

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD**Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report
(1.8.2024 – 31.12.2024)****Purpose**

This paper aims to provide members a general overview on management and protection work conducted by the Country and Marine Parks Authority during the period between 1.8.2024 and 31.12.2024. It provides various figures and information for facilitating members to understand and offer advice to the Authority regarding the management of country and marine parks.

A. Country Parks & Special Areas**1. Country Parks Management****1.1 Management Services**

Routine maintenance of all recreational facilities within county parks and special areas was carried out regularly for public enjoyment. Major country parks facilities provided and amount of refuse collected are shown below for reference.

Major facilities provided for public enjoyment

Item	Total no. as at 31.12.2024	Item	Total no. as at 31.12.2024
Barbecue Site	155	Shelter	290
Picnic Site	154	Refreshment Kiosk & Cafeteria	8
Camp Site	41	Public Toilet	89
Morning Walker Garden	19	Portable Toilet	125

Amount of refuse collected (metric tonnes)

Aug 2024	Sep 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Total
125 (145)	143 (166)	198 (232)	215 (278)	285 (305)	966 (1126)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

1.2 Fire Protection

The 2024-2025 fire season commenced on 14.9.2024. Detailed figures during the reporting period are summarised below:

Month	No. of fires inside or threatening country parks		Area affected (Ha)		No. of trees affected	
Aug 2024	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Sep 2024	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Oct 2024	1	(4)	0.2	(3.6)	3	(15)
Nov 2024	2	(0)	3.9	(0)	20	(0)
Dec 2024	6	(6)	85.8	(30.6)	3560	(700)
Total	9	(10)	90.0	(34.2)	3583	(715)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

1.3 Permitted Events

During the reporting period, 161 permits were given under Reg. 11 of the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations to hold events in country parks. The monthly breakdown of permitted events during the reporting period is provided below:

Month	Sporting competition	Location filming	Other events
Aug 2024	30	16	1
Sep 2024	15	13	5
Oct 2024	13	7	8
Nov 2024	16	9	1
Dec 2024	12	9	6
Total	86	54	21

1.4 Control of Development

A total of 164 development proposals were handled during the reporting period. This includes 60 new proposals and 104 proposals carried forward from the last reporting period. Most of the proposals were related to minor slope works. The breakdown of all proposals is provided below:

District	No. of Cases	Electric Supply	Telephone Supply	Water Supply	Road/Path Improvement	Slope Works	Others *	No Objection	Being Processed	Withdrawn /Cancelled
Central	25	1	0	0	1	20	3	7	18	0
Hong Kong	14	1	0	0	1	12	0	7	7	0
Lantau	35	2	1	0	0	32	0	5	30	0
North	11	0	3	0	2	2	4	4	7	0
Sai Kung	37	5	3	3	5	10	11	8	28	1
West	42	1	1	1	1	36	2	9	33	0
Total	164	10	8	4	10	112	20	40	123	1

Remarks: * Other proposals mainly include installation of mobile radio station/solar system, environmental monitoring, site reconstruction, small house development, erection of agricultural and fisheries structure and provision/improvement of public utilities and facilities.

2. Visitor Services / Education

2.1 Visitor Statistics

In the reporting period, a total of 4,920,000 persons visited the country parks and special areas. The monthly breakdown is provided below:

Aug 2024	Sep 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Total
779,000 (881,000)	816,000 (812,000)	1,011,000 (1,043,000)	1,078,000 (1,181,000)	1,236,000 (1,221,000)	4,920,000 (5,138,000)

Remarks: () denotes figures of same month last year.

2.2 Visitor Centres

The monthly visitor statistics of the Country Park Visitor / Education Centres are summarised below:

Country Park Visitor Centre / Education Centre	No. of Visitors				
	Aug 2024	Sep 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024
Lions Nature Education Centre	22,888	21,376	22,144	22,936	28,240
Clear Water Bay Country Park Visitor Centre	466	470	716	726	799
Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre	3,245	3,121	3,546	3,246	3,460
Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre *	0	0	0	0	0
Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre	369	381	1,046	882	943
Ngong Ping Nature Centre	2,888	1,727	1,843	1,480	2,171
Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre	835	1,005	3,037	2,377	3,193
Aberdeen Tree Centre	107	156	365	232	453
Volcano Discovery Centre	10,613	5,592	7,179	7,155	6,643
Total	41,411	33,828	39,876	39,034	45,902

Remarks: *The centre was temporarily closed for renovation.

