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**Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and
Conservation**

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in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2020-21**

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FHB(FE)231	6700	Hon MO Claudia	13	(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services
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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB001

(Question Serial No. 1719)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Over the past 3 years, regarding endangered species and smuggling of animals in Hong Kong, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What was the number of prosecutions instituted under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance? What were the penalties imposed?
- (b) What was the number of cases of possessing endangered species without a licence, and what follow-up actions were taken?
- (c) How many endangered animals were seized each year? What were their types?
- (d) What were the conditions of the animals seized in various control points? What was the number of animals died in course of transit?
- (e) What was the number of illegal trading on the internet? What was the number of enforcement actions taken by means of decoy operations?
- (f) What was the number of animals confiscated and handed to non-profit making organisations in Hong Kong for conservation?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

- (a) The number of prosecutions instituted under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (the Ordinance) and the penalties imposed over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	2017	2018	2019
Number of prosecutions	189	221	226
Maximum penalty (imprisonment / months)	3	8	24
Minimum penalty (fine / \$)	400	400	300

- (b) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) conducts law enforcement investigations on cases of possessing endangered species without a licence under the Ordinance and institutes prosecution when there is sufficient evidence. The enforcement figures related to illegal possession of endangered species over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	2017	2018	2019
Number of cases	42	18	13
Number of convictions[#]	37	34	17

[#] The number of convictions is higher than the number of cases in 2018 and 2019 mainly because it takes time to conduct investigations, initiate summons and schedule the court hearings. Hence, some of the cases were convicted in the following year after their occurrence. A few cases may involve more than 1 conviction, for example there is more than 1 defendant or 1 charge.

- (c) The number of endangered animals seized over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	2017	2018	2019
Number of individuals	2 812	4 140	2 851

The most commonly seized animals include tortoises, lizards, birds, snakes, fish and stony corals.

- (d) The number of endangered animals seized at various control points over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year / Control point	2017	2018	2019
Hong Kong International Airport	2 488	2 915	2 723
Lo Wu Control Point	21	6	15
Lok Ma Chau Control Point	--	14	29
Lok Ma Chau Spurline Control Point	--	15	20
Man Kam To Control Point	10	916	--
Shenzhen Bay Control Point	8	193	17
Sha Tau Kok Control Point	--	--	6
West Kowloon Control Point	--	--	8
China Ferry Terminal	6	--	--
Sea boundary	10	--	--

There were 0, 5 and 2 animals died in the course of transit in 2017, 2018 and 2019 respectively.

- (e) All cases of illegal selling of endangered species on the internet are investigated by means of decoy operations. The number of cases involving illegal selling of endangered species through internet platforms and the quantity of seizure over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	2017	2018	2019
Number of cases	19	9	9
Quantity of seizure	45 animals	24 animals	6 animals, 6 plants and 55.3kg of products or specimens

- (f) In 2017, 2018 and 2019, AFCD donated 733, 241 and 130 seized live endangered species respectively to local institutes/organisations for conservation purposes and/or temporary keeping.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB002

(Question Serial No. 0964)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) stated in this Programme that it would strengthen the control of trade in endangered species, in particular ivory, and combating their illegal trade and smuggling. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the current condition and the effectiveness in combating illegal trade and smuggling?
- (b) How will AFCD strengthen the control of illegal trade and smuggling in the coming year? What are the manpower and resources required?
- (c) Will AFCD enhance collaboration with other government departments? If yes, please set out the departments concerned and the mode of cooperation?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kin-por (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

- (a) The Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 came into effect on 1 May 2018. Starting from 1 August 2018, all import and export of ivory (save for antique ivory) for commercial purposes have been banned. A licence to possess is required for keeping pre-Convention (i.e. the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)) ivory for commercial purposes.

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has implemented a series of measures that aim at curbing smuggling of ivory and strengthening the control of local trade in ivory. The measures include

enhancing inter-departmental collaboration and stepping up joint operations and intelligence exchange with the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) and overseas law enforcement agencies (e.g. Interpol); deploying sniffer dogs to detect ivory at import and export control points to assist in detecting and preventing smuggling of ivory; conducting inspections targeted at licensed ivory shops and non-licensed art and craft shops to check the licensing compliance as well as to detect and combat illegal ivory trade; as well as using hi-tech radiocarbon dating analysis to determine the age and hence the legality of ivory.

AFCD has carried out a series of publicity and education activities to publicise the phase-out plan of the local ivory trade and the new penalty regime among the general public, travellers and traders. These include distributing leaflets and displaying posters at various import and export control points; broadcasting TV and radio Announcements of Public Interest on cross-boundary coaches and the YouTube Channel, displaying animated posters on digital screens at 6 Shenzhen to Hong Kong immigration control points as well as conducting visits to licensed ivory shops and other art and craft shops for education and promotion.

Apart from ivory, the Government is also committed to combatting the smuggling of other endangered species. The species seized in operations vary and mainly include dried seahorse, pangolin scales, red wood, American ginseng, orchid, live tortoise/turtle, leather products of reptiles, etc. Figures of enforcement actions related to endangered species in 2019 are tabulated as follows:

Number of cases	659
Quantity seized (kg)	376 000
Estimated value of goods (\$ million)	133
Number of persons arrested	497
Number of persons convicted	199
Maximum penalty (imprisonment/month)	24

- (b) and (c) AFCD has been working closely with C&ED and strictly regulating the trade in endangered species through enforcing the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) which gives effect to CITES in Hong Kong. The import, export/re-export and domestic sale of endangered species in Hong Kong are regulated and closely monitored through a permit/certificate system in accordance with the provisions of CITES. AFCD conducts inspections of consignments, registered stock and retail outlets to ensure relevant requirements are complied with and to detect and deter illegal local trade in endangered species. AFCD also conducts joint operations with C&ED at various import and export control points to combat illegal import and export of endangered species. Meanwhile, they also collaborate with overseas and Mainland law enforcement agencies through joint operations and intelligence exchange to combat smuggling of endangered species.

An Inter-departmental Task Force on Wildlife Crime, comprising representatives of AFCD, C&ED and the Hong Kong Police Force, has also been established to develop strategies on intelligence exchange and co-ordinate joint enforcement operations. Joint and targeted operations, both local and international, will be undertaken to strengthen the frontline enforcement against smuggling and illegal trade in endangered species.

In 2020-21, AFCD will continue to implement the above measures to curb smuggling and illegal trade in endangered species (including ivory). AFCD's manpower and estimated expenditure for controlling illegal trade in endangered species in 2020-21 are 63 staff members and \$61 million respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB003

(Question Serial No. 3270)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Please advise of the details of the provision for the Biodiversity Education Centre in Hong Kong in 2020-21.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (LegCo internal reference no.: 57)

Reply:

In 2020-21, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has earmarked \$4.7 million for the management and operation of the Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre. This includes expenditure on educational programmes, cleansing, security, building maintenance and staff cost.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB004

(Question Serial No. 3271)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Please advise of the expenditure on organic fertilisers among the total expenditure on fertilisers involved in seedling production in the 2020-21 Estimates.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (LegCo internal reference no.: 58)

Reply:

Among the work related to country parks, the provision earmarked for the purchase of fertilisers for seedling production in 2020-21 is \$50,000, of which \$30,000 will be used for organic fertiliser.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**ENB005****(Question Serial No. 2823)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Please set out in tabular form the number of prosecutions against the following 6 types of offences in relation to the management of country parks over the past 5 years:

Year	Carrying bicycle without authorisation	Unauthorised entry of vehicle	Lighting a fire	Removal of plant	Camping	Littering
2015						
2016						
2017						
2018						
2019						

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (LegCo internal reference no.: 3020)

Reply:

The number of prosecutions initiated by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department against the following 6 types of offences in country parks and special areas over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Year/ number of cases	Bringing bicycle into country parks or special areas without authorisation	Bringing vehicle into country parks or special areas without authorisation	Illegal lighting of fire	Illegal plucking or damaging of plant	Illegal camping	Littering
2015	340	189	10	12	42	135
2016	363	195	4	9	53	61
2017	352	334	17	26	63	62
2018	228	270	3	15	37	165
2019	212	207	2	15	24	92

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB006

(Question Serial No. 0674)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding illegal display of items in country parks, please advise of the following:

- (a) The respective numbers of reports received in each of the past 5 years on illegal (i) display of vertical banners and (ii) posting of slogans and painting of graffiti in country parks; and the procedures, manpower and expenditure involved in the operations to remove or clear such items;
- (b) (i) The number of patrols conducted in country parks and special areas for combating illegal display of vertical banners, and (ii) the number of operations conducted during patrols to remove or clear such items, by government officers in each month of the past 5 years; the respective manpower, expenditure and time involved in such operations;
- (c) The respective current staffing establishment of those civil servants responsible for patrolling country parks and special areas;
- (d) As the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations (Cap. 208A) provides that no person without permission shall, within a country park or special area, display any sign, notice, poster, banner or advertisement, please provide the respective numbers of persons prosecuted and convicted in each of the past 5 years for illegal display of large vertical banners within country parks, and the punishments imposed on those convicted. If there were no cases of prosecution and conviction, has the Department studied if this situation was due to insufficient efforts in combating such acts; and
- (e) Whether the Department will raise the relevant penalties and step up law enforcement efforts so as to curb this undesirable trend. If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 80)

Reply:

- (a) Upon receipt of the reports of illegal display of large vertical banners, slogans and graffiti in country parks, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will conduct site inspection and investigation as soon as possible. Depending on situations, AFCD will deploy staff to clean up or refer to the relevant government departments to follow up the cleansing action. For cases of large vertical banners which were located in difficult terrains, joint removal operations will be carried out by various government departments, including the Fire Services Department (FSD), the Government Flying Service (GFS), the Hong Kong Police Force (the Police) and AFCD. The number of cases of illegal display of large vertical banners, slogans and graffiti in country parks received by AFCD and the manpower and time involved in handling cases of illegal display of large vertical banners in country parks by the related government departments over the past 5 years are set out in Table 1 and Table 2 respectively. The related government departments do not have the breakdowns of the expenditure involved for handling such cases.

Table 1: Number of cases of illegal display of large vertical banners, slogans and graffiti in country parks

Year	Number of cases of large vertical banners	Number of cases of slogans/graffiti
2015	3	3
2016	4	1
2017	3	1
2018	3	0
2019	22	0

Table 2: Manpower and time involved in handling cases of illegal display of large vertical banners in country parks by related government departments

Month/Year #	Number of officers involved*	Approximate time required (hours)
January 2015	51	28.4
February 2015	40	22.2
May 2016	52	37.2
June 2016	56	17.4
March 2017	31	17.0
December 2017	59	24.9
March 2018	26	21.5
May 2018	6	5.5
September 2018	3	5.0
May 2019	120	32.7
June 2019	85	40.8
August 2019	87	25.0
September 2019	139	64.5
October 2019	58	34.5
December 2019	16	4.0

The months in which no cases were received are not listed above.

* The departments involved include AFCD, FSD, the Police and GFS.

- (b) The number of patrols carried out by AFCD in country parks and special areas in Hong Kong and the expenditure involved over the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of patrols
2015	15 381
2016	14 705
2017	14 747
2018	15 456
2019	14 814

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2015-16	54.3
2016-17	54.6
2017-18	55.5
2018-19	65.4
2019-20 (revised estimate)	65.4

As patrolling country parks is part of the regular work of AFCD, there are no separate breakdowns of the number of patrols for combating cases of illegal display of large vertical banners and the expenditure involved. Please refer to (a) for information of the number of cleansing actions for large vertical banners and the manpower and time involved, etc.

- (c) At present, a total of 155 civil servants of AFCD are responsible for patrolling country parks and special areas in Hong Kong, enforcing the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208) and other relevant legislation.
- (d) According to the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations (Cap. 208A) (the Regulations), it is an offence to display any sign, notice, poster, banner or advertisement in country parks or special areas without a permit granted by the Country and Marine Parks Authority. Contravention of the relevant regulations is liable to a maximum fine of \$2,000 and imprisonment for 3 months. Over the past 5 years, AFCD has successfully initiated 2 prosecutions against illegal display of banners in country parks under the Regulations and the fines were \$500 and \$700 respectively. AFCD has investigated other cases of illegal display of large vertical banners, however, no suspects could be identified after the investigation and hence no further actions could be taken.
- (e) AFCD will continue to strengthen patrols in country parks including the locations previously involved in illegal display of large vertical banners, review the patrol routes and frequency from time to time, and arrange special operations to deter activities contravening the Regulations as necessary. AFCD will prosecute against the offenders if there is sufficient evidence.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB007

(Question Serial No. 0675)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the nuisances caused by wild monkeys to nearby residents or visitors, please advise of the following:

- (a) What were the manpower and expenditures involved in public education and promotion of the feeding ban over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)?
- (b) What were the numbers of complaints received by the Department about nuisances of or attacks by wild monkeys over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)?
- (c) What were the manpower and expenditures involved in the investigation and study on the control of wild monkeys, as well as the administration of contraceptive and neutering treatment to wild monkeys over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)?
- (d) After receiving complaints about monkey nuisances and investigating into the situation and causes of monkey occurrence, what follow-up measures has the Department taken and will the investigation result be publicised to the public?
- (e) Has the management plan for monkeys been updated? If yes, what are the progress, timetable and details involved? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 81)

Reply:

- (a) The expenditure incurred by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in public education and publicity for the prohibition of feeding monkeys over the past 3 year is tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2017-18	1.1
2018-19	1.1
2019-20 (revised estimate)	1.2

As the relevant work forms part of AFCD's work on handling the nuisance caused by wild animals (including monkeys, wild pigs, etc.), there is no separate breakdown on the manpower involved in the aforesaid work.

- (b) The number of complaints about monkey nuisance/attack received by AFCD over the past 3 years is tabulated below:

Year	Number of complaints about monkey nuisance/attack
2017-18	399
2018-19	409
2019-20 (as at January 2020)	278

- (c) AFCD's expenditure and manpower involved in handling monkey nuisance over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (number of staff)
2017-18	5.2	12
2018-19	5.2	12
2019-20 (revised estimate)	5.2	12

In addition, AFCD's contractor (the Ocean Park Conservation Foundation) arranged regular sterilisation operations for monkeys in Kam Shan, Lion Rock and Shing Mun Country Parks, involving about 10 contractor's staff in each operation.

- (d) AFCD is highly concerned about the nuisance caused by monkeys in residential areas. Upon receiving relevant reports, staff will be deployed to the scene to chase away or capture the monkeys, and offer advice and education leaflets to the concerned public or management offices after investigating the situation and causes of monkey occurrence. If necessary, AFCD will arrange talks for the concerned residents or management offices on the handling of monkey nuisance and drawbacks of feeding

monkeys and not handling refuse properly. AFCD would also contact other government departments to follow up problems arising from monkey nuisance, such as environmental hygiene problems. Traps will also be set up to capture the lingering monkeys in residential areas where necessary and conditions permit in order to alleviate the nuisance caused by them with immediate effect.

AFCD has been carrying out contraceptive/sterilisation operations for monkeys in Kam Shan, Lion Rock and Shing Mun Country Parks since 2007 to control their population growth. Regular surveys are also conducted to monitor changes in the monkey populations. In addition, AFCD has extended the scope of the contraceptive programme to cover the monkey populations causing nuisance to residential areas in the vicinity of country parks since 2018, with a view to mitigating nuisance caused by monkeys in urban areas in a more effective way.

- (e) AFCD is now reviewing the management plan for monkey nuisance, which is expected to be updated upon completion of the review in 2020-21.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB008

(Question Serial No. 0687)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding marine parks and marine reserves, please advise of the following:

- (a) Please set out the names, locations, sizes and dates of establishment of the marine parks and marine reserves currently established or to be established as well as the sizes of the core areas or restricted zones. Please also provide the boundary maps of these marine parks and marine reserves (including the core areas or restricted zones).
- (b) Please set out the number of fishing permits issued to various types of fishing vessels in each marine park and marine reserve, in the first year after the establishment of the marine parks and marine reserves and over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20).
- (c) What were the number of operations and the effectiveness of the enforcement operations against illegal fishing activities (including capture, angling as well as any other method) in marine parks over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)? What were the penalties and fines imposed?
- (d) What were the expenditures and manpower involved in the enforcement operations against illegal fishing activities in marine parks over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)?
- (e) What were the number of patrol vessels deployed by the Government to combat illegal fishing activities in marine parks, the area(s) patrolled, and the number of patrols conducted, over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

- (a) The names, locations, sizes, core area sizes and dates of designation of existing marine parks and marine reserve are tabulated as follows:

Name of existing marine park/ marine reserve	Location	Size (hectares)		Designation date
		Total	Core area	
Cape D'Aguilar Marine Reserve	Waters at the southeastern tip of Hong Kong Island	20	0	July 1996
Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park	Sheltered bay located north of the Sai Kung West Country Park	260	0	July 1996
Yan Chau Tong Marine Park	Northeast coast of Plover Cove Country Park	680	0	July 1996
Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park	Waters enclosing the islands of Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau on the western side of Hong Kong	1 200	0	November 1996
Tung Ping Chau Marine Park	Waters enclosing the small island Ping Chau northeastern waters of Hong Kong	270	7.4	November 2001
The Brothers Marine Park	Waters in the vicinity of The Brothers in northern Lantau	970	80	December 2016

In addition, the Southwest Lantau Marine Park was designated on 1 April 2020. The marine park is located in the waters in the vicinity of Fan Lau in southwest Lantau and the total area is about 650 hectares. At this stage, we have not set up any core areas.

The names, locations, sizes, core area sizes and tentative designation time of the proposed marine parks are as follows:

Name of proposed marine park	Location	Size (hectares)		Tentative designation time
		Total area	Core area	
South Lantau Marine Park (combining the proposed Soko Islands Marine Park and the proposed marine park for Integrated Waste Management Facilities as a single marine park)	Waters in the vicinity of Soko Islands in southern Lantau	~2 067	~145	2022
Proposed Marine Park for the Three-Runway System	Waters around the airport in northern Lantau	~2 400	To be determined	2024

The boundaries (and core areas) of the existing and proposed marine parks and marine reserve are shown in the map in the **Annex**.

- (b) The number of fishing permits issued to various types of fishing vessels in each marine park and marine reserve is tabulated as follows:

Name of marine park/ marine reserve	Number of permits issued for the respective marine parks/marine reserve			
	1st year	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Cape D'Aguilar Marine Reserve	0	0	0	0
Hoi Ha Wan (HHW) and Yan Chau Tong (YCT) ⁽ⁱ⁾	409	243	250	249
Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau	208	81	81	81
Tung Ping Chau (TPC) ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾	280	197	200	200
The Brothers	472	472	474	403
Total⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾	---	737	744	673

Notes:

(i) Some fishing permits cover TPC, YCT and/or HHW (see Note (ii) below).

(ii) Some fishing permits issued for TPC also cover YCT/HHW.

(iii) The row "Total" gives the total number of fishing permits issued for the marine parks in a particular year. As some permits cover more than 1 marine park, the figure for a particular year in the row "Total" does not equal to the sum of the number of fishing permits issued for the marine parks each year.

- (c) The number of prosecutions against illegal fishing activities in marine parks over the past 3 years and the penalties imposed are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of cases	Total fine (\$)
2017-18	6	7,300
2018-19	12	12,900
2019-20 (as of February 2020)	7 (including 6 cases in the progress of prosecution)	1,000

- (d) The expenditure and manpower involved in the management of marine parks and marine reserve, including enforcement against illegal fishing, over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

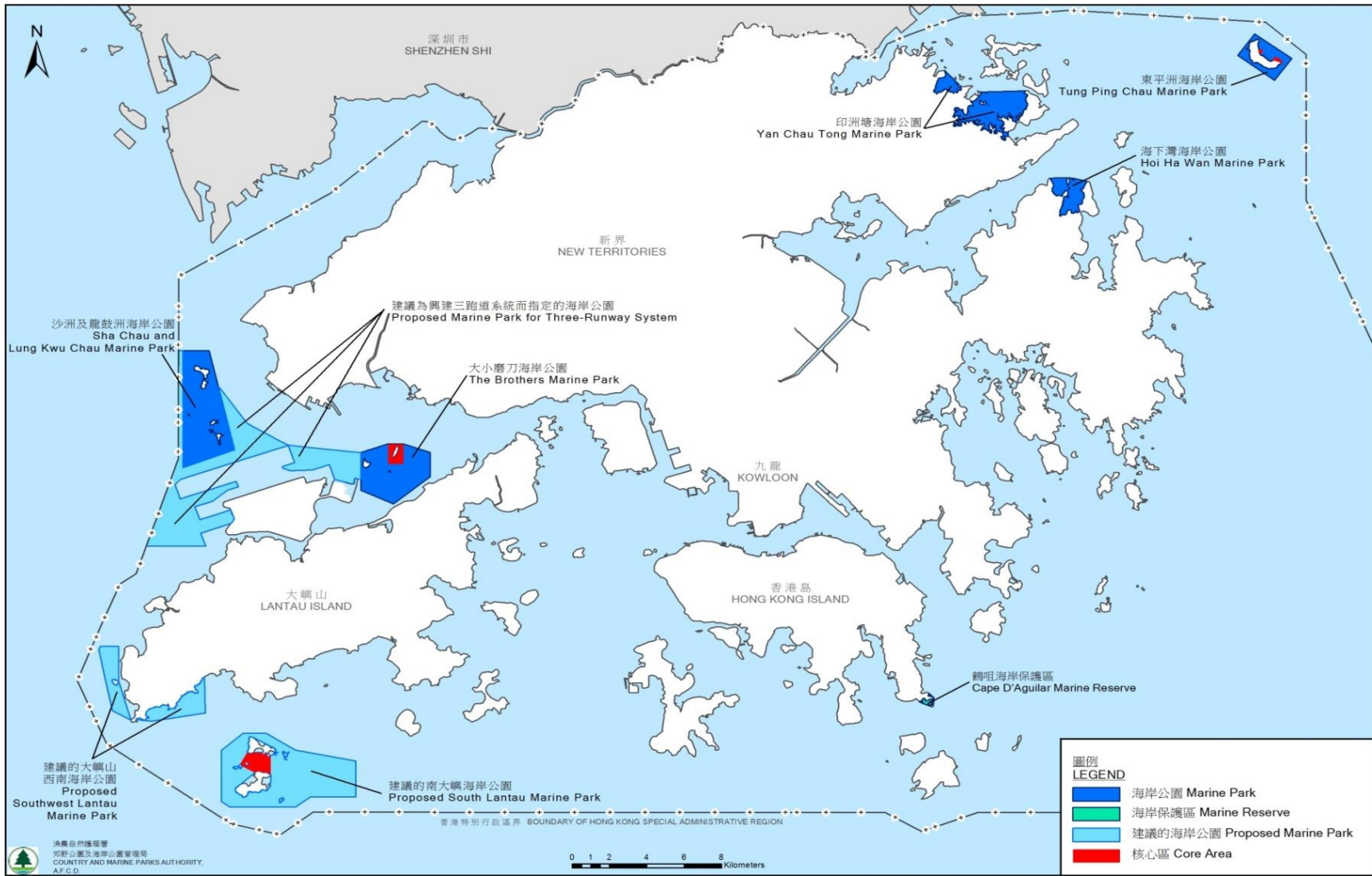
Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)
2017-18	23.2	44
2018-19	26.1	51
2019-20 (revised estimate)	30.7	61

- (e) The number of patrol vessels deployed by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) to conduct patrols in marine parks, marine reserve and surrounding waters reduced from 11 to 8 in 2019 as a few aged vessels are out of service and pending replacement. The Marine Police and their patrol vessels has rendered assistance in law enforcement within marine parks and marine reserve under AFCD's request.

The areas patrolled included all existing and proposed marine parks and marine reserve. The number of patrols conducted over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of patrols
2017-18	4 084
2018-19	3 330
2019-20 (as of February 2020)	3 050

- End -



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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB009

(Question Serial No. 0690)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the conservation and management of the wetland, please advise of the following:

- (a) Over each of the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20), what were the respective expenditures incurred by the Government on protecting birds, promoting the development of aquaculture fisheries and agriculture, and assisting such industries in preventing birds from foraging for cultured fish products and crops, together with the details and effectiveness of such efforts?
- (b) Over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20), what were the number of complaints received by the Government about alleged unlawful bird-proof measures taken by fish farmers and farmers, the average and longest time taken to handle such cases, the number of prosecutions instituted against the contravention of the Wild Animal Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170), and the number of convictions thereof?
- (c) Over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20), has the Government made any assessment on the expenditures incurred by fish farmers and farmers on taking bird-proof measures, and their financial losses due to birds foraging for their cultured fish products and crops?
- (d) Over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20), how did the Government compensate fish farmers and farmers for their expenditures and financial losses as mentioned in item (c)? What measures have been put in place by the Government to assist them in reducing such expenditures and financial losses?
- (e) Over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20), what were the amounts of subventions granted to the management agreement projects under the Environment and Conservation Fund? What were the number of participating fish farmers as well as the figures and percentages of the fish ponds taken up to the total area of the Ramsar Site?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

- (a) to (d) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) actively works to protect wild animals by different means, including conservation management of habitats in the Ramsar Site and other ecologically important sites, territory-wide law enforcement, public education, as well as animal rescue, studies and research, etc., while bird conservation is also included in all these aspects of work. According to the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170) (the Ordinance), no person shall, except in accordance with a special permit, wilfully disturb or hunt any protected wild animal, including all wild birds. Over the past 3 years (up to January 2020), AFCD has prosecuted 191 cases for contravening the Ordinance and a total of 175 cases were convicted. During the same period, AFCD received 10 complaints about suspected use of illegal bird prevention measures by farmers or fish pond operators. It usually takes 3 to 6 months to process these cases.

AFCD understands the concern of farmers and fish pond operators over their loss due to bird predation in farmland and fish ponds. AFCD aims to strike a balance between supporting the agriculture and fisheries industries as well as bird conservation, and assists farmers and fish pond operators in taking appropriate measures to reduce bird predation in farmland and fish ponds without causing harm to birds. Regarding farmers, AFCD provides technical advice to them on bird prevention, while farmers who are interested in installing bird preventive netting or other measures can apply for low-interest loans from loan funds administered by AFCD, or purchase the necessary materials for self-installation with the Farm Improvement Scheme grants under the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund (SADF). Regarding fish pond operators, AFCD regularly organises talks and workshops on good aquaculture practices and general fish farming guidelines, where methods on prevention of bird predation would be introduced, such as pond wiring, hanging of reflective materials, etc., to reduce loss of fish produce. Fish pond operators can also apply for low-interest loans should they need any financial assistance, or purchase the necessary materials with the Equipment Improvement Project grants under the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF).

AFCD has published 2 pamphlets on the methods of preventing bird predation in farmland and fish ponds for the reference of farmers and fish pond operators respectively. According to AFCD's observations, many farmers and fish pond operators have adopted AFCD's recommendations to reduce the risk of bird predation in farmland and fish ponds. Nonetheless, AFCD does not have the information about the cost of bird prevention measures used by farmers and fish pond operators. On the other hand, the loss due to bird predation is subject to many factors, including crop/fish species, location of the farmland/fish pond, and the bird prevention measures implemented on the site, and hence cannot be deduced conclusively. AFCD will continue to carry out the above work to facilitate farmers and fish pond operators to reduce their loss due to bird predation in farmland and fish ponds.

In addition, AFCD has been supporting and promoting the overall development of the agriculture and fisheries industries through various measures, including providing technical support to the industries, promoting local agricultural and fishery produces, implementing SFDF and SADF with a view to promoting the sustainable development of industries, as well as implementing various supportive measures under the New Agriculture Policy. The breakdown of the expenditure on promoting aquaculture fisheries and agricultural development on the wetland is not available.

- (e) 2 Management Agreement projects with funding from the Environment and Conservation Fund were conducted from March 2017 to February 2019 and from March 2019 to February 2021 in the Ramsar Site and Deep Bay Wetland outside the Ramsar Site respectively. Details of the projects over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Project period	March 2017 to February 2019		March 2019 to February 2021
Ramsar Site			
Total approved budget (\$)	7,034,532		7,456,636
Reporting period	March 2017 to February 2018	March 2018 to February 2019	March to December 2019
Number of fishpond operators engaged	65	67	63
Area of fishponds engaged (hectare)	283	286	255
Total area of eligible fishponds (hectare)*	290	290	290
Percentage of area of fishponds engaged in total area of eligible fishponds (%)	98	98	88
Deep Bay Wetland outside Ramsar Site			
Total approved budget (\$)	7,659,992		7,246,276
Project period	March 2017 to February 2018	March 2018 to February 2019	March to December 2019
Number of fishpond operators engaged	87	88	88
Area of fishponds engaged (hectare)	326	327	314
Total area of eligible fishponds (hectare)*	370	370	360

Project period	March 2017 to February 2019		March 2019 to February 2021
Ramsar Site			
Percentage of area of fishponds engaged in total area of eligible fishponds (%)	88	88	87

* Eligible fishponds are those registered under AFCD's voluntary registration scheme.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB010

(Question Serial No. 0702)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding wild pigs, please advise of the following:

- (a) Has the Government estimated the current population of wild pigs in Hong Kong?
- (b) What was the number of help-seeking cases in relation to the appearance of wild pigs received over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)?
- (c) What was the number of operations conducted under the pilot programme on the contraception and relocation of wild pigs, the number of wild pigs captured, in which the number of female wild pigs injected with contraceptive vaccines and were surgically sterilised as well as the number of wild pigs relocated to the countryside far away from residential areas over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)?
- (d) What were the expenditures and manpower dedicated to the aforesaid pilot programme and the work in relation to wild pigs over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)?
- (e) What were the number of arrests made and prosecutions instituted in relation to the illegal feeding of wild pigs over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)? What were the average, maximum and minimum penalties imposed respectively?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 42)

Reply:

- (a) Wild pigs are generally solitary or live in small groups, secretive, widely distributed, and have extensive home range. Thus, it is very difficult to conduct large-scale population survey on them. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) launched a pilot scheme to estimate the number of wild pigs in the countryside using infrared camera traps in 2019. It was estimated that there were about 1 800 to 3 300 wild pigs in the countryside all over Hong Kong based on the wild pig population density at the trial sites. AFCD will extend the scope of the

study to cover more sites and different seasons in 2020 so as to make a more accurate estimation of the wild pig population in the countryside.

- (b) The number of complaints about wild pigs received by AFCD over the past 3 years is as follows:

Year	Number of cases
2017-18	787
2018-19	1 008
2019-20 (as of January 2020)	950

- (c) AFCD has tried implementing the pilot Capture and Contraception/Relocation Programme (CCRP) to handle the nuisance caused by wild pigs in urban areas since late 2017. To enable a more effective control of the number of wild pigs causing nuisance to urban areas, AFCD has regularised CCRP in phases since 2019-20 to vaccinate or sterilise caught or saved wild pigs where the condition permits. The figures related to the pilot CCRP over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Year/ number of wild pigs	Captured	Administered with contraceptive vaccine	Surgically sterilised	Relocated to remote countryside
2017-18 (from October 2017)	51	14	0	40
2018-19	115	46	18	81
2019-20* (as of February 2020)	261	54	38	202

* The figures include the number of wild pigs saved in rescue operations.

- (d) The manpower and expenditure involved in AFCD's wild pig management (including the pilot CCRP) over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Manpower (number of staff)	Total expenditure on wild pig management (\$ million)	Expenditure involved in pilot CCRP (\$ million)
2017-18	6	6.8	3.8
2018-19	14	9.9	6.2
2019-20 (revised estimate)	26	13.8	6.8

- (e) Kam Shan, Lion Rock and Shing Mun Country Parks, part of Tai Mo Shan Country Park, Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve, a section of Tai Po Road along Caldecott Road and Piper's Hill section of Tai Po Road are specified places under the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170) at which the feeding of any wild animals is prohibited (feeding ban area). Persons feeding wild animals in the feeding ban areas are liable to a maximum fine of \$10,000. AFCD arranges regular patrol at the feeding ban areas and will take prosecution actions against anyone who has violated the law and fed wild animals, subject to sufficient evidence. AFCD will, from time to time, review the patrolling arrangements at the feeding ban areas as appropriate, including the deployment of additional manpower to conduct enforcement operations at night and on public holidays. The information on the prosecutions against illegal feeding of wild animals (including wild pigs) over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (as of February 2020)
Number of patrols	564	536	578
Number of prosecutions against illegal feeding of wild animals (including wild pigs)	40	32	26
Number of successful prosecutions against illegal feeding of wild animals (including wild pigs)^	57	20	28
Average fine (\$)	1,000	1,000	1,500

^ Some of the prosecutions initiated in the latter part of the year might be processed next year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB011

(Question Serial No. 1605)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) published the new Red List of Threatened Species in July last year, showing that the number of globally endangered species has increased by about 9 000, bringing the total number to 105 700. Among the species listed as “Vulnerable” in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species is the Chinese white dolphin (CWD), which is unique in Hong Kong. According to the monitoring report published in August last year, it was estimated that the CWDs sighted during the period from April 2018 to March 2019 in Hong Kong waters were only 32 individuals, which was at a record low since 1995.

- (a) Does the Government have any conservation plan targeting Hong Kong's unique CWDs? If yes, what are details of the conservation, the manpower and expenditure involved? If not, will the Government formulate plans as soon as possible in the future to ensure that CWDs will not be in danger of extinction?
- (b) Please tabulate the number of prosecutions instituted against offenders under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance and the corresponding penalties imposed over the past 3 financial years.
- (c) In the past financial year, the Government stated that it had implemented a series of measures that aimed at curbing smuggling and strengthening the control of local trade in ivory. How effectiveness were such measures? What were the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

- (a) To conserve the Chinese white dolphins (CWDs) that occur in the Hong Kong waters, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has implemented the Conservation Programme for CWDs since 2001, which includes a variety of measures

that are conducive to the conservation and the continued survival of CWDs in the Hong Kong waters. They include (i) close monitoring of the occurrence and distribution of CWDs in local waters; (ii) designation of important dolphin habitats as marine parks and subject them to proper conservation and management; (iii) stipulating stringent requirements in environmental impact assessments of coastal development projects sited close to CWD habitats to ensure that the potential impacts to dolphins are adequately addressed; (iv) implementation of fisheries management measures for sustainable and healthy fish stocks which would benefit CWDs with sufficient food; and (v) organising education and publicity programmes to raise public awareness of and solicit their support for the conservation of CWDs. The estimated expenditure for the abovementioned measures in 2020-21 is about \$13 million. The manpower involved is 26 staff members.

- (b) The number of prosecutions instituted under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) and the respective penalties over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	2017	2018	2019
Number of prosecutions	189	221	226
Maximum penalty (imprisonment/months)	3	8	24
Minimum penalty (fine/\$)	400	400	300

- (c) The Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 came into effect on 1 May 2018. Starting from 1 August 2018, all import and export of ivory (save for antique ivory) for commercial purposes have been banned. A licence to possess is required for keeping pre-Convention (i.e. the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)) ivory for commercial purposes.

AFCD has implemented a series of measures that aim at curbing smuggling of ivory and strengthening the control of local trade in ivory. The measures include enhancing inter-departmental collaboration and stepping up joint operations and intelligence exchange with the Customs and Excise Department and overseas law enforcement agencies (e.g. Interpol); deploying sniffer dogs to detect ivory at import and export control points to assist in detecting and preventing smuggling of ivory; conducting inspections targeted at licensed ivory shops and non-licensed art and craft shops to check the licensing compliance as well as to detect and combat illegal ivory trade; as well as using hi-tech radiocarbon dating analysis to determine the age and hence the legality of ivory.

AFCD has carried out a series of publicity and education activities to publicise the phase-out plan of the local ivory trade and the new penalty regime among the general public, travellers and traders. These include distributing leaflets and displaying posters at various import and export control points; broadcasting TV and radio Announcements of Public Interest on cross-boundary coaches and the YouTube Channel, displaying animated posters on digital screens at 6 Shenzhen to Hong Kong

immigration control points as well as conducting visits to licensed ivory shops and other art and craft shops for education and promotion.

AFCD's manpower and expenditure (revised estimate) for controlling illegal trade in endangered species (including ivory) in 2019-20 were 63 staff members and about \$53 million respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB012

(Question Serial No. 1972)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the conservation of green turtles and the Sham Wan Restricted Area on Lamma Island, please advise of the following:

- (e) (1) The details of the management of the Sham Wan Restricted Area on Lamma Island and the conservation of green turtles, including the details of work in planning to expand the Sham Wan Restricted Area in the forthcoming year; (2) the expenditures and manpower involved over the past 3 years; and (3) the expenditure and manpower involved in the forthcoming year.
- (f) What is the number of turtles which have been affixed with metal tags? For what purpose(s) will the Government utilise the data obtained from the tags?
- (g) Please advise of the details and expenditures involved in the relevant scientific/academic research project(s) conducted on Sham Wan/green turtles by the Department or other institutions over the past 5 years and the expenditure earmarked by the Department for researches on Sham Wan/green turtles in the forthcoming year.
- (h) Please advise on the number of cleaning operations conducted on the beach between June and October each year, the responsible department, the amount of refuse collected each month as well as the expenditures and manpower involved over the past 3 years.
- (i) Regarding the unauthorised entry to the Restricted Area and vessels exceeding the speed limit at the waters off the area, what were the numbers of complaints received, warnings issued and prosecutions initiated over the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon HUI Chi-fung (LegCo internal reference no.: 47)

Reply:

- (a) The sandy beach at Sham Wan, Lamma Island is the only regular nesting site of green turtles in Hong Kong. In order to minimise disturbance to green turtles, including their nests and eggs, the sandy beach at Sham Wan was gazetted as a Restricted Area under the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170) in 1999. Access to the area is restricted during the period from 1 June to 31 October each year.

During the restricted period, patrols will be conducted to control unauthorised entry or activities and to monitor any nesting activities of green turtles. Before the onset of the nesting season each year, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will carry out conservation management on the nesting site (including removal of climbing plants and refuse) and deploy a remote surveillance camera system to monitor the Restricted Area and the surrounding coastal conditions as well as the nesting activities of green turtles. AFCD will also arrange contractors to survey and remove abandoned fishing nets in Sham Wan when necessary. To strengthen the protection of endangered green turtles, the Government has started preparation work for the expansion of the Sham Wan Restricted Area from the sandy beach at Sham Wan to include the adjacent Sham Wan waters, and the extension of the restricted period, with a view to minimising disturbances of human activities to breeding green turtles. The Government plans to seek the views of stakeholders on details of legislative amendments and draft the amendments this coming year.

As the above work forms part of the nature conservation work of AFCD, there is no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved.

- (b) Since 2000, AFCD has attached metal tags engraved with a unique serial number to 74 sea turtles. The metal tags will help identify individual sea turtles when they are encountered in the future.
- (c) Over the past 5 years, AFCD has conducted satellite tracking of sea turtles to study their migratory routes and to better conserve sea turtles and their habitats. AFCD also conducts population genetic analysis on sea turtles to better understand their genetic diversity. The expenditure involved in the above studies over the past 5 years and the estimated expenditure in 2020-21 are tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$)
2015-16	13,000
2016-17	153,000
2017-18	158,000
2018-19	29,000
2019-20 (revised estimate)	38,000
2020-21 (estimate)	100,000

AFCD does not have information on the scientific researches conducted by other institutions on sea turtles in Hong Kong.

- (d) The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) is responsible for regular cleaning of the Sham Wan beach. According to FEHD, regular cleaning at Sham Wan is conducted 1 to 2 times per week under normal conditions during the restricted period. Over the past 3 years, the volume of marine refuse collected each month during such period is tabulated as follows:

Month	Volume of marine refuse (kg)		
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
June	410	184	530
July	196	127	347
August	510	136	336
September	270	51	140
October	220	358	280

Apart from commissioning outsourced cleansing contractors, the routine cleaning work carried out by FEHD includes collecting and clearing the marine refuse. There is no breakdown on the manpower and expenditure involved. Under special circumstances, AFCD will arrange contractors and its staff to support FEHD's cleaning operations.

- (e) Over the past 3 years, AFCD did not receive any complaints, issue any warnings or initiate any prosecutions regarding unauthorised access to the Restricted Area at the sandy beach in Sham Wan. In addition, Sham Wan is one of the speed restricted zones for vessels set by the Marine Department (MD) to ensure safe navigation in the Hong Kong waters. MD is responsible for the law enforcement work at the speed restricted zones. AFCD does not have any record on the number of complaints received, warnings issued and prosecutions initiated regarding vessels exceeding the speed limit.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB013

(Question Serial No. 1973)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Government stated that the provision for the Programme “Nature Conservation and Country Parks” for the coming year will be increased by 22.1% for the following reasons:

- (a) “For tackling the increasing nuisance of wild pigs, monkeys and other wildlife”. Please advise of (1) the details of the related work, the expenditure and manpower involved; (2) the number of complaint cases about wild pigs, monkeys and other wildlife (please specify) received by the Department, and the details of follow-up actions over the past 2 years; and (3) the effectiveness of the pilot programme on the contraception/relocation of wild pigs, including the number of wild pigs injected with contraceptive vaccines/were surgically sterilised and that of those relocated away from residential areas every year.
- (b) “For management and promotion of country parks”. Please advise of the details of the related work and expenditure involved. In addition, amid the epidemic of novel coronavirus, there is a significant increase in the number of country park visitors and the amount of refuse on mountains. Have the Government’s workload and expenditure increased as a result? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons? How effective is the Government’s measure of removing the litter containers in country parks? Is there any increase/decrease in the amount of refuse on mountains? In the face of illegal littering on mountains, how would the Government tackle the problem? Please provide the details, expenditure and manpower involved.

Asked by: Hon HUI Chi-fung (LegCo internal reference no.: 49)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is highly concerned about the nuisance caused by monkeys in residential areas. Upon receiving relevant reports, staff will be deployed to the scene to chase away or capture the monkeys, and offer advice and education leaflets to the concerned public or management offices after

investigating the situation and causes of monkey occurrence. If necessary, AFCD will arrange talks for the concerned residents or management offices on the handling of monkey nuisance and drawbacks of feeding monkeys and not handling refuse properly. AFCD would also contact other government departments to follow up problems arising from monkey nuisance, such as environmental hygiene problems. Traps will be set up to capture the lingering monkeys in residential areas where necessary and conditions permit in order to alleviate the nuisance caused by them with immediate effect.

AFCD has been carrying out contraceptive/sterilisation operations for monkeys in Kam Shan, Lion Rock and Shing Mun Country Parks since 2007 to control their population growth. Regular surveys are also conducted to monitor changes in the monkey populations. In addition, AFCD has extended the scope of the contraceptive programme to cover the monkey populations causing nuisance to residential areas in the vicinity of country parks since 2018, with a view to mitigating nuisance caused by monkeys in urban areas in a more effective way.

Regarding wild pigs, AFCD currently adopts a multi-pronged approach to control wild pig nuisance to residential areas, including managing wild pig nuisance, reducing food attraction for wild pigs, educating the public to stop feeding wild animals as well as enhancing public awareness towards wild pigs. AFCD has also set up an advisory group comprising experts from various fields to advise on the management of wild pigs.

