

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD

Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report (1.4.2013 – 31.7.2013)

A. Country Parks & Special Areas

I. CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

	Progress	Anticipated Completion Date
(1) Construction of Sewage Treatment Plant House and Associated Sewage works at Lions Nature Education Centre, Sai Kung	Works commenced on 15 July 2013.	January 2014.

II. RECREATION FACILITIES AND SERVICES

(1) Management Services

Refuse collected (tonnes)

Year	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Total
2012	351	296	249	245	1,141
2013	280	266	230	244	1,020

Path maintained/upgraded	107	Km
No. of trees planted	382,800	No.
No. of trees produced in the nursery	276,100	No.
No. of trees tended	249,600	No.

(2) Provision of Facilities

Item	Total at 31.7.2013	Item	Total at 31.7.2013
Barbecue Site	179	Fitness Equipment	104
Picnic Site	168	Refreshment Kiosk	8
Camp Site	40	Flushing Toilet	49
Morning Walker Garden	25	No. of Portable Toilet	118
Information Board	355	Warden Post	16
Shelters	270	Visitor Centre/ Education Centre	8
Play Equipment	42		

(3) Fire Protection

The 2012-2013 fire season completed on 1.5.2013:

Month	No. of fires inside or threatening country park		Area affected (Ha)		No. of trees affected	
		()		()		()
Apr., 13	0	(2)	0	(1.25)	0	(0)
May, 13	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Jun., 13	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Jul., 13	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Total	0	(2)	0	(1.25)	0	(0)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

III. VISITOR STATISTICS

During the report period there was an overall decrease of 13.88% of visitor number compared with the corresponding period of last year. The monthly breakdown is as below:

Year	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Total
2012	1,096,000	1,024,000	902,000	1,034,000	4,056,000
2013	957,000	885,000	840,000	811,000	3,493,000
% change	-12.68%	-13.57%	-6.87%	-21.57%	-13.88%

IV. LAW ENFORCEMENT

A total of 293 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	57 [#]
Camping in non-designated site	4
Illegal entry of bicycle	141
Illegal entry of vehicle	71
Damaging and cutting of plant	9
Illegal possession of hunting appliance	3
Illegal digging of soil	2
Illegal operation of power driven model vehicle	3
Illegal feeding of monkey	3
Total	293

Remarks: *No. of cases denotes the number of persons being prosecuted during the reporting period. Total fines for the period is \$164,580, which also includes the fines partly collected from cases carried forward from previous reporting periods and partly from current period. There is no unsuccessful prosecution case in the reporting period.

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

V. ORGANIZED EVENTS

In the report period, 191 permits were given under Reg. 11 of the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulation to organized events (mainly sporting activities) in country parks.

Apr., 13	May, 13	Jun., 13	Jul., 13	Total
55	53	44	39	191

VI. CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT

A total of 48 development proposals were received. There was no objection to 19 of them, the other 26 were being processed and three were cancelled. Most of these were related to minor works concerning electric supply and slope works.

VII. EDUCATION/VISITOR SERVICES

(1) Visitor Centres

A total of 218,531 persons visited the Country Park Visitor Centres and Education Centres. In which, 103,934 persons visited Sai Kung, Aberdeen, Shing Mun, Clear Water Bay, Tai Mo Shan and Plover Cove Country Parks Visitor Centres; 9,868 persons visited Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre; 90,153 persons visited Lions Nature Education Centre and 14,576 persons visited Ngong Ping Nature Centre.

(2) Guided Tour

A total of 1,633 participants from 39 organizations joined the guided tour at Lions Nature Education Centre; 549 participants from 67 groups joined the guided walk at Ngong Ping Nature Centre; 594 participants from 67 groups joined the guided tours at Pineapple Dam Nature Trail; 625 participants from 19 groups joined the guided tours at Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre. 579 participants from 15 groups joined the guided tour at Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre.

