

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD
FIRST FIVE-YEAR PLAN FOR ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION (2026 –
2030) AND 2026 POLICY ADDRESS
POLICY MEASURES OF ENVIRONMENT AND
ECOLOGY BUREAU: NATURE CONSERVATION

1. Purpose

This paper sets out the initiatives in relation to nature conservation in The First Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (2026– 2030) (the Plan) and the 2026 Policy Address, including the Policy Address Supplement.

2. Background

2.1 The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government has formulated Hong Kong's first Five-Year Plan (the "Plan"), which sets out a blueprint for Hong Kong's economic and social development over the next five years and serves as a forward-looking, strategic and directional guiding document. The Policy Address is an annual report on the implementation of the Five-Year Plan and sets out the Chief Executive's key policy priorities for the year in response to prevailing circumstances. The two are inextricably related.

3. Policy summary related to nature conservation

3.1 The Plan proposes to promote ecological civilization construction and enhance biodiversity in the Greater Bay Area. We will continue to review and enhance management strategies of various ecological protected areas, covering key areas such as Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark, the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site designated under the Convention on Wetlands, country

parks, as well as marine parks and marine reserves, etc., strengthen ecological conservation and enhance biodiversity, and proactively align with the national biodiversity strategy by implementing the priority actions of Hong Kong Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2035. We will expand the network of terrestrial and marine protected areas in an orderly manner, and study the establishment of a coastal protection park at Tsim Bei Tsui, Lau Fau Shan and Pak Nai to strengthen the conservation of the coastal ecosystem of Deep Bay. Meanwhile, we will continue to enhance the protection and governance of wild fauna and flora, and endangered species, rigorously implement the relevant international conventions, and regulate trade in endangered species. We will commence the legislative amendments to the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance in order to strengthen enforcement against smuggling and illegal trade in endangered species, and to submit a bill to amend the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance to the Legislative Council in the short term for protecting cetaceans found in the waters of Hong Kong. Regarding the collaboration with the relevant Mainland provinces and municipalities, we will continue to advance the development of the Shenzhen Wutong Mountain - Hong Kong Robin's Nest ecological corridor, optimise the protection of Chinese white dolphins in Guangdong and Hong Kong, strengthen the conservation of Shenzhen Bay (Deep Bay) wetlands and press ahead with coral conservation, while put in place arrangements for rescue cooperation of large aquatic wild animals between Shenzhen and Hong Kong. In the Hong Kong Five-Year Plan, we have established targets to maintain at least 40% of the total terrestrial area as terrestrial protected areas and at least 20% of the total marine area as marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures by 2030.

3.2 With a view to achieving the triple objectives of wetland conservation, eco-education and eco-recreation, as well as the modernisation of the aquaculture, the construction of the first phase of the Sam Po Shue Wetland Conservation Park is expected to commence in 2027, and to be completed by 2031. To further protect the ecological environment and enhance green tour experience, we are taking forward the designation of Sharp Island Marine Park, so as to strengthen the conservation of coral communities, conserve biodiversity and overall fisheries resources. We aim to complete the designation work by mid-2027.

3.3 To enhance the management of ecotourism hotspots, alleviate ecological carrying pressure, and improve the visitor experience, the Government piloted from early September to end of the National Day Golden Week an online reservation system for the High Island Geo Trail – Po Pin Chau Section at the East Dam of High Island Reservoir in Sai Kung, and is reviewing the experience and studying the long-term management strategies and measures, including whether fees should be charged for the reservation system. In addition, to enhance the appeal of country parks, we are also implementing the “Four Peaks” tourism project proposed by the Working Group on Developing Tourism Hotspots, and continue to upgrade supporting facilities in country park. We will also launch new indepth cultural and eco-tour activities in the rural area around Yan Chau Tong through the Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme, and complete the remaining two sections of the Hing Chun Alliance Heritage Trail connecting Lai Chi Wo, Siu Tan, Sam A Tsuen, Ngau Shi Wu and So Lo Pun in 2027 to offer visitors an in-depth experience of rural culture and promote countryside revitalisation. We will enhance the green tourism itineraries and facilities of the “Four Peaks” by the end of 2026, enabling visitors to enjoy spectacular mountain-and-sea scenery within reach.

4. Presentation

4.1 This paper is prepared for member’s information.

Environment and Ecology Bureau

October 2026