When handling complaints about wild pig nuisance, AFCD will first identify the source of food attraction for wild pigs (e.g. mishandled outdoor refuse or feeding). If the source of food attraction for wild pigs can be removed, nuisance can be alleviated swiftly in general. This requires the cooperation of the public and related government departments. If the site conditions permit, AFCD will also install infrared camera traps to monitor the feeding and sighting of wild pigs, and refer the information collected to the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department for following up the environmental hygiene issues caused by feeding. If the situation does not improve, AFCD will capture the nuisance-causing wild pigs for relocation to the countryside far away from residential areas when the conditions permit.

AFCD has tried implementing the pilot Capture and Contraception/Relocation Programme (CCRP) to handle nuisance caused by wild pigs in urban areas since late 2017. To enable a more effective control of the number of wild pigs causing nuisance to urban areas, AFCD has regularised CCRP in phases since 2019-20 to vaccinate or sterilise caught or saved wild pigs when conditions permit.

AFCD's expenditure and manpower involved in handling nuisance caused by monkeys and wild pigs over the past 2 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)		Manpower (number of staff)	
	Monkey nuisance	Wild pig nuisance	Monkey nuisance	Wild pig nuisance
2018-19	5.2	9.9	12	14
2019-20 (revised estimate)	5.2	13.8	12	26

The number of complaints about monkey/wild pig nuisance received by AFCD over the past 2 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of complaints about monkey nuisance	Number of complaints about wild pig nuisance
2018-19	409	1 008
2019-20 (as of January 2020)	278	950

The figures related to the pilot CCRP over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year/number of wild pigs	Administered with contraceptive vaccine	Surgically sterilised	Relocated to remote countryside
2017-18 (from October 2017)	14	0	40
2018-19	46	18	81
2019-20* (as of February 2020)	54	38	202

* The figures include the number of wild pigs caught in rescue operations.

- (b) AFCD is responsible for the management and protection of country parks, among which mainly cover the construction and maintenance of recreational facilities in country parks (such as hiking trails and barbecue sites), routine cleaning, flora and fauna conservation, patrols and law enforcement, etc. Besides, planting of trees, hill fire prevention and fighting, vetting and monitoring of activities and development in country parks, etc. also form part of the regular work of AFCD. On education and publicity, AFCD has organised a series of programmes on protection and promotion of country parks for the general public. These programmes include school visits, eco-tours, guided tours at visitor centres and education centres, thematic exhibitions, educational workshops, trail maintenance workshops, tree planting days, public lectures and volunteer scheme. In 2019-20, the expenditure and manpower involved in the work related to country parks are \$380 million and 691 staff respectively.

AFCD launched the “Take Your Litter Home” publicity and education programme in 2015 in collaboration with a number of local partner organisations to encourage the public to nurture a good habit of taking their own litter away after hiking or visiting

country parks, and all litter containers and recycling bins along the hiking trails within country parks have been removed by the end of 2017. Since the launch of the “Take Your Litter Home” publicity and education programme, it has been effective in enhancing the public awareness towards waste reduction and environmental conservation during their visit to the countryside.

Noting that many members of the public visit country parks recently, AFCD has agilely deployed manpower to step up site inspections and cleansing, and provided litter containers of large volume at specific sites for the use of countryside visitors where necessary. Meanwhile, AFCD will continue to strengthen education and publicity efforts through various channels, including displaying banners and posters in country park areas with high visitor flow, urging countryside visitors to maintain environmental hygiene through radio programmes, further promoting “Take Your Litter Home” and good hiking manners, and publicising relevant messages through the networks of non-profit-making or partner organisations. When patrolling the hiking trails in country parks, AFCD staff will also advise countryside visitors to take their own litter away and take appropriate enforcement actions when littering cases are found.

Since the said measures form part of AFCD’s work on management, promotion, publicity and education of country parks, there is no separate breakdown of the expenditure and manpower involved in this respect.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**ENB014****(Question Serial No. 2370)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Regarding smuggling activities of ivory, please advise of the following:

- (a) The details of the detected cases of ivory smuggling, including the number of cases, the quantity of ivory, the value of items, the number of persons arrested, the number of persons convicted, the maximum and minimum penalties and the total amount of fines imposed over the past 3 years.
- (b) The weight of ivory destroyed, the estimated value and expenditure involved in each of the past 3 years.
- (c) The details of the work as well as the expenditure and manpower involved in regulating the trade in endangered species and combatting illegal trade in endangered species in the coming year.

Asked by: Hon HUI Chi-fung (LegCo internal reference no.: 48)Reply:

- (a) Details of the detected ivory smuggling cases over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	2017	2018	2019
Number of cases	64	55	23
Quantity of ivory seized (kg)	7 300	372	2 058
Market value (\$ million)	80	4	21
Number of persons arrested	60	51	21
Number of persons convicted	47	42	18
Maximum penalty (imprisonment)	3 months	4 months	6 weeks

Year	2017	2018	2019
Minimum penalty	A fine of \$2,000	A fine of \$5,000	Imprisonment of 2 weeks, suspended for 12 months
Total fine (\$ million)	0.2	0.1	--

- (b) The quantity and estimated value of confiscated ivory disposed of by incineration in 2019 were 1.5 tonnes and \$15 million respectively. The expenditure involved in the disposal of the ivory was \$9,200. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) did not dispose of any ivory in 2017 and 2018.
- (c) The Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 came into effect on 1 May 2018. Starting from 1 August 2018, all import and export of ivory (save for antique ivory) for commercial purposes have been banned. A licence to possess is required for keeping pre-Convention (i.e. the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)) ivory for commercial purposes.

AFCD has implemented a series of measures that aim at curbing smuggling of ivory and strengthening the control of local trade in ivory. The measures include enhancing inter-departmental collaboration and stepping up joint operations and intelligence exchange with the Customs and Excise Department and overseas law enforcement agencies (e.g. Interpol); deploying sniffer dogs to detect ivory at import and export control points to assist in detecting and preventing smuggling of ivory; conducting inspections targeted at licensed ivory shops and non-licensed art and craft shops to check the licensing compliance as well as to detect and combat illegal ivory trade; as well as using hi-tech radiocarbon dating analysis to determine the age and hence the legality of ivory.

AFCD has carried out a series of publicity and education activities to publicise the phase-out plan of the local ivory trade and the new penalty regime among the general public, travellers and traders. These include distributing leaflets and displaying posters at various import and export control points; broadcasting TV and radio Announcements of Public Interest on cross-boundary coaches and the YouTube Channel, displaying animated posters on digital screens at 6 Shenzhen to Hong Kong immigration control points as well as conducting visits to licensed ivory shops and other art and craft shops for education and promotion.

In 2020-21, AFCD will continue to implement the above measures to curb smuggling and illegal trade in endangered species (including ivory). AFCD's manpower and estimated expenditure for controlling illegal trade in endangered species in 2020-21 are 63 staff members and \$61 million respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**ENB015****(Question Serial No. 1295)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Regarding the combat of illegal trade and smuggling of endangered species, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Over the past 5 years, what was the number of reports received in respect of illegal felling of protected trees in country parks? What were the species and the number of protected trees that were felled illegally? What was the number of proactive inspections conducted by law enforcement officers and prosecutions instituted against illegal felling of protected trees?
- (b) What are the actions taken by the Government and the expenditure in relation to the conservation of endangered trees in 2020-2021?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)Reply:

- (a) Over the past 5 years, the number of reports received in respect of illegal felling of protected trees in country parks, the number of trees involved, and the number of proactive inspections conducted by law enforcement officers are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of cases in respect of illegal felling of protected trees	Number of trees involved	Number of patrols
2015	45	149	15 381
2016	35	100	14 705
2017	25	63	14 747
2018	19	37	15 456
2019	9	21	14 814

All the above illegally felled protected trees were Incense Trees. All criminal cases involving illegal felling of Incense Trees (whether the cases occurred within or outside country parks) were handled by the Hong Kong Police Force (the Police) under the Theft Ordinance (Cap. 210), the Summary Offences Ordinance (Cap. 228) or the Crimes Ordinance (Cap. 200).

Over the past 5 years, the number of prosecutions instituted against illegal felling of Incense Trees is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of prosecutions
2015	5
2016	8
2017	1
2018	0
2019	0

- (b) Conservation of endangered trees (including Incense Trees) is part of the regular work of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in relation to nature conservation and management of country parks covering flora conservation, habitat management, law enforcement, education and publicity activities. To tackle illegal felling of Incense Trees, AFCD has implemented a species action plan for Incense Trees which covers a series of measures, including:
- (i) establishment of a special task force to conduct targeted patrol of sites at which important populations of Incense Trees are present, in addition to regular patrols in country parks and special areas;
 - (ii) working closely with the Police in gathering and exchanging intelligence; conducting joint law enforcement operations at black spots and investigation of illegal tree felling cases; and enhancing the awareness and vigilance of the public about such offences through social media as well as various education and publicity programmes;
 - (iii) enhancing liaison and cooperation with concern groups and villagers living near Incense Trees for intelligence gathering and reporting of any illegal felling activities;
 - (iv) conducting a pilot scheme using infrared sensor camera traps to monitor illegal felling of Incense Trees at several strategic locations;
 - (v) installing tree guards to prevent felling or vandalism of important individuals of Incense Trees;
 - (vi) dressing the wounds of damaged trees with anti-fungal paint to suppress the formation of agarwood in order to discourage illegal harvesting;
 - (vii) organising training sessions to help frontline staff of the Police and the Customs and Excise Department to identify Incense Trees/agarwood and detect illegal activities;

- (viii) deploying sniffer dogs to facilitate detection of agarwood smuggling at land boundary control points;
- (ix) stepping up the extensive planting of Incense Trees in country parks. Since 2009, about 10 000 seedlings of Incense Trees have been produced and planted every year to assist in the re-stocking of this species in Hong Kong; and
- (x) supporting various research studies and activities to conserve this native species and enhance public awareness in this aspect.

In addition, long-term monitoring of important populations of Incense Trees is in place to monitor its conservation status and check on the effectiveness of the protection measures. The resources involved in implementing the above measures were absorbed in the allocation for nature conservation and management of country parks, hence no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved is available. However, starting from 2020-21, AFCD has allocated an additional provision of \$8.5 million to enhance the support for the above measures.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB016

(Question Serial No. 1866)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The provision under Programme 2 “Nature Conservation and Country Parks” for 2020-21 is \$178.7 million (22.1%) higher than the revised estimate for 2019-20. The Government stated that it is mainly used for tackling the increasing nuisance of wild pigs, monkeys and other wildlife. Please advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) What was the number of complaints related to wild pig sighting or nuisance in various districts received by the Government over the past 3 years?
- (b) What were the expenditure and staff establishment on wild pig management over the past year?
- (c) What are the details of the policy, expenditure and staff establishment on wild pig management in the coming year?
- (d) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department launched a two-year pilot contraception programme for wild pigs at the end of 2017. How many wild pigs have received contraceptive vaccines and what is the total expenditure involved? Will the programme be extended? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- (e) Will the Government step up publicity and education in order to teach the public to stop feeding wild pigs? If yes, what are the details of the expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 48)

Reply:

- (a) Over the past 3 years, the number of complaints about wild pig sighting or nuisance received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), by district, is tabulated as follows:

District	Year/number of complaints about wild pig sighting or nuisance		
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (as of January 2020)
Central and Western	74	102	97
Wan Chai	59	93	65
Eastern	36	60	45
Southern	205	249	190
Yau Tsim Mong	1	0	0
Sham Shui Po	5	4	22
Kowloon City	3	12	10
Wong Tai Sin	12	25	15
Kwun Tong	5	12	17
Kwai Tsing	12	18	27
Tsuen Wan	57	32	66
Tuen Mun	38	51	45
Yuen Long	24	20	23
North	26	31	20
Tai Po	54	75	68
Sha Tin	53	87	97
Sai Kung	111	127	137
Islands	12	10	6
Total	787	1 008	950

- (b) In 2019-20, AFCD's dedicated team for the management of wild pigs comprised 26 members and the expenditure involved (revised estimate) was \$13.8 million.
- (c) Currently, AFCD adopts a multi-pronged approach to control wild pig nuisance to residential areas, including managing wild pig nuisance, reducing food attraction for wild pigs, educating the public to stop feeding wild animals as well as enhancing public awareness towards wild pigs. AFCD has also set up an advisory group comprising experts from various fields to advise on the management of wild pigs.

In 2020-21, AFCD will continue to implement the said measures. Apart from conducting contraception/sterilisation for wild pigs and relocating them to the remote countryside areas to alleviate the nuisance with immediate effect, AFCD will also step up educational activities to promote the message of "stop feeding wild pigs" in different ways. In addition, AFCD will continue to explore how to improve the design of the refuse collection facilities so as to reduce food attraction for wild pigs in urban areas. AFCD's estimated expenditure involved in wild pig management in 2020-21 is \$23.7 million and the number of staff involved will be increased by 5 to 31.

- (d) AFCD has tried implementing the pilot Capture and Contraception/Relocation Programme (CCRP) to handle nuisance caused by wild pigs in urban areas since late 2017. To enable a more effective control of the number of wild pigs causing nuisance to urban areas, AFCD has regularised CCRP in phases since 2019-20 to vaccinate or sterilise caught or saved wild pigs where the condition permits.

As of February 2020, AFCD has vaccinated a total number of 114 female wild pigs and sterilised another 56 wild pigs. AFCD will continue to implement CCRP in 2021-22 in order to alleviate nuisance caused by wild pigs. Over the past 3 years, AFCD's expenditure on the pilot CCRP is tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure on pilot CCRP (\$ million)
2017-18	3.8
2018-19	6.2
2019-20 (revised estimate)	6.8

- (e) The most effective way to reduce the number of wild pigs appearing in residential areas is to stop feeding them. Feeding activities will wrongly impress the wild animals (including wild pigs) that there is stable food supply and attract them to appear regularly near urban or residential areas. In this connection, AFCD has commissioned a contractor to organise educational activities and guided tours at feeding black spots in the countryside since 2018 to enhance public awareness towards wild animals and promote the message of "stop feeding wild animals". Since 2019, AFCD has also extended the educational activities to cover kindergartens and primary schools, with a view to educating the public, when they are at young age, that they should not feed wild animals.

In 2019-20, AFCD's expenditure (revised estimate) on public education and publicity for promoting "stop feeding wild pigs" was \$ 0.83 million. The expenditure mainly covers the cost of commissioning the contractor for organising educational activities and producing publicity materials. As of January 2020, the contractor has organised 55 outdoor educational exhibitions, 18 country park wildlife guided tours, 31 educational seminars and 6 roving exhibitions.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB017

(Question Serial No. 2640)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 has come into effect on 1 May 2018, banning all import and export of ivory (save for antique ivory) for commercial purposes. In this connection, please advise of the numbers of cases of smuggled ivory seized by the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) over the past 3 years, including:

- (a) the total value of the products involved;
- (b) the types of ivory products;
- (c) the weight seized;
- (d) the mode of trade (i.e. import, export or re-export);
- (e) countries which the trade involved (i.e. places of origin of the seized ivory products or destinations of the ivory products);
- (f) means of transport;
- (g) penalties; and
- (h) the stakeholders being prosecuted in each case.

If such information is not available, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 204)

Reply:

The enforcement figures regarding smuggling of ivory over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	2017	2018	2019
Number of cases	64	55	23
Estimated value of ivory seized (\$ million)	80	4	21
Seizure quantity (kg)	7 300	372	2 058
Number of import cases	61	47	22
Major loading countries (number of cases)	Zimbabwe (15) Nigeria (10) Portugal (5) South Africa (5)	Nigeria (14) South Africa (5) Mozambique (4) Senegal (4)	Nigeria (9) Ethiopia (3) Angola (2) Vietnam (2) Zimbabwe (2)
Mode of transport (number of cases)	Air (59) Land (1) Sea (1)	Air (46) Land (1)	Air (21) Sea (1)
Number of export cases	3	4	-
Destination country (number of cases)	Mainland China (3)	Mainland China (4)	--
Mode of transport (number of cases)	Land (1) Sea (2)	Land (3) Sea (1)	--
Number of transit/transshipment cases	-	2	-
Major loading country (number of cases)	-	Peru (1) United States of America (1)	--
Major destination country (number of cases)	-	-	--
Mode of transport (number of cases)	-	Air (2)	--
Others (e.g. abandoned cases)	-	2	1
Number of persons convicted	47	42	18
Maximum penalty (imprisonment)	3 months	4 months	6 weeks
Minimum penalty	A fine of \$2,000	A fine of \$5,000	Imprisonment of 2 weeks, suspended for 12 months

Offenders of the convicted cases mainly entered Hong Kong as visitors or transit passengers via the airport. The ivory seized from these passengers was mostly worked ivory or semi-processed worked ivory while ivory seized from sea consignments was mostly raw tusks and large cut pieces.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB018

(Question Serial No. 2925)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

It is mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2020-21 that the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) would promote public education and publicity on nature conservation and compatible use of country parks and marine parks. Nevertheless, during the epidemic, many citizens have left much refuse while using country parks and marine parks. This does not only affect visitors' impression about countryside of Hong Kong, but also reflects that the sustainable use of country parks and marine parks has to be further enhanced.

Would the Department advise of the efforts and results attained in the management and protection of country parks, special areas, marine parks and marine reserve for the purpose of nature conservation, entertainment, nature-based tourism and education; the numbers of related complaints received and penalty notices issued; and the expenditure and manpower involved in 2019-20?

What specific plans does the Department have to enhance public education and publicity in 2020-21? What are the results to be achieved, and the expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is responsible for the management and protection of country parks and marine parks, among which mainly cover the construction and maintenance of recreational facilities (such as hiking trails and barbecue sites), routine cleaning, flora and fauna conservation, patrols and law enforcement, etc. Besides, planting of trees, hill fire prevention and fighting, vetting and monitoring of activities and development in country parks, etc. also form part of the regular work of AFCD. Regarding marine parks, the work includes implementing zonal management

measures (such as fishing and management of anchoring activities), and conducting ecological surveys and monitoring, etc. On education and publicity, AFCD has organised a series of programmes on protection and promotion of country parks and marine parks for the general public. These programmes include school visits, eco-tours, guided tours at visitor centres and education centres, thematic exhibitions, educational workshops, trail maintenance workshops, tree planting days, public lectures and volunteer scheme.

Apart from the above regular work, AFCD also carried out the following specific measures in 2019- 20:

- (a) enhanced supporting facilities at some popular hiking trails with good tourism potentials within country parks, as well as the thematic website Enjoy Hiking (<https://www.hiking.gov.hk>) to provide additional information on hiking trails and scenic attractions with a view to further promoting green tourism and enriching visitors' experience;
- (b) installed 15 water filling stations in country parks for public use to encourage the public and visitors to bring their own bottles and reduce the use of one-off disposable water bottles;
- (c) organised a series of MacLehose Trail 40th Anniversary Celebration Programme to promote good hiking and camping practice of leaving no trace in the countryside and showcase the natural scenery, cultural heritage and the ecology of wild fauna and flora in country parks;
- (d) completed a consultancy study on enhancement of the recreation and education potential of country parks and special areas and implemented the enhancement proposals progressively; and
- (e) completed the designation of Southwest Lantau Marine Park and continued the construction of the Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park Visitor Centre (HHWMPVC), which would facilitate AFCD in strengthening the management and protection of important dolphin habitats, as well as promoting the education and publicity on conservation of marine ecology.

AFCD will step up its efforts on individual measures as and when necessary. For instance, in the light of the recent increase in the number of people visiting country parks, AFCD has deployed additional staff to carry out cleansing, publicity and inspection at recreational sites and hiking trails according to actual situation.

In 2019-20 (as of February 2020), AFCD received 1 118 complaints related to the management of country parks, special areas, marine parks and marine reserve. In the same period, AFCD issued a total of 57 fixed penalty tickets. The expenditure (revised estimate) and manpower for the management and protection of country parks and marine parks are \$434 million and 755 staff respectively.

In 2020-21, AFCD will continue to step up the promotion of good visiting habits in countryside such as waste reduction and "Take Your Litter Home", review the orienteering programme in country parks and education programmes for primary and secondary students, as well as organise guided tours with themes on biodiversity and historical heritage with a view to enhancing public awareness on nature appreciation and protection of the countryside. In addition, AFCD will enrich visitors' experience and facilitate their visits by providing more information to visitors and enhancing the interpretation panels and signs in country parks. HHWMPVC, which is expected to be opened in the second half of 2020,

will raise public awareness of and participation in conservation of marine ecology through the information display boards, exhibits, eco-tours and workshops in its exhibition halls.

For the education and publicity of country parks and marine parks, AFCD has earmarked a provision of \$31.8 million and the number of staff involved is 44 in 2020-21.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB019

(Question Serial No. 0203)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the enhancement of the feeder transport service for the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark (HKUGGp), would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Would the Government consider increasing the frequency of minibus service to and from the East Dam of the High Island Reservoir, extending the terminal station from Pak Tam Chung to Sai Kung Town Centre, and providing daily service to facilitate the access of Sai Kung residents and visitors to HKUGGp?
- (b) Would the Government consider increasing the frequency of ferry service running between Ma Liu Shui and Ap Chau/Kat O/Lai Chi Wo, and providing daily service to facilitate the access of Tai Po residents to HKUGGp?
- (c) Would the Government consider stepping up coordination and cooperation with local organisations to organise and promote individual or group guided tours to HKUGGp and local attractions all at a time so as to enable more residents to enjoy the precious natural scenic views in Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon LO Wai-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

- (a) To facilitate the promotion of green tourism, the Transport Department (TD) approved the launch of the New Territories Green Minibus (GMB) Route No. 9A in July 2018 to provide a feeder service between Pak Tam Chung which is a green tourism hub and the East Dam of the High Island Reservoir, in the afternoon on Sundays and public holidays at a headway of 20 minutes. TD has been closely monitoring the route service since its introduction. According to the site inspection carried out by TD in January this year, the headway of the route met the schedule of service. The average occupancy rates of the service from Pak Tam Chung and that from the East Dam of the High Island Reservoir were about 15% and 97% respectively and hence the service

could generally meet the passenger demand on holidays. The passengers of Route No. 9A are mainly countryside visitors and the number of passengers is affected by various factors like seasons, dates, time and weather conditions, etc. To ensure that the route service can be financially sustainable, it is only operated during the peak hours on Sundays and public holidays. Currently, TD does not have any plan to change the route to provide daily services.

Besides, Route No. 9A mainly provides feeder service between Pak Tam Chung and the East Dam of the High Island Reservoir. If it is extended to Sai Kung Town Centre, the journey distance will be increased by about 8.5 km, which may add pressure on the existing fare level and the operator will have to provide more vehicles to maintain the current service level. Since passengers may travel from Pak Tam Chung to Sai Kung Town Centre by taking several bus and GMB routes (namely, Kowloon Motor Bus Route No. 94 and No. 96R and GMB Route No. 7 or No. 9), TD considers that current routeing of Route No. 9A should be maintained. TD will continue to monitor and review the transport service to and from the East Dam of the High Island Reservoir.

- (b) At present, the kaito ferry service between Ma Liu Shui and Lai Chi Wo is providing regular service on Sundays and public holidays only. The operator of the kaito ferry service is now considering to provide service on Saturdays. On the other hand, the kaito ferry service between Ma Liu Shui and Ap Chau/Kat O is currently provided on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays. According to the visitor statistics of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), the number of visitors remained at a similar level over the past year. Thus, there is no need to strengthen the service at this stage. The operator will consider deploying vessels with higher carrying capacity to provide service if there is an increase in passenger demand in the future.
- (c) Cooperation with local communities has been a major task of the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark (HKUGG). For example, various story rooms and visitor centres, including the Volcano Discovery Centre, the Ap Chau Story Room, the Kat O Story Room, the Kau Sai Village Story Room and the Lai Chi Wo Geoheritage Centre, have been set up in HKUGG communities. They are managed by local people and exhibit the local culture and heritage. The Siu Ying Story Room located in Lai Chi Wo will open in mid-2020. AFCD will continue to collaborate with local partners to promote HKUGG and local attractions.

- End -

ENB020

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2186)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

- (a) Regarding the Department's work and the total expenditures involved in the conservation of the Chinese white dolphins (CWDs), as well as the expenditures under the grand total (including all expenditures on Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park, The Brothers Marine Park, the proposed Southwest Lantau Marine Park, the Soko Islands Marine Park and the designation of a new marine park for Integrated Waste Management Facilities at Shek Kwu Chau, etc.), what were the details over the past 5 years? What were the Department's total estimated expenditure and the expenditures under the grand total involved in the abovementioned initiatives in the financial year 2020-21?
- (b) Please set out the statistics of CWDs and finless porpoises within the territory by their major habitats (including the North Lantau waters near Castle Peak, the Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park, and waters around Chek Lap Kok and Tai O) respectively over the past 5 years.
- (c) Please set out the numbers of CWDs, finless porpoises and other cetaceans stranded within the territory by their major habitats (including the North Lantau waters near Castle Peak, the Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park, and waters around Chek Lap Kok and Tai O) over the past 5 years.
- (d) What is the Department's evaluation on the 21 water quality parameters of the respective marine parks and marine reserve? Please set out the name(s) of the parameter(s) and the figure(s) recorded which did not meet the standard(s) set by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) in each of the past 5 years, as well as the standard figure(s) of the respective parameter(s) as set by EPD.
- (e) How does the Department evaluate the effectiveness of marine parks on the conservation of CWDs and other cetaceans? Does the Department have any other measure(s) to enhance the habitats of local cetaceans apart from establishing additional marine parks? If yes, what are the details and the estimated expenditure of the measures?

- (f) Does the Department have any estimate on the future abundance of cetaceans in Hong Kong? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

- (a) To conserve the Chinese white dolphins (CWDs) that occur in the Hong Kong waters, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has implemented the Conservation Programme for CWDs since 2001, which includes a variety of measures that are conducive to the conservation and the continued survival of CWDs in the Hong Kong waters. They include (i) close monitoring of the occurrence and distribution of CWDs in local waters; (ii) designation of important dolphin habitats as marine parks and subject them to proper conservation and management; (iii) stipulating stringent requirements in environmental impact assessments of coastal development projects close to CWD habitats to ensure that the potential impacts to dolphins are adequately addressed; (iv) implementation of fisheries management measures for sustainable and healthy fish stocks which would benefit CWDs with sufficient food; and (v) organising education and publicity programmes to raise public awareness of and solicit their support for the conservation of CWDs.

Among the established marine parks, 2 of them, i.e. Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park (SCLKCMP) and The Brothers Marine Park (BMP), incur recurrent expenditures related to the conservation of CWDs. The recurrent expenditures involved in the CWD conservation measures over the past 5 years and that earmarked for 2020-21 are tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2015-16	6.3
2016-17	6.2
2017-18	9.1
2018-19	11.4
2019-20 (revised estimate)	12.4
2020-21 (estimate)	13.2

- (b) As the 4 areas, i.e. Southwest Lantau, West Lantau, Northwest Lantau and Northeast Lantau, are the major habitats of CWDs in Hong Kong, AFCD's monitoring of the abundance of CWDs mainly focuses on these 4 areas, and the figures are tabulated as follows:

Year	Abundance				
	Southwest Lantau	West Lantau	Northwest Lantau	Northeast Lantau	Total
2015	24	31	10	0	65
2016	9	27	11	0	47
2017	10	16	21	0	47
2018	7	19	6	0	32
2019	(Data being analysed)				

AFCD does not have the estimated abundance of finless porpoises and other cetaceans in Hong Kong waters.

- (c) The numbers of stranded CWDs recorded over the past 5 years in North Lantau waters near Castle Peak, SCLKCMP, waters around Chek Lap Kok, Tai O and other areas are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of CWDs stranded				
	North Lantau waters near Castle Peak	SCLKCMP	Waters around Chek Lap Kok	Tai O	Other areas
2015	2	2	1	2	8
2016	1	0	0	0	3
2017	0	1	1	0	3
2018	0	0	1	1	6
2019	1	0	1	1	6

The numbers of stranded finless porpoises recorded over the past 5 years in North Lantau waters near Castle Peak, SCLKCMP, waters around Chek Lap Kok, Tai O and other areas are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of finless porpoises stranded				
	North Lantau waters near Castle Peak	SCLKCMP	Waters around Chek Lap Kok	Tai O	Other areas
2015	0	0	0	0	21
2016	0	0	0	0	17
2017	0	0	0	0	18
2018	0	0	0	0	32
2019	0	0	0	0	43

The numbers of other stranded cetaceans recorded over the past 5 years in North Lantau waters near Castle Peak, SCLKCMP, waters around Chek Lap Kok, Tai O and other areas are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of other cetaceans stranded				
	North Lantau waters near Castle Peak	SCLKCMP	Waters around Chek Lap Kok	Tai O	Other areas
2015	0	0	0	0	1
2016	0	0	0	0	2
2017	0	0	0	0	3
2018	0	0	0	0	5
2019	0	0	0	0	3

- (d) AFCD conducts regular water quality monitoring at various marine parks and marine reserve, as well as measures and analyses 21 parameters, which are air temperature, water temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, pH, Secchi disc depth, 5-day biochemical oxygen demand, total suspended solid, turbidity, ammoniacal nitrogen, unionised ammonia, nitrite nitrogen, nitrate nitrogen, total inorganic nitrogen, total Kjeldahl nitrogen, total nitrogen, orthophosphate phosphorus, total phosphorus, chlorophyll-*a*, *Escherichia coli* and faecal coliforms. The water quality of the marine

parks and marine reserve was good and complied with the corresponding Water Quality Objectives (WQO) set by the Environmental Protection Department, except for total inorganic nitrogen (TIN) which is an indicator of nutrient enrichment.

Subject to the influence of water current, the discharge from the river on the periphery of SCLKCMP is rich in nutrients, resulting in TIN concentrations at the aforementioned location being in excess of the WQO over the past 5 years, and that in BMP also exceeded the WQO over the past 3 years. TIN in Cape D'Aguilar Marine Reserve (CDMR) showed fluctuations. Measured TIN concentrations (in mg/L) in the aforementioned marine parks and in CDMR are tabulated as follows:

Year	SCLKCMP (0.3mg/L)	BMP (0.3mg/L)	CDMR (0.1mg/L)
2015	1.23	/	0.20
2016	0.95	/	0.12
2017	1.09	0.73	0.10
2018	0.97	0.82	0.11
2019	0.81	0.54	0.13

Note:

1. The WQO for annual depth-averaged TIN in the respective water control zones are shown in brackets.
 2. Water quality monitoring in BMP commenced in 2017 after its establishment.
- (e) AFCD conduct long-term dolphin monitoring through vessel surveys and passive acoustic monitoring initiated in 2017. The monitoring results indicated that the designation of SCLKCMP and BMP had positive effects on the conservation of CWDs. Please refer to item (a) above regarding CWD conservation measures and the recurrent expenditures involved.
- (f) AFCD will continue to monitor the occurrence of cetaceans in Hong Kong waters. No estimate on the future abundance of cetaceans has been made.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**ENB021****(Question Serial No. 2072)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the management and protection of country parks, special areas, marine parks and marine reserve, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Please set out the number of inspections conducted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in tabular form as follows.

Areas managed/Year	2019-20 (Actual)	2020-21 (Estimate)
Country parks		
Special areas		
Marine parks		
Marine reserve		

- (b) Please set out, by year, the number of prosecutions related to offences under the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations over the past 3 years.
- (c) Please set out, by year, the number of prosecutions related to offences under the Marine Parks and Marine Reserves Regulation over the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 48)

Reply:

- (a) The number of patrols conducted in country parks, special areas, marine parks and the marine reserve by the staff of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is tabulated as follows:

Areas Managed / Year	Number of Patrols	
	2019-20 (as of February) (Actual)	2020-21 (Estimate)
Country parks and special areas*	12 961	14 000
Marine parks	2 473	2 500
Marine reserve	424	420

* As some of the patrols cover both country parks and special areas, AFCD does not have a breakdown on the number of patrols in these managed areas.

- (b) Over the past 3 years, the number of prosecutions initiated by AFCD under the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations (Cap. 208A) is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of Prosecutions
2017	757
2018	741
2019	572

- (c) Over the past 3 years, the number of prosecutions initiated by AFCD under the Marine Parks and Marine Reserves Regulation (Cap. 476A) is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of Prosecutions
2017	8
2018	9
2019	10

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB022

(Question Serial No. 2960)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Government stated that it would carry out licensing control of international trade in endangered species and curb illegal trade in endangered species in Hong Kong. In addition, it is mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2020-21 that the Government will strengthen the control of trade in endangered species, in particular ivory, and combat their illegal trade and smuggling. In this connection, would the Government please advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) the number of operations conducted by the Government to combat the illegal trade and smuggling of endangered species as well as the time frame, manpower and expenditure involved in each operation over the past 3 years;
- (b) the quantities, the species of plants and animals involved as well as the whereabouts of the endangered species seized by the Government in combating the illegal trade and smuggling of endangered species in each of the past 3 years;
- (c) the number of cases processed by the Government in combating the illegal trade and smuggling of endangered species and the number of persons prosecuted, the number of persons arrested, the number of persons convicted and the penalties imposed in each case over the past 3 years (Please set out cases of ivory smuggling separately);
- (d) the number of applications received and the number of permits/certificates issued by the Government in connection with licensing control of international trade in endangered species in each of the past 3 years;
- (e) the quantities of forfeited ivory, the total amount of forfeited ivory in stockpile, of which the amount of ivory destroyed as well as the estimated value, manpower and expenditure involved in each of the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been working closely with the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) and strictly regulating the trade in endangered species through enforcing the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) which gives effect to CITES (i.e. the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) in Hong Kong. AFCD conducts joint operations with C&ED at various import and export control points to combat illegal import and export of endangered species, and they also collaborate with overseas and Mainland law enforcement agencies through joint operations and intelligence exchange to combat smuggling of endangered species. In addition, all CITES-listed products must be inspected by authorised officers prior to their arrival in or departure from Hong Kong to confirm that the relevant consignment details tally with those in the licences. AFCD also conducts inspections at markets and shops that might sell endangered species from time to time to detect and deter irregularities. The total number of consignment and market inspections conducted in 2017, 2018 and 2019 were 30 963, 33 993 and 31 163 respectively.

The manpower and expenditure involved in combating illegal trading and smuggling of endangered species over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (revised estimate)
Expenditure (\$ million)	31.1	35.4	41.5
Manpower (number)	43	44	48

- (b) The endangered species seized in each of the past 3 years involved mainly dried seahorse, pangolin scales, timber, American ginseng, orchid, live tortoise/turtle, leather products of reptiles, etc. The quantity of seizure is tabulated as follows:

Year	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (revised estimate)
Quantity and number of items	63 130 kg and 4 272 items	273 160 kg and 18 975 items	37 600 kg

Endangered species seized during law enforcement actions has been disposed of by AFCD according to the CITES guidelines. For live animals, AFCD will seek the advice of the CITES Management Authority of the country of export and send them back to the country of export or the country of origin if deemed appropriate. For animals of a native species, they will be released to a suitable habitat locally if they are diagnosed to be healthy and fit for release. For animals that are not suitable to be returned to the country of export/origin or released to a suitable habitat locally, AFCD will consider donating them to local or overseas institutes for the purposes of education or scientific research. If the physical condition of an animal is not satisfactory, or it is likely to die or be subjected to unnecessary suffering if kept in captivity, it will be disposed of by euthanasia. Regarding specimens of endangered

species, AFCD will consider donating to other CITES Management Authorities, government bodies, schools or non-governmental organisations for training or education purposes or disposing of them by other means that are in line with CITES.

- (c) The statistics on cases involving illegal imports and exports in contravention of the Ordinance over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	2017	2018	2019
Number of cases	433	745	659
Number of persons arrested	257	528	497
Number of persons prosecuted	189	221	226
Number of persons convicted	170	178	199
Maximum penalty (imprisonment/months)	3	8	24
Minimum penalty (fine/\$)	400	400	300

Among which the number of cases involving ivory is tabulated as follows:

Year	2017	2018	2019
Number of cases	64	55	23
Number of persons arrested	60	51	21
Number of persons prosecuted	50	42	18
Number of persons convicted	47	42	18
Maximum penalty (imprisonment)	3 months	4 months	6 weeks
Minimum penalty	A fine of \$2,000	A fine of \$5,000	Imprisonment of 2 weeks, suspended for 12 months

- (d) The numbers of applications for permits/certificates received and permits/certificates issued by AFCD with respect to the imports, exports, re-exports and possession of scheduled species under the Ordinance over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of applications received	Number of permits/certificates issued*
2017	18 938	19 043
2018	19 092	18 942
2019	19 749	19 995

* The number of permits/certificates issued may differ from the number of applications received within the same year as some permits and certificates were issued in respect of the applications submitted at the end of the previous year.

- (e) The quantities of ivory seized in 2017, 2018 and 2019 were 7 300, 372 and 2 058 kg respectively. Since 2014, a total of 29.5 tonnes of confiscated ivory have been disposed of by incineration. The existing ivory stockpile under government custody is about 10.5 tonnes. Apart from saving some for scientific, education, enforcement or identification purposes, the incineration of the confiscated ivory will be arranged after completion of the necessary legal procedures. The estimated expenditure for the disposal of the remaining ivory by incineration is \$70,000 and the manpower required will be absorbed by the existing staff of AFCD.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB023

(Question Serial No. 2961)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Import and Export Ordinance and the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance are the primary legislations against illegal trade in wild animals and plants in Hong Kong at present. However, due to the existing system's loopholes, legal vacuum and weak deterrent effect of penalties, Hong Kong has turned into a centre for organised wildlife smuggling syndicates. In this connection, has the Government considered including crimes related to endangered wildlife in the ambit of the Organized and Serious Crimes Ordinance to further stop transnational crime syndicates from using Hong Kong for wildlife smuggling? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 39)

Reply:

To enhance the deterrent effect against illegal wildlife trade and to demonstrate the Government's commitment in combating wildlife crime, the Government amended the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (PESAPO) (Cap. 586) in 2018. The penalties thereof have been significantly increased since 1 May 2018. The maximum penalty for any person contravening the PESAPO has been raised from a fine of \$5 million and an imprisonment of 2 years, to a fine of \$10 million and an imprisonment of 10 years, as well as forfeiture of the specimens on conviction. The amended PESAPO has worked well and provided deterrent effect since it came into effect.

When considering whether offences under PESAPO should be added to the Organised and Serious Crimes Ordinance (OSCO) (Cap. 455), all related factors should be taken into account for assessment, including whether doing so aligns with the objective of OSCO, what the current problems with regard to tackling illegal wildlife trade are, and whether adding the relevant offences into OSCO is necessarily the most appropriate way to address these problems. We will continue to closely monitor the situation concerned and consider taking practical measures in due course to combat the illegal trade of endangered wildlife effectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB024

(Question Serial No. 2235)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Although the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has launched the "Take Your Litter Home" programme in phases since 2015, the number of littering cases has increased drastically due to the sharp rise in the number of country park visitors amid the epidemic this year.

- (a) What were the total amount of refuse collected in country parks and the number of prosecutions initiated for littering every year since 2015?
- (b) Have there been any material changes in the said figures since the start of this year?
- (c) Has AFCD deployed more frontline staff in response to the increase in the number of country park visitors, in order to deter them from littering by advice or warning? If yes, what are the details?
- (d) Does AFCD have any plans to step up the promotion of "Take Your Litter Home" and other educational messages? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (LegCo internal reference no.: 62)

Reply:

- (a) The volume of refuse collected by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in country parks and the number of prosecutions related to littering under the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations (Cap. 208A) in each of the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Volume of refuse collected in country parks (tonnes)	Number of prosecutions
2015	3 700	135
2016	3 400	61
2017	3 400	62
2018	3 000	165
2019	2 600	92

- (b) In the first 2 months of 2020, the volume of refuse collected by AFCD in country parks has increased by about 10% as compared to the same period last year and the number of prosecutions related to littering is 10. It is normal for the amount of refuse collected and number of prosecutions to vary year to year.

(c) and (d)

Noting that many members of the public visited country parks recently, AFCD has agilely deployed manpower to step up site inspections and cleansing, and provided litter containers of large volume at specific sites for the use of countryside visitors where necessary. Meanwhile, AFCD will continue to strengthen education and publicity efforts through various channels, including displaying banners and posters in country park areas with high visitor flow, urging countryside visitors to maintain environmental hygiene through radio programmes, further promoting “Take Your Litter Home” and good hiking manners, and publicising relevant messages through the networks of non- profit-making or partner organisations. When patrolling the hiking trails in country parks, AFCD staff will also advise countryside visitors to take their own litter away and take appropriate enforcement actions when littering cases are found.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB171

(Question Serial No. 3844)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Under this Programme, the Government stated that provision for 2020-21 is \$178.7 million (22.1%) higher than the revised estimate for 2019-20. This is mainly due to increase in expenditure for tackling the increasing nuisance of wild pigs, monkeys and other wildlife, the management and promotion of country parks, cash flow requirement for a one-off allowance to fishermen affected by new fisheries management strategy in marine parks in 2020-21 and a full-year provision for vacancies filled in 2019-20. There will be an increase of 53 posts in 2020-21. Would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What was the number of cases relating to wild pig nuisance in 2019-20? What was the number of cases relating to wild pig nuisance in 2018-19? Please set out the respective numbers of cases relating to wild pig nuisance in 2019-20 and 2018-19, with a breakdown by District Council districts.
- (b) What was the number of cases relating to wild monkey nuisance in 2019-20? What was the number of cases relating to wild monkey nuisance in 2018-19? Please set out the respective numbers of cases relating to wild monkey nuisance in 2019-20 and 2018-19, with a breakdown by District Council districts.
- (c) What were the staff establishment, salary expenditure and recurrent expenditure involved in tackling cases relating to wild pig and wild monkey nuisances in 2019-20? What are the staff establishment, estimated salary expenditure and operational expenses involved in tackling cases relating to wild pig and wild monkey nuisances in 2020-21?
- (d) What are the respective post titles, responsibilities and estimated salary expenditure of the 53 new posts in 2020-21?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 141)

Reply:

- (a) The number of cases about wild pig sighting or nuisance received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 2 years is tabulated by district as follows:

District	Year / Number of cases about wild pig sighting or nuisance	
	2018-19	2019-20 (as of January 2020)
Central and Western	102	97
Wan Chai	93	65
Eastern	60	45
Southern	249	190
Yau Tsim Mong	0	0
Sham Shui Po	4	22
Kowloon City	12	10
Wong Tai Sin	25	15
Kwun Tong	12	17
Kwai Tsing	18	27
Tsuen Wan	32	66
Tuen Mun	51	45
Yuen Long	20	23
North	31	20
Tai Po	75	68
Sha Tin	87	97
Sai Kung	127	137
Islands	10	6
Total	1 008	950

- (b) The number of cases about monkey nuisance received by AFCD over the past 2 years is tabulated by district as follows:

District	Year / Number of monkey nuisance cases	
	2018-19	2019-20 (as of January 2020)
Kwai Tsing	58	24
Tai Po	23	20
Yuen Long	5	20
Tuen Mun	38	20
North	1	0
Sai Kung	13	3
Sha Tin	167	116
Tsuen Wan	15	8
Kowloon City	5	0
Sham Shui Po	43	41
Wong Tai Sin	37	26
Kwun Tong	4	0
Total	409	278

Note: There were no cases involving monkey sighting or nuisance on Hong Kong Island.

- (c) In 2019-20, AFCD's dedicated team for the management of wild pigs comprised 26 members. The expenditure on salaries (revised estimate) in this respect was about \$4.9 million and the total expenditure (revised estimate) was about \$13.8 million. In 2020-21, the number of AFCD's staff involved in the management of wild pigs will be increased to 31. The estimated expenditure on salaries is about \$7.2 million and the estimated total expenditure is about \$23.7 million.

