

## COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD

### Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report (1.1.2020 – 31.3.2020)

#### 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 1.1.2020 and 31.3.2020. 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 31.3.2020	Item	Total no. as at 31.3.2020
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)

Jan., 2020	Feb., 2020	Mar., 2020	Total
276 (258)	287 (243)	312 (204)	874 (704)

( ) denotes figures of same month last year.

## 1.2 Fire Protection

The 2019-2020 fire season started on 13.9.2019. 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	
		( )		( )		( )
Jan., 2020	6	(1)	226.1	(94.0)	4470	(0)
Feb., 2020	1	(1)	55.0	(0.1)	170	(0)
Mar., 2020	2	(0)	20.1	(0.0)	0	(0)
Total	9	(2)	301.2	(94.1)	4640	(0)

( ) denotes figures of same month last year.

## 1.3 Permitted Events

During the reporting period, 146 permits were given under Reg. 11 of the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulation 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
Jan., 2020	13	14	10
Feb., 2020	3	30	3
Mar., 2020	16	47	10
Total	32	91	23

## 1.4 Control of Development

There are 84 development proposals carried forward from the last reporting period. A total of 18 additional development proposals were received. There was no objection to 3 of them, the other 15 were being processed. Most of these were related to minor works concerning slope works and electricity supply. The monthly breakdown of all proposals handled during the reporting period is provided below:

Month	No Objection	Being Processed	Withdrawn/ Cancelled	Total
Jan., 2020	4	83	0	87
Feb., 2020	2	84	0	86
Mar., 2020	10	86	0	96

## 2. Visitor Services / Education

### 2.1 Visitor Statistics

In the reporting period, a total of 3,432,000 persons visited the country parks and special areas. The monthly breakdown is as below for reference.

Jan., 2020	Feb., 2020	Mar., 2020	Total
1,039,000 (1,108,000)	1,319,000 (1,056,000)	1,074,000 (998,000)	3,432,000 (3,162,000)

( ) 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 outdoor exhibition area of Lions Nature Education Centre and permitting counter of Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre, were temporary closed from 29 January to 1 March, and from 23 March to 31 March 2020. All public and school programmes at the centres were cancelled during the periods. In the reporting period, a total of 2,471 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		
	Jan., 2020	Feb., 2020	Mar., 2020
Lions Nature Education Centre	40,056	26,816 (outdoor exhibition area)	19,720
Clear Water Bay Country Park Visitor Centre	6,832	0	5,597
Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre	3,656	3,107 (permit counter)	3,775
Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre	9,015	0	3,444
Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre	8,298	0	10,306
Ngong Ping Nature Centre	2,050	0	105
Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre	5,044	0	3,093
Aberdeen Tree Centre	707	0	377
Volcano Discovery Centre	7,427	0	4,454
<b>Total</b>	<b>83,085</b>	<b>29,923</b>	<b>50,871</b>

### 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:

<b>Country Park Volunteer Scheme</b>	<b>Jan., 2020</b>	<b>Feb., 2020</b>	<b>Mar., 2020</b>
No. of volunteers/trainees	652	652	652
Total volunteer service hours	2,731.5	0	172

### 2.4 School Visit Programme

School visit programme was launched again in 2019-20 school year to convey nature conservation message to students. Due to class suspension, school visit programme was cancelled starting from 25 January 2020. The number of participants in the reporting period is summarized below:-

<b>School Visit Programme</b>	<b>No. of Participants</b>
Kindergartens	938
Primary Schools	837
Secondary Schools	260

### 2.5 Other Education Activities

Details of the education activities organised in the reporting period are summarised below:-

<b>Name of the Activity</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>No. of Participants</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
Hiking and Planting Day 2020	8 & 29 March 2020	0	In view of the situation of COVID-19 in Hong Kong, the hiking and planting days were cancelled.
“Take Your Litter Home” & “Let’s Go Plastic Free” promotional activities	January to March 2020	25,129	Including exhibitions, game booths and other promotion activities

## 2.6 Assistance

Assistance was offered to the public on:

Nature	Jan.,2020	Feb., 2020	Mar., 2020
First aid	5	4	2
Handicapped persons	0	0	0
Return of lost properties	0	0	1

## 2.7 Free Distribution of Publicity Materials

Nature	Jan.,2020	Feb., 2020	Mar., 2020
Pamphlets	3,337	1,620	3,295
Posters	24	38	64
Booklets	256	91	159

