

Country and Marine Parks Board

Progress on Management Plan of Sai Wan in Sai Kung East Country Park

1. Purpose

1.1 To inform members on the progress of the implementation of the Sai Wan Management Plan.

2. Working Group on Sai Wan Management

2.1 The Working Group on Sai Wan Management has been formed under the Country Park Committee. There are a total of eight members with Mr. MO Ka-hung, Joseph being elected as the Convenor. The terms of reference of the Working Group are to advise the Country and Marine Parks Authority (CMPA) on matters relating to the management of Sai Wan; and to oversee the development and implementation of the Sai Wan Management Plan by the CMPA.

2.2 The first and second meetings of the Working Group were conducted on 10 April 2014 and 3 June 2014 respectively. The latest site condition and some existing management challenges of Sai Wan as well as the work progress of the Sai Wan Management Plan were presented for members' information and comment. Members were informed that some spots of refuse dumping had been identified at Sai Wan. As the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) would take over the litter collection work at Sai Wan from the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) in mid 2014, a new contract for cleansing service in Sai Wan had been prepared by AFCD and was under tendering process. AFCD is in close liaison with FEHD during the transition period and some refuse dumped at the site had already been cleared.

2.3 Members were also briefed about trees of unsatisfactory condition identified at Sai Wan. A tree risk assessment was conducted there to identify potential hazardous trees. Hazardous trees had been removed. Further tree monitoring and maintenance work would be carried out by AFCD on a regular basis.

2.4 A management challenge regarding the unauthorized occupation of Government land for operation of food stalls was discussed in both meetings. It was found that the area previously fenced off by Lands Department has now been re-occupied by the villagers with tables and chairs for operation of food stalls. After deliberation, there was a consensus amongst members that such situation was not desirable from land management point of view and the long term solution would be for villagers to vacate the said Government land so as to allow AFCD to turn it into a common area (also with tables and chairs) at the beachfront for public enjoyment. In the meantime, the Convenor suggested a site meeting for members to realize the actual site situation and would further liaise with the villagers regarding the issue.

2.5 Furthermore, members were advised that a new footpath via Lo Tei Tun as an alternative route to Sai Wan had been built by the AFCD. The alternative route is a mostly earth path and passes through a small hill (Lo Tei Tun), where a scenic view of the beaches can be seen, before arriving at Sai Wan. The route would provide a different hiking experience to the visitors as compared with the original paved path from Sai Wan Pavilion to Sai Wan Village. The development of other country parks facilities at Sai Wan including the campsite and star gazing terrace were under preparation.

3. Other related meetings

3.1 An informal meeting between the Working Group, villagers of Sai Wan and representatives of the Heung Yee Kuk was arranged by the Convenor on 24 April 2014. The villagers had expressed their opinions on various livelihood issues including the operation of food stalls and overnight accommodations and requested for improvement of both land and sea transportation to Sai Wan. The villagers and representatives of Heung Yee Kuk sounded out their concerns about cooperation with NGOs and indicated that they did not favour such proposal.

3.2 The Sai Wan Management Plan was presented to the Task Force on Planning Issues related to Tai Long Sai Wan under the Sai Kung District Council on 28 April 2014. While members commented on certain specific aspects of the Plan such as refuse collection, improvement of existing footpath, operation of food stalls and overnight accommodation, the Plan was supported by the Task Force in general. In particular, the idea of cooperation between villagers and NGO in order to apply for funding from the Management Agreement Scheme under the Environment and

Conservation Fund was raised. Such idea was supported by some members of the Task Force.

4. Next step forward

4.1 A site visit to Sai Wan shall be arranged for members of the Working Group to study the actual site situation and management challenges encountered. The difficulty in refuse collection and potential conflict with the villagers arising from rectifying the government land currently occupied for operation of food stalls are the priority issues to be tackled. An interdepartmental meeting involving FEHD, Lands Department and Home Affairs Department shall be arranged to discuss the concerned matters. In parallel, the Working Group shall further liaise with the villagers with a view to achieving a mutually acceptable solution.

5. Presentation

5.1 This paper is prepared for members' information.

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Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
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