

## **COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD**

### **Curriculum-based Outdoor Learning Programmes in Country Parks**

#### **1. Purpose**

1.1 This paper aims to brief members on the plan to develop curriculum-based outdoor learning programmes in country parks for primary and secondary schools.

#### **2. Background**

2.1 Country parks and special areas are designated under the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208) for nature conservation, countryside recreation and outdoor education. The well protected landscape, diverse habitats and wildlife, as well as other geological and cultural features are valuable resources for conservation education and nature appreciation. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) provides the infrastructure to facilitate people to visit the country parks and offers learning opportunities. To assist self-learning, outdoor panels introducing the natural wonders, cultural and historic sites are erected along nature trails and family walks. The country parks visitor centres / education centres provide exhibitions of various themes and run a wide array of interactive and activity-based learning programmes to facilitate experiential learning by the public and students and enhance their environmental awareness.

2.2 To complement the learning objectives of “Nature and Living” in the kindergarten education curriculum guide, AFCD collaborated with the Education Bureau and the Hong Kong Baptist University to roll out a self-guided teaching and learning programme “Countryside Adventure” for kindergartens in the 2018/2019 academic year. Students may freely explore nature with multiple senses in a safe outdoor setting at the AFCD Lions Nature Education Centre to conduct nature-based learning activities which help nurture and develop their curiosity and exploratory spirit. The programme receives positive feedbacks from kindergartens.

2.3 With a view to further developing country parks and special areas as a learning platform for primary and secondary schools and meeting the growing demand for nature education, AFCD commissioned the Education University of Hong Kong in October 2020 to conduct a consultancy study (the Study) to design new curriculum-based outdoor learning programmes in country parks and develop the associated learning and teaching (L&T) resources for primary and secondary schools. These programmes aim at encouraging students to learn more about country parks, biodiversity, vegetation management and climate change, and actively take part in nature conservation.

2.4 The new outdoor learning programmes echo the recommendations of the “Consultancy Study on Enhancement of the Recreation and Education Potential of Country Parks and Special Areas” in 2019 on strengthening the educational functions of country parks and special areas.

### **3. Scope of the Study**

3.1 The Consultant should make use of country parks and special areas as the venues in designing the outdoor learning programmes and developing the associated L&T resources. The Study has the following objectives:

- (a) To review and stocktake the existing curriculum-based outdoor learning programmes in primary and secondary schools with respect to field study sites and supporting facilities for the subjects of General Studies, Science, Geography, Integrated Science and Biology;
- (b) To explore the natural and education resources of country parks and special areas in Hong Kong and design new outdoor learning programmes and develop L&T resources for primary and secondary schools making use of such resources; and
- (c) To promote and provide teacher training for the implementation of outdoor learning programmes.

3.2 To achieve the above strategic objectives, the Consultant should identify appropriate sites in the country parks and special areas to support the curriculum-based outdoor learning programmes.

#### **4. Study approach**

4.1 The Study would be conducted in four stages, namely baseline review, programme design, demonstration, as well as promotion and training. To ensure the newly developed outdoor learning programmes would meet the prevailing curriculum and suit the needs of primary and secondary schools, teachers and relevant experts would be engaged in different stages of the Study.

- (a) Baseline review: The existing curriculum of primary and secondary education in Hong Kong relevant to country parks and special areas, and the curriculum-based outdoor learning programmes would be reviewed. The Consultant should explore the natural resources of country parks and special areas to complement the existing curriculum-based outdoor learning programmes for primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong.
- (b) Design of programmes and production of L&T packages: With reference to the results of the Baseline review, the Consultant shall design a total of 12 curriculum-based outdoor learning programmes with associated L&T packages that are specific to the available resources at the identified sites.
- (c) Demonstration of L&T packages: The Consultant should conduct demonstrations of the trial version of each L&T package for teachers and students to collect feedback. The Consultant should review and modify the L&T packages making reference to the comments received.
- (d) Promotion and training: The Consultant should organise teacher seminars to promote the programmes and L&T packages and offer training to build up the capacity of the teachers in implementing the programmes. The programmes would also be promoted by leaflets distributed to primary and secondary schools and through appropriate channels of the education sector.

#### **5. Schedule of the Study**

5.1 The Study is expected to last for 24 months. The schedule of the Study, in

particular the delivery of L&T packages, has been so planned to tally with the academic cycle. The work programme and milestones of the Study are set out as follows:

<b>Key Tasks</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
Inception Report	November 2020
Baseline Review Report	January 2021
First batch of 4 L&T packages	April 2021
Demonstration of trial version	June 2021
Teacher seminars	September 2021
Second batch of 8 L&T packages	April 2022
Demonstration of trial version	June 2022
Teacher seminars	September 2022
Final Report of the Study	October 2022

## **6. Advice sought**

6.1 Members are invited to offer views on the plan for developing curriculum-based outdoor learning programmes.

Country and Marine Parks Authority  
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department  
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