

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD

Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report (1.10.2017 – 28.2.2018)

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 1.10.2017 – 28.2.2018. 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 28.2.2018	Item	Total no. as at 28.2.2018
Barbecue Site	165	Shelter	291
Picnic Site	154	Refreshment Kiosk	8
Camp Site	41	Public Toilet	103
Morning Walker Garden	20	Portable Toilet	116

Amount of refuse collected (tonnes)

Oct., 2017	Nov., 2017	Dec., 2017	Jan., 2018	Feb., 2018	Total
324 (317)	338 (342)	394 (400)	278 (360)	233 (289)	1,567 (1,708)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

1.2 Fire Protection

The 2017-2018 fire season started on 30.9.2017. Detailed figures are summarised below:-

Month	No. of fires inside or threatening country park		Area affected (Ha)		No. of trees affected	
		()		()		()
Oct., 2017	3	(4)	2	(72)	0	(35)
Nov., 2017	1	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Dec., 2017	5	(3)	2.51	(1.02)	27	(50)
Jan., 2018	1	(4)	16	(188.00)	0	(230)
Feb., 2018	1	(5)	1.5	(37.02)	0	(420)
Total	11	(16)	22.01	(298.04)	27	(735)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

1.3 Permitted Events

In the reporting period, 466 permits were given under Reg. 11 of the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulation to hold events in country parks. Most of these events were related to sport competition, location filming and raising funds for charity.

1.4 Control of Development

A total of 48 development proposals were received. There was no objection to 14 of them, the other 30 were being processed and four were cancelled. Most of these were related to minor works concerning electricity supply and slope works.

2. **Visitor Services/Education**

2.1 Visitor Statistics

In the reporting period, a total of 6,141,000 persons visited the country parks and special areas. The monthly breakdown is as below for reference.

Oct., 2017	Nov., 2017	Dec., 2017	Jan., 2018	Feb., 2018	Total
1,177,000 (1,204,000)	1,252,000 (1,313,000)	1,464,000 (1,548,000)	1,198,000 (1,303,000)	1,050,000 (1,042,000)	6,141,000 (6,410,000)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

2.2 Visitor Centres

In the reporting period, a total of 6,696 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				
	Oct., 2017	Nov., 2017	Dec., 2017	Jan., 2018	Feb., 2018
Lions Nature Education Centre	37,808	61,784	53,992	26,744	25,512
Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre	6,995	5,150	6,010	3,550	3,037
Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre	11,924	7,623	11,883	6,545	8,433
Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre	10,987	7,148	12,698	6,280	5,628
Ngong Ping Nature Centre	3,977	3,245	4,301	2,381	3,204
Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre	5,788	4,493	5,848	3,934	4,984
Aberdeen Tree Centre	1,285	1,262	1,318	1,092	611
Volcano Discovery Centre	16,678	11,703	14,199	8,395	8,494
Total	95,442	102,408	110,249	58,921	59,903

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	Oct., 2017	Nov., 2017	Dec., 2017	Jan., 2018	Feb., 2018
No. of volunteers/trainees	803	803	740	649	649
Total volunteer service hours	3,990	3,272	4,839	1,918	2,155

2.4 School Visit Programme

School visit programme was launched again in 2017-18 school year to convey nature conservation message to students. Detailed figures of the programme in the reporting period are summarised below:-

School Visit Programme	No. of Participants
Kindergartens	3,070
Primary Schools	2,936
Secondary Schools	2,130

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” Publicity Programme	October 2017 to February 2018	88,100	Including exhibitions, game booths and other promotion activities
Country Park 40 th Anniversary Celebration Programmes	October to December 2017	36,472	Including the following events : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Joy” Us Hiking - Nature’s Secret Talk - Excursion with Experts - “Country Park 40th Anniversary ” Roving Exhibitions and other promotional exhibitions - Trail Maintenance Workshop - “Trees Are Good” Fun Day - Go Green Family Camping - Country Park 40th Anniversary Award Presentation Ceremony - Tai Tong Fun Carnival
Tai Tong Exhibition and Game Booths	3, 10, 17, 24, 25, 26 December 2017 1, 7 January 2018	16,820	Including guided tour, photo exhibition, workshop and game booths

