

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD

Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report (1.4.2020 – 31.8.2020)

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 1.4.2020 and 31.8.2020. 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 31.8.2020 | Item | Total no. as at 31.8.2020 |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Barbecue Site | 163 | Shelter | 293 |
| Picnic Site | 155 | Refreshment Kiosk | 9 |
| Camp Site | 41 | Public Toilet | 98 |
| Morning Walker Garden | 19 | Portable Toilet | 117 |

Amount of refuse collected (metric tonnes)

| Apr., 2020 | May, 2020 | Jun., 2020 | Jul., 2020 | Aug., 2020 | Total |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 140 (217) | 156 (200) | 192 (178) | 162 (156) | 154 (141) | 804 (894) |

() denotes figures of same month last year.

1.2 Fire Protection

The 2019-2020 fire season started on 13.9.2019 and was ended on 4.5.2020. 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 | |
|----------|---|-----|--------------------|-------|-----------------------|-----|
| Apr 2020 | 4 | (2) | 232 | (0.7) | 3670 | (0) |
| May 2020 | 0 | (0) | 0 | (0) | 0 | (0) |
| Total | 4 | (2) | 232 | (0.7) | 3670 | (0) |

() denotes figures of same month last year.

1.3 Permitted Events

During the reporting period, 210 permits were given under Reg. 11 of the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulation 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 |
|------------|----------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Apr., 2020 | 5 (1) | 28 (0) | 2 (0) |
| May., 2020 | 21 (15) | 27 (2) | 3 (3) |
| Jun., 2020 | 9 (4) | 34 (3) | 2 (0) |
| Jul., 2020 | 17 (4) | 17 (2) | 4 (3) |
| Aug., 2020 | 5 (0) | 36 (0) | 0 (0) |
| Total | 57 (24) | 142 (7) | 11 (6) |

() denotes figures of cancelled/postponed events.

1.4 Control of Development

A total of 132 development proposals were handled during the reporting period. This includes 48 new proposals and 84 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 | 35 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 21 | 1 | 7 | 27 | 1 |
| Hong Kong | 23 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 1 | 4 | 19 | 0 |
| Lantau | 18 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 12 | 1 |
| North | 12 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 0 |
| Sai Kung | 25 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 18 | 0 |
| West | 19 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 14 | 1 | 3 | 16 | 0 |
| Total | 132 | 16 | 10 | 5 | 12 | 77 | 12 | 28 | 102 | 2 |

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

2. Visitor Services / Education

2.1 Visitor Statistics

In the reporting period, a total of 4,081,000 persons visited the country parks and special areas. The monthly breakdown is as below for reference.

| Apr., 2020 | May, 2020 | Jun., 2020 | Jul., 2020 | Aug., 2020 | Total |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 940,000 (918,000) | 872,000 (849,000) | 821,000 (778,000) | 766,000 (773,000) | 682,000 (723,000) | 4,081,000 (4,041,000) |

() 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 permit counter of Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre, were temporarily closed from 1 April to 3 May, and from 15 July to 31 August 2020. The school and public education programmes of the AFCD remain suspended. In the reporting period, a total of 656 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 | | | | |
|---|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Apr., 2020 | May, 2020 | Jun., 2020 | Jul., 2020 | Aug., 2020 |
| Lions Nature Education Centre (incl. outdoor exhibition area) | 13,568 | 15,928 | 13,200 | 14,168 | 10,984 |
| Clear Water Bay Country Park Visitor Centre | 0 | 4,044 | 5,653 | 2,759 | 0 |
| Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre (incl. permit counter) | 4,793 | 4,007 | 2,861 | 4,012 | 3,161 |
| Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre | 0 | 1,167 | 2,097 | 1,011 | 0 |
| Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre | 0 | 4,203 | 5,729 | 2,772 | 0 |
| Ngong Ping Nature Centre | 0 | 271 | 1,041 | 445 | 0 |
| Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre | 0 | 2,215 | 1,614 | 769 | 0 |
| Aberdeen Tree Centre | 0 | 139 | 59 | 82 | 0 |
| Volcano Discovery Centre | 0 | 7,283 | 8,514 | 5,390 | 0 |
| Total | 18,361 | 39,257 | 40,768 | 31,408 | 14,145 |

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 | Apr., 2020 | May, 2020 | Jun., 2020 | Jul., 2020 | Aug., 2020 |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| No. of volunteers/trainees | 652 | 652 | 652 | 652 | 652 |
| Total volunteer service hours | 0 | 0 | 466.5 | 490 | 0 |

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 at all schools, the school visit programme was mostly cancelled. The number of participants in the reporting period is summarized below:

| School Visit Programme | No. of Participants |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Kindergartens | 0 |
| Primary Schools | 45 |
| Secondary Schools | 0 |

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” & “Let’s Go Plastic Free” promotional activities | April to August 2020 | 38,550 | Including exhibitions, game booths and other promotion activities |

2.6 Assistance

Assistance was offered to the public on:

| Nature | Apr., 2020 | May, 2020 | Jun., 2020 | Jul., 2020 | Aug., 2020 |
|---------------------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|
| First aid | 5 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 4 |
| Handicapped persons | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Return of lost properties | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 |

2.7 Free Distribution of Publicity Materials

| Nature | Apr., 2020 | May, 2020 | Jun., 2020 | Jul., 2020 | Aug., 2020 |
|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|
| Pamphlets | 1,114 | 1,492 | 2,041 | 2,182 | 898 |
| Posters | 21 | 78 | 76 | 62 | 168 |
| Booklets | 15 | 123 | 132 | 135 | 115 |

