

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD

Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report (1.11.2016 – 28.2.2017)

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 1.11.2016 – 28.2.2017. 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 28.2.2017	Item	Total no. as at 28.2.2017
Barbecue Site	170	Shelter	292
Picnic Site	160	Refreshment Kiosk	8
Camp Site	41	Public Toilet	109
Morning Walker Garden	20	Portable Toilet	114

Amount of refuse collected (tonnes)

Nov., 2016	Dec., 2016	Jan., 2017	Feb., 2017	Total
342 (388)	400 (378)	360 (301)	289 (293)	1,391 (1,360)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

1.2 Fire Protection

The 2016-2017 fire season started on 10.9.2016. Detailed figures are summarised below:-

Month	No. of fires inside or threatening country park		Area affected (Ha)		No. of trees affected	
		()		()		()
Nov., 2016	0	(2)	0	(2.2)	0	(80)
Dec., 2016	3	(0)	1.02	(0)	50	(0)
Jan., 2017	4	(2)	188.00	(16)	230	(0)
Feb., 2017	5	(2)	37.02	(109)	420	(10,530)
Total	12	(6)	226.04	(127.2)	700	(10,610)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

1.3 Permitted Events

In the reporting period, 304 permits were given under Reg. 11 of the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulation to hold events in country parks. Most of these events were related to sport competition, location filming and raising funds for charity.

1.4 Control of Development

A total of 53 development proposals were received. There was no objection to 20 of them, the other 30 were being processed and three were cancelled. Most of these were related to minor works concerning electricity supply and slope works.

2. **Visitor Services/Education**

2.1 Visitor Statistics

In the reporting period, a total of 5,206,000 persons visited the country parks and special areas. The monthly breakdown is as below for reference.

Nov., 2016	Dec., 2016	Jan., 2017	Feb., 2017	Total
1,313,000 (1,491,000)	1,548,000 (1,220,000)	1,303,000 (1,106,000)	1,042,000 (1,074,000)	5,206,000 (4,891,000)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

2.2 Visitor Centres

In the reporting period, a total of 9,315 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			
	Nov., 2016	Dec., 2016	Jan., 2017	Feb., 2017
Lions Nature Education Centre	61,584	53,720	25,536	24,774
Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre	8,449	8,220	5,565	3,745
Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre	8,825	14,143	10,823	9,458
Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre	6,860	9,022	7,491	6,019
Ngong Ping Nature Centre	2,297	3,098	2,032	1,524
Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre	5,143	6,672	7,163	6,692
Aberdeen Tree Centre	991	1,276	1,294	1,014
Volcano Discovery Centre	10,622	12,318	10,232	12,995
Total	104,771	108,469	70,136	66,221

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	Nov., 2016	Dec., 2016	Jan., 2017	Feb., 2017
No. of volunteers/ trainees	818	818	665	665
Total volunteer service hours	2,821	4,684	2,171	2,627

2.4 School Visit Programme

School visit programme was launched again in 2016-17 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	3,829
Primary Schools	2,555
Secondary Schools	896

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" Publicity Programme	November 2016 to February 2017	67,598	Including exhibitions, game booth, lectures and other promotion activities
"Salute to Nature" Country Parks Roving Exhibitions	1-4 December 2016 13-16 January 2017 10-13 February 2017 17-20 February 2017	28,168	Including exhibitions, workshop and game booth
"Red Leaves Festival" at Tai Lam Country Park	4 December 2016 to 8 January 2017 (Sundays & Public Holidays)	15,496	Including guided tour, photo exhibition, workshop and game booths
Green Walk cum Family Fun Day	18 December 2016	980	Including storytelling, orienteering, green games, workshop and game booths

2.6 Assistance

Assistance was offered to the public on:-

Nature	Nov., 2016	Dec., 2016	Jan., 2017	Feb., 2017
First aid	13	13	10	9
Handicapped persons	5	6	0	5
Return of lost properties	5	2	3	2

2.7 Free Distribution of Publicity Materials

Nature	Nov., 2016	Dec., 2016	Jan., 2017	Feb., 2017
Pamphlets	4,042	4,436	3,270	2,620
Posters	36	38	128	79
Booklets	426	444	458	488

3. Law Enforcement

A total of 376 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	143
Illegal entry of vehicle	122
Illegal use of fire	15
Damaging and cutting of plant	6
Illegal digging of soil	1
Illegal constructing/erecting of building/hut/shelter	3
Illegal carrying on business activity (filming)	1
Illegal operation of power driven model vehicle/aeroplane	1
Camping outside designated camping site	44
Littering	14 [#]
Spitting	1 [#]
Illegal feeding of monkey	25
Total	376

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

The Brothers Marine Park was designated on 30 December 2016 and became the fifth marine park in Hong Kong. It is situated in the northern Lantau waters and covers a total sea area of about 970 hectares. The new marine park serves to better protect the Chinese White Dolphins, their habitats and enhance the marine and fisheries resources in the region.

