

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD

**Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report
(1.5.2022 – 30.9.2022)**

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 1.5.2022 and 30.9.2022. 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 30.9.2022	Item	Total no. as at 30.9.2022
Barbecue Site	157	Shelter	289
Picnic Site	155	Refreshment Kiosk & Cafeteria	9
Camp Site	41	Public Toilet	90
Morning Walker Garden	19	Portable Toilet	121

Amount of refuse collected (metric tonnes)

May., 2022	Jun., 2022	Jul., 2022	Aug., 2022	Sep., 2022	Total
176 (167)	141 (116)	150 (116)	137 (119)	162 (125)	766 (643)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

1.2 Fire Protection

The 2022-2023 fire season commenced on 3.9.2022. Detailed figures during the reporting period are summarized below:

Month	No. of fires inside or threatening country park		Area affected (Ha)		No. of trees affected	
		()		()		()
May, 2022	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Jun., 2022	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Jul., 2022	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Aug., 2022	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Sept., 2022	2	(1)	0.2	(3.2)	72	(31)
Total	2	(1)	0.2	(3.2)	72	(31)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

1.3 Permitted Events

During the reporting period, 252 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
May., 2022	12	32	0
Jun., 2022	7	37	0
Jul., 2022	4	51	1
Aug., 2022	12	51	1
Sep., 2022	8	33	3
Total	43	204	5

1.4 Control of Development

A total of 170 development proposals were handled during the reporting period. This includes 51 new proposals and 119 proposals carried forward from the last reporting period. Most of the proposals were related to minor works concerning slope works and electricity supply. The breakdown of all proposals is provided below:

District	No. of Case	Electric Supply	Telephone Supply	Water Supply	Road/Path Improvement	Slope Works	Others*	No Objection	Being Processed	Withdrawn / Cancelled
Central	38	9	4	1	0	23	1	6	27	5
Hong Kong	34	0	0	1	0	33	0	5	29	0
Lantau	21	4	4	2	1	10	0	8	13	0
North	13	2	0	0	0	8	3	3	10	0
Sai Kung	46	8	6	3	10	8	11	6	35	5
West	18	0	0	0	0	18	0	3	15	0
Total	170	23	14	7	11	100	15	31	129	10

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

2. Visitor Services / Education

2.1 Visitor Statistics

In the reporting period, a total of 4,170,000 persons visited the country parks and special areas. The monthly breakdown is provided below:

May, 2022	Jun., 2022	Jul., 2022	Aug., 2022	Sep., 2022	Total
960,000 (931,000)	742,000 (777,000)	823,000 (779,000)	789,000 (761,000)	856,000 (827,000)	4,170,000 (4,075,000)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

2.2 Visitor Centres

The country park school and public education programmes at visitor / education centres remain suspended. The monthly visitor statistics of the Country Park Visitor / Education Centres are summarised below:

Country Park Visitor Centre / Education Centre	No. of Visitors				
	May, 2022	Jun., 2022	Jul., 2022	Aug., 2022	Sep., 2022
Lions Nature Education Centre (incl. outdoor exhibition area)	20,944	20,120	18,376	17,960	19,048
Clear Water Bay Country Park Visitor Centre	250	221	312	250	278
Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre (incl. permit counter)	1,536	3,101	3,603	3,444	3,084
Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre *	367	181	0	0	0
Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre	1,806	620	343	232	266
Ngong Ping Nature Centre	660	510	828	1,756	1,024
Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre	2,413	1,353	804	955	1,115
Aberdeen Tree Centre	215	182	94	128	165
Volcano Discovery Centre	6,479	6,989	9,003	8,832	6,406
Total	34,670	33,277	33,363	33,557	31,386

Remarks: *Due to renovation works, the centre was closed from 1 Jul 2022.

