

**Country and Marine Parks Board (CMPB)**  
**Confirmed Minutes of the 57th Meeting**

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Date : 26 February 2015 (Thursday)

File Ref.: AF CPA 01/1/0

Time : 2:30 p.m.

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

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**ATTENDANCE**

**Chairman**

Mr TANG King-shing, GBS, PDSM

**Members**

Mr Jan CHAN

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

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

Mr Elvis AU, JP	Assistant Director (Nature Conservation & Infrastructure Planning), 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)
Miss Charmaine WONG, JP	Assistant Director of Home Affairs (2)

#### 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)
Dr K M YEUNG	Senior Geopark Officer
Mr Franco NG	Senior Country Parks Officer (South East)
Miss Pauline TONG	Senior Country Parks Officer (North-west) (Ag)
Mr Patrick LAI	Senior Country Parks Officer/Ranger Services
Mr Alan CHAN	Senior Marine Parks Officer
Mr K S CHEUNG	Country Parks Officer (Special Duties)
Miss Cynthia CHAN	Geopark Officer (Planning)

##### Marine Department

Mr WONG Wing-hung	General Manager/Vessel Traffic Services
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Water Supplies Department (WSD)

Mr YEUNG Tak-hoi

Senior Engineer/Planning 2

**ABSENT WITH APOLOGIES**

Professor CHIU Lai-har, Rebecca, JP

Honourable HO Chun-yin, Steven

Ms KWAN Sau-wan

Ms LO Po-man

Ms MA Miu-wah, Katherine

Dr MAN Chi-sum, JP

Mr MO Ka-hung, Joseph

Mr TANG Tat-chi, William

Mr Donald CHOY

Assistant Director (Leisure Services)3, LCSD

Mr LAI Chi-tung

Assistant Director of Marine (Port Control)

Mr MAK Shing-cheung, Vincent

Assistant Director of Water Supplies/Development

**OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN**

1/15      The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular the following persons who are attending the meeting for the first time:

Miss Charmaine WONG

Assistant Director (2), Home Affairs Department

Mr WONG Wing-hung

General Manager/Vessel Traffic Services, Marine Department

Miss Cynthia CHAN

Geopark Officer (Planning), AFCD

2/15      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 Last Meeting held on 9 October 2014**

3/15      The minutes of the last meeting held on 9 October 2014 were confirmed without amendments.

### **II. Matters Arising**

#### **(a) Convention on Biological Diversity (Para. 130/14)**

4/15      Mr Joseph SHAM reported that the three Working Groups under the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) Steering Committee had consolidated the proposed actions of the Focus Groups under them into 38 draft key actions at the end of 2014. The three Working Groups then submitted these draft key actions with priorities to the BSAP Steering Committee. The BSAP Steering Committee conducted its 6th meeting and 7th meeting on 25 November 2014 and 13 January 2015 respectively. Having thoroughly discussed the draft strategy (the vision and mission statements and principles) and proposed key actions at these two meetings, the BSAP Steering Committee had finalized its recommendations on the draft strategy and broadly agreed on the proposed key actions subject to further refinements to be worked out between the Steering Committee and Working Group convenors and the Secretariat. The recommendations of the BSAP Steering Committee would be submitted to the Government for consideration in due course.

#### **(b) Progress on Management Plan of Sai Wan in Sai Kung East Country Park (Para. 133/14 to 135/14)**

5/15      Mr Franco NG reported that routine management of Sai Wan, including cleansing service and tree management, had been running smoothly. The construction works of the proposed facilities under the Sai Wan Management Plan (the Management Plan) had progressively commenced and some of the facilities were completed. Besides, AFCD had

commissioned a local university for the design of a star gazing facility and a sitting-out area in Sai Wan. Relevant stakeholders such as the Sai Wan villagers and hikers, would be consulted at the design stage with a view to working out an environmentally friendly and simple yet creative design solution. Currently AFCD was discussing with relevant departments to tackle the issue of food stalls.

