

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD

Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report (1.1.2021 – 31.3.2021)

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 1.1.2021 and 31.3.2021. 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 31.3.2021	Item	Total no. as at 31.3.2021
Barbecue Site	159	Shelter	292
Picnic Site	154	Refreshment Kiosk	9
Camp Site	41	Public Toilet	92
Morning Walker Garden	19	Portable Toilet	123

Amount of refuse collected (metric tonnes)

Jan., 2021	Feb, 2021	Mar., 2021	Total
172 (276)	190 (287)	166 (312)	528 (875)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

1.2 Fire Protection

The 2020-2021 fire season started on 30.9.2020. Detailed figures during the reporting period are summarised below:

Month	No. of fires inside or threatening country park		Area affected (Ha)		No. of trees affected	
		()		()		()
Jan., 2021	6	(6)	54.4	(226.1)	1,040	(4,470)
Feb., 2021	3	(1)	0.4	(55)	45	(170)
Mar., 2021	4	(2)	1.2	(20.1)	5	(0)
Total	13	(9)	56.0	(301.2)	1,090	(4,640)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

1.3 Permitted Events

During the reporting period, 105 permits were given under Reg. 11 of the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations to hold events in country parks. In light of the situation of the COVID-19 in Hong Kong, some of the permitted events were cancelled/postponed. The monthly breakdown of permitted events during the reporting period is provided below:

Month	Sporting competition	Location filming	Other events
Jan., 2021	0 (10)	37 (0)	1 (5)
Feb., 2021	2 (11)	25 (0)	0 (1)
Mar., 2021	1 (18)	38 (0)	1 (10)
Total	3 (39)	100 (0)	2 (16)

() denotes figures of events cancelled/postponed during the reporting period.

1.4 Control of Development

A total of 168 development proposals were handled during the reporting period. This includes 24 new proposals and 144 proposals carried forward from the last reporting period. Most of the proposals were related to minor works concerning slope works and electricity supply. 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	38	11	5	1	1	20	0	4	31	3
Hong Kong	21	3	0	0	0	18	0	0	21	0
Lantau	40	5	2	0	0	31	2	7	33	0
North	11	0	1	1	3	3	3	1	8	2
Sai Kung	34	6	9	2	5	7	5	2	31	1
West	24	0	1	1	1	20	1	1	21	2
Total	168	25	18	5	10	99	11	15	145	8

Remarks: * Other proposals mainly include installation of mobile radio station, small house and agricultural development, provision/improvement of public utilities and facilities.

2. Visitor Services / Education

2.1 Visitor Statistics

In the reporting period, a total of 3,125,000 persons visited the country parks and special areas. The monthly breakdown is provided below:

Jan., 2021	Feb., 2021	Mar., 2021	Total
1,150,000 (1,039,000)	1,008,000 (1,319,000)	967,000 (1,075,000)	3,125,000 (3,433,000)

() 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 for the outdoor exhibition area of Lions Nature Education Centre and permit counter of Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre, were temporarily closed from 2 December 2020 to 17 February 2021. The school and public education programmes organised by the Country Park Visitor Centres and Education Centres remain suspended. 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., 2021	Feb., 2021	Mar., 2021
Lions Nature Education Centre (incl. outdoor exhibition area)	20,264	22,704	22,472
Clear Water Bay Country Park Visitor Centre	0	268	575
Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre (incl. permit counter)	4,634	3,924	4,775
Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre	0	272	554
Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre	0	2,794	8,516
Ngong Ping Nature Centre*	0	0	0
Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre	0	3,232	5,494
Aberdeen Tree Centre	0	287	321
Volcano Discovery Centre	0	2,647	6,563
Total	24,898	36,128	49,270

Remarks: * The Centre was closed starting 2 December 2020 for renovation works.

2.3 Country Park Volunteer Scheme

The Country Park Volunteer Scheme has been commenced since March 2010. In light of the developments of the COVID-19 epidemic, volunteer services were suspended during the reporting period. Detailed figures of the Country Park Volunteer Scheme in the reporting period are summarised below:

Country Park Volunteer Scheme	Jan., 2021	Feb., 2021	Mar., 2021
No. of volunteers/trainees	653	653	653
Total volunteer service hours	0	0	0

2.4 School Visit Programme

School visit programme was launched again in 2020-21 school year to convey nature conservation message to students. Scheduled school visit programmes have been affected by special class arrangements. The number of participants in the reporting period is summarised below:

School Visit Programme	No. of Participants
Kindergartens	1,137
Primary Schools	0
Secondary Schools	154

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” promotional activities	January to March 2021	11,000	Exhibitions only due to COVID-19 epidemic
Country parks fixed point interpretation	March 2021	915	

2.6 Assistance

Assistance was offered to the public on:

Nature	Jan., 2021	Feb., 2021	Mar., 2021
First aid	4	5	6
Handicapped persons	0	0	0
Return of lost properties	4	7	1

