

Country and Marine Parks Board
Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report (1.1.2016 – 30.6.2016)

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 1.1.2016 – 30.6.2016. 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 30.6.2016	Item	Total no. as at 30.6.2016
Barbecue Site	172	Shelter	292
Picnic Site	162	Refreshment Kiosk	8
Camp Site	41	Public Toilet	103
Morning Walker Garden	19	Portable Toilet	118

Amount of refuse collected (tonnes)

Jan., 2016	Feb., 2016	Mar., 2016	Apr., 2016	May 2016	Jun., 2016	Total
301	293	293	247	298	224	1,656

1.2 Fire Protection

The 2015-2016 fire season ended on 1.5.2016. Detailed figures are summarised below:-

Month	No. of fires inside or threatening country park		Area affected (Ha)		No. of trees affected	
		()		()		()
Jan., 2016	2	(4)	16	(18)	0	(1,225)
Feb., 2016	2	(0)	109	(0)	10,530	(0)
Mar., 2016	1	(0)	7	(0)	0	(0)
Apr., 2016	1	(4)	5	(62.5)	0	(20)
May 2016	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Jun., 2016	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Total	6	(8)	137	(80.5)	10,530	(1,245)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

1.3 Permitted Events

In the reporting period, 325 permits were given under Reg. 11 of the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulation to hold events in country parks. Most of these events were related to sport competition, location filming and raising funds for charity.

1.4 Control of Development

A total of 82 development proposals were received. There was no objection to 35 of them, the other 45 were being processed and two were cancelled. Most of these were related to minor works concerning electricity supply and slope works.

2. **Visitor Services/Education**

2.1 Visitor Statistics

In the reporting period, a total of 6,140,000 persons visited the country parks and special areas. The monthly breakdown is as below for reference.

Month	Jan., 2016	Feb., 2016	Mar., 2016	Apr., 2016	May 2016	Jun., 2016
No. of Visitors	1,106,000	1,074,000	1,233,000	935,000	957,000	835,000

2.2 Visitor Centres

In the reporting period, a total of 12,876 persons joined the guided tours organised by the Country Park Visitor Centres and Education Centres. Besides, the monthly visitor statistics of the Country Park Visitor Centres and Education Centres are summarised below:-

Country Park Visitor Centre/ Education Centre	No. of Visitors					
	Jan., 2016	Feb., 2016	Mar., 2016	Apr., 2016	May, 2016	Jun., 2016
Lions Nature Education Centre	25,720	24,824	30,640	37,192	25,024	20,104
Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre	4,512	5,370	7,832	5,226	5,195	5,005
Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre	2,647	2,450	3,876	3,910	5,524	3,061
Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre	3,471	2,965	3,679	3,400	4,315	2,193
Ngong Ping Nature Centre	2,615	3,116	2,469	1,848	2,601	2,407
Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre	4,546	5,747	6,562	3,920	3,674	2,256
Aberdeen Tree Centre	799	948	1,157	853	853	262
Volcano Discovery Centre	8,450	8,364	11,707	9,529	12,713	11,197
Total	52,760	53,784	67,922	65,878	59,899	46,485

2.3 Country Park Volunteer Scheme

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

Country Park Volunteer Scheme	Jan., 2016	Feb., 2016	Mar., 2016	Apr., 2016	May, 2016	Jun., 2016
No. of volunteers/ trainees	675	675	675	675	675	675
Total volunteer service hours	3,081	1,920	3,124	2,167	2,135	1,258

2.4 School Visit Programme

School visit programme was launched again in 2015-16 school year to convey nature conservation message to students. Detailed figures of the programme in the reporting period are summarised below:-

School Visit Programme	No. of Participants
Kindergartens	7,313
Primary Schools	7,315
Secondary Schools	1,701

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	Remarks
“Take Your Litter Home” Photo Exhibitions	January to March 2016	5,911	–
“Red Leaves Festival” At Tai Lam Country Park	1 to 17 January 2016 (Sundays & Public Holidays)	2,051	Guided Tour, Workshop, Game Stalls
The Beauty of Lantau Country Parks Roving Exhibitions	4 January to 24 March 2016	2,810	–
Country Parks Hiking and Planting Day	13 March, 27 March and 3 April 2016	3,953	–
Country Park Visitor Centre Family Day	25-28 March, 2-4, 16-17, 23-24 April 2016	1,478	–

2.6 Assistance

Assistance was offered to the public on:-

Nature	Jan., 2016	Feb., 2016	Mar., 2016	Apr., 2016	May, 2016	Jun., 2016
First aid	5	2	4	9	3	6
Handicapped persons	3	2	2	2	0	5
Return of lost properties	2	3	2	1	3	4

2.7 Free Distribution of Publicity Materials

Nature	Jan., 2016	Feb., 2016	Mar., 2016	Apr., 2016	May, 2016	Jun., 2016
Pamphlets	3,675	3,814	5,174	3,950	4,103	3,582
Posters	42	115	167	216	334	330
Booklets	648	360	360	507	741	462

3. Law Enforcement

A total of 469 enforcement actions were taken in connection with the Country Parks Ordinance, Forests and Countryside Ordinance and Wild Animals Protection Ordinance. A breakdown of offences is summarised below:

Nature of offence	No. of cases *
Illegal entry of bicycle	215
Illegal entry of vehicle	112
Illegal possessing of hunting/trapping appliance	1
Illegal use of fire	2
Damaging and cutting of plant	8
Illegal digging of soil	1
Illegal constructing/excavating of grave	15
Illegal operation of power driven model vehicle/aeroplane	3
Camping outside designated camping site	47
Littering	36 [#]
Illegal possession of protected plant	1
Illegal feeding of monkey	28
Total	469

Remarks: * No. of cases denotes the number of persons intercepted for an offence during the reporting period.