In 2019-20, AFCD's team for the management of monkey nuisance comprised 12 members. The expenditure on salaries (revised estimate) in this respect was \$3.2 million and the total expenditure (revised estimate) was about \$5.2 million. In 2020-21, the number of AFCD's staff involved in the management of monkeys will be increased to 17. The estimated expenditure on salaries is about \$4.7 million and the estimated total expenditure is about \$9.2 million.

In 2020-21, AFCD will create 27 additional civil service posts to strengthen wildlife management as a whole (see (d) below for details).

- (d) AFCD will create 53 additional civil service posts in 2020-21 and the requested information is tabulated as follows:

Area of Work	Rank	Number of posts	Annual salary provision in 2020-21 (\$ million)
To plan and manage the development of the Long Valley Nature Park and the visitor centre located in the Kwu Tung North and Fanling North New Development Areas	Senior Forestry Officer	1	9.5
	Forestry Officer	3	
	Senior Field Officer	1	
	Field Officer I	3	
	Field Officer II	4	
	Senior Field Assistant	2	
	Field Assistant	2	
	Executive Officer II	1	
	Assistant Clerical Officer	1	
To provide professional inputs from the conservation perspective in the planning process of the artificial islands in the Central Waters	Fisheries Officer	1	1.0
	Fisheries Technical Officer II	1	

Area of Work	Rank	Number of posts	Annual salary provision in 2020-21 (\$ million)
To enhance the management and operation of marine parks and implement new fisheries management strategies in marine parks	Fisheries Supervisor I	1	1.5
	Fisheries Supervisor II	1	
	Field Assistant	2	
To implement education and publicity programmes of the Ting Kok Coastal Conservation Plan	Fisheries Officer	1	1.0
	Fisheries Technical Officer II	1	
To strengthen the handling of nuisance caused by wild pigs, monkeys and other wild animals	Field Officer I	2	8.8
	Field Officer II	6	
	Senior Field Assistant	9	
	Field Assistant	10	
Total		53	21.8

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB172

(Question Serial No. 3892)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Would the Government advise of the respective numbers of plastic refuse bags used by the Government and contractors in managing country parks and the related expenditure in 2019-20, as well as the respective estimated numbers of refuse bags to be used and the related expenditure in 2020-21? What was the volume of leaf and tree litter collected within country parks and disposed of at landfills over the past year?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 194)

Reply:

The refuse collected in country parks is mostly dirty wastes such as tissues, containers or packaging bags containing leftovers or drink, and food residue, etc. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) or its contractors normally lay litter containers with plastic refuse bags to facilitate the collection and transportation of wastes to the appropriate location for handling.

In managing country parks, the number of plastic refuse bags used by AFCD in 2019-20 was about 115 000, while the number of plastic refuse bags used by AFCD's contractors was about 245 000. It is estimated that the number of plastic refuse bags used by AFCD and its contractors for country park management in 2020-21 will be similar to that of 2019-20. AFCD's estimated expenditure on plastic refuse bags in both 2019-20 and 2020-21 are about \$130,000. Since the contractors are responsible for the provision of plastic refuse bags for their litter collection and related duties in country parks, AFCD does not have any information on their cost of refuse bags.

Most of the yard wastes (e.g. tree branches, leaves, etc.) generated from vegetation maintenance in country parks are stockpiled in nearby natural habitats to provide niches for wildlife. When they decompose, nutrients will be released back to the nature. Some tree

logs are recycled to make furniture or decorative materials for the recreational facilities in country parks such as animated features, waymarks and benches, etc., and some are used for construction of hiking trails. In 2019, about 83 tonnes of yard wastes which have been infested with pests/diseases or mixed with invasive species were unavoidably disposed of at landfill sites because they are not suitable to be stockpiled on site in country parks for natural decomposition.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**ENB173****(Question Serial No. 3648)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Regarding the issue of local wild pigs over the past 3 years, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What were the numbers of complaints about the sighting or nuisance of wild pigs each year?
- (b) Was there any report of damages to property or injury to people caused by wild pigs?
- (c) What were the numbers and expenditures involved in the neutering treatment under the contraception and relocation pilot programme?
- (d) What were the numbers of prosecutions instituted against feeding of wild pigs by members of the public?
- (e) What measures are currently put in place to control wild pigs?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 173)Reply:

- (a) and (b) The number of complaints and injury reports related to wild pigs received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of reports on wild pig sighting or nuisance (number of injury reports)
2017-18	787 (4)
2018-19	1 008 (9)
2019-20	950 (6)

(as of January 2020)	
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AFCD does not have records of public facilities damaged by wild pigs.

- (c) AFCD has tried implementing the pilot Capture and Contraception/Relocation Programme (CCRP) to handle nuisance caused by wild pigs in urban areas since late 2017. To enable a more effective control of the number of wild pigs causing nuisance to urban areas, AFCD has regularised CCRP in phases since 2019-20 to vaccinate or sterilise wild pigs caught or rescued where the condition permits. Figures related to the pilot CCRP over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year/ number of wild pigs (heads)	Captured	Administered with contraceptive vaccine	Surgically sterilised	Relocated to remote countryside
2017-18 (from October 2017)	51	14	0	40
2018-19	115	46	18	81
2019-20* (as of February 2020)	261	54	38	202

* The figures include the number of wild pigs saved in rescue operations.

AFCD's expenditure on the pilot CCRP over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2017-18	3.8
2018-19	6.2
2019-20 (revised estimate)	6.8

- (d) Kam Shan, Lion Rock and Shing Mun Country Parks, part of Tai Mo Shan Country Park, Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve, a section of Tai Po Road along Caldecott Road and Piper's Hill section of Tai Po Road are specified places under the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170) at which the feeding of any wild animals is prohibited (feeding ban area). The number of prosecutions against illegal feeding of wild animals (including wild pigs) by members of the public over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (as of February 2020)
Number of prosecutions against illegal feeding of wild animals (including wild pigs)	40	32	26

- (e) Currently, AFCD adopts a multi-pronged approach to control wild pig nuisance to residential areas, including managing wild pig nuisance, reducing food attraction for wild pigs, educating the public to stop feeding wild animals as well

as enhancing public awareness towards wild pigs. AFCD has also set up an advisory group comprising experts from various fields to advise on the management of wild pigs. In 2020-21, AFCD will continue to implement the said measures. Apart from conducting contraception/sterilisation for wild pigs and relocating them to the remote countryside areas to alleviate the nuisance, AFCD will also step up educational activities to promote the message of “stop feeding wild pigs” in different ways. In addition, AFCD will continue to explore how to improve the design of the refuse collection facilities so as to reduce food attraction for wild pigs in urban areas.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB174

(Question Serial No. 4099)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

- (a) Please advise of the expenditure of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) involved in the promotion of public education and publicity on nature conservation over the past 5 years, as well as the estimated expenditure in this respect in 2020-21.
- (b) Please advise of AFCD's expenditure involved in the management, maintenance and improvement of facilities in country parks, special areas, marine parks and marine reserve over the past 5 years, as well as the estimated expenditure in this respect in 2020-21?
- (c) Over the past 5 years, what was the expenditure incurred by AFCD on collecting refuse in country parks? What was the total volume of refuse collected by AFCD? What was the number of prosecutions initiated by AFCD against littering in country parks? What is AFCD's estimated expenditure on education and publicity on protection of country parks in 2020-21 and its details?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (LegCo internal reference no.: 59)

Reply:

- (a) The expenditure of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) involved in the promotion of public education and publicity on nature conservation over the past 5 years, as well as the estimated expenditure in this respect in 2020-21 are tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2015-16	41
2016-17	50
2017-18	68
2018-19	68
2019-20 (revised estimate)	70
2020-21 (estimate)	77

- (b) AFCD's expenditure involved in the management, maintenance and improvement of facilities in country parks, special areas, marine parks and marine reserve over the past 5 years, as well as the estimated expenditure in this respect in 2020-21 are tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2015-16	178
2016-17	194
2017-18	185
2018-19	207
2019-20 (revised estimate)	242
2020-21 (estimate)	270

- (c) AFCD's expenditure on keeping country parks clean and the volume of refuse collected in country parks over the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Volume of refuse collected in country parks (tonne)
2015-16	54	3 600
2016-17	48	3 500
2017-18	48	3 200
2018-19	52	3 000
2019-20 (revised estimate)	60	2 600

The number of prosecutions instituted by AFCD against littering under the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations (Cap. 208A) over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of prosecutions
2015	135
2016	61
2017	62
2018	165
2019	92

In 2020-21, AFCD has earmarked \$26 million for conducting a series of education and publicity programmes on protection and promotion of country parks for students and the general public. These include school visits, eco-tours, guided tours at visitor centres and education centres, thematic exhibitions, educational workshops, trail maintenance workshops, tree planting days, public lectures and volunteer scheme.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**ENB175****(Question Serial No. 4133)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

- (a) Please set out the numbers of ordinary litter containers in country parks over the past 3 years (2017-2019).

Country Park	2017	2018	2019
Shing Mun			
Kam Shan			
Lion Rock			
Aberdeen			
Tai Tam			
Sai Kung East			
Sai Kung West			
Plover Cove			
Lantau South			
Lantau North			
Pat Sin Leng			
Tai Lam			
Tai Mo Shan			
Lam Tsuen			
Ma On Shan			
Kiu Tsui			
Plover Cove (Extension)			
Shek O			
Pok Fu Lam			
Tai Tam (Quarry Bay Extension)			
Clear Water Bay			
Sai Kung West (Wan Tsai Extension)			
Lung Fu Shan			
Lantau North (Extension)			

- (b) Please set out the numbers of plastic recycling bins in country parks over the past 3 years (2017-2019).

Country Park	2017	2018	2019
Shing Mun			
Kam Shan			
Lion Rock			
Aberdeen			
Tai Tam			
Sai Kung East			
Sai Kung West			
Plover Cove			
Lantau South			
Lantau North			
Pat Sin Leng			
Tai Lam			
Tai Mo Shan			
Lam Tsuen			
Ma On Shan			
Kiu Tsui			
Plover Cove (Extension)			
Shek O			
Pok Fu Lam			
Tai Tam (Quarry Bay Extension)			
Clear Water Bay			
Sai Kung West (Wan Tsai Extension)			
Lung Fu Shan			
Lantau North (Extension)			

- (c) Please set out the numbers of waste paper recycling bins in country parks over the past 3 years (2017-2019).

Country Park	2017	2018	2019
Shing Mun			
Kam Shan			
Lion Rock			
Aberdeen			
Tai Tam			
Sai Kung East			
Sai Kung West			
Plover Cove			
Lantau South			
Lantau North			
Pat Sin Leng			
Tai Lam			
Tai Mo Shan			
Lam Tsuen			
Ma On Shan			

Country Park	2017	2018	2019
Kiu Tsui			
Plover Cove (Extension)			
Shek O			
Pok Fu Lam			
Tai Tam (Quarry Bay Extension)			
Clear Water Bay			
Sai Kung West (Wan Tsai Extension)			
Lung Fu Shan			
Lantau North (Extension)			

- (d) Please set out the numbers of metal recycling bins in country parks over the past 3 years (2017-2019).

Country Park	2017	2018	2019
Shing Mun			
Kam Shan			
Lion Rock			
Aberdeen			
Tai Tam			
Sai Kung East			
Sai Kung West			
Plover Cove			
Lantau South			
Lantau North			
Pat Sin Leng			
Tai Lam			
Tai Mo Shan			
Lam Tsuen			
Ma On Shan			
Kiu Tsui			
Plover Cove (Extension)			
Shek O			
Pok Fu Lam			
Tai Tam (Quarry Bay Extension)			
Clear Water Bay			
Sai Kung West (Wan Tsai Extension)			
Lung Fu Shan			
Lantau North (Extension)			

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (LegCo internal reference no.: 96)

Reply:

- (a) to (d) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) places ordinary litter containers and combined waste recycling bins at barbecue sites, campsites, picnic sites, etc. in country parks. The combined waste recycling bins have compartments for collecting plastic bottles, aluminium cans and ordinary litter. Among the refuse generated from activities carried out in country parks such as hiking, barbecues and camping, there is rarely waste paper suitable for recycling and thus no recycling bin has been placed for paper in country parks.

The number of waste collection facilities (including ordinary litter containers and combined waste recycling bins) placed in the 6 country park districts under AFCD's management over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Country park districts¹ / Year	2017	2018	2019
Central New Territories ²	421	334	270
North New Territories ³	487	445	373
West New Territories ⁴	254	242	242
Lantau ⁵	274	192	176
Sai Kung ⁶	557	496	449
Hong Kong ⁷	176	163	154
Total	2 169	1 872	1 664

The number of combined waste recycling bins placed in the 6 country park districts under AFCD's management for collection of plastic bottles and aluminium cans over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Country park districts¹ / Year	2017	2018	2019
Central New Territories ²	309	256	203
North New Territories ³	202	198	189
West New Territories ⁴	183	175	176
Lantau ⁵	73	64	67
Sai Kung ⁶	433	393	373
Hong Kong ⁷	173	160	151
Total	1 373	1 246	1 159

Note:

1. AFCD keeps records and statistics on the number of ordinary litter containers and combined waste recycling bins in the 6 country park districts under its management.
2. The Central New Territories District consists of the Kam Shan Country Park, the Lion Rock Country Park, the Ma On Shan Country Park, the Shing Mun Country Park, the Tai Mo Shan Country Park and the Clear Water Bay Country Park.

3. The North New Territories District consists of the Lam Tsuen Country Park, the Pat Sin Leng Country Park, the Plover Cove Country Park, the Plover Cove (Extension) Country Park, the Yan Chau Tong Special Area, the Ma Shi Chau Special Area, the Lai Chi Wo Special Area as well as the Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve.
4. The West New Territories District consists of the Tai Lam Country Park.
5. The Lantau District consists of the Lantau North Country Park, the Lantau North (Extension) Country Park and the Lantau South Country Park.
6. The Sai Kung District consists of the Kiu Tsui Country Park, the Sai Kung East Country Park, the Sai Kung West Country Park, the Sai Kung West (Wan Tsai Extension) Country Park, the Ninepin Group Special Area, the Sharp Island Special Area, the High Island Special Area, the Tsiu Hang Special Area and the Ung Kong Group Special Area.
7. The Hong Kong District consists of the Aberdeen Country Park, the Lung Fu Shan Country Park, the Pok Fu Lam Country Park, the Shek O Country Park, the Tai Tam Country Park, the Tai Tam (Quarry Bay Extension) Country Park as well as the Tung Lung Fort Special Area.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**ENB176****(Question Serial No. 4134)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Please set out the number of hill fires that took place in country parks each month over the past 5 years (2015-2019).

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
January					
February					
March					
April					
May					
June					
July					
August					
September					
October					
November					
December					

Please set out the area of land damaged by hill fires and number of trees destroyed in country parks over the past 5 years (2015-2019).

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Land area of country parks damaged by hill fires (hectares)					
Number of trees destroyed by hill fires					

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (LegCo internal reference no.: 97)

Reply:

The number of hill fires that took place in country parks from 2015 to 2019 is tabulated as follows:

Month/Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
January	4	2	4	1	1
February	0	2	5	1	1
March	0	1	3	6	0
April	4	1	8	14	2
May	0	0	0	0	0
June	0	0	0	0	0
July	0	0	0	0	0
August	0	0	0	0	0
September	0	0	0	0	1
October	3	4	3	0	3
November	2	0	1	0	6
December	0	3	5	1	3
Total	13	13	29	23	17

The land area of country parks and number of trees affected by hill fires from 2015 to 2019 are tabulated as follows:

Item/Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Land area of country parks affected by hill fires (hectares)	90.8	210.2	299.3	138.6	218.8
Number of trees affected by hill fires	1 905	10 615	1 650	7 135	2 760

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB177

(Question Serial No. 5594)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (700) General non-recurrent

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding Item 802 “One-off allowance to fishermen affected by new fisheries management strategy in marine parks”,

What are the estimated expenditure and work plan for this new item? Why is the funding bid submitted to the Legislative Council (LegCo) for approval in the context of the Appropriation Bill? Even though it is a usual practice, why is the funding not being separately submitted to the LegCo Finance Committee for funding approval?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 801)

Reply:

The new fisheries management strategy in marine parks (the new strategy) has come into effect on 1 April 2020. Under the new strategy, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will not grant new fishing permits for commercial fishing for the Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park, Yan Chau Tong Marine Park, Tung Ping Chau Marine Park, and Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park. Existing fishing permits of the 4 marine parks already granted will remain valid for the remainder of their terms, and can be renewed in accordance with the established mechanism. However, the validity period will not be extended beyond the two-year transitional period, viz. 31 March 2022.

Given that the fishermen with relevant fishing permits will no longer be able to conduct operations in the waters around the abovementioned 4 marine parks as a result of the commercial fishing ban in these marine parks, an ex-gratia allowance (EGA) will be granted to about 360 affected permit holders. The Government plans to set up an Inter-departmental Working Group (IWG) in the second quarter of 2020 to handle EGA applications from the affected permit holders and all other related matters. Once the IWG has determined the amount of EGA to be provided, permit holders may receive EGA when

they surrender their permits. They may also opt to continue fishing in those areas and receive EGA upon the expiry of the permits. The total amount involved in releasing EGA to affected permit holders is about \$125 million.

The arrangement to include in the draft Estimates funding proposals for creating commitments or increasing expenditure ceilings for approved commitment items under the General Revenue Account for scrutiny and approval by the Legislative Council (LegCo) in the context of the Appropriation Bill is in line with the requirements under sections 5 and 6 of the Public Finance Ordinance. The Government explained the relevant arrangements to the Finance Committee in early 2015. In this particular case, before the above funding proposal was included in the draft Estimates, we had briefed the LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs on the new strategy, EGA and transitional arrangements on 25 November 2019. We have also included the necessary provision for these proposals under the respective head and sub-head of expenditure, as well as provided appropriate information in the Controlling Officer's Report to facilitate Members' consideration. Such arrangements allow the Government to expedite the processing and release of EGA to the permit holders concerned so that their livelihood will not be affected.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB178

(Question Serial No. 5702)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

In view of the frequent illegal felling of Incense Trees in Hong Kong in recent years,

- (a) Does the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) have any plan to conduct a territory-wide survey on Incense Trees?
- (b) What measures will AFCD take to prevent the illegal tree-felling from deteriorating?
- (c) What is the estimated expenditure in this respect in the coming year?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 529)

Reply:

- (a) Incense Tree is a native tree species commonly found in mature woodlands behind rural villages and lowland forests in Hong Kong. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been conducting surveys and studies over the past years to gather information on the distribution of local plant species, including Incense Trees. However, there is practical difficulty in conducting a specific territory-wide population survey on this species due to its widespread distribution and difficult access.
- (b) To strengthen the protection of Incense Trees against illegal felling, AFCD has implemented a species action plan for Incense Trees which covers a series of measures, including:
 - (i) establishment of a special task force to conduct targeted patrol of sites with important populations of Incense Trees, in addition to regular patrols in country parks and special areas;
 - (ii) working closely with the Hong Kong Police Force (the Police) in gathering and exchanging intelligence; conducting joint law enforcement operations at black

spots and investigation of illegal tree felling cases; and enhancing the awareness and vigilance of the public about such offences through social media as well as various education and publicity programmes;

- (iii) enhancing liaison and cooperation with concern groups and villagers living near Incense Trees for intelligence gathering and reporting of any illegal felling activities;
- (iv) conducting a pilot scheme using infrared sensor camera traps to monitor illegal felling of Incense Trees at several strategic locations;
- (v) installing tree guards to prevent felling or vandalism of important individuals of Incense Trees;
- (vi) dressing the wounds of damaged trees with anti-fungal paint to suppress the formation of agarwood in order to discourage illegal harvesting;
- (vii) organising training sessions to help frontline staff of the Police and the Customs and Excise Department to identify Incense Trees/agarwood and detect illegal activities;
- (viii) deploying sniffer dogs to facilitate detection of agarwood smuggling at land boundary control points;
- (ix) stepping up the extensive planting of Incense Trees in country parks. Since 2009, about 10 000 seedlings of Incense Trees have been produced and planted every year to assist in the re-stocking of this species in Hong Kong; and
- (x) supporting various research studies and activities to conserve this native species and enhance public awareness in this aspect.

In addition, long-term monitoring of important populations of Incense Trees is in place to monitor its conservation status and check on the effectiveness of the protection measures.

- (c) The resources involved in implementing the above measures were absorbed in the allocation for nature conservation and management of country parks, hence no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved is available. However, starting from 2020-21, AFCD will allocate an additional provision of \$8.5 million to enhance the support for the above measures.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB179

(Question Serial No. 5703)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

At present, it is very difficult for persons with disabilities to use the country park facilities as most of the paths and facilities are not disabled-friendly. Please provide the following information:

- (a) Please set out in detail the existing barrier-free status of country parks, including the names of the country parks, the districts in which they are located, the barrier-free facilities available, country trails, and names of the dams.
- (b) Please set out in detail the country parks where barrier-free facilities are not yet available.
- (c) Is there any government policy to facilitate the development of barrier-free country parks for persons with disabilities and those in need?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 530)

Reply:

- (a) Barrier-free facilities in the country parks and their respective locations are listed in the **Annex**.
- (b) Barrier-free facilities are not yet available in the Lam Tsuen Country Park, Plover Cove (Extension) Country Park, Lantau North Country Park, Lantau North (Extension) Country Park, Kiu Tsui Country Park and Shek O Country Park.
- (c) In order to enhance the accessibility of county park facilities and services for persons with disabilities, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has implemented various measures including upgrading or providing barrier-free facilities in existing or new premises, as well as undertaking retrofitting programmes (such as construction of ramps and installation of handrails along footpaths to accessible toilets). Officers in charge of the country park venues and facilities are also

appointed as Access Officers by AFCD to facilitate the implementation of accessibility measures and provision of services for persons with disabilities. In addition, AFCD is in collaboration with relevant organisations to explore the improvement of certain trails and the supporting facilities to facilitate wheelchair users to visit country parks. AFCD will also continue to renovate and improve existing physically handicapped and able-bodied sites and the supporting facilities.

Barrier free facilities/Facilities with barrier free design	Country parks/Other areas	Site/Venue/Location
Barbecue sites	Sai Kung West Country Park	Pak Tam Chung Physically Handicapped and Able-Bodied Site
		Tai Mong Tsai No. 4 Barbecue Site
	Sai Kung East Country Park	Wong Shek No. 1 Barbecue Site
	Clear Water Bay Country Park	Tai Hang Tun Barbecue Site
	Ma On Shan Country Park	Ma On Shan Barbecue Site
		Nai Chung Barbecue Site
	Shing Mun Country Park	Shing Mun No. 4 Barbecue Site
		Shing Mun No. 5 Barbecue Site
	Tai Mo Shan Country Park	Rotary Barbecue Site
	Tai Lam Country Park	Shek Kong No. 2 Barbecue Site
		Shek Kong No. 3 Barbecue Site
		Shek Kong No. 6 Barbecue Site
		Shek Kong No. 10 Barbecue Site
		Shek Kong No. 11 Barbecue Site
		Chuen Lung No. 2 Barbecue Site
		Tai Tong No. 1 Barbecue Site
		Tai Tong No. 5 Barbecue Site
		Tai Tong No. 6 Barbecue Site
		Sham Tseng Barbecue Site
	Pat Sin Leng Country Park	Hok Tau No. 6 Barbecue Site
	Aberdeen Country Park	Aberdeen Physically Handicapped and Able-Bodied Site
	Tai Tam Country Park	Tai Tam No. 2 Barbecue Site
		Tai Tam Tuk No. 3 Barbecue Site
		Tai Tam Tuk No. 4 Barbecue Site
Picnic sites	Tsiu Hang Special Area	Lions Nature Education Centre
	Shing Mun Country Park	Shing Mun No. 6 Picnic Site
		Shing Mun No. 10 Picnic Site
Visitor centres	Sai Kung West Country Park	Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre
	Clear Water Bay Country Park	Clear Water Bay Country Park Visitor Centre
	Tai Mo Shan Country Park	Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre
	Aberdeen Country Park	Aberdeen Tree Centre
	Tsiu Hang Special Area	Lions Nature Education Centre
	Hong Kong Wetland Park	Hong Kong Wetland Park Visitor Centre
	Other Areas Outside Country Park	Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre
		Ngong Ping Nature Centre
		Hong Kong Global Geopark Volcano Discovery Centre

Barrier free facilities/Facilities with barrier free design	Country parks/Other areas	Site/Venue/Location
Toilets	A total of 52 at various locations within Country Parks and Special Areas	Hong Kong Wetland Park Other locations of the toilets could be downloaded from AFCD's website: https://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/country/cou_vis/cou_vis_rec/cou_vis_dis.html

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB180

(Question Serial No. 5704)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

What policy does the Government have in place to facilitate drivers with disabilities to access the country park areas with a view to resolving the problem of lack of public transport for them to access the park areas? Please set out the application procedures for permits to access country parks for drivers with disabilities.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 531)

Reply:

In order to enhance the accessibility of country park facilities and services for persons with disabilities, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has implemented various measures including upgrading or providing barrier-free facilities in existing or new premises, as well as undertaking retrofitting programmes (such as construction of ramps and installation of hand railings along footpaths to accessible toilets). Most of the barrier-free facilities in country parks, including country park visitor centres, physically handicapped and able-bodied sites, barbeque sites with barrier-free design, etc., are accessible by taxi and point-to-point rebus or connected to nearby car parks by accessible ramps with hand railings. In some places (such as the Lions Nature Education Centre in the Tsiu Hang Special Area and the Hong Kong Wetland Park), designated parking spaces for persons with disabilities are provided.

According to the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations (Cap. 208A), it is required to apply for a permit in advance for bringing a vehicle into a country park or special area. The relevant application procedures and guidelines are published on AFCD's website (www.afcd.gov.hk). Applications will be assessed against the established guidelines and considered on their individual merits.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**ENB181****(Question Serial No. 5705)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Please provide the number of toilets in various country parks over the territory and the total number, as well as the number and proportion of barrier-free toilets installed.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 532)Reply:

There are 64 flushing toilets in country parks and special areas of which 52 of them (i.e. 81%) are provided with barrier-free cubicles. The distribution of flushing toilets in various country parks and special areas is tabulated as follows:

Country Parks / Special Areas	Number of flushing toilets	Number of flushing toilets with barrier-free cubicles
Aberdeen Country Park	1	1
Clear Water Bay Country Park	2	2
Kam Shan Country Park	1	1
Lantau North Country Park	1	1
Lantau South Country Park	1	1
Lion Rock Country Park	1	0
Lung Fu Shan Country Park	1	0
Ma On Shan Country Park	3	3
Pat Sin Leng Country Park	7	6
Plover Cove Country Park	2	2
Pok Fu Lam Country Park	1	0
Sai Kung East Country Park	5	2
Sai Kung West Country Park	8	7
Sai Kung West (Wan Tsai Extension)	2	2

Country Parks / Special Areas	Number of flushing toilets	Number of flushing toilets with barrier-free cubicles
Country Park		
Shing Mun Country Park	4	4
Tai Lam Country Park	5	5
Tai Mo Shan Country Park	2	2
Tai Tam Country Park	3	2
Tai Tam (Quarry Bay Extension) Country Park	2	2
Hong Kong Wetland Park (Special Areas)	8	6
Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve (Special Areas)	1	0
Tsiu Hang (Special Areas)	3	3
Total	64	52

Besides flushing toilets, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department also provides 123 hired portable toilets (of which 7 are barrier-free portable toilets) and 44 dry toilet pits at remote locations lacking supplies of water and electricity to meet the needs of country park visitors.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**ENB182****(Question Serial No. 5706)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Please set out the following information over the past 5 years with a breakdown by country park and special area in Hong Kong:

- (a) The respective numbers of litter containers and recycling bins;
- (b) The volume of refuse and recyclables (with a breakdown by 4 types of recyclables, namely paper, aluminium cans, plastic bottles and glass bottles);
- (c) The handling of the recyclables; and
- (d) The manning scale of staff responsible for clearing litter containers and recycling bins, and the clearing methods adopted.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 533)Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) places ordinary litter containers (litter containers) and combined waste recycling bins at barbecue sites, campsites, picnic sites, etc. in country parks. The combined waste recycling bins have separate compartments for collecting plastic bottles, aluminium cans and ordinary litter. During 2015-2019, the respective numbers of litter containers and combined waste recycling bins placed in country parks are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of litter container	Number of combined waste recycling bin
2015	1 657	1 688
2016	1 243	1 546
2017	796	1 373
2018	626	1 246

2019	505	1 159
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- (b) The refuse collected in country parks is mainly plastic bottles, aluminium cans and ordinary litter in general. Among the refuse generated from activities in country parks such as hiking, barbecue and camping, there are rarely waste paper and glass bottles suitable for recycling and thus no recycling bins for paper and glass bottles have been placed in country parks. During 2015-2019, the volume of refuse collected and the quantity of aluminium cans and plastic bottles recovered in country parks are tabulated as follows:

Year	Ordinary litter (tonne)	Aluminium can (tonne)	Plastic bottle (tonne)
2015	3 700	1.92	7.24
2016	3 400	4.29	11.30
2017	3 400	4.00	14.08
2018	3 000	3.01	11.06
2019	2 600	1.66	6.52

- (c) Ordinary clean recyclables are collected in transparent plastic bags and handed over to recycling contractors for transport to suitable recycling yards upon record of weight.
- (d) AFCD staff and cleansing service contractors clean both litter containers and combined waste recycling bins in country park areas under their charge. There is no separate manpower for handling ordinary litter and recyclable waste. The cleansing staff in general use transparent plastic bags for collection of recyclable waste and biodegradable refuse bags for ordinary litter.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB183

(Question Serial No. 6612)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the Department's management and protection of country parks, special areas, marine parks and marine reserves under the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208) and the Marine Parks Ordinance (Cap. 476) for the purpose of nature conservation, recreation, nature-based tourism and education, I have the following questions:

- (a) What are the details of the Government's management of country parks, special areas, marine parks and marine reserves?
- (b) The marine reserve on Lantau Island has suffered different levels of damage, with a large amount of debris dumped there. How does the Government conserve the marine reserve? Has it taken records of the marine reserve regularly?
- (c) Will the Government regularly conduct patrols and take records of the country parks, special areas, marine parks and marine reserves? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (LegCo internal reference no.: 104)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is responsible for the management and protection of country parks, special areas, marine parks and the marine reserve, among which mainly cover the construction and maintenance of recreational facilities (such as hiking trails and barbecue sites), routine cleaning, flora and fauna conservation, ecological surveys, patrols and law enforcement, as well as vetting and monitoring of activities and development, etc. in these areas. Besides, planting of trees, hill fire prevention and fighting in country parks and special areas, as well as implementation of zonal management measures (such as management of fishing and anchoring activities) etc. in marine parks also form part of the regular work of AFCD. On education and publicity, AFCD has organised a series of programmes

on protection and promotion of country parks and marine parks for the general public. These programmes include school visits, eco-tours, guided tours at visitor centres and education centres, thematic exhibitions, educational workshops, trail maintenance workshops, tree planting days, public lectures and volunteer scheme.

- (b) There is no marine reserve designated under the Marine Parks Ordinance (Cap. 476) on Lantau Island. Any landfilling and development must comply with relevant applicable legislation and other terms. The Environmental Protection Department and other relevant bureaux/departments will continue to enforce the law and monitor the situation in accordance with prevailing legislation.
- (c) AFCD staff conduct patrols in country parks and special areas in various districts to enforce the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208) and other relevant legislations and to monitor the situation of country parks, etc. During patrols, they also provide assistance and services to country park visitors in need as well as carry out work on publicity and education. In addition, AFCD conducts regular patrols by sea and on land in marine parks and the marine reserve to enforce the Marine Parks Ordinance, manage and monitor the marine environment and promote marine conservation to the general public. The number of patrols conducted in country parks, special areas, marine parks and the marine reserve by AFCD in 2019-20 (as of February 2020) is tabulated as follows:

Areas managed / Year	2019-20 (as of February 2020) (number of patrols)
Country parks and special areas*	12 961
Marine parks	2 473
Marine reserve	424

* As some of the patrols cover both country parks and special areas, AFCD does not have a breakdown on the number of patrols in these managed areas.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB184

(Question Serial No. 6613)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

- (a) The Government conserves biodiversity and promotes the compatible use of country and marine parks. What about its conservation of the marine ecology?
- (b) What are the current details of the sites recognised by the Government as sites of high scientific interest as well as those listed as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) (including the locations, areas and the dates on which the sites were listed as SSSIs)?
- (c) Will the Government regularly conduct patrols and take records of the sites of high scientific interest in various districts? If yes, what are the details, including the manpower, dates and locations concerned? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (LegCo internal reference no.: 105)

Reply:

- (a) Apart from designating important marine habitats as marine parks for proper conservation and management, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is also committed to implementing measures to conserve the marine ecology, which include:
 - (i) studying and monitoring the biodiversity of Hong Kong's marine environment and promoting the conservation of important marine species (such as Chinese white dolphins, corals and sea turtles);
 - (ii) banning destructive fishing practices (including trawling) in Hong Kong waters to protect the marine environment from damages;
 - (iii) introducing a registration system for local fishing vessels to limit the entry of new fishing vessels with a view to maintaining an appropriate level of fishing

effort as well as prohibiting fishing activities of non-local fishing vessels in Hong Kong waters;

- (iv) examining the environmental impact assessment of coastal development projects to ensure that the potential impacts to the marine ecology are properly addressed;
 - (v) organising education and publicity programmes to raise public awareness of marine conservation; and
 - (vi) strengthening cross-border liaison and close collaboration with Mainland authorities to jointly conserve the precious marine ecology and resources in Mainland and Hong Kong waters.
- (b) There are 67 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in Hong Kong at present. Their names, areas and dates on which they were listed as SSSIs are tabulated as follows:

	SSSI	Area (hectares)	Date listed as an SSSI
1	Shing Mun Fung Shui Woodland	6.00	25 February 1975
2	Tai Mo Shan Montane Scrub Forest	130.00	15 September 1975
3	She Shan Fung Shui Woodland	5.70	15 September 1975
4	Tai Tam Harbour (Inner Bay)	16.00	24 October 1975
5	D'Aguilar Peninsula	5.00	24 October 1975
6	Ma On Shan	118.00	23 June 1976
7	Sunset Peak	331.00	23 June 1976
8	Mai Po Marshes	393.00	15 September 1976
9	Bluff Island & Basalt Island	147.00	16 February 1979
10	Port Island	47.00	16 February 1979
11	Ninepin Group	45.00	16 February 1979
12	Ping Chau	111.00	16 February 1979
13	Mai Po Village	5.30	16 February 1979
14	Mau Ping	3.70	16 February 1979
15	Lai Chi Wo Beach	11.00	16 February 1979
16	Ng Tung Chai	226.00	16 February 1979
17	Pak Tai To Yan	32.00	20 September 1979
18	Chiu Keng Tam	3.10	20 September 1979
19	Tai Long Bay	2.30	20 September 1979
20	Pok Fu Lam Reservoir Catchment Area	217.30	20 September 1979
21	Tai Tam Reservoir Catchment Area	1 243.20	20 September 1979
22	Beacon Hill	53.20	20 September 1979
23	Ho Chung Valley	395.0	20 September 1979
24	Lung Kwu Chau, Tree Island & Sha Chau	54.40	20 September 1979
25	Castle Peak	73.70	5 February 1980
26	Tai Mo Shan	95.00	5 February 1980
27	Pak Nai	15.50	5 February 1980
28	Man Cheung Po	29.20	5 February 1980

	SSSI	Area (hectares)	Date listed as an SSSI
29	Lantau Peak	116.00	5 February 1980
30	Pat Sin Range	128.00	5 February 1980
31	Fung Yuen Valley	42.80	5 February 1980
32	South Lamma Island	345.00	5 February 1980
33	Yim Tin Tsai & Ma Shi Chau	54.40	24 September 1982
34	Tolo Channel (Northern Coast)	1 287.00	24 September 1982
35	Centre Island	3.10	24 September 1982
36	Nai Chung Coast	2.20	24 September 1982
37	Tsim Bei Tsui	2.10	10 January 1985
38	Ting Kok	37.50	1 March 1985
39	Sham Chung Coast	26.00	25 March 1985
40	A Chau	4.40	9 April 1985
41	Lai Chi Chong	5.00	26 April 1985
42	Inner Deep Bay	1 036.00	18 March 1986
43	Tsim Bei Tsui Egrettry	4.80	5 January 1989
44	Hoi Ha Wan	278.00	5 January 1989
45	Hok Tsui (Cape D'Aguilar)	31.50	19 July 1990
46	Nam Fung Road Woodland	8.00	22 June 1993
47	Shuen Wan Egrettry	2.10	13 August 1994
48	Tai Po Egrettry	1.20	13 August 1994
49	Lin Ma Hang Lead Mines	10.00	13 August 1994
50	Tseng Tau Coast	4.30	13 August 1994
51	Kei Ling Ha Mangal	48.40	13 August 1994
52	Pok To Yan & Por Kai Shan	76.40	13 August 1994
53	San Tau Beach	2.70	19 October 1994
54	Sha Lo Tung	22.05	16 January 1997
55	Shek O Headland	0.66	3 February 1998
56	San Chau	36.00	4 May 1999
57	Ngong Ping	14.00	4 May 1999
58	Tai Ho Stream	5.00	5 May 1999
59	Sham Wan	4.00	3 June 1999
60	South Tsing Yi	1.10	13 April 2005
61	Tai Om Fung Shui Woodland	2.70	30 December 2005
62	Shek Ngau Chau	0.92	30 December 2005
63	Lin Ma Hang Stream	0.64	6 July 2007
64	Siu Lang Shui	2.30	8 January 2008
65	Deep Water Bay Valley	4.20	18 February 2008
66	Lung Kwu Tan Valley	6.72	3 April 2012
67	Sunshine Island	54.00	27 February 2015

- (c) The listing of SSSI is primarily an administrative measure to alert government departments about the scientific importance of such sites, and that due consideration should be given to environmental protection when developments at or close to these sites are proposed. AFCD arranges patrols according to the characteristics and conditions of various SSSIs. Currently, 4 AFCD staff are involved in the coordination and patrols at the SSSIs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB185

(Question Serial No. 6614)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Department provides nature conservation advice on development proposals, planning studies and environmental impact assessments. Regarding the reclamation project under the Lantau Tomorrow Vision, has the Department provided any advice to the Government? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (LegCo internal reference no.: 106)

Reply:

Regarding the Lantau Tomorrow Vision, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has been providing advice from the nature conservation perspective, including the potential impact arising from the proposed projects on important habitats and species, as well as advice on various conservation or mitigation measures, for example, avoiding or minimising potential ecological impact through planning, design, construction method, etc. of the proposed artificial island and ancillary facilities.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB186

(Question Serial No. 6615)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Department conducts monitoring and auditing of ecological mitigation measures for development projects approved under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Cap. 499). What were the details of the ecological mitigation measures for development projects approved in each of the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (LegCo internal reference no.: 107)

Reply:

The ecological mitigation measures required for development projects approved under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Cap. 499) over the past 3 years included avoidance of construction works in ecologically sensitive areas, restoration and improvement of disturbed habitats, habitat compensation (such as river revitalisation, eco-shoreline, etc.), translocation of rare species, compensatory planting, etc. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department is responsible for monitoring and auditing these ecological mitigation measures.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB187

(Question Serial No. 6616)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the Department's promotion of public awareness of nature conservation and enforcement of nature conservation legislation, has the Department found any cases in breach of such legislation over the past 3 years? If yes, what are the details?

Secondly, please provide a detailed account of the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark. How does the Government promote and conserve the geological and cultural heritage?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (LegCo internal reference no.: 108)

Reply:

The total number of prosecutions instituted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) under legislation relevant to nature conservation, including the Forests and Countryside Ordinance (Cap. 96), the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170), the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations (Cap. 208A) and the Marine Parks and Marine Reserves Regulation (Cap. 476A) in 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 (as of February 2020) is 840, 728 and 500 respectively. The offences involved mainly include bringing vehicles or bicycles into country parks without authorisation, littering, illegal camping, illegal plucking or damaging of plant and illegal feeding of wild animals.

Hong Kong Geopark, which was first accepted as a National Geopark of China in 2009 and later accepted as a member of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) in September 2011, was renamed Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark (HKUGG) on 17 November 2015. HKUGG is managed with a holistic concept of conservation, education and sustainable development. It consists of the following 2 regions:

- (a) The Sai Kung Volcanic Rock Region consists of High Island, Sharp Island, Ninepin Group and Ung Kong Group. This region mainly showcases the magnificent

hexagonal volcanic rock columns which are rare in the world in terms of their rock composition, size and coverage. The Sai Kung Volcanic Rock Region also covers rural communities such as Kau Sai Chau, High Island and Yim Tin Tsai; and

- (b) The Northeast New Territories Sedimentary Rock Region consists of Tung Ping Chau, Double Haven, Tolo Channel and Bluff Head / Port Island. This region consists of the most comprehensive stratigraphy of sedimentary rocks in Hong Kong, including 400 million-year-old Devonian sandstone and conglomerate as well as 55 million-year-old Paleogene siltstone. This region also covers rural communities such as Lai Chi Wo, Kat O and Ap Chau.

To facilitate public understanding of HKUGG, the following facilities are provided:

- (a) The Sai Kung Volcano Discovery Centre was set up at the Sai Kung Waterfront Park in July 2014 for the purpose of science popularisation and visitor services. In addition, following the setting up of 2 geoheritage centres at Lai Chi Wo and Sam Mun Tsai of Tai Po, HKUGG also set up 3 story rooms in Ap Chau, Kat O and Kau Sai Chau in order to exhibit the culture and history of local communities; and
- (b) The Hong Kong Geopark Visitor Centre within the Lions Nature Education Centre at Tsiu Hang, Sai Kung includes an indoor exhibition hall, the Rock Academy outdoor exhibition and the Rock Classroom for small group activities. Apart from enabling better understanding of the geological history of Hong Kong, it is also an ideal venue for teachers to conduct education on geology outside the classroom.

AFCD has planned 9 land-based and 3 sea-based tour routes to facilitate visits by the public and visitors to various geosites and facilities. Information of HKUGG is set out in detail at the dedicated website: <https://www.geopark.gov.hk/>.

In addition, AFCD will continue to strengthen the promotion and conservation of geological and cultural heritages through a variety of publicity and education activities. Major activities include (a) production of multilingual promotion materials for local and overseas visitors; (b) overseas promotion through the internet and international platform of GGN; (c) upgrade of skills of geopark guides through the Geopark Guide System in collaboration with non-governmental organisations; (d) provision of training for tour operators, local communities and other stakeholders of HKUGG; (e) organisation of science popularisation programmes for students through the Geopark School Programme; and (f) collaboration with local communities in conserving and promoting the local history, tradition, culture and intangible cultural heritage through story rooms and other means.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB188

(Question Serial No. 6617)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

What are the details of the Department's effort in exploring the feasibility of the incorporation of selected country park enclaves into country parks?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (LegCo internal reference no.: 109)

Reply:

Subsequent to the incorporation of 3 enclaves into country parks in 2017, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) continues to assess whether the remaining enclaves not yet covered by any statutory plans are suitable for incorporation into country parks in accordance with the established principles and criteria, and will propose to incorporate suitable enclaves into country parks in accordance with the statutory procedures stipulated in the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208).