2.6 Assistance

Assistance was offered to the public on:-

Nature	Oct., 2017	Nov., 2017	Dec., 2017	Jan., 2018	Feb., 2018
First aid	5	16	9	7	8
Handicapped persons	5	19	5	11	5
Return of lost properties	6	5	3	7	8

2.7 Free Distribution of Publicity Materials

Nature	Oct., 2017	Nov., 2017	Dec., 2017	Jan., 2018	Feb., 2018
Pamphlets	3,838	3,957	4,949	3,136	2,506
Posters	141	50	39	57	42
Booklets	577	418	623	802	705

3. Law Enforcement

A total of 405 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 summarised below:

Nature of offence	No. of cases *
Illegal entry of bicycle	107
Illegal entry of vehicle	141
Illegal possession of fire-ballon (Hung Ming Lanterns)	1
Illegal use of fire	12
Damaging and cutting of plant	10
Illegal digging of soil	2
Illegal hawking/trading	1
Illegal displaying banner/sign	1
Illegal constructing/erecting of building/hut/shelter	3
Illegal constructing/excavating of grave	1
Illegal holding public meeting	1
Illegal carrying on business activity (filming)	1
Camping outside designated camping site	43
Littering	3 [△] + 60 [#]
Illegal feeding of monkey	18
Total	405

Remarks: * No. of cases denotes the number of persons intercepted for an offence during the reporting period.

Fixed Penalty Notice @\$1,500.

△ Summons.

B. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve

1. Marine Parks and Marine Reserve Management

1.1 Facilities

As at 28.2.2018, the following facilities had been installed in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve:

Facilities	Total no. as at 28.2.2018	Facilities	Total no. as at 28.2.2018
Warning Signage	144	Mooring Buoy	21
Park Signage	21	Boundary Post	17
Notice Signage (various purposes)	48	Marker Post	10
Boundary Light Buoy	19	Information Board	3
Buoy (various purpose)	52	Litter Bin	15
Buoy for Mechanized Vessel Restricted Zone	132	Banner	0
Buoy for Inboard Vessel Prohibited Zone	4	Way Mark	20

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)					
	Oct., 2017	Nov., 2017	Dec., 2017	Jan., 2018	Feb., 2018	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	11.33 (9.94)	7.19 (7.78)	7.54 (8.06)	7.81 (8.63)	5.48 (7.02)	39.35 (41.43)
Yan Chau Tong	3.70 (5.98)	3.46 (3.86)	4.08 (5.06)	3.04 (3.62)	2.60 (3.58)	16.88 (22.10)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	8.63 (12.72)	7.52 (11.62)	7.94 (9.13)	7.02 (9.41)	6.10 (9.11)	37.21 (51.99)
Tung Ping Chau	7.85 (8.38)	7.12 (8.70)	7.06 (7.80)	6.43 (8.07)	5.63 (7.73)	34.09 (40.68)
Cape D'Aguiar	1.01 (1.66)	0.94 (1.58)	0.74 (1.38)	0.61 (1.22)	0.60 (0.81)	3.90 (6.65)
The Brothers*	--	--	0.30	0.31	0.47	1.08
Total	32.52 (38.68)	26.23 (33.54)	27.66 (31.43)	25.22 (30.95)	20.88 (28.25)	132.51 (162.85)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

* Recording of cleaning service for The Brothers Marine Park was started at December 2017