6/15 In response to a member's enquiry, Mr Franco NG advised that the Government had been discussing with relevant stakeholders in order to devise proposals of home-stay lodgings for Sai Wan.

7/15 The Chairman pointed out that the management issues of Sai Wan were fairly complicated and it would take time for the Working Group on Sai Wan Management to tackle the issues with relevant stakeholders, including the Sai Wan villagers and Heung Yee Kuk.

(c) Designation of Southwest Lantau and Soko Islands Marine Parks - Proposal (Para. 146/14 to 160/14)

8/15 Mr Alan CHAN reported that AFCD had commissioned a consultant to carry out a detailed study on the design, consultation and implementation of the proposed Southwest Lantau Marine Park (SWLMP) and Soko Islands Marine Park (SIMP) at the end of 2014. The study would review and update the information about development projects, marine activities, marine traffic, fisheries, ecology and marine environment of the waters near the proposed SWLMP and SIMP. AFCD planned to consult CMPB on initial designs and preliminary management plans for the two proposed marine parks at the next meeting in early June 2015. Public consultation would be conducted subject to members' deliberation and views.

(d) Annual Field Visit (Para. 173/14)

9/15 Mr Joseph SHAM briefed members of the details of the Visit.

### **III. Preparation for the Revalidation of Hong Kong Global Geopark in 2015 (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/1/2015)**

10/15 Dr K M YEUNG presented Working Paper WP/CMPB/1/2015.

(Ms SO Ka Man attended the meeting at this juncture.)

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

11/15 In response to a member's enquiry about improvement in geosite access with local engagement, Dr K M YEUNG said that Hong Kong Global Geopark of China (HKGP) was not a theme park. The main focus in HKGP was on geoconservation, science popularisation and local engagement. There were three protection areas with different levels of protection, namely, Core Protection Area, Special Protection Area and Integrated Protection Area. In order to protect important geological heritage in the Core Protection Area, public facilities, such as proposed pier at Ninepin Group, were not recommended. For those Core Protection Areas located on islands or along the coast, visitors were recommended to go there by boat and stay on board to enjoy the geographical features without landing. On the other hand, Integrated Protection Areas with higher carrying capacity made them ideal destinations for outings and hence continuous actions had been taken to improve their accessibility. These planning principles of the geopark had been endorsed by the Board and the relevant District Councils when the geopark was established in 2009. To facilitate the public access to the geopark, AFCD had taken a very important step to introduce an one-stop service for geopark guided tours at the Hong Kong Global Geopark Volcano Discovery Centre (HKGP VDC).

12/15 Dr K M YEUNG thanked a member's admiration for the AFCD's efforts on local engagement and school education. He responded to the member's suggestion that enhanced promotion and publicity would be launched for the geopark logo.

13/15 As regards a member's enquiries, Dr K M YEUNG replied that the AFCD would put more resources on the research and promotion of the cultural heritage resources of HKGP in the future. The AFCD initiated research on cultural heritage resources in Northeast New Territories Region for the time being. For instance, the AFCD would promote the Hakka culture and Hakka Folk songs. Research on the history of Lai Chi Wo Village and Kat O Village would be conducted as well. Subsequently the AFCD would conduct research on the culture and oral history of Sai Kung Region.

14/15 In response to a member's enquiries, Dr K M YEUNG replied that other areas outside HKGP including Po Toi Islands and Ma On Shan might be candidates of geo-attractions with a view to displaying granitic landscape of Hong Kong. As holistic planning and management was one of the key requirements for a geopark, whether the geo-areas were

manageable was a concern to the AFCD. Hence, feasibility of including other areas into HKGP would need to be carefully explored. Besides, information about Recommended Geopark Guides (R2Gs) was readily available from the website: <http://www.hkr2g.net> and more publicity would be conducted for R2Gs. Echoing the member's suggestion of devising geological games for adults, the AFCD was currently devising geological games suitable for adults and sourcing qualified toy suppliers for production. Since Quick Response Code (QR Code) had greater multilingual storage capacity, it had already replaced the use of Speaking Pens.

