

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD

Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report (1.9.2012 – 30.11.2012)

Country Parks & Special Areas

I. CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

	Progress	Anticipated Completion Date
(1) Reconstruction of Rain Shelters in Country Parks (2012 – 2013 Rain Shelters Maintenance Programme)	Completed in November 2012.	-
(2) Reconstruction of Tsing Lung Tau, Tai Tong and Twisk Section at Tai Lam Forest Track and Grass Hill Section at Shing Mun Forest Track	Works commenced on 21 June 2012.	December 2012.

II. RECREATION FACILITIES AND SERVICES

(1) Management Services

Refuse collected (tonnes)

Year	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Total
2011	322	382	428	1,132
2012	246	441	357	1,044

Path maintained/upgraded	249	Km
No. of trees planted	265	No.
No. of trees produced in the nursery	265	No.
No. of trees tended	631,100	No.

(2) Provision of Facilities

Item	Total at 30.11.2012	Item	Total at 30.11.2012
Barbecue Site	179	Fitness Equipment	104
Picnic Site	168	Refreshment Kiosk	8
Camp Site	40	Flushing Toilet	47
Morning Walker Garden	25	No. of Portable Toilet	116
Information Board	355	Warden Post	16
Shelters	270	Visitor Centre/ Education Centre	8
Play Equipment	43		

(3) Fire Protection

The 2012-2013 fire season commenced on 22.9.2012:

Month	No. of fires inside or threatening country park		Area affected (Ha)		No. of trees affected	
Sep., 12	0	(3)	0	(8.2)	0	(0)
Oct., 12	6	(2)	37.5	(4.1)	3,200	(204)
Nov., 12	2	(0)	11.5	(0)	2,440	(0)
Total ^v	8	(5)	49	(12.3)	5,640	(204)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

III. VISITOR STATISTICS

During the report period there was an overall decrease of 0.51% of visitor number compared with the corresponding period of last year. The monthly breakdown is as below:

Year	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Total
2011	916,000	1,144,000	1,249,000	3,309,000
2012	977,000	1,169,000	1,146,000	3,292,000
% change	+6.66%	+2.19%	-8.25%	-0.51%

IV. LAW ENFORCEMENT

A total of 284 prosecution cases had been handled in connection with the Country Parks Ordinance, Forests and Countryside Ordinance and Wild Animals Protection Ordinance. The number of prosecutions is summarized below

Nature of offence	No. of cases *
Littering	72 [#]
Camping in non-designated site	26
Illegal entry of bicycle	112
Illegal entry of vehicle	48
Damaging and cutting plant	6
Spitting	2 [#]
Illegal possession of fire-ballon (Hung Ming Lanterns)	6
Illegal use of fire	5
Illegal displaying banner	1
Illegal digging of soil	3
Illegal feeding of monkey	2
Illegal hawking	1
Total	284

Remarks: *No. of cases denotes the number of persons being prosecuted during the reporting period. Total fines for the period is \$166,850, which also includes the fines partly collected from cases carried forward from previous reporting periods and partly from current period. There is no other unsuccessful prosecution case in the reporting period.

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

V. ORGANIZED EVENTS

In the report period, 188 permits were given under Reg. 11 of the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulation to organized events (mainly sporting activities) in country parks.

Sep., 12	Oct., 12	Nov., 12	Total
27	79	82	188

VI. CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT

A total of 60 development proposals were received. There was no objection to 29 of them, the other 30 were being processed and one was cancelled. Most of these were related to minor works concerning electric supply and slope works.

VII. EDUCATION/VISITOR SERVICES

(1) No. of Visits to Visitor Centres

A total of 252,213 persons visited the Country Park Visitor Centres and Education Centres. In which, 122,124 persons visited Sai Kung, Aberdeen, Shing Mun, Clear Water Bay, Tai Mo Shan and Plover Cove Country Parks Visitor Centres; 14,394 persons visited Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre; 103,787 persons visited Lions Nature Education Centre and 11,908 persons visited Ngong Ping Nature Centre.

