

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD

Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report (1.10.2019 – 31.12.2019)

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 1.10.2019 – 31.12.2019. 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 31.12.2019	Item	Total no. as at 31.12.2019
Barbecue Site	163	Shelter	293
Picnic Site	156	Refreshment Kiosk	8
Camp Site	41	Public Toilet	98
Morning Walker Garden	20	Portable Toilet	123

Amount of refuse collected (metric tonnes)

Oct., 2019	Nov., 2019	Dec., 2019	Total
220 (292)	242 (312)	292 (341)	754 (945)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

1.2 Fire Protection

The 2019-2020 fire season started on 13.9.2019. Detailed figures are summarized below:

Month	No. of fires inside or threatening country park		Area affected (Ha)		No. of trees affected	
		()		()		()
Oct., 2019	3	(0)	6.87	(0)	40	(0)
Nov., 2019	6	(0)	30.45	(0)	80	(0)
Dec., 2019	3	(1)	66.68	(0.01)	2,500	(0)
Total	12	(1)	104	(0.01)	2,620	(0)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

1.3 Permitted Events

In the reporting period, 182 permits were given under Reg. 11 of the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulation to hold events in country parks. The monthly breakdown is provided below:

Month	Sporting competition*	Location filming*	Other events*
Oct., 2019	11	61	19
Nov., 2019	17	23	8
Dec., 2019	8	28	7
Total	36	112	34

Remarks: * Number of permitted events during the reporting period.

1.4 Control of Development

A total of 14 development proposals were received. There was no objection to 6 of them, the other 8 were being processed. Most of these were related to minor works concerning slope works.

2. Visitor Services / Education

2.1 Visitor Statistics

In the reporting period, a total of 3,170,000 persons visited the country parks and special areas. The monthly breakdown is as below for reference.

Oct., 2019	Nov., 2019	Dec., 2019	Total
970,000 (1,104,000)	1,064,000 (1,182,000)	1,136,000 (1,244,000)	3,170,000 (3,530,000)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

2.2 Visitor Centres

In the reporting period, a total of 1,127 persons joined the guided tours organised by the Country Park Visitor Centres and Education Centres. Besides, the monthly visitor statistics of the Country Park Visitor Centres and Education Centres are summarised below:

Country Park Visitor Centre/ Education Centre	No. of Visitors		
	Oct., 2019	Nov., 2019	Dec., 2019
Lions Nature Education Centre	30,164	40,592	40,728
Clear Water Bay Country Park Visitor Centre	7,490	7,285	7,357
Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre	3,838	4,483	4,392
Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre	9,131	9,968	14,190
Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre	5,927	7,636	8,407
Ngong Ping Nature Centre	3,804	2,990	2,847
Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre	4,731	5,924	5,999
Aberdeen Tree Centre	1,208	989	1,169
Volcano Discovery Centre	11,672	10,003	11,288
Total	77,965	89,870	96,377

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 summarised below:

Country Park Volunteer Scheme	Oct., 2019	Nov., 2019	Dec., 2019
No. of volunteers/trainees	792	792	792
Total volunteer service hours	2,828	5,512	4,117

2.4 School Visit Programme

School visit programme was launched again in 2019-20 school year to convey nature conservation message to students. Detailed figures of the programme in the reporting period are summarised below:-

School Visit Programme	No. of Participants
Kindergartens	3,558
Primary Schools	1,477
Secondary Schools	823

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	Remarks
MacLehose Trail 40th Anniversary Celebration Programme	September to December 2019	18,249	Including Complete Walk on MacLehose Trail 2019, Hong Kong Trails Day, MacLehose Trail 40th Anniversary Celebration Day, Public Talk: The Legendary MacLehose Trail, MacLehose Trail Maintenance Workshop, MacLehose Trail Campers and Excursion with Experts at MacLehose Trail
Country Parks Exhibition	October and December 2019	3,900	
“Take Your Litter Home” & “Let’s Go Plastic Free” promotional activities	October to December 2019	28,594	Including exhibitions, game booths and other promotion activities
Excursion with Experts	15 December 2019	47	
BSAP Education Activities	31 December 2019	6,196	

2.6 Assistance

Assistance was offered to the public on:

Nature	Oct., 2019	Nov., 2019	Dec., 2019
First aid	11	10	12
Handicapped persons	0	0	0
Return of lost properties	1	1	1

2.7 Free Distribution of Publicity Materials

Nature	Oct., 2019	Nov., 2019	Dec., 2019
Pamphlets	4,061	3,416	3,466
Posters	47	62	934
Booklets	323	493	262

3. Law Enforcement

A total of 234 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	59
Illegal entry of vehicle	114
Illegal possession of cooking stove	1
Illegal use of fire	2
Damaging and cutting of plant	3
Illegal digging of soil	5
Illegal display of banner/sign	1
Illegal construction/erection of building/hut/shelter	1
Illegal carrying on business activity (filming)	1
Illegal operation of power driven model vehicle/aeroplane	1
Camping outside designated camping site	19
Littering	22 #
Illegal feeding of monkey	5
Total	234