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

B. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve

1. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve Management

1.1 Facilities

As at 30.6.2016, the following facilities had been installed in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve:

Facilities	Total no. as at 30.6.2016	Facilities	Total no. as at 30.6.2016
Sign (various warnings)	134	Mooring buoy for divers	22
Park sign	20	Boundary post	17
Sign (various purposes)	49	Sign post	10
Boundary marker buoy	14	Information board	12
Marker buoy	52	Litter bin	16
Buoy for Mechanized Vessel Restricted Zone	131	Banner	0
Buoy for Inboard Vessel Prohibited Zone	4	Way mark	20

1.2 Litter

During the report period, the amount of litter collected in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve is as follows:

Marine Park / Marine Reserve	Amount of litter collected (tonnes)						
	Jan., 2016	Feb., 2016	Mar., 2016	Apr., 2016	May, 2016	Jun., 2016	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	6.20	5.99	5.68	5.73	4.98	6.24	34.82
Yan Chau Tong	5.30	4.20	3.82	4.52	5.62	4.06	27.52
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	9.20	8.88	8.63	8.67	9.02	9.02	53.42
Tung Ping Chau	8.19	8.03	8.44	8.21	9.05	9.28	51.20
Cape D'Aguilar	1.52	1.64	1.62	1.62	1.63	1.71	9.74
Total	30.41	28.74	28.19	28.75	30.30	30.31	176.70

2. Visitor Services / Education

2.1 Visitor Statistics

During the report period, the number of visitors is as follows:

	Jan., 2016	Feb., 2016	Mar., 2016	Apr., 2016	May, 2016	Jun., 2016	Total
Marine Park							
Hoi Ha Wan	2,267	2,081	2,706	1,774	4,575	3,195	16,598
Yan Chau Tong	1,489	1,842	2,706	1,718	2,094	1,574	11,423
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	100	185	111	59	118	84	657
Tung Ping Chau	1,673	1,325	2,644	2,707	4,308	1,884	14,541
Total	5,529	5,433	8,167	6,258	11,095	6,737	43,219

2.2 Enquiries

During the report period, a total of 438 enquiries was received and answered. Details are listed below:

Nature	Jan., 2016	Feb., 2016	Mar., 2016	Apr., 2016	May, 2016	Jun., 2016	Total
Park facilities	6	4	11	7	3	12	43
Education activities	121	92	38	61	12	25	349
Renewal for fishing permit	4	2	7	7	9	7	36
Ordinance and regulations	1	2	0	0	2	5	10
Total	132	100	56	75	26	49	438

All enquiries have been resolved.

2.3 Distribution of Educational and Publicity Materials

During the report period, a total of 6,731 educational and publicity materials were distributed to the public. Details are listed below:

Items	Jan., 2016	Feb., 2016	Mar., 2016	Apr., 2016	May, 2016	Jun., 2016	Total
Bookmarks	9	15	120	142	43	32	361
Posters	1,700	900	450	450	20	20	3,540
Others	0	900	800	700	200	230	2,830
Total	1,709	1,815	1,370	1,292	263	282	6,731

2.4 Educational and Publicity Activities

During the report period, a total of 48 educational/publicity activities involving 828 participants were organised. Details are listed below:

Items	No.	No. of servicing Ambassador	Total no. of participant
Education Activities			
Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park Ecotour	23	-	146
School Guided Tour	10	-	278
School Seminar	4	-	188
School Field Study	5	-	130
Marine Parks Ambassador Scheme			
Woodside Biodiversity Centre Visit	1	15	15
Tai O Village Tour	1	25	25
Wetland Park Visit	1	11	11
Marine Parks Ambassador Training Workshop	1	6	6
Mai Po Gei Wai Tour	1	21	21
Reef Check 2016 Opening Ceremony	1	8	8
Total	48	86	828

2.5 During the report period, Marine Parks Ambassador participated in the following volunteer services: Woodside Biodiversity Centre visit, Tai O village tour, Wetland Park visit, Mai Po Gei Wai tour and Reef Check 2016 opening ceremony. And one training workshop was organised within the report period. A total of 86 ambassadors joined the above activities.

2.6 Up to 30 June 2016, a total of 123 Marine Parks Ambassadors have completed 20 hours services; 46 Ambassador have completed 40 hours services; 26 Ambassadors have completed 70 hours services; 16 Ambassadors have completed 100 hours services, 11 Ambassadors have completed 150 hours services and four Ambassadors 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 June 2016, the accumulated service hours of marine parks ambassadors are 9,079 hours.

3. Law Enforcement

During the report period, a total of 11 verbal warnings were given to fishermen and visitors and nine prosecutions were taken against offenders in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve.

Nature of offence	No. of prosecution
Pleasure fishing	7
Other	2
Total	9

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
August 2016