2.3 Country Park Volunteer Scheme

The Country Park Volunteer Scheme commenced in March 2010. Detailed figures of the Country Park Volunteer Scheme in the reporting period are summarised below:

Country Park Volunteer Scheme	Aug 2024	Sep 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024
No. of volunteers/trainees	543	542	542	542	542
Total volunteer service hours	609	823	1899	1925.5	3652.5

2.4 School Visit Programme

School visit programme was launched again in 2024-25 school year to convey nature conservation message to students. The number of participants in the reporting period is summarised below:

School Visit Programme	No. of Participants
Kindergartens	3,856
Primary Schools	3,593
Secondary Schools	1,270

2.5 Other Education Activities

Details of the education activities organised in the reporting period are summarised below:

Name of the Activity	Date	No. of Participants
“Take Your Litter Home” Photo Exhibition	Aug – Dec 2024	12,941
Country Parks Fixed Point Interpretation	Aug – Dec 2024	21,239
National Ecology Day Bioblitz Experiential Tour	16 th , 24 th & 25 th Aug 2024	119
Mountaineering Safety Promotion Day	20 th Oct 2024	870
Robin's Nest Country Park (RNCP) Opening Ceremony cum Discovering RNCP Hiking Challenge kick-off ceremony	2 nd Nov 2024	200
Red Leaves Festival	14 th -15 th , 21 st -22 nd , 25 th -26 th & 28 th -29 th Dec 2024	10,801
Discovering Robin's Nest Country Park Hiking Challenge (Nov -Dec 2024)	Nov –Dec 2024	7,087

2.6 Assistance

Assistance was offered to the public on:

Nature	Aug 2024	Sep 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024
First aid	1	6	11	6	7
Handicapped persons	6	2	7	9	6
Return of lost properties	1	7	5	6	7

2.7 Free Distribution of Publicity Materials

Nature	Aug 2024	Sep 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024
Pamphlets	1,976	2,211	2,417	2,328	2,171
Posters	17	31	47	25	19
Booklets	203	247	241	238	248

3. Law Enforcement

A total of 278 enforcement actions were taken in connection with the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208) and other relevant legislation. The details are as follows:

Nature of offence	No. of cases
Illegal entry of bicycle	81
Illegal entry of vehicle	80
Illegal possession of hunting appliance	5
Illegal possession of cooking stove	1
Illegal use of fire	5
Damaging / cutting of plant	12
Illegal digging of soil	3
Illegal trading	3
Illegal camping	81
Littering	1*+2
Obstructing authorised officer in discharge of duty	2

Nature of offence	No. of cases
Fouling of street by dog faeces	1
Illegal feeding of wild animals	35#
Total	278

Remarks: * Fixed Penalty Notice @\$3,000
Fixed Penalty Notice @\$5,000

B. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve

1. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve Management

1.1 Facilities

As at 31.12.2024, the following facilities had been installed in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve:

Facilities	Total no.	Facilities	Total no.
Warning Sign	149	Boundary Marker Post	64
Information Sign Board	58	Marine Buoy	239

1.2 Litter

In the reporting period, the amount of litter collected in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve was as follows:

Marine Park/ Marine Reserve	Amount of litter collected (tonnes)					
	Aug 2024	Sep 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	0.51 (0.54)	0.47 (0.57)	0.40 (0.60)	0.52 (0.57)	0.49 (0.67)	2.39 (2.95)
Yan Chau Tong	0.75 (0.70)	0.93 (1.27)	0.83 (1.10)	0.98 (0.83)	1.30 (0.84)	4.79 (4.74)
Tung Ping Chau	1.16 (1.54)	1.13 (1.36)	1.97 (1.89)	1.18 (1.55)	1.54 (1.62)	6.98 (7.96)
Cape D'Aguilar	1.15 (0.60)	0.51 (0.61)	0.65 (0.27)	0.39 (0.29)	0.20 (0.13)	2.90 (1.90)
Southwest Lantau	5.89 (0.55)	1.72 (1.01)	1.14 (0.50)	1.56 (0.36)	0.16 (0.22)	10.47 (2.64)
South Lantau	0.62 (1.07)	0.39 (0.73)	0.41 (0.55)	0.58 (0.60)	0.75 (0.58)	2.74 (3.53)
Marine parks matrix in north Lantau*	2.74 (3.07)	2.58 (3.07)	3.14 (3.02)	2.84 (2.82)	2.96 (2.73)	14.26 (14.71)
Total	12.81 (8.07)	7.73 (8.62)	8.54 (7.93)	8.05 (7.02)	7.40 (6.79)	44.53 (38.43)

Remarks:

() denotes figures of same month last year.

