had included the artificial island just outside HK waters in West Lantau in the cumulative impact assessment, Mr Peter LEE reiterated that the EIA had taken into account all current and planned projects including the HKZMB in HK waters. The member then asked him to confirm again that the artificial island in Mainland China waters was included. Mr Peter LEE replied that he had no further comments. Later the member advised that the cumulative impact assessment had not included the impacts of the artificial island in Mainland China waters off west Lantau, especially its impact on CWDs, having browsed the EIA report of the 3RS project through the Internet.”

Para. 111/14: The 3rd sentence: To replace “It was expected...” with “He believed...”

Para. 111/14: To add a sentence before the second last sentence: “Professor Bernd WÜRSIG admitted that he did not fully remember the difference between Marine Reserves and Marine Parks in terms of the restriction of activities under relevant legislations though he had read the information.”

Para. 111/14: To add a sentence at the end of the paragraph: “The member was of the view that Professor Bernd WÜRSIG’s prediction of the return of CWDs to the impacted area was based on his own personal experience but not scientific data from the EIA or any analysis of existing data of CWDs.”

Para. 112/14: To add a post-meeting note: “The suggestions have been referred to AAHK for follow-up.” (for English Version only)

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

II. Matters Arising

(a) Convention on Biological Diversity (Para. 62/14)

130/14 Mr Joseph SHAM reported that the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) Steering Committee had conducted its fourth meeting on 27 June 2014 and would conduct its fifth meeting on 22 October 2014. Focus Groups that were operating under the three Working Groups had submitted their final reports to relevant Working Groups. The three Working Groups deliberated on the comprehensive proposals submitted by the focus groups under them and identified priority of these proposals. The secretariat of the BSAP Steering Committee was compiling specific actions of the comprehensive proposal. The Working Groups would conduct their next round of meetings in November / December 2014 to discuss the practicable actions and the prioritization of these actions.

(b) Proposal to Designate Country Park Enclaves of Fan Kei Tok, Sai Lau Kong and the Site near Nam Shan as Part of Country Parks (Para. 63/14 to 64/14)

131/14 Ms Y N NGAR reported that the project consultant of the drug treatment and rehabilitation centre to be constructed in the enclave of Sai Lau Kong was preparing the feasibility study report of the project and would submit it to the Security Bureau and relevant departments for consideration. The Authority had also briefed some of the holders of the 9 Government land licences, who were the operators of mariculture rafts in Sai Lau Kong Fish Culture Zone, on the proposed designation of the enclave as part of the Plover Cove Country Park. They had no strong view on the designation proposal.

132/14 Ms NGAR went on to say that the Authority recently briefed five members of a family, who were the holders of the two Government land licences in the enclave of the site near Nam Shan, on the proposed designation of the enclave as part of the Lantau South Country Park. They had no strong view on the designation proposal. The Authority would proceed to arrange for the consultation with relevant District Councils and Rural Committees.

(Professor CHU Lee-man attended the meeting at this juncture.)

(c) Progress on Management Plan of Sai Wan in Sai Kung East Country Park (Para. 65/14 to 74/14)

133/14 Mr Franco NG reported that the Working Group on Sai Wan Management (the Working Group) had a site visit to Sai Wan on 30 June 2014 and listened to the views of the

villagers of Sai Wan Village on the implementation of the Sai Wan Management Plan (the Management Plan).