15/15     The Chairman suggested that the Authority might consider inviting R2Gs to participate in other geopark activities with a view to adding value to their job. Dr K M YEUNG responded that the AFCD would consider his suggestion.

16/15     A member enquired about how to improve the transportation to the High Island Reservoir East Dam (萬宜水庫東壩) (the East Dam) so as to facilitate the elderly and children to access the place. Mr Joseph SHAM replied that currently people could go to the East Dam by coach with permit issued by both WSD and AFCD or taxi. As Sai Kung Man Yee Road (西貢萬宜路) had restrictions on the number and speed of vehicles due to safety considerations, AFCD had been discussing with departments concerned and the Sai Kung District Council (SKDC) to explore the feasibility of enhancing the transportation to the East Dam without compromising public safety. Besides, the AFCD was aware that the SKDC was exploring the feasibility of running an electric bus / van at Man Yee Road. The AFCD would keep an open mind to the suggestion.

17/15     In response to a member's enquiries, Dr K M YEUNG replied that HKGP was planned and developed according to Hong Kong's long established country park system which was classified as Protected Areas Category V of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Hence, the conservation and management of HKGP adhered to the operation mode of IUCN Category V. He clarified that "Image Building and Publicity" was the theme of training sessions offered by HKGP to young geopark managers in the region.

18/15     As regards the transport to the East Dam, Mr Alan WONG Chi-kong, JP remarked that the AFCD had been liaising with the SKDC, Transport Department, WSD and transport operators with a view to improving the transport to the East Dam. Currently, AFCD would

issue vehicular entry permits to rehabuses carrying people with disabilities and coaches (subject to daily quota) for carrying people on group tours to the East Dam.

19/15 Mr Alan WONG Chi-kong, JP went on to say that WSD had advised that it was not technically feasible to widen Man Yee Road as numerous trees had to be felled which would have significant impact to Sai Kung East Country Park. The feasibility of providing green minibus service had also been explored and the service was reckoned to be not cost effective. Daily passenger rate would have been low on weekdays and during inclement weather. Though daily passenger rate would have been higher on weekends and public holidays as well as in good weather, the number of these days should not be too many a year. Hence, it was not easy to find a green minibus operator to provide the service.

20/15 Mr Alan WONG Chi-kong, JP continued to say that at present people went to the East Dam mainly by taxi. Since the AFCD did not wish to have too many vehicles on Man Yee Road which was a restricted road, taxi was considered not to be the most efficient mode of public transport from a road use point of view. In light of the above, mass transport would be explored as a short-term measure, for example coach. He suggested that the best way to sightsee the impressive hexagonal volcanic rock columns around the East Dam was by boat which was also suitable for people with walking difficulties, for example, the elderly, the handicapped, pregnant women and children. He supplemented that all geoparks were remote areas and all of them faced the same transport problem. Notwithstanding the above, the AFCD would endeavour to explore ways to improve the transport.

(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai, JP left the meeting at this juncture.)

21/15 A member agreed that the best way to view the hexagonal volcanic rock columns was by boat. He suggested that the AFCD, in collaboration with the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTb), local tour companies and restaurants of Sai Kung Town, organized summer local tours to sightsee the volcanic rock columns by sea and enjoy traditional as well as gourmet.

22/15 In response to a member's enquiries, Dr K M YEUNG replied that the positioning of HKGP was clearly indicated in its planning and protection principles which divided the geopark into three protection areas with different levels of protection. Besides, the expression "geotourism", instead of "ecotourism", was used in the Working Paper: WP/CMPB/1/2015 to

underline the concept that geopark tourism was nature-based. He pointed out that HKGP occupied a leading position in the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) in terms of science popularization. He explained that to make information more understandable to the public did not mean to make the information simple and superficial. The presenter was required to have deep understanding of scientific knowledge so as to make the scientific knowledge easy for the public to understand. With a view to providing easily understandable information to the public, the AFCD indeed carried out a number of researches so as to acquire more in-depth scientific knowledge about the geology of Hong Kong. By citing that the VDC aimed to promote science popularization by giving fun to children and providing gains to adults, he advised that promotion of science popularization did not mean to present information just in a simple format. In fact, it took at least three months to complete an information board or interpretation panel in the geopark by going through a rigorous process of review by experts and revision by Chinese and English editors. The guidelines of the process had been clearly documented and were also provided to other geoparks for reference.

