

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD

**Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report
(1.9.2023 – 31.12.2023)**

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 1.9.2023 and 31.12.2023. 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 31.12.2023	Item	Total no. as at 31.12.2023
Barbecue Site	157	Shelter	289
Picnic Site	155	Refreshment Kiosk & Cafeteria	8
Camp Site	41	Public Toilet	90
Morning Walker Garden	19	Portable Toilet	121

Amount of refuse collected (metric tonnes)

Sep., 2023	Oct., 2023	Nov., 2023	Dec., 2023	Total
166(162)	232(161)	278(228)	305(287)	981(839)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

1.2 Fire Protection

The 2023-2024 fire season commenced on 23.9.2023. Detailed figures during the reporting period are summarized below:

Month	No. of fires inside or threatening country park		Area affected (Ha)		No. of trees affected	
		()		()		()
Sep., 2023	0	(2)	0	(0.2)	0	(72)
Oct., 2023	4	(5)	3.6	(51.7)	15	(107)
Nov., 2023	0	(1)	0	(12.0)	0	(226)
Dec., 2023	6	(2)	27.5	(20.6)	700	(80)
Total	10	(10)	31.1	(84.5)	715	(485)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

1.3 Permitted Events

During the reporting period, 130 permits were given under Reg. 11 of the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations to hold events in country parks. The monthly breakdown of permitted events during the reporting period is provided below:

Month	Sporting competition	Location filming	Other events
Sep., 2023	9	19	4
Oct., 2023	21	8	5
Nov., 2023	23	10	8
Dec., 2023	11	8	4
Total	64	45	21

1.4 Control of Development

A total of 144 development proposals were handled during the reporting period. This includes 43 new proposals and 101 proposals carried forward from the last reporting period. Most of the proposals were related to minor works concerning slope works and electricity supply. The breakdown of all proposals is provided below:

District	No. of Case	Electric Supply	Telephone Supply	Water Supply	Road/Path Improvement	Slope Works	Others *	No Objection	Being Processed	Withdrawn / Cancelled
Central	33	2	2	0	0	25	4	11	21	1
Hong Kong	20	2	0	0	0	18	0	10	10	0
Lantau	22	3	3	0	1	13	2	6	15	1
North	6	0	0	0	0	4	2	3	3	0
Sai Kung	39	6	3	4	6	13	7	6	30	3
West	24	0	0	0	1	23	0	15	9	0
Total	144	13	8	4	8	96	15	51	88	5

Remarks: * Other proposals mainly include installation of mobile radio station, small house development, erection of agricultural structures and provision/improvement of public utilities and facilities.

2. Visitor Services / Education

2.1 Visitor Statistics

In the reporting period, a total of 4,257,000 persons visited the country parks and special areas. The monthly breakdown is provided below:

Sept., 2023	Oct., 2023	Nov., 2023	Dec.,2023	Total
812,000 (856,000)	1,043,000 (1,004,000)	1,181,000 (1,120,000)	1,221,000 (1,319,000)	4,257,000 (4,299,000)

Remarks:

() denotes figures of same month last year.

2.2 Visitor Centres

The monthly visitor statistics of the Country Park Visitor / Education Centres are summarised below:

Country Park Visitor Centre / Education Centre	No. of Visitors			
	Sept., 2023	Oct., 2023	Nov., 2023	Dec.,2023
Lions Nature Education Centre	27,248	31,288	31,336	32,608
Clear Water Bay Country Park Visitor Centre	700	730	1,008	937
Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre	3,149	3,084	3,803	3,301
Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre *	0	0	0	0
Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre	299	828	1,043	1,007
Ngong Ping Nature Centre	812	924	734	1,077
Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre	694	2,502	3,310	3,446
Aberdeen Tree Centre	172	353	283	323
Volcano Discovery Centre	5,979	8,383	8,196	8,006
Total	39,053	48,092	49,713	50,705

Remarks: *The centre was temporarily closed for renovation works

2.3 Country Park Volunteer Scheme

The Country Park Volunteer Scheme commenced in March 2010. Detailed figures of the Country Park Volunteer Scheme in the reporting period are summarised below:

Country Park Volunteer Scheme	Sept., 2023	Oct., 2023	Nov., 2023	Dec.,2023
No. of volunteers/trainees	754	754	754	754
Total volunteer service hours	442	1,396	1,631	1,900

2.4 School Visit Programme

School visit programme was launched again in 2023-24 school year to convey nature conservation message to students. The number of participants in the reporting period is summarised below:

School Visit Programme	No. of Participants
Kindergartens	3,293
Primary Schools	3,732
Secondary Schools	1,590

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
“Take Your Litter Home” Photo Exhibition	Sept. – Dec.,2023	10,982
Country Parks Fixed Point Interpretation	Sept. – Dec.,2023	15,342
Bioblitz @ Country Parks	Sept., 2023	167
Mountaineering Safety Promotion Day	Oct.,2023	1,500
Orienteering Fun Day	Oct. – Nov.,2023	1,786
Excursion with Experts	Nov. – Dec.,2023	106
Red Leaves Festival	Dec.,2023	5,423

2.6 Assistance

Assistance was offered to the public on:

Nature	Sept., 2023	Oct., 2023	Nov., 2023	Dec.,2023
First aid	2	6	14	8
Handicapped persons	8	8	12	6
Return of lost properties	1	0	0	2

2.7 Free Distribution of Publicity Materials

Nature	Sept., 2023	Oct., 2023	Nov., 2023	Dec.,2023
Pamphlets	1,520	1,839	1,918	2,200
Posters	39	65	33	17
Booklets	147	207	182	197

3. Law Enforcement

A total of 419 enforcement actions were taken in connection with the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208) and other relevant legislation. The details are as follows:

Nature of offence	No. of cases
Illegal entry of bicycle	80
Illegal entry of vehicle	69
Illegal possession of cooking stove	6
Illegal use of fire	17
Damaging / cutting of plant	11
Illegal digging of soil	6
Illegal constructing building	1
Illegal constructing grave	2
Illegal carrying on business activity	2
Illegal operating power driven model boat	1
Illegal camping	156
Vandalizing country park facility	1
Littering	1 [#] +2 [*]
Spitting	1
Illegal feeding of wild animal	63
Total	419

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

^{*} Fixed Penalty Notice @\$3,000.

B. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve

1. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve Management

1.1 Facilities

As at 31.12.2023, the following facilities had been installed in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve:

Facilities	Total no. as at 31.12.2023	Facilities	Total no. as at 31.12.2023
Warning Sign	149	Boundary Marker Post	64
Information Sign Board	57	Marine Buoy	237

1.2 Litter

In the reporting period, the amount of litter collected in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve was as follows:

Marine Park/ Marine Reserve	Amount of litter collected (tonnes)				
	Sep., 2023	Oct., 2023	Nov., 2023	Dec., 2023	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	0.57 (0.59)	0.60 (0.66)	0.57 (0.52)	0.67 (0.46)	2.41 (2.23)
Yan Chau Tong	1.27 (0.81)	1.10 (0.79)	0.83 (0.88)	0.84 (0.85)	4.04 (3.33)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	2.01 (1.55)	1.71 (1.82)	1.79 (1.65)	1.68 (1.83)	7.19 (6.85)
Tung Ping Chau	1.36 (1.42)	1.89 (1.54)	1.55 (1.89)	1.62 (2.01)	6.42 (6.86)
Cape D'Aguilar	0.61 (0.09)	0.27 (0.40)	0.29 (0.55)	0.14 (0.31)	1.31 (1.35)
The Brothers	1.06 (1.12)	1.31 (1.15)	1.03 (1.24)	1.05 (1.07)	4.45 (4.58)
Southwest Lantau	1.01 (0.27)	0.50 (1.21)	0.36 (1.17)	0.22 (0.22)	2.09 (2.87)
South Lantau	0.73 (0.83)	0.55 (0.58)	0.60 (0.67)	0.58 (0.70)	2.46 (2.78)
Total	8.62 (6.68)	7.93 (8.15)	7.02 (8.57)	6.80 (7.45)	30.37 (30.85)

Remarks:

() denotes figures of same month last year.

2. Visitor Services / Education

2.1 Visitor Statistics

In the reporting period, the monthly visitor statistics are summarised below:

Marine Park/ Marine Reserve	Sep., 2023	Oct., 2023	Nov., 2023	Dec., 2023	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	1,729 (6,472)	2,879 (5,005)	2,860 (1,512)	1,358 (797)	8,826 (13,786)
Yan Chau Tong	896 (1,876)	758 (2,626)	629 (1,603)	748 (1,765)	3,031 (7,870)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	32 (133)	100 (156)	319 (371)	453 (185)	904 (845)
Tung Ping Chau	961 (2,985)	761 (2,631)	403 (2,431)	734 (1,766)	2,859 (9,813)
Cape D'Aguilar Marine Reserve and nearby areas	764 (1,689)	2,791 (6,928)	4,123 (5,057)	3,633 (6,538)	11,311 (20,212)
The Brothers	78 (61)	78 (119)	84 (120)	51 (109)	291 (409)
Southwest Lantau	104 (261)	232 (229)	301 (282)	223 (299)	860 (1,071)
South Lantau	45 (92)	84 (21)	28 (66)	65 (57)	222 (236)
Total	4,609 (13,569)	7,683 (17,715)	8,747 (11,442)	7,265 (11,516)	28,304 (54,242)

Remarks: () denotes figures of same month last year.

2.2 Visitor Centre

The monthly visitor statistics of the Hoi Ha Visitor Centre are summarized below:

	No. of Visitors			
	Sep., 2023	Oct., 2023	Nov., 2023	Dec., 2023
Hoi Ha Visitor Centre	267	544	707	512
Public eco-tour	2	45	14	46

2.3 Marine Parks Ambassador Scheme

The Marine Parks Ambassador Scheme commenced in August 2005. Up to 31.12.2023, there are a total of 635 Marine Parks Ambassadors. Details in the reporting period are summarised below:

Activity	No. of Participants
Wetland Park Adventure Guided Tour	6
Nature Education Day	10

2.4 Education Programmes and Publicity

Details of seminars and eco-tours in the reporting period are summarised below:

Activity	Total No. of Participants
School Educational Seminar	428
Guided eco-tour for school / communities	207

2.5 Enquiries

In the reporting period, enquiries were received and resolved. Details are listed below:

Nature	Sep., 2023	Oct., 2023	Nov., 2023	Dec., 2023	Total
General information	1	0	0	0	2
Visitor Centre and Education	2	1	1	0	3
Total	3	1	1	0	5

2.6 Free Distribution of Publicity Materials

Items	Sep., 2023	Oct., 2023	Nov., 2023	Dec., 2023
Leaflets	100	50	150	150
Others	0	1,390	182	255

3. Enforcement

The department established the taskforce on sea enforcement work related to the Marine Parks Ordinance (Cap. 476) and Fisheries Protection Ordinance (Cap. 171) to enhance synergistic effect. During the report period, there were 3 illegal fishing cases related to Cap. 171 successfully prosecuted and 2 suspected cases were under investigation. In addition, 8 cases of suspected illegal activities (including 7 fishing-related cases) related to Cap. 476 were under investigation while a total of 67 advice and 5 verbal warnings were given.

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
January 2024**