1.1 Facilities

As at 28.2.2017, the following facilities had been installed in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve:

Facilities	Total no. as at 28.2.2017	Facilities	Total no. as at 28.2.2017
Sign (various warnings)	142	Mooring buoy for divers	25
Park sign	21	Boundary post	17
Sign (various purposes)	50	Sign post	10
Boundary marker buoy	19	Information board	13
Marker buoy	52	Litter bin	16
Buoy for Mechanized Vessel Restricted Zone	133	Banner	0
Buoy for Inboard Vessel Prohibited Zone	4	Way mark	20

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)				
	Nov., 2016	Dec., 2016	Jan., 2017	Feb., 2017	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	7.78 (5.66)	8.06 (4.64)	8.63 (6.20)	7.02 (5.99)	31.49 (22.49)
Yan Chau Tong	3.86 (3.68)	5.06 (4.52)	3.62 (5.30)	3.58 (4.20)	16.12 (17.70)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	11.62 (8.97)	9.13 (8.28)	9.41 (9.20)	9.11 (8.88)	39.27 (35.33)
Tung Ping Chau	8.70 (8.30)	7.80 (8.36)	8.07 (8.19)	7.73 (8.03)	32.30 (32.88)
Cape D'Aguilar	1.58 (1.47)	1.38 (1.38)	1.22 (1.52)	0.81 (1.64)	4.99 (6.01)
Total	33.54 (28.08)	31.43 (27.18)	30.95 (30.41)	28.25 (28.74)	124.17 (114.41)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

Note: There has been an increment in the frequency of litter collection by our contractors within Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park, i.e. increasing from 3 times per week to 4 times per week in the reporting period.

Visitor Services / Education

2.1 Visitor Statistics

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

Marine Park	Nov., 2016	Dec., 2016	Jan., 2017	Feb., 2017	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	2,855 (3,498)	2,362 (2,427)	1,831 (2,267)	2,643 (2,081)	9,691 (10,273)
Yan Chau Tong	2,158 (2,145)	1,950 (1,609)	1,663 (1,489)	1,575 (1,842)	7,346 (7,085)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	203 (287)	218 (130)	158 (100)	241 (185)	820 (702)
Tung Ping Chau	1,450 (4,508)	2,939 (2,302)	2,733 (1,673)	2,172 (1,325)	9,294 (9,808)
The Brothers*	--	--	313	634	947
Total	6,666 (10,438)	7,469 (6,468)	6,698 (5,529)	7,265 (5,433)	28,098 (27,868)

() denotes figures of same month last year. *Statistic of The Brothers started from January 2017.

2.2 Enquiries

During the report period, a total of 132 enquiries was received and answered. Details are listed below:

Nature	Nov., 2016	Dec., 2016	Jan., 2017	Feb., 2017	Total
General information	0	0	10	6	16
Park facilities	5	3	1	1	10
Education activities	8	8	12	5	33
Renewal for fishing permit	10	5	12	41	68
Ordinance and regulations	1	3	1	0	5
Total	24	19	36	53	132

All enquiries have been resolved.

2.3 Distribution of Educational and Publicity Materials

During the report period, a total of 581 educational and publicity materials were distributed to the public. Details are listed below:

Items	Nov., 2016	Dec., 2016	Jan., 2017	Feb., 2017	Total
Bookmarks	150	20	12	16	198
Posters	10	10	8	10	38
Leaflets	100	100	35	110	345
Total	260	130	55	136	581

2.4 Educational and Publicity Activities

During the report period, a total of 23 educational/publicity activities involving 342 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	9		41
School Guided Tour	4		120
School Seminar	4		126
Marine Parks Ambassador Scheme			
Yan Chau Tong Marine Park questionnaire survey	1	9	9
Reef Check closing ceremony 2016	1	6	6
West Brother Visit	1	16	16
Tung Ping Chau coastal cleanup	1	11	11
Marine Parks Ambassador Training Workshop	1	9	9
Marine Life Drawing Competition prize presentation ceremony 2016	1	4	4
Total	23	55	342

2.5 During the report period, Marine Parks Ambassador participated in the following volunteer services: Yan Chau Tong Marine Park questionnaire survey, Reef Check closing ceremony 2016, West Brother Visit, Tung Ping Chau coastal cleanup, Marine Life Drawing Competition prize presentation ceremony 2016. And one training workshop was organised within the report period. A total of 55 ambassadors joined the above activities.

2.6 Up to 28 February 2017, a total of 130 Marine Parks Ambassadors have completed 20 hours services; 47 Ambassador have completed 40 hours services; 28 Ambassadors have completed 70 hours services; 16 Ambassadors have completed 100 hours services, 12 Ambassadors have completed 150 hours services and five Ambassadors completed 200 hours service. They were awarded with the “Jellyfish Service Badge”, “Nautilus Service Badge”, “Fiddler Crab Service Badge”, “Starfish Service Badge”, “Humphead Wrasse Service Badge” and “Chinese White Dolphin Service Badge” respectively. Until the end of February 2017, the accumulated service hours of marine parks ambassadors are 9,382 hours.

3. Law Enforcement

During the report period, a total of 3,161 advices and 19 verbal warnings were given to fishermen and visitors and 16 prosecutions were taken against offenders in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve.

Nature of offence	No. of prosecution	No. of completed hearing	Fines (HK\$)
Pleasure fishing	5	1	1,500
Other	11	2	3,200
Total	16	3	4,700

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
March 2017