134/14 Mr NG continued to say that the Working Group held its third meeting on 4 September 2014. At the meeting, AFCD reported the work progress of the Management Plan. AFCD had taken over the litter collection work at Sai Wan, conducted tree risk assessment, and carried out proper tree management measures (including pruning and removal) on potential hazardous trees and trees of unsatisfactory condition. Furthermore, AFCD had provided campsite facilities at the backshore of northern beach and was enhancing the newly constructed footpath from Chui Fung Au (吹風坳) via Lo Tei Tun (螺地墩) to the northern beach of Sai Wan. Representatives of the Sai Kung District Lands Office (DLO/SK), the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and Home Affairs Department also attended the third meeting. DLO/SK furnished members with information about land status of existing food stalls in Sai Wan while FEHD provided information about requirements and conditions for issuing food business licences and permits. At this meeting, the issue of granting short-term tenancy to the operators of the food stalls for authorized occupation of the government land was raised. After thorough discussion, the Working Group opined that the granting of short-term tenancy to the operators of the food stalls was not a feasible option. The majority of the members was of the view that villagers of San Wan should vacate the government land being illegally occupied by them for operation of seating area of the two food stalls so as to allow AFCD to turn the site into a common area for public enjoyment. After this meeting, DLO/SK and FEHD provided supplementary information about land status of existing food stalls and requirements and conditions for issuing food business licence respectively to AFCD which then relayed the supplementary information to members for further deliberation.

135/14 Mr MO Ka-hung, Joseph supplemented that according to DLO/SK, one food stall was currently operating in premises where most of the structures of the food stall were covered by squatter control survey numbers. Another food stall was operating in premises nearby but the squatter control survey numbers had been cancelled. Hence, application for food business licence to operate food stall at that premises would not be supported. Members of the Working Group hoped that feasible solutions could be worked out with relevant government departments, including FEHD and DLO/SK, so as to facilitate the villagers to apply for suitable food business licences for the operation of food stalls.

(d) Provision of Automated External Defibrillator (AED) in Country Parks
(Para. 88/14 to 89/14)

136/14 Mr Patrick LAI reported that AEDs had been provided at Lions Nature Education Centre (LNEC) in Tsiu Hang Special Area (蕉坑特別地區) and at Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre in Pak Tam Chung, Sai Kung West Country Park. As regards provision of emergency service in the country parks on Sundays and public holidays, Auxiliary Medical Service (AMS) had made use of AFCD's composite houses and renovated warden facilities to set up first aid posts in Aberdeen Country Park, Pak Tam Chung in Sai Kung West Country Park, Nai Chung (泥涌) in Ma On Shan Country Park, and the Plover Cove Reservoir main dam as well as Bride's Pool Road (新娘潭路) in Plover Cove Country Park. AMS motorcycles had also patrolled three routes in country parks, namely, one route from Nai Chung to Pak Tam Chung, another route from Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre to Shing Mun Country Park and the third route from the Plover Cove Reservoir main dam to the first aid post at Bride's Pool Road. All these AMS first aid posts and motorcycles were equipped with AEDs.

(Mr LEE Chung-ming, Eric attended the meeting at this juncture.)

137/14 Mr LAI went on to say that AFCD's preliminary review indicated that it was appropriate to provide AEDs at Country Park Visitor Centres since the Centres were accessible to the public and open on public holidays. Building on the preliminary review, AFCD had further taken into consideration visitor flow and existing provision of AEDs at premises near a country park visitor centre. Hence, AFCD made the following suggestions:

- (1) Clear Water Bay Country Park Visitor Centre: provision of AED was suggested due to high visitor flow at the subject location;
- (2) Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre: provision of AED was suggested due to high visitor flow at neighbouring Rotary Park (扶輪公園);
- (3) Lions Nature Education Centre: existing AED would be retained due to high visitor flow at LNEC;
- (4) Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre: existing AED would be retained due to high visitor flow and set-up of AMS first aid post on Sundays and public holidays only;
- (5) Ngong Ping Nature Centre: provision of AEDs was not suggested as there were already three AEDs at nearby Ngong Ping Village (昂坪市集);
- (6) Aberdeen Tree Centre: provision of AED was not suggested because of few visitors on weekdays and set-up of AMS first aid post in Aberdeen Country Park on Sundays and public holidays;

- (7) Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre: provision of AED was not suggested because of few visitors on weekdays and patrol of AMS motorcycles covered on Sundays and public holidays; and
- (8) Plover Cove Country Park Visitor Centre: provision of AED was not suggested due to few visitors on weekdays and set-up of AMS first aid post on Sundays and public holidays.