AFCD is conducting an assessment of whether the enclave on Yi Tung Shan, Lantau Island is suitable for incorporation into the respective country park. A decision on whether to incorporate the enclave into the country park will be made after careful consideration of all factors and views of relevant stakeholders.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB189

(Question Serial No. 6618)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the implementation of the first Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Hong Kong by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, what are the specific details and the provision involved? What are the details of Biodiversity Education?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (LegCo internal reference no.: 110)

Reply:

The Hong Kong Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2021 (BSAP) is a five-year plan which sets out strategies and action plans to conserve biodiversity and support sustainable development in Hong Kong. The 67 specific actions under BSAP are grouped under 4 major areas as follows:

- (1) enhancing the existing conservation measures, which includes carrying out the Plantation Enrichment Project in country parks, formulating species action plans and stepping up enforcement against wildlife crimes;
- (2) mainstreaming biodiversity to facilitate the public and private sectors to take biodiversity into consideration in relevant policies, programmes, works and projects;
- (3) improving knowledge on biodiversity, such as monitoring and studying important habitats and species as well as developing a biodiversity information hub; and
- (4) enhancing public awareness and participation in biodiversity through publicity and education activities to encourage the public to practise conservation.

In 2020-21, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has earmarked a provision of \$50 million for implementing BSAP.

Publicity and education is one of the main areas of action under BSAP. They include education activities on country parks and nature conservation, as well as a series of biodiversity education programmes organised by the Government in collaboration with non-governmental organisations, institutions and other organisations. AFCD has established the Subventions for Biodiversity Education since 2016 to encourage local non-profit-making organisations to conduct education programmes that promote biodiversity to the public. In 2020-21, a provision of \$1.4 million has been earmarked for supporting biodiversity education projects.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB190

(Question Serial No. 6619)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

What are the specific details and provision involved in the designation of the proposed South Lantau Marine Park by the Department?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (LegCo internal reference no.: 111)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is preparing for the designation of the proposed South Lantau Marine Park (SLMP) and plans to take forward the statutory procedures in 2020, which include preparing a draft map of the proposed SLMP under the Marine Parks Ordinance (Cap. 476) and consulting the Country and Marine Parks Board on the draft map. As the manpower and administrative expenditure involved in the preparation work will be absorbed by the existing resources of AFCD, there is no separate breakdown in this aspect.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB191

(Question Serial No. 6620)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Department is preparing for the expansion of the Sham Wan Restricted Area to strengthen the protection of green turtles. What are the specific details and provision involved in this aspect?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (LegCo internal reference no.: 112)

Reply:

In order to minimise disturbance to green turtles, including their nests and eggs, the sandy beach at Sham Wan was gazetted as a Restricted Area under the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170) in 1999. Access to the area is restricted during the period from 1 June to 31 October each year. To strengthen the protection of green turtles, the Government has started preparation work for the expansion of the Sham Wan Restricted Area from the sandy beach at Sham Wan to include the adjacent Sham Wan waters, and the extension of the restricted period, with a view to minimising the disturbances of human activities to breeding green turtles. The Government plans to seek the views of stakeholders on details of legislative amendments and draft the amendments this coming year. As the relevant work is still under preparation, figures of the estimated provision are not available at present.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**ENB192****(Question Serial No. 6665)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Regarding the implementation progress of the Hong Kong Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2016 (BSAP), please set out the manpower and resources allocated by the Department to the 4 major areas of BSAP (i.e. enhancing conservation measures, mainstreaming biodiversity, improving knowledge and promoting community involvement) and its specific actions in 2016-2019. Will the Department conduct any interim and long-term assessments on the implementation progress and effectiveness of BSAP? If yes, what are the specific details and timetable? If such assessment has been conducted, will it be disclosed for public information?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (LegCo internal reference no.: 2058)Reply:

The Hong Kong Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2021 (BSAP) is a five-year plan which sets out strategies and action plans to conserve biodiversity and support sustainable development in Hong Kong. The expenditure and manpower involved in the implementation of BSAP by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) from 2016-17 to 2019-20 are tabulated as follows:

Year	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (revised estimate)
Expenditure on the 4 major areas (\$ million)				
1. Enhancing conservation measures	7.1	17.9	12.3	9.8
2. Mainstreaming biodiversity	1.2	7.4	2.1	2.1
3. Improving knowledge	1.2	7.1	7.9	9.0
4. Promoting community involvement	13.1	29.1	29.2	25.0
Total	22.6	61.5	51.5	45.9
Manpower (number of staff)	15	39	39	33

To ensure an effective implementation of BSAP, an inter-departmental working group chaired by the Secretary for the Environment has been set up to coordinate the efforts of various departments in implementing the actions, set out clear and feasible objectives and timeframe of BSAP and regularly review the progress and effectiveness of actions. Since the launch of BSAP, progress has been made under the 4 major areas of action, and the progress was generally in line with the timeframe set out.

The Government has been reporting the progress and effectiveness of the implementation of BSAP to the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE) on an annual basis since 2017. Annual progress reports on BSAP were submitted to ACE in February 2018 and March 2019 respectively. The relevant documents have been uploaded to ACE's website:

https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/boards/advisory_council/maincontent.html

More information on the major projects of BSAP is available on AFCD's website:

https://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/conservation/Con_hkbsap/con_hkbsap.html

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**ENB193****(Question Serial No. 6666)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

How many minor improvement works did the Government carry out in country parks, marine parks and marine reserve in 2018-2019? What are the names of the works, the country parks/marine parks/marine reserve involved, and the expenditure in this regard?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (LegCo internal reference no.: 2059)Reply:

In 2018-19 and 2019-20, the minor improvement works carried out by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in country parks and the expenditure involved are tabulated as follows. AFCD did not carry out any minor improvement works in marine parks and marine reserve during the same period.

Projects	Country park	Expenditure in 2018-19 (\$ million)	Expenditure in 2019-20 (revised estimate) (\$ million)
Construction of mountain bike trails	Tai Lam, Clear Water Bay, Shek O Country Park	1.3	1.2
Reconstruction of forest tracks	Tai Lam, Ma On Shan Country Park	1.9	3.2
Improvement of visitor centres and interpretation panels	Country parks in different districts	1.3	2.2

Projects	Country park	Expenditure in 2018-19 (\$ million)	Expenditure in 2019-20 (revised estimate) (\$ million)
Reconstruction of rain shelters	Aberdeen, Sai Kung East, Sai Kung West, Lantau South, Tai Tam, Tai Lam, Lion Rock, Pat Sin Leng, Ma On Shan, Shing Mun Country Park	2.3	4.7
Construction of a star gazing site	Sai Kung East Country Park	2.9	1.2
Provision of water dispensers	Country parks in different districts	0.3	2.0
Reconstruction and construction of water pipelines to public toilets	Tai Mo Shan, Pat Sin Leng Country Park	2.2	1.1
Minor slope works	Country parks in different districts	0.9	1.0
Others: improvement of hiking trails, minor structures, outdoor furniture, fencing, waymarks, etc.	Country parks in different districts	6.6	5.8
Total		19.7	22.4

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**ENB194****(Question Serial No. 6667)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Please set out the amount of resources allocated by the Department to the monitoring and conservation of the Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and the number of patrols conducted at various SSSIs over the past 5 years as well as the planned targets and estimated expenditure in 2020.

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (LegCo internal reference no.: 2060)Reply:

The listing of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is primarily an administrative measure to alert government departments about the scientific importance of such sites, and that due consideration should be given to environmental protection when developments at or close to these sites are proposed. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) arranges patrols and habitat management work according to the characteristics and conditions of various SSSIs. To step up patrols, AFCD set up an SSSI patrol team (patrol team) in 2017-18. Currently, 4 staff members are involved in the coordination and patrols at SSSIs.

The manpower and expenditure of AFCD involved in the SSSI work over the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (revised estimate)
Manpower (number of staff)	1	1	4	4	4
Expenditure (\$ million)	0.7	0.7	1.8	1.2	1.5

The number of patrols conducted by the patrol team in 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 (as at February) was 73, 120 and 95 respectively.

In 2020-21, AFCD will continue to conduct patrols and habitat management work at SSSIs, which include vegetation management, habitat enhancement and ecological monitoring. The manpower and estimated expenditure involved are 4 staff members and \$1.5 million respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**ENB195****(Question Serial No. 4548)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Regarding venues under the management of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), please provide the following information:

- (a) Please set out by the 18 districts and in tabular form the number of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) available in each district.
- (b) Please set out by the 18 districts and in tabular form the venues managed by AFCD without installation of AEDs and the reasons for that.
- (c) Please set out by the 18 districts and in tabular form the venues managed by AFCD with installation of AEDs and the number of staff working at such venues who have received training on the use of AEDs.
- (d) Please provide the number and location of new AEDs added to the venues under the management of AFCD over the past year.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (LegCo internal reference no.: 129)Reply:

- (a) to (c) At present, 6 country park visitor centres and the Hong Kong Wetland Park are equipped with Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). The number of AEDs installed in the said venues, and the number of staff who work in the said venues and have received training on the use of AEDs are tabulated as follows:

District	Venues with AEDs	Number of AEDs equipped	Number of staff with relevant training

District	Venues with AEDs	Number of AEDs equipped	Number of staff with relevant training
Sai Kung	Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre, Lions Nature Education Centre, and Clear Water Bay Country Park Visitor Centre	3	9
Tsuen Wan	Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre	1	5
Eastern	Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre	1	8
Southern	Aberdeen Tree Centre	1	6
Yuen Long	Hong Kong Wetland Park	2	4

Country park visitor centres which are not equipped with AEDs are tabulated as follows:

District	Venues not equipped with AEDs
Tsuen Wan	Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre
Islands	Ngong Ping Nature Centre

As most of the recreation sites in country parks are located in the countryside with no offices and shelters, there is practical difficulty in providing AEDs at these venues. The Auxiliary Medical Service (AMS) deploys personnel for first aid coverage and ambulance services at some popular locations in country parks on all Sundays and public holidays. The first aid stations and ambulance services provided by AMS are equipped with AEDs and will provide assistance to visitors when necessary. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will closely monitor the usage of the recreation sites in country parks and review the need to enhance the facilities to meet visitors' needs from time to time.

- (d) AFCD has installed an AED in the Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre and the Aberdeen Tree Centre respectively over the past year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB196

(Question Serial No. 4743)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the public toilets managed by the Department in 18 districts; please provide in tabular form by district:

- (a) The names and addresses of the public toilets;
- (b) The years of construction;
- (c) The years of last refurbishment;
- (d) The construction cost;
- (e) The utilisation rate;
- (f) The cleansing frequency (daily and weekly);
- (g) The numbers of cleansing staff; and
- (h) The quantity of toilet paper and liquid soap per week.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (LegCo internal reference no.: 352)

Reply:

The replies to questions (a) to (f) are tabulated as follows:

(a) Location ¹	(b) Year of construction	(c) Year of last refurbishment ²	(d) Construction cost ³ (\$ million)	(e) Utilisation rate ⁴	(f) Cleansing frequency (time per day/week)
North District					
Hok Tau Campsite (PSL/C/301) Flushing Toilet (PB942)	1986	2009	Information not available (N/A)	Moderate	4/28
Hok Tau Barbecue Site (PSL/B/308) Flushing Toilet (PB992)	1988	2009	N/A	Moderate	4/28
Lau Shui Heung (PSL/R/302) Flushing Toilet (PB997)	1989	2009	N/A	Moderate	4/28
Nam Chung (PSL/R/50B) Flushing Toilet (PB1084)	1997	N/A	1.2	Low	1/7
Bride's Pool Road Barbecue Site (PC/B/601) Flushing Toilet (PB938)	1986	2017	N/A	High	4/28
Bride's Pool Road Barbecue Site (PC/B/002) Flushing Toilet (PB998)	1989	2016	N/A	High	4/28
Tai Po District					
Tai Mei Tuk Barbecue Site (PC/B/001) Flushing Toilet (PB711)	1979	2014	N/A	High	4/28
Chung Pui Barbecue Site (PSL/B/012) Flushing Toilet (PB870)	1982	2016	N/A	High	4/28
Tai Mei Tuk Ranger Office Flushing Toilet (PB653)	1976	N/A	N/A	Low	2/14
Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve Flushing Toilet (PB940)	1986	Renovation work in progress	N/A	High	4/28
Nai Chung Barbecue Site (MOS/B105) Flushing Toilet (PB1076)	1996	N/A	1.0	Moderate	4/28
Sai Sha Road Barbecue Site (SKW/B/010) Flushing Toilet (PB979)	1987	N/A	N/A	High	4/28

(a) Location ¹	(b) Year of construction	(c) Year of last refurbishment ²	(d) Construction cost ³ (\$ million)	(e) Utilisation rate ⁴	(f) Cleansing frequency (time per day/week)
Wan Tsai South Campsite (SKW/C/309) Flushing Toilet (PB1114)	1999	N/A	N/A	High	4/28
Wan Tsai West Campsite (SKW/C/308) Flushing Toilet (PB1110)	1999	N/A	N/A	High	4/28
Hau Tong Kai Campsite (SKW/C/307) Flushing Toilet (PB1034)	1982	N/A	N/A	Moderate	2/14
Tai Tan Barbecue Site (SKW/B/304) Flushing Toilet (PB1020)	1992	N/A	N/A	High	4/28
Wong Shek Barbecue Site (SKW/B/301) Flushing Toilet (PB980)	1987	N/A	N/A	High	4/28
Pak Tam Au Flushing Toilet (PB1334)	2004	N/A	2.0	High	4/28
Shing Mun Lead Mine Pass Picnic Site (SM/P/010) Flushing Toilet (PB993)	1988	2019	N/A	Moderate	4/28
Yuen Long District					
Tai Tong Barbecue Site (TL/B/101) Flushing Toilet (PB999)	1989	N/A	N/A	Low to High (Seasonal)	4/28
Tai Tong Barbecue Site (TL/B/106) Flushing Toilet (PB1118)	1998	N/A	2.0	Low to High (Seasonal)	4/28
Tai Tong Barbecue Site (TL/B/103) Flushing Toilet (PB1276)	2005	N/A	2.5	Low to High (Seasonal)	4/28
Kap Lung Catch Water Road Barbecue Site (TL/B/406) Flushing Toilet (PB725)	1979	N/A	N/A	Low to High (Seasonal)	4/28
Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre Flushing Toilet	1991	N/A	N/A	Moderate	4/28

(a) Location ¹	(b) Year of construction	(c) Year of last refurbishment ²	(d) Construction cost ³ (\$ million)	(e) Utilisation rate ⁴	(f) Cleansing frequency (time per day/week)
(PB1011)					
Wetland Park Flushing Toilet (8 Units)	2006	N/A	No separate breakdown as it was included in the total construction cost of the Wetland Park.	High	4/28
Tsuen Wan District					
Sham Tseng BBQ site (ST/B/002), Tsing Lung Tau Flushing Toilet (PB1335)	2003	N/A	2.0	Moderate to high	4/28
Shing Mun Country Park Kiosk Flushing Toilet (PB680)	1978	2017	N/A	High	4/28
Tai Mo Shan Country Park Kiosk Flushing Toilet (PB856)	1982	N/A	N/A	High	4/28
Kwai Tsing District					
Shing Mun Picnic Site (SM/P/006) Flushing Toilet (PB871)	1982	2017	N/A	Moderate	4/28
Shing Mun Barbecue Site (SM/B/008) Flushing Toilet (PB977)	1987	N/A	N/A	Moderate	4/28
Sha Tin District					
Cheung Yuen Road Flushing Toilet (PB978)	1987	Renovation work in progress	N/A	High	4/28
Hung Mui Kuk Barbecue Site (LR/B/102) Flushing Toilet (PB1003)	1990	2017	N/A	High	4/28
Ma On Shan Barbecue Site (MOS/B/103) Flushing Toilet (PB1000)	1989	2010	N/A	Moderate	4/28
Wong Tai Sin District					
Jat's Incline Morning Walkers Garden Flushing Toilet	2006	N/A	3.0	High	4/28

(a) Location ¹	(b) Year of construction	(c) Year of last refurbishment ²	(d) Construction cost ³ (\$ million)	(e) Utilisation rate ⁴	(f) Cleansing frequency (time per day/week)
(PB1260)					
Sai Kung District					
Pak Tam Chung Car Park Flushing Toilet (PB849)	1982	N/A	N/A	High	4/28
Pak Tam Chung Picnic Garden Flushing Toilet (PB923)	1984	N/A	N/A	High	4/28
Pak Tam Chung Picnic Garden Flushing Toilet (PB1316)	2011	N/A	4.8	Moderate	4/28
Pak Tam Chung Barbecue Site (SKW/B/206) Flushing Toilet (PB1130)	2002	N/A	1.5	High	4/28
Sai Wan Village Flushing Toilet	N/A	N/A	N/A	Moderate	2/14
Sai Wan Beach Flushing Toilet	N/A	Renovation work in progress	N/A	Moderate	2/14
High Island East Dam Assembled Modular Toilet	2017	N/A	1.3	High	4/28
Tai Mong Tsai Barbecue Site (SKW/B/003) Flushing Toilet (PB944)	1986	N/A	N/A	High	4/28
Lion's Nature Education Centre, Visitor Centre Flushing Toilet (PB1070)	1991	N/A	N/A	High	4/28
Lion's Nature Education Centre, Carpark, Flushing Toilet (PB1039)	1993	N/A	1.0	High	4/28
Lion's Nature Education Centre, Deaf Cafeteria, Flushing Toilet (PB1074)	1991	N/A	N/A	High	4/28

(a) Location ¹	(b) Year of construction	(c) Year of last refurbishment ²	(d) Construction cost ³ (\$ million)	(e) Utilisation rate ⁴	(f) Cleansing frequency (time per day/week)
Clear Water Bay Barbecue Site (CWB/B/001) Flushing Toilet (PB726)	1980	N/A	N/A	Moderate	4/28
Clear Water Bay Barbecue Site (CWB/B/001) Flushing Toilet (PB1090)	1998	N/A	1.5	Moderate	4/28
Central & Western District					
Lung Fu Shan Picnic Site (LFS/P/001) (Picnic site of Pinewood Battery) Flushing Toilet (PB1092)	N/A	N/A	N/A	Moderate	4/28
Southern District					
Aberdeen Barbecue Site (ABD/B/008) Flushing Toilet (PB668 & PB894)	1977	2002	N/A	Moderate	4/28
Pok Fu Lam Country Park Entrance Flushing Toilet (PB1014)	1991	2008	N/A	Moderate	4/28
Tai Tam Tuk Flushing Toilet (PB1089)	1998	N/A	N/A	High	4/28
Eastern District					
Tai Tam Reservoir Road Tai Tam Barbecue Site (TT/B/007) Flushing Toilet (PB1017)	1992	2012	1.0	Moderate	4/28
Mount Parker Road Barbecue Site (QB/B/102) Flushing Toilet (PB893)	1981	2003	N/A	High	4/28
Tai Fung Au Flushing Toilet (PB1009)	1990	2003	N/A	High	4/28
Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre Flushing Toilet	2012	N/A	No separate breakdown as it was included in the total construction cost of the Centre.	Moderate	4/28
Island District					

(a) Location ¹	(b) Year of construction	(c) Year of last refurbishment ²	(d) Construction cost ³ (\$ million)	(e) Utilisation rate ⁴	(f) Cleansing frequency (time per day/week)
Nam Shan Barbecue Site (LN/B/001) Flushing Toilet (PB763)	1982	N/A	N/A	Moderate	4/28
Nam Shan Campsite (LS/C/001) Flushing Toilet (PB764)	1982	Renovation work in progress	N/A	Moderate	4/28

¹ There is no public toilet managed by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in Sham Shui Po, Kowloon City, Yau Tsim Mong, Tuen Mun, Wan Chai and Kwun Tong Districts.

² Only major renovation and refurbishment works are shown in the table above. Other maintenance works (e.g. repairing of water taps and electrical appliance, replacement of water pipeline, painting of wall, etc.) are carried out from time to time as and when necessary. Information for works conducted more than 20 years ago is incomplete and thus not available.

³ Construction costs for most of the toilets constructed more than 20 years ago are incomplete and thus not available.

⁴ There are no objective and precise statistics on the utilisation rate of the toilets concerned. The utilisation rates tabulated above are divided into 3 categories (i.e. high, moderate and low) based on observation of the frontline staff.

(g) Cleansing of public toilets is conducted by staff (either cleansing workers of outsourced contractors or AFCD staff) who are also required to carry out other duties such as cleansing and litter collection in country parks and special areas. There is no separate breakdown on the number of staff only responsible for cleaning toilets.

(h) AFCD does not have the figures on the number of replenishment of toilet paper and liquid soap per week. The outsourced contractors and AFCD staff are required to ensure that there is always toilet paper available and sufficient liquid soap in the toilets and replenish as and when necessary.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**ENB197****(Question Serial No. 4745)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Please provide the following information over the past 5 years:

- (a) The location, construction cost, area and number of cubicles of the public toilet with the lowest construction cost.
- (b) The location, construction cost, area and number of cubicles of the public toilet with the highest construction cost.
- (c) The average cost of constructing a public toilet.
- (d) The average cost of constructing a toilet cubicle.
- (e) The average cost of constructing per square metre of a public toilet.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (LegCo internal reference no.: 359)Reply:

- (a) to (c) Over the past 5 years, 1 new public toilet was constructed in a country park and the details are tabulated as follows:

Year of opening	Location	Construction cost (\$ million)	Number of cubicles	Area (m²)
2017	East Dam of the High Island Reservoir (within Sai Kung East Country Park)*	1.3	5	34

* Due to the site constraints, this toilet is an assembled toilet modular.

- (d) The average cost of constructing a toilet cubicle was about \$260,000.
- (e) The average cost of constructing each square metre of a public toilet was about \$40,000.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB198

(Question Serial No. 6707)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

- (a) What are the details, staff establishment, total expenditure and the breakdown of all expenditure on combating the illegal trade of endangered species by the Government over the past 5 years and in the financial year of 2020-21?
- (b) Please set out the applications for issue of licence received related to the international trade in endangered species, the number of licences/certificates issued, the species and total number of the endangered species involved, and the number of unsuccessful applications for licences over the past 5 years.
- (c) Please set out the expenditure of the Department on the control of imports of animal skin and fur products and the details of the work concerned over the past 5 years. What was the frequency of inspections and quarantine operations conducted by the Department at various boundary control points and the Hong Kong International Airport?
- (d) Please set out, by confiscated item (e.g. pangolin scales/carcasses, ivory, elephant skin, crocodile skin, products containing ingredients from bear gall bladders, etc.) and the species of the animal involved, the details of cases involving illegal import of endangered species and animal skin and fur products over the past 5 years, including the number of cases, number of prosecutions instituted, number of persons arrested, number of persons convicted and the penalties imposed, the quantity of confiscated items and the original final destination for export, etc.
- (e) Although the Government has increased significantly the penalties under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (the Ordinance), the Customs and Excise Department detected in February last year the largest pangolin scale smuggling case so far and the third largest ivory smuggling case over the past 10 years. The New York Times stated that Hong Kong is still a large transshipment hub of endangered species smuggling. In this connection, what countermeasures does the Government have for further combating endangered species smuggling in Hong Kong?

- (f) Will the Government consider introducing a certification scheme for identifying places of origin of skin and fur products, requiring that all skin and fur products imported and for trading in the market bear labels indicating whether the skin and fur used are genuine (and which types of animals they are obtained from) or counterfeit?
- (g) Will the Department conduct random inspections on products claimed to contain ingredients from bear gall bladders? If yes, what are the details? If not, will the Government consider conducting such random inspections in order to deter illegal import of animal products regulated under the Ordinance into Hong Kong?
- (h) Although the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the Ordinance do not impose regulation on the methods of collecting specimens of endangered species, will the Government prohibit the sale or import in Hong Kong of products claiming to contain ingredients from bear gall bladders on humanitarian grounds?
- (i) Please set out the details of cases involving illegal felling of Agarwood over the past 5 years, including the number of cases, number of prosecutions instituted, number of persons arrested, number of persons convicted, minimum and maximum penalties, species of Agarwood involved and the quantity of seizure, etc.
- (j) What were the details of the Department's work on combating the illegal felling as well as the conservation of Agarwood over the past 5 years? How effective is the work concerned?
- (k) What are the details and estimated expenditure involved in the conservation of Agarwood in the financial year of 2020-21?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been working closely with the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) and strictly regulating the trade in endangered species through enforcing the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) (the Ordinance) which gives effect to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in Hong Kong. The import, export/re-export and domestic sale of endangered species in Hong Kong are regulated and closely monitored through a permit/certificate system in accordance with the provisions of CITES. AFCD conducts inspections of consignments, registered stock and retail outlets to ensure relevant requirements are complied with and to detect and deter illegal local trade in endangered species. AFCD also conducts joint operations with C&ED at various import and export control points from time to time to combat illegal import and export of endangered species. Meanwhile, they also collaborate with overseas and Mainland law enforcement agencies through international joint operations and intelligence exchange to combat smuggling of endangered species.

An Inter-departmental Task Force on Wildlife Crime, comprising representatives of AFCD, C&ED and the Hong Kong Police Force (the Police), has also been established to develop strategies on intelligence exchange and co-ordinate joint enforcement operations. Joint and targeted operations, both local and international, will be undertaken to strengthen the frontline enforcement against smuggling and illegal trade in endangered species.

The Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 (the Amendment Ordinance) came into effect on 1 May 2018. Starting from 1 August 2018, all import and export of ivory (save for antique ivory) for commercial purposes have been banned. A licence to possess is required for keeping pre-Convention ivory for commercial purposes.

AFCD has implemented a series of measures that aim at curbing smuggling of ivory and strengthening the control of local trade in ivory. The measures include enhancing inter-departmental collaboration and stepping up joint operations and intelligence exchange with C&ED and overseas law enforcement agencies (e.g. Interpol); deploying sniffer dogs to detect ivory at import and export control points to assist in detecting and preventing smuggling of ivory; conducting inspections targeted at licensed ivory shops and non-licensed art and craft shops to check the licensing compliance as well as to detect and combat illegal ivory trade; as well as using hi-tech radiocarbon dating analysis to determine the age and hence the legality of ivory.

AFCD has carried out a series of publicity and education activities to publicise the phase-out plan of the local ivory trade and the new penalty regime among the general public, travellers and traders. These include distributing leaflets and displaying posters at various import and export control points; broadcasting TV and radio Announcements of Public Interest on cross-boundary coaches and the YouTube Channel, displaying animated posters on digital screens at 6 Shenzhen to Hong Kong immigration control points as well as conducting visits to licensed ivory shops and other art and craft shops for education and promotion.

In 2020-21, the Government will continue to implement the above measures to curb smuggling and illegal trade in endangered species.

AFCD's expenditure and manpower on combating illegal trade in endangered species over the past 5 years and the estimated expenditure earmarked for this area of work in 2020-21 are tabulated as follows:

Year	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (revised estimate)	2020-21 (estimate)
Expenditure (\$ million)	26.0	28.3	31.1	35.4	41.5	49.0
Manpower (number of staff)	38	39	43	44	48	48

- (b) The numbers of applications for permits/certificates received and permits/certificates issued by AFCD with respect to the imports, exports, re-exports and possession of scheduled species under the Ordinance over the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of applications received	Number of permits/certificates issued*
2015	23 089	23 475
2016	20 042	19 935
2017	18 938	19 043
2018	19 092	18 942
2019	19 749	19 995

* The number of permits/certificates issued may differ from the number of applications received within the same year as some permits and certificates were issued in respect of the applications submitted at the end of the previous year.

Some applications were unsuccessful mainly because the supporting documents submitted in respect of the applications were invalid. AFCD does not retain statistics on the number of unsuccessful applications.

- (c) Import of live animals and animal products, including animal skin and fur products, are mainly regulated for the prevention and control of rabies and protection of endangered species through enforcing the Rabies Regulation (Cap. 421A) (the Regulation) and the Ordinance respectively. AFCD officers carry out inspections and quarantine operations, including the deployment of sniffer dogs to perform screening duties, at various boundary control points and the Hong Kong International Airport to deter illegal import of live animals and animal products controlled under the Regulation and the Ordinance with a view to preventing the introduction of exotic animals or zoonotic diseases into Hong Kong, safeguarding public health and protecting endangered species.

The expenditure involved in the control of import of live animals and animal products, including animal skin and fur products, over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2015-16	17.9
2016-17	19.0
2017-18	19.7
2018-19	25.2
2019-20 (revised estimate)	30.1

The information on the number of inspections and quarantine operations at various boundary control points and the Hong Kong International Airport over the past 5 years is as follows:

Year	Number of inspections and quarantine operations	
	Boundary control points	Hong Kong International Airport
2015	5 000	93 300

Year	Number of inspections and quarantine operations	
	Boundary control points	Hong Kong International Airport
2016	4 600	86 800
2017	5 600	91 600
2018	4 700	80 700
2019	5 300	59 400

- (d) The information on pangolin scales or products seized under the Ordinance over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of cases	19	23	20	54	11
Weight of pangolin scales or products seized (kg)	6 400	15 400	7 900	17 600	8 940
Number of persons arrested	15	14	18	37	16
Number of persons convicted	0	6	8	8	8
Maximum penalty	N/A [^]	Imprisonment of 2 months	Imprisonment of 2 weeks	Imprisonment of 4 weeks	Imprisonment of 20 months
Minimum penalty	N/A [^]	\$1,000	Imprisonment of 2 weeks, suspended for 18 months	Imprisonment of 2 weeks, suspended for 18 months	170 hours of community service

[^] No prosecution was instituted.

The last loading places of the pangolin scales or products seized were mainly African countries such as Nigeria, Cameroon and Mozambique.

The information on ivory and elephant skin seized under the Ordinance over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of cases	105	41	64	55	23
Weight of ivory seized (kg)	1 600	530	7 300	372	2 058
Quantity of elephant skins seized	1	4	0	0	0

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
(pieces)					
Number of persons arrested	57	30	60	51	21
Number of persons convicted	30	25	47	42	18
Maximum penalty	Imprisonment of 6 months	Imprisonment of 8 months	Imprisonment of 3 months	Imprisonment of 4 months	Imprisonment of 6 weeks
Minimum penalty	\$30,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$5,000	Imprisonment of 2 weeks, suspended for 24 months

The last loading places of the illegally imported ivory were mainly African countries such as Nigeria, Zimbabwe and South Africa. Ivory seized from inbound passengers or postal parcels was mostly worked ivory or semi-processed ivory while ivory seized from sea containers was mostly raw tusks and large cut pieces.

The information on reptile skin products seized under the Ordinance over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of cases	51	61	51	52	46
Quantity of reptile skin products seized (pieces)	294	424	253	241	478
Number of persons arrested	0	2	4	4	0
Number of persons convicted	0	2	4	4	0
Maximum penalty	N/A [^]	\$12,000	Imprisonment of 2 weeks	Imprisonment of 6 weeks	N/A [^]
Minimum penalty	N/A [^]	\$6,000	Imprisonment of 2 weeks, suspended for 2 years	Imprisonment of 1 week, suspended for 18 months	N/A [^]

[^] No prosecution was instituted.

Most of the seized reptile skins were leather products of crocodile, python and water monitor. Their last loading places were mainly European countries such as Switzerland, France and Spain.

The information on bear bile products seized under the Ordinance over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of cases	0	0	1	2	2
Weight of bear bile products seized (g)	0	0	10.0	91.0	25.5
Number of persons arrested	0	0	0	2	1
Number of persons convicted	0	0	0	2	1
Maximum penalty	N/A [^]	N/A [^]	N/A [^]	\$20,000 and imprisonment of 4 months, suspended for 24 months	Imprisonment of 6 weeks, suspended for 24 months
Minimum penalty	N/A [^]	N/A [^]	N/A [^]	\$5,000	N/A

[^] No prosecution was instituted.

The seized bear gall bladder products were all bear bile powder and the last loading places were the Mainland, Nigeria and Myanmar.

- (e) Since the Amendment Ordinance came into effect on 1 May 2018, the maximum penalties for offences related to illegal trade in endangered species have been increased to a fine of \$10 million and imprisonment for 10 years for Appendix I species and a fine of \$1 million and imprisonment for 7 years for Appendix II or III species. More serious cases of smuggling of endangered species were tried at District Courts instead of Magistrate Courts and the sentences handed down have been increased significantly. For instance, the penalty imposed in a case of illegal import of 1.3 kg rhino horn was an imprisonment of 12 months and that in another case of illegal export of 2.6 kg wood chips of Incense Tree was an imprisonment of 24 months. The penalties imposed in similar cases before the increase in the maximum penalties were imprisonment of 2 weeks and 2 months respectively. AFCD believes that the much heavier penalties imposed by the court would send a clear message to the public about the seriousness of such offences and provide a stronger deterrent against the illegal trade in endangered species.
- (f) to (h) The objective of CITES is to strengthen trade control through adoption of effective measures among governments of the contracting parties, so as to effectively protect the endangered species of wild fauna and flora and ensure that the sustainable use of wild fauna and flora will not be affected by international trade. Hong Kong abides by CITES in the protection of endangered species and implements it through enforcing the Ordinance. AFCD works closely with C&ED to combat smuggling of endangered species, including bear gall bladders. By deploying the risk management and intelligence-led approach, C&ED conducts checks on passengers, cargoes, postal parcels and conveyances at

various boundary control points and sea ports to effectively fight against illegal import of endangered species specimens, including animal skin and fur products of endangered species. AFCD also conducts regular inspection at local shops to detect and deter illegal trade in endangered species. Besides, the maximum penalties under the Ordinance have recently been increased by a significant margin to enhance deterrent effect against illegal trade in endangered species. AFCD has no plan to introduce a trade certification/labelling scheme for animal skin and fur products or to prohibit the sale of legally imported products containing ingredients from bear gall bladders.

- (i) Over the past 5 years, all criminal cases involving illegal felling of Incense Trees were handled by the Police under the Theft Ordinance (Cap. 210), the Summary Offences Ordinance (Cap. 228) or the Crimes Ordinance (Cap. 200). The relevant statistics are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of				Penalty (imprisonment / months)		Quantity seized* (kg)
	Cases	Prosecutions	Persons arrested	Persons convicted	Maximum	Minimum	
2015	120	5	16	3	35	30	107
2016	54	8	22	8	30	2	217
2017	53	1	9	1	30 [#]	30 [#]	94
2018	41	0	1	0	N/A [^]	N/A [^]	5
2019	32	0	0	0	N/A [^]	N/A [^]	0

[#] There was only 1 convicted case in 2017.

[^] No prosecution was instituted.

* The quantity of agarwood seized on the persons arrested.

- (j) and (k) Conservation of endangered trees (including Incense Trees) is part of the regular work of AFCD in relation to nature conservation and management of country parks, which includes flora conservation, habitat management, law enforcement, education and publicity activities. To tackle illegal felling of Incense Trees, AFCD has implemented a species action plan for Incense Trees, which covers a series of measures, including:

- (i) establishment of a special task force to conduct targeted patrol of sites with important populations of Incense Tree, in addition to regular patrols in country parks and special areas;
- (ii) working closely with the Police in gathering and exchanging intelligence, conducting joint law enforcement operations at black spots and investigation of illegal tree felling cases, and enhancing the awareness and vigilance of the public about such offences through social media as well as various education and publicity programmes;
- (iii) enhancing liaison and cooperation with concern groups and villagers living near Incense Trees for intelligence gathering and reporting of any illegal felling activities;

- (iv) conducting a pilot scheme using infrared sensor camera traps to monitor illegal felling of Incense Trees at several strategic locations;
- (v) installing tree guards to prevent felling or vandalism of important individuals of Incense Tree;
- (vi) dressing the wounds of damaged trees with anti-fungal paint to suppress the formation of agarwood in order to discourage illegal harvesting;
- (vii) organising training sessions to help frontline staff of the Police and C&ED identify Incense Trees/agarwood and detect illegal activities;
- (viii) deploying sniffer dogs to facilitate detection of agarwood smuggling at land boundary control points;
- (ix) stepping up the extensive planting of Incense Trees in country parks. Since 2009, about 10 000 seedlings of Incense Trees have been produced and planted every year to assist in the re-stocking of this species in Hong Kong; and
- (x) supporting various research studies and activities to conserve this native species and enhance public awareness in this aspect.

In addition, long-term monitoring of important populations of Incense Trees is in place to monitor its conservation status and check on the effectiveness of the protection measures. The resources involved in implementing the above measures were absorbed in the allocation for nature conservation and management of country parks, hence no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved is available. However, starting from 2020-21, AFCD will allocate an additional provision of \$8.5 million to enhance support for the above measures.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB199

(Question Serial No. 6709)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

- (a) Please provide, by year, the Department's total expenditure and an exhaustive breakdown of the expenditure involved in dealing with the wild pig issue, including the handling of complaints from the public, administrative expenses and manpower, etc. over the past 5 years and in 2020-21.
- (b) Please set out, by year, the work details, manpower, number and location of wild pigs administered with contraceptive drug, total expenditure and an exhaustive breakdown of the expenditure, including the expenditure on the purchase the contraceptive drug GonaCon™, commissioning of contractor, overall salaries expenditure, etc. involved in the Capture and Contraception/Relocation Programme of Wild Pigs (CCRP) since its implementation and in 2020-21.
- (c) Please set out the number of complaints about wild pigs by district over the past 5 years.
- (d) What are the locations and number of wild pig nuisance blackspots? What is the number of blackspots covered by CCRP?
- (e) It is stated in the Audit Report last year that CCRP covered only 53% of the blackspots, but the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) had no plan to cover the remaining 47% of the blackspots in the programme. Will the Department consider covering the remaining 47% of the blackspots? If yes, what are the details and timetable of the work involved? If not, what are the reasons?
- (f) Are there any wild pigs that developed side effects or other adverse reactions after being administered with the contraceptive drug? If yes, what are the number of wild pigs and details?
- (g) It is stated in the Audit Report last year that as at 31 May 2019, only 6 (9%) out of the 64 wild pigs administered with the vaccine and released back to the wild had been

recaptured for pregnancy tests to evaluate the effectiveness of the vaccine. While the study on the vaccine was scheduled for completion in October 2019, due to the limited number of wild pigs recaptured, the contractor had not yet obtained enough samples as at 31 July 2019 to evaluate the effectiveness of the vaccine. Why did the contractor fail to meet the target? What will its contract expire? Will the Department appoint another contractor upon expiring of the contract concerned?

- (h) What measures does the Department have on expediting the evaluation of the contraceptive vaccine? What is the current number of wild pigs administered with the vaccine, released back to the wild and recaptured for pregnancy tests? Are there enough samples to conduct the evaluation? If yes, what are the details of the effectiveness of the vaccine? If not, when is it expected to obtain enough samples?
- (i) It is stated in the Audit Report last year that while a population control programme (i.e. CCRP) has been implemented for wild pigs, AFCD has not regularly conducted population surveys of wild pigs. AFCD indicated that a pilot study for wild pig population had been commenced in April 2019 and the first batch of data had been collected for studying the effectiveness of the techniques used in the population survey. In this connection, what are the principles and objectives adopted by the Department in devising the wild pig population control programme when the number of wild pigs in Hong Kong is uncertain?
- (j) What are the details of the technology adopted in the “Pilot Study for Wild Pig Population”? Has the effectiveness of the technology been evaluated? If yes, what is the outcome? If not, what are the reasons for the lengthy process? What are the challenges?
- (k) It is stated in the Audit Report last year that as at 31 May 2019, only 66 (86%) of the 77 wild pig nuisance blackspots had banners put up to remind people of the need to refrain from feeding wild and stray animals and to advise people of the precautions to be taken when encountering wild animals. How many wild pig nuisance blackspots have banners put up?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

- (a) The expenditure and manpower of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) involved in wild pig management over the past 5 years and the estimated expenditure and manpower involved in this respect in 2020-21 are tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (number of staff)
2015-16	1.8	12*
2016-17	2.4	12*
2017-18	6.8	6
2018-19	9.9	14

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (number of staff)
2019-20 (revised estimate)	13.8	26
2020-21 (estimate)	23.7	31

* The nuisance caused by monkeys and wild pigs was handled by the same group of staff before 2017. However, since the establishment of a dedicated team in 2017, the existing 12 staff members have become mainly responsible for handling monkey nuisance and rescue of wildlife, as well as assisting in handling wild pig nuisance where necessary.

There is no separate breakdown of the expenditure involved in handling public complaints, administrative expenses for wild pig management, etc.

- (b) AFCD has tried implementing the pilot Capture and Contraception/Relocation Programme (CCRP) to handle nuisance caused by wild pigs in urban areas since late 2017. To enable a more effective control of the number of wild pigs causing nuisance to urban areas, AFCD has regularised CCRP in phases since 2019-20 to vaccinate or sterilise wild pigs caught or rescued where the condition permits. AFCD's expenditure on the pilot CCRP since the launch of the programme and the estimated expenditure in this respect in 2020-21 are tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2017-18	3.8
2018-19	6.2
2019-20 (revised estimate)	6.8
2020-21 (estimate)	10.0

There is no separate breakdown of the expenditure involved in the pilot CCRP.

As of February 2020, the number of wild pigs administered with contraceptive vaccine by district is tabulated as follows:

District	Number of wild pigs administered with contraceptive vaccine		
	Year		
	2017-18 (From October 2017)	2018-19	2019-20 (as of February 2020)
Central and Western	0	7	5
Wan Chai	3	7	6
Eastern	0	2	3
Southern	11	16	10
Tuen Mun	0	6	5
North	0	1	2
Tai Po	0	2	2

District	Number of wild pigs administered with contraceptive vaccine		
	Year		
	2017-18 (From October 2017)	2018-19	2019-20 (as of February 2020)
Sha Tin	0	3	11
Sai Kung	0	2	7
Tsuen Wan	0	0	2
Yuen Long	0	0	1
Total	14	46	54

- (c) Over the past 5 years, the number of cases about wild pig sighting or nuisance received by AFCD by district is tabulated as follows:

District	Number of reports on wild pig sighting or nuisance				
	Year				
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (as of January 2020)
Central and Western	37	34	74	102	97
Wan Chai	21	35	59	93	65
Eastern	38	40	36	60	45
Southern	115	139	205	249	190
Yau Tsim Mong	0	0	1	0	0
Sham Shui Po	5	18	5	4	22
Kowloon City	0	1	3	12	10
Wong Tai Sin	29	31	12	25	15
Kwun Tong	1	6	5	12	17
Kwai Tsing	6	11	12	18	27
Tsuen Wan	9	18	57	32	66
Tuen Mun	19	26	38	51	45
Yuen Long	30	16	24	20	23
North	17	37	26	31	20
Tai Po	53	67	54	75	68
Sha Tin	51	78	53	87	97
Sai Kung	68	79	111	127	137
Islands	11	7	12	10	6
Total	510	643	787	1 008	950

- (d) and (e) AFCD adopts a multi-pronged approach to deploy measures with regard to the cause of wild pig nuisance in each case. CCRP is one of the management measures, which is taken mainly for dealing with nuisance caused by wild pigs that are accustomed to feeding and often appears near residential areas. Since some of the nuisance black spots only involve wild pigs searching for food among outdoor refuse, maintenance of environmental hygiene is more effective in dealing with wild pig nuisance when compared to catching operations. After

the food source has been removed in some of the black spots, the nuisance problem will be solved and there will be no need to carry out catching operations. In addition, given the hilly and steep terrain of some of the black spots and for the sake of the safety of staff and wild pigs, it is not appropriate to arrange catching operations at those spots and AFCD will take other suitable follow up measures.

