

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD

Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report (1.1.2012 – 30.4.2012)

A. Country Parks & Special Areas

I. CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

	Progress	Anticipated Completion Date
(1) Sewage Storage Tank for Wan Tsai Campsite Toilet, Sai Kung West (Wan Tsai Extension) Country Park	Works completed on 7 March 2012.	-
(2) Improvement of trail from Pak Mong to Sheung Tung Au - Phase I	Works completed on 8 February 2012.	-
(3) Reconstruction of Rain Shelters in Country Parks (2012 – 2013 Rain Shelters Maintenance Programme)	Works commenced in April 2012.	October 2012.

II. RECREATION FACILITIES AND SERVICES

(1) Management Services

Refuse collected (tonnes)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Total
2011	306	295	269	346	1,216
2012	360	277	304	351	1,292

Path maintained/upgraded	108	Km
No. of trees planted	158,650	No.
No. of trees produced in the nursery	320,500	No.
No. of trees tended	102,400	No.

(2) Provision of Facilities

Item	Total at 30.4.2012	Item	Total at 30.4.2012
Barbecue Site	179	Fitness Equipment	104
Picnic Site	168	Refreshment Kiosk	8
Camp Site	40	Flushing Toilet	47
Morning Walker Garden	25	No. of Portable Toilet	111
Information Board	349	Warden Post	16
Shelters	270	Visitor Centre/ Education Centre	8
Play Equipment	43		

(3) Fire Protection

The 2011-2012 fire season commenced on 10.9.2011:

Month	No. of fires inside or threatening country park		Area affected (Ha)		No. of trees affected	
		()		()		()
Jan., 12	1	(5)	2.5	(24.5)	0	(610)
Feb., 12	0	(11)	0	(219.7)	0	(1,135)
Mar., 12	2	(9)	3.7	(46.7)	200	(8,560)
Apr., 12	2	(6)	1.25	(45.5)	0	(2,480)
Total	5	(31)	7.45	(336.4)	200	(12,785)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

III. VISITOR STATISTICS

During the report period there was an overall decrease of 4.51% of visitor number compared with the corresponding period of last year. The monthly breakdown is as below:

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Total
2011	1,146,000	1,111,000	1,078,000	1,230,000	4,565,000
2012	1,211,000	1,002,000	1,050,000	1,096,000	4,359,000
% change	+5.67%	-9.81%	-2.60%	-10.89%	-4.51%

IV. LAW ENFORCEMENT

A total of 247 prosecution cases had been handled in connection with the Country Parks Ordinance, Forests and Countryside Ordinance and Wild Animals Protection Ordinance. The number of prosecutions is summarized below

Nature of offence	No. of cases *
Littering	114 [#]
Camping in non-designated site	7
Illegal entry of bicycle	53
Illegal entry of vehicle	52
Damaging and cutting plant	2
Spitting	3 [#]
Illegal use of fire	4
Illegal digging of soil	3
Illegal operating power driven model vehicle	2
Illegal constructing of building or shelter	2
Illegal feeding of monkey	2
Illegal hawking	1
Illegal possessing of cooking stove	2
Total	247

Remarks: *No. of cases denotes the number of persons being prosecuted during the reporting period. Total fines for the period is \$227,640, which also includes the fines partly collected from cases carried forward from previous reporting periods and partly from current period. There is 1 unsuccessful prosecution case in the reporting period.

[#] Fixed Penalty Notice @\$1,500.

V. ORGANIZED EVENTS

In the report period, 212 permits were given under Reg. 11 of the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulation to organized events (mainly sporting activities) in country parks.

Jan., 12	Feb., 12	Mar., 12	Apr., 12	Total
56	54	62	40	212

VI. CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT

A total of 54 development proposals were received. There was no objection to 15 of them, the other 39 were being processed. Most of these were related to minor works concerning electric supply and slope works.

VII. EDUCATION/VISITOR SERVICES

(1) No. of Visits to Visitor Centres

A total of 153,711 persons visited the Country Park Visitor Centres at Sai Kung, Aberdeen, Shing Mun, Clear Water Bay, Tai Mo Shan and Plover Cove; 95,174 persons visited Lions Nature Education Centre and 11,664 persons visited Ngong Ping Nature Centre.

(2) Video Shows of Country Parks

A total of 7,175 video shows on country parks and nature conservation were given, reaching an audience of 22,854. Besides, the "Songs of Nature" were played at various Visitor Centres to promote the voted Best Scenic Sites of Hong Kong.

