Working Paper: WP/CMPB/16/2012

#### COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD

### Draft Replacement Maps of Sai Kung East Country Park, Kam Shan Country Park and Tai Lam Country Park

#### 1. Purpose

This paper aims to seek Members' views on the draft replacement maps of the Sai Kung East Country Park (SKECP), the Kam Shan Country Park (KSCP) and the Tai Lam Country Park (TLCP) and the respective explanatory statements which form part of the draft replacement maps. The draft replacement maps aim to incorporate the country park enclaves of Tai Long Sai Wan (Sai Wan), Kam Shan and Yuen Tun into the SKECP, the KSCP and the TLCP respectively.

#### 2. Background

At the meeting held on 8 August 2012, when the Country and Marine Parks Authority (the Authority) reported the progress of consultation and sought Members' views regarding the proposed incorporation of the country park enclaves of Sai Wan, Kam Shan and Yuen Tun into the SKECP, the KSCP and the TLCP respectively, Members unanimously supported the incorporation proposal by invoking the statutory procedures under the Country Parks Ordinance (CPO).

#### 3. Statutory Procedures in Progress

- 3.1 On 9 October 2012, the Chief Executive in Council (CE in C) referred the approved maps of the SKECP, the KSCP and the TLCP to the Authority under section 15(1) of the CPO for replacement by new maps to incorporate the country park enclaves of Sai Wan, Kam Shan and Yuen Tun into the SKECP, the KSCP and the TLCP respectively. The Authority has then prepared the draft maps of the SKECP, the KSCP and the TLCP and the respective explanatory statements in accordance with sections 8(1) and 8(3) of the CPO.
- 3.2 Subject to the advice of the Country and Marine Parks Board (the Board), it is intended to publish in the Gazette a notice in English and in Chinese regarding the

draft maps on 26 October or 2 November 2012. Copies of the draft maps and explanatory statements shall be made available for inspection by the public free of charge for a period of 60 days from the date of the Gazette notice under section 9 of CPO.

#### 4. Way Forward

Following the public inspection, the approved maps can be replaced by pursuing the following statutory procedures under the CPO:

- (i) the Board to hear any objections to the three draft maps, upon the hearing of an objection, the Board may either reject it in whole or in part; or direct the Authority to make amendments (section 11);
- (ii) the Authority to submit the three draft maps, together with objections, representations and any amendments to the CE in C for approval (section 12);
- (iii) upon submission of the draft maps, the CE in C shall (section 13) -
  - (a) approve the draft maps; or
  - (b) refuse to approve the draft maps; or
  - (c) refer the draft maps to the Authority for further consideration and amendment;
- (iv) after approval of the draft maps by CE in C, the CE shall designate the areas shown in the approved maps to be country parks (section 14).

#### 5. Advice Sought

Under section 8(4) of the CPO, the Authority shall consult the Board on the preparation of any draft map. Members are therefore invited to comment on the following:-

- (i) the draft map (Plan No. CP/SK(E)<sup>B</sup>) and the explanatory statement of SKECP (Annex 1);
- (ii) the draft map (Plan No. CP/KS<sup>B</sup>) and the explanatory statement of KSCP (Annex 2); and

(iii) the draft map (Plan No.  $CP/TL^F$ ) and the explanatory statement of TLCP (Annex 3).

Country and Marine Parks Authority
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
October 2012

File reference: AF GR/CPA/02/4/0

AF GR/CPA/02/9/0

AF GR/CPA/02/35/0

# DRAFT MAP FOR REPLACEMENT OF THE APPROVED MAP OF THE SAI KUNG EAST COUNTRY PARK Explanatory Statement

#### 1. <u>AUTHORITY</u>

This statement forms part of the draft map (Plan No. CP/SK(E)<sup>B</sup>) for the replacement of the map (Plan No. CP/SK(E)<sup>A</sup>) of the Sai Kung East Country Park (the Country Park) approved on 17 January 1978 by the then Governor-in-Council and deposited in the Land Registry. The draft map was prepared by the Country and Marine Parks Authority (the Authority) in accordance with Sections 8 and 15(1) of the Country Parks Ordinance (Chapter 208).