The number of wild pig nuisance black spots and the measures taken at those spots by district are tabulated as follows:

District (number of black spots within the district)	Management measures taken/ Number of spots involved				
	Wild pig nuisance problem solved	Pilot CCRP has been carried out	Pilot CCRP will be carried out	Involving environmental hygiene issue only	Not suitable for carrying out catching operations
Central and Western (10)	2	4	3	1	0
Eastern (3)	0	2	1	0	0
Islands (1)	0	0	0	1	0
Kowloon City (1)	0	0	0	1	0
Kwai Tsing (2)	0	0	0	0	2
North (2)	1	0	0	0	1
Sai Kung (9)	1	3	0	4	1
Sha Tin (4)	0	3	0	1	0
Southern (18)	2	14	0	1	1
Tai Po (8)	0	2	2	3	1
Tsuen Wan (5)	4	0	0	0	1
Tuen Mun (4)	0	1	0	2	1
Wan Chai (6)	3	2	0	0	1
Wong Tai Sin (2)	0	0	0	0	2
Yuen Long (2)	2	0	0	0	0
Total (77) (Percentage) (100%)	15 (20%)	31 (40%)	6 (8%)	14 (18%)	11 (14%)

Summarising the above figures, the pilot CCRP has been carried out/planned to be carried out or nuisance has already been solved at 68% of wild pig nuisance black spots. The remaining nuisance black spots will be handled by taking other measures (e.g. stepping up patrol at nuisance black spots or carrying out joint operations with relevant departments). AFCD will continue to monitor the situation of every nuisance black spot and take suitable follow-up measures.

- (f) to (h) According to observation, no wild pigs show obvious side effects or other adverse reactions after being administered with contraceptive vaccine. To assess the effectiveness of the contraceptive vaccine, AFCD has sent a number of samples collected from wild pigs before and after contraceptive vaccination to the U.K. for testing in October 2019. The results indicated that 88% of wild

pigs did not get pregnant again 2 to 21 months after contraceptive vaccination. AFCD will continue to collect samples to assess the effectiveness of the vaccine. To track the vaccinated wild pigs more effectively, AFCD will commission a contractor to explore suitable tracking devices for wild pigs.

- (i) and (j) Wild pigs are generally solitary or live in small groups, secretive, widely distributed, and have extensive home range. Thus, it is very difficult to conduct a large-scale population survey on them. AFCD launched a study to estimate the number of wild pigs in the countryside using infrared camera traps in 2019. It was estimated that there were about 1 800 to 3 300 wild pigs in the countryside all over Hong Kong based on the wild pig population density at the trial sites. AFCD will extend the scope of the study to cover more sites and different seasons in 2020 so as to make a more accurate estimation of the wild pig population in the countryside.
- (k) AFCD has put up publicity banners or posters at 70 wild pig nuisance black spots so far. As the remaining nuisance black spots are located on private property (2 spots) or wild pig nuisance thereof has been solved (5 spots), publicity materials are not displayed at those spots.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**ENB200****(Question Serial No. 3943)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Over the past 3 years, regarding the conservation of biodiversity as well as promotion of sustainable and compatible use of country and marine parks, what were the staff establishment and expenditure involved respectively and the specific measures taken? Please provide the details.

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 85)Reply:

Country and marine parks are designated and managed for the purposes of nature conservation, recreation and education. Therefore, various biodiversity conservation measures are implemented by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in country and marine parks, including vegetation and habitat management, hill fire prevention and fighting, development control, patrols and law enforcement, and ecology and water quality monitoring. AFCD also provides and maintains various facilities to promote compatible use of country and marine parks, including hiking, camping, mountain biking, photo taking, barbecuing, boating, swimming, snorkelling, scuba diving, canoeing and dolphin watching, etc. Relevant education and publicity programmes are conducted for students and the general public. These include school visits, eco-tours, guided tours at visitor or education centres, hiking and tree planting, exhibitions, educational and public engagement workshops, as well as volunteer schemes. To publicise these programmes and promote nature appreciation and conservation, AFCD disseminates the information through leaflets, posters, thematic websites, mobile applications and social media.

AFCD's manpower and recurrent expenditure involved in biodiversity conservation in country and marine parks and promotion of compatible use of country and marine parks over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (revised estimate)

Year	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (revised estimate)
Manpower (number of staff)	720	691	757
Recurrent expenditure (\$ million)	210	230	250

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB201

(Question Serial No. 5136)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Please advise this Committee of the following information over the past 3 years:

- (a) What was the Department's expenditure on animal traps? What was the geographical distribution of animal traps? What were the Department's target animals? What were the types and number of animals caught, and the number of animals which died after falling into the animal traps accidentally;
- (b) The numbers of patrols conducted by the Government to combat illegal hunting by means of animal traps, the manpower deployed for this purpose, the number of illegally installed/possessed animal traps seized, the number of cases in which prosecutions were initiated and the average amount of penalties imposed on the convicted offenders;
- (c) The number of animals injured by illegally installed animal traps and subsequently euthanised by AFCD, and the number of reports received by AFCD on members of the public having been injured by animal traps, with a breakdown by animal type;
- (d) Would the Department designate "black spots of animal trapping" according to the record of illegal animal traps seized over the past 3 years, so as to step up patrols or install monitoring cameras? What measures will be taken to combat illegal installation of animal traps or illegal hunting with animal traps?

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (LegCo internal reference no.: 401)

Reply:

- (a) The expenditure of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) on purchasing and maintaining animal traps over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure ('000)
2017-18	20
2018-19	80
2019-20 (revised estimate)	50

In general, upon receipt of complaints or reports from members of the public regarding nuisances caused by stray animals (mostly cats and dogs), AFCD will conduct follow-up inspections and catching operations using suitable methods including setting up animal traps as necessary. As such, there is no specific location at which the animal traps are set up. Also, all the traps deployed would be retrieved immediately upon completion of the operation.

The types and number of animals caught with animal traps by AFCD over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of animals caught with animal traps				
	Dogs^{Note} (by cage/snare)	Cats^{Note} (by cage)	Pigeons^{Note} (by cage)	Monkeys (by cage/snare)	Wild pigs (by cage, net or dart gun)
2017	118/103	475	273	291/28	106
2018	40/102	299	0	195/29	197
2019	35/35	186	0	216/14	284

Note: The management of stray animals falls under the policy purview of the Food and Health Bureau.

There was no record of animals injured or died due to accidental fall into animal traps set up by AFCD over the past 3 years.

- (b) The number of patrols conducted by AFCD to combat illegal hunting of wild animals by means of animal traps, the manpower deployed, the number of animal traps seized, the number of prosecutions, as well as the average amount of fine of cases subject to a fine penalty over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (as of December 2019)
Number of patrols* (time)	1 847	1 933	1 897
Number of traps seized (piece)	160	332	100
Number of prosecutions [#]	1	0	0
Average fine (\$)	800	N/A	N/A

* 3 to 5 staff members were involved in each patrol.

[#] Offenders have been successfully prosecuted in all cases brought to court.

- (c) Over the past 3 years, no wild animals were euthanised by AFCD due to injury caused by illegally-deployed animal traps. During the same period, AFCD received 1 report on human injury inflicted by illegally-deployed animal traps.

- (d) Under the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170) (the Ordinance), no persons shall, without permission, have in their possession of hunting appliance (including animal traps), or hunt any wild animals by means of hunting appliance. Upon conviction, the maximum penalty is a fine of \$50,000. In addition, if any person hunts or has in his possession of any protected wild animals scheduled under the Ordinance, the maximum penalty is a fine of \$100,000 and an imprisonment for 1 year.

AFCD spares no effort in combating illegal hunting of wild animals, and patrols the countryside regularly, particularly to the sites where animal traps have been found. AFCD will remove any animal traps found immediately, and will display notices to remind the public that using hunting appliances is unlawful and they shall not to commit such an offence. If there is sufficient evidence, AFCD will institute prosecution against the offenders. Apart from patrolling the countryside areas, AFCD will also arrange joint operations with the Hong Kong Police Force and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to step up patrols at sites where animal traps have been found, and to distribute publicity leaflets to the nearby public. AFCD will keep abreast of the latest developments (including the application of surveillance cameras) from time to time, and adopt appropriate measures and technology to facilitate law enforcement.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)017

(Question Serial No. 1713)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Government has implemented a new regulatory regime to strengthen the regulation of animal trading and dog breeding activities since March 2017. In this regard, would the Government advise this Committee of the following information over the past 3 years:

- (a) What were the respective manpower and expenditures involved each year?
- (b) What were the respective numbers of various licences issued each year?
- (c) According to government information, how many dog breeding establishments have been closed down?
- (d) What were the respective numbers of dogs bred locally each year?
- (e) How many times did the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department collect DNA samples of registered breeding dogs and offspring for examination? What was the number of samples that did not pass the DNA test?
- (f) What were the respective numbers of complaints received and substantiated cases each year since the implementation of the new regime? What were the number of prosecutions and the penalties imposed, the numbers of animals involved, as well as the numbers of animals injured and dead?
- (g) What were the number of regular inspections, surprise inspections and decoy operations conducted (including those conducted on the internet)?
- (h) Would the regime be extended to cover cats? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

- (a) Since the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations (Cap. 139B) (the Regulations) came into effect on 20 March 2017, the expenditure and manpower involved in the regulatory work of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) are tabulated below.

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (number of staff)
2017-18	16.1	30
2018-19	17.2	30
2019-20 (revised estimate)	18.8	30

- (b) Since the Regulations came into effect, the number of Animal Trader Licences (ATLs), Dog Breeder Licences (DBLs) and one-off permits issued by AFCD each year is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of licences issued			
	ATL	DBL (category A)	DBL (category B)	One-off permit
2017	338	12	12	1
2018	317	12	22	3
2019	281	9	24	3

- (c) Over the past 3 years, there were 13 licensed dog breeding establishments (including DBL (category A) and DBL (category B)) whose licences were cancelled or not renewed.
- (d) Since the Regulations came into effect, the number of dogs bred by local licensed dog breeding establishments is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of dogs bred by licensed dog breeding establishments
2017	325
2018	1 962
2019	2 061

- (e) Up to 5 March 2020, AFCD has conducted a total of 1 854 DNA parentage tests (including re-verification) for enrolled female dogs and offspring to verify their parental relationship, among which 17 offspring were found to be not tallied with the parentage of the enrolled female dogs as specified on the Dog Breeder's Declaration. AFCD has conducted follow-up investigations.
- (f) Since the Regulations came into effect, information on the number of complaints received by AFCD in relation to animal trading and dog breeding activities, successful prosecutions initiated against breaches of licensing conditions and trading animals without a valid licence or permit, as well as the relevant penalties is tabulated as follows:

Year	Complaints received (number)	Successful prosecutions against breach of licensing conditions		Successful prosecutions against trading animals without a valid licence or permit	
		Number of cases	Range of fine (\$)	Number of cases	Range of fine (\$)
2017	382	0	N/A	11 [*]	400 [#] to 5,000
2018	309	0	N/A	34 [^]	2,000 to 10,000
2019	237	2	2,000	34 [^]	600 to 20,000

^{*} Among the 11 cases, 5 cases occurred in 2016 and the sentence was handed down in early 2017.

[^] 2 cases occurred in 2018 involved 2 defendants. The sentences in relation to the cases were handed down in 2018 and 2019 respectively. Therefore, in the prosecution record of both 2018 and 2019, 1 case was recorded twice.

[#] The minimum sentence imposed for the 5 cases in 2016 was a fine of \$400. The minimum sentence is a fine of \$600 after the Regulations came into effect.

- (g) Since the Regulations came into effect, the number of inspections (including routine ones, surprise checks and decoy operations) conducted on animal trading and dog breeding activities is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number
2017	5 044
2018	4 735
2019	4 259

- (h) AFCD is reviewing the effectiveness of the Regulations and will also conduct a study on the trading of cats in the territory.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)018

(Question Serial No. 1714)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Over the past 3 years, regarding handling of animal cruelty in Hong Kong, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What were the manpower, expenditure and specific details of the work?
- (b) How many reported cases of suspected animal cruelty were received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department?
- (c) What was the number of animals injured and dead?
- (d) What was the number of successful prosecutions instituted under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (the Ordinance) and the penalty imposed on each case?
- (e) How many applications for review of cases under the Ordinance were lodged by the Department of Justice on the grounds that the penalties imposed were too lenient? What were the results of these appeals?
- (f) The Government has proposed reviewing the Ordinance. What is the timeframe concerned?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

- (a), (b) and (d) Upon receiving reports of suspected animal cruelty cases, the Hong Kong Police Force (the Police) and / or the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will conduct investigations. Prosecution will be instituted if there is sufficient evidence.

The manpower and expenditure involved in the above work over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows (the manpower involved has to take up other duties):

Year	Manpower (Number of staff)	Expenditure (\$ million)
2017-18	17	3.0
2018-19	17	3.2
2019-20 (revised estimate)	17	3.3

The number of suspected animal cruelty reports received and details of successful prosecutions under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169) (the Ordinance) initiated by the Police and AFCD over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of suspected animal cruelty reports received*	Number of persons convicted	Penalties imposed	
			Fine (\$)	Range of imprisonment
2017	275	24	4,000	7 days to 1 year
2018	368	21	2,000 to 6,000	14 days to 8 months
2019 (up to September)	288	19	2,000 to 8,000	20 days to 2 months

* Upon investigation, most of the cases were found to be related to nuisance with no elements of cruelty.

- (c) The Police and AFCD do not have the figures of animals injured and dead in the local animal cruelty cases over the past 3 years.
- (e) Over the past 3 years, the Department of Justice (DoJ) lodged two applications on the same case for review of sentence in 2017. Initially, the application for review of sentence in respect of the charge of “cruelty to animals” under the Ordinance was submitted to the magistracy. Upon review, the sentence was increased from 3 to 4 months’ imprisonment. DoJ further applied to the Court of Appeal for review of this sentence (4 months’ imprisonment) but the appeal was rejected and the sentence remained at 4 months’ imprisonment.
- (f) Having launched a three-month public consultation exercise in 2019 on enhancement of animal welfare, the Government is now examining the views received and plans to report the findings of the consultation and the way forward to the Legislative Council Panel concerned in April this year. Upon finalising the legislative proposals, we will commence the drafting work of the legislation.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)019

(Question Serial No. 1715)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the subvention for animal welfare organisations (AWOs), would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What was the number of partner AWOs of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 3 years? Are there any plans to explore collaboration with more organisations?
- (b) Has AFCD regularly visited the said organisations?
- (c) How many animals were handed to AWOs and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals by the Government each year? What are the successful rate and number of rehoming?
- (d) Please provide in tabular form the number and projects of successful applications for subventions, the amounts of subvention sought by AWOs and the amount of subvention that they have been granted over the past 3 years.
- (e) Will the Government consider extending the scope of subvention to cover rent payment? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- (f) Over each of the past 3 years, what were the number as well as the details of collaboration with AWOs? What are the plans for collaboration in the coming year?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

- (a) The number of partnering animal welfare organisations (AWOs) of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 3 years (2017, 2018 and 2019) was 19, 18 and 18 respectively. AFCD welcomes applications from AWOs to

become rehoming partners of the Department and has uploaded the application details to the thematic website (<http://www.pets.gov.hk>).

- (b) In general, AFCD will visit the relevant facilities of AWOs while assessing their applications and will only visit them where necessary afterwards. AFCD plans to visit the rehoming partners with animal facilities regularly from the coming year in order to strengthen communication and regulation. In view of the current situation in relation to COVID-19, we have cancelled the visits originally scheduled to be conducted recently and will resume visiting the organisations regularly when situation permits.
- (c) The number of animals received by AFCD, the number of animals handed to AWOs for rehoming and the respective ratio in each of the past 3 years are tabulated below.

Year	Number of animals received			Number of animals rehomed (rehoming rate)		
	Dogs	Cats	Other animals*	Dogs	Cats	Other animals*
2017	2 926	823	1 883	588 (20.1%)	67 (8.1%)	94 (5.0%)
2018	2 254	689	6 316 [#]	577 (25.6%)	89 (12.9%)	87 (1.4%)
2019	1 865	442	3 201 [^]	547 (29.3%)	78 (17.6%)	44 (1.4%)

* Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptiles and birds, etc.

[#] The increase in number was mainly due to more animals confiscated under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) and birds seized and culled upon detection of avian influenza in Yuen Po Street Bird Garden in April 2018.

[^] This mainly includes the number of animals confiscated under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586).

- (d) The requested information is tabulated at the **Annex**.
- (e) At present, subventions to AWOs are granted on a project-by-project basis, but do not cover recurrent expenditures such as rentals, staff remuneration, etc. Many AWOs mainly rely on foster homes to take care of animals to be adopted. This practice can provide more opportunities for the animals to interact with people and increase their chance of adoption. AWOs in need of premises running rehoming centres may consider vacant government sites, including vacant school premises sites, under the management of the Lands Department that are available for leasing by non-governmental organisations for community purposes on short-term basis. Non-profit making AWOs may also apply for subsidies from a funding scheme run by the Development Bureau to carry out one-off, basic and necessary restoration works so as to put the vacant government sites fit-for-use as rehoming centres.
- (f) AFCD and AWOs have jointly organised 24 events (8 in 2017, 9 in 2018 and 7 in 2019) such as pet adoption days, carnivals etc. over the past 3 years to promote animal rehoming and welfare. AFCD will continue to work closely with AWOs to organise events for publicising and promoting animal welfare.

(i) Subvention from AFCD to AWOs (applied for in 2016-17 and released in 2017-18)

	AWOs	Projects under application	Amount sought (\$)	Amount released (\$)
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	To run the animal adoption centre, provide food and veterinary care for rehoming animals and conduct education and publicity programmes	120,000	84,602
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To provide vaccination and food for rehoming animals	218,400	130,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	To provide preventive medical treatment for rehoming animals	1,962,000	100,000
4	Society for Abandoned Animals	To produce educational materials for promoting animal welfare and responsible pet ownership	53,040	42,000
5	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To produce educational materials and provide medical treatment for sick rabbits	62,000	45,120
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	To provide preventive medical treatment and food for rehoming dogs	320,000	46,000
7	Cheung Chau Animal Care	To operate a rehome scheme and conduct education and publicity programmes	80,000	28,000
8	Hong Kong Cats	To promote adoption, produce educational materials and further improve the organisation website	40,500	18,300
Total			2,855,940	494,022

(ii) **Subvention from AFCD to AWOs (applied for in 2017-18 and released in 2018-19)**

	AWOs	Projects under application	Amount sought (\$)	Amount released (\$)
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	To run the animal adoption centre, provide food and veterinary care for rehoming animals and conduct education and publicity programme	140,000	83,329
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To provide preventive care and food for rehoming animals	324,000	130,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	To enhance rehoming facilities	1,629,579	82,000
4	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To produce educational materials and provide medical treatment for sick rabbits	60,000	47,960
5	Sai Kung Stray Friends	To provide preventive medical treatment and food for rehoming dogs	400,150	48,000
6	Cheung Chau Animal Care	To operate a rehome scheme and conduct education and publicity programmes	80,000	28,000
7	Hong Kong Cats	To produce educational materials for promotion of animal welfare and adoption	24,700	16,522
8	Hong Kong Paws Guardian	To conduct education and publicity for responsible pet ownership	92,000	0*
9	Kirsten's Zoo	To provide preventive care and food for rescued and rehomed animals	270,000	45,000
10	Animal Friends	To provide medical treatment for rehoming animals	250,000	45,000
11	Hong Kong Saving Cat and Dog Association	To enhance public awareness on animal welfare and adoption	62,390	45,000
Total			3,332,819	570,811

* No claims for reimbursement from the AWO concerned have been received.

(iii) **Subvention from AFCD to AWOs (applied for in 2018-19 and released in 2019-20)**

	AWOs	Projects under application	Amount sought (\$)	Amount released (\$)
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	To run the animal adoption centre, provide food and veterinary care for rehoming animals and conduct education and publicity programme	130,000	117,552
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To provide preventive care and food for rehoming animals	345,600	250,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	To educate children on responsible pet ownership and adoption	926,000	120,000
4	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To produce educational materials and provide medical treatment for sick rabbits	125,000	118,450
5	Sai Kung Stray Friends	To provide medical treatment and food for rehoming dogs	401,537	150,000
6	Cheung Chau Animal Care	To operate a rehome scheme and conduct education and publicity programmes	80,000	53,500
7	Hong Kong Cats	To conduct publicity for adoption	16,000	4,408
8	Society for Abandoned Animals	To refurbish the electric power system of the animal centre	189,450	120,000
9	Kirsten's Zoo	To provide preventive care and food for rescued and rehomed animals	285,000	120,000
10	Animal Friends	To provide medical treatment for rehoming animals	300,000	150,000
11	Hong Kong Saving Cat and Dog Association	To enhance public awareness on animal welfare and adoption	63,079	50,000
Total			2,861,666	1,253,910

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)020

(Question Serial No. 1716)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) programme for community dogs, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The time set for achieving the performance targets is rather short, which cannot reflect the actual effectiveness of the programme. Will the Government carry out another assessment? If yes, what are the details? Will the assessment be re-submitted to the Legislative Council?
- (b) Currently, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department takes a passive role in the implementation of the programme by rendering assistance to organisations only. Will the Government actively explore suitable locations in the territory for conducting the programme?
- (c) Has the Government received any proposal from organisations to conduct the programme in some districts? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- (d) Has the Government earmarked any resource for carrying out the TNR programme again? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- (e) Will the Government introduce the programme to the 18 District Councils in order to seek support for carrying out phase 2 of the programme? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

- (a) Although the three-year Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) trial programme for stray dogs has been completed in 2018, the 2 concerned animal welfare organisations (AWOs) have agreed to continue to monitor the number of dogs recorded for the

trial programme, and regularly provide the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) with the information on the condition, average lifespan and changes of the population of the dogs concerned in the coming years. AFCD would make use of the data concerned for further assessment in due course. We would consider the next step forward subject to findings of the assessment.

- (b) to (e) While the trial programme did not achieve the predetermined performance targets, AFCD keeps an open mind towards rendering assistance to AWOs in conducting similar programmes in other specific locations. To this end, AFCD issued letters to AWOs inviting their views on sites that may be suitable for conducting the TNR trial programme. The letter is also available on the Department's thematic website (www.pets.gov.hk). AFCD will consider a range of factors, including population density, community facilities in the vicinity, and traffic condition, in order to determine if a specific location is suitable for conducting such a programme. If a location is found suitable, AFCD will facilitate the liaison between the coordinating AWOs and the District Councils concerned as well as the local stakeholders in order to introduce the programme, with a view to enlisting their support, and seeking approval from the Legislative Council for the relevant legislative exemption.

So far, AFCD has not received any formal proposal from AWOs to launch the programme at specific locations, and no resources have been earmarked specifically for this purpose at this stage. Subject to the availability of suitable location(s), AFCD will review the resources requirement.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)021

(Question Serial No. 1717)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the operation of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department over the past 3 years, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The number of animals caught each year and their respective types;
- (b) The number of animals received by each animal management centre each year and their sources;
- (c) The number of animals neutered, rehomed and euthanised by animal type;
- (d) The manpower and turnover rates of each animal management centre;
- (e) The operational expenditure of each animal management centre;
- (f) The number of inspections conducted each year;
- (g) The number of dog training courses organised for dog owners, and the content and effectiveness of the courses;
- (h) The number of enforcement actions and prosecutions taken;
- (i) The number of animals permitted to be exported and imported and the number of smuggled animals.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

- (a) At present, stray animals caught will be sent to the 4 animal management centres (AMCs) under the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in the New Territories North (NTN), New Territories South (NTS), Kowloon (K) and Hong Kong Island (HK) respectively. The number of stray animals caught over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Stray animals caught			
	Dogs	Cats	Other Animals ¹	Total
2017	1 566	674	1 640	3 880
2018	1 235	547	1 369	3 151
2019	965	304	1 031	2 300

¹ Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), cattle, reptiles and poultry/birds, etc.

- (b) The number of animals received and kept over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

AMC	2017			2018			2019		
	Dogs	Cats	Others ²	Dogs	Cats	Others ²	Dogs	Cats	Other ²
AMC / HK	451	147	26	342	101	11	282	52	17
AMC / K	584	266	72	409	219	44	294	121	35
AMC / NTS	500	131	128	364	111	100	394	88	134
AMC / NTN	1 391	279	1 552	1 139	258	6 033 ³	895	181	2 890 ⁴
Total	2 926	823	1 778	2 254	689	6 188	1 865	442	3 076

² Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptiles, pigs and poultry/birds, etc.

³ The increase in number was mainly due to more animals confiscated under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) and birds seized and culled upon detection of avian influenza in Yuen Po Street Bird Garden in April 2018.

⁴ This mainly includes the number of animals confiscated under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586).

Most animals received and kept were stray animals caught by AFCD, animals surrendered by owners and seized animals. A separate breakdown of animals received by each AMC by source is not available.

- (c) The number of rehomed animals desexed by veterinary clinics engaged by AFCD over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of rehomed animals desexed		
	Dogs	Cats	Rabbits
2017	264	21	1
2018	157	36	6
2019 (up to November)	122	43	5

The number of animals rehomed over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of animals rehomed		
	Dogs	Cats	Others ⁵
2017	588	67	94
2018	577	89	87
2019	547	78	44

⁵ Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), cattle, reptiles and birds, etc.

The number of animals euthanised over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of animals euthanised		
	Dogs	Cats	Others ⁶
2017	1 478	381	801
2018	1 026	333	5 007 ⁷
2019	837	219	2 363 ⁸

⁶ Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptile, pigs / cattle and poultry / birds, etc.

⁷ The increase in number was mainly due to more animals confiscated under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) and birds seized and culled upon detection of avian influenza in Yuen Po Street Bird Garden in April 2018.

⁸ This mainly includes the number of animals confiscated under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586).

- (d) The staff establishment of AMCs and turnover rate over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Total number of posts in the 4 AMCs ⁹		Turnover rate	
	Veterinary Officer	Technical / Frontline staff	Veterinary Officer	Technical / Frontline staff
2017-18	4	183	0%	7.7%
2018-19	4	184	0%	9.8%
2019-20	4	183	0%	8.7%

⁹ The 4 AMCs are overseen by 1 Senior Veterinary Officer.

- (e) The operational expenditure of the 4 AMCs over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Operational expenditure (\$ million)			
	AMC / NTN	AMC / NTS	AMC / K	AMC / HK
2017-18	23.8	16.9	21.2	15.3
2018-19	26.5	18.7	22.0	18.7
2019-20 (revised estimate)	26.4	18.3	21.9	18.7

- (f) and (h) The number of inspections conducted (relating to licensed animal trading, dog breeding, boarding, riding and temporary exhibition establishments) and number of successful prosecutions against owners/operators of these premises over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of inspections	Number of successful prosecutions	Maximum amount of fine	Minimum amount of fine
2017	5 885	0	N/A	N/A
2018	5 596	0	N/A	N/A
2019	5 195	2	\$2,000	\$2,000

- (g) The number of sessions and participants of the Dog Obedience Training Course held by AFCD over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of sessions held	Number of participants
2017	5	210
2018	8	188
2019	7	173

The Dog Obedience Training Course consists of theoretical and practical sessions. In theoretical sessions, learners gain knowledge of basic dog obedience training, including dog behaviours and mentality, positive reinforcement training methods as well as various training tools and techniques, etc. For practical sessions, learners shall attend with their dogs in order to learn the skills and relevant actions of giving orders and treats to dogs.

According to the data collected from the course evaluation survey, learners generally agree that the course has facilitated them to understand the basic obedience training skills, including how to give commands and when to give treats to their dogs, etc. We will review and adjust the course taking into account the feedback from the learners in a timely manner.

- (i) The import of live animals and birds is regulated under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) Ordinance (Cap. 139) and the Rabies Ordinance (Cap. 421). The importers must obtain permits from AFCD prior to importation. The number of permits issued over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of permits issued¹⁰
2017	7 796
2018	7 896
2019	8 289

¹⁰ Since one permit may cover one or multiple animals of different species, a breakdown on the number of permits by species is not available.

Export of animals does not require AFCD's approval in general. However, AFCD will issue animal health certificates as necessary. The number of animal health certificates for exporting animals issued by AFCD over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of animal health certificates issued¹¹
2017	4 543
2018	5 394
2019	7 488

¹¹ Since an animal health certificate may cover one or multiple animals of different species, a separate breakdown on the number of such certificates issued by species is not available.

The number of live animals seized by AFCD over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Cats / Dogs	Other mammals	Birds	Pet reptiles	Food poultry	Food reptiles
2017	27	417	3	3 205	1	3 kg
2018	7	3	533	4 258	0	0
2019	24	31	623	2 159	3	48 kg and 292 reptiles

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)022****(Question Serial No. 1718)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Over the past 3 years, regarding the safety of pet food, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) What were the figures of imported pet food each year, and what was the local demand?
- (b) What were the numbers of complaints received each year, what were the complaints about and what follow-up actions were taken?
- (c) Has the Government investigated into and tested the pet food available in the local market (including those ready-made and freshly made)? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- (d) What were the numbers of local operators engaging in manufacturing, processing and/or import of pet food?
- (e) Will the Government consider regulating the pet food in the market? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)Reply:

- (a) According to the figures of the Census and Statistics Department, the quantity of pet food imported to Hong Kong over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Quantity of pet food imported (kg)
2017	71 451 493
2018	62 782 532
2019	67 435 913

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) does not have figures on local demand for pet food.

- (b) AFCD received 7, 5 and 6 complaints in 2017, 2018 and 2019 respectively, which were mainly related to the quality of pet food and business practices of the sellers. Upon receipt of a complaint, AFCD will contact the complainant and the manufacturer/importer/distributor of the pet food concerned to gather more information of the case, and may, depending on the nature of the case, advise the complainant on possible follow-up actions.
- (c) & (e) AFCD commissioned a study in October 2017 to collect 360 samples of different pet food products commonly available in the Hong Kong market (including dry and wet dog food products, dry and wet cat food products and food products for other pets) to test against the following harmful substances and micro-organisms: *Salmonella*, *Escherichia coli* (including O157), *Listeria monocytogenes*, aflatoxin, melamine, malathion, lead and arsenic. So far the results of all samples tested are within the limits permitted by major pet food producing countries/places. The study has already come to the final stage. Upon completion of the study, AFCD will analyse the findings to assess the safety of pet food products in Hong Kong and plan the way forward.
- (d) AFCD does not have figures related to local operators engaging in manufacturing, processing and/or import of pet food products.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)023

(Question Serial No. 1720)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding local veterinary services and related pet grooming services, please advise this Committee of the following information over the past 3 years:

- (a) The number of local newly registered veterinary surgeons and the countries in which they obtained their qualification;
- (b) The number of veterinary specialists (set out by specialty);
- (c) The change in the ratio of the number of pets to that of veterinary surgeons;
- (d) The number of existing veterinary clinics and the existing regulatory measures on veterinary clinics;
- (e) The number of complaints about veterinary surgeons received each year, reasons for the complaints, details of the cases accepted and the penalties imposed;
- (f) The average time taken by the Veterinary Surgeons Board of Hong Kong for processing each case, and the respective time taken in respect of the cases requiring the longest and shortest processing time; and
- (g) As the pet grooming service lacks monitoring currently, will the Government step up regulation and require the practitioners of the industry to attend eligible courses?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 33)

Reply:

- (a) According to the Veterinary Surgeons Board of Hong Kong (VSB), the number of local newly registered veterinary surgeons over the past 3 years, by the country/place where they acquired qualifications, is tabulated as follows:

Country/place where they acquired their qualifications	Year/ Number of newly registered veterinary surgeons			Breakdown
	2017	2018	2019	
Australia	28	33	24	85
Belgium	1	0	0	1
Canada	2	0	1	3
Europe*	3	1	1	5
Germany	0	0	1	1
Ireland	0	1	1	2
New Zealand	1	2	4	7
South Africa	2	2	2	6
Taiwan	19	32	27	78
United Kingdom	17	14	19	50
United States	3	7	7	17
Total	76	92	87	255

* Holder of a veterinary specialist qualification recognized by the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation

- (b) According to VSB, the number of registered veterinary surgeons in Hong Kong who were authorised to advertise as, or profess to be, specialists in 2017, 2018 and 2019 was 32, 39 and 41 respectively.

Some veterinary surgeons have more than one specialty. Details of the specialties (showing position as at 31 December 2019) are tabulated as follows:

Speciality	Number of veterinary surgeons
Anesthesia and Analgesia	3
Avian Practice	2
Canine and Feline Practice	2
Companion Animals (Internal Medicine)	1
Dental Practice	1
Dermatology	2
Emergency and Critical Care	2
Equine Surgery	1
Exotic Companion Mammal Practice	2
Internal Medicine (Cardiology)	3
Internal Medicine (Oncology)	3
Neurology	1
Ophthalmology	4
Poultry Practice	1
Public Health and Food Hygiene	1
Public Health (Population Medicine)	1
Small Animal Internal Medicine	5

Speciality	Number of veterinary surgeons
Small Animal Surgery	4
Veterinary Pathology	6
Zoological Medicine	1

- (c) According to VSB, the number of local registered veterinary surgeons in 2017, 2018 and 2019 was 920, 988 and 1 049 respectively.

The veterinarian-to-pet ratio is a common indicator for assessing the overall situation of veterinary services: the lower the ratio, the greater the number of veterinary surgeons. According to the Thematic Household Survey Report No. 66 compiled by the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD), there were about 221 100 dogs and 184 100 cats being kept by households in Hong Kong in 2018. According to VSB's data on the number of registered veterinary surgeons in 2018, the veterinary surgeon-to-pet (dogs and cats) ratio was about 1:410 that year. Nevertheless, C&SD does not have related statistics of 2017 and 2019, and thus the veterinary surgeon-to-pet (dogs and cats) ratio of those 2 years and the changes in the ratio over the 3 years cannot be calculated. The said ratio of Hong Kong in 2018 is far below the ratios of other places (e.g. Singapore (1:2 543), the United Kingdom (1:2 374) and the United States (1:3 072)) (the data is retrieved from the report of study on the development of the veterinary profession in Hong Kong published by VSB in 2017).

- (d) VSB is established under the Veterinary Surgeons Registration Ordinance (the Ordinance) (Cap. 529) and charged with responsibility for the regulation of the practice of veterinary surgery, the registration of veterinary surgeons, and the disciplinary oversight of the professional conduct of registered veterinary surgeons. All registered veterinary surgeons have received professional training before practising in Hong Kong, and obtained the qualifications for registration specified under the Ordinance, and are required to comply with the Ordinance and the Code of Practice for the Guidance of Registered Veterinary Surgeons (CoP) promulgated by VSB. Although VSB does not keep the number of clinics or inspect them regularly, CoP promulgated by VSB includes operational requirements for the relevant clinics, e.g. maintenance of professional relations between veterinary surgeons and their clients, as well as requirements for professional premises and equipment. In addition, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) also provides a list of veterinary clinics for the reference of the public on their thematic website (pets.gov.hk) (this list only includes those clinics which have voluntarily agreed to be listed).
- (e) In accordance with the Rules of the Veterinary Surgeons Board (Disciplinary Proceedings) (the Rules), all complaints received by VSB are first investigated by the Preliminary Investigation Committee, which will determine and advise on whether VSB should conduct a disciplinary inquiry. VSB will then consider whether or not the complaint cases should be referred to the Inquiry Committee for disciplinary inquiry.

The number of complaints about registered veterinary surgeons received by VSB, the number of complaint cases referred to the Inquiry Committee (as at February this year), and the number of cases found substantiated upon completion of disciplinary inquiry hearings over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of complaints received[#]	Number of complaints dismissed after preliminary investigation	Number of complaints referred to Inquiry Committee	Number of inquiry hearings completed within the year	Number of complaints found substantiated upon inquiry hearings
2017	56	42	5	8	4
2018	51	25	0	8	7
2019	41	14	0	2	1

[#] Some of the cases are still being investigated.

The complaints received were mainly related to the process or results of the diagnosis and treatment or surgery provided by the veterinary surgeons.

Over the past 3 years, a total of 12 complaint cases in relation to conviction of disciplinary offences of misconduct or neglect in a professional respect of veterinary surgeons were found substantiated by the Inquiry Committee after conducting inquiry hearings with the following orders made:

Order concerned	Number of cases involved
Reprimand and compulsory participation in continuing professional development programme/professional seminar	11
Reprimand	1
Total	12

- (f) Among the cases received and closed over the past 3 years, the shortest time taken for processing the case was about 1 month while the longest time was about 28 months. The average processing time was about 6 months.
- (g) Currently, operating pet grooming business does not require any licence from AFCD. However, AFCD conducts inspections to relevant shops from time to time to monitor any illegal animal trading or suspected animal cruelty cases. Upon receipt of such complaints or detection of the aforementioned situation during inspections, AFCD will conduct investigations and take corresponding actions, which include conducting joint operations with the Hong Kong Police Force and initiating prosecutions subject to sufficient evidence.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)024****(Question Serial No. 2610)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

What were the expenditures on the promotion of organic cultivation and intensive greenhouse production incurred by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department over the past 5 years, as well as the estimated expenditure on the same aspects in 2020-21?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (LegCo internal reference no.: 56)Reply:

The expenditures of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department on the promotion of organic cultivation and intensive greenhouse production over the past 5 years and the estimated expenditure in this respect in 2020-21 are tabulated below.

Year	Organic cultivation (\$ million)	Intensive greenhouse production (\$ million)
2015-16	5.8	4.9
2016-17	6.4	7.1
2017-18	7.3	7.4
2018-19	8.9	7.6
2019-20 (revised estimate)	9.4	7.7
2020-21 (estimate)	9.4	7.7

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)025

(Question Serial No. 0432)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the regulation of animal trading and dog breeding activities, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) The number of applications for Animal Trader Licences, Category A and Category B Licences as well as one-off permits received, approved, under processing and rejected by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) every year respectively since the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations (Cap. 139B) (Regulations) came into effect.
- (b) The number of complaints received by AFCD in relation to dogs offered for sale on the internet without a licence or one-off permit, and the number and details of complaints which were substantiated and with relevant persons penalised every year since the Regulations came into force.
- (c) The number of routine inspections and surprise checks conducted, and the number of cases of non-compliance with licensing requirements and the additional conditions of the licences by animal traders found in the aforementioned inspections and surprise checks as well as the details of the punishments in each of the past 3 years.
- (d) Has AFCD reviewed the effectiveness of the Regulations? If yes, what are the details and would AFCD consider extending the scope of the Regulations to cover cats? If not, what is the timetable for the review?
- (e) What are the manpower and expenditure involved in the supervision of relevant work by AFCD in the forthcoming year?

Asked by: Hon CHIANG Lai-wan (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

- (a) Since the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations (Cap. 139B) (the Regulations) came into effect on 20 March 2017 and up to end February 2020, the number of applications for Animal Trader Licences (ATL), Dog Breeder Licences (DBL) and one-off permits received, approved, under processing and withdrawn / rejected by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is tabulated as follows:

Licence / Permit	Number of applications			
	Received	Approved	Under processing	Withdrawn / Rejected
ATL	991	911	22	58
DBL (category A)	51	33	4	14
DBL (category B)	87	60	11	16
One-off permit	11	7	0	4

- (b) Since the Regulations came into effect and up to February 2020, AFCD received 328 complaints in relation to dogs offered for sale on the internet without a licence or permit. AFCD followed up all these cases and conducted further investigation (including decoy operations) into 90 cases with suspected illegal dog trading activities. Amongst these cases, 68 cases of dog selling without a permit have been successfully prosecuted, 17 cases are still under investigation and warning letters were issued to the persons involved in the remaining 5 cases.
- (c) Information on the number of inspections (including routine ones and surprise checks) conducted by AFCD in relation to animal trading and dog breeding activities, successful prosecutions against breaches of licensing conditions and trading animals without a valid licence or permit, as well as the relevant penalties is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of routine inspections and surprise checks	Successful prosecutions against breach of licensing conditions		Successful prosecutions against trading animals without a valid licence or permit	
		Number of cases	Range of fine (\$)	Number of cases	Range of fine (\$)
2017	4 995	0	N/A	11 [*]	400 [#] to 5,000
2018	4 625	0	N/A	34 [^]	2,000 to 10,000
2019	4 120	2	2,000	34 [^]	600 to 20,000

^{*} Among the 11 cases, 5 cases occurred in 2016 and the sentence was handed down in early 2017.

[^] 2 cases occurring in 2018 involved 2 defendants. The sentences in relation to the cases were handed down in 2018 and 2019 respectively. Therefore, in the prosecution record of both 2018 and 2019, 1 case was recorded twice.

[#] The minimum sentence imposed for the 5 cases in 2016 was a fine of \$400. The minimum sentence is a fine of \$600 after the Regulations came into effect.

- (d) AFCD is reviewing the effectiveness of the Regulations and will also conduct a study on the trading of cats in the territory.

- (e) In 2020-21, AFCD will continue to deploy 30 staff members to regulate animal trading and dog breeding. A provision of \$18.8 million has been earmarked in this respect.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)026

(Question Serial No. 0433)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to better safeguarding animal welfare, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The number of reported cases of suspected animal cruelty received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) or relevant organisations, the number and details of substantiated cases with penalty imposed on the relevant parties, as well as the number of successful prosecutions instituted under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance and the maximum and minimum penalties imposed in each of the past 3 years;
- (b) The number of applications for review of cases under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance lodged by the Department of Justice on the grounds that the penalties imposed were too lenient as well as the results of these appeals; and
- (c) During 2020-21, AFCD will focus on the public consultation on the review of the existing legislation related to animal welfare, including introducing a positive duty of care on animal keepers. What is the progress of the review?

Asked by: Hon CHIANG Lai-wan (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

- (a) The number of suspected animal cruelty reports received and details of successful prosecutions under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169) (the Ordinance) initiated by the Police and AFCD over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of suspected animal cruelty reports received*	Number of persons convicted	Penalties imposed	
			Fine (\$)	Range of imprisonment
2017	275	24	4,000	7 days to 1 year
2018	368	21	2,000 to 6,000	14 days to 8 months
2019 (up to September)	288	19	2,000 to 8,000	20 days to 2 months

* Upon investigation, most of the cases were found to be related to nuisance with no elements of cruelty.

- (b) Over the past 3 years, the Department of Justice (DoJ) lodged two applications on the same case for review of sentence in 2017. Initially, the application for review of sentence in respect of the charge of “cruelty to animals” under the Ordinance was submitted to the magistracy. Upon review, the sentence was increased from 3 to 4 months’ imprisonment. DoJ further applied to the Court of Appeal for review of this sentence (4 months’ imprisonment) but the appeal was rejected and the sentence remained at 4 months’ imprisonment.
- (c) Having launched a three-month public consultation exercise in 2019 on enhancement of animal welfare, the Government is now examining the views received and plans to report the findings of the consultation and the way forward to the Legislative Council Panel concerned in April this year. Upon finalising the legislative proposals, we will commence the drafting work of the legislation.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)027****(Question Serial No. 2811)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding the basic figures, development impacts, licensing conditions and enforcement of the livestock keeping licences, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Please set out the number of applications for livestock keeping licences processed under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Licensing of Livestock Keeping) Regulation (Cap 139L) during 2015-2019.

