

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD

Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report (1.5.2014 – 31.8.2014)

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 1.5.2014 – 31.8.2014. It provides various figures and information for facilitating Members to discuss 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 are shown below for reference. During the report period, the total amount of refuse collected within country parks and special areas is 1,061 tonnes (302 tonnes in May 2014, 238 tonnes in June 2014, 245 tonnes in July 2014 and 276 tonnes in August 2014), the number of trees planted is 412,800 nos. and tree produced in the Tai Tong Nursery is 304,700 nos.

Major facilities provided for public enjoyment

Item	Total at 31.8.2014	Item	Total at 31.8.2014
Barbecue Site	178	Shelters	293
Picnic Site	168	Refreshment Kiosk	8
Camp Site	41	Flushing Toilet	49
Morning Walker Garden	20	No. of Portable Toilet	118

1.2 Tree Management

An annual Tree Risk Assessment was conducted at or adjacent to recreational sites and facilities in country parks and special areas from February to June 2014. A total of 1,780 tree groups (including tree groups growing near 1,158 recreational sites and covering 622 sites adjacent to public roads) and six Old and Valuable Trees (OVT) were inspected. Tree management measures, such as pruning and thinning, were prescribed for trees in poor health conditions or posing high safety risk to the public. A total of 281 audit checks of the risk assessment reports (about 15% of all assessed tree groups and all OVTs) were conducted to ensure that tree risk assessments and necessary mitigation measures were professionally and promptly carried out to ensure public safety.

1.3 Fire Protection

The 2013-2014 fire season completed on 1.5.2014. Detailed figures are summarized below:-

Month	No. of fires inside or threatening country park		Area affected (Ha)		No. of trees affected	
May, 14	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Jun., 14	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Jul., 14	1	(0)	0.3	(0)	0	(0)
Aug., 14	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Total	1	(0)	0.3	(0)	0	(0)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

1.4 Organized Event

In the report period, 183 permits were given under Reg. 11 of the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulation to organized events in country parks. Most of these events were related to sport competition, location filming and raising funds for charity.

1.5 Control of Development

A total of 42 development proposals were received. There was no objection to 22 of them, the other 15 were being processed and five were cancelled. Most of these were related to minor works concerning electric supply and slope works.

2. Visitor Services/Education

2.1 Visitor Statistics

In the reporting period, a total of 3,022,000 persons visited the country parks and special areas. The monthly breakdown is as below for reference.

Month	May, 14	Jun., 14	Jul., 14	Aug., 14
No. of Visitors	787,000	716,000	756,000	763,000

2.2 Visitor Centres

In the reporting period, a total of 3,476 persons joined the guided tours organized by the Country Park Visitor Centres and Education Centres. The monthly visitor statistics of the Country Park Visitor Centres and Education Centres are summarized below:-

Country Park Visitor Centre/ Education Centre	No. of Visitors			
	May, 14	Jun., 14	Jul., 14	Aug., 14
Lions Nature Education Centre	22,480	22,416	22,544	19,520
Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre	6,080	6,730	7,910	9,115
Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre	1,038	832	960	1,249
Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre	1,684	1,780	1,350	1,277
Ngong Ping Nature Centre	3,077	3,665	5,497	5,190
Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre	2,448	1,356	1,388	2,200
Aberdeen Tree Centre	483	285	290	501

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 summarized below:-

Country Park Volunteer Scheme	May, 14	Jun., 14	Jul., 14	Aug., 14
No. of volunteers/ trainees	654	900	900	900
Total volunteer service hours	1,214	1,024.5	964	1,674

2.4 School Visit Programme

School visit programme was launched again in 2013-14 school year to convey nature conservation message to students. Detailed figures of the programme in the reporting period are summarized below:-

School Visit Programme	No. of Participants
Kindergartens	3,815
Primary Schools	4,964

2.5 Other Education Activities

Details of the education activities organized in the reporting period are summarized below:-

Name of the Activity	Date	No. of Participants	Remarks
Public Talks: Climate Change Series	18 May 2014 15 June 2014 20 July 2014	119	—

2.6 Assistance

Assistance was offered to the public on:-

Nature	May, 14	Jun., 14	Jul., 14	Aug., 14
First aid	19	10	16	19
Handicapped persons	27	31	38	48
Search and rescue	0	0	1	3
Return of lost properties	2	3	1	2