(2) Video Shows of Country Parks

A total of 9,812 video shows on country parks and nature conservation were given, reaching an audience of 40,465. Besides, the "Songs of Nature" were played at various Visitor Centres to promote the voted Best Scenic Sites of Hong Kong.

(3) Guided Tour

A total of 773 participants from 18 organizations joined the guided tour at Lions Nature Education Centre; 3,720 participants from 29 groups joined the guided walk at Ngong Ping Nature Centre; 604 participants from 49 groups joined the guided tours at Pineapple Dam Nature Trail; 633 participants from 30 groups joined the guided tours at Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre which is newly established in October 2012.

(4) Fixed Point Guided Tour

From September to November 2012, a total of 36,212 participants from 1,406 organizations joined the Fixed Point Guided Tour at Lions Nature Education Centre; a total of 12,237 participants joined Fixed Point Guided Tour at Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre; a total of 4,956 participants joined Fixed Point Guided Tour at Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre.

(5) Country Park Volunteer Scheme

The Country Park Volunteer Scheme has been commenced since March 2010. At present, there are 876 volunteers. After the volunteers completed the training, they will assist the organization of various nature conservation and education activities of the country parks. From 1 September to 30 November 2012, total number of volunteer served hours is 12,796 hours.

(6) "Nature in Touch" 2012 Kick-off Ceremony cum Fun Day

The "Nature in Touch 2012 Country Parks Education Programmes" Kick-off Ceremony cum Fun Day was held at Lions Nature Education Centre on 21 October 2012. A total of 100 participants joined the Kick-off Ceremony; 2,642 participants joined Fun Day; 520 participants joined roving exhibition; 54 participants joined drawing and paper sculpture workshops; 1,317 participants joined the guided tours.

(7) "Nature in Touch" 2012 Country Parks Education Programme

The education programme has been commenced since October 2012. From October to November 2012, there were 14,350 people participated in the roving exhibition and 4,030 people participated in workshops. A total of 85,636 people participated in "Nature in Touch" 2012 Country Parks Education Programme.

(8) Great Outdoors Hong Kong

The "Great Outdoors Hong Kong" hiking activity was co-organized by the Hong Kong Tourism Board and AFCD. A total of 886 people joined the route at Hong Kong Peak to Aberdeen on 11 November 2012; 308 people participated in fixed point guided tour and 1,850 people visited the hiking safety exhibition at Peak Galleria. A total of 528 people participated in the route at Sai Kung High Island Reservoir East Dam on 25 November 2012; 261 people participated in fixed point guided tour and 668 people visited the hiking safety exhibition at Pak Tam Chung Physically Handicapped and Able-bodied site.

(9) School Visit Programme

School visit programme was launched again in 2012-13 school year to convey nature conservation message to students. In November 2012, a total of 1,695 students from seven primary schools and 1,145 students from 14 kindergartens participated.

(10) Tree Walks Guided Tour

From September to November 2012, a total of 556 participants from about 85 organizations joined the Tree Walks Guided Tours at Quarry Bay Tree Walks and Ngong Ping Tree Walks.

(11) "Nature Appreciation – Practice" Country Park Education Activities

From September to November 2012, a total of three "Nature Appreciation – Practice" activities were carried out. A total of 84 kindergarten and primary students joined the activities.

(12) School Guided Eco-Tours Service 2012

The department organized free guided tours to schools from October to November 2012. Through the activity, students can learn about the geology, ecology and cultural heritage in the High Island, Sharp Island and Jin Island in Sai Kung. A total of 570 primary and secondary students from 37 groups participated in the Guided Tour.

(13) Guided Field Study for Secondary Schools

"Nature in Touch" Country Parks Guided Field Study for Secondary Schools has been launched from November 2012 to May 2013. In November 2012, a total of 171 secondary students from four schools participated in the Guided Field Study at AFCD Lions Nature Education Centre and Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve. The contractor guided the students to understand the concept and importance of the biodiversity, nature conservation and sustainable development in Hong Kong with the use of worksheets provided in "Hong Kong Country Parks Education Kit for Secondary Schools".