* covering Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park, The Brothers Marine Park and North Lantau Marine Park (designated on 1 Nov 2024) which are linking together forming a connected marine protected area of about 4570 ha.

2. Visitor Services / Education

2.1 Visitor Statistics

In the reporting period, the monthly visitor statistics are summarised below:

Marine Park/ Marine Reserve	Aug 2024	Sep 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	3,732 (3,821)	2,319 (1,729)	3,239 (2,879)	1,371 (2,860)	909 (1,358)	11,570 (12,647)
Yan Chau Tong	254 (406)	453 (896)	365 (758)	482 (629)	711 (748)	2,265 (3,437)
Tung Ping Chau	958 (330)	872 (961)	562 (761)	394 (403)	576 (734)	3,362 (3,189)
Cape D'Aguilar Marine Reserve and nearby areas	838 (1,194)	1,103 (764)	3,615 (2,971)	3,825 (4,123)	4,681 (3,633)	14,062 (12,685)
Southwest Lantau	154 (49)	126 (104)	177 (232)	145 (301)	203 (223)	805 (909)
South Lantau	50 (87)	32 (45)	73 (84)	52 (28)	35 (65)	242 (309)
Marine parks matrix in north Lantau*	135 (103)	615 (110)	211 (178)	1005 (403)	625 (504)	2591 (1298)
Total	6,121 (5,990)	5,520 (4,609)	8,242 (7,863)	7,274 (8,747)	7,740 (7,265)	34,897 (34,474)

Remarks:

() denotes figures of same month last year.

* covering Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park, The Brothers Marine Park and North Lantau Marine Park (designated on 1 Nov 2024) which are linked together forming a connected marine protected area of about 4570 ha.

2.2 Visitor Centre

The monthly visitor statistics of the Hoi Ha Visitor Centre are summarised below:

	No. of Visitors				
	Aug 2024	Sep 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024
Hoi Ha Visitor Centre	301	267	603	623	648
Public eco-tour	24	0	37	27	22

2.3 Marine Parks Ambassador Scheme

The Marine Parks Ambassador Scheme commenced in August 2005. Up to 31.12.2024, there are a total of 646 Marine Parks Ambassadors. During the reporting period, coastal cleaning activity and seminar voluntary service were conducted, and a total number of 16 ambassadors participated.

2.4 Education Programmes and Publicity

Details of seminars and eco-tours in the reporting period are summarised below:

Activity	Total No. of Participants
School Educational Seminar	791
Guided eco-tour for school / communities	105
School field study	0

2.5 Enquiries

In the reporting period, enquiries were received and resolved. Details are listed below:

Nature	Aug 2024	Sep 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Total
General information	31	17	18	17	18	101
Visitor Centre and Education	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	32	17	18	17	18	102

2.6 Free Distribution of Publicity Materials

Items	Aug 2024	Sep 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024
Leaflets	224	110	1200	610	40
Others	30	256	510	225	20

3. Enforcement

The department established the taskforce on sea enforcement work related to the Marine Parks Ordinance (Cap. 476) and Fisheries Protection Ordinance (Cap. 171) to enhance synergistic effect. During the reporting period, there were 5 successful prosecutions on illegal fishing activities related to Cap. 171 and 6 advisory letters were issued while 3 suspected cases were under investigation. In addition, 9 cases of illegal fishing activities related to Cap. 476 were successfully prosecuted and 2 advisory letters were issued while 6 suspected cases were under investigation, and a total of 159 advices and 14 verbal warnings were given.

C. Advice Sought

Members are invited to comment on the management and protection work conducted by the Country and Marine Parks Authority in country and marine parks.

**Country and Marine Parks Authority
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
February 2025**