3. Law Enforcement

A total of 528 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 | 117 |
| Illegal entry of vehicle | 153 |
| Illegal possession of cooking stove | 1 |
| Illegal use of fire | 14 |
| Damaging and cutting of plant | 32 |
| Illegal digging of soil | 4 |
| Illegal selling of commodity | 1 |
| Illegal erection of shelter | 1 |
| Illegal operation of power driven model vehicle | 2 |
| Illegal camping | 30 |
| Littering | 1 [△] + 17 [#] |
| Entry of campsites/barbecue sites that have been closed | 128 |
| Illegal feeding of monkey | 27 |
| Total | 528 |

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 31.08.2020, the following facilities had been installed in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve:

| Facilities | Total no. as at 31.08.2020 | Facilities | Total no. as at 31.08.2020 |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Warning Sign | 117 | Boundary Marker Post | 49 |
| Information Sign Board | 54 | Marine Buoy | 234 |

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) | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| | Apr., 2020 | May., 2020 | Jun., 2020 | Jul., 2020 | Aug., 2020 | Total |
| Hoi Ha Wan | 3.63 (5.92) | 7.13 (6.40) | 7.52 (5.86) | 6.06 (7.69) | 6.92 (8.66) | 31.26 (34.53) |
| Yan Chau Tong | 2.08 (2.32) | 3.26 (3.82) | 4.65 (4.10) | 3.06 (3.66) | 3.74 (4.64) | 16.79 (18.54) |
| Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau | 6.57 (5.78) | 2.88 (6.52) | 3.15 (5.96) | 5.50 (5.87) | 4.68 (5.99) | 22.78 (30.12) |
| Tung Ping Chau | 5.82 (6.08) | 6.39 (6.17) | 6.03 (6.39) | 6.11 (6.55) | 6.33 (6.09) | 30.68 (31.28) |
| Cape D'Aguilar | 0.67 (1.65) | 0.99 (1.63) | 1.70 (1.32) | 1.60 (1.54) | 1.61 (1.11) | 6.57 (7.25) |
| The Brothers | 0.34 (0.50) | 0.33 (0.31) | 0.33 (0.31) | 0.33 (0.48) | 0.68 (0.32) | 2.01 (1.92) |
| Total | 19.11 (22.25) | 20.98 (24.85) | 23.38 (23.94) | 22.66 (25.79) | 23.96 (26.81) | 110.09 (123.64) |

() 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 | Apr., 2020 | May., 2020 | Jun., 2020 | Jul., 2020 | Aug., 2020 | Total |
|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Hoi Ha Wan | 1,425 (2,489) | 3,985 (2,367) | 3,345 (3,032) | 4,587 (2,705) | 4,061 (1,976) | 17,403 (12,569) |
| Yan Chau Tong | 388 (2,712) | 216 (2,223) | 332 (1,056) | 963 (988) | 170 (972) | 2,069 (7,951) |
| Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau | 185 (225) | 382 (109) | 811 (342) | 816 (110) | 191 (59) | 2,385 (845) |
| Tung Ping Chau | 3,947 (4,133) | 6,899 (3,226) | 3,335 (2,877) | 3,522 (1,422) | 2,367 (794) | 20,070 (12,452) |
| The Brothers | 64 (103) | 68 (63) | 99 (98) | 28 (72) | 40 (66) | 299 (402) |
| Southwest Lantau* | 236 (-) | 278 (-) | 95 (-) | 74 (-) | 16 (-) | 699 (-) |
| Total | 6,245 (9,662) | 11,828 (7,988) | 8,017 (7,405) | 9,990 (5,297) | 6,845 (3,867) | 42,925 (34,219) |

() 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 | Apr., 2020 | May., 2020 | Jun., 2020 | Jul., 2020 | Aug., 2020 | Total |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------|
| General information | 7 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 30 |
| Education activities | 0 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 10 |
| Ordinance and regulations | 3 | 1 | 10 | 7 | 3 | 24 |
| Total | 10 | 11 | 18 | 12 | 13 | 64 |

All enquiries have been resolved.

2.3 Distribution of Educational and Publicity Materials

During the report period, a total of 104 educational and public. Details are listed below:

| Items | Apr., 2020 | May., 2020 | Jun., 2020 | Jul., 2020 | Aug., 2020 | Total |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------|
| Folder | 0 | 0 | 0 | 28 | 0 | 28 |
| Sticker | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 38 | 38 |
| Toy charm | 0 | 0 | 0 | 38 | 0 | 38 |
| Total | 0 | 0 | 0 | 66 | 38 | 104 |

The above publicity material were distributed through Webinar online quiz.

2.4 Educational and Publicity Activities

During the report period, a total of 5 educational/publicity activities involving 556 participants were organised. Details are listed below:

| Items | No. | No. of servicing Ambassador | Total no. of participant |
|---|-----|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Education Activities | | | |
| Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park Guided Eco-tour^ | 1 | - | 3 |
| Marine Parks and Marine Ecological Resources Webinars 2020 | 4 | - | 553 |
| Total | 5 | - | 556 |

^The guided ecotour was conducted on 1 July 2020

2.5 Up to 31 August 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 August 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 226 advice and 189 verbal warnings were given and 2* prosecution were taken against offenders in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve.

*Prosecution cases were in progress

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
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