

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 19 April 2011. Major issues discussed at the meeting are summarised below.

2. Application for Conducting a Forest Research Project at Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve

2.1 Members were informed of the background, site conditions and details of an application for setting up a 20 ha observatory plot as the first Hong Kong-based Forest Dynamics Plot (FDP) and conducting a 3-year forest research project at Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve (TPKNR). Members also noted that the applicant, The Kadoorie Institute of The University of Hong Kong, would establish a 1 ha demonstration plot in Shek Kong for training and education purposes.

2.2 A member enquired about manpower requirement for the survey conducted in the FDP. Members were informed that a team of 3 full-time research assistants would be deployed. Students from local universities would be employed in summer vacation and trainees from training and education programmes would be recruited as volunteers on Saturday and Sunday.

2.3 Members raised concerns about visual impacts due to erection of marker poles in the FDP. Members were informed that the poles were indispensable in marking the location of newly-growth trees in the second survey as the changes in forest dynamics of Hong Kong forests, which were relatively young (about 50 years old), should be significant. The poles were expected to be erected in the FDP permanently so that re-surveys of forest dynamics could be conducted on long term basis. Members were also informed that shorter poles would be considered.

2.4 The Chairman suggested that new technologies, for example, Global Positioning System (GPS), should be used for demarcation of sub-quadrats in the FDP.

Members were informed that GPS had a larger margin of error hence could not replace land survey measurements of surveyors.

2.5 The Chairman raised concerns about the material used for marker poles and the paint for marking measured trees. Members were informed that AFCD would follow up the issues with the applicant.

3. Summary of Development Proposals within Country Parks from 1 October 2010 to 31 March 2011

3.1 The summary of development proposals within country parks from 1 October 2010 to 31 March 2011 was presented at the meeting. Out of the 61 proposals received during the period, there was no objection to 32 proposals while 29 were still under consideration. The majority of cases were related to utility services works such as electricity, telephone and water supply, path improvement, slope repair and utility installation.

3.2 A member enquired about whether the proposals of ground investigation (GI) works were included in the Summary. Members were informed that the proposals of GI works were not included as they mainly comprised drilling of boreholes.

4. Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report on Country Parks

4.1 The Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report on Country Parks for the period from 1 November 2010 to 28 February 2011 was presented at the meeting. Among other things, members noted that the figure of 27 fires in the reported period was a normal one. The fires were mainly caused by burning of joss sticks and joss paper in tomb sites or kindling materials left by careless villagers.

5. Ground Investigation Works in Country Parks

5.1 Members were informed of the background, nature, consideration and inspection to GI works in country parks. Members noted that the Authority would give his consent to GI works in a country park with conditions when it was demonstrated that the impacts of GI works to country parks were kept to the minimum.

5.2 The Chairman suggested that the Authority might seek the view of the Committee on any GI works application if it was considered of significant impacts to country parks. Members noted that AFCD would take note of her suggestion.

5.3 A member suggested that potential impacts to users of country parks should be considered in AFCD's guidelines. Members were informed that AFCD would consider her suggestion.

6. Presentation

6.1 This paper is prepared for members' information.

Country and Marine Parks Authority
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