#### 2. LOCATION AND BOUNDARIES

- 2.1 It is proposed to incorporate about 17 hectares of land (the site) located in Tai Long Sai Wan into the Country Park. The site is endowed with rich natural resources and landscape components, including a natural and unpolluted beach, well-established woodland, two natural streams flowing from the Country Park, and mangrove stands established at the lower stream courses. The combination of these natural resources and landscape components provides an area of outstanding scenic quality. The site is a popular spot where Country Park visitors would stop for a rest to enjoy the natural scenery before proceeding to other parts of the Country Park. Designation of the site as part of the Country Park would improve the management of the site.
- 2.2 The Country Park comprises part of the Sai Kung peninsula lying to the east of Pak Tam Road which stretches from Long Harbour southwards to High Island. It has the largest number of bays and coves among all Country Parks. The Country Park encompasses the High Island Reservoir, the largest reservoir in Hong Kong with a capacity of 280 million cubic metres. Another prominent landmark is Sharp Peak which is made famous by its sheer conical profile, towering 468 metres above the lowlands. While the Country Park is predominantly grassy hills comprising the catchment areas and surrounding countryside, plantation dominated by fast growing

tree species has also been established after years of planting and maintenance efforts. Besides, High Island forms part of the Hong Kong Global Geopark of China for the hexagonal rock columns fringing along the coast from Fa Shan to Tung Wan.

2.3 The total area of the Country Park covered by the draft map is about 4,494 hectares. The boundaries are shown on the draft map and follow recognisable topographic features such as roadsides, the coastline, footpaths, etc. as far as possible. The area covered by the draft map shall be the area shown in the approved map of the Sai Kung East Country Park together with some 17 hectares of land cross-hatched in the draft map.

#### 3. OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The Country Park (after replacement of the approved map by the draft map) will continue to aim at the provision for barbecuing and picnicking activities for the public. Vegetation and wildlife are to be protected and special attention will be paid to conserve the unspoiled landscape and scenic values of the area. In addition, the need to maintain the High Island Reservoir and its catchment area in good condition and free from pollution will be an important consideration.
- 3.2 High Island forms part of the Hong Kong Global Geopark of China. The volcanic rock columns on the seaward cliff of Fa Shan are the highest in Hong Kong, with a height of over 100 metres, forming what is known as a "Natural Hexagonal Column Mural". The special geological features of the area will be properly conserved.

#### 4. <u>ZONING</u>

The Country Park is broadly divided into three zones appropriate to different uses. The zoning will be reviewed and adjusted to meet future requirements.

(a) Recreation Zones are distributed mainly on where the Country Park is easily reached by public transportation, e.g. Pak Tam Chung and Wong Shek area. Barbecue areas and camp sites are clearly identified with signs, and the lighting of

fires elsewhere in the Country Park is prohibited by regulations. All the sites are provided with picnic furniture and other facilities where appropriate, which are so designed as to cater for both large and small parties of visitors.

- (b) Wilderness Zones are hilly or coastal areas which provide an essential scenic background to the recreation zones, giving opportunities for the public to enjoy the natural scenery, tranquility and wilderness of the Country Park. Waymarked footpaths are maintained and provided with facilities such as information boards, viewing points, distance posts, etc. The first two sections of MacLehose Trail, country trails and maintained footpaths traverse these zones in the Country Park. The High Island Geo Trail created at the East Dam of the High Island Reservoir is to facilitate access to the geological features of the area.
- (c) <u>Conservation Zones</u> are sites reserved primarily for the purpose of nature and geological conservation. Access to these zones is not encouraged. This is to minimize any potential disturbance to fauna, flora and geological features in such area. No or little Country Park facilities are provided within these zones. Management operations in these zones are limited to hill fire prevention, habitat enhancement as well as wildlife and geological conservation.

#### 5. ACCESS

A number of roads, including the Tai Mong Tsai Road and Pak Tam Road, give access to the Country Park and are served by public transport. The vehicular use of Pak Tam Road is restricted to public transport, official, and park residents' vehicles only. Access may also be made by sea due to the extensive coastline, depending on the weather conditions.

#### 6. VISITOR FACILITIES

6.1 Picnic tables, barbecue pits, benches and litter bins are provided in addition to campsites, shelters, refreshment kiosks and toilets at key locations. Information boards, viewing points and displays indicating the location of facilities and describing

features of the Country Park, are erected at entry points and other strategic locations. The Pak Tam Chung Physically Handicapped and Able-Bodied Site provides facilities for visitors with disability including wheel chair path, barbecue site, braille tactile map, tactile guide path, etc.

6.2 Various kinds of trails created in the Country Park may serve different needs of users. Sections 1 and 2 of the MacLehose Trail are located within the Country Park and Pak Tam Chung is the starting point. The other 4 country trails in the Country Park also exhibit the beautiful scenery of countryside. Pak Tam Chung Nature Trail is an ideal destination for field study and nature education. Sheung Yiu Family Walk and Wong Shek Family Walk are designated for family visitors. Tree Walks at Wong Shek and Tai Tan are short walks with interesting flora species along the path. Information plates about such species are erected for information. The High Island Geo Trail created at the East Dam of the High Island Reservoir allows close appreciation of the interesting geological features of the area, such as faults, twisted rock columns, dyke and sea stack. Interpretation signs are provided to enhance understanding of the geological features.