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 31.12.2019, the following facilities had been installed in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve:

Facilities	Total no. as at 31.12.2019	Facilities	Total no. as at 31.12.2019
Warning Sign	98	Information Board	6
Park Sign	12	Boundary Light Buoy	19
Notice Sign (various purposes)	31	Mechanized Vessel Prohibited Zone Buoy	132
Boundary Post	16	Inboard Vessel Prohibited Zone Buoy	4
Marker Post (various purposes)	9	Mooring Buoy	24
Way Mark (various purposes)	14	Buoy (various purpose)	52

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	Amount of litter collected (tonnes)			
	Oct., 2019	Nov., 2019	Dec., 2019	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	4.70 (8.79)	4.98 (7.98)	6.90 (8.51)	16.58 (25.28)
Yan Chau Tong	3.56 (4.36)	3.46 (4.2)	5.42 (4.14)	12.44 (12.7)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	6.16 (6.28)	6.06 (5.93)	5.90 (6.4)	18.12 (18.61)
Tung Ping Chau	6.03 (8.64)	5.94 (7.1)	6.19 (6.62)	18.16 (22.36)
Cape D'Aguiar	1.67 (1.34)	1.39 (1.54)	1.49 (1.06)	4.55 (3.94)
The Brothers	0.36 (0.32)	0.00 (0.32)	0.50 (0.32)	0.86 (0.96)
Total	22.48 (29.73)	21.83 (27.07)	26.40 (27.05)	70.71 (83.85)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

2. Visitor Services / Education

2.1 Visitor Statistics

During the report period, the number of visitors is as follows:

Marine Park	Oct., 2019	Nov., 2019	Dec., 2019	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	3,431 (3,559)	1,769 (3,126)	1,595 (2,892)	6,795 (9,577)
Yan Chau Tong	1,022 (1,633)	795 (2,285)	1,940 (1,829)	3,757 (5,747)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	191 (265)	532 (554)	199 (445)	922 (1,264)
Tung Ping Chau	1,455 (3,667)	411 (1,479)	1,131 (794)	2,997 (5,940)
The Brothers	153 (334)	158 (204)	184 (211)	495 (749)
Total	6,252 (9,458)	3,665 (7,648)	5,049 (6,171)	14,966 (23,277)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

2.2 Enquiries

During the report period, a total of 32 enquiries was received and answered. Details are listed below:

Nature	Oct., 2019	Nov., 2019	Dec., 2019	Total
General information	3	1	5	9
Park facilities	1	1	1	3
Education activities	7	2	3	12
Renewal for fishing permit	1	1	4	6
Ordinance and regulations	0	0	2	2
Total	12	5	15	32

All enquiries have been resolved.

2.3 Distribution of Educational and Publicity Materials

During the report period, a total of 3,012 educational and publicity materials were distributed to the public. Details are listed below:

Items	Oct., 2019	Nov., 2019	Dec., 2019	Total
Bookmarks	7	10	0	17
Leaflets	60	60	30	150
Tote bags	10	5	0	15
Stickers	200	20	0	220
String bag	30	0	30	60
Toy charm	0	20	30	50
Calendar	0	0	2,500	2,500
Total	307	115	2,590	3,012

2.4 Educational and Publicity Activities

During the report period, a total of 6 educational/publicity activities involving 299 participants were organised. Details are listed below:

Items	No.	No. of servicing Ambassador	Total no. of participant
Education Activities			
Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park Ecotour	2	-	7
School Guided Tour	2	-	62
School Seminar	2	-	230
Marine Park Ambassador Scheme	0	-	0
Total	6	-	299

2.5 Up to 31st December 2019, a total of 145 Marine Parks Ambassadors have completed 20 hours services; 58 Ambassadors have completed 40 hours services; 31 Ambassadors have completed 70 hours services; 23 Ambassadors have completed 100 hours services, 17 Ambassadors have completed 150 hours services and 8 Ambassadors completed 200 hours service. Until the end of December 2019, the accumulated service hours of marine parks ambassadors are 10,971 hours.

3. Law Enforcement

3.1 During the report period, a total of 71 advices and 8 verbal warnings were given and 4 prosecutions. Three Joint Anti-illegal Fishing Operations with Fisheries Enforcement and Special Projects Division (FESPD) were conducted in Marine Parks.

Nature of offence	No. of prosecution*	No. of completed hearing**	Fines (HK\$)
Pleasure fishing	2	0	0
Other	2	2	1,800
Total	4	2	1,800

* The number denotes the cases initiated prosecution proceedings during the reporting period

** During the report period, the prosecution cases are not necessarily the same as the completed hearing cases

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
February 2020