Should members endorse AFCD's suggestions, AFCD would proceed to acquire AEDs and arrange staff to receive relevant training as appropriate.

138/14 A member appreciated that AFCD was prompt in addressing the issue as AEDs would help hikers a lot.

139/14 Mr Patrick LAI answered the member's enquiry that AFCD had been promoting hiking safety to country park visitors through various channels. For instance, a booklet on Country Park Hiking Safety Guidelines (郊野公園遠足安全指引) had been printed recently and would be distributed at Country Parks Visitor Centres and District Offices.

140/14 A member commended that AFCD had swiftly responded to the provision of AEDs in a clear and systematic manner. She suggested that AFCD should raise the awareness of country park visitors to the provision of AEDs when they arrived at a country park. Secondly, AFCD should consider providing information of the locations with AEDs to other departments so that rescue efforts would be better coordinated. Lastly, AFCD should periodically review the patterns of the number of visitors calling for help under emergency situations and the locations involved so as to lay down appropriate guidelines for hiking safety.

141/14 Mr Patrick LAI responded that AFCD did not have first hand information on emergency calls made as those calls went directly to the departments responsible for rescue but AFCD would consider her suggestions as appropriate.

142/14 The Chairman commended that it would be beneficial to the public by the provision of AEDs at suitable locations in country parks. He remarked that hikers should understand their capability and select a suitable hiking route according to their physical fitness and time. Besides, the provision of AEDs at suitable locations in country parks did not mean that emergencies under all circumstances could be dealt with properly. Apart from publicity for the

locations with AEDs to the public, the public should also be advised that hikers should understand their capability and the provision of AEDs did not mean that all emergencies could be handled. In addition, AFCD should discuss with different emergency departments for closer cooperation of rescue efforts. He further suggested that AFCD should arrange sufficient qualified staff to receive proper training for the operation of AEDs provided at the Country Park Visitor Centres.

143/14 Mr Alan WONG Chi-kong, JP responded that AFCD would arrange suitable training to staff on duty. He echoed the Chairman's remark that hikers should understand their capability. Members noted the suggestions made by AFCD.

144/14 The Chairman asked members if there were any matters arising from the special meeting on 3 July that they would like to follow up.

145/14 A member enquired about the status of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report of the Three-Runway System (3RS) project. Miss Sian LI replied that EPD had issued a letter on 30 September to request the project proponent to provide supplementary information and was awaiting the supplementary information from the project proponent.

III. Designation of Southwest Lantau and Soko Islands Marine Parks - Proposal (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/12/2014)

146/14 Mr Alan CHAN presented Working Paper WP/CMPB/12/2014.

147/14 A member was very appreciative of the designation proposal. She urged that AFCD should expedite the statutory procedures for designation of the two proposed marine parks so that the designation could be completed as soon as possible to help protect the dolphin from various threats in the nearby waters. She emphasized the importance of the designation of the two proposed marine parks by sharing historical data on stranding cases of Chinese white dolphins (CWD) and finless porpoises (FP) that Ocean Park Conservation Foundation, Hong Kong (OPCFHK) had responded to from 2011 onwards. She appreciated that fishing activities of fishermen brought prey resources to CWD and suggested that fishermen should be allowed to continue their use of the waters around Soko Islands. She also expressed concern over the impact of increasing traffic of high speed vessels in the fairway between Soko Islands and

South Lantau on CWD and FP, due to traffic restrictions of high speed ferries in the waters of North Lantau.