2.3 Country Park Volunteer Scheme

The Country Park Volunteer Scheme commenced in March 2010. In light of the situation of the COVID-19, volunteer services were suspended from 15 December 2020 to 26 Aug 2022. From 27 Aug 2022, volunteer services were partially resumed. Detailed figures of the Country Park Volunteer Scheme in the reporting period are summarised below:

Country Park Volunteer Scheme	Aug., 2022	Sep., 2022
No. of volunteers/trainees	760	760
Total volunteer service hours	108.0	813.5

2.4 School Visit Programme

School visit programme was launched again in 2021-22 school year to convey nature conservation message to students. To facilitate the special class arrangements of schools, an online programme was introduced from April 2021. The number of participants in the reporting period is summarised below:

School Visit Programme	No. of Participants
Kindergartens	2,687
Primary Schools	6,240
Secondary Schools	193

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
“Hiking Etiquette”, “Take Your Litter Home” and “Clean Country Parks, You Have a Share” Photo Exhibition	May – Sep 2022	18,121
Country Parks Fixed Point Interpretation	May – Sep 2022	3,479
Hong Kong Country Parks Photo cum Video Competition (including webinar)	Jun – Jul 2022	1,424

2.6 Assistance

Assistance was offered to the public on:

Nature	May, 2022	Jun., 2022	Jul., 2022	Aug., 2022	Sep., 2022
First aid	4	3	6	7	3
Handicapped persons	0	0	0	0	0
Return of lost properties	2	1	5	3	5

2.7 Free Distribution of Publicity Materials

Nature	May, 2022	Jun., 2022	Jul., 2022	Aug., 2022	Sep., 2022
Pamphlets	843	685	762	655	836
Posters	59	28	34	72	127
Booklets	86	105	97	86	263

3. Law Enforcement

A total of 228 enforcement actions were taken in connection with the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap.208), Forests and Countryside Ordinance (Cap.96), Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap.170), Prevention and Control of Disease (Wearing of Mask) Regulation (Cap.599I) and Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Gathering) Regulation (Cap.599G). A breakdown of offences is summarised below:

Nature of offence	No. of cases
Illegal entry of bicycle	44
Illegal entry of vehicle	48
Illegal possession of hunting/trapping appliance	4
Illegal possession of cooking stove	4
Illegal use of fire	4
Damaging and cutting of plant	10
Illegal digging of soil	3
Illegal constructing grave	1
Illegal carrying business activity	1
Illegal camping	45
Entry of campsites/barbecue sites that have been closed	42
Obstructing authorized officer in the lawful discharge of duty	1
Not wearing mask	1 [#]
Organize prohibited group gathering	1
Illegal feeding of monkey	19
Total	228

Remarks: [#] Fixed Penalty Notice @\$5,000.

B. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve

1. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve Management

1.1 Facilities

As at 30.09.2022, the following facilities had been installed in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve:

Facilities	Total no. as at 30.09.2022	Facilities	Total no. as at 30.09.2022
Warning Sign	144	Boundary Marker Post	64
Information Sign Board	57	Marine Buoy	232

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)					
	May, 2022	Jun., 2022	Jul., 2022	Aug., 2022	Sep., 2022	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	0.66 (1.48)	0.57 (1.09)	0.71 (1.27)	0.64 (1.22)	0.59 (0.98)	3.17 (6.04)
Yan Chau Tong	1.07 (1.20)	1.67 (0.70)	1.28 (0.64)	1.01 (0.64)	0.81 (0.70)	5.84 (3.88)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	1.65 (1.14)	1.80 (0.50)	1.66 (0.86)	0.52 (0.92)	1.55 (0.72)	7.18 (4.14)
Tung Ping Chau	0.79 (4.03)	0.65 (2.85)	0.91 (2.70)	0.82 (2.54)	1.42 (2.12)	4.59 (14.24)
Cape D'Aguilar	0.28 (0.69)	1.46 (0.38)	2.34 (0.79)	1.23 (0.55)	0.09 (0.56)	5.40 (2.97)
The Brothers	0.91 (0.64)	0.76 (1.23)	0.92 (0.68)	1.03 (1.22)	1.12 (1.04)	4.74 (4.81)
Southwest Lantau	0.32 (0.76)	0.41 (0.34)	0.79 (1.32)	0.58 (0.52)	0.27 (0.70)	2.37 (3.64)
South Lantau*	--	--	0.41 (--)	0.41 (--)	0.83 (--)	1.65 (--)
Total	5.68 (9.94)	7.32 (7.09)	9.02 (8.26)	6.24 (7.61)	6.68 (6.82)	34.94 (39.72)

Remarks:

() denotes figures of same month last year.