(3) Guided Tour

A total of 1,621 participants from 34 organizations joined the guided tour at Lions Nature Education Centre; 292 participants from 29 groups joined the guided walk at Ngong Ping Nature Centre.

(4) Fixed Point Guided Tour

From January to April 2012, a total of 31,000 participants from 658 organizations joined the Fixed Point Guided Tour at Lions Nature Education Centre; a total of 350 participants from 49 organizations joined Tung Ping Chau Fixed Point Guided Tour; a total of 265 participants from 46 organizations joined Tai Po Kau Forest Walks Fixed Point Guided Tour.

(5) Country Park Volunteer Scheme

The Country Park Volunteer Scheme has been commenced since March 2010. For the period from 1 January to 30 April 2012, a total of 142 volunteers completed the basic training. At present, there are 954 volunteers. After the volunteers completed the training, they will assist the organization of various nature conservation and education activities of the country parks. From 1 January to 30 April 2012, total number of volunteer served hours are 10,672 hours.

(6) “Nature in Touch” 2011 Country Parks Education Programme

The education programme has been commenced since October 2011 and was ended in February 2012. A closing and prize presentation ceremony was held on 25 February 2012, in which 291 prizewinners and guests were invited. From November 2011 to February 2012, there were 10,380 people participated in the roving exhibition. A total of 158,904 people participated in “Nature in Touch” 2011 Country Parks Education Programme.

(7) School Visit Programme

A school visit programme was launched since November 2011 to convey nature conservation message to students. From January to April 2012, a total of 10,248 students from 38 primary schools and 4,346 students from 49 kindergartens joined the programmes respectively.

(8) Tree Walks Guided Tour

From January to April 2012, a total of 377 participants from about 26 organizations joined the Tree Walks Guided Tours at Quarry Bay Tree Walks, Ngong Ping Tree Walks and Tai Tong Tree Walks.

(9) “Nature Appreciation – Practice” Country Park Education Activities

From January to April 2012, a total of 15 “Nature Appreciation – Practice” activities were carried out. A total of 414 kindergarten and primary students joined the activities.

(10) Guided Field Study for Secondary Schools

A new education programme – “Nature in Touch” Country Parks Guided Field Study for Secondary Schools has been launched since January 2012. From January to April 2012, a total of 1,636 secondary students from 85 schools participated in the Guided Field Study at Lions Nature Education Centre, Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve and Shing Mun Country Park. The contractor guides the students to understand the concept and importance of the biodiversity, nature conservation and sustainable development in Hong Kong with the use of worksheets provided in “Hong Kong Country Parks Education Kit for Secondary Schools”.

(11) Hiking and Planting Day 2012

In order to promote public awareness on nature conservation and tree preservation, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department and the Friends of the Country Parks will jointly hold the Country Parks “Nature in Touch” Hiking and Planting Day in April and May 2012. Hiking and Planting Day cum Kick-off Ceremony was held on 15 April 2012 in Fu Tei, Tai Lam Country Park. A total of 1,108 participants planted 2,200 trees on that day.

(12) Enquiries

Enquiries concerning Country Parks were received and handled. Details are listed below:

Nature	Jan., 12	Feb., 12	Mar., 12	Apr., 12	Total
Information on public transport	4,709	3,348	3,155	3,045	14,257
Information on hiking routes	3,162	2,521	2,615	2,642	10,940
Location of recreation facilities	1,703	1,506	1,465	1,485	6,159
Location of utility facilities	1,480	1,205	1,269	1,495	5,449
Location of scenic places and similar information	1,689	1,596	2,693	2,453	8,431
Organized activities	1,349	846	1,321	710	4,226
Others *	3,430	2,619	1,205	1,566	8,820
Total	17,522	13,641	13,723	13,396	58,282

* Mainly related to Pak Tam Chung barrier permit, coach permit, country parks publications, fishing licence, wild animals, marine parks, cycling permits, ordinances and regulations, dog vaccination.