Year	Pig farms				Chicken farms			
	Number of new applications received	Number of renewal applications received	Number of new applications approved	Number of renewal applications approved	Number of new applications received	Number of renewal applications received	Number of new applications approved	Number of renewal applications approved
2015								
2016								
2017								
2018								
2019								

- (b) Please set out the change in the number of pig farms and chicken farms, their rearing capacities and the total number of farms each year since 2006 (as at the end of each year).

Up to year end	Pig farms				Chicken farms			
	Number of licences added	Number of licences surrendered	Total number of licences	Rearing capacity	Number of licences added	Number of licences surrendered	Total number of licences	Rearing capacity
2006								
2007								
2008								
2009								
2010								
2011								
2012								
2013								
2014								
2015								
2016								
2017								
2018								
2019								
(Estimated) 31 March 2020								

- (c) Please set out the number and size of the pig farms and chicken farms that are expected to be affected by development projects in the coming 5 years and the development project by which they are affected.
- (d) Please set out in detail the common terms and conditions of the livestock keeping licence for pig farms and chicken farms in terms of livestock keeping, public health, biosecurity measures and environmental protection.

	Common terms and conditions of the livestock keeping licence	
	Pig farms	Chicken farms
Livestock keeping		
Public Health		
Biosecurity measures		
Environmental protection		
Others		

- (e) Compliance with the Code of Practice for Pig Farming is required for pig farm owners in order to enhance the management and hygiene standards of local pig farms. Please set out the number of inspection and law enforcement actions conducted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department according to the Code of Practice for Pig Farming over the past 5 years:

Year	Number of inspections (set out surprise and announced inspections separately)	Number and Nature of Breaches as well as Degree of Threats to Public Health and Environmental Health							
		Grade 1 Minor breaches with no immediate threat		Grade 2 Breaches causing minor threat		Grade 3 Serious breaches causing no immediate threat		Grade 4 Serious breaches causing immediate threat	
		Number of breaches/ Number of pig farms involved	Breaches	Number of breaches/ Number of pig farms involved	Breaches	Number of breaches/ Number of pig farms involved	Breaches	Number of breaches/ Number of pig farms involved	Breaches
2015									
2016									
2017									
2018									
2019									

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (LegCo internal reference no.: 2028)

Reply:

- (a) and (b) Under the prevailing policy, the Government issues no more new Livestock Keeping Licences (LKL) and freezes the total rearing capacity of the livestock farms over the territory to safeguard public health and protect the environment. Currently, there are respectively 43 and 29 licences for pig farms and chicken farms in Hong Kong, with the total rearing capacity amounting to 74 640 pigs and 1 300 500 chickens. During 2015-2019, the number of renewal applications for LKL processed by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is tabulated as follows:

Year/Number	Pig farm		Chicken farm	
	Renewal applied	Renewal approved	Renewal applied	Renewal approved
2015	23	23	8	8
2016	5	5	14	14
2017	16	16	6	6
2018	23	23	8	8
2019	6	6	14	14

- (c) According to the existing information of the Development Bureau, there is a pig farm with licensed area of about 690 m² fell within the remaining phase of the Kwu Tung North New Development Area. Moreover, there are a total of 2 chicken farms (with licensed area of about 1 610 m² and 650 m² respectively) and 3 pig farms (with licensed area of about 2 150 m², 3 130 m² and 7 110 m² respectively) fell within the later phase of the Yuen Long South Development. As the implementation timetable of the said development projects is subject to detailed study, it is not certain at this stage whether the pig farms and chicken farms concerned will be affected in the coming 5 years.
- (d) The information required is tabulated as follows:

Area	Conditions of LKL	
	Pig farm	Chicken farm
Livestock keeping and biosecurity measures	<p>The licensed rearing capacity must be complied with.</p> <p>The use of swill of pork origin or in contact with pork or pork products as pig feeds is banned.</p>	<p>The licensed rearing capacity must be complied with.</p> <p>No movement of chickens, eggs, or feed between the licenced premises and other farms is allowed.</p> <p>Chickens intended for sale must be subject to tests for avian influenza antibody or any other appropriate tests.</p> <p>The biosecurity requirements and the standard operation procedures as set out in the licence must be complied with. The requirements include the hygiene and epidemic prevention facilities in the production areas; control on human movement, materials and vehicles; measures to prevent wild birds and other animals from entering the chicken sheds; placement of sentinel chickens, maintenance of records on disinfection of chicken sheds, chicken movements, and vaccination, etc.</p>
Public health	Livestock carcasses must be properly disinfected, packed and disposed of.	Any dead chicken must be sprinkled with disinfectant powder and completely sealed in double plastic bags before disposal.
Environmental protection	The livestock waste treatment system specified in the licence must be adopted.	
Others	The Water Pollution Control Ordinance (Cap. 358) and the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) must be complied with.	

- (e) The Code of Practice for Pig Farming (CoP) is implemented by AFCD as general guidelines for pig farm operation but no law enforcement action is taken according to CoP. Over the past 5 years, AFCD conducted 430 visits to pig farms with a view to inspecting the implementation of the guidelines and helping the trade to enhance the management of pig farms through education and technical support.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)028****(Question Serial No. 0662)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please advise of the locations of the agricultural land, active agricultural land, and arable land in Hong Kong over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20) (please show with a map). What were the sizes of the said land?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)Reply:

According to the survey on agricultural land use conducted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, the total area of agricultural land in Hong Kong is around 4 300 hectares. The estimated area of agricultural land in active farming use over the past 3 years is tabulated by district below. The survey did not provide information on the boundaries of the relevant land for compiling a location map.

District / Year	Estimated area in active farming use (hectare)*		
	2017	2018	2019
North	280	290	290
Yuen Long	250	230	250
Tai Po	60	90	90
Tuen Mun	40	50	40
Islands	30	30	30
Sai Kung	20	20	20
Tsuen Wan	10	10	10
Others	10	20	20
Total	710*	740*	750*

* Rounded to the nearest 10 hectares

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)029

(Question Serial No. 0664)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding “the expansion of the existing fish culture zones to improve the fish culture environment and promote the development of marine fish culture”, please advise of the following:

- (a) What were the sizes and average densities of rafts in fish culture zones over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)? (Please set out by the 26 fish culture zones.)
- (b) What were the total sizes of fish culture zones over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)?
- (c) What were the expenditures and manpower involved in processing matters related to fish culture zones over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)?
- (d) What is the number of applications for the new marine fish culture licence recently introduced by the Government? When are the licences expected to be issued?
- (e) Regarding the Department's current plan and study on the expansion of existing fish culture zones, please specify the expenditures and manpower involved in the above matters as well as the work progress and effectiveness.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

- (a) The total area and average densities of rafts in the 26 fish culture zones (FCZs) over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

FCZ	Year					
	2017-18		2018-19		2019-20 (up to end-February 2020)	
	Total raft area (m ²)	Raft density* (%)	Total raft area (m ²)	Raft density (%)	Total raft area (m ²)	Raft density (%)
Ap Chau	255	6.1	255	6.1	255	6.1
Cheung Sha Wan	10 248	4.8	9 739	4.5	9 776	4.6
Kai Lung Wan	5 263	19.5	5 508	20.4	5 439	20.1
Kat O	3 386	10.5	3 059	9.4	3 010	9.3
Kau Lau Wan	1 241	11.1	1 202	10.7	1 205	10.8
Kau Sai	12 548	27.2	12 507	27.1	12 524	27.1
Leung Shuen Wan	6 037	34.9	5 826	33.7	5 825	33.7
Lo Fu Wat	1 469	27.2	1 476	27.3	1 531	28.4
Lo Tik Wan	22 026	20.2	21 421	19.6	21 550	19.7
Ma Nam Wat	5 129	12.8	5 380	13.4	5 361	13.4
Ma Wan	13 879	30.0	13 871	30.0	13 853	29.9
O Pui Tong	277	0.3	277	0.3	442	0.4
Po Toi	276	9.2	265	8.8	265	8.8
Po Toi	3 411	8.9	3 423	9.0	3 164	8.3
Sai Lau Kong	142	2.0	142	2.0	132	1.8
Sha Tau Kok	12 582	7.0	11 904	6.6	11 495	6.4
Sham Wan	12 018	6.7	12 220	6.8	12 371	6.9
Sok Kwu Wan	27 020	19.1	26 846	19.0	26 513	18.8
Tai Tau Chau	11 926	19.0	12 168	19.4	12 155	19.4
Tap Mun	7 520	10.4	7 710	10.6	7 670	10.6
Tiu Cham Wan	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Tung Lung Chau	12 703	15.9	11 878	14.8	11 156	13.9
Wong Wan	2 063	9.2	2 063	9.2	2 060	9.2
Yim Tin Tsai	21 120	15.5	21 051	15.4	21 245	15.6
Yim Tin Tsai (East)	19 991	13.4	21 147	14.1	20 636	13.8
Yung Shue Au	35 852	10.5	35 307	10.3	34 559	10.1
Total	248 382	11.9	246 645	11.8	244 191	11.7

* Raft density refers to the ratio of the total raft area of an FCZ to the total FCZ area.

- (b) There is no change in the total area of FCZs over the past 3 years, which is about 209 hectares.
- (c) The expenditure and manpower involved in processing applications related to the marine fish culture licence and conducting patrols and inspections in FCZs over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (number of staff)
2017-18	8.4	21
2018-19	10.6	21
2019-20 (revised estimate)	11.1	21

- (d) Starting from December 2019, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has invited licence holders and persons interested in engaging in mariculture to apply for the new marine fish culture licence. 14 applications were received as at March 2020. The applications are being processed and licences are expected to be issued in the first half of 2020.
- (e) The consultancy study on the identification of new FCZs in Hong Kong has been completed, of which the fee was around \$2 million while the manpower on overseeing the consultancy study was absorbed from within existing resources of AFCD. As recommended in the consultancy study, 4 sites, namely Wong Chuk Kok Hoi, outer Tap Mun, Po Toi (Southeast) and Mirs Bay, were identified with priority for designation of new FCZs. AFCD has commissioned a consultancy to conduct environmental impact assessment on designating these sites as FCZs, which is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2022. The establishment of new FCZs will allow mariculturists to expand their business as well as interested ones to enter into mariculture, and thus increase the capacity of local production of marine fish.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)030

(Question Serial No. 0666)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the New Agriculture Policy, please advise of the following:

- (a) What were the total expenditure and manpower involved in the establishment of the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund, the Agricultural Park and the Agricultural Priority Areas respectively over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)?
- (b) What is the current estimated total expenditure involved in the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund, the Agricultural Park and the Agricultural Priority Areas respectively?
- (c) Since the introduction of the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund and the Farm Improvement Scheme thereunder, how many project applications have been received, approved, rejected and are being examined? What are these projects by type (e.g. planting, culture, industrial buildings or others)?
- (d) Further to the above question, what were the numbers of applications (including those approved and rejected), persons benefited, and, among all, the existing farmers benefited since the introduction of the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund and the Farm Improvement Scheme thereunder over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)?
- (e) What is the progress of the work on the Agricultural Park and the Agricultural Priority Areas? What are the estimated work schedules for the two projects?
- (f) What were the details, expenditure and manpower involved in promoting the sustainable development of agriculture (e.g. the development of eco-tourism, leisure agricultural industries, agricultural industries employing innovative technology and other sustainable agriculture, etc.) over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

- (a) and (b) Over the past 3 years, the expenditure and manpower of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) involved in administering the \$500 million Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund (SADF), preparing for the establishment of the Agriculture Park (the Agri-Park) and commissioning a consultancy study on Agricultural Priority Areas (APAs) are tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)
2017-18	7.5	16
2018-19	8.1	17
2019-20 (revised estimate)	16.0	22

- (c) and (d) As at February 2020, a total of 302 applications seeking financial assistance for individual farms to acquire farming equipment and/or materials from the Farm Improvement Scheme (FIS) under SADF have been received. 290 applications have been approved, involving a total funding commitment of about \$8.5 million. 3 applications have been rejected and 6 applications have been withdrawn (including 1 approved application). The rest are being processed.

In addition, a total of 37 applications seeking funding support for projects that will benefit the local agricultural industry as a whole have been received. Among them, 10 applications have been approved, 13 rejected, 8 withdrawn by the applicants, 2 returned to the applicants (for further information/re-submission if necessary) and 3 found to be ineligible for application. The remaining 1 application is being processed. 9 approved projects have been implemented in 2019 or early 2020. The applications are categorised as follows:

Category	Number of applications	
	received	approved
Promoting farm mechanisation and modernisation	7	1
Research and development of new products and new farming practices, and transfer of knowledge	21	5
Facilitating rehabilitation of fallow agricultural land	2	0
Brand-building and marketing of local agricultural produce	7	4
Total	37	10

Upon completion of these projects, the actual number of farmers benefiting from

them will be assessed.

- (e) AFCD will establish an Agri-Park in Kwu Tung South to help nurture agro-technology and knowledge of modern farm management. The Agri-Park will be developed in 2 phases. Phase 1 will be developed in a relatively small scale (about 11 hectares) with a view to enabling its partial commissioning for use by farmers as early as possible. Subject to funding approval of the Finance Committee in 2020, the construction works of Agri-Park Phase 1 will commence as soon as possible and is expected to be completed in stages by 2021-23. AFCD is in parallel planning and preparing for the Agri-Park Phase 2.

To support the development of the local agriculture, the Government is conducting a consultancy study to identify relatively large areas of quality agricultural land and explore suitable policies and measures to encourage landowners to put fallow agricultural land back into long-term agricultural use. The consultant is currently reviewing the existing farmland in Hong Kong and studying overseas experience, and will then make recommendations. As a considerable size of agricultural land is involved, it is estimated that the study will take several years to complete.

- (f) AFCD promotes the sustainable development of local agriculture through measures such as (i) developing new farming techniques to raise productivity; (ii) introducing new and improved crop varieties for local cultivation; (iii) promoting leisure farming and organic farming; (iv) assisting in setting up farmers' markets to help farmers reach out to customers and organising the annual FarmFest to showcase local agricultural and fishery production; (v) administering 3 funds to provide loans to farmers as development and/or working capital; and (vi) implementing the various measures under the New Agriculture Policy. The expenditure and manpower involved in the above area of work are tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)
2017-18	48.3	99
2018-19	56.4	114
2019-20 (revised estimate)	74.0	123

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)031

(Question Serial No. 0668)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the surveys on fisheries resources, please advise of:

- (a) the manpower and the expenditures involved over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20) and the timeframe for the surveys;
- (b) the manpower and the expenditures involved in employing external local trawlers to conduct the surveys over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20) and the timeframe of the work;
- (c) the area of the waters involved in, the numbers of and the mechanism put in place for the surveys (please show with a map);
- (d) the ways that the Department currently uses to inform the fishing vessels operating in relevant waters;
- (e) during the surveys, the frequency of contractor monitoring as well as measures taken by the Department's staff on board the subject vessels to ensure that the contract terms are complied with?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 62)

Reply:

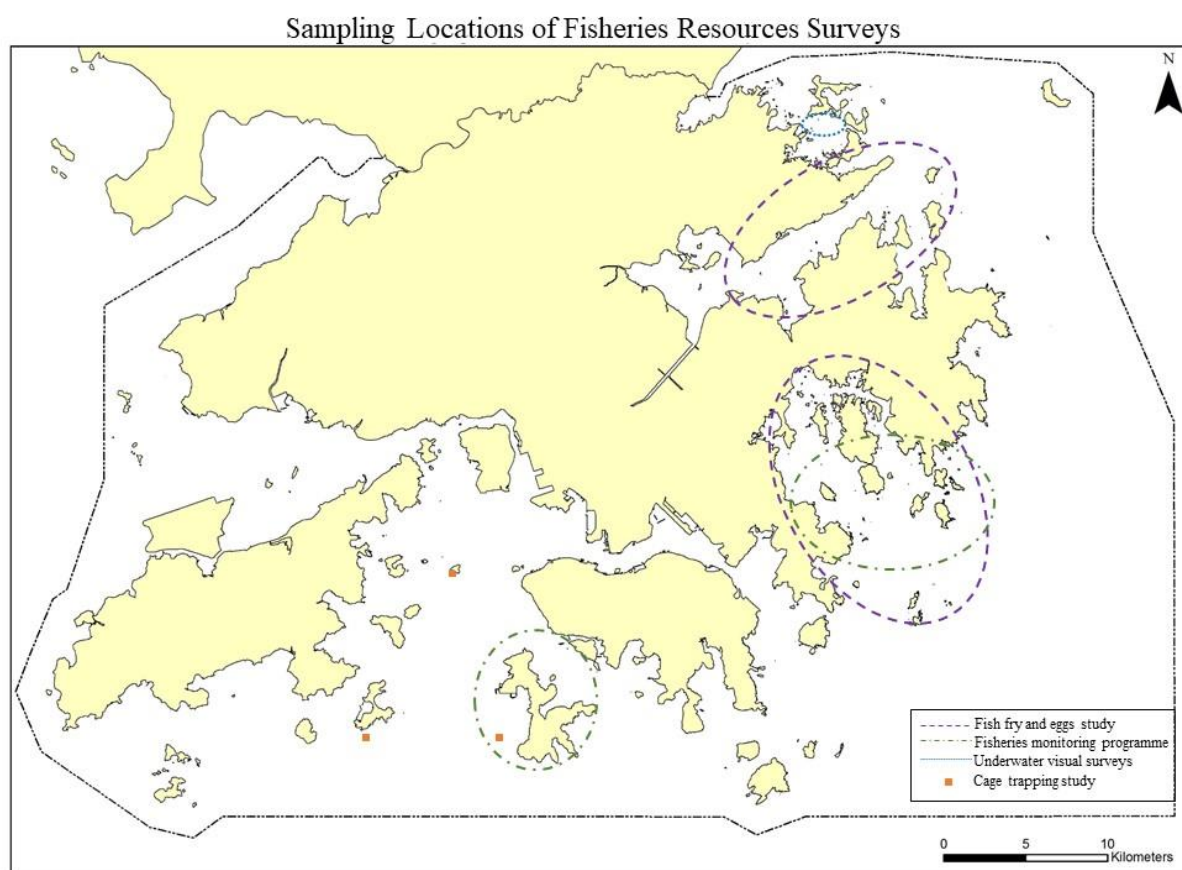
- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) conducted surveys to monitor the status of fisheries resources in Hong Kong waters. The expenditure and manpower involved over the past 3 years are tabulated below.

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (number of staff)
2017-18	3.7	3
2018-19	4.2	3
2019-20 (revised estimate)	12.9	4

- (b) The surveys conducted with trawlers were completed in early 2017 and no trawlers were involved in the surveys since then.
- (c) The surveys mentioned in part (a) above include:
- (i) the surveys on fish fry and eggs which were conducted in wet, dry and peak seasons at the spawning and nursery grounds in the Tolo Channel, Long Harbour and Port Shelter to collect samples;
 - (ii) the surveys on cage trapping which were conducted twice a month to study the impacts of the use of different cage traps on fisheries resources at sampling stations in the waters south of Cheung Chau and near Kau Yi Chau;
 - (iii) the monitoring programme for fisheries resources in Hong Kong waters was undertaken by fishing methods such as cage-trapping, long-lining and gill-netting at sampling stations in the waters near Port Shelter and Lamma Island; and
 - (iv) the surveys to monitor the effectiveness of the restocking exercise, using underwater visual surveys and passive acoustic telemetry to collect monthly data on the fish fingerlings released in the relevant northeast waters of Hong Kong.

A map indicating the sampling stations is at the **Annex**.

- (d) As mentioned above, the surveys conducted with trawlers by AFCD officers were completed in early 2017. All surveys being conducted at present employ non-trawling methods such as cage-trapping, long-lining and gill-netting, which do not generally cause impacts on other fishing vessels in operation. It is therefore not necessary to inform the fishing vessels operating in the waters nearby.
- (e) Over the past 3 years, AFCD officers went on board 55 times to monitor the performance of the contractors. Apart from collecting scientific information on the samples, AFCD officers also took photographs and made records when monitoring the performance of the contractors on board to ensure that the terms of contract were complied with.



- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)032****(Question Serial No. 0669)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Fish farmers shall obtain permits issued by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (the Department) before temporarily relocating their fish rafts out of the fish culture zones. Regarding this matter, please advise on the numbers of the permits concerned that were issued by the Department over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20). Please set out the numbers with a breakdown by the fish rafts in various fish culture zones.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 74)Reply:

The number of permits issued for temporary relocation of fish rafts and the fish culture zones (FCZs) involved over the past 3 years are tabulated below.

Year	Number of permits issued for temporary relocation of fish rafts (FCZs involved)
2017-18	1 (Sok Kwu Wan FCZ)
2018-19	0 (N/A)
2019-20 (up to end February 2020)	2 (Sok Kwu Wan FCZ and Kau Sai FCZ)

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)033

(Question Serial No. 0671)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the issue of cattle being indiscriminately fed with various kinds of food by visitors in rural areas, please advise of the following:

- (a) What is the respective number of inspections carried out by the Department in the light of the indiscriminate feeding of cattle currently? Has the Department found any cases of indiscriminate feeding of cattle over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)? If yes, please provide the number of prosecutions and arrests concerned.
- (b) What are the Department's manpower and expenditure involved in producing publicity banners and posters for this work? In addition, how will the Department enhance the existing mechanism to resolve this issue in 2020-21?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 76)

Reply:

- (a)&(b) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) does not encourage members of the public to feed stray cattle, even though it is not against the law. Stray cattle by nature forage in the wild. Providing food for cattle may affect their natural behaviour and survival instinct, causing them to become reliant on human for food. In 2020-21, AFCD will continue to put up publicity banners and posters to enhance public awareness of stray cattle and remind the public not to disturb or feed stray cattle when encountering them. The manpower and expenditure involved will be absorbed within AFCD's existing resources and hence no separate breakdown is available in this respect.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)034****(Question Serial No. 0672)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding the fish rafts in Hong Kong, please advise of:

- (a) the respective numbers of fish rafts in the 26 fish culture zones of Hong Kong over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20) in tabular form; and
- (b) the manpower and the expenditure involved in conducting inspections at each fish culture zone over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20) and the timeframe for the inspections.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 78)Reply:

- (a) The number of fish rafts in the 26 fish culture zones over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Fish culture zone / Year	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (up to end February 2020)
Ap Chau	4	4	4
Cheung Sha Wan	60	60	57
Kai Lung Wan	39	39	39
Kat O	32	28	28
Kau Lau Wan	20	20	20
Kau Sai	64	64	64
Leung Shuen Wan	65	64	64
Lo Fu Wat	33	33	19
Lo Tik Wan	68	68	67
Ma Nam Wat	42	43	43
Ma Wan	95	94	94

Fish culture zone / Year	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (up to end February 2020)
O Pui Tong	3	3	3
Po Toi	6	6	6
Po Toi O	38	38	35
Sai Lau Kong	2	2	2
Sha Tau Kok	109	110	110
Sham Wan	173	162	163
Sok Kwu Wan	145	141	140
Tai Tau Chau	101	101	101
Tap Mun	70	71	71
Tiu Cham Wan	0	0	0
Tung Lung Chau	58	57	57
Wong Wan	15	15	15
Yim Tin Tsai	254	254	254
Yim Tin Tsai (East)	201	195	196
Yung Shue Au	281	280	278
Total	1 978	1 952	1 930

- (b) To ensure the operation of fish rafts is in compliance with the Marine Fish Culture Ordinance (Cap. 353), the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department conducts regular patrols and inspections in the 26 fish culture zones. The expenditure and manpower involved over the past 3 years are tabulated below. There is no breakdown by individual fish culture zone.

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (number of staff)
2017-18	7.3	18
2018-19	9.8	18
2019-20 (revised estimate)	9.3	18

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)035

(Question Serial No. 0681)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the waters in Hong Kong, in which the entry of fishing vessels and fishing are permitted, please advise of the following:

- (a) Please indicate on a map the areas in which the entry of fishing vessels and different types of fishing operation are permitted.
- (b) Other than restricted areas of the airport, principal fairways, waters subject to the traffic separation scheme (except the dividing strips), various typhoon shelters, the areas stipulated in Section 14 of Cap. 548F of the Laws of Hong Kong, the core areas of marine parks, the marine reserve, fish culture zones, public bathing beaches, waters undergoing reclamation and the Kwai Chung Control Station, are there any other waters in Hong Kong, where fishing and entry of fishing vessels are not permitted? What are the respective sizes of the waters where entry of fishing vessels and fishing are not permitted, and that of the waters where these activities are permitted in Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 87)

Reply:

Hong Kong waters are generally available for fishing with the use of fishing vessels, except in certain areas such as the core areas of marine parks, marine reserve, fish culture zones, typhoon shelters, principal fairways, restricted areas of the airport, public bathing beaches and works areas of reclamation projects. These areas are under the purview of a number of different departments such as the Marine Department for principal fairways, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department for public bathing beaches, various works departments for reclamation projects, and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) for marine parks, marine reserve and fish culture zones. AFCD does not have comprehensive and precise technical information on areas under the administration of different departments.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)036****(Question Serial No. 0683)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding fishing vessels and industry-related vessels, please advise of the following:

- (a) What were the respective numbers of pair trawlers, stern trawlers, shrimp trawlers, hang trawlers, purse seiners with light, purse seiners, liners and gillnetters, fish carriers, other fishing vessels and industry-related vessels over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)?
- (b) What were the number of fishing vessels registered in Hong Kong over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)?
- (c) Among the registered fishing vessels mentioned in part (b), what are the respective number of vessels conducting fishing activities with the methods mentioned in part (a)?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)Reply:

- (a) The Marine Department's (MD) information on the number of fishing vessels (Class III vessel) licensed under the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Certification and Licensing) Regulation (Cap. 548D) over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Type of vessel	Number of local fishing vessels / Year		
	2017	2018	2019
Fish carrier	30	26	29
Fishing sampan "C7"	1 942	1 961	1 892
Fishing vessel	1 949	1 899	1 874
Outboard open sampan "P4"	2 581	2 619	2 599
Total	6 502	6 505	6 394

No further breakdown on the number of fishing vessels is available.

- (b) Vessels navigating in Hong Kong are required to possess a valid operating licence issued by MD which certifies the safety and seaworthiness of the vessel concerned. Vessels engaging in fishing operations in Hong Kong waters are required to further register with the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department under the Fisheries Protection Ordinance (Cap. 171) (the Ordinance). The number of fishing vessels registered under the Ordinance in 2017, 2018 and 2019 is 4 120, 4 145 and 4 116 respectively.
- (c) The breakdown on various fishing methods used by fishing vessels registered in accordance with the procedures in (b) above over the past 3 years is tabulated below:

Fishing method	Number of local fishing vessels / Year		
	2017	2018	2019
Purse seining / purse seining with light	27	32	41
Long lining / hand lining	37	35	36
Gill netting	520	514	516
Cage trapping	39	46	38
Mixed fishing methods	3 497	3 518	3 485
Total	4 120	4 145	4 116

Since trawling is prohibited in Hong Kong waters, no trawler could be registered under the Ordinance.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)037

(Question Serial No. 0684)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

With regard to promoting the sustainable development of the fisheries industry, please advise of the following:

- (a) What were the details, expenditure and manpower involved in promoting the sustainable development of the fisheries industry (e.g. offshore fishing, open sea mariculture, the development of eco-tourism, recreational fishing, fisheries operations employing innovative technology and other sustainable fisheries operations) over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)?
- (b) What were the expenditures and manpower involved in the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF) over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)?
- (c) Since the introduction of SFDF and its Equipment Improvement Project (EIP), how many project applications have been received, approved, rejected and are being examined in total? What are these projects by type (e.g. capture, culture, recreational fishing or others)?
- (d) Further to the above question, what is the number of beneficiaries, and among them, the number of in-service fishermen benefited since the introduction of SFDF and its EIP?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

- (a) The Government has been promoting the sustainable development of the fisheries industry through (i) implementing a series of fisheries management measures to help conserve and restore depleted marine resources such as the ban on trawling since December 2012 and the introduction of a registration system for local fishing vessels; (ii) assisting fishermen in switching to sustainable fisheries operations and helping fish farmers develop sustainable aquaculture through technical support services, credit

facilities and training courses; (iii) promoting good aquaculture practices and enhancing the monitoring of aquaculture environment; and (iv) administering the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF) to help fishermen adopt a sustainable and high value-added operation mode and fund projects and research that help enhance the overall competitiveness of the industry, including developing offshore fishing, deep water mariculture, recreational fishing, ecotourism, etc.

The expenditure and manpower involved in promoting the sustainable development of the fisheries industry over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (number of staff)
2017-18	108.8	106
2018-19	182.9	107
2019-20 (revised estimate)	175.4	109

- (b) The expenditure and manpower involved in the administration of SFDF over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (number of staff)
2017-18	2.5	7
2018-19	2.7	7
2019-20 (revised estimate)	2.8	7

- (c) Since its inception, 50 applications have been received under SFDF and its Equipment Improvement Project (EIP). Details of these applications are tabulated as follows:

Number / Type of applications (as at March 2020)	Aquaculture	Capture fisheries	Recreational fisheries	Others	EIP	Total
Received	28	2	5	6	9	50
Approved	11	1	2	1	8	23
Rejected	8	0	2	4	0	14
Withdrawn by the applicant	4	0	1	1	0	6
Under processing	5	1	0	0	1	7

- (d) As at March 2020, 3 SFDF projects were completed, benefiting around 255 in-service fishermen. Upon completion of more projects including EIPs, more fishermen will be benefited.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)038****(Question Serial No. 0686)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding illegal fishing activities, please advise of the following:

- (a) the respective numbers of (i) patrols and (ii) joint operations conducted in the marine parks/marine reserve set out below over each of the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20);

Year		2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park	Patrol			
	Joint operation			
Yan Chau Tong Marine Park	Patrol			
	Joint operation			
Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park	Patrol			
	Joint operation			
Tung Ping Chau Marine Park	Patrol			
	Joint operation			
Cape D'Aguilar Marine Reserve	Patrol			
	Joint operation			
The Brothers Marine Park	Patrol			
	Joint operation			

- (b) the respective numbers of cases relating to illegal fishing activities in the marine parks/marine reserve mentioned in item (a) over each of the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20) regarding: (i) the number of complaint cases received; (ii) the number of cases relating to illegal fishing activities detected during patrols or joint operations but could not successfully make arrests; (iii) the number of persons arrested and cases; (iv) the number of persons convicted and cases; (v) the maximum and minimum penalties imposed on the persons convicted; and (vi) the number of repeated offenders arrested and cases (please set them out in the table below);

	Year		
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Number of complaint cases received			
Number of cases relating to illegal fishing activities detected during patrols or joint operations (cases which could not successfully make arrests)			
Number of successful arrests (number of persons arrested)			
Number of successful prosecutions (number of persons successfully prosecuted)			
Maximum and minimum penalties			
Number of repeated offences (number of repeated offenders)			

- (c) the respective numbers of (i) patrols and (ii) joint operations conducted in the Hong Kong waters (except in various marine parks/marine reserve) set out below over each of the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20);

		Year		
		2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Waters over the Hong Kong territory	(i)			
	(ii)			
Waters around Cheung Chau	(i)			
	(ii)			
Waters around Shek Kwu Chau	(i)			
	(ii)			
Waters around Soko Islands	(i)			
	(ii)			
Waters off the Brothers	(i)			
	(ii)			
Waters off Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau	(i)			
	(ii)			

- (d) the respective numbers of cases relating to illegal fishing activities in the waters mentioned in item (c) over each of the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20) regarding: (i) the number of complaint cases received; (ii) the number of cases relating to illegal fishing activities detected during patrols or joint operations but could not successfully make arrests; (iii) the number of persons arrested and cases; (iv) the number of persons convicted and cases; (v) the maximum and minimum penalties imposed on the persons convicted; and (vi) the number of repeated offenders arrested and cases (please set them out in the table below);

	Year		
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Number of complaint cases received			
Number of cases relating to illegal fishing activities detected during patrols or joint operations (cases which could not successfully make arrests)			
Number of successful arrests (number of persons arrested)			
Number of successful prosecutions (number of persons successfully prosecuted)			
Maximum and minimum penalties			
Number of repeated offences (number of repeated offenders)			

- (e) Would the Government consider strengthening the measures in combating illegal fishing activities, including: (i) purchasing additional patrol launches; (ii) increasing the number of patrols; (iii) increasing the number of joint operations; (iv) purchasing additional equipment; (v) imposing heavier penalty and (vi) other measures? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- (f) What were the expenditures and manpower involved in enforcement operations against illegal fishing activities over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)?
- (g) What were the numbers of patrol launches, patrol areas and numbers of patrols conducted against illegal fishing activities over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)?
- (h) Regarding illegal fishing activities, what fishing practices were detected during patrols or joint operations over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20), and what were their numbers and percentages involved?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

- (a) The number of (i) patrols conducted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD); and (ii) its joint operations[^] mounted with the Marine Police at marine parks and marine reserve over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year / Location		2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-20 (as at end February 2020)
Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park	(i)	830	841	738
	(ii)	12	13	11
Yan Chau Tong Marine Park	(i)	599	535	471
	(ii)	12	12	7

Year / Location		2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-20 (as at end February 2020)
Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park	(i)	378	405	397
	(ii)	0	0	0
Tung Ping Chau Marine Park	(i)	556	513	458
	(ii)	12	10	5
Cape D'Aguilar Marine Reserve	(i)	388	479	424
	(ii)	0	0	0
The Brothers Marine Park	(i)	426	441	409
	(ii)	0	0	0

[^] Concurrently with operations of relevant Mainland authorities in nearby Mainland waters in some cases.

- (b) Statistics on illegal fishing activities at marine parks and marine reserve over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Item	Year		
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (as at end February 2020)
Number of complaints received	3	3	4
Number of cases relating to illegal fishing activities detected during patrols or joint operations (cases which could not successfully make arrests)	14 (2)	17 (2)	11 (4)
Number of successful arrests (number of persons arrested)	12 (12)	15 (15)	7* (7)
Number of successful prosecutions (number of persons successfully prosecuted)	6 (6)	12 (12)	1 (1)
Minimum and maximum penalties imposed	A fine of \$800 to \$1,500	A fine of \$600 to \$1,500	A fine of \$1,000
Number of repeated offences (number of repeated offenders)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)

* 6 prosecution cases are still in progress.

- (c) The number of (i) patrols conducted by AFCD; and (ii) its joint operations[^] mounted with the Marine Police and the Marine Department in the waters outside marine parks and marine reserve over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year/Waters		2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (as at end February 2020)
Waters over the Hong Kong territory	(i)	1 592	1 688	1490
	(ii)	65	78	34
Waters around Cheung Chau, Shek Kwu Chau and Soko Islands	(i)	533	507	454
	(ii)	47	44	23
Waters off the Brothers	(i)	62	54	43
	(ii)	0	0	0
Waters off Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau	(i)	67	66	45
	(ii)	0	0	0

[^] Concurrently with operations of relevant Mainland authorities in nearby Mainland waters in some cases

- (d) Statistics on illegal fishing activities in the waters mentioned in part (c) over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Item	Year		
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (as at end February 2020)
Number of complaints received	129	102	144
Number of cases relating to illegal fishing activities detected during patrols or joint operations (number of cases which could not successfully make arrests)	30 (18)	44 (36)	32 (27)
Number of successful arrests (number of persons arrested)	12 (30)	8 (23)	5* (11)
Number of successful prosecutions (number of persons successfully prosecuted)	8 (26)	7 (22)	4 (10)
Minimum and maximum penalties imposed	A fine of \$1,200 to \$5,000; imprisonment for 2 months	A fine of \$1,500 to \$2,000; imprisonment for 2 weeks to 2 months	A fine of \$1,000 to \$3,000; imprisonment for 2 weeks to 2 months
Number of repeated offences (number of repeated offenders)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)

* 1 of the cases is still under investigation

- (e) AFCD enforces the relevant legislation through a risk-based approach, deploying resources flexibly to conduct random and targeted patrols in local waters (including marine parks and marine reserve) having regard to the circumstances to combat illegal fishing activities. AFCD also maintains close liaison with the Marine Police with a

view to mounting joint operations (including using the “vessel arrest system” to intercept trawlers who refuse to stop for inspection) as and when appropriate.

Under the Fisheries Protection Ordinance (Cap. 171) (the Ordinance), any person who uses prohibited fishing gear for fishing is liable to a maximum fine of \$200,000 and an imprisonment for 6 months upon conviction. In addition, under the Marine Parks Ordinance (Cap. 476), any person who carries out illegal fishing activities in marine parks and marine reserve is liable to a maximum fine of \$25,000 and an imprisonment for 1 year upon conviction. AFCD considers that the existing statutory provisions are already effective in combating the illegal fishing activities, and that the penalties imposed by the court, including fines and imprisonment, have deterrent effect. AFCD will continue to enhance enforcement, exchange information and intelligence with the relevant government departments and Mainland authorities, adjust its enforcement strategy from time to time in the light of circumstances and intelligence gathered, and collaborate with the relevant parties to combat illegal fishing. To enhance the effectiveness of the enforcement action, AFCD plans to apply technology in its enforcement work, such as using real time satellite information to help identify fishing vessels.

- (f) The expenditure and manpower involved in combating illegal fishing by AFCD over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)
2017-18	13.3	18
2018-19	14.0	18
2019-20 (revised estimate)	17.3	18

- (g) From 2017 to 2019, AFCD deployed 3 vessels for regular and targeted patrols against illegal fishing at random hours (including night time and early morning) under the Ordinance. AFCD officers, when discharging duties on other vessels, will also stay vigilant to any illegal fishing activities, and inform AFCD’s enforcement unit and the Marine Police for follow up.

The patrols focused on blackspots of illegal fishing activities such as Soko Islands, waters south of Cheung Chau and in Northeastern Hong Kong. The number of patrols conducted by AFCD in 2017, 2018 and 2019 is about 1 630, 1 610 and 1 740 respectively.

- (h) Information on illegal fishing practices detected during patrols over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year / Illegal fishing practices	2017-18		2018-19		2019-20 (as at February 2020)	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Shrimp trawling	17	56.7	17	38.7	12	37.5
Hang trawling	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	6.3
Stern trawling	1	3.3	2	4.5	0	0.0

Year / Illegal fishing practices	2017-18		2018-19		2019-20 (as at February 2020)	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Pair trawling	0	0.0	2	4.5	7	21.8
Purse seining	1	3.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
Gill netting	8	26.7	16	36.4	6	18.8
Cage trapping	3	10.0	7	15.9	5	15.6
Total	30	100.0	44	100.0	32	100.0

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)039

(Question Serial No. 0689)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme and the Special Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme of the Vegetable Marketing Organization, please provide the following information over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20):

- (a) What was the administrative and technical support provided for the schemes?
- (b) What were the details of the expenditures and manpower involved?
- (c) What were the expenditure and manpower involved in handling applications for the schemes?
- (d) What were the respective numbers of applications and the land area involved (hectare)?
- (e) What were the respective numbers of successful and unsuccessful cases? What was the farmland area (hectare) successfully rented?
- (f) How long did the processing of an application take on average (from receipt of an application to notification of the result)?
- (g) What was the number of landowners participating in the said schemes?
- (h) How much was the annual rental for the successful cases?
- (i) What were the accumulative number of applicants and the land area involved (hectare) on the waiting list?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

- (a) to (i) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) operates the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme (ALRS) through bringing owners of farmland and interested farmers together to work out leasing agreements for the farmland. The manpower and expenditure involved in operating ALRS and the relevant statistics on the cases handled over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	2017	2018	2019
Number of staff	1	1	1
Expenditure (\$ million)	0.9	0.9	0.9
Number of landowners participating in ALRS	41	24	32
Number of new applications/ land area involved (hectare)	58/8.7	77/8.1	49/7.8
Number of successful cases	9	10	43
- Total land area involved (hectare)	2.1	1.4	7.9
- Range of annual rental (per dau chung[^])	\$160 to \$12,000	\$25 to \$60,000	\$7 to \$142,900
- Average waiting time (year)	5.5	3.2	3.8
Number of applications on the waiting list as at year-end/ land area involved (hectare)	347/74.7	413/81.0	445/81.8

[^]1 dau chung is equivalent to 7 260 square feet.

The Special Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme (SALRS) is a separate scheme proposed by the Government in relation to New Development Area projects. The Government proactively identifies government land suitable for agricultural rehabilitation. So far, 5 pieces of land (total area of about 3.3 hectares) in the North District have been open for application by about 30 farmers affected by the first phase of the Kwu Tung North and Fanling North New Development Area project and recorded by the Farm Operation Survey. The Development Bureau, in collaboration with relevant departments, is now processing 13 applications for agricultural rehabilitation to strive for making the SALRS sites available when the affected farmers move out in phases starting from later half of 2020. This scheme is undertaken with the existing manpower and resources.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)040

(Question Serial No. 0692)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (700) General non-recurrent

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the artificial reefs project, please advise of the following:

- (a) The situation of deployment of artificial reefs, the number of artificial reefs deployed and the areas concerned over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20).
- (b) Has the Government ever assessed the effectiveness of the artificial reefs project?
- (c) What were the details of the revised estimated expenditure and the work involved in 2019-20?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

- (a) No artificial reefs (ARs) were deployed by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 3 years.
- (b) and (c) AFCD conducted underwater surveys on the fisheries resources in areas with ARs to assess their effectiveness. Results from past surveys indicate that areas with ARs deployed support higher diversity and abundance of fish species as compared with the natural habitat. Over 220 species of fish, including high-valued species like groupers, breams, snappers and sweetlips, have also been found using ARs for feeding, shelter, as well as spawning and nursing.