2. Visitor Services / Education

2.1 Visitor Statistics

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

Marine Park	Oct., 2017	Nov., 2017	Dec., 2017	Jan., 2018	Feb., 2018	Total
Hoi Ha Wan	3,433 (3,063)	2,326 (2,855)	1,820 (2,362)	1,754 (1,831)	1,015 (2,643)	10,348 (12,754)
Yan Chau Tong	2,751 (2,412)	3,835 (2,158)	3,402 (1,950)	1,786 (1,663)	1,878 (1,575)	13,652 (9,758)
Sha Chau & Lung Kwu Chau	148 (175)	182 (203)	148 (218)	170 (158)	283 (241)	931 (995)
Tung Ping Chau	1,893 (3,317)	1,053 (1,450)	3,246 (2,939)	2,014 (2,733)	1,656 (2,172)	9,862 (12,611)
The Brothers*	87 (--)	109 (--)	127 (--)	85 (313)	96 (634)	504 (947)
Total	8,312 (8,967)	7,505 (6,666)	8,743 (7,469)	5,809 (6,698)	4,928 (7,265)	35,297 (37,065)

() denotes figures of same month last year.

* Recording of visitor number for The Brothers Marine Park was commenced in January 2017.

2.2 Enquiries

During the report period, a total of 140 enquiries was received and answered. Details are listed below:

Nature	Oct., 2017	Nov., 2017	Dec., 2017	Jan., 2018	Feb., 2018	Total
General information	13	14	11	8	3	49
Park facilities	1	0	1	1	3	6
Education activities	9	9	8	9	5	40
Renewal for fishing permit	4	6	6	11	6	33
Ordinance and regulations	2	7	0	2	1	12
Total	29	36	26	31	18	140

All enquiries have been resolved.

2.3 Distribution of Educational and Publicity Materials

During the report period, a total of 4,472 educational and publicity materials were distributed to the public. Details are listed below:

Items	Oct., 2017	Nov., 2017	Dec., 2017	Jan., 2018	Feb., 2018	Total
Bookmarks	8	10	50	10	0	78
Leaflets	140	230	230	60	110	770
Posters	1,880	0	0	0	0	1,880
Calendar	0	0	1,500	0	0	1,500
Others	80	60	20	60	24	244
Total	2,108	300	1,800	130	134	4,472

2.4 Educational and Publicity Activities

During the report period, a total of 25 educational/publicity activities involving 373 participants were organised. Details are listed below:

Items	No.	No. of servicing Ambassador	Total no. of participant
Education Activities			
Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park Ecotour	13	-	96
School Guided Tour	5	-	128
School Seminar	2		60
Marine Parks Ambassador Scheme			
Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park Visitor Questionnaire Survey	1	7	7
Marine Conservation Roving Exhibition	1	10	10
Hoi Ha Wan Glass-bottomed Boat Trip	1	26	26
Mai Po Boardwalk Tour	1	32	32
Marine Parks Ambassador Scheme Training Workshop	1	14	14
Total	25	89	373

2.5 During the report period, our Marine Parks Ambassador participated in the following volunteer services and training programs: Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park Visitor Questionnaire Survey, Marine Conservation Roving Exhibition, Hoi Ha Wan Glass-bottomed Boat Trip, Mai Po Boardwalk Tour and Marine Parks Ambassador Scheme Training Workshop. A total of 89 ambassadors joined the above activities.

2.6 Up to 28 February 2018, a total of 134 Marine Parks Ambassadors have completed 20 hours services; 51 Ambassadors have completed 40 hours services; 29 Ambassadors have completed 70 hours services; 20 Ambassadors have completed 100 hours services, 12 Ambassadors have completed 150 hours services and 6 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 February 2018, the accumulated service hours of marine parks ambassadors are 9,922 hours.

3. Law Enforcement

During the report period, a total of 345 advices and 8 verbal warnings were given to fishermen and visitors and 8 prosecutions were taken against offenders in Marine Parks and Marine Reserve. A total of 13 Joint Anti-illegal Fishing Operations with Marine Police were conducted in Marine Parks.

Nature of offence	No. of prosecution	No. of completed hearing	Fines (HK\$)
Pleasure fishing	4	2	3,000
Other	4	2	1,800
Total	8	4	4,800

During the report period, the prosecution cases are not necessarily the same as the completed hearing cases.

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 2018