148/14 In response to the member's concern over the impact of increasing traffic of high speed vessels in the fairway between Soko Islands and South Lantau on CWD and FP, Mr Alan WONG Chi-kong, JP remarked that conservation of dolphins was a big challenge to AFCD as Hong Kong waters had become more congested following the growth of Hong Kong population, more intense economic activities of Hong Kong and the integration of Pearl River Delta. AFCD, working closely with relevant policy bureaux and departments, had put a lot of effort into the conservation of CWD and FP in the past few years, including the plan of designation of the proposed Brothers Marine Park in 2016 and the proposed designation of Southwest Lantau Marine Park (SWLMP) and Soko Islands Marine Park (SIMP). Besides, it might not be feasible to divert the fairway to the south of Soko Islands as passengers would express their objection to a longer total travelling time and higher fare after the diversion. Hence, it was imperative to designate the waters at the Southwest Lantau and Soko Islands as marine parks so as to provide a sanctuary for CWD and FP. He highlighted that AFCD, in collaboration with relevant policy bureaux and departments, would strive to explore suitable means to minimize the conflicts between marine mammals and human activities.

149/14 Mr Alan CHAN responded that it would normally take at least 18 – 24 months to go through the statutory procedures under the Marine Parks Ordinance for the designation of a marine park. AFCD would endeavour to complete the statutory procedures as soon as possible.

150/14 A member strongly supported the designation proposal as it showed that the Government had responded to the growing public concern about the fact that CWD in Hong Kong waters were facing increasing pressure. Referring to previous establishment of a marine mammals conservation working group for the setting-up of Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park, she suggested that a similar working group for the setting up of the two proposed marine parks should also be established as soon as possible given that CWD in Hong Kong waters nowadays were under much greater pressure since the designation proposal had been put forward in 2000.

151/14 Mr Joseph SHAM responded that the Marine Mammals Conservation Working Group (MMCWG) was still active and had been conducting regular meetings. Members of the Working Group included scientists, government representatives, green group members, and

fishermen leaders, representing views of different stakeholders of the community. By regularly reviewing the results of AFCD's continuous marine mammals monitoring programme and research findings of cetacean experts or marine biologists, members of the Working Group had been providing constructive ideas and suggestions on effective conservation measures to AFCD to help ensure the continued existence of CWD in Hong Kong and the long-term viability of the declining dolphin population. Members were welcome to offer their views on conservation of marine mammals to AFCD which would then pass the views to the MMCWG for consideration.

152/14 A member was of the view that the majority of members and green groups would support the designation proposal as more marine parks would help ensure the viability of CWD.

153/14 In response to the member's enquiries, Mr Joseph SHAM replied that AFCD had been continually updating the conservation programme for Chinese white dolphins in Hong Kong through a four-pronged approach including management, public education, research and cross-boundary co-operation since the formulation of the conservation programme in 2000. Furthermore, the conservation programme had recently been reviewed by the MMCWG at the meeting in June 2013. With regard to the future management of SWLMP and SIMP, AFCD would consult relevant government departments on the draft maps and preliminary management plans at first. Then it would conduct consultation with the relevant stakeholders on the issues of the future management measures, in particular for fishing activities and vessel operation, and proposed locations of boundary buoys in the two proposed marine parks. To enhance the prey resources available to CWD, AFCD would explore suitable fisheries resources enhancement measures, including deployment of artificial reefs and release fish fry, and consider putting the viable suggestions into practice as far as practicable. As regards the matter of dolphin watching activities of wala-wala operators in Tai O, AFCD staff visited the operators to promote the Code of Conduct for Dolphin Watching Activities in the low season every year. The operators were reminded that their vessels needed to keep a safe distance from dolphins and travel at low speed without sudden change of direction. Upon the establishment of SWLMP, AFCD staff would strengthen regulation of dolphin watching activities by conducting patrols in the Marine Park every day and step up publicity and education about the conduct for dolphin watching activities.

154/14 Mr Alan WONG Chi-kong, JP advised that AFCD would enhance the communication with the operators in Tai O and step up publicity and education about the conduct for dolphin watching activities so as to minimize the impacts on CWD.