(14) "Country Parks Orienteering" Programme

From November 2012 to May 2013, the department organized the "Country Parks Orienteering" programme for students to experience orienteering and to learn about the country parks. A total of 85 students from two schools participated in November 2012.

(15) Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre School Programmes

Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre has tailored a series of education programmes for schools in different levels. Through the gallery guided tour and activities, students are given opportunities to explore and experience the abundant biodiversity of Hong Kong. From September to November 2012, a total of 402 students from 15 schools participated in the programme.

(16) Biodiversity Conservation Day in Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre

From October 2012 to February 2013, Biodiversity Conservation Day is held in Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre on the last Sunday of each month, promoting the biodiversity in Hong Kong, as well as to foster public awareness and knowledge of nature conservation by a series of education activities such as public lectures, guided tour of exhibition galleries, education workshops, film appreciations and guided tour of Quarry Bay Tree Walk. From October to November 2012, a total of 892 people participated in the programme.

(17) "Nature in Touch" Thematic Exhibition in City Gallery

From 25 October 2012 to 7 January 2013, "Nature in Touch" Thematic Exhibition and workshops are organized by AFCD in City Gallery of Planning Department. From October to November 2012, there were a total of 2,750 visitors and 826 people participated in workshops.

(18) Mountaineering Safety Promotion Day 2012

On 23 September 2012, AFCD participated in the Mountaineering Safety Promotion Day 2012 organized by Civil Aid Service. A booth was set at Civil Aid Service Headquarter with a total of 2,500 participants.

(19) Occupational Driver Keep-Fit Party 2012

On 7 October 2012, AFCD co-organized the "Occupational Driver Keep-Fit Party 2012 Kick-off Ceremony cum Hiking Activity" with RTHK and Occupational Safety and Health Council in Tai Lam Country Park. A total of 350 participants presented.

(20) Enquiries

Enquiries concerning Country Parks were received and handled. Details are listed below:

Nature	Sep., 12	Oct., 12	Nov., 12	Total
Information on public transport	3,485	4,202	4,067	11,754
Information on hiking routes	2,982	3,729	3,230	9,941
Location of recreation facilities	1,462	1,827	1,569	4,858
Location of utility facilities	1,373	1,693	1,511	4,577
Location of scenic places and similar information	1,949	1,971	1,893	5,813
Organized activities	797	1,053	1,266	3,116
Others *	2,639	2,353	2,502	7,494
Total	14,687	16,828	16,038	47,553

* Mainly related to Pak Tam Chung barrier permit, coach permit, country parks publications, fishing licence, wild animals, marine parks, cycling permits, ordinances and regulations, dog vaccination.

(21) Advice

Advice was given to 148,865 visitors in the Country Parks as follows:

Nature	Sep., 12	Oct., 12	Nov., 12	Total
Littering	43,586	57,931	47,229	148,746
Illegal fishing	0	1	0	1
Others	39	44	35	118
Total	43,625	57,976	47,264	148,865

(22) Assistance

Assistance was offered to the public on:

Nature	Sep., 12	Oct., 12	Nov., 12	Total
First aid	6	8	5	19
Handicapped persons	260	285	281	826
Search and rescue	2	0	0	2
Return of lost properties	3	6	4	13
Total	271	299	290	860

(23) Free Distribution of Publicity Materials

Nature	Sep., 12	Oct., 12	Nov., 12	Total
Pamphlets	6,033	8,700	7,986	22,719
Posters	120	2,244	125	2,489
Bookmarks	82	402	92	576
Transportation/Scenic Cards	18	15	12	45
Booklets	1,560	1,906	1,807	5,273
Others	194	369	430	993
Total	8,007	13,636	10,452	32,095

B. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve

1. FACILITIES

As at 30.11.2012, the following facilities had been installed in marine parks and marine reserve:

