

## **COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD**

### **Summary Report of the Marine Parks Committee**

#### **1. Purpose**

1.1 This paper aims to inform Members of the major issues discussed at the Marine Parks Committee meeting held on 17 July 2025.

#### **2. Review of Coral Bleaching Event in 2024 and Response Plan**

2.1 In July 2024, Hong Kong experienced a large-scale coral bleaching event. Joint monitoring, investigation and analysis by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), the Chinese University of Hong Kong and Hong Kong Baptist University deduced that the event was associated with prolonged elevated sea temperatures. The impacts of local coral bleaching and coral recovery trends were reviewed and the strategic responses of the AFCD for similar events in future were outlined at the meeting. In anticipation of future bleaching events, the AFCD was developing a Coral Bleaching Response Action Plan, which covered the protocol on early detection, survey and communication, as well as post-bleaching monitoring and review, with the aim to strengthen the Government's preparedness, enhance early detection and rapid response, and facilitate public engagement.

2.2 Regarding Members' suggestion on utilising technology for surveys and monitoring, the AFCD continued to explore the application of technologies for coral restoration, and would explore the use of artificial intelligence to speed up coral bleaching data analysis and enable real-time monitoring in future. To address the human factors causing damage to coral, the AFCD would enhance publicity to reduce human disturbance to coral communities and promote the selection of sunscreen products that are marine environment friendly. As regards measures to combat coral bleaching, the AFCD was actively taking forward related studies on coral restoration in deeper waters and the benefits of probiotics in enhancing coral health. The research team of the Chinese University of Hong Kong said that they had set up coral nurseries in deeper waters to continuously culture

individual corals exhibiting stress tolerance for transplant and would explore feasible preservation plan for coral species.

### **3. Presentation**

3.1 This paper is prepared for Members' information.

Country and Marine Parks Authority  
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department  
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