

Country and Marine Parks Board
Report on Annual Field Visit on Monday, 17 December 2018

PARTICIPANTS

Members

Ms Suzanne M. GENDRON

Dr HE Shen-jing

Mr LAM Chung-lun, Billy, GBS, JP

Mr LEE Yee-keung, Charles

Ms MA Miu-wah, Katherine

Dr MAN Chi-sum, JP

Mr MO Ka-hung, Joseph

Mr SO Kwok-yin, Ken

Ms WONG Pik-yan, Nicole

Dr SO Ping-man, JP

Deputy Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and
Conservation

Ms Daisy LO

Assistant Director (Nature Conservation),
Environmental Protection Department (EPD)

Mr Alan LO

Assistant Director of Lands (Specialist 2), Lands
Department

Participants from The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)

Mr Patrick LAI

Assistant Director (Country and Marine Parks)

Ms Louise LI

Senior Marine Parks Officer

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)
Ms Eva YAU	Senior Country Parks Officer (Ranger Services 2) (Ag.)
Ms Cynthia CHAN	Senior Country Parks Officer (Planning & Regulations) (Ag.)
Dr YEUNG Ka-ming	Senior Geopark Officer
Mr C F MAK	Country Parks Officer (North)
Dr Eric CHAN	Country Parks Officer (Sai Kung)
Dr Khaki CHAN	Marine Parks Officer (East 1)

Participant from EPD

Mr Stephen TANG	Advisor of Countryside Conservation Office
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Secretary

Ms Phyllis CHAN	Assistant Secretary (Boards) 1, AFCD
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For Visit Item 3 only

Representatives of The Hong Kong Countryside Foundation

Dr NG Cho-nam, SBS, JP	Director
Mr David AU	Project Director
Ms Teresa LEUNG	Manager

VISIT DETAILS

1. Ap Chau

1.1 In the morning session of the Annual Field Visit, members visited the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark (HKUGGp) Ap Chau Story Room and Geo-site. Members were given a guided tour of the Ap Chau Story Room by Ms Candy HO, a local villager, and learnt about the history of Ap Chau, the traditional Tanka culture and heritage, and the traditional way of life on the island. Members also took the opportunity to chat with Mr Chan Kai-shing and Mr Liu Yi, the village heads, and other villagers to learn more about their current lives and the recovery of Ap Chau after Typhoon Mangkhut. Members then visited the famous 'Duck's Eye' inside the Ap Chau geo-site. AFCD briefed members on the formation and characteristics of red breccia on Ap Chau and the synergy in the management of country parks and special areas, marine parks and HKUGGp.

2. Kat O

2.1 Members travelled from Ap Chau to Kat O by boat and were greeted by Mr Ho Ma-san and Mr Lau Chi-on, the Kat O village heads and other villagers upon arrival. AFCD briefed members on the history of Kat O and their plan to establish a Kat O Heritage Centre in 2019 in collaboration with the local villagers. The Kat O village heads expressed appreciation for AFCD's efforts in researching the history and stories of Kat O. They believed that these valuable information would help visitors learn more about Kat O and enable the local villagers to rediscover the village in which they were born and raised. Miss Ho Yuk-ying, a Kat O villager who was also a hiking group member shared her experience of appealing for volunteers to help clean up Kat O after Typhoon Mangkhut.

2.2 After lunch, members were given a brief introduction of the Kat O Geoheritage Centre which was established jointly by the Kat O villagers, a non-governmental organisation and the Government. Besides, members were briefed on the Signature Project Scheme (North District) under the Home Affairs Department (HAD). They learnt that the Scheme aimed to improve the trails, provide countryside recreational facilities and villages' information in Sha Tau Kok. It included improvement of hiking trails from Wu Kau Tang to Lai Chi Wo and construction of a new hiking trail and viewing platform at Kat O overlooking the Yan Chau Tong Marine Park (YCTMP). Concerning the construction of a new hiking trail at Kat O, members suggested that AFCD should work with the Office of the Communications Authority to improve the mobile network coverage on this island, so that hikers would be able to make emergency calls.

2.3 On the trip from Kat O to Lai Chi Wo, AFCD gave members a brief introduction of the five marine parks and one marine reserve in Hong Kong. Members were also informed of the three proposed marine parks that would be designated in the coming few years. AFCD then introduced the objectives to protect the marine environment and

conserve the marine life for the purposes of conservation, education and recreation through the enactment of Marine Parks Ordinance and its Regulations (Cap. 476 and 476A). Members were briefed on the activities that were controlled in the marine parks and marine reserve and the related management and enforcement matters. A brief introduction of YCTMP, including the corals, sea grass, mangroves, fishes and special geological features, was then provided to members. Members were also informed of the types of assistance that marine park wardens provide to the visitors such as distributing leaflets and providing advice to the visitors.

3. Lai Chi Wo

3.1 During this part of the visit, AFCD briefed members on their management work at Lai Chi Wo which is a Special Area surrounded by the Plover Cove Country Park. Besides, members were given more details about the enhancement projects in Lai Chi Wo under HAD's Signature Project Scheme (North District), including the transformation of the Siu Ying School into an AFCD visitor centre, and were briefed on the improvement of visitor facilities to be carried out by AFCD and the Tourism Commission together. On the way to Lai Chi Wo Village, members had a short walk on the Lai Chi Wo Nature Trail and visited the famous "Hollow Tree" which was one of the Old and Valuable Trees there.

3.2 The Advisor of Countryside Conservation Office gave members an overview of the conservation and village revitalisation projects at Lai Chi Wo Village and farmland area. He also informed members that the Government had earmarked a sum of \$1 billion for the Countryside Conservation Office and other institutions to carry out conservation projects and minor improvement works that promote sustainable development of remote countryside.

3.3 The representatives of The Hong Kong Countryside Foundation gave members a tour around the Lai Chi Wo Village and farmland area and briefed them about the Management Agreement Scheme at Lai Chi Wo Enclave 2017-2019 funded by the Environment and Conservation Fund. The Scheme aims to rehabilitate Lai Chi Wo enclave and enhance its conservation and ecological values through collaborations with the local rural community. The representatives mentioned their efforts to rehabilitate the farmland area and the challenges they were facing, such as wild pig intrusion, drainage problem and difficulty to recruit full-time farmers. Moreover, they introduced the history and the traditional layout of the Lai Chi Wo Village and shared with members their experience of engaging the local villagers in restoring the old village houses under the Chief Executive Community Projects funded by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust.

3.4 Overall speaking, the visit provided members with a good opportunity to better understand AFCD's management work and plans in geopark, marine parks, country parks and special areas. It also let members know more about the projects carrying out by other government departments and organisations in these places. Members were generally delighted to see the close collaborations among government departments and the increasing involvement of local villagers in the various projects.

Country and Marine Parks Authority

April 2019