(13) Advice

Advice was given to 182,694 visitors in the Country Parks as follows:

Nature	Jan., 12	Feb., 12	Mar., 12	Apr., 12	Total
Littering	37,557	35,426	42,347	67,210	182,540
Others	41	39	33	41	154
Total	37,598	35,465	42,380	67,251	182,694

(14) Assistance

Assistance was offered to the public on:

Nature	Jan., 12	Feb., 12	Mar., 12	Apr., 12	Total
First aid	8	4	7	9	28
Handicapped persons	250	237	225	253	965
Search and rescue	5	3	4	4	16
Return of lost properties	5	6	3	4	18
Others	1	1	1	0	3
Total	269	251	240	270	1,030

(15) Free Distribution of Publicity Materials

Nature	Jan., 12	Feb., 12	Mar., 12	Apr., 12	Total
Pamphlets	7,706	6,177	5,829	7,042	26,754
Posters	111	121	151	157	540
Bookmarks	100	84	82	92	358
Transportation/Scenic Cards	49	44	47	53	193
Booklets	1,413	1,264	1,154	1,531	5,362
Others	75	69	210	1,062	1,416
Total	9,454	7,759	7,473	9,937	34,623

B. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve

1. FACILITIES

As at 30.4.2012, the following facilities had been installed in marine parks and marine reserve:

Facilities	Constructed/replaced between 1.1.2012 – 30.4.2012	Total nos. at 30.4.2012
Signs (various warnings)	8 (replaced)	128
Park signs	-	21
Signs (various purposes)	1 (replaced)	51
Boundary marker buoy	4 (replaced)	14
Marker buoy	-	38
Buoy for Mechanized Vessel Restricted Zone	-	205
Buoy for Inboard Vessel Prohibited Zone	-	4
Mooring buoy for divers	-	32
Boundary posts	-	17
Sign posts	-	21
Information board	-	6
Litter bins	-	21
Banners	-	2
Way marks	-	10

2. LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ADVICE

During the report period, a total of 492 advices, 133 verbal warnings and 2 warning letters were given to fishermen and visitors and 6 prosecutions were taken against offenders in marine parks and marine reserve.

Nature of offence	Nos. of prosecution
Pleasure fishing	3
Collection of Marine Organisms	3
Total	6

3. LITTER COLLECTION

During the report period, the amount of litter collected in marine parks and marine reserve is as follows:

Marine Park / Marine Reserve	Nos. of tonnage (1.1.2012 – 30.4.2012)	
	Hoi Ha Wan	19.44
Yan Chau Tong	19.12	(19.25)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	25.26	(24.78)
Tung Ping Chau	47.91	(47.56)
Cape D'Aguilar	1.87	(6.95)
Total	113.60	(113.26)

() denotes figures of same period last year

4. FISHING PERMITS

Number of fishing permits renewed during the report period:

Marine Park	Nos. of renewal	Total nos. of valid permits (as at 30.4.2012)
Hoi Ha Wan (HHW)	6	9
Yan Chau Tong (YCT)	11	20
HHW & YCT	9	64
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	24	99
Tung Ping Chau (TPC)	4	46
TPC & HHW	2	5
TPC & YCT	0	4
TPC & HHW & YCT	8	177
Total	64	424

Starting from 1 May 2005, the validity period of renewed fishing permit is 2 years.

5. MONITORING

5.1 Water Quality Monitoring

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology was commissioned to carry out water quality monitoring in marine parks and marine reserve in 2011-12. The results are generally good and in compliance with the Water Quality Objectives. A summary result of water quality statistics of 2007 – March 2012 has been uploaded onto the AFCD's homepage (http://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/country/cou_vis/cou_vis_mar/cou_vis_mar_mon/cou_vis_mar_mon_wat.html).

5.2 Fishing Survey

5.2.1 Fishing survey at Cape D' Aguilar Marine Reserve continued. The objective is to investigate the long-term enhancement effect of the marine reserve on fisheries resources. The recent result showed that the Catch-per-unit-effort and the diversity of fish remain stable inside the marine reserve and is higher than surrounding waters.

5.2.2 Quarterly fishing surveys at Hoi Ha Wan, Yan Chau Tong and Tung Ping Chau Marine Parks have been carried out to monitor the fisheries stocks in the three marine parks. The Catch-per-unit-effort and the diversity of fish inside the marine park are general better than outside the marine parks area.

5.3 Dolphin Sightings

Off-effort dolphin sighting were conducted during the course of patrol of Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park. It was evident that Chinese White Dolphins utilize the marine parks and the waters around as usual.