155/14 A member supported the proposal. Noting that it took time to complete the statutory procedures for designation of new country parks in the past several years, he was of the view that it would be too optimistic to complete the statutory procedures for designation of the two proposed marine parks within two years. Following the practice of the designation of proposed Brothers Marine Park, he suggested that more up-to-date information should be provided for members' deliberation as there might be a lot of changes in the waters at the Southwest Lantau and Soko Islands since 2000. The findings of the report should cover dolphin abundance in the waters, the size of the two proposed marine parks, potential fine-tuning of the boundary of the two proposed marine parks after consulting fishermen groups, the impact of increasing traffic of high speed ferries on CWD, and the effect of trawl ban after 2012 on CWD.

156/14 Mr Joseph SHAM replied that AFCD would make the best endeavour to complete the statutory procedures for designation of the two proposed marine parks according to the tentative timeline, having taken into consideration lengthy public consultation and objection hearing. AFCD would conduct public consultation on whether the preliminary boundary of the two proposed marine parks, which had been drawn up in 2002, should be refined. Besides, detailed reports on monitoring of marine mammals (i.e., CWD and FP) in Hong Kong waters were submitted to MMCWG every year. The latest monitoring report concluded that the coastal waters in West Lantau, including Fan Lau, had the highest dolphin abundance in Hong Kong. The importance of the waters at Soko Islands was that it was the sole site in Hong Kong that could conserve both CWD and FP together. The two species used the site in different seasons. In winter and spring, the site was heavily used by the FP. On the other hand, CWD heavily used the site in autumn. Besides, AFCD would consult concerned marine users about the alignment of the fairway and the preliminary boundary of the two proposed marine parks. Lastly, AFCD would provide supplementary information about dolphin number and scientific data that support the demarcation of the preliminary boundary of the two proposed marine parks to Marine Parks Committee / Country and Marine Parks Board (CMPB) in due course.

157/14 Mr Alan CHAN added that the preliminary boundary of the two proposed marine parks had been drawn up by making reference to a Study on the Suitability of South West Lantau to be established as Marine Park or Marine Reserve conducted by Hong Kong Institute of Education in 1998 and views gathered in previous consultation with relevant stakeholders and concerned parties. While AFCD had up-to-date information about CWD from its annual surveys of CWD, it planned to carry out a study to update the information about fisheries resources and recreational activities in these areas in next few months. AFCD would then

prepare draft maps and preliminary management plans for the two proposed marine parks with the updated information and consult CMPB on the draft maps and preliminary management plans tentatively in Q2 2015.

158/14 A member strongly supported the proposal. He agreed that the conservation programme for CWD in Hong Kong and the study of the two proposed marine parks should be updated. He suggested that AFCD, in collaboration with Civil Engineering and Development Department, should study the impacts of the reclamation works at Kau Yi Chau (交椅洲) for the development of an “East Lantau Metropolis” (「東大嶼都會」) on the extent and management plan of the proposed Soko Islands Marine Park, and devise suitable measures to protect the ecology of the Marine Park prior to the reclamation works.

159/14 Mr Joseph SHAM responded that AFCD would give expert advice on the ecological impact of the reclamation works for the development of an “East Lantau Metropolis”. He pointed out that the direct impact of the reclamation works in the central waters between Hong Kong Island and Lantau on CWD and FP would be relatively low, given that CWD mainly used the waters of West and North Lantau while FP mainly frequented the southern part of Hong Kong waters. It was noted that a cumulative environmental impact assessment of the reclamation works would be conducted after the funding of feasibility study of the project had been granted. AFCD would give advice and comment on the study report with respect to ecological issues.

160/14 A member supported the proposal and wished that the proposal would be proceeded as soon as possible. He was of the view that the conservation programme for Chinese white dolphins in Hong Kong should be completely updated taking into account the cumulative environmental impact arising from various projects, for example, the Three-Runway System project and the “East Lantau Metropolis” project. Like BSAP Action Plan, a new action plan was suggested for the conservation of CWD and FP respectively. Having discussed with local dolphin experts and dolphin experts of Airport Authority Hong Kong, there was one point on which every expert agreed, i.e., high speed ferries had significant impact on CWD. Hence, he opined that the existing alignment of the fairway should have significant impact on CWD. Should the “East Lantau Metropolis” project be pursued, he surmised that the existing alignment of the fairway in the central waters between Hong Kong Island and Lantau was likely to be diverted since the reclamation of the “East Lantau Metropolis” project would encroach into the fairway. In the event that diversion of the fairway was proposed in the “East Lantau Metropolis” project, he suggested that AFCD should consider diverting the existing alignment

