

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD

**Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report
(1.4.2024 – 31.7.2024)**

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 1.4.2024 and 31.7.2024. 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 31.7.2024	Item	Total no. as at 31.7.2024
Barbecue Site	155	Shelter	290
Picnic Site	154	Refreshment Kiosk & Cafeteria	8
Camp Site	41	Public Toilet	89
Morning Walker Garden	19	Portable Toilet	121

Amount of refuse collected (metric tonnes)

Apr 2024	May 2024	Jun 2024	Jul 2024	Total
209 (234)	160 (188)	127 (168)	122 (179)	618 (769)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

1.2 Fire Protection

The 2023-2024 fire season commenced on 23.9.2023 and ended on 30.4.2024. 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	
Apr 2024	7	(2)	91.8	(8.4)	2215	(0)
May 2024	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Jun 2024	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Jul 2024	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Total	7	(2)	91.8	(8.4)	2215	(0)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

1.3 Permitted Events

During the reporting period, 121 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
Apr 2024	15	11	2
May 2024	8	13	3
Jun 2024	14	16	2
Jul 2024	26	7	4
Total	63	47	11

1.4 Control of Development

A total of 144 development proposals were handled during the reporting period. This

includes 58 new proposals and 86 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	28	1	0	0	1	24	2	6	20	2
Hong Kong	14	1	0	0	0	13	0	7	7	0
Lantau	19	2	1	1	0	15	0	6	13	0
North	8	0	2	0	0	1	5	2	6	0
Sai Kung	35	5	1	2	4	14	9	9	24	2
West	40	0	1	1	0	38	0	6	34	0
Total	144	9	5	4	5	105	16	36	104	4

Remarks: * Other proposals mainly include installation of mobile radio station, 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 3,259,000 persons visited the country parks and special areas. The monthly breakdown is provided below:

Apr 2024	May 2024	Jun 2024	Jul 2024	Total
857,000 (1,175,000)	888,000 (1,050,000)	776,000 (917,000)	738,000 (922,000)	3,259,000 (4,064,000)

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			
	Apr 2024	May 2024	Jun 2024	Jul 2024
Lions Nature Education Centre	32,192	33,816	30,072	32,712
Clear Water Bay Country Park Visitor Centre	606	625	590	506
Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre	3,127	3,012	2,921	3,209
Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre *	0	0	0	0
Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre	746	685	501	308
Ngong Ping Nature Centre	2,540	2,294	1,840	1,925
Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre	1,390	1,820	880	649
Aberdeen Tree Centre	164	225	130	110
Volcano Discovery Centre	6,706	6,642	7,525	9,551
Total	47,471	49,119	44,459	48,970

Remarks: *The centre was temporarily closed for renovation works

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	Apr 2024	May 2024	Jun 2024	Jul 2024
No. of volunteers/trainees	343	343	343	343
Total volunteer service hours	952.5	1,082	571.5	382.5

2.4 School Visit Programme

School visit programme was launched again in 2023-24 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	5,693
Primary Schools	7,235
Secondary Schools	651

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	Apr – Jul 2024	7,198
Country Parks Fixed Point Interpretation	Apr – Jul 2024	3,984
Hiking and Planting Day	14 th Apr 2024	2,160
BioBlitz at Country Parks	Apr – Jul 2024	652
World Orienteering Week Carnival	18 th -19 th May 2024	4,970
New Territories Disaster and Emergency Preparedness Day 2024	24 th May 2024	2,500

2.6 Assistance

Assistance was offered to the public on:

Nature	Apr 2024	May 2024	Jun 2024	Jul 2024
First aid	4	3	4	7
Handicapped persons	2	2	1	2
Return of lost properties	10	1	3	5

2.7 Free Distribution of Publicity Materials

Nature	Apr 2024	May 2024	Jun 2024	Jul 2024
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Pamphlets	2,056	2,038	1,848	1,949
Posters	24	15	14	9
Booklets	261	211	188	163

3. Law Enforcement

A total of 122 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	38
Illegal entry of vehicle	55
Illegal possession of hunting appliance	1
Illegal use of fire	2
Damaging / cutting of plant	5
Illegal selling of commodity	1
Illegal constructing of shelter	1
Illegal constructing of grave	4
Illegal carrying on activity for the purpose of business	3
Illegal camping	11
Spitting	1*
Illegal feeding of wild animal	19
Total	141