6. EDUCATION AND VISITOR SERVICES

6.1 During the report period, there was a decrease in visitors' number in Hoi Ha Wan and Yan Chau Tong Marine Parks, while an increase was recorded for Tung Ping Chau Marine Park. The change in visitor number may be attributed to the shift in interest to geological scenic spots due to the announcement of Hong Kong Global Geopark of China. The number of visitors in marine parks during the report period are as follows:

Marine Park	Nos. of Visitors (1.1.2012– 30.4.2012)	
	Hoi Ha Wan	19,600
Yan Chau Tong	10,200	(19,800)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	2,800	(3,200)
Tung Ping Chau	31,000	(22,000)
Total	63,600	(76,500)

() denotes figures of same period last year

6.2 During the period from 1.1.2012 – 30.4.2012, a total of 285 enquiries was received and answered. Details are listed below:

Nature	Nos.
Park facilities	54
Education activities	150
Renewal for fishing permit	74
Ordinance and Regulation	4
Refuse and Hygiene Condition	3
Total	285

6.3 During the report period, a total of 4,673 educational and publicity materials were distributed to the public. Details are listed below:

Items	Nos.
Leaflets	1,503
Bookmarks	1,986
DVD	50
Field Guide	115
Booklet	18
Information Card	180
Posters	185
Others	636
Total	4,673

6.4 During the report period, a total of 109 educational activities involving 3,603 participants were organized. Details are listed below:

Items	Nos.	Nos. of participant
Marine Based Guided Tours – Exploration of fishermen culture and marine resources in Hong Kong	54	1,618
Marine Based Guided Tours – Exploration of fishermen culture and marine resources in Hong Kong – Teacher Workshop	1	15
Marine Based Guided Tours – Exploration of fishermen culture and marine resources in Hong Kong – Business Trip	8	234
Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park Ecotour	15	121
School Guided Tour	11	291
School Seminar	12	1,172
Field Studies	1	30
Public Seminar	1	40
Coastal Cleanup	1	19
Mobile Exhibition	1	9
Marine Parks Ambassador Scheme Basic Training	1	38
Others	3	16
Total	109	3,603

6.5 During the report period, Marine Parks Ambassador Scheme (The Scheme) participated in the following volunteer services: Ocean Park Conservation Weekend, Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park Coastal Clean-up, and the Marine Parks Mobile Exhibition. A total of 49 ambassadors joined the above activities. The Scheme also organized a Marine Parks Ambassador Basic Training, 38 participants joined, 32 of them have passed the quiz and become a Marine Parks Ambassador.

6.6 The “Ocean Park Conservation Weekend” was held on 14-15 January 2012 at the Hong Kong Ocean Park. The theme this year was Conservation of Chinese White Dolphins. To publicize this message and the Hong Kong Marine Parks to the tourists, a game booth was set up by the Marine Parks Division, with assistance of ten Marine Parks Ambassadors. Through the mini-game and souvenirs, the ambassadors passed the knowledge and message of marine conservation to the visitors.

6.7 Marine Parks Division has launched “Marine Based Guided Tours – Exploration of fishermen culture and marine resources in Hong Kong” for all secondary schools starting from October 2010. During the report period, 54 tours were held with 1,618 participants. Moreover, the division also hold a “Marine Based Guided Tours – Exploration of fishermen culture and marine resources in Hong Kong – Teacher Workshop”, with 15 teachers participated. To advance the sustainability of the Marine Based Guided Tours for long-term livelihood of the fishermen, the Division has coordinated the development of commercial tours for open public since October 2011. During the report period, eight commercial tours were held with 234 participants.

6.8 Up to 30 April 2012, a total of 81 Marine Parks Ambassadors had completed 20 hours services; 32 Ambassador had completed 40 hours services; 20 Ambassadors had completed 70 hours services; 13 Ambassadors had completed 100 hours services, 6 Ambassadors had completed 150 hours services and 1 Ambassador completed 200 hours service. They were awarded with the “Jellyfish Service Badge” , “Nautilus Service Badge” , “Fiddler Crab Service Badge” , “Starfish Service Badge” , “Humphead Wrasse Service Badge” and “Chinese White Dolphin Service Badge” respectively. Until the end of April 2012, the accumulated service hours of marine parks ambassadors are 5,890 hours.

C. Performance Pledges

Performance Results - January to March 2012

Item	Service/Application	Target turn around time	No. of Applications	No. of Applications Meeting Targets	% of Applications Meeting Targets
	<u>Conservation</u>				
1	Plant Collection Permit	3 working days	3	3	100%
2	Mai Po Marshes Entry Permit	3 working days	481	481	100%
		Sub-total	484	484	100%
	<u>Country and Marine Parks</u>				
3	Pak Tam Chung Barrier Permit	2 working days	322	322	100%
4	Location Filming Permit	3 working days	78	78	100%
5	Organized Event Permit in Country Parks	3 working days	46	46	100%
6	Permit to hold Sports Competition in Marine Parks	4 working days	0	0	N/A
7	Permit to hold Public Event in Marine Parks	4 working days	0	0	N/A
		Sub-total	446	446	100%
		Total	930	930	100%

Country and Marine Parks Authority
 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
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