## 3. Law Enforcement

A total of 244 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	50
Illegal entry of vehicle	102
Illegal possession of hunting/trapping appliance	1
Illegal use of fire	5
Damaging and cutting of plant	12
Illegal hawking/trading	1
Illegal holding sporting competition	1
Illegal carrying on business activity (filming)	4
Illegal operation of power driven model vehicle/aeroplane	3
Camping outside designated camping site	14
Littering	1 <sup>△</sup> +46 <sup>#</sup>
Illegal feeding of monkey	10
<b>Total</b>	250

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

# Fixed Penalty Notice @\$1,500.

△ Summonses issued.

## B. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve

### 1. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve Management

#### 1.1 Facilities

As at 31.03.2020, the following facilities had been installed in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve:

Facilities	Total no. as at 31.03.2020	Facilities	Total no. as at 31.03.2020
Warning Sign	107	Boundary Marker Post	44
Information Sign Board	53	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)			
	Jan., 2020	Feb., 2020	Mar., 2020	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	4.80 (6.74)	5.86 (5.10)	5.67 (6.37)	16.33 (18.21)
Yan Chau Tong	2.62 (2.84)	3.42 (2.10)	2.98 (3.38)	9.02 (8.32)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	5.51 (6.52)	5.85 (4.57)	5.83 (5.75)	17.19 (16.84)
Tung Ping Chau	6.09 (6.24)	5.80 (5.68)	5.86 (6.55)	17.75 (18.47)
Cape D'Aguilar	1.40 (0.83)	2.06 (0.76)	1.39 (1.53)	4.85 (3.12)
The Brothers	0.37 (0.34)	0.37 (0.33)	0.54 (0.33)	1.28 (1.00)
<b>Total</b>	20.78 (23.51)	23.37 (18.54)	22.27 (23.91)	66.42 (65.96)

( ) 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	Jan., 2020	Feb., 2020	Mar., 2020	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	1,648 (2,810)	948 (1,426)	1,608 (2,586)	4,204 (6,822)

Yan Chau Tong	1,026 (688)	124 (1,072)	371 (1,444)	1,521 (3,204)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	304 (363)	86 (146)	213 (240)	603 (749)
Tung Ping Chau	1,668 (1,093)	1,646 (587)	2,996 (2,312)	6,310 (3,992)
The Brothers	135 (249)	36 (35)	106 (88)	277 (372)
<b>Total</b>	4,781 (5,203)	2,840 (3,266)	5,294 (6,670)	12,915 (15,139)

( ) denotes figures of same month last year.

## 2.2 Enquiries

During the report period, a total of 27 enquiries was received and answered. Details are listed below:

<b>Nature</b>	<b>Jan., 2020</b>	<b>Feb., 2020</b>	<b>Mar., 2020</b>	<b>Total</b>
General information	6	2	4	12
Park facilities	1	0	0	1
Education activities	6	0	0	6
Renewal for fishing permit	4	1	1	6
Ordinance and regulations	2	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	19	3	5	27

All enquiries have been resolved.

## 2.3 Distribution of Educational and Publicity Materials

During the report period, a total of 100 educational and publicity materials were distributed to the public. Details are listed below:

<b>Items</b>	<b>Jan., 2020</b>	<b>Feb., 2020</b>	<b>Mar., 2020</b>	<b>Total</b>
Leaflets	50	0	0	50
String bag	50	0	0	50
<b>Total</b>	100	0	0	100

## 2.4 Educational and Publicity Activities

During the report period, a total of 2 educational/publicity activities involving 299 participants were organised. Details are listed below:

Items	No.	No. of servicing Ambassador	Total no. of participant
Education Activities			
School Seminar	1	-	250
Marine Park Ambassador Scheme			
Marine Parks Ambassador training workshop	1	5	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>255</b>

2.5 Up to 31 March 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. Until the end of March 2020, the accumulated service hours of marine parks ambassadors are 10,971 hours.

## 3. Law Enforcement

3.1 During the report period, a total of 58 advice and 4 verbal warnings were given and no prosecution was taken against offenders in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve. Two Joint Anti-illegal Fishing Operations with Fisheries Enforcement and Special Projects Division were conducted in Marine Parks.

### 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  
May 2020