*Designated with effect from 30 June 2022. Cleansing services from Jul 2022 onwards were arranged by AFCD.

2. Visitor Services / Education

2.1 Visitor Statistics

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

Marine Park	May, 2022	Jun., 2022	Jul., 2022	Aug., 2022	Sep., 2022	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	3,296 (7,813)	3,460 (7,203)	6,908 (9,949)	6,317 (12,160)	6,472 (8,890)	26,453 (46,015)
Yan Chau Tong	289 (1,419)	1,292 (614)	1,709 (729)	1,933 (937)	1,876 (1,102)	7,099 (4,801)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	217 (33)	103 (18)	468 (48)	459 (189)	133 (87)	1,380 (375)
Tung Ping Chau	2,193 (6,763)	2,157 (1,194)	1,185 (2,619)	1,598 (2,875)	2,985 (2,688)	10,118 (16,139)
Cape D'Aguilar Marine Reserve and nearby areas	4,631 (8,423)	2,332 (2,176)	1,437 (2,486)	1,071 (2,269)	1,689 (2,760)	11,160 (18,114)
The Brothers	15 (18)	58 (9)	95 (9)	82 (25)	82 (9)	332 (70)
Southwest Lantau	227 (366)	67 (128)	145 (201)	153 (99)	261 (201)	853 (995)
South Lantau*	--	--	67 (--)	16 (--)	92 (--)	175 (--)
Total	10,868 (24,835)	9,469 (11,342)	12,014 (16,041)	11,629 (18,554)	13,590 (15,737)	57,570 (86,509)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

* Designated with effect from 30 June 2022. Visitor statistics conducted since Jul 2022.

2.2 Visitor Centre

In light of the situation of the COVID-19 in Hong Kong, the guided eco-tours for public and schools at the visitor center remain suspended. The monthly visitor statistics of the HHVC is summarized below:

	No. of Visitors				
	May, 2022	Jun., 2022	Jul., 2022	Aug., 2022	Sep., 2022
Hoi Ha Visitor Centre	980	1,270	846	781	768

2.3 Marine Parks Ambassador Scheme

The Marine Parks Ambassador Scheme has been commenced since August 2005. In light of the development of the COVID-19 epidemic, ambassador activities were suspended during the reporting period. Up to 30 Sep 2022, there are a total of 625 Marine Parks Ambassadors.

2.4 Education Programmes and Publicity

In light of the COVID-19 epidemic, all field studies and guided eco-tours for schools were suspended while school talks were changed to online format if there was any application. Details of education activities organised in the reporting period are summarised below:

Name of the Activity	Date	No. of Participants
Online School Educational Seminar	8-6-2022	430
	16-6-2022	
	22-6-2022	

2.5 Enquiries

During the report period, a total of 419 enquiries was received and resolved. Details are listed below:

Nature	May, 2022	Jun., 2022	Jul., 2022	Aug., 2022	Sep., 2022	Total
General information	30	34	47	44	42	197
Visitor Centre and Education	35	47	44	46	50	222
Total	65	81	91	90	92	419

2.6 Free Distribution of Publicity Materials

Items	May, 2022	Jun., 2022	Jul., 2022	Aug., 2022	Sep., 2022
Leaflets	1,658	1,491	1,480	1,025	728
Others	250	850	202	240	247

3. Enforcement

The taskforce on sea enforcement work related to the Marine Parks Ordinance (Cap. 476) and Fisheries Protection Ordinance (Cap. 171) was established to enhance synergistic effect. During the report period, 3 cases of illegal fishing activities related to Cap. 171 were under investigation. In addition, 4 cases successfully prosecuted (included 2 illegal anchoring and 2 illegal fishing/ collecting marine life) under Cap. 476 while 3 written warning were issued, a total of 375 advices and 2 verbal warnings were given, and 5 suspected offense cases were under investigation.

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
October 2022**