In 2019-20, an expenditure of \$320,000 (revised estimate) was involved in the underwater survey.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)041

(Question Serial No. 0693)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding mariculture industry, please advise of the following:

- (a) The expenditure and manpower of the Government for monitoring water quality and red tides respectively over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20).
- (b) Please set out in tabular form the number of red tides occurred in Hong Kong and the species of phytoplankton that caused red tides respectively over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20), with a breakdown by district.
- (c) Did the Government have any statistics on the cases relating to massive fish deaths due to water quality or pollution incidents over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)? Please set out by district.
- (d) Did the Government have any statistics on the cases relating to massive fish deaths due to inclement weather (including typhoons, cold snaps) over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)? Please set out by district.
- (e) Please set out the respective numbers of applications for the Emergency Relief Fund due to items (b), (c) and (d), cases approved and the amount involved.
- (f) Currently, what assistance would the Government provide to mariculturists after red tides?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

- (a) The expenditure and manpower involved in monitoring water quality and red tides are tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)
2017-18	12.0	12
2018-19	17.9	11
2019-20 (revised estimate)	16.6	11

- (b) The number of red tides observed in different districts and the causative species involved over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

District/ Year	Number of red tides observed and the causative species involved		
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
North	1 <i>Akashiwo sanguinea</i>	Nil	Nil
Tai Po	5 <i>Gonyaulax polygramma</i> , <i>Chaetoceros salsugineum</i>	15 <i>Scrippsiella trochoidea</i> , <i>Takayama tuberculate</i> , <i>Prorocentrum balticum</i> , <i>Mesodinium rubrum</i> , <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i> , <i>Akashiwo sanguinea</i> , <i>Heterosigma akashiwo</i>	Nil
Sha Tin	1 <i>Gonyaulax polygramma</i>	3 <i>Cyclotella</i> <i>choctawhatcheeana</i> , <i>Heterosigma akashiwo</i> , <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>	Nil
Sai Kung	5 <i>Gonyaulax polygramma</i> , <i>Cochlodinium</i> <i>convolutum</i> , <i>Pseudo-nitzschia pungens</i> , <i>Mesodinium rubrum</i> , <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>	7 <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i> , <i>Akashiwo sanguinea</i>	Nil
Southern	5 <i>Gonyaulax polygramma</i> , <i>Akashiwo sanguinea</i> , <i>Cerataulina pelagica</i> , <i>Thalassiosira pseudonana</i> , <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>	3 <i>Mesodinium rubrum</i> , <i>Gonyaulax polygramma</i> , <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>	Nil

District/ Year	Number of red tides observed and the causative species involved		
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Islands	2 <i>Cerataulina pelagica</i> , <i>Thalassiosira pseudonana</i>	10 <i>Takayama tuberculate</i> , <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i> , <i>Akashiwo sanguinea</i> , <i>Prorocentrum triestinum</i> , <i>Gonyaulax polygramma</i>	2 <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>
Tuen Mun	2 <i>Thalassiosira tealata</i>	2 <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i> , <i>Mesodinium rubrum</i>	5 <i>Phaeocystis globosa</i>
Kwun Tong	2 <i>Gonyaulax polygramma</i> , <i>Chaetoceros salsugineum</i>	Nil	Nil
Tsuen Wan	Nil	5 <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i> , <i>Mesodinium rubrum</i>	4 <i>Phaeocystis globosa</i>
Kwai Tsing	Nil	1 <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>	Nil

- (c) to (d) There were no confirmed reports of massive fish deaths in fish culture zones and fish ponds due to water quality, pollution or inclement weather over the past 3 years.
- (e) to (f) When there is a red tide incident which may pose significant threat to marine fish culture, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will provide immediate support to the concerned mariculturists, including helping relocate fish rafts away from the red tide area and disposing of fish carcasses.

AFCD may open application for the Emergency Relief Fund (ERF) having regard to the impacts and the scale caused by natural disasters. Over the past 3 years, there were no incidents due to red tides or massive fish deaths that had necessitated ERF applications. On the other hand, ERF was opened to marine fish farmers and pond fish farmers with respect to fish losses due to Super Typhoon Hato in 2017-18 and heavy rainstorms and Super Typhoon Mangkhut in 2018-19. The details concerned are as follows:

Category	2017-18		2018-19	
	Number of applications received (approved)	Amount issued (\$ million)	Number of applications received (approved)	Amount issued (\$ million)
Marine fish farmers	239 (200)	1.6	478 (434)	6.5
Pond fish farmers	45 (39)	0.5	56 (32)	0.4
Total	284 (239)	2.1	534 (466)	6.9

In 2019-20 (as at mid-March 2020), no financial assistance under ERF was granted to fish farmers.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)042****(Question Serial No. 0695)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

- (a) Please set out the numbers, sizes and distribution of the vegetable farms, flower farms, organic farms, leisure farms, vegetable marketing co-operative societies, vegetable depots, farms in industrial buildings, fish rafts and licences for marine fish culture, fish ponds and oyster breeding rafts currently in operation.
- (b) What are the numbers, sizes and distribution of local pig farms and chicken farms, and the licensed rearing capacity of each farm over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)? Please set out the information with a breakdown by the 18 districts.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)Reply:

- (a) As at 31 December 2019, there were about 2 400 crop farms (including vegetables, flowers and orchards) with a total cultivated area of about 750 hectares. These farms are mainly located in the North District and Yuen Long. Amongst these crop farms, there are 322 organic vegetable farms which have joined the Organic Farming Support Service Scheme of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department with a total area of about 103 hectares. It is estimated that there are 131 leisure farms with a total area of about 130 hectares. There are also 13 farms located in industrial buildings in Chai Wan, Kwun Tong, Kwai Tsing, Tsuen Wan, Shatin, Tai Po, Tuen Mun and Yau Tong Districts with a total area of 2.05 hectares.

Information on the number and distribution of vegetable marketing co-operative societies (VMCSs) and vegetable depots as at 31 December 2019 by district is tabulated as follows:

District	VMCS	Vegetable depots
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District	VMCS	Vegetable depots
Yuen Long	13	0
North	9	0
Tuen Mun	3	1
Islands	2	0
Tai Po	1	0
Tsuen Wan	1	0
Total	29	1

Information of marine fish culture farms, pond fish farms and oyster rafts as at 31 December 2019 is as follows:

- (i) There were about 920 licensed marine fish culture farms with about 1 930 fish rafts in 26 designated Fish Culture Zones*. The size of farms ranged from 13 to about 6 800 m².
- (ii) There were about 330 pond fish farms with about 1 400 fish ponds, mainly in the north-west New Territories. The size of pond fish farms ranged from 83 to 424 810 m².
- (iii) There were about 8 800 oyster rafts in Deep Bay, the size of which ranged from 96 to 300 m².

* There are 26 designated Fish Culture Zones located at Sha Tau Kok, Ap Chau, Kat O, O Pui Tong, Sai Lau Kong, Wong Wan, Tap Mun, Kau Lau Wan, Sham Wan, Lo Fu Wat, Yung Shue Au, Leung Shuen Wan, Tiu Cham Wan, Tai Tau Chau, Kai Lung Wan, Kau Sai, Ma Nam Wat, Po Toi O, Po Toi, Sok Kwu Wan, Lo Tik Wan, Ma Wan, Yim Tin Tsai, Cheung Sha Wan, Yim Tin Tsai (East) and Tung Lung Chau respectively.

- (b) Over the past 3 years, the number of local pig farms and chicken farms remained the same as 43 and 29 respectively. The distribution, licensed areas and licensed rearing capacities of these farms as at 31 December 2019 are tabulated as follows:

Pig farms (by year)

	2017			2018			2019		
	District	Licensed area (m ²)	Licensed capacity (number)	District	Licensed area (m ²)	Licensed capacity (number)	District	Licensed area (m ²)	Licensed capacity (number)
1	Yuen Long	384.65	300	Yuen Long	384.65	300	Yuen Long	384.65	300
2	Yuen Long	626.82	450	Yuen Long	626.82	450	Yuen Long	626.82	450
3	Yuen Long	706.90	1 000	Yuen Long	706.90	1 000	Yuen Long	706.90	1 000
4	Yuen Long	838.59	1 500	Yuen Long	838.59	1 500	Yuen Long	838.59	1 500
5	Yuen Long	938.49	850	Yuen Long	902.78	1 000	Yuen Long	902.78	1 000
6	Yuen Long	1 142.90	600	Yuen Long	938.49	850	Yuen Long	938.49	850

	2017			2018			2019		
	District	Licensed area (m ²)	Licensed capacity (number)	District	Licensed area (m ²)	Licensed capacity (number)	District	Licensed area (m ²)	Licensed capacity (number)
7	Yuen Long	1 180.97	1 200	Yuen Long	1 142.90	600	Yuen Long	1 142.90	600
8	Yuen Long	1 327.53	1 000	Yuen Long	1 180.97	1 200	Yuen Long	1 153.33	1 990
9	Yuen Long	1 374.87	1 200	Yuen Long	1 327.53	1 000	Yuen Long	1 180.97	1 200
10	Yuen Long	1 392.30	1 990	Yuen Long	1 374.87	1 200	Yuen Long	1 327.53	1 000
11	Yuen Long	1 612.44	1 000	Yuen Long	1 392.30	1 990	Yuen Long	1 374.87	1 200
12	Yuen Long	1 709.24	1 500	Yuen Long	1 709.24	1 500	Yuen Long	1 709.24	1 500
13	Yuen Long	1 725.58	1 900	Yuen Long	1 725.58	1 900	Yuen Long	1 725.58	1 900
14	Yuen Long	1 864.27	600	Yuen Long	1 864.27	600	Yuen Long	1 864.27	600
15	Yuen Long	1 923.26	1 500	Yuen Long	1 923.26	1 500	Yuen Long	1 923.26	1 500
16	Yuen Long	2 146.27	1 600	Yuen Long	2 146.27	1 600	Yuen Long	2 146.27	1 600
17	Yuen Long	2 220.09	1 000	Yuen Long	2 220.09	1 000	Yuen Long	2 220.09	1 000
18	Yuen Long	2 614.85	2 000	Yuen Long	2 614.85	2 000	Yuen Long	2 614.85	2 000
19	Yuen Long	2 640.33	2 600	Yuen Long	2 765.33	2 600	Yuen Long	2 765.33	2 600
20	Yuen Long	2 860.03	1 500	Yuen Long	2 860.03	1 500	Yuen Long	2 860.03	1 500
21	Yuen Long	2 960.03	3 500	Yuen Long	2 960.03	3 500	Yuen Long	2 960.03	3 500
22	Yuen Long	3 015.53	2 000	Yuen Long	3 015.53	2 000	Yuen Long	3 015.53	2 000
23	Yuen Long	3 130.14	1 500	Yuen Long	3 130.14	1 500	Yuen Long	3 130.14	1 500
24	Yuen Long	3 205.77	2 000	Yuen Long	3 205.77	2 000	Yuen Long	3 205.77	2 000
25	Yuen Long	3 699.22	1 800	Yuen Long	3 699.22	1 800	Yuen Long	3 699.22	1 800
26	Yuen Long	3 914.32	3 000	Yuen Long	3 914.32	3 000	Yuen Long	3 914.32	3 000
27	Yuen Long	3 955.47	2 500	Yuen Long	3 955.47	2 500	Yuen Long	3 955.47	2 500
28	Yuen Long	3 965.31	2 000	Yuen Long	3 965.31	2 000	Yuen Long	3 965.31	2000
29	Yuen Long	4 106.13	3 000	Yuen Long	4 106.13	3 000	Yuen Long	4 106.13	3 000
30	Yuen Long	4 248.04	3 000	Yuen Long	4 248.04	3 000	Yuen Long	4 248.04	3 000
31	Yuen Long	4 524.78	2 600	Yuen Long	4 524.78	2 600	Yuen Long	4 524.78	2 600
32	Yuen Long	5 085.70	1 500	Yuen Long	5 085.70	1 500	Yuen Long	5 085.70	1 500
33	Yuen Long	6 345.66	6 000	Yuen Long	6 345.66	6 000	Yuen Long	6 345.66	6 000
34	Yuen Long	7 108.62	4 000	Yuen Long	7 108.62	4 000	Yuen Long	7 108.62	4 000
35	North	556.96	250	North	556.96	250	North	556.96	250
36	North	557.91	800	North	557.91	800	North	557.91	800

	2017			2018			2019		
	District	Licensed area (m ²)	Licensed capacity (number)	District	Licensed area (m ²)	Licensed capacity (number)	District	Licensed area (m ²)	Licensed capacity (number)
37	North	691.19	500	North	691.19	500	North	691.19	500
38	North	1 239.02	1 500	North	1 239.02	1 500	North	1 239.02	1 500
39	North	1 280.91	600	North	1 280.91	600	North	1 280.91	600
40	North	1 611.16	950	North	1 611.16	950	North	1 611.16	950
41	North	2 407.85	2 000	North	2 407.85	2 000	North	2 407.85	2 000
42	North	4 953.09	4 000	North	4 953.09	4 000	North	4 953.09	4 000
43	Sai Kung	388.79	350	Sai Kung	388.79	350	Sai Kung	388.79	350
Total		104 181.98	74 640		103 597.32	74 640		103 358.35	74 640

Chicken farms (by year)

	2017			2018			2019		
	District	Licensed area (m ²)	Licensed capacity (number)	District	Licensed area (m ²)	Licensed capacity (number)	District	Licensed area (m ²)	Licensed capacity (number)
1	Yuen Long	387.23	10 000	Yuen Long	387.23	10 000	Yuen Long	387.23	10 000
2	Yuen Long	569.30	25 000	Yuen Long	569.30	25 000	Yuen Long	569.30	25 000
3	Yuen Long	648.36	20 000	Yuen Long	648.36	20 000	Yuen Long	648.36	20 000
4	Yuen Long	682.16	19 000	Yuen Long	682.16	19 000	Yuen Long	682.16	19 000
5	Yuen Long	723.86	19 900	Yuen Long	723.86	19 900	Yuen Long	723.86	19 900
6	Yuen Long	775.26	20 000	Yuen Long	775.26	20 000	Yuen Long	775.26	20 000
7	Yuen Long	948.17	18 000	Yuen Long	948.17	18 000	Yuen Long	948.17	18 000
8	Yuen Long	1 067.54	31 000	Yuen Long	1 067.54	31 000	Yuen Long	1 067.54	31 000
9	Yuen Long	1 137.70	48 000	Yuen Long	1 137.70	48 000	Yuen Long	1 137.70	48 000
10	Yuen Long	1 250.84	42 000	Yuen Long	1 250.84	42 000	Yuen Long	1 250.84	42 000
11	Yuen Long	1 336.34	39 000	Yuen Long	1 336.34	39 000	Yuen Long	1 336.34	39 000
12	Yuen Long	1 563.39	48 000	Yuen Long	1 563.39	48 000	Yuen Long	1 563.39	48 000
13	Yuen Long	1 610.01	26 000	Yuen Long	1 610.01	26 000	Yuen Long	1 610.01	26 000
14	Yuen Long	1 655.73	36 000	Yuen Long	1 655.73	36 000	Yuen Long	1 655.73	36 000
15	Yuen Long	2 004.75	41 000	Yuen Long	2 004.75	41 000	Yuen Long	2 004.75	41 000
16	Yuen Long	2 477.98	46 000	Yuen Long	2 477.98	46 000	Yuen Long	2 477.98	46 000
17	Yuen Long	2 597.37	50 000	Yuen Long	2 597.37	50 000	Yuen Long	2 597.37	50 000
18	Yuen Long	2 944.67	62 800	Yuen Long	2 944.67	62 800	Yuen Long	2 944.67	62 800
19	Yuen Long	3 163.24	70 000	Yuen Long	3 163.24	70 000	Yuen Long	3 163.24	70 000
20	Yuen Long	3 226.20	108 000	Yuen Long	3 226.20	108 000	Yuen Long	3 226.20	108 000

	2017			2018			2019		
	District	Licensed area (m ²)	Licensed capacity (number)	District	Licensed area (m ²)	Licensed capacity (number)	District	Licensed area (m ²)	Licensed capacity (number)
21	Yuen Long	3 372.57	35 000	Yuen Long	3 372.57	35 000	Yuen Long	3 372.57	35 000
22	Yuen Long	4 604.03	102 000	Yuen Long	4 604.03	102 000	Yuen Long	4 604.03	102 000
23	Yuen Long	4 831.83	80 000	Yuen Long	4 831.83	80 000	Yuen Long	4 693.83	80 000
24	Yuen Long	10 454.52	162 300	Yuen Long	10 454.52	162 300	Yuen Long	10 454.52	162 300
25	North	708.10	18 000	North	708.10	18 000	North	708.1	18 000
26	North	873.34	27 000	North	873.34	27 000	North	873.34	27 000
27	North	1 757.95	38 500	North	1 757.95	38 500	North	1 757.95	38 500
28	North	4 518.98	48 000	North	4 518.98	48 000	North	4 518.98	48 000
29	Tuen Mun	433.41	10 000	Tuen Mun	433.41	10 000	Tuen Mun	433.41	10 000
Total		62 324.83	1 300 500		62 324.83	1 300 500		62 186.83	1 300 500

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)043

(Question Serial No. 0697)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the issue of capture fishermen, please advise of the following:

- (a) The number of Hong Kong fishermen (those who could only operate in Hong Kong), the number of their fishing vessels, and their production values over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20).
- (b) The number of Hong Kong fishermen (those who could only operate in Mainland China), the number of their fishing vessels, and their production values over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20).
- (c) The number of Hong Kong fishermen (those who could operate both in Mainland China and Hong Kong), the number of their fishing vessels, and their production values over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20).
- (d) The total number of Hong Kong fishermen, the number of their fishing vessels, and their production values over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20).

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)

Reply:

- (a) to (d) Vessels navigating in Hong Kong are required to possess a valid operating licence issued by the Marine Department (MD) which certifies the vessels' safety and seaworthiness. Vessels engaging in fishing operations in Hong Kong waters are required to further register with the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) under the Fisheries Protection Ordinance (Cap. 171). The number of fishing vessels registered with MD, local fishing vessels registered with AFCD, local capture fishermen and their production values over the past 3 years is tabulated below.

Year (as at the end of the period)	Number of local fishing vessels registered with MD [#]	Number of local fishing vessels registered with AFCD	Number of local capture fishermen [^]	Production value (\$ million) [^]	
				From Hong Kong waters	From waters outside Hong Kong
2017	6 502	4 120	10 600	860	1,740
2018	6 505	4 145	10 240	966	1,789
2019	6 394	4 116	10 130	1,022	1,777

Based on MD's information on the number of fishing vessels (Class III vessel) licensed under the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Certification and Licensing) Regulation (Cap. 548D).

[^] Based on the fisheries survey on capture fishermen conducted by AFCD.

In order to conduct fishing operations in Mainland waters, the vessels have to meet the requirements of the relevant Mainland authorities. Since AFCD does not have the information of Hong Kong vessels that are permitted to operate in Mainland waters, information on fishermen and fishing vessels that could operate only in Mainland waters or in both Mainland and Hong Kong waters is not available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)044

(Question Serial No. 0698)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the loans in relation to the agriculture and fisheries industries, please advise of the following:

- (a) Currently, what loans does the Government provide to the agriculture and fisheries industries respectively?
- (b) Over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20), what were the numbers of applications for the above loans, the numbers of loans approved, the total amount of the fund(s) and the total loans granted in respective year? (Please set out by loans.)

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

- (a) Currently, the Government provides credit facility to farmers, fish farmers and fishermen through 7 loan funds administered by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD). They are the J.E. Joseph Trust Fund, the Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Loan Fund, the Vegetable Marketing Organization Loan Fund, the Fisheries Development Loan Fund, the Fish Marketing Organization Loan Fund, the World Refugee Year Loan Fund and the Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere Loan Fund.
- (b) The total capital of the above loan funds, the number of applications, the number of loans and amount issued over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

J.E. Joseph Trust Fund

Year	Capital	Number of loans		Loans issued
	(as at 31 December) (\$ million)	Applications	Issued*	Amount [#] (\$ million)
2017	19.6	8	8	1.0
2018	19.8	10	10	1.3
2019	20.1	7	7	1.2

The Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Loan Fund

Year	Capital	Number of loans		Loans issued
	(as at 31 December) (\$ million)	Applications	Issued*	Amount [#] (\$ million)
2017	15.2	42	40	4.2
2018	15.3	31	33	3.3
2019	15.5	30	30	3.2

The Vegetable Marketing Organization Loan Fund

Year	Capital	Number of loans		Loans issued
	(as at 31 December) (\$ million)	Applications	Issued*	Amount [#] (\$ million)
2017	12.7	32	32	2.3
2018	12.9	25	25	2.1
2019	13.1	19	19	1.6

The Fisheries Development Loan Fund

Year	Capital	Number of loans		Loans issued
	(as at 31 December) (\$ million)	Applications	Issued*	Amount [#] (\$ million)
2017	1,100	1	20	176.8
2018	1,100	4	14	138.3
2019	1,100	5	6	41.5

The Fish Marketing Organization Loan Fund (including normal loans and special fishing moratorium loans)

Year	Capital	Number of loans		Loans issued
	(as at 31 December) (\$ million)	Applications	Issued*	Amount# (\$ million)
2017	146.4	383	359	55.9
2018	146.8	599	588	105.4
2019	187.1	570	553	93.0

* Referring to the number of loans with their first instalment issued in the respective year.

Referring to the total amount of loans issued in the respective year, including all stages of instalments.

Over the past 3 years, the World Refugee Year Loan Fund and the Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere Loan Fund received no application for loans. Their capitals stand at some \$2 million and \$200,000 respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)045

(Question Serial No. 0703)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Government stated in 2018 that the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Licensing of Livestock Keeping) Regulation (Cap. 139L) would be relaxed to facilitate the relocation of chicken farms affected by the land developments of the Government for continued operation. What are the progress and the timetable for commencement of the work?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 43)

Reply:

The Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Licensing of Livestock Keeping) (Amendment) Regulation 2020 was gazetted on 13 March and tabled in the Legislative Council for vetting on 18 March this year. It is expected to come into operation on 1 July this year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)046

(Question Serial No. 0705)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The 2019-20 revised estimate under Programme 1 is lower than the original estimate by 18.4%. What are the reasons for that?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 45)

Reply:

The 2019-20 revised estimate under this Programme is lower than the original estimate by 18.4% (or \$101.7 million) mainly due to lower-than-expected cash flow requirement for the one-off assistance package to trawler vessel owners, local deckhands and fish collector owners affected by the trawl ban. The Fishermen Claims Appeal Board is currently processing the appeal cases relating to the abovementioned assistance package. The cash flow requirement is subject to the decisions of individual appeal cases and the overall progress of case processing.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)047

(Question Serial No. 0707)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding water quality, please advise of the following:

- (a) What are the mechanism and standard currently adopted by the Government to assess whether the water quality is suitable for fish culture? Has there been any occasion in which the water quality in the 26 fish culture zones was unsuitable for fish culture over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)? What are the details?
- (b) What are the mechanism and standard currently adopted by the Government to assess the impacts of the water quality around marine works to fisheries resources? Has there been any occasion in which the water quality in local fishing grounds was unsuitable for fish culture over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)? What are the details?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 47)

Reply:

- (a) Marine water quality is measured by a set of water quality objectives (WQOs) established under the Water Pollution Control Ordinance (Cap. 358) (WPCO). The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department monitors the water quality of fish culture zones (FCZs) having regard to 4 WQOs, viz dissolved oxygen, pH, unionised ammonia and *E. coli*. Over the past 3 years, the water quality in all 26 FCZs was in general suitable for mariculture as it complied with the aforesaid 4 WQOs levels, and there was no incident during the period that had caused massive fish kills or impact on FCZs of a permanent nature.
- (b) The Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Cap. 499) requires proponents of designated projects to assess the potential environmental impacts. Fisheries impact assessment is conducted as part of an environmental impact assessment (EIA) study for a proposed development project that may affect fishing and aquaculture activities, fisheries resources and production, as well as fisheries habitats, fishing grounds,

nursery and spawning grounds and aquaculture sites. In addition, project proponents are also required to implement Environmental Monitoring and Audit (EM&A) programmes to monitor the water quality as required by the Director of Environmental Protection. Over the past 3 years, no unacceptable impacts arising from marine works on fisheries had been identified in EIAs, or reported under the monitoring of EM&A programmes.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)048****(Question Serial No. 0711)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding the wholesaling of fish, please advise of the following:

- (a) What were the annual total and daily average wholesale quantities, as well as the highest and lowest figures thereof for different kinds of marine fish (including Golden thread, Horse-heads, Yellow croakers, Big-eyes, Scads, Breams, Hair-tails, Mackerels, Croakers, Filefish, etc.) and freshwater fish (including Grass carp, Big head, Mud carp, etc.) over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)?
- (b) What were the monthly average, the highest and lowest prices for different kinds of marine fish (including Golden thread, Horse-heads, Yellow croakers, Big-eyes, Scads, Breams, Hair-tails, Mackerels, Croakers, Filefish, etc.) and freshwater fish (including Grass carp, Big head, Mud carp, etc.) over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 51)Reply:

- (a) Information on the quantity of freshwater fish traded through government wholesale food markets over the past 3 years is shown below. We do not have a breakdown on the figures for different kinds of freshwater fish.

Year	Total quantity (tonnes)	Daily average quantity (tonnes)	Highest daily quantity (tonnes)	Lowest daily quantity (tonnes)
2017	41 196	113	160	24
2018	43 468	119	205	16
2019	43 224	118	167	20

Information on the wholesale quantity of marine fish traded over the past 3 years (2017 to 2019) is shown in **Annex A**.

- (b) Information on the monthly value of freshwater fish traded through government wholesale food markets over the past 3 years is shown below. We do not have breakdown on the figures for different kinds of freshwater fish.

Year	Monthly average wholesale value (\$/tonne)											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017	27,090	26,866	26,532	26,365 [^]	26,671	26,764	27,155	27,522	27,639	27,671	27,716 [*]	27,271
2018	27,590 [^]	28,512	28,328	28,898	29,588 [*]	29,003	28,753	28,677	28,886	28,799	28,602	28,345
2019	28,250	28,583 [*]	27,947	27,386	27,061	26,699	26,353	26,739	26,922	26,881	26,443	26,263 [^]

^{*} Highest monthly average value in the respective year

[^] Lowest monthly average value in the respective year

Information on the monthly average wholesale price of marine fish over the past 3 years (2017 to 2019) is shown in **Annex B**.

Wholesale quantity of marine fish over the past 3 years (2017 to 2019)

Year	Fish	Total quantity (tonnes)	Daily average quantity (tonnes)	Highest daily quantity (tonnes)	Lowest daily quantity (tonnes)
2017	Golden thread (紅衫)	2 901.2	7.9	9.2	6.5
	Horse-heads (馬頭)	2 806.6	7.7	10.2	6.3
	Yellow croakers (黃花)	1 997.9	5.5	7.1	4.0
	Big-eyes (木棉)	2 173.9	6.0	8.1	3.9
	Scads (池魚)	1 283.9	3.5	5.2	1.6
	Breams (立魚)	1 965.4	5.4	6.7	4.4
	Hair-tails (牙帶)	1 374.9	3.8	5.3	2.7
	Mackerels (鯵魚)	1 438.5	3.9	4.9	3.4
	Croakers (鰻魚)	858.3	2.4	3.2	1.5
2018	Golden thread (紅衫)	2 862.3	7.8	9.4	4.6
	Horse-heads (馬頭)	3 097.2	8.5	9.9	5.0
	Yellow croakers (黃花)	2 252.1	6.2	7.3	3.8
	Big-eyes (木棉)	2 119.9	5.8	7.9	4.2
	Scads (池魚)	1 152.6	3.2	4.1	1.9
	Breams (立魚)	1 870.4	5.1	5.9	3.9
	Hair-tails (牙帶)	1 215.7	3.3	3.9	2.0
	Mackerels (鯵魚)	1 459.5	4.0	4.8	2.2
	Croakers (鰻魚)	668.8	1.8	2.5	1.0
2019	Golden thread (紅衫)	2 699.8	7.4	9.1	5.6
	Horse-heads (馬頭)	3 208.7	8.8	10.5	6.4
	Yellow croakers (黃花)	2 345.7	6.4	7.2	5.0
	Big-eyes (木棉)	1 890.7	5.2	6.3	3.7
	Scads (池魚)	1 010.1	2.8	3.5	1.8
	Breams (立魚)	2 080.3	5.7	6.9	3.8
	Hair-tails (牙帶)	1 329.1	3.6	4.1	2.3
	Mackerels (鯵魚)	1 589.0	4.4	5.3	2.4
	Croakers (鰻魚)	543.7	1.5	2.2	0.9

Data on Filefish (沙鯪) are not readily available.

Annex B

Monthly average wholesale price of marine fish over the past 3 years (2017 to 2019)

Year	Fish	Monthly average wholesale price (\$/kg)											
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017	Golden thread (紅衫)	62.64 [^]	77.61	69.14	66.10	77.60	83.36	84.56 [*]	82.98	64.97	67.03	74.43	82.20
	Horse-heads (馬頭)	51.14	53.70	55.07	47.27 [^]	52.53	55.85	54.73	53.58	47.51	47.56	56.06 [*]	54.21
	Yellow croakers (黃花)	115.13	106.17	134.73 [*]	131.81	91.29	78.36	81.95	79.66	76.72 [^]	92.37	100.72	98.64
	Big-eyes (木棉)	81.15	89.61	85.81	85.08	87.85	94.90	95.33	93.18	80.35 [^]	86.34	94.42	97.17 [*]
	Scads (池魚)	21.75	22.01	20.21	20.78	25.14	29.59 [*]	29.34	25.27	17.65 [^]	20.24	22.01	22.39
	Breams (立魚)	85.78	90.93 [*]	88.49	85.35	87.89	90.38	88.76	87.57	78.54 [^]	83.71	86.51	89.64
	Hair-tails (牙帶)	45.28	49.89	44.39	46.37	50.26	57.05 [*]	55.89	53.89	43.77 [^]	44.47	45.61	47.05
	Mackerels (鮫魚)	76.24	78.14	75.71	78.99	80.34	84.87 [*]	82.55	79.03	63.81 [^]	69.22	70.19	75.10
	Croakers (鰻魚)	23.78	24.20	23.26 [^]	27.00	28.54	33.79	34.58 [*]	34.33	27.44	24.97	26.41	28.42
2018	Golden thread (紅衫)	81.80	76.16	75.80	71.06 [^]	72.43	79.20	81.04	84.41 [*]	72.77	77.74	74.77	74.47
	Horse-heads (馬頭)	55.60	54.78	58.33	54.45	55.60	60.53	64.76 [*]	63.45	54.37 [^]	56.03	57.27	59.58
	Yellow croakers (黃花)	104.90	112.17 [*]	103.21	103.18	85.38	82.69	79.68 [^]	79.93	93.02	104.01	107.93	104.99
	Big-eyes (木棉)	106.65	99.79 [^]	102.13	108.65	103.33	116.79	118.45 [*]	118.34	101.25	115.35	107.78	112.78
	Scads (池魚)	23.29 [^]	24.01	25.34	25.99	29.08	27.02	30.23	32.20 [*]	26.30	25.95	24.44	28.79
	Breams (立魚)	91.88	98.91	97.96	95.95	95.14	101.36 [*]	100.78	101.20	86.35 [^]	86.98	94.32	98.35
	Hair-tails (牙帶)	48.05	49.32	48.60	51.57	52.37	52.18	53.29	55.02 [*]	47.17 [^]	47.42	48.36	51.56
	Mackerels (鮫魚)	76.85	76.90	75.53	74.60	75.80	76.91	74.62	75.59	68.68 [^]	71.93	70.75	76.94 [*]
	Croakers (鰻魚)	32.63	31.95	30.67	29.57	31.43	35.07 [*]	34.14	30.27	26.19	26.12 [^]	28.40	31.31

2019	Golden thread (紅衫)	72.07 [^]	82.81	76.08	80.48	92.84	98.85	101.71	104.62	92.30	119.19 [*]	90.32	87.64
	Horse-heads (馬頭)	57.30 [^]	63.41	64.08	66.36	70.62	72.88	76.42	77.26 [*]	62.23	68.35	64.90	62.02
	Yellow croakers (黃花)	96.42	88.53 [^]	109.87	95.03	89.28	93.00	98.72	102.38	107.88	105.58	107.15	110.60 [*]
	Big-eyes (木棉)	104.80	123.40	115.67	131.24	129.06	140.13 [*]	136.82	129.82	97.68	96.68 [^]	99.80	100.13
	Scads (池魚)	27.97	27.32	23.36	23.56	27.32	30.71	32.84 [*]	32.43	24.14	23.56	23.27 [^]	24.13
	Breams (立魚)	96.49	100.92	96.49	95.85	98.06	108.51	115.56 [*]	113.55	87.77	87.25 [^]	90.10	90.31
	Hair-tails (牙帶)	49.32	53.26	51.04	52.48	56.11	61.77	64.15	65.05 [*]	49.97	49.16	46.30	44.92 [^]
	Mackerels (鮫魚)	80.25	82.72	79.93	80.08	80.50	85.33	88.67 [*]	87.63	79.44	79.43	78.61	77.64 [^]
	Croakers (鹹魚)	28.75	29.77	29.72	31.38	32.98	36.98	46.63 [*]	38.34	31.04	31.02	28.36	27.50 [^]

Data on Filefish (沙魴) are not readily available.

* Highest monthly average wholesale price in the respective year.

[^] Lowest monthly average wholesale price in the respective year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)049****(Question Serial No. 2330)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding the wholesaling of vegetables, please advise of the following:

- (a) What were the annual total and daily average wholesale quantity, as well as the highest and lowest figures thereof for different kinds of vegetables (including flowering cabbage, water cress, white cabbage, broccoli, Chinese lettuce, green cabbage, chrysanthemum garland, tomato, Chinese kale, pea shoot, European celery, potato and spinach, etc.) over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)?
- (b) What were the monthly average, the highest and lowest value for different kinds of vegetables (including flowering cabbage, water cress, white cabbage, broccoli, Chinese lettuce, green cabbage, chrysanthemum garland, tomato, Chinese kale, pea shoot, European celery, potato and spinach, etc.) over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 52)Reply:

- (a) In respect of vegetables transacted through government wholesale markets, the information sought is tabulated below. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) does not have the breakdown on the figures for different kinds of vegetables.

Year	Quantity (tonne)			
	Total	Daily average	Highest daily	Lowest daily
2017	240 617	659	842	60
2018	252 022	690	894	49
2019	264 274	724	855	48

- (b) The monthly average value, the highest and the lowest monthly average value for vegetables transacted through government wholesale food markets over the past 3 years are tabulated below. AFCD does not have the breakdown on the figures for different kinds of vegetables.

Year	Monthly average wholesale value (\$ / tonne)											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017	9,792	9,799	9,225	9,116	8,948 [^]	9,501	10,390	10,386	10,885 [*]	10,750	10,452	10,445
2018	10,345	11,507	10,925	10,295 [^]	10,451	11,113	11,742 [*]	11,175	11,686	11,699	10,888	10,826
2019	11,351	12,034 [*]	11,681	11,680	11,937	11,230	11,133	11,168	10,855	10,741	10,674 [^]	11,090

^{*} Highest monthly value

[^] Lowest monthly value

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)050****(Question Serial No. 2331)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding the wholesale of eggs, please advise of the following:

- (a) What were the annual total and daily average wholesale quantities, as well as the highest and lowest figures thereof for different kinds of eggs (including brown-shelled egg (medium) from the Mainland, Grade II brown-shelled eggs from Germany (360/box), brown-shelled eggs (medium) from the USA, etc.) over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)?
- (b) What were the monthly average, the highest and lowest prices for different kinds of eggs (including brown-shelled eggs (medium) from the Mainland, Grade II brown-shelled eggs from Germany (360/box), brown-shelled eggs (medium) from the USA, etc.) over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 53)Reply:

- (a) The volume of hen eggs transacted through government wholesale food markets over the past 3 years is tabulated below. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) does not have the breakdown in terms of the types of eggs and the places of origin.

Year	Quantity (tonnes)			
	Total	Daily average	Highest daily	Lowest daily
2017	66 102	181	392	4
2018	62 964	173	337	1
2019	68 760	188	415	3

- (b) The monthly average price, the highest and the lowest monthly average price for brown-shelled medium eggs from the Mainland and USA transacted through

government wholesale food markets over the past 3 years are tabulated below. AFCD does not have similar figures for brown-shelled medium eggs or other types of eggs from other places of origin.

Year	Monthly average wholesale price (\$ / tonne) for brown-shelled medium eggs (the Mainland)											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017	13,865	13,657	13,465	12,747	11,574	11,333 [^]	12,703	14,258	15,000	14,665	14,580	15,103 [*]
2018	15,458	15,314	15,110 [^]	15,633	15,245	15,267	15,561	15,523	15,820	15,910 [*]	15,693	15,774
2019	15,787 [^]	15,950	15,981	15,873	15,800	15,927	16,006	15,839	15,807	16,013	16,100	16,142 [*]

Year	Monthly average wholesale price (\$ / tonne) for brown-shelled medium eggs (USA)											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017	13,510	13,736	13,748	13,587	13,523	12,880	12,103 [^]	14,181	14,993 [*]	13,452	14,093	14,329
2018	14,432	14,207 [^]	14,471	15,260	16,484 [*]	15,187	15,084	15,290	15,347	15,387	15,433	15,219
2019	15,226	15,386	15,439	15,373	15,381	15,400	15,400	15,400	15,400	15,465 [*]	15,427	15,142 [^]

^{*} Highest monthly average wholesale price

[^] Lowest monthly average wholesale price

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)051

(Question Serial No. 3230)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the wholesale of live chickens, please advise of:

- (a) the monthly total quantities and daily average quantities of imported and local live chickens, as well as the largest and the smallest daily wholesale quantities over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20);
- (b) the monthly average prices, as well as the highest and the lowest monthly prices of imported and local live chickens over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20);
- (c) the monthly total quantities and daily average quantities of imported minor poultry, as well as the largest and the smallest daily wholesale quantities over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20);
- (d) the monthly average prices, as well as the highest and the lowest monthly prices of imported minor poultry over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20);
- (e) the monthly total quantities and daily average quantities of imported day-old chicks, as well as the largest and the smallest daily wholesale quantities over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20);
- (f) the percentage of live chickens, minor poultry and day-old chicks imported from various places over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20);
- (g) the total expenditure on handling matters on import of live chickens, day-old chicks and minor poultry (e.g. quarantine management, wholesale markets, etc.), the average expenditure on each chicken, as well as the manpower involved in 2019-20 and the estimated expenditure in 2020-21.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 56)

Reply:

- (a) The quantity of local live chickens traded through the Cheung Sha Wan Temporary Wholesale Poultry Market (CSWTWPM) over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Quantity (number)			
	Total	Daily average	Highest daily	Lowest daily
2017 [#]	4 199 354	11 505	43 200	6 555
2018 [#]	4 255 909	11 660	38 775	630
2019 [#]	4 246 862	11 635	45 866	4 600

[#] There was no import of live chickens from the Mainland since 17 February 2016.

The monthly wholesale quantity of local live chickens over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Monthly quantity (number)											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017 [#]	417 938 [*]	301 859 [^]	333 008	352 741	382 650	317 583	330 195	327 848	325 968	365 823	339 811	403 930
2018 [#]	345 889	383 084	342 672	321 507 [^]	341 159	357 033	353 087	338 127	377 841	357 908	337 165	400 437 [*]
2019 [#]	365 021	384 993	324 728	342 615	358 856	367 682	325 863	323 103 [^]	367 245	350 480	326 234	410 042 [*]

^{*} Highest monthly quantity

[^] Lowest monthly quantity

[#] There was no import of live chickens from the Mainland since 17 February 2016.

- (b) The average price of local live chickens traded through CSWTWPM over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Monthly average wholesale price (\$/kg)											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017 [#]	47.74	52.49 [*]	38.83	33.96 [^]	43.21	49.62	49.08	48.46	45.17	49.64	46.31	48.80
2018 [#]	51.52	70.91 [*]	66.62	66.27	58.24	35.66	33.81	32.70 [^]	38.18	42.63	42.59	50.17
2019 [#]	67.47	77.55 [*]	68.86	55.92	52.83	57.27	55.71	48.00	50.82	48.97	46.84 [^]	52.60

^{*} Highest monthly average price in the respective year

[^] Lowest monthly average price in the respective year

[#] There was no import of live chickens from the Mainland since 17 February 2016.

- (c) The quantity of imported minor poultry over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Quantity (number)			
	Total	Daily average	Highest daily	Lowest daily
2017 ^{&}	76 720	1 668 [~]	7 350	900
2018 ^{&}	0	0	0	0
2019 ^{&}	0	0	0	0

&There was no import of live minor poultry from the Mainland since 16 February 2017.

~ The average number for a period of 46 days from 1 January to 15 February 2017.

The monthly quantity of imported minor poultry over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Monthly quantity (number)											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017&	48 650*	28 070^	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2018&	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2019&	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

* Highest monthly quantity

^ Lowest monthly quantity

&There was no import of live minor poultry from the Mainland since 16 February 2017.

- (d) The average price of imported minor poultry over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Monthly average wholesale price (\$/kg)											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017&	76.6^	77.7*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2018&	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2019&	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

* Highest monthly average price in the respective year

^ Lowest monthly average price in the respective year

There was no import of live minor poultry from the Mainland since 16 February 2017.

- (e) The quantity of day-old chicks imported over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Quantity (number)			
	Total	Daily average	Highest daily	Lowest daily
2017	2 011 700	5 512	34 480	2 800
2018	2 385 291	6 535	37 500	2 500
2019	2 763 020	7 570	28 500	3 000

The monthly quantity of imported day-old chicks over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Monthly quantity (number)											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017	134 800^	176 800	154 600	136 080	159 340	180 340	163 240	173 000	191 040*	177 020	190 320	175 120
2018	180 300	182 220	209 760	192 980	196 441	219 360	173 710^	184 740	214 920	229 980*	209 500	191 380
2019	199 100	199 800	249 040	226 260	185 540^	225 640	213 740	186 400	240 000	296 900*	267 000	273 600

* Highest monthly quantity

^ Lowest monthly quantity

- (f) The percentage of supply of live chickens, minor poultry and day-old chicks imported from various places over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year / Percentage of imported supply	Chickens			Minor poultry		Day-old chicks	
	Guangdong	Shenzhen	Hainan	Guangdong	Zhuhai	Guangdong	Zhuhai
2017	-	-	-	47	53	88	12
2018	-	-	-	-	-	94	6
2019	-	-	-	-	-	97	3

- (g) The revised estimate for the expenditure of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) incurred on CSWTWPM in this area of work in 2019-20 is \$18.3 million and the manpower involved is 17 staff members. To step up the rodent prevention and control work in the market, the estimated expenditure will be increased to \$18.9 million in 2020-21.

A total of 23 AFCD staff members are deployed at the boundary control points for inspection of imported animals, including day-old chicks. The expenditure involved in the inspection of day-old chicks is absorbed within AFCD's surveillance on avian influenza (AI).

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) is responsible for inspection of food poultry imported from the Mainland to Hong Kong, as well as routine AI surveillance at CSWTWPM. The expenditure involved is absorbed within FEHD's inspection of imported live food animals.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)052

(Question Serial No. 0355)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

In recent years, with the frequent occurrence of animal cruelty cases in Hong Kong, there has been a growing concern about issues related to animal protection, animal rights and welfare, etc. in society. The Government launched a public consultation on the proposals for enhancing animal welfare in April last year, with a view to extending the existing legislation which prohibits and penalises acts of cruelty to animals to include taking positive actions on looking after animals well through amending the Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Ordinance (Cap. 169) (the Ordinance). In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Regarding the enforcement of the Ordinance, what were the details and the expenditures involved, as well as the percentages in the overall expenditures of the Department over the past 3 years?
- (b) Regarding public education and the protection of animal rights and welfare, what were the details and the expenditures involved, as well as the percentages in the overall expenditures of the Department over the past 3 years?
- (c) Over each of the past 3 years, what were the number of suspected cases received and the number of successful prosecutions regarding animal cruelty? What were the number of persons arrested, the number of persons convicted and their respective penalties in each case?
- (d) Regarding the amendment of the Ordinance, what is the progress and the expected commencement date of the amended legislation?

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-yee, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

- (a) Upon receiving reports of suspected animal cruelty cases, the Hong Kong Police Force (the Police) and / or the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will conduct investigation. Prosecution will be initiated if there is sufficient evidence.