Country and Marine Parks Authority
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

October 2012

## DRAFT MAP FOR REPLACEMENT OF THE APPROVED MAP OF THE KAM SHAN COUNTRY PARK

#### **Explanatory Statement**

#### 1. AUTHORITY

This statement forms part of the draft map (Plan No. CP/KS<sup>B</sup>) for replacement of the map (Plan No. CP/KS1<sup>A</sup>) of the Kam Shan Country Park (the Country Park) approved on 14 June 1977 by the then Governor-in-Council and deposited in the Land Registry. The draft map was prepared by the Country and Marine Parks Authority (the Authority) in accordance with Sections 8 and 15(1) of the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208).

#### 2. LOCATION AND BOUNDARIES

- 2.1 It is proposed to incorporate less than 1 hectare of land (the site) into the Country Park. The site is located at the upland near the peak of Kam Shan and mainly covered by dense shrubby woodland. Its centre is a piece of paved area which was once erected with telecommunication facilities. The paved area has been using by hikers and morning walkers for resting, gathering and performing various outdoor activities. Designation of the site as part of the Country Park would improve the management of the area.
- 2.2 The Country Park forms part of mountain ridges separating Kowloon Peninsula from New Territories. It mainly covers the Kowloon Group of Reservoirs, viz. Kowloon Reservoir, Shek Lei Pui Reservoir, Kowloon Reception Reservoir and Kowloon Byewash Reservoir, and their water catchment areas which are mostly covered by secondary woodlands. The total area covered by Kam Shan Country Park is about 339 hectares. Its boundary is shown on the draft map and follows recognizable features such as roadsides, footpaths, ridges, etc. as far as possible. The area covered by the draft map shall be the area shown in the approved map of the Kam Shan Country Park together with the less than 1 hectare of land cross-hatched in the draft map.

#### 3. OBJECTIVES

The Country Park (after replacement of the approved map by the draft map) will continue to aim primarily at the provision of facilities for barbecuing, picnicking and hiking activities for the public. Vegetation and wildlife are to be protected, and special attention will be paid to conserve the unspoiled landscape and scenic values of the area. In addition, the need to maintain the reservoirs and their catchment areas in good condition and free from pollution will also be an important consideration.

#### 4. ZONING

The Country Park is broadly subdivided into two zones appropriate to different uses. The zoning will be reviewed and adjusted from time to time to meet future requirements.

- (a) Recreation Zones are concentrated along the Golden Hill Road and around the reservoirs. These zones include recreation areas in various types such as barbecue areas, picnic areas and morning walker gardens to cater for the need of visitors and in various sizes to cater for both large and small groups of visitors. Recreation areas are provided with picnic furniture, litter bins and rain shelters. Barbecue areas are clearly identified with signs, and the lighting of fires elsewhere in the Country Park is prohibited by regulations.
- (b) <u>Wilderness Zones</u> are hilly areas which provide an essential scenic background to the recreation zones, giving opportunities for the public to enjoy the natural scenery, tranquility and wilderness of the Country Park. Waymarked footpaths are maintained and provided with facilities such as information boards, distance posts, etc. Sections of MacLehose Trail and Wilson Trail, and various maintained footpaths traverse these zones in the Country Park. Landscape conservation is the primary management objective of these zones.

#### 5. ACCESS

5.1 The Country Park is served by an extensive public transport network along the Tai Po Road, which is a public road connecting Kowloon and Sha

Tin in the New Territories.

Pedestrian access is by footpaths from Lai Chi Kok and Kwai Chung or from the Shing Mun Country Park via Smugglers' Ridge. The MacLehose Trail (Section 6) and Wilson Trail (Section 6) trasverse the Country Park from Tai Po Road in the south to Shing Mun Country Park in the north. The Golden Hill Road, which runs across the Country Park from north to south, is opened to public access whilst Cheung Yuen Road, the waterworks road along the southern boundary of the Country Park is restricted to official and service vehicles.