of the fairway between the two proposed marine parks to south of Soko Islands in the action plan. Given that the effectiveness of marine parks on conservation of CWD was affected by the connectivity among the marine parks around Lantau Island, he reiterated that it was necessary to take this factor into account when formulating an action plan for CWD.

IV. Summary Report of Country Parks Committee (CPC) (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/13/2014)

161/14 Professor CHU Lee-man, Chairman of the Country Parks Committee, presented Working Paper WP/CMPB/13/2014 on issues discussed at the CPC meeting held on 12 September 2014.

162/14 Mr Alan WONG Chi-kong, JP highlighted that AFCD in-principle supported farm rehabilitation and ecotourism. As farm rehabilitation and ecotourism became more popular, it was expected that more proposed activities or development for farm rehabilitation and ecotourism in country parks would be submitted to AFCD and the Board for consideration. He suggested that AFCD would adopt a more relaxed approach in handling those proposed activities or development for farm rehabilitation and ecotourism which were compatible with the uses, functions and objectives of country parks. To address the concerns of some nature conservationists, AFCD would handle the proposed activities or development with caution before consulting relevant Committees under the Board at the initial stage. After the Committees and AFCD together had established relevant principles and guidelines after vetting certain number of proposals, AFCD would consider similar proposals in accordance with the established principles/guidelines and would consult the Committees on such proposals on a need-basis in the future. Following the incorporation of more private land and villages into country parks upon incorporation of suitable enclaves into their respective country parks, it was anticipated that a growing number of proposals would be submitted to AFCD and the Board for deliberation. This suggestion would enable the Board and AFCD to handle the proposals, particularly small-scale ones, more effectively and efficiently. Members noted.

163/14 A member was of the view that cultural sustainability should be conserved as well, apart from nature conservation and environmental sustainability. As such, farm rehabilitation might be a way to conserve traditional agricultural culture.

164/14 The Chairman remarked that the Board very often received letters from green groups or interest parties that were interested in the Board's work. He mentioned that members of the Board and he had received two letters from Save Our Country Park Alliance (SOCPA) on 5 June and 11 August 2014 respectively. SOCPA wished members to consider their views on assessment of the suitability of designating and excluding country park enclaves which were raised in these two letters. Should members had any views on these points, he would highly respect the views of individual members. He highlighted that whenever the Board received written materials from civil organizations, he, being the Chairman of the Board, had a duty to circulate the written materials to members. Members were also suggested to spare time to have a look at the views of civil organizations on the Board's work so that the function of the Board could be enhanced. Members noted.

165/14 The Chairman went on to say that Mr Alan WONG's suggestion about the arrangements for handling farm rehabilitation and ecotourism proposals could streamline the work of the Board and AFCD, resulting in improvements in efficiency of the Board and AFCD. He cautioned members that diverse interest groups had paid heed to the Board's work. It is imperative for the Board and AFCD to reach a consensus on a new policy or initiative before implementing it.

166/14 A member said that cultural heritage should be considered as one of the essential elements in setting the policy objectives of country parks. He observed that the Board, like many civil organizations, had tended to focus much on the issues of ecology and natural environment of country parks and frequently discussed them at the meetings. On the contrary, human factors and cultural heritage were seldom raised at the meetings. As more and more traditional villages, abandoned villages or countryside would be incorporated into country parks, greater importance should be attached to cultural heritage of country parks. For example, farm rehabilitation should always be encouraged as it would help restore and enrich cultural heritage of country parks. He suggested that AFCD's policies should encourage the integration of those valuable cultural resources, like architectural heritage of villages and historical relics of human activities of villages, into the planning and development of country parks in the future.

