

Country and Marine Parks Board
Summary Report of the Country Parks Committee

1. Purpose

1.1 To inform members on issues discussed at the Country Parks Committee (CPC) meeting held on 21 April 2015. Major issues discussed at the meeting are summarised below.

2. Lantau Development and LanDAC

2.1 Members were briefed about the present Lantau, development potential of Lantau, considerations for developing Lantau, major infrastructure and development projects under construction/planning in Lantau, and vision, strategic positioning, planning themes, major development and conservation guiding principles, and Lantau Development Advisory Committee.

2.2 A member suggested a proposal to designate the wetland in Pui O as a wetland park and the entire Tung Chung River as an ecological park.

2.3 A member expressed concern about the proposed spa and resort development at Soko Islands and suggested that Cheung Sha might be an alternative feasible site.

2.4 A member suggested that the Government should communicate with local villagers and improve transportation as well as supporting facilities of the villages. Another member suggested that the Government should also exchange views with green groups.

2.5 A member proposed that the proposed reclamation in Siu Ho Wan should be ceased.

2.6 Some members had reservation on the road widening works and the relaxation of traffic restrictions of Tung Chung Road while another member supported.

2.7 A member expressed concern about the impact of East Lantau Metropolis development on the natural environment of the region in the vicinity.

2.8 Members expressed concern about the cumulative environmental impacts of all the major infrastructure development projects under construction or planning on the carrying capacity, ecology and biodiversity of Lantau.

2.9 Members remarked that conservation was a component of development and suggested that more concrete conservation proposals covering natural, cultural and religious resources should be formulated.

2.10 A member suggested that funding application for conservation projects should also be submitted to the LegCo for approval.

2.11 Members were advised that their views would be carefully studied by Development Bureau and deliberated by LanDAC.

3. Feasibility Study on Relocation of Sai Kung Sewage Treatment Works to Tsiu Hang Special Area (in Cavern)

3.1 Members were briefed about the background of the Project, substantiations for relocation of Sai Kung Sewage Treatment Works (SKSTW) to caverns at Tsiu Hang Special Area (THSA), proposed options for ventilation shaft, and mitigation measures to THSA.

3.2 A member commented that DSD should ensure zero tree felling by locating the shaft within the grassland at the hilltop and consider adopting other architectural design to reduce the visual impact other than tree screening.

3.3 The Chairman and members raised concerns on the odour impact of the ventilation shaft to the hikers. They were advised that the exhaust gas from the ventilation shaft would be treated by a deodorization system which complied with the current air quality requirements imposed by EPD.

3.4 Members expressed concerns on the impact of the vibration generated from the construction on the ecology at THSA. They were advised that the vibration limit during the construction would be well below the allowable standards and as low as a level similar to batting a basketball. From experience learnt in other projects, vibrations generated during the construction stage of the caverns/tunnels were insignificant to the ecology above ground.

3.5 A member highlighted that this was the first cavern project in country parks / special areas which would affect the ecology at Tsiu Hang. DSD should take the

initiative to provide appropriate ecological compensation on top of compliance with all statutory requirements. Members were informed that subject to the outcome of the ecological survey, Drainage Services Department would propose appropriate ecological compensation for the Committee's agreement.

3.6 Members were informed that the detailed trees survey in the THSA was being carried out. The tree survey report together with the compensatory planting proposal would be submitted to AFCD for comment. Besides, the ecological survey on both plants and animals in the THSA were being carried out. Preliminary survey results indicated that there were no valuable habitats inside the THSA. The final results would be submitted to AFCD and EPD for comments once available.

3.7 Members commented that DSD's urgency to lobby the SKDC in July 2015 should not be a reason to urge the Committee to make a decision now without the availability of the ecological assessment and other details.

3.8 The Chairman summed up that AFCD should relay members' concerns and views to DSD for consideration.

4. Mui Wo Lai Chi Yuen Cemetery Extension

4.1 Members were briefed about the project, including the background, the project site, layout design, ancillary facilities, construction method, traffic engineering matters, fire hazard concern, tentative schedule for the project, and the EIA of the project. Members noted that the proposed extension is mostly within the land allocation of FEHD except for a small access point.

4.2 Members made suggestions on hill fire prevention, the reforestation plan and the columbarium design from the perspective of visual impact.

4.3 The Chairman summed up that members had in principle no objection to the proposal.

5. Any Other Business

5.1 Members were briefed about a petition raised against AFCD on controlling organized events involving competitive activity on natural streams. Members noted that AFCD was collecting views from relevant event organizers and stakeholders with a view to revising the Guidelines for holding such organized events.

5.2 Members in general did not support the applications for the events involving competitive activity on natural streams due to significant adverse impact on the ecology of streams and safety concerns.

5.3 Some members suggested that the Guidelines should be revised to tighten up the regulation of this kind of competitive activity.

5.4 Members were also briefed about the progress of improvement works for Mountain Bike Trail (MBT) Networks in South Lantau led by CEDD.

5.5 A member expressed concern about the potential increase of traffic demand for shuttling the bicycles to southern Lantau area, thus pressing on the relaxation of traffic restrictions of Tung Chung Road, and causing soil erosion at the trails in South Lantau subsequent to the improvement of MBT networks in South Lantau. He suggested that preventive measures should be worked out to reduce the potential conflicts of shared use of trails by bikers and hikers on those sections of the MBT networks in South Lantau overlapping with the Lantau Trail.

5.6 Members were informed on issues discussed at the meeting of the Working Group on Sai Wan Management held on 16 April 2015.

6. Presentation

6.1 This paper is prepared for members' information.

Country and Marine Parks Authority

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