

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD

**Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report
(1.1.2024 – 31.3.2024)**

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 1.1.2024 and 31.3.2024. 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 31.3.2024	Item	Total no. as at 31.3.2024
Barbecue Site	156	Shelter	289
Picnic Site	155	Refreshment Kiosk & Cafeteria	8
Camp Site	41	Public Toilet	89
Morning Walker Garden	19	Portable Toilet	121

Amount of refuse collected (metric tonnes)

Jam., 2024	Feb., 2024	Mar., 2024	Total
258(324)	242(237)	225(243)	725(804)

() 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	
Jan., 2024	1	(3)	1.8	(200.7)	75	(89)
Feb., 2024	3	(5)	6.2	(3.4)	128	(76)
Mar., 2024	2	(2)	28.2	(0.1)	800	(0)
Total	6	(10)	36.2	(204.2)	1003	(165)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

1.3 Permitted Events

During the reporting period, 92 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
Jan., 2024	17	11	4
Feb., 2024	16	18	2
Mar., 2024	15	8	1
Total	48	37	7

1.4 Control of Development

A total of 117 development proposals were handled during the reporting period. This includes 30 new proposals and 87 proposals carried forward from the last reporting period. Most of the proposals were related to minor slope works. 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	25	2	0	0	1	20	2	2	20	3
Hong Kong	11	2	0	0	0	9	0	3	6	2
Lantau	21	4	1	1	0	14	1	4	15	2
North	3	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	2	0
Sai Kung	38	6	2	3	6	11	10	5	25	8
West	19	0	0	1	0	18	0	2	17	0
Total	117	14	3	5	7	73	15	17	85	15

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 3,195,000 persons visited the country parks and special areas. The monthly breakdown is provided below:

Jan., 2024	Feb., 2024	Mar., 2024	Total
1,115,000 (1,301,000)	1,014,000 (1,092,000)	1,066,000 (1,141,000)	3,195,000 (3,534,000)

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		
	Jan., 2024	Feb., 2024	Mar., 2024
Lions Nature Education Centre	34,512	31,368	36,712
Clear Water Bay Country Park Visitor Centre	670	550	610
Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre	3,411	3,317	3,225
Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre *	0	0	0
Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre	865	920	956
Ngong Ping Nature Centre	993	3,032	2,909
Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre	2,945	3,235	3,138
Aberdeen Tree Centre	277	335	364
Volcano Discovery Centre	5,801	5,984	7,078
Total	49,474	48,741	54,992

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	Jan., 2024	Feb., 2024	Mar., 2024
No. of volunteers/trainees	343	343	343
Total volunteer service hours	1,552	1,170	1,908

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	4,583
Primary Schools	5,152
Secondary Schools	1,182

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	Jan. – Mar.,2024	9,194
Country Parks Fixed Point Interpretation	Jan. – Mar.,2024	20,313
Red Leaves Festival	Jan., 2024	1,088
Excursion with Experts	Jan.,2024	101
Hong Kong Island Disaster and Emergency Preparedness Day 2024	25 Feb.,2024	1,639
Country Parks Hiking and Planting Day	Mar.,2024	1,304

2.6 Assistance

Assistance was offered to the public on:

Nature	Jan., 2024	Feb., 2024	Mar., 2024
First aid	5	2	4
Handicapped persons	3	2	2
Return of lost properties	2	2	3

2.7 Free Distribution of Publicity Materials

Nature	Jan., 2024	Feb., 2024	Mar., 2024
Pamphlets	2,102	1,832	2,252
Posters	13	19	45
Booklets	255	331	267

3. Law Enforcement

A total of 323 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	64
Illegal entry of vehicle	59
Illegal possession of hunting appliance	1
Illegal possession of cooking stove	1
Illegal use of fire	8
Damaging / cutting of plant	3
Illegal digging of soil	1
Illegal display of sign	1
Illegal holding of sporting competition	1
Illegal camping	163
Littering	6*
Illegal feeding of wild animal	15
Total	323

Remarks: * Fixed Penalty Notice @\$3,000.

B. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve

1. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve Management

1.1 Facilities

As at 31.3.2024, the following facilities had been installed in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve:

Facilities	Total no. as at 31.3.2024	Facilities	Total no. as at 31.3.2024
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)			
	Jan., 2024	Feb., 2024	Mar., 2024	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	0.79 (0.61)	0.61 (0.48)	0.62 (0.51)	2.02 (1.60)
Yan Chau Tong	0.85 (0.83)	0.73 (1.09)	0.98 (1.27)	2.56 (3.19)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	1.78 (1.63)	1.70 (1.60)	1.66 (1.78)	5.14 (5.01)
Tung Ping Chau	1.31 (2.03)	1.14 (1.84)	1.18 (1.65)	3.63 (5.52)
Cape D'Aguilar	0.17 (0.26)	0.10 (0.54)	0.25 (0.58)	0.52 (1.38)
The Brothers	1.05 (1.03)	1.30 (1.18)	1.00 (0.96)	3.35 (3.17)
Southwest Lantau	0.24 (0.14)	0.36 (0.31)	0.29 (0.23)	0.89 (0.68)
South Lantau	0.80 (0.61)	0.52 (0.57)	0.50 (0.94)	1.82 (2.12)
Total	6.99 (7.14)	6.46 (7.61)	6.48 (7.92)	19.93 (22.67)

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	Jan., 2024	Feb., 2024	Mar., 2024	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	984 (629)	1,456 (463)	1,757 (1,762)	4,197 (2,854)
Yan Chau Tong	626 (3,328)	570 (961)	592 (1,162)	1,788 (5,451)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	93 (416)	140 (293)	227 (402)	460 (1,111)
Tung Ping Chau	1,211 (1,445)	746 (1,040)	895 (1,348)	2,852 (3,833)
Cape D'Aguilar Marine Reserve and nearby areas	4,545 (6,995)	4,045 (4,884)	3,457 (5,030)	12,047 (16,909)
The Brothers	112 (75)	174 (53)	27 (173)	313 (301)
Southwest Lantau	161 (271)	154 (206)	162 (239)	477 (716)
South Lantau	14 (64)	0 (71)	14 (44)	28 (179)
Total	7,746 (13,223)	7,285 (7,971)	7,131 (10,160)	22,162 (31,354)

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		
	Jan., 2024	Feb., 2024	Mar., 2024
Hoi Ha Visitor Centre	837	540	832
Public eco-tour	13	97	63

2.3 Marine Parks Ambassador Scheme

The Marine Parks Ambassador Scheme commenced in August 2005. Up to 31.3.2024, there are a total of 640 Marine Parks Ambassadors. During the reporting period, ambassador training and questionnaire survey service were conducted, and a total number of 21 ambassadors participated.

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	300
Guided eco-tour for school / communities	201

2.5 Enquiries

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

Nature	Jan., 2024	Feb., 2024	Mar., 2024	Total
General information	24	2	2	28
Visitor Centre and Education	1	0	0	1
Total	25	2	2	29

2.6 Free Distribution of Publicity Materials

Items	Jan., 2024	Feb., 2024	Mar., 2024
Leaflets	575	270	865
Others	1884	200	311

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 reporting period, there were 6 suspected illegal fishing cases related to Cap. 171 under investigation. In addition, 1 case of suspected illegal activities (fishing-related case) related to Cap. 476 were under investigation while a total of 39 advice and 11 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
May 2024**