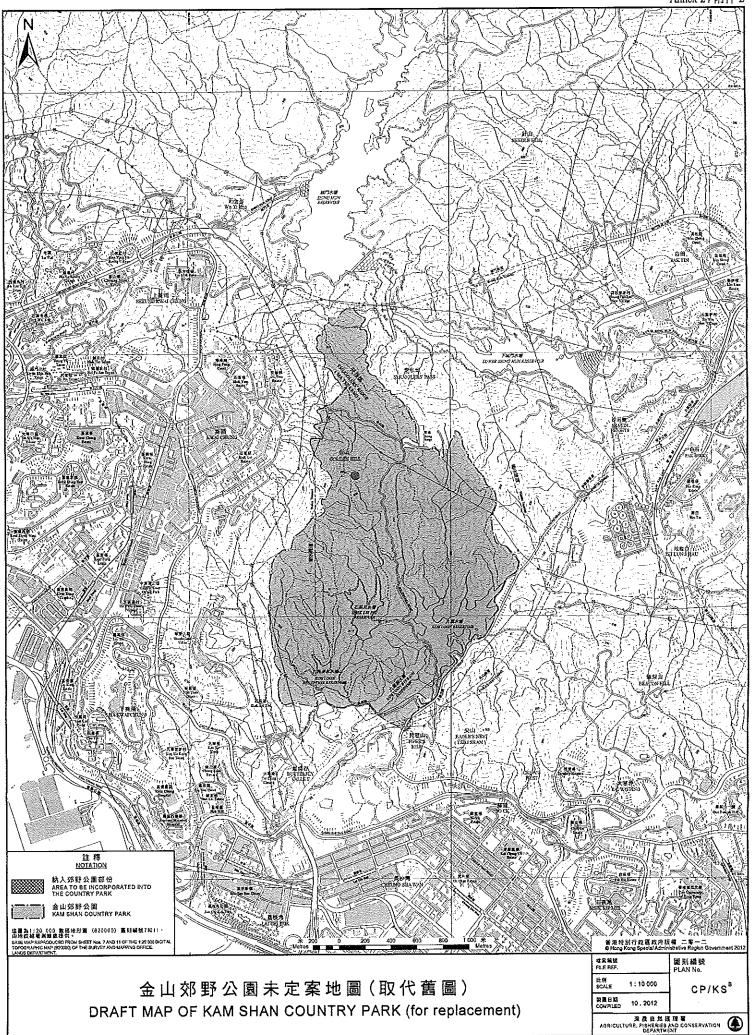
#### 6. VISITOR FACILITIES

Information boards and displays indicating the location of facilities and describing features of the Country Park are provided at the main access points, look-outs and other strategic locations in the Country Park. Rain shelters, picnic furniture, barbecue pits, benches, litter bins, public toilets, etc. are provided as appropriate in the recreation zones. In addition to the two long distance hiking trails, viz. MacLehose Trail (Section 6) and Wilson Trail (Section 6), various footpaths, including Kam Shan Tree Walk, Kam Shan Family Walk, Kam Shan Orienteering Trail, Shek Lei Pui Reservoir Jogging Trail and Kowloon Reception Reservoir Jogging Trail, are maintained for public enjoyment within the wilderness zones of the Country Park.

Country and Marine Parks Authority

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

October 2012



### DRAFT MAP FOR REPLACEMENT OF THE APPROVED MAP OF THE TAI LAM COUNTRY PARK

#### **Explanatory Statement**

#### 1. AUTHORITY

This statement forms part of the draft map (Plan No. CP/TL<sup>F</sup>) for replacement of the map (Plan No. CP/TL<sup>E</sup>) of the Tai Lam Country Park (the Country Park) approved on 21 March 1995 by the then Governor-in-Council and deposited in the Land Registry. The draft map was prepared by the Country and Marine Parks Authority in accordance with Sections 8 and 15(1) of the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208).

#### 2. LOCATION AND BOUNDARIES

- 2.1 It is proposed to incorporate about 20 hectares of land located in Yuen Tun as part of the Country Park. The land to be incorporated has been allocated to the Civil Aid Service for use as an outdoor training camp since it was opened in 1975. Whilst the camp occupies only part of the land, the remaining area is mainly covered by natural secondary woodland.
- 2.2 The Country Park covers the upland area to the west of Tai Mo Shan and lying south of Yuen Long plain. It stretches from Lam Tei near Tuen Mun eastwards to Route Twisk. The Tai Lam Chung Reservoir and several other minor reservoirs within the Country Park contribute to its scenic attractions of grassy hills and forest areas. The total area covered by the Country Park is about 5,412 hectares. Its boundary is shown on the draft map and generally follows recognizable features such as roads, footpaths, etc. as far as possible. The area covered by the draft map shall be the area shown in the approved map of the Tai Lam Country Park together with some 20 hectares of land cross-hatched in the draft map.