2.7 Free Distribution of Publicity Materials

Nature	May, 14	Jun., 14	Jul., 14	Aug., 14
Pamphlets	4,746	3,594	3,470	3,857
Posters	70	72	61	64
Booklets	848	1,032	1,017	1,180

3. Law Enforcement

A total of 267 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 summarized below:

Nature of offence	No. of cases *
Illegal entry of bicycle	152
Illegal entry of vehicle	56
Illegal possession of hunting/trapping appliance	2
Illegal use of fire	1
Damaging and cutting of plant	5
Illegal hawking/trading	1
Illegal constructing/excavating of grave	1
Illegal operation of power driven model vehicle/aeroplane	2
Camping outside designated camping site	10
Littering	25 [#]
Spitting	1 [#]
Illegal feeding of monkey	11
Total	267

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 31.8.2014, the following facilities had been installed in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve:

Facilities	Total nos. at 31.8.2014	Facilities	Total nos. at 31.8.2014
Sign (various warnings)	133	Mooring buoy for divers	28
Park sign	21	Boundary post	17
Sign (various purposes)	52	Sign post	21
Boundary marker buoy	14	Information board	8
Marker buoy	36	Litter bin	15
Buoy for Mechanized Vessel Restricted Zone	205	Banner	2
Buoy for Inboard Vessel Prohibited Zone	4	Way mark	10

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	Nos. of tonnage (1.5.2014 – 31.8.2014)
Hoi Ha Wan	19.17
Yan Chau Tong	16.30
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	26.34
Tung Ping Chau	16.26
Cape D'Aguilar	3.08
Total	81.15

2. Visitor Services / Education

2.1 Visitor Statistics

In the reporting period, the number of visitors is as follows:

Marine Park	Nos. of Visitors
Hoi Ha Wan	20,638
Yan Chau Tong	5,510
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	1,232
Tung Ping Chau	13,940
Total	41,320

2.2 Enquiries

During the period from 1.5.2014 – 31.8.2014, a total of 203 enquiries was received and answered. Details are listed below:

Nature	Nos.
Park facilities	78
Education activities	82
Renewal for fishing permit	43
Total	203

All enquiries have been resolved.

2.3 Distribution of Educational and Publicity Materials

During the report period, a total of 2,065 educational and publicity materials were distributed to the public. Details are listed below:

Items	Nos.
Leaflets	480
Bookmarks	74
DVD	1
Others	1,510
Total	2,065

2.4 Educational and Publicity Activities

During the report period, a total of 55 educational/publicity activities involving 1,978 participants were organized. Details are listed below:

Items	Nos.	Nos. servicing Ambassador	Total nos. of participant
Education Activities			
Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park Ecotour	16	-	87
School Guided Tour	8	-	220
School Field Study	4	-	115
School Seminar	1	-	400
Marine Parks Public Seminar 2014	4	-	420
Marine Based Guided Tours – Exploration of fishermen culture and marine resources in Hong Kong	7	-	203
Marine Based Guided Tours – Exploration of fishermen culture and marine resources in Hong Kong – Commercial Tours	11	-	415
Marine Parks Ambassador Scheme			
Hong Kong Reef Check 2014 opening ceremony	-	10	10
Marine Parks photography trip	4	108	108
Total	55	118	1,978

2.5 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, seven tours were held with 203 participants.

2.6 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, four public seminars were held with 420 participants. Topics of the seminars included: Fish, seahorse, horseshoe crab, seaweed and mangrove ecology and conservation works at the four Marine Parks.

2.7 During the report period, Marine Parks Ambassador participated in the following volunteer services: Hong Kong Reef Check 2014 opening ceremony and four marine parks photography trip. A total of 118 ambassadors joined the above activities.

2.8 Up to 31 August 2014, a total of 98 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, nine Ambassadors have completed 150 hours services and three 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 August 2014, the accumulated service hours of marine parks ambassadors are 7,865.5 hours.

3. Law Enforcement and Advice

During the report period, a total of 1,212 advices and six verbal warnings were given to fishermen and visitors and 24 prosecutions were taken against offenders in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve.

Nature of offence	Nos. of prosecution	Nos. completed hearing	Fines (HK\$)
Pleasure fishing	11	6	3,500
Vessel activity	12	1	1,000
Other	1	0	-
Total	24	7	4,500

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 2014