(3) Country Park Volunteer Scheme

The Country Park Volunteer Scheme has been commenced since March 2010. At present, there are 1,259 volunteers recruited. After the volunteers completed the training, they will assist the organization of various nature conservation and education activities of the country parks. From 1 April to 31 July 2013, total number of volunteer served hours is 14,780 hours.

(4) “Country Parks Reporters 2013” Inter-school Competition

The department organized an inter-school contest, called “Country Parks Reporters Competition 2013”, from March to June 2013. Participants can visit or even participate in different management works of the country parks. Participants are required to submit an entry to report their observation after the site visits. A total of 32 students from eight schools participated in the “Talking with Reporters” Sharing Session on 2 March and a total of 182 students from 40 schools participated in the site visits on 16 March and 6 April 2013. A prize presentation ceremony was held on 1 June 2013, which 52 prizewinners from 10 groups were invited.

(5) School Visit Programme

School visit programme was launched again in 2012-13 school year to convey nature conservation message to students. From April to June 2013, a total of 9,355 students from 26 primary schools and 3,490 students from 32 kindergartens participated. For the whole period from November 2012 to May 2013, a total of 21,441 students from 64 primary schools participated. Besides from November 2012 to June 2013, a total of 9,669 students from 90 kindergartens participated.

(6) Rock Classroom

From April to July 2013, a total of 20 “Rock Classroom” educational activities were carried out at Lions Nature Education Centre. A total of 582 primary and secondary students joined the activities.

(7) Guided Field Study for Secondary Schools

“Nature in Touch” Country Parks Guided Field Study for Secondary Schools has been launched from November 2012 to May 2013. From April to May 2013, a total of 1,308 secondary students from 42 schools participated in the Guided Field Study at Lions Nature Education Centre and Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve. A total of 2,779 secondary students from 98 schools participated in the whole programme. The contractor guided 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”.

(8) “Country Parks Orienteering” Programme

From November 2012 to May 2013, the department organized the “Country Parks Orienteering” programme for students to experience orienteering and to learn about the country parks. A total of 489 students from 18 schools participated in the programme.

(9) Biodiversity Conservation Day in Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre

Biodiversity Conservation Day is held in Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre on the last Sunday of each month, promoting the biodiversity in Hong Kong, as well as to foster public awareness and knowledge of nature conservation by a series of education activities such as public lectures, guided tour of exhibition galleries, education workshops, film appreciations and guided tour of Quarry Bay Tree Walk. From April to July 2013, a total of 1,057 people participated in the programme.

(10) Hiking and Planting Day 2013

In order to promote public awareness on nature conservation and tree preservation, the department and the Friends of the Country Parks jointly held the Country Parks “Hiking and Planting Day” in April and May 2013. A total of 1,382 participants planted 1,500 trees in Nei Lak Shan, Lantau North Country Park “Hiking and Planting Day” held on 14 April 2013; a total of 1,132 participants planted 2,300 trees in Tai Lam Chung, Tai Lam Country Park “Hiking and Planting Day” held on 28 April 2013 and a total of 1,509 participants planted 2,000 trees in Luk Chau Shan, Ma On Shan Country Park “Hiking and Planting Day” held on 5 May 2013.

(11) Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre Opening Ceremony

Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre was re-opened on 20 July 2013 after renovation. A total of 78 guests presented in the Opening Ceremony. The Exhibition Gallery is composed of six themes which introduce Tai Mo Shan Country Park, climate change in global and local perspectives, the effect of climate change in local forests, ecosystem and the effect of climate change at polar regions. The Centre is designed to provide a self-learning platform and foster public awareness of nature conservation and resources conservation.