Facilities	Constructed/replaced between 1.9.2012 – 30.11.2012	Total nos. at 30.11.2012
Signs (various warnings)	12 (replaced)	128
Park signs	-	21
Signs (various purposes)	-	52
Boundary marker buoy	-	14
Marker buoy	24 (replaced)	38
Buoy for Mechanized Vessel Restricted Zone	20 (replaced)	205
Buoy for Inboard Vessel Prohibited Zone	-	4
Mooring buoy for divers	11 (replaced)	32
Boundary posts	-	17
Sign posts	-	21
Information board	-	6
Litter bins	-	15
Banners	-	2
Way marks	-	10
Memorial Stand	-	1

2. LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ADVICE

During the report period, a total of 424 advices and 44 verbal warnings were given to fishermen and visitors and nine prosecutions were taken against offenders in marine parks and marine reserve.

Nature of offence	Nos. of prosecution	Nos. completed hearing	Fines (HK\$)
Pleasure Fishing	8	8	7,300
Illegal Anchoring	1	1	500
Total	9	9	7,800

3. LITTER COLLECTION

During the report period, the amount of litter collected in marine parks and marine reserve is as follows:

Marine Park / Marine Reserve	Nos. of tonnage (1.9.2012 – 30.11.2012)	
Hoi Ha Wan	13.43	(12.43)
Yan Chau Tong	13.36	(14)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	18.16	(18.21)
Tung Ping Chau	35.6	(35.76)
Cape D'Aguilar	2.52	(1.62)
Total	83.07	(82.02)

() denotes figures of same period last year

4. FISHING PERMITS

Number of fishing permits renewed during the report period:

Marine Park	Nos. of renewal	Total nos. of valid permits (as at 30.11.2012)
Hoi Ha Wan (HHW)	0	9
Yan Chau Tong (YCT)	0	21
HHW & YCT	1	64
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	0	99
Tung Ping Chau (TPC)	1	37
TPC & HHW	0	5
TPC & YCT	0	4
TPC & HHW & YCT	2	178
Total	4	417

Starting from 1 May 2005, the validity period of renewed fishing permit is 2 years.

5. MONITORING

5.1 Water Quality Monitoring

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology was commissioned to carry out water quality monitoring in marine parks and marine reserve in 2012-13. The results are generally good and in compliance with the Water Quality Objectives. A summary result of water quality statistics of 2007 – June 2012 has been uploaded onto the AFCD's homepage (http://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/country/cou_vis/cou_vis_mar/cou_vis_mar_mon/cou_vis_mar_mon_wat.html).

5.2 Fishing Survey

5.2.1 Fishing survey at Cape D' Aguilar Marine Reserve continued. The objective is to investigate the long-term enhancement effect of the marine reserve on fisheries resources. The recent result showed that the Catch-per-unit-effort and the diversity of fish remain stable inside the marine reserve and is higher than surrounding waters.

5.2.2 Quarterly fishing surveys at Hoi Ha Wan, Yan Chau Tong and Tung Ping Chau Marine Parks have been carried out to monitor the fish stocks in the three marine parks. The Catch-per-unit-effort and the diversity of fish inside the marine park are general better than outside the marine parks area.

5.3 Dolphin Sightings

Off-effort dolphin sighting were conducted during the course of patrol of Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park. It was evident that Chinese White Dolphins utilize the marine parks and the waters around as usual.

6. EDUCATION AND VISITOR SERVICES

6.1 During the report period, there was a decrease in visitors' number in Hoi Ha Wan and Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Parks, but an increase in Yan Chau Tong and Tung Ping Chau Marine Parks, when compared with the same period in the last year. The increase in visitors may be attributed to the interest in geological scenic spots in connection to the announcement of Hong Kong Global Geopark of China. The number of visitors in marine parks during the report period are as follows:

Marine Park	Nos. of Visitors	
	(1.9.2012– 30.11.2012)	
Hoi Ha Wan	13,721	(22,201)
Yan Chau Tong	10,889	(4,909)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	1,349	(3,439)
Tung Ping Chau	26,526	(14,780)
Total	52,485	(45,329)

() denotes figures of same period last year

6.2 During the period from 1.9.2012 – 30.11.2012, a total of 255 enquiries was received and answered. Details are listed below:

