

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD

Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report (1.9.2020 – 31.12.2020)

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 1.9.2020 and 31.12.2020. 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 31.12.2020	Item	Total no. as at 31.12.2020
Barbecue Site	161	Shelter	292
Picnic Site	154	Refreshment Kiosk	9
Camp Site	41	Public Toilet	93
Morning Walker Garden	19	Portable Toilet	123

Amount of refuse collected (metric tonnes)

Sep., 2020	Oct, 2020	Nov., 2020	Dec., 2020	Total
138 (193)	165 (220)	167 (242)	162 (292)	637 (947)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

1.2 Fire Protection

The 2020-2021 fire season started on 30.9.2020. Detailed figures during the reporting period are summarised below:

Month	No. of fires inside or threatening country park		Area affected (Ha)		No. of trees affected	
		()		()		()
Sep., 2020	0	(1)	0.0	(20)	0	(140)
Oct., 2020	6	(3)	350.3	(6.9)	610	(40)
Nov., 2020	2	(6)	0.2	(30.5)	10	(80)
Dec., 2020	4	(3)	22.5	(66.7)	150	(2,500)
Total	12	(13)	373.0	(124 .1)	770	(2,760)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

1.3 Permitted Events

During the reporting period, 152 permits were given under Reg. 11 of the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulation to hold events in country parks. In light of the situation of the COVID-19 in Hong Kong, some of the permitted events were cancelled/postponed. The monthly breakdown of permitted events during the reporting period is provided below:

Month	Sporting competition	Location filming	Other events
Sep., 2020	5 (6)	39 (0)	2 (4)
Oct., 2020	3 (12)	29 (0)	3 (3)
Nov., 2020	9 (24)	37 (0)	0 (8)
Dec., 2020	3 (13)	22 (0)	0 (3)
Total	20 (55)	127 (0)	5 (18)

() denotes figures of events cancelled/postponed during the reporting period.

1.4 Control of Development

A total of 169 development proposals were handled during the reporting period. This includes 67 new proposals and 102 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	35	6	5	1	0	23	0	4	28	3
Hong Kong	23	2	0	0	0	20	1	3	18	2
Lantau	39	5	1	0	0	30	3	2	37	0
North	12	1	1	1	3	3	3	1	10	1
Sai Kung	31	6	7	2	6	5	5	3	27	1
West	29	1	1	1	2	23	1	5	24	0
Total	169	21	15	5	11	104	13	18	144	7

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

2. Visitor Services / Education

2.1 Visitor Statistics

In the reporting period, a total of 4,487,000 persons visited the country parks and special areas. The monthly breakdown is provided below:

Sep., 2020	Oct., 2020	Nov., 2020	Dec., 2020	Total
698,000 (772,000)	1,154,000 (970,000)	1,273,000 (1,064,000)	1,362,000 (1,136,000)	4,487,000 (3,942,000)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

2.2 Visitor Centres

In light of the situation of the COVID-19 in Hong Kong, all country park visitor/education centres, except for the outdoor exhibition area of Lions Nature Education Centre and permit counter of Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre, were temporarily closed from 15 July to 13 September 2020, and from 2 to 31 December 2020. The school and public education programmes of the AFCD remain suspended, including the guided tours organised by the Country Park Visitor Centres and Education Centres. 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			
	Sep., 2020	Oct., 2020	Nov., 2020	Dec., 2020
Lions Nature Education Centre (incl. outdoor exhibition area)	11,072	27,544	32,392	17,880
Clear Water Bay Country Park Visitor Centre	2,328	4,808	5,120	25
Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre (incl. permit counter)	3,214	3,507	5,662	3,922
Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre	528	1,804	2,490	0
Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre	3,296	9,947	13,045	0
Ngong Ping Nature Centre	226	1,033	744	0
Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre*	0	0	0	0
Aberdeen Tree Centre	100	866	575	0
Volcano Discovery Centre	3,170	11,363	9,211	125
Total	23,934	60,872	69,239	21,952

Remarks: * Due to maintenance works, the Centre was closed from 14 September to 1 December 2020.

2.3 Country Park Volunteer Scheme

The Country Park Volunteer Scheme has been commenced since March 2010. In light of the developments of the COVID-19 epidemic, most volunteer services were suspended during the reporting period. Detailed figures of the Country Park Volunteer Scheme in the reporting period are summarised below:

Country Park Volunteer Scheme	Sep., 2020	Oct, 2020	Nov., 2020	Dec., 2020
No. of volunteers/trainees	652	653	653	653
Total volunteer service hours	278	1,905	1,870.5	220

2.4 School Visit Programme

School visit programme was launched again in 2020-21 school year to convey nature conservation message to students. Due to class suspension, previously scheduled school visit programmes were mostly cancelled. The number of participants in the reporting period is summarised below:

School Visit Programme	No. of Participants
Kindergartens	862
Primary Schools	98
Secondary Schools	169

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
“Take Your Litter Home” & “Let’s Go Plastic Free” promotional activities	September to December 2020	23,938	Including exhibitions, game booths and other promotion activities

2.6 Assistance

Assistance was offered to the public on:

Nature	Sep., 2020	Oct., 2020	Nov., 2020	Dec., 2020
First aid	2	9	13	6
Handicapped persons	0	0	4	0
Return of lost properties	2	0	7	2