(12) Enquiries

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

Nature	Apr., 13	May, 13	Jun., 13	Jul., 13	Total
Information on public transport	2,704	2,839	2,860	3,172	11,575
Information on hiking routes	2,351	2,018	2,228	2,322	8,919
Location of recreation facilities	1,103	1,035	1,044	1,079	4,261
Location of utility facilities	1,252	1,077	1,055	1,194	4,578
Location of scenic places and similar information	1,028	876	947	1,048	3,899
Organized activities	582	693	622	563	2,460
Others *	1,372	1,073	1,829	1,904	6,178
Total	10,392	9,611	10,585	11,282	41,870

* 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 85,220 visitors in the Country Parks as follows:

Nature	Apr., 13	May, 13	Jun., 13	Jul., 13	Total
Littering	25,725	22,146	17,861	19,345	85,077
Others	37	38	35	33	143
Total	25,762	22,184	17,896	19,378	85,220

(14) Assistance

Assistance was offered to the public on:

Nature	Apr., 13	May, 13	Jun., 13	Jul., 13	Total
First aid	6	2	2	9	19
Handicapped persons	164	98	72	16	350
Search and rescue	0	0	0	2	2
Return of lost properties	2	1	0	2	5
Others	2	3	4	0	9
Total	174	104	78	29	385

(15) Free Distribution of Publicity Materials

Nature	Apr., 13	May, 13	Jun., 13	Jul., 13	Total
Pamphlets	7,523	5,383	5,693	5,960	24,559
Posters	81	70	55	44	250
Bookmarks	29	18	14	15	76
Booklets	1,635	1,628	1,163	1,025	5,451
Others	166	61	123	55	405
Total	9,434	7,160	7,048	7,099	30,741

B. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve

1. FACILITIES

As at 31.7.2013, the following facilities had been installed in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve:

Facilities	Constructed/replaced between 1.4.2013 – 31.7.2013	Total nos. at 31.7.2013
Sign (various warnings)	1 (replaced)	128
Park sign	-	21
Sign (various purposes)	-	52
Boundary marker buoy	-	14
Marker buoy	11 (replaced)	36
Buoy for Mechanized Vessel Restricted Zone	-	205
Buoy for Inboard Vessel Prohibited Zone	3 (replaced)	4
Mooring buoy for divers	29 (replaced)	28
Boundary post	-	17
Sign post	-	21
Information board	1 (replaced)	6
Litter bin	-	15
Banner	-	2
Way mark	-	10

2. LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ADVICE

2.1 During the report period, a total of 1,421 advices and 32 verbal warnings were given to fishermen and visitors and 15 prosecutions were taken against offenders in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve.

Nature of offence	Nos. of prosecution	Nos. completed hearing	Fines (HK\$)
Pleasure Fishing	12	12	8,000
Collection of Marine Lives	3	1	600
Total	15	13	8,600

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 (1.4.2013 – 31.7.2013)	
	Hoi Ha Wan	26.51
Yan Chau Tong	17.88	(18.62)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	26.96	(25.66)
Tung Ping Chau	45.90	(48.07)
Cape D'Aguilar	2.80	(2.70)
Total	120.05	(113.67)

() 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 31.7.2013)
Hoi Ha Wan (HHW)	3	10
Yan Chau Tong (YCT)	4	22
HHW & YCT	31	64
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	11	80
Tung Ping Chau (TPC)	24	49
TPC & HHW	3	5
TPC & YCT	2	4
TPC & HHW & YCT	111	175
Total	189	409

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

5. MONITORING

5.1 Water Quality Monitoring

Enviro Labs Limited was commissioned to carry out water quality monitoring in marine parks and marine reserve in 2013-14. The results are generally good and in compliance with EPD's Water Quality Objectives. A summary result of water quality statistics of 2008 – Jun 2013 has been uploaded onto 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 continues. The objective is to investigate the long-term enhancement effect of the marine reserve on fisheries resources. The recent result shows that the Catch-per-unit-effort and the diversity of fish remain stable inside the marine reserve and are relatively higher than the 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 3 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 has been conducted during the patrol course of Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park. There is evident that Chinese White Dolphins utilize the Marine Park and the surrounding waters as usual.