Nature	Nos.
Park facilities	55
Education activities	128
Renewal for fishing permit	71
Ordinance and Regulation	1
Total	255

6.3 During the report period, a total of 5,310 educational and publicity materials were distributed to the public. Details are listed below:

Items	Nos.
Leaflets	637
Bookmarks	3,487
DVD	15
Field Guide	44
Booklet	2
Posters	320
Others	805
Total	5,310

6.4 During the report period, a total of 42 educational activities involving 2,534 participants were organized. Details are listed below:

Items	Nos.	Nos. of serving Ambassador	Nos. of participant
Education activities			
Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park Ecotour	17	-	165
School Guided Tour	7	-	163
School Seminar	12	-	1,912
Field Study	1	-	24
Seminar – WWF Aupres Chinese White Dolphin Education Programme - Guangzhou Teachers' Training Workshop	1	-	30
Marine Parks Ambassador Scheme			
Coastal Cleanup	2	82	-
Dolphin-watching Activity	1	25	30
"Nature in Touch" Game Booth	1	10	210
Total	42	117	2,534

6.5 In the "Aupres Chinese White Dolphin Education Programme - Guangzhou Teachers' Training Workshop", a seminar was given to 30 teachers from Guangzhou to introduce the ecology of Chinese White Dolphin in Hong Kong, as well as the conservation and management works of AFCD on the species.

6.6 During the report period, Marine Parks Ambassador participated in the following volunteer services: Tung Ping Chau Marine Park Coastal Cleanup, Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park Dolphin-watching Activity, "Nature in Touch" Game Booth, and Yan Chau Tong Marine Park Coastal Cleanup. A total of 117 ambassadors joined the above activities.

6.7 To provide more chances for the Marine Parks Ambassadors to serve the community, a co-organized activity, "Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park Dolphin Watching", between Marine Parks Division and the Hong Kong Society for the Deaf was held on 6 October 2012. A total of 25 Marine Parks Ambassadors assisted the activity to deliver the interesting information of Chinese White Dolphins and Marine Parks to 30 members of the society with hearing-impaired.

6.8 Marine Parks Division participated in the "Nature in Touch" fun day game booth. The activity is one of the Country Park education projects. With the assistance of 10 Marine Parks Ambassadors, the Marine Parks Division set up a game booth to promote the Marine Park. In the event, the ambassadors promoted the knowledge and message of marine conservation to 210 visitors.

6.9 Up to 30 November 2012, a total of 92 Marine Parks Ambassadors had completed 20 hours services; 34 Ambassador had completed 40 hours services; 20 Ambassadors had completed 70 hours services; 13 Ambassadors had completed 100 hours services, 8 Ambassadors had completed 150 hours services and 3 Ambassadors completed 200 hours service. They were awarded with the "Jellyfish Service Badge", "Nautilus Service Badge", "Fiddler Crab Service Badge", "Starfish Service Badge", "Humphead Wrasse Service Badge" and "Chinese White Dolphin Service Badge" respectively. Until the end of November 2012, the accumulated service hours of marine parks ambassadors are 6,596 hours.

C. Performance Pledges

Performance Results – July to September 2012

Item	Service/Application	Target turn around time	No. of Applications	No. of Applications Meeting Targets	% of Applications Meeting Targets
	<u>Conservation</u>				
1	Plant Collection Permit	3 working days	4	4	100.00%
2	Mai Po Marshes Entry Permit	3 working days	141	141	100.00%
		Sub-total	145	145	100.00%
	<u>Country and Marine Parks</u>				
3	Pak Tam Chung Barrier Permit	2 working days	329	329	100.00%
4	Location Filming Permit	3 working days	70	70	100.00%
5	Organized Event Permit in Country Parks	3 working days	94	94	100.00%
6	Permit to hold Sports Competition in Marine Parks	4 working days	0	0	N/A
7	Permit to hold Public Event in Marine Parks	4 working days	0	0	N/A
		Sub-total	493	493	100.00%
		Total	638	638	100.00%

Country and Marine Parks Authority
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
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