The map of the Tai Lam Country Park was firstly approved by the then Governor-in-Council in 1979. With the direction of the then Governor-in-Council under Section 15 of the CPO, the map of Tai Lam Country Park was replaced by a new map in 1995 in order to (i) excise about 2 hectares of land from the Country Park at Ma On Kong for the Route 3 development; (ii) incorporate into the Country Park a piece of woodland covering about 4 hectares of land; and (iii) incorporate into the Country Park about 38 hectares of land at Tai Tong for afforestation and recreation use.

#### 3. OBJECTIVES

The Country Park (after replacement of the approved map by the draft map) will continue to primarily aim at rehabilitating the eroded landscape and provision of appropriate recreation facilities, such as hiking trails, picnic sites, barbecue sites, etc. for the general public. Special attention will be given to conserving and protecting the vegetation from hill fire and to enhancing the conservation, landscape and aesthetic value of the Country Park.

#### 4. ZONING

- 4.1 The Country Park is broadly subdivided into three zones appropriate to different uses. The zoning will be reviewed and adjusted to meet future requirements.
- (a) Recreation Zones are distributed mainly on where the Country Park is easily reached by public transportation, for examples, Tsuen Kam Au along Route Twisk, Ho Pui, Tai Tong, Tsing Lung Tau and Maclehose Trail Section 10 near So Kwun Wat at Tuen Mun. These zones include various types of recreation areas such as barbecue areas, picnic areas, camp sites, etc. They are in various sizes to cater for both large and small group of visitors and are provided with suitable Country Park facilities, such as picnic furniture, barbecue pits, litter bins, public toilets, rain shelters, fitness equipments, etc. Barbecue areas and camp sites are clearly identified with signs, and the lighting of fires elsewhere in the Country Park is prohibited by regulations.
- (b) Wilderness Zones are hilly areas which provide an essential scenic background to the recreation zones, giving opportunities for the public to enjoy the natural scenery, tranquility and wilderness of the Country Park. Waymarked footpaths are maintained and provided with facilities such as information boards, viewing points, distance posts, etc. Sections of the MacLehose Trail, Yuen Tun Country Trail, Tai Lam Chung Country Trail, Yuen Tsuen Ancient Trail and various maintained footpaths traverse these zones in the Country Park. In addition, there are 52 km long of mountain bike trails running across these zones. Landscape conservation is the primary management objective of these zones.

- (c) <u>Conservation Zones</u> are sites reserved primarily for the purpose of nature conservation. Access into these zones is not encouraged. This is to minimize any potential disturbance to wildlife and the influence to vegetation in such area. No or little Country Park facilities are provided within these zones. Management operations in these zones are limited to hill fire prevention, habitat enhancement and wildlife conservation.
- 4.2 The proposed land to be incorporated into the Country Park has been allocated to the Civil Aid Service for use as an outdoor training camp since 1975. The current uses and operations of the camp, which are governed by the conditions of the Government Land Allocation, will continue and will not be affected by the proposed incorporation of it into the Country Park.

#### 5. ACCESS

The Country Park is served by an extensive public transport network at various access points along major roads, viz. Route Twisk, Castle Peak Road, Tuen Mun Road and Tai Tong Shan Road. The major access points are connected to the rest of the Country Park by forest tracks, waterworks road and hiking trails. The proposed area to be incorporated into the Tai Lam Country Park has a vehicular access to and from Tsing Lung Tau via Yuk Sing Road and Lung Yue Road. All the roads and trails within the Country Park are restricted to pedestrians and official vehicles only.

#### 6. VISITOR FACILITIES

- 6.1 Information boards and displays indicating the location of facilities and describing features of the Country Park are provided near the main access points and at strategic locations. Rainshelters, picnic tables, barbecue pits, benches, litter bins, view compasses, fitness equipments, toilets, etc. are provided as appropriate in the recreation zones.
- Various hiking trails and mountain bike trails are provided within the Country Park. Apart from the long distance hiking trail, viz. Maclehose Trail (Sections 9 and 10), trails of varying lengths (e.g. Yuen Tsuen Ancient Trail, Yuen Tun Country Trail, Tai Lam Chung Country Trail, Ho Pui Reservoir Family Walk, Kap Lung Forest Trail, Tai Tong Nature Trail) are maintained for public enjoyment within

the wilderness zones of the Country Park. A mountain bike trail network of 52 km (with 9 sections of designated mountain bike trails) is also available for bicyclists who carry valid mountain bike permits issued by the Authority to ride bicycles within the Country Park.

Country and Marine Parks Authority

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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