2.7 Free Distribution of Publicity Materials

Nature	Jan., 2021	Feb., 2021	Mar., 2021
Pamphlets	1,402	1,015	1,465
Posters	16	17	56
Booklets	331	314	328

3. Law Enforcement

A total of 393 enforcement actions were taken in connection with the Country Parks Ordinance, Forests and Countryside Ordinance, Wild Animals Protection Ordinance and Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation. A breakdown of offences is summarised below:

Nature of offence	No. of cases
Illegal entry of bicycle	75
Illegal entry of vehicle	57
Illegal possession of cooking stove	3
Illegal possession of fire-balloon	1
Illegal use of fire	43
Damaging and cutting of plant	11
Illegal digging of soil	3
Illegal camping	102
Littering	6 [#]
Entry of campsites/barbecue sites that have been closed	51
Illegal feeding of monkey	2
Participating in prohibited group gathering	40 ^{##}
Total	393

Remarks: [#] Fixed Penalty Notice @\$1,500.

^{##} Fixed Penalty Notice @\$5,000.

B. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve

1. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve Management

1.1 Facilities

As at 31.3.2021, the following facilities had been installed in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve:

Facilities	Total no. as at 31.3.2021	Facilities	Total no. as at 31.3.2021
Warning Sign	117	Boundary Marker Post	49
Information Sign Board	54	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., 2021	Feb., 2021	Mar., 2021	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	6.07 (4.80)	4.66 (5.86)	4.88 (5.67)	15.61 (16.33)
Yan Chau Tong	3.27 (2.62)	2.84 (3.42)	2.63 (2.98)	8.74 (9.02)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	3.85 (5.51)	3.66 (5.85)	3.38 (5.83)	10.89 (17.19)
Tung Ping Chau	6.26 (6.09)	4.89 (5.80)	6.40 (5.86)	17.55 (17.75)
Cape D'Aguiar	0.38 (1.40)	0.40 (2.06)	0.57 (1.39)	1.35 (4.85)
The Brothers	0.69 (0.37)	0.73 (0.37)	1.03 (0.54)	2.45 (1.28)
Southwest Lantau*	1.15 (-)	1.04 (-)	1.04 (-)	3.23 (-)
Total	21.67 (20.79)	18.22 (23.36)	19.93 (22.27)	59.82 (66.42)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

*designated with effect from 1 April 2020.

2. Visitor Services / Education

2.1 Visitor Statistics

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

Marine Park	Jan., 2021	Feb., 2021	Mar., 2021	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	1,727 (1,648)	1,963 (948)	2,699 (1,608)	6,389 (4,204)
Yan Chau Tong	632 (1,026)	446 (124)	468 (371)	1,546 (1,521)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	95 (304)	48 (86)	145 (213)	288 (603)
Tung Ping Chau	612 (1,668)	3,031 (1,646)	3,771 (2,996)	7,414 (6,310)
The Brothers	57 (135)	21 (36)	35 (106)	113 (277)
Southwest Lantau*	738 (-)	327 (-)	446 (-)	1,511 (-)
Total	3,861 (4,781)	5,836 (2,840)	7,564 (5,294)	17,261 (12,915)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

*designated with effect from 1 April, 2020

2.2 Enquiries

During the report period, a total of 64 enquiries was received and answered. Details are listed below:

Nature	Jan., 2021	Feb., 2021	Mar., 2021	Total
General information	4	9	4	17
Park facilities	3	1	3	7
Education activities	2	1	2	5
Others (e.g. regulation)	11	13	11	35
Total	20	24	20	64

Remarks: All enquiries have been resolved.

2.3 Distribution of Educational and Publicity Materials

During the report period, a total of 99 educational and publicity materials were distributed to public. Details are listed below:

Items	Jan., 2021	Feb.,2021	Mar., 2021	Total
Leaflet	8	75	16	99
Total	8	75	16	99

2.4 Educational and Publicity Activities

During the report period, a total of 3 educational/publicity activities involving 965 participants were organised. Details are listed below:

Items	No.	No. of servicing Ambassador	Total no. of participant
Education Activities			
School seminar (via online means)	3	-	965
Total	3	-	965

2.5 Up to 31 March 2021, 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. The accumulated service hours of marine parks ambassadors are 10,971 hours.

3. Law Enforcement

3.1 The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has established a taskforce to handle sea enforcement work related to the Marine Parks Ordinance (Cap. 476) and Fisheries Protection Ordinance (Cap. 171) to enhance the synergistic effect. During the report period, a total of 3 illegal fishing cases involving mainland fishing vessels were successfully prosecuted and 1 advisory letter was issued to the vessel owner. A total of 68 advice and 33 verbal warnings were given and 2 suspected offence cases were under investigation for Marine Parks and Marine Reserve.

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
April 2021