2.7 Free Distribution of Publicity Materials

Nature	Sep., 2020	Oct., 2020	Nov., 2020	Dec., 2020
Pamphlets	973	2,172	1,927	1,917
Posters	169	186	173	21
Booklets	249	301	1,081	313

3. Law Enforcement

A total of 748 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 summarised below:

Nature of offence	No. of cases *
Illegal entry of bicycle	108
Illegal entry of vehicle	58
Illegal possession of hunting appliance	6
Illegal possession of cooking stove	1
Illegal use of fire	39
Damaging and cutting of plant	19
Illegal digging of soil	1
Illegal selling of commodity	1
Illegal display of banner/sign	1
Illegal camping	136
Littering	3 ^Δ + 15 [#]
Entry of campsites/barbecue sites that have been closed	346
Illegal feeding of monkey	14
Total	748

Remarks: * No. of cases denotes the number of persons intercepted for an offence during the reporting period.

Fixed Penalty Notice @\$1,500.

Δ Summonses issued.

B. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve

1. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve Management

1.1 Facilities

As at 31.12.2020, the following facilities had been installed in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve:

Facilities	Total no. as at 31.12.2020	Facilities	Total no. as at 31.12.2020
Warning Sign	117	Boundary Marker Post	49
Information Sign Board	54	Marine Buoy	231

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)				
	Sep., 2020	Oct., 2020	Nov., 2020	Dec., 2020	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	5.89 (5.81)	8.44 (4.70)	5.80 (4.98)	5.87 (6.90)	26.00 (22.39)
Yan Chau Tong	3.10 (3.06)	5.88 (3.56)	3.34 (3.46)	3.39 (5.42)	15.71 (15.50)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	5.61 (5.50)	8.49 (6.16)	5.50 (6.06)	6.51 (5.90)	26.11 (23.62)
Tung Ping Chau	6.13 (6.35)	5.62 (6.03)	5.59 (5.94)	6.07 (6.19)	23.41 (24.51)
Cape D'Aguiar	1.14 (1.37)	1.86 (1.67)	0.59 (1.39)	0.85 (1.49)	4.44 (5.92)
The Brothers	0.36 (0.34)	0.33 (0.36)	0.32 (0.00)	0.78 (0.50)	1.79 (1.20)
Southwest Lantau*	1.39 (-)	0.97 (-)	2.43 (-)	1.06 (-)	5.85 (-)
Total	23.62 (22.43)	31.59 (22.48)	23.57 (21.83)	24.53 (26.40)	103.31 (93.14)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

*designated with effect from 1 April 2020.

2. Visitor Services / Education

2.1 Visitor Statistics

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

Marine Park	Sep., 2020	Oct., 2020	Nov., 2020	Dec., 2020	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	4,918 (2,778)	6,428 (3,431)	3,767 (1,769)	1,348 (1,595)	16,461 (9,573)
Yan Chau Tong	385 (1,220)	415 (1,022)	723 (795)	727 (1,940)	2,250 (4,977)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	112 (149)	47 (191)	74 (532)	35 (199)	268 (1,071)
Tung Ping Chau	1,758 (1,501)	2,347 (1,455)	5,921 (411)	1,802 (1,131)	11,828 (4,498)
The Brothers	22 (122)	12 (153)	39 (158)	37 (184)	110 (617)
Southwest Lantau*	58 (-)	502 (-)	224 (-)	190 (-)	974 (-)
Total	7,253 (5,770)	9,751 (6,252)	10,748 (3,665)	4,139 (5,049)	31,891 (20,736)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

*designated with effect from 1 April, 2020

2.2 Enquiries

During the report period, a total of 228 enquiries was received and answered. Details are listed below:

Nature	Sep., 2020	Oct., 2020	Nov., 2020	Dec., 2020	Total
General information	12	9	17	4	42
Park facilities	1	2	0	1	4
Education activities	6	3	2	0	11
Fishing permit	49	42	52	16	159
Ordinance and regulations	6	4	2	0	12
Total	74	60	73	21	228

Remarks: All enquiries have been resolved.

2.3 Distribution of Educational and Publicity Materials

During the report period, a total of 1,596 educational and public. Details are listed below:

Items	Sep., 2020	Oct.,2020	Nov., 2020	Dec., 2020	Total
Sticker	36	0	0	0	36
Folder	0	0	0	60	60
Calebдар	0	0	0	1500	1500
Total	36	0	0	1560	1596

Remarks: Sticker and folders were distributed during the online Q&A after the public webinar and the online school seminar, respectively.

2.4 Educational and Publicity Activities

During the report period, a total of 5 educational/publicity activities involving 230 participants were organised. Details are listed below:

Items	No.	No. of servicing Ambassador	Total no. of participant
Education Activities			
School seminar (via online means)	5	-	230
Total	5	-	230

2.5 Up to 31 December 2020, 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. The accumulated service hours of marine parks ambassadors are 10,971 hours.

3. Law Enforcement

3.1 To enhance the synergistic effect on sea enforcement effort, a taskforce has been established from increased and redeployed resources to handle sea enforcement work related to the Marine Parks Ordinance (Cap. 476) and Fisheries Protection Ordinance (Cap. 171). During the report period, a total of 8 illegal fishing cases involving mainland fishing vessels were successfully prosecuted. A total of 94 advice and 69 verbal warnings were given and 1* prosecution case was taken against offenders in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve.

Remarks: *Investigation in progress

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 2021