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

B. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve

1. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve Management

1.1 Facilities

As at 31.7.2024, 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)				
	Apr 2024	May 2024	Jun 2024	Jul 2024	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	0.57 (0.54)	0.53 (0.82)	0.57 (0.67)	0.53 (0.66)	2.2 (2.69)
Yan Chau Tong	0.87 (1.27)	1.01 (1.19)	0.69 (0.73)	0.74 (0.91)	3.31 (4.1)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	1.78 (1.66)	2.94 (1.81)	1.59 (1.69)	1.84 (1.76)	8.15 (6.92)
Tung Ping Chau	1.32 (1.40)	1.34 (1.33)	1.00 (2.07)	1.13 (2.14)	4.79 (6.94)
Cape D'Aguilar	0.56 (0.41)	0.78 (0.20)	0.67 (0.55)	1.64 (0.37)	3.65 (1.53)
The Brothers	1.29 (1.10)	1.01 (1.28)	0.87 (1.09)	1.27 (0.99)	4.44 (4.46)
Southwest Lantau	0.48 (0.29)	2.11 (0.44)	2.49 (0.35)	0.57 (0.54)	5.65 (1.62)
South Lantau	0.78 (0.55)	0.25 (0.65)	0.47 (0.62)	0.23 (0.71)	1.73 (2.53)
Total	7.65 (7.22)	9.97 (7.72)	8.35 (7.77)	7.95 (8.08)	33.92 (30.79)

Remarks:

() denotes figures of same month last year.

2. Visitor Services / Education

2.1 Visitor Statistics

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

Marine Park/ Marine Reserve	Apr 2024	May 2024	Jun 2024	Jul 2024	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	1,465 (2,381)	1,876 (2,588)	2,032 (2,531)	2,268 (3,711)	7,641 (11,211)
Yan Chau Tong	412 (2,093)	344 (1,082)	447 (435)	394 (362)	1,597 (3,972)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	383 (378)	203 (802)	97 (103)	53 (172)	736 (1,455)
Tung Ping Chau	1,097 (1,560)	1,383 (1,979)	778 (418)	1,534 (1,092)	4,792 (5,049)
Cape D'Aguilar Marine Reserve and nearby areas	2,277 (5,376)	1,611 (2,989)	1,191 (763)	703 (924)	5,782 (10,052)
The Brothers	52 (92)	104 (129)	71 (184)	27 (75)	254 (480)
Southwest Lantau	138 (516)	85 (334)	174 (60)	291 (162)	688 (1,072)
South Lantau	12 (11)	19 (93)	38 (61)	71 (21)	140 (186)
Total	5,836 (12,407)	5,625 (9,996)	4,828 (4,555)	5,341 (6,519)	21,630 (33,477)

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

2.2 Visitor Centre

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

	No. of Visitors			
	Apr 2024	May 2024	Jun 2024	Jul 2024
Hoi Ha Visitor Centre	657	497	469	365
Public eco-tour	25	13	33	10

2.3 Marine Parks Ambassador Scheme

The Marine Parks Ambassador Scheme commenced in August 2005. Up to 31.7.2024, there are a total of 646 Marine Parks Ambassadors. During the reporting period, art jamming workshop, World Oceans Day service, seminar helper service and ambassador recruitment workshop were conducted, and a total number of 30 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	351
Guided eco-tour for school / communities	174
School field study	177

2.5 Enquiries

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

Nature	Apr 2024	May 2024	Jun 2024	Jul 2024	Total
General information	14	13	11	22	60
Visitor Centre and Education	0	1	1	0	2
Total	14	14	12	22	62

2.6 Free Distribution of Publicity Materials

Items	Apr 2024	May 2024	Jun 2024	Jul 2024
Leaflets	700	866	80	120
Others	170	160	89	286

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 2 successful prosecutions on illegal fishing activities related to Cap. 171 and 9 suspected cases were under investigation. In addition, 1 case of illegal activity (illegal anchoring case) related to Cap. 476 was successfully prosecuted while a total of 70 advices and 17 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
September 2024**