6. EDUCATION AND VISITOR SERVICES

6.1 The number of visitors in Yan Chau Tong Marine Park increases while those in other Marine Parks have dropped comparing with the same period of last year. The number of visitors during the report period is as follows:

Marine Park	Nos. of Visitors (1.4.2013 – 31.7.2013)	
	Hoi Ha Wan	17,814
Yan Chau Tong	12,215	(8,196)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	1,641	(2,492)
Tung Ping Chau	24,560	(39,370)
Total	56,230	(70,535)

() denotes figures of same period last year

6.2 During the period from 1.4.2013 –31.7.2013, a total of 274 enquiries was received and answered. Details are listed below:

Nature	Nos.
Park facility	63
Education activity	103
Renewal for fishing permit	105
Ordinance and Regulation	3
Total	274

All enquiries have been resolved.

6.3 During the report period, a total of 95 educational/publicity activities involving 3,761 participants were organized. Details are listed below:

Items	Nos.	Nos. servicing Ambassador	Total nos. of participant
Education Activities			
Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park Ecotour	17	-	163
School Guided Tour	11	-	321
School Seminar	8	-	1,583
Field Studies	4	-	98
Public Seminar on Marine Parks and Marine Ecological Resources 2013	2	-	45
Marine Based Guided Tours – Exploration of fishermen culture and marine resources in Hong Kong	46	-	1,382
Marine Based Guided Tours – Exploration of fishermen culture and marine resources in Hong Kong – Commercial Tours	3	-	94
Marine Parks Ambassador Scheme			
Coastal Cleanup	2	37	55
Reef Check Opening Ceremony	1	4	4
Basic Training Course	1	-	16
Total	95	41	3,761

6.4 During the report period, a total of 6,823 educational and publicity materials were distributed to the public. Details are listed below:

Items	Nos.
Booklet	16
Leaflets	514
Bookmarks	2,996
Field Guides	8
DVD	98
Posters	2,500
Others	691
Total	6,823

6.5 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, 46 tours were held with 1,382 participants.

6.6 To enhance the public awareness on the marine conservation work in Hong Kong, the Marine Parks Division organizes a series of Public Seminar on Marine Parks and Marine Ecological Resources in every summer. During the report period, 2 public seminars were held with 45 participants.

6.7 During the report period, Marine Parks Ambassador participated in the following volunteer services: Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park Coastal Cleanup Activity, Reef Check Opening Ceremony and Yan Chau Tong Marine Park Coastal Cleanup. A total of 41 ambassadors joined the above activities. Moreover, a Marine Parks Ambassador Basic Training was held with 16 participants.

6.8 To provide more opportunities for secondary school students to learn more about the background of Marine Parks, the Marine Parks Division organized a Coastal Cleanup activity on 21 July 2013. The activity was held at the Yan Chau Tong Marine Park, 23 Marine Parks Ambassadors together with 14 secondary school students from a Children and Youth Service Centre participated in the activity. Apart from the Coastal Cleanup, the Marine Parks staff also introduced the ecology of Yan Chau Tong Marine Park to the participants.

6.9 Up to 31 July 2013, a total of 97 Marine Parks Ambassadors have completed 20 hours services; 35 Ambassador have completed 40 hours services; 21 Ambassadors have completed 70 hours services; 13 Ambassadors have completed 100 hours services, 9 Ambassadors have completed 150 hours services and 3 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 July 2013, the accumulated service hours of marine parks ambassadors are 7,144 hours.

C. Performance Pledges

Performance Results – April to June 2013

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	0	0	N/A
2	Mai Po Marshes Entry Permit	3 working days	157	157	100.00%
		Sub-total	157	157	100.00%
	<u>Country and Marine Parks</u>				
3	Pak Tam Chung Barrier Permit	2 working days	261	261	100.00%
4	Location Filming Permit	3 working days	104	104	100.00%
5	Organized Event Permit in Country Parks	3 working days	58	58	100.00%
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	423	423	100.00%
		Total	580	580	100.00%

Country and Marine Parks Authority
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