167/14 The Chairman remarked that members of diverse backgrounds could give comprehensive views on the topics for discussion, resulting in the betterment of country parks and marine parks.

V. Summary Report of Marine Parks Committee (MPC)
(Working Paper: WP/CMPB/14/2014)

168/14 Dr LI Shing-foon, Eric, Chairman of the Marine Parks Committee, presented Working Paper WP/CMPB/14/2014 on issues discussed at the MPC meeting held on 26 June 2014. Members noted the Report.

VI. Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report
(Working Paper WP/CMPB/15/2014)

169/14 Mr Joseph SHAM presented Working Paper WP/CMPB/15/2014 on Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report for the period from 1 May to 31 August 2014.

170/14 The Chairman pointed out that the Authority had revised the format and contents of the progress report for facilitating members to discuss and offer advice. Subject to members' consent, the Authority would not submit the Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report on Country Parks at CPC meetings and the Progress Report on Marine Parks and Marine Reserve at MPC meetings in the future. As a replacement, the Authority would table the Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report (Progress Report) that had been presented at the earlier CMPB meeting for information of members of these two Committees. Should special events occur after the period of the Progress Report, the Authority would be pleased to discuss these events at the forthcoming meeting of the two Committees. The suggestion aimed to streamline the reporting procedure regarding the progress made by the Authority and to tally the practice of the three Committees under CMPB given that Public Relations Committee had already cancelled the submission of the Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report at its meetings. Members had no comment on the suggestion.

[Post-meeting note:

(1) As a green measure, the Authority would table the Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report for co-opted members of the three Committees only. Members of the three Committees, which were also CMPB members, had already received the Progress Report prior to the earlier CMPB meeting.

(2) Marine Parks Committee and Country Parks Committee adopted the above-mentioned new arrangement at the meetings on 8 December 2014 and 23 December 2014 respectively.]

171/14 A member suggested that comparative statistics of interest to the Board, for example visitor statistics and amount of refuse collected, would be provided on yearly or quarterly basis. Mr Joseph SHAM responded that the Authority would consider his suggestion.

172/14 In response to a member's enquiries about tree management and tree risk assessment, Mr Franco NG replied that the annual tree risk assessment had been conducted by different departments territory-wide from February to June 2014, under co-ordination of Tree Management Office (TMO) (樹木管理辦事處). AFCD was mainly responsible for trees in country parks and special areas and deployed its staff to conduct the tree risk assessment at or adjacent to recreational sites and facilities with regular visitors. Supervisory officers would conduct audit checks of the risk assessment reports compiled by frontline staff. Whenever a tree in poor health conditions or posing high safety risk to the public had been identified, AFCD would immediately arrange staff to carry out tree management measures, such as pruning and removal. Besides the annual tree risk assessment, AFCD staff had frequently inspected the trees in country parks and special areas and carried out tree management measures if necessary. Brown root rot disease (褐根病) was not discovered during the annual tree risk assessment in 2014.

VII. Annual Field Visit

173/14 Mr Joseph SHAM briefed members on the tentative itinerary and informed them that the annual field visit was scheduled for 19 December 2014 (Friday) having considered availability of the Chairman of CMPB, the Chairmen of the three Committees as well as the operator of Yi O Farm, and the tide table in December 2014. The Secretary would invite members to indicate their availability on the visit in due course. Member noted the itinerary of the annual field visit.

[Post-meeting note:

(1) On 13 October the Secretary issued a letter to invite members to indicate their availability on the annual field visit. The visit was held on 19 December 2014.

(2) After the meeting a member suggested making a stop at Soko Islands and Fanlau for inspection of the proposed Soko Islands Marine Park and Southwest Lantau Marine Park respectively.]

VIII. Any Other Business

174/14 Members did not raise any other business for discussion.

IX. Date of Next Meeting

175/14 The Chairman informed members that they would be informed of the date of next meeting in early 2015 in due course.

176/14 The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

— End —