23/15 A member was quite optimistic about the outcome of the revalidation. To increase the rate of repeated visits, he suggested that the content of R2G tours could be enriched by incorporating more elements of culture, ecology and biodiversity in the next five years, apart from existing geological elements. In addition, itineraries of geopark tours could be designed with different seasonal themes, for example, boat tours of tern watching in summer. He also suggested that school education could be enhanced by incorporating field-based education and including more field-based programmes.

24/15 Dr K M YEUNG responded that the suggestion about R2G tours was a good one. The R2G system had been evolving so that R2Gs were able to give a tailor-made presentation, but not a template presentation, in each tour. The content of R2G tours would be enhanced by more cultural and ecological elements. Field visits had already been included in the Geopark School Programme and they were usually conducted after classroom activities.

25/15 A member commended the breadth and depth of the preparation work for the revalidation.

26/15 Dr K M YEUNG thanked the member's positive remarks. He answered to the member's enquiry that on-going evaluation had been conducted to collect the feedback of geopark visitors and participating teachers and students of Geopark School Programme.

Having noted the feedback, AFCD managed to focus the resources to the most popular tools of publicity, such as website and specific leaflets.

27/15 A member remarked that daily permit quota of coach entering Man Yee Road was very few and waiting time could be a few months. He cited that he and his hiking group members had an experience that they needed to apply for a permit three months in advance in order to secure the permit. He pointed out that too few quotas forced people to take taxi to the East Dam via Man Yee Road. However, excessive taxis on Man Yee Road not only endangered the safety of other country park users but also caused the traffic in chaos. He suggested that the AFCD might consider imposing restriction on the number of taxi and increasing the permit quota of coaches, especially on weekends and public holidays.

[Post-meeting note: As Man Yee Road is maintained by the WSD and is within Sai Kung East Country Park, any coach accessing to the East Dam via Man Yee Road requires the permission of both the WSD and the AFCD. Both departments accept application for permit from schools and organizations only. An application can be made to AFCD from 3 days to 3 months, and to WSD at least 3 days in advance. Normally the quota for coach permit for Man Yee Road is 3 coaches per day.

The AFCD conducted an analysis on the number of coach permit issued in 2014. Based on the findings of the analysis, the percentage of days when the daily quota of coach permit has not been reached were 73% during weekends and public holidays and 96% during weekdays. In other words, there were still many unused quotas for coach permit to enter Man Yee Road in 2014. As such, there is no strong justification to increase the quota at this moment. Under special circumstances, if there is higher demand for coach permits on a certain day, AFCD would liaise with the WSD to explore the feasibility of relaxing the daily permit quota on a case-by-case basis.]

28/15 A member gave credit to the AFCD for the preparation work of the revalidation.

29/15 As regards the member's enquiries, Dr K M YEUNG replied that to maintain their status, R2Gs were required to meet a minimum requirement of service hours of R2G tours, namely at least one tour per month. The AFCD had been keeping yearly statistics of service hours of R2Gs. To meet visitors' needs, the R2G system was regularly reviewed. From March 2015 onwards, The AFCD, in collaboration with the HKTB, would provide on-going training and relevant courses to R2Gs to help them qualify for a valid Tourist Guide Pass issued by the Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong so that they could provide high quality guide services to

overseas tourists. It was expected that a number of R2Gs were able to provide service to overseas visitors in the coming summer.

30/15      The Chairman summed up that members had given plenty of valuable opinions. He wished that AFCD would make a success of the revalidation. He thanked Dr K M YEUNG and Miss Cynthia CHAN for attending the meeting.

(Dr K M YEUNG and Miss Cynthia CHAN left the meeting at this juncture.)

#### **IV.          Summary Report of Country Parks Committee (CPC)** **(Working Paper: WP/CMPB/2/2015)**

31/15      Professor CHU Lee-man, Chairman of the Country Parks Committee, presented Working Paper WP/CMPB/2/2015 on issues discussed at the CPC meeting held on 23 December 2014.

32/15      Mr Joseph SHAM answered to the Chairman's enquiry that the proposed biking competition in the Tai Lam Country Park in January 2015 had not been held as CPC did not support the application. He supplemented that the AFCD was studying members' views on (i) better control on biking competitions in country parks and (ii) implementation of the proposed demerit points system. The AFCD might report at the next CPC meeting if concrete proposals would have been devised. Besides, the AFCD had not received complaint from the applicant afterwards.

#### **V.          Summary Report of Marine Parks Committee (MPC)** **(Working Paper: WP/CMPB/3/2015)**

33/15      Dr LI Shing-foon, Eric, Chairman of the Marine Parks Committee, presented Working Paper WP/CMPB/3/2015 on issues discussed at the MPC meeting held on 8 December 2014. Members noted the Report.

**VI. Summary Report of Public Relations Committee (PRC)**  
**(Working Paper: WP/CMPB/4/2015)**

34/15 Ms HUI Mei-sheung, Tennessy, JP, Chairman of the Public Relations Committee, presented Working Paper WP/CMPB/4/2015 on issues discussed at the PRC meeting held on 21 October 2014. Members noted the Report.

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

**VII. Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report**  
**(Working Paper WP/CMPB/5/2015)**

35/15 Mr Joseph SHAM presented Working Paper WP/CMPB/5/2015 on Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report for the period from 1 September to 31 December 2014.

36/15 A member shared his experience of encountering a bicycle accident when he had walked along the section of Tai Lam Forest Trail (大欖林道) from Tsing Fai Tong (清快塘) to Kat Hing Bridge (吉慶橋) the week before the meeting. In response to the member's enquiries about control of illegal entry of bicycles in country parks and no reception of telecommunication signals in the above-mentioned section of Tai Lam Forest Trail, Mr Patrick LAI replied that members of the public who rode bicycles on designated mountain bike trails/sites in country parks were no longer required to apply for a permit from the AFCD with effect from 1 November 2014. However, they would violate the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations by cycling outside designated mountain bike trails/sites. As a significant number of prosecution cases taken by the AFCD per year were related to illegal cycling activities in country parks, the AFCD has stepped up the publicity campaign to remind the general public that cycling was only permitted at designated mountain bike trails/sites in country parks. Other than publicity work, enforcement actions were also undertaken by the AFCD frontline staff against unauthorised cycling activities. AFCD would also develop and designate new mountain bike trails with a view to achieving the ultimate objective of separation of hikers and bikers. As regards poor reception of telecommunication signals in the section, AFCD noted that a mobile network coverage survey along hiking trails in country parks had been conducted by the Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) and the result of the survey was available in the website of OFCA for the reference of hikers. Mr Joseph SHAM supplemented that there was already an Announcement of Public Interest (API) on radio to remind (1) country park visitors that they could only ride bicycles at designated mountain bike

trails; (2) cyclists that they should attach paramount importance to safety especially in relation to other country park users; and (3) members of the public that they were liable to prosecution and penalty should they fail to abide by the law.

37/15      Mr Alan WONG Chi-kong, JP highlighted that prosecution would be taken against unauthorized cycling activities, apart from publicity and education on cycling activities in country parks.

38/15      The Chairman suggested that the publicity could also be conducted at bicycle kiosks and bicycle shops.

#### **VIII.      Any Other Business**

39/15      Members did not raise any other business for discussion.

#### **IX.      Date of Next Meeting**

40/15      The Chairman informed members that the next meeting was tentatively scheduled for 2 June 2015 (Tuesday) at 2:30 p.m.

41/15      The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

– End –