The expenditure of AFCD involved in the above work over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Percentage in the overall expenditure of the Department (%)
2017-18	3.0	0.2
2018-19	3.2	0.2
2019-20 (revised estimate)	3.3	0.2

- (b) AFCD implements the following measures to safeguard and promote animal welfare:
- (i) conducting a review on the existing legislation and overseas experience related to animal welfare, as well as launching a three-month public consultation exercise in 2019 on proposals to enhance animal welfare;
 - (ii) enhancing public education and publicity programme to promote responsible pet ownership and proper care of animals, advise against the abandonment and needless surrendering of pets, and champion the need for dog licensing and rabies vaccination as well as the benefits of neutering;
 - (iii) implementing the licensing regime under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations (Cap. 139B) to regulate pet trading and breeding of dogs for sale;
 - (iv) devising codes of practices for the proper trading, breeding and keeping of pets and other animals;
 - (v) enhancing enforcement against pet owners and traders in contravention of relevant legislation;
 - (vi) improving the handling of reports or complaints on cruelty through an inter-departmental special working group comprising representatives of the relevant government departments and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong);
 - (vii) strengthening collaboration with, and providing technical and financial support to animal welfare organisations (AWOs) in rehoming of animals and carrying out activities relating to animal welfare and management; and
 - (viii) implementing the long term strategy for the management of stray cattle in collaboration with the relevant AWOs and local communities.

The expenditure and manpower involved in the above work over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Percentage in the overall expenditure of the Department (%)
2017-18	60.3	4.4
2018-19	74.7	4.7
2019-20 (revised estimate)	73.1	4.2

- (c) The number of suspected animal cruelty reports received and details of successful prosecutions under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169) initiated by the Police and AFCD over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of suspected animal cruelty reports received*	Number of persons convicted	Penalties imposed	
			Fine (\$)	Range of imprisonment
2017	275	24	4,000	7 days to 1 year
2018	368	21	2,000 to 6,000	14 days to 8 months
2019 (up to September)	288	19	2,000 to 8,000	20 days to 2 months

* Upon investigation, most of the cases were found to be related to nuisance with no elements of cruelty.

- (d) Having launched a three-month public consultation exercise in 2019 on enhancement of animal welfare, the Government is now examining the views received and plans to report the findings of the consultation and the way forward to the Legislative Council Panel concerned in April this year. Upon finalising the legislative proposals, we will commence the drafting work of the legislation.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)053

(Question Serial No. 1000)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) Regarding the \$1.5 million subventions for animal welfare organisations, please set out the name of and amount of subventions given to each subvented organisation in 2020-21.
- (b) How does the Government monitor the use of the subvention to ensure that it is spent on promoting animal welfare?

Asked by: Hon KWONG Chun-yu (LegCo internal reference no.: 107)

Reply:

- (a) The subventions approved in 2019-20 and expected to be released in 2020-21 and the names of the subvented animal welfare organisations (AWOs) are at **Annex 1**.
- (b) Only AWO applicants that fulfil the eligibility criteria at **Annex 2** and with applications that are project-based and directly related to the promotion of animal welfare and proper animal management will be considered by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD). When vetting applications, AFCD will assess the objective(s) and expected result(s) of the proposed projects, the cost-effectiveness of the project and whether the proposed expenditures are justified. Document review and audit inspections are conducted to monitor the implementation of subvented programmes. Upon completion of the projects, AWOs must submit the relevant receipts to AFCD. Subventions will only be released after checking the invoices and confirming the compliance of project expenditures.

Subventions approved in 2019-20 and expected to be released in 2020-21 and the subvented AWOs

	AWO	Subvention approved (\$)
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	150,000
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	250,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	122,000
4	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	150,000
5	Sai Kung Stray Friends	150,000
6	Cheung Chau Animal Care	60,000
7	Hong Kong Cats	15,000
8	Society for Abandoned Animals	146,951
9	Kirsten's Zoo	150,000
10	Paws United Charity	150,000
11	Hong Kong Animal Adoption Centre	100,000
12	Second Life Charity Foundation Limited	40,000
Total		1,483,951

Eligibility criteria for application for subvention

- (1) The organisation must be:
 - (i) a society as defined by section 2(1) of the Societies Ordinance (Cap. 151) and registered under section 5A(1) of that Ordinance;
 - (ii) a company registered under the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 622) (or Cap. 32 as in force at the time of the registration); or
 - (iii) a body of persons, or charity, as defined by section 2(1) of the Registered Trustees Incorporation Ordinance (Cap. 306) which has been granted a certificate of incorporation under section 4(1) of that Ordinance.
- (2) The organisation must also be a charitable institution or trust of a public character that is exempt from tax under section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112) (Rehoming partners of AFCD who joined the animal rehome scheme prior to March 2017 may be exempted from this requirement).
- (3) The core services and activities of the organisation must be related to promotion of animal welfare and proper animal management and it must be actively engaged in such services/activities over the past 3 years or more (rehoming partners of AFCD rehome scheme are exempted from the 3-year requirement).
- (4) The organisation must be well-managed and properly constituted with good record keeping and accounting systems.
- (5) Organisations charging an adoption or rehoming fee must possess an exemption from holding an animal trader licence under section 5A of the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations (Cap. 139B). For rehoming partners of AFCD rehome scheme that cannot meet the requirement as stated in (2), at least one individual acting on behalf of the organisation must possess the individual exemption.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)054****(Question Serial No. 1011)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

In respect of “strengthening measures for stray animals management”, would the Government advise of the following:

- (a) What are the related policy measures and the budget involved?
- (b) Please tabulate the figures on handling animal cases over the past 3 years by using the following table.

Year	2017-18			2018-19			2019-20		
	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others
Stray animals caught									
Animals abandoned by owners									
Animals received through other channels									
Animals reclaimed by owners									
Animals rehomed									
Animals euthanised									

- (c) Please tabulate the expenditure and manpower involved in the “Capture-Sterilisation-Relocation” programme over the past 3 years.
- (d) Please tabulate the expenditure of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) on procurement and maintenance of animal traps over the past 3 years.

- (e) Please tabulate AFCD's expenditure on capturing stray animals and euthanasia of animals over the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon KWONG Chun-yu (LegCo internal reference no.: 112)

Reply:

- (a) In 2020-21, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will implement various measures to strengthen the management of stray animals. These include:
- (i) actively promoting the serious responsibility and commitment that go with pet keeping, through public education and publicity programmes to disseminate messages on proper care of animals and responsible pet ownership;
 - (ii) enhancing enforcement against pet owners in contravention of relevant legislation;
 - (iii) strengthening collaboration with, and providing technical and financial support to, animal welfare organisations (AWOs) in rehoming of animals and carrying out activities relating to animal welfare and management;
 - (iv) implementing a long term strategy for the management of stray cattle in collaboration with relevant AWOs and local communities; and
 - (v) liaising with different AWOs to carry out preventive management measures for stray animals and proactively promote animal rehoming in new development areas.

AFCD has earmarked \$43.3 million for the said work in 2020-21.

- (b) The number of animals handled by AFCD over the past 3 years is tabulated at the **Annex**.
- (c) AFCD's expenditure and manpower involved in the "Capture-Sterilisation-Relocation" programme over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (number of staff)
2017-18	2.7	7
2018-19	4.0	7
2019-20 (revised estimate)	3.3	8

- (d) AFCD's expenditure on procurement and maintenance of animal traps over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$'000)
2017-18	20
2018-19	80
2019-20 (revised estimate)	50

- (e) AFCD's expenditure on capturing stray animals and euthanasia of animals over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	
	Catching operations	Euthanasia of animals
2017-18	28.7	1.0
2018-19	32.3	1.3
2019-20 (revised estimate)	33.6	1.2

Annex

Year	Stray animals caught			Animals surrendered by owners			Animals received through other channels			Animals reclaimed by owners			Animals rehomed			Animals euthanised		
	Dogs	Cats	Others [*]	Dogs	Cats	Others [*]	Dogs	Cats	Others [*]	Dogs	Cats	Others [*]	Dogs	Cats	Others [*]	Dogs	Cats	Others [*]
2017	1 566	674	1 640	1 024	84	39	336	65	204	560	269	10	588	67	94	1 478	381	801
2018	1 235	547	1 369	715	80	43	304	62	4 904 [#]	512	206	9	577	89	87	1 026	333	5 007 [#]
2019	965	304	1 031	674	75	69	226	63	2 101 [^]	404	127	9	547	78	44	837	219	2 363 [^]

^{*} Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptile, pigs/cattle, poultry/birds, etc.

[#] The increase in number was mainly due to more animals confiscated under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) and birds seized and culled due to detection of avian influenza in Yuen Po Street Bird Garden in April 2018.

[^] This mainly includes the number of animals confiscated under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)055****(Question Serial No. 1162)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding animal euthanasia, please advise of the following:

- (a) What were the actual expenditure incurred by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 3 financial years for catching stray animals and euthanasia of animals with detailed breakdown (e.g. the expenditure on the procurement of medical equipment, administration fees, etc.)?
- (b) What was the number of animal cases handled by AFCD over the past 3 years?

Year	Stray animals caught			Animals abandoned by owners			Animals received through other channels			Animals reclaimed by owners			Animals rehomed			Animals euthanised		
	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others	Dogs	Cats	Others
2019																		
2018																		
2017																		

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)Reply:

- (a) The expenditure of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) on catching stray animals and euthanasia of animals over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure on catching operations (\$ million)	Expenditure on euthanasia of animals (\$ million)
2017-18	28.7	1.0
2018-19	32.3	1.3
2019-20 (revised estimate)	33.6	1.2

AFCD does not have a detailed breakdown of the above expenditure items.

- (b) The number and species of animals handled by AFCD over the past 3 years are tabulated in the **Annex**.

Year	Stray animals caught			Animals surrendered by owners			Animals received through other channels			Animals reclaimed by owners			Animals rehomed			Animals euthanised		
	Dogs	Cats	Others *	Dogs	Cats	Others *	Dogs	Cats	Others *	Dogs	Cats	Others *	Dogs	Cats	Others *	Dogs	Cats	Others *
2017	1 566	674	1 640	1 024	84	39	336	65	204	560	269	10	588	67	94	1 478	381	801
2018	1 235	547	1 369	715	80	43	304	62	4 904 [#]	512	206	9	577	89	87	1 026	333	5 007 [#]
2019	965	304	1 031	674	75	69	226	63	2 101 [^]	404	127	9	547	78	44	837	219	2 363 [^]

* Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptile, pigs/cattle, poultry/birds, etc.

The increase in number was mainly due to more animals confiscated under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) and birds seized and culled due to detection of avian influenza in Yuen Po Street Bird Garden in April 2018.

[^] This mainly includes the number of animals confiscated under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)056****(Question Serial No. 1865)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department stated that it would focus on assisting farmers in capturing high-value market niches by providing technical advice on organic cultivation and intensive greenhouse production. Would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the work target, implementation timetable, manpower and the estimated expenditure involved in this financial year?
- (b) Are there any statistics on the total number of farmers engaged in organic cultivation and intensive greenhouse production in the territory?
- (c) What is the estimated number of farmers benefited?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 47)Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)'s manpower and estimated expenditure involved in the promotion of organic cultivation and intensive greenhouse production in 2020-21 are tabulated below.

	Manpower (Number of staff)	Estimated expenditure (\$ million)
Organic cultivation	18	9.4
Intensive greenhouse production	14	7.7

This year, AFCD will continue to provide support services to assist local farmers in capturing high-value market niches, including (i) introducing modern farming techniques and equipment; (ii) introducing new and improved crop varieties; (iii) supporting the organic certification of local farms; and (iv) assisting the industry in setting up farmers' markets and organising large-scale carnivals to promote local quality agricultural products.

Furthermore, there are 3 approved projects under the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund with a total funding commitment of \$44 million which aim to enhance the technical support and certification of local organic farms and promotion of their produce. These projects already commenced in April 2019 and will last for 36 to 48 months.

- (b) and (c) As at February 2020, about 340 farms in Hong Kong (with a total area of about 107 hectares) were engaged in organic cultivation and intensive greenhouse production. The promotion of organic cultivation and intensive greenhouse production technology can directly or indirectly benefit 2 000 crop farms over the territory.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)057

(Question Serial No. 1901)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

As announced by the spokesperson of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), a pet dog of a confirmed female patient of the novel coronavirus disease was infected, with its nasal and oral cavity samples tested “weak positive” to the virus, causing widespread concerns and even anxieties among pet owners in the Mainland. According to the Department’s figures in 2017, there were 681 600 pets in Hong Kong, with dogs making up the largest proportion of nearly 300 000. The Government’s survey reported in 2016 that there were 146 private veterinary clinics in Hong Kong, and almost all of them provide services to cats and dogs. Apart from basic veterinary qualifications, over one-third of the registered veterinary surgeons have obtained other veterinary post-graduate/specialist qualifications, while over three-quarters of the registered veterinary surgeons have experience of 5 years or more in practicing. In the face of the coronavirus, however, it is doubtful whether pets will be infected, how to prevent them from being infected and whether veterinary surgeons are knowledgeable enough to provide treatments in this regard.

- (a) Will the Department consider adopting a comprehensive strategy in examining whether pets (common pets such as cats and dogs) can be infected with the human novel coronavirus? Will it be included as a regular item? In the event of major outbreaks of infectious diseases, AFCD will conduct a detailed research to confirm whether pets can be infected with or transmit the disease so that the public can know whether preventive measures are necessary for their pets.
- (b) If a pet owner is a confirmed patient or there are pets suspected to be infected, is there any guideline for ordinary private veterinary clinics to conduct examinations of pets? For any suspected cases, what are the details of the close monitoring procedures conducted by AFCD after the pets have been transferred to the Department? Will the Department disclose the locations and specifications of the pet isolation facilities?

Asked by: Hon LAU Kwok-fan (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

- (a) According to the investigation by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), for the time being, the dog infected with COVID-19 is believed to have contracted the disease through close contact with its owner who was a confirmed patient. Unless the pets are kept by confirmed patients or the close contacts of confirmed patients, the risk of pets being infected with the virus is low in general. It is therefore not necessary to conduct a comprehensive examination on all pets. Multiple tests have been conducted on the infected dog and the results have been timely announced. AFCD has maintained close liaison with the Department of Health and relevant experts to jointly develop contingency plans for major zoonotic diseases.
- (b) If a confirmed patient of COVID-19 or his/her close contact keeps a mammal (such as a cat or a dog) at home, the pet animal concerned will be collected and delivered by AFCD to an animal keeping facility at the Hong Kong Port of Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge for quarantine. There are a total of 12 separate rooms for animal keeping under the supervision of veterinary surgeons in order to safeguard public and animal health. AFCD will collect samples from the animal for testing of COVID-19 virus during the quarantine period. If the result of veterinary surveillance and relevant tests are satisfactory, the pet animal concerned will be returned to the owner or authorised person when they are ready for receiving the pet animal. A letter on this matter was sent to all veterinary surgeons in Hong Kong on 5 March 2020 to remind them to remain vigilant when performing examinations on pets and take preventive measures as necessary. They may report any unusual situation detected in animals to AFCD through the Government hotline 1823.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)058

(Question Serial No. 1774)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

In view of the increasingly rampant illegal fishing activities of non-local fishing vessels in Hong Kong waters, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) manages the fishing activities within the Fisheries Protection Areas in Hong Kong according to the Fisheries Protection Ordinance. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) Fisheries Supervisors are responsible for the control of illegal fishing in Hong Kong waters. Please set out the current staffing structure. How many of them are on short-term contracts? What is the shortest contract period?
- (b) Does the Department provide sufficient professional training on maritime law enforcement and lifesaving for Fisheries Supervisors? How long after appointment will Fisheries Supervisors receive training? How long is the training period? Will Fisheries Supervisors conduct any sea patrols or operations before the completion of training?
- (c) Please set out in tabular form the number of patrols conducted by Fisheries Supervisors each month over the past year. What was the number of joint operations conducted with the marine police?
- (d) Over the past 3 years, what were the numbers of suspected cases of illegal fishing of Mainland fishing vessels in Hong Kong handled by various law enforcement departments, the numbers of cases involving Mainland fishermen prosecuted and convicted due to illegal fishing respectively each year? What was the modus operandi of illegal fishing activities?
- (e) Illegal fishing with equipment such as fishing cages has been constantly detected in the Mai Po Nature Reserve. Has the Department arrested and prosecuted any poachers? If yes, what are the number of cases and penalties concerned? If not,

what are the reasons? Has the Department considered conducting blitz operations by Fisheries Supervisors on a long-term basis?

- (f) Will the Department consider increasing the manpower and imposing heavier penalties with a view to curbing the illegal fishing activities of Mainland fishermen in Hong Kong and protecting the ecology of Hong Kong waters?

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

- (a) 18 staff members of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) are currently dedicated to the enforcement of the Fisheries Protection Ordinance (the Ordinance) (Cap. 171) in Hong Kong waters to combat illegal fishing. They include 1 Fisheries Officer, 9 Fisheries Supervisors and 8 Non-Civil Service Contract (NCSC) staff members. NCSC staff are appointed on contract terms for a period of 12 months.
- (b) AFCD has been collaborating with the Hong Kong Police Force (the Police) to provide professional on-job training on enforcement for frontline staff regularly. Staff are also trained on occupational safety at sea through the Maritime Services Training Institute and the Hong Kong Seamen's Union. AFCD will arrange such training for newly-appointed frontline staff as soon as possible and arrange them to work under the supervision of experienced officers in the enforcement duties at sea.
- (c) Information on AFCD's patrols and joint operations with the Marine Police by month over the past year is tabulated below.

2019	Number of patrols	Number of joint operations with Marine Police
January	164	8
February	128	5
March	151	7
April	128	5
May	139	6
June	128	5
July	135	4
August	148	2
September	146	4
October	163	0
November	156	1
December	151	2
Total	1 737	49

- (d) Information on illegal fishing involving Mainland fishing vessels and fishermen over the past 3 years is tabulated below.

Year	Number of cases of illegal fishing involving Mainland fishing vessels[*]	Respective number of Mainland fishermen prosecuted and convicted[#]
2017	1	5
2018	7	27
2018	2	11

^{*} Cases involving Mainland vessels intercepted by AFCD and the Marine Police.

[#] All prosecuted persons were convicted.

The illegal fishing activities by Mainland fishing vessels mainly included trawling and cage trapping. If Mainland fishing vessels are found illegally fishing in Hong Kong waters but cannot be successfully intercepted within the waters, AFCD will, having regard to the circumstances, refer the cases to the Mainland law enforcement agencies for follow-up.

- (e) AFCD has conducted 34 patrols and 9 joint operations with the Marine Police in the waters around Deep Bay over the past year to combat illegal fishing activities and successfully prosecuted 2 persons involved in an illegal fishing case under the Ordinance. They were fined \$1,000 and \$1,500 respectively. In addition, the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170) stipulates that any person who enters into or be within the Mai Po Marshes and Inner Deep Bay Restricted Area (Restricted Area) without a permit issued by the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation is liable to a maximum fine of \$50,000 on conviction. AFCD officers conduct regular patrols and enforcement operations as well as targeted surveillance, patrol, enforcement operation and intelligence collection and exchange with the Police in order to conserve the ecological habitats in the Mai Po Marshes effectively.
- (f) Under the Ordinance, any person who conducts illegal fishing activities is liable to a maximum fine of \$200,000 and imprisonment for 6 months upon conviction. We consider that the existing statutory provisions are already effective in combating the illegal entry of Mainland fishing vessels into Hong Kong waters for fishing activities, and that the penalties imposed by the court, including fines and imprisonment, have deterrent effect. AFCD will continue to enhance enforcement, exchange information and intelligence with the relevant government departments and Mainland authorities, adjust its enforcement strategy from time to time in the light of circumstances and intelligence gathered, and collaborate with the relevant parties to combat illegal fishing activities. To enhance the effectiveness of the enforcement action, AFCD plans to apply technology in its enforcement work, such as using real time satellite information to help identify fishing vessels.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)059

(Question Serial No. 2535)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) How many applications for the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund were submitted in total over the past year? Among which, how many have been approved and what is the total amount involved?
- (b) How does the Government monitor and assess the success of the projects after the approval?

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

- (a) In 2019, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) received 4 applications seeking support for projects that will benefit the local agricultural industry as a whole under the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund (SADF), as well as 61 applications seeking financial assistance for individual farms to acquire farming equipment and/or materials from the Farm Improvement Scheme (FIS) under SADF. A total of 2 applications related to projects that will benefit the local agricultural industry as a whole and 61 applications under FIS were approved in 2019, involving a total funding commitment of about \$8.4 million and \$1.8 million respectively.
- (b) Upon approval of a project, an agreement which sets out information such as the grantee's obligations and the performance indicators will be signed between AFCD and the applicant. The grantee is required to submit the progress/annual report, together with the related financial statements and/or audited accounts on a regular basis in accordance with the agreement. AFCD will regularly review the reports and conduct on-site visits, with a view to monitoring the progress of the project and assessing whether the intended performance indicators can be achieved. In addition, AFCD will report to the SADF Advisory Committee regularly the implementation progress of SADF projects and submit the respective reports and assessment to the

Advisory Committee for consideration. If both AFCD and the Advisory Committee are satisfied with the implementation progress of the project, payment will be disbursed by instalment as set out in the agreement. If the performance or progress of the project is not satisfactory, AFCD will ask the grantee to make improvements and withhold or terminate payment.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)060

(Question Serial No. 2536)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

It is mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2020-21 that the surveillance on antimicrobial resistance and diseases in food animals in local farms would be enhanced. What are the details? What are the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) makes continued efforts to prevent and control the outbreak of animal and zoonotic diseases in local chicken and pig farms through (i) conducting regular inspections of local farms to ensure that the farmers comply with the biosecurity, farm hygiene and other related requirements, including proper vaccination of poultry against avian influenza, and taking enforcement action against non-compliant cases; (ii) providing technical advice and assistance to farmers on proper farm management, prevention and control of animal diseases; and (iii) organising education seminars on farm management and disease prevention for local farmers and their workers. AFCD also promotes good aquaculture practices to enhance fish farm management and implements a fish health management programme.

On antimicrobial resistance (AMR), AFCD commissioned a consultancy study in October 2017 to devise a programme to monitor antimicrobial usage as well as the prevalence of bacteria with AMR in local food animal farms including livestock and fish farms. The consultancy study was completed in mid-2019 and the recommended surveillance programme for fish and livestock farms have been launched since June and July 2019 respectively.

Furthermore, 3 projects under the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund and the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund have been approved for providing veterinary services to local pig farms, local chicken farms and local fish farms. These projects involve formulation of tailor-made farm-specific disease management plans for the purposes of disease prevention and promoting responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials, and

assisting farmers in sourcing vaccines and other veterinary medications. AFCD maintains liaison with the personnel responsible for these projects through on-site inspection and meetings to closely monitor the progress of provision of veterinary services.

The resources earmarked for the above area of work in 2020-21 are \$86.6 million and 85 staff members, of which \$24.4 million and 13 staff members are for the work on AMR.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)061

(Question Serial No. 2549)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

What are the details of the measures for improving animal farms' biosecurity?

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

To enhance the hygiene of animal farms and to prevent and control the outbreak of animal and zoonotic diseases, the local animal farms have been encouraged to continuously review and improve their biosecurity measures. They include installing disinfection wheel baths and modernised manure discharge systems; stepping up the cleansing and disinfection of transportation trucks for animals; implementing the control of incoming and outgoing traffic of people and goods; stepping up the pest control measures; and implementing the "all in, all out"* mode of production, etc. In addition, measures that are applicable to chicken farms include installing modernised and well ventilated chicken sheds and bird proofing facilities; whereas for pig farms, measures include banning the use of swill as pig feed starting from January 2019 and strengthening the outer walls and fences to prevent the intrusion of wild pigs as and when necessary.

* "All in, all out" system is a farming practice in which animals in the whole farm or the whole shed be admitted and discharged from the shed at the same time. One of the major advantages is that emptying animals from a shed (all out) at regular intervals could allow the sheds to be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before the next batch of animals is admitted (all in), thereby reducing the level of pathogen contamination in the environment. The use of "all in, all out" system in livestock farms has been advocated by a variety of international organisations as a major component of an effective biosecurity plan.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)190****(Question Serial No. 3981)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Over the past 3 years, what was the number of competition horses transporting between Hong Kong and the Conghua Equine Disease Free Zone that have undergone testing by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), as well as the number of posts, salaries and other related expenditures involved in the above work? What is the estimate for all the above items this year?

There was an outbreak of the novel coronavirus in Mainland China in early 2020. As the transport of competition horses between Hong Kong and Conghua is frequent, how does AFCD ensure the health of its staff and the horses to prevent infection and the spread of the virus into Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 261)Reply:

The Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC)'s Conghua Racecourse, located within the Conghua Equine Disease Free Zone, was officially opened in August 2018. Up to March 2020, a total of about 6 000 horses were transported between Hong Kong and Conghua Racecourse.

To safeguard the health of horses, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has devised a surveillance programme for the movement of horses between Hong Kong and Conghua Racecourse. The Equine Disease Division has been established for the provision of equine disease testing services since June 2017. The expenditure and manpower involved in 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 are tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)			Manpower (number of staff)
	Staff	Operation	Total	

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)			Manpower (number of staff)
	Staff	Operation	Total	
2017-18	4.4	3.3	7.7	4
2018-19	5.8	6.8	12.6	4
2019-20 (revised estimate)	6.7	6.2	12.9	6

The Government charges HKJC for conducting the equine disease testing services on a full cost recovery basis.

The manpower resources and expenditure earmarked for equine testing in 2020-21 are similar to that of 2019-20.

To safeguard the health of horses during movement between Hong Kong and Conghua Racecourse, AFCD, HKJC and relevant departments in the Mainland have jointly implemented strict biosecurity and disease surveillance measures, among which mainly include arrangement of horses moving between the 2 places to reside or stay at the facilities of Conghua Racecourse and HKJC only; regular health monitoring for horses; and necessary disease testing and temperature-taking for horses before the movement. In addition, the vehicles for transporting horses are installed with air filters operated with a closed air circulation system, and restricted to transportation routes that have passed the biosecurity risk assessment, and horses are also confined during movement to reduce the risk of infection. As to the staff who are responsible for the movement of horses and related work, they are required to comply with the prevention and control measures on COVID-19 implemented in Hong Kong and the Conghua and the requirements of HKJC. Upon arriving at Conghua Racecourse, they can only stay within the racecourse until their return to Hong Kong along with the horse floats with a view to reducing the risk of contracting and spreading disease.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)191

(Question Serial No. 3982)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

What were the types of the 2 300 stray animals caught by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in 2019? What were the manpower and expenditure involved? How were the caught stray animals handled? What were the respective numbers and percentages of animals euthanised, sterilised and returned, released to the habitat and rehomed? What were the respective expenditures involved in handling the caught stray animals by using the said various methods?

According to AFCD, the estimated number of stray animals caught in 2020 is 2 300, which is the same as the actual number recorded in 2019. How is the figure derived? What types of animals does AFCD expect to catch? What are the manpower and expenditure involved? Is the number of stray animals caught a factor for rating AFCD's performance?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 262)

Reply:

Stray animals caught will be put in the Animal Management Centres (AMCs) under the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) for observation. For those with a microchip implanted, AMCs will try to locate their owners based on the information on their records. In general, these animals will stay in AMCs for about 10 to 20 days. AMCs will keep the non-microchipped ones for at least 4 days, allowing time for their owners to reclaim them. In cases where the animals being left unclaimed are in good health, and assessed by a veterinary officer as having a gentle temperament and suitable for rehoming, AFCD will arrange their transfer to animal welfare organisations (AWOs) for rehoming by members of the public as far as possible. Only animals that are not suitable for rehoming or eventually not rehomed will be euthanised.

The number and species of stray animals caught, animals surrendered by owners and received through other channels by AFCD, and the number and species of animals reclaimed by owners, rehomed and euthanised in 2019 are tabulated in the **Annex**.

Besides, AFCD has launched the “Capture-Sterilisation-Relocation” (CSR) programme for stray cattle since 2011, under which AFCD captures, sterilises and relocates stray cattle to more remote locations far away from human settlements. In 2019, a total of 125, 207 and 98 stray cattle were captured, sterilised and relocated / returned respectively under the CSR programme. Moreover, AFCD assisted 2 AWOs in implementing the Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) trial programme for stray dogs at the 2 trial sites in Cheung Chau and Yuen Long. Although the TNR trial programme was completed in early 2018, the 2 concerned AWOs have agreed to continue to monitor the number of dogs recorded for the trial programme, and regularly provide AFCD with the information on the condition, average lifespan and changes in the population of the dogs concerned in the coming years. Since the launch of the trial programme up till end 2019, a total of 103 dogs were neutered and returned to the 2 trial sites.

In 2019-20, the revised expenditure and manpower involved in the management of stray animals, including catching operations and handling of stray animals caught, as well as the CSR programme for stray cattle and the TNR programme for stray dogs are \$41 million and 195 staff members respectively.

The estimated number and species of stray animals caught in 2020 are expected to be similar to that in 2019. With AFCD’s continuous implementation of measures for managing stray animals, the number of stray animals caught has decreased by about 56% from 2015 to 2019. In 2020-21, we have earmarked \$43.3 million and 196 staff members for this area of work.

Annex

Year	Stray animals caught			Animals surrendered by owners			Animals received through other channels			Animals reclaimed by owners			Animals rehomed			Animals euthanised		
	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*
2019	965	304	1 031	674	75	69	226	63	2 101^	404	127	9	547	78	44	837	219	2 363^

* Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptile, pigs/cattle, poultry/birds, etc.

^ This mainly includes the number of animals confiscated under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)192

(Question Serial No. 3983)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

In Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2020-21 under this programme, the Government stated that it would implement the New Agriculture Policy to proactively support the modernisation and sustainable development of local agriculture, including preparing for the establishment of the Agricultural Park, processing of applications for the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund and overseeing the consultancy study on designating Agricultural Priority Areas. Will the Government advise this Committee of the manpower and estimated annual salary expense involved in implementing the new agriculture policy in 2020-21?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 263)

Reply:

A total of 50 staff involving a provision of about \$20 million for staff cost have been earmarked for the implementation of the New Agriculture Policy.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)193

(Question Serial No. 3646)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the issue of the cattle in the New Territories, would the Government inform this Committee of the following information over the past 3 years:

- (a) What were the expenditure and manpower earmarked by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department for the said work each year?
- (b) What was the distribution of local cattle?
- (c) What was the number of injuries and deaths of cattle each year? What was the number of cattle euthanised each year?
- (d) What was the number of complaints related to the cattle in the New Territories received each year?
- (e) What were the details of the "Capture-Sterilisation-Relocation" programme? What was the number of cattle relocated?
- (f) Some members of the public have suggested putting reflective collars on stray cattle to enable motorists to notice cattle on the roads at night with a view to reducing such traffic accidents. Will the Government consider adopting this suggestion? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- (g) Is there any timeframe for the installation of cattle grids? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 171)

Reply:

- (a) The expenditure and manpower of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) involved in management of stray cattle (including the “Capture-Sterilisation-Relocation” (CSR) programme) over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (number of staff)
2017-18	3.5	7
2018-19	6.7	7
2019-20 (revised estimate)	5.6	8

- (b) According to a territory-wide population survey on stray cattle conducted in 2018, there were around 1 140 stray cattle in the rural areas of Hong Kong. The number and distribution of the stray cattle are tabulated as follows:

Species	Number of stray cattle (head)				
	Lantau Island	Sai Kung/ Ma On Shan	North East New Territories	Central New Territories	Total
Buffalo	120	0	0	40	160
Brown cattle	170	400	260	150	980
Total	290	400	260	190	1 140

- (c) AFCD does not have information on the number of injured or dead cattle. The number of cases involving injured or sick cattle received by AFCD and the number of cattle euthanised over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of cases[#] involving injured/sick cattle	Number of cattle euthanised (head)
2017	151	26
2018	250	39
2019	180	7

[#] A case may involve more than one cattle. The same animal may be involved in more than one case.

- (d) The number of cattle nuisance complaints received by AFCD over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of cattle related complaints received
2017	63
2018	82
2019	92

- (e) AFCD adopts a multi-pronged approach for managing stray cattle. One of the key measures is the CSR programme launched in late 2011, under which AFCD captures, sterilises and relocates stray cattle to remote locations far away from human settlements. AFCD staff monitor the health of the feral cattle herds by conducting inspections regularly at locations where the cattle reside.

The number of cattle handled under the CSR programme over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Captured[^] (head)	Sterilised (head)	Relocated/Returned[^] (head)
2017	105	43	72
2018	128	105	80
2019	125	207	98

[^] Figures include repeated capture and relocation/return of the same cattle.

- (f) AFCD notes that certain cattle concern groups have put reflective strips on some cattle. However, AFCD is of the view that the existing measure of relocating cattle to remote country parks with lower traffic flows is more effective than putting reflective strips on cattle in minimising traffic accidents involving cattle.
- (g) AFCD and the relevant departments have carried out a detailed study on cattle grids, which found that such facilities are generally used on private land in farms in foreign countries to prevent cattle from going outside the farms. Having regard to overseas experience, it is considered that there are potential safety hazards to road users if cattle grids are installed on local public roads.

In the light of the above, and in the absence of viable options to address the safety concerns, the cattle grid proposal will not be pursued further. AFCD will, however, continue to look into other solutions to reduce the possibility of the cattle returning to the urban area.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)194

(Question Serial No. 3647)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the enforcement of the Rabies Ordinance over the past 3 years, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What were the expenditures and manpower involved?
- (b) What were the number of dog licences granted and the source of the dogs newly issued with dog licences?
- (c) What was the expenditure involved in rabies vaccination each year?
- (d) What were the number of prosecutions related to and the penalties for animal keepers abandoning their animals without reasonable excuses?
- (e) What were the number of prosecutions related to and the penalties for failing to keep dogs under proper control?
- (f) What was the number of dog bite cases received each year?
- (g) Further to the above question, what were the respective numbers of dogs, cats and other animals put under observation for rabies at Animal Management Centres under the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, veterinary clinics and keepers' homes?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 172)

Reply:

- (a) The expenditure and manpower of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) involved in the enforcement of the Rabies Ordinance (Cap. 421) (the Ordinance) over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (number of staff)
2017-18	34.0	187
2018-19	38.1	188
2019-20 (revised estimate)	35.6	187

- (b) Under the Rabies Regulation (Cap. 421A), a dog aged over 5 months is required to be licensed and vaccinated against this disease every 3 years. The number of dog licences issued by AFCD over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of dog license issued
2017	61 368
2018	59 034
2019	56 092

The number of dog licences newly issued over the past 3 years by their sources is tabulated as follows:

Source of the dogs	Year / Number of dog licenses newly issued		
	2017	2018	2019
Dog breeding establishments and dog trading premises	2 947	2 062	2 868
Legally imported	3 663	2 564	2 958
Handled by government departments such as rehomed under AFCD's rehome scheme through AFCD's partner animal welfare organisations (AWOs), service dogs of government departments, etc	971	811	613
Other sources	9 465	8 955	9 122
Total	17 046	14 392	15 561

“Other sources” mainly include puppies born of privately owned pet dogs and some stray dogs handled by AWOs and individuals.

- (c) The expenditure of AFCD on the procurement of anti-rabies vaccine over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2017-18	0.5
2018-19	0.9
2019-20 (revised estimate)	1.0

- (d) and (e) Under section 22 of the Ordinance, a keeper of any animal who abandons that animal without reasonable excuse is liable to a maximum fine of \$10,000 and to imprisonment of 6 months. In adducing evidence to substantiate a case under the aforementioned section, it is difficult for the prosecution to prove beyond reasonable doubt that a person abandons an animal without reasonable excuse, particularly in those cases where there is no witness. To tackle cases involving dogs, the prosecution may press charges against the dog owners concerned for failing to take proper control of their dogs in public places pursuant to section 23 of the Ordinance. The maximum penalty for contravening this provision is a fine of \$10,000.

Information on the number of convictions under section 23 of the Ordinance over the past 3 years and the relevant penalties is tabulated as follows:

Year	Prosecution against improper control of dogs	
	Number of convicted cases	Heaviest penalty imposed
2017	192	A fine of \$2,000
2018	140	A fine of \$1,500
2019	169	A fine of \$3,000

- (f) The number of dog biting cases received by AFCD over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of dog biting cases received
2017	1 482
2018	1 354
2019	1 067

- (g) The number of dogs and cats required to undergo rabies observation in AFCD's Animal Management Centres (AMCs), veterinary clinics and the keepers' homes over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	AMCs [#]		Veterinary clinics [#]		Keeper's homes [#]	
	Dogs	Cats	Dogs	Cats	Dogs	Cats
2017	185	7	0	2	422	5
2018	169	12	0	0	383	2
2019	102	8	2	0	205	3

[#] There is no case involving other animals that requires rabies observation.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)195****(Question Serial No. 4143)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding the farmers who obtained credit through the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department over the past 5 years, please set out in table the repayment amount, the repayment rate, as well as the overdue or default cases concerned.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (LegCo internal reference no.: 106)Reply:

The Government provides credit facility to farmers through 3 loan funds administered by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department. They are the J.E. Joseph Trust Fund, the Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Loan Fund, and the Vegetable Marketing Organization Loan Fund. The amount of loans issued by the above loan funds and repayment over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Amount of loans issued (\$ million)	Amount of repayment (up to December 2019) (\$ million)
2015	6.0	6.0
2016	5.1	5.1
2017	6.1	5.9
2018	5.7	5.3
2019	5.0	0.3

Over the past 5 years, no overdue or default payment by borrowers were found in the abovementioned loan funds.

Repayment rate by year cannot be calculated as borrowers make repayment by instalments and loans may not be fully repaid within the same year they were issued.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)196

(Question Serial No. 4303)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) What was the expenditure of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) on management of stray animals and promotion of animal welfare over the past 5 years? Please advise of AFCD's estimated expenditure in this respect in 2020-21.
- (b) Please provide in detail the number of complaints about wild pigs received and wild pigs captured by the Government in each of the past 5 years.
- (c) Please provide in detail the number of cattle relocated to a new location by the Government from their original habitat in each of the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (LegCo internal reference no.: 269)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) implements the following measures to safeguard and promote animal welfare:
 - (i) conducting a review on the existing legislation and overseas experience related to animal welfare, as well as launching a three-month public consultation exercise in 2019 on proposals to enhance animal welfare;
 - (ii) enhancing public education and publicity programme to promote responsible pet ownership and proper care of animals, advise against the abandonment and needless surrendering of pets, and champion the need for dog licensing and rabies vaccination as well as the benefits of neutering;
 - (iii) implementing the licensing regime under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations (Cap. 139B) to regulate pet trading and breeding of dogs for sale;

- (iv) devising codes of practices for the proper trading, breeding and keeping of pets and other animals;
- (v) enhancing enforcement against pet owners and traders in contravention of relevant legislation;
- (vi) improving the handling of reports or complaints on cruelty through an inter-departmental special working group comprising representatives of the relevant government departments and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong);
- (vii) strengthening collaboration with, and providing technical and financial support to animal welfare organisations (AWOs) in rehoming of animals and carrying out activities relating to animal welfare and management; and
- (viii) implementing the long term strategy for the management of stray cattle in collaboration with the relevant AWOs and local communities.

The expenditure and manpower involved in the above work over the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (number of staff)
2015-16	50.5	194
2016-17	53.7	207
2017-18	60.3	216
2018-19	74.7	217
2019-20 (revised estimate)	73.1	218

AFCD has earmarked \$78.1 million and 219 staff members for the above work in 2020-21.

- (b) The number of complaints about wild pigs received and the number of wild pigs captured by AFCD over the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of cases	Number of wild pigs captured
2015-16	510	37
2016-17	643	62
2017-18	787	142
2018-19	1 008	192
2019-20 (up to January 2020)	950	250

- (c) AFCD adopts a multi-pronged approach for managing stray cattle. One of the key measures is the “Capture-Sterilisation-Relocation” (CSR) programme launched in

late 2011, under which AFCD captures, sterilises and relocates stray cattle to remote locations far away from human settlements. AFCD monitors the health of the feral cattle herds by conducting inspections regularly at locations where the cattle reside.

The number of cattle captured and relocated under the CSR programme over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of cattle captured[^]	Number of cattle relocated/returned[^]
2015	88	70
2016	114	69
2017	105	72
2018	128	80
2019	125	98

[^] Figures include repeated capture and relocation/return of the same cattle.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)197****(Question Serial No. 4857)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (-) Not SpecifiedControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding the work in relation to the Code on Access to Information, will the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) Concerning the requests for information under the Code on Access to Information received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department from October 2018 to present for which only some of the required information has been provided, please state in table form: (i) the content of the requests for which only some of the required information has been provided; (ii) the reasons for providing some of the information only; (iii) whether the decision on withholding some of the information was made at the directorate (D1 or D2) level (according to paragraph 1.8.2 of the Guidelines on Interpretation and Application); (iv) whether the decision on withholding some of the information was made subject to a “harm or prejudice test”, i.e. whether the public interest in disclosure of such information outweighs any harm or prejudice that could result from disclosure (according to paragraph 2.1.1 of the Guidelines on Interpretation and Application)? If yes, please provide the details.

From October to December 2018

(i) Content of the requests for which only some of the required information was provided	(ii) Reasons for providing some of the information only	(iii) Whether the decision on withholding some of the information was made at the directorate (D1 or D2) level (according to paragraph 1.8.2 of the Guidelines on Interpretation and Application)	(iv) Whether the decision on withholding some of the information was made subject to a “harm or prejudice test”, i.e. whether the public interest in disclosure of such information outweighs any harm or prejudice

			that could result from disclosure (according to paragraph 2.1.1 of the Guidelines on Interpretation and Application). If yes, please provide the details.

2019

(i) Content of the requests for which only some of the required information was provided	(ii) Reasons for providing some of the information only	(iii) Whether the decision on withholding some of the information was made at the directorate (D1 or D2) level (according to paragraph 1.8.2 of the Guidelines on Interpretation and Application)	(iv) Whether the decision on withholding some of the information was made subject to a “harm or prejudice test”, i.e. whether the public interest in disclosure of such information outweighs any harm or prejudice that could result from disclosure (according to paragraph 2.1.1 of the Guidelines on Interpretation and Application). If yes, please provide the details.

- (b) Concerning the requests for information under the Code on Access to Information received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department from October 2018 to present for which the required information has not been provided, please state in table form: (i) the content of the requests refused; (ii) the reasons for refusal; (iii) whether the decision on withholding the information was made at the directorate (D1 or D2) level (according to paragraph 1.8.2 of the Guidelines on Interpretation and Application); (iv) whether the decision on withholding the information was made subject to a “harm or prejudice test”, i.e. whether the public interest in disclosure of such information outweighs any harm or prejudice that could result from disclosure (according to paragraph 2.1.1 of the Guidelines on Interpretation and Application)? If yes, please provide the details.

From October to December 2018

(i) Content of the requests refused	(ii) Reasons for refusal	(iii) Whether the decision on withholding the information was made at the directorate (D1 or D2) level (according to paragraph 1.8.2 of the Guidelines on Interpretation and Application)	(iv) Whether the decision on withholding the information was made subject to a “harm or prejudice test”, i.e. whether the public interest in disclosure of such information outweighs any harm or prejudice that could result from disclosure (according to paragraph 2.1.1 of the Guidelines on Interpretation and Application). If yes, please provide the details.

2019

(i) Content of the requests refused	(ii) Reasons for refusal	(iii) Whether the decision on withholding the information was made at the directorate (D1 or D2) level (according to paragraph 1.8.2 of the Guidelines on Interpretation and Application)	(iv) Whether the decision on withholding the information was made subject to a “harm or prejudice test”, i.e. whether the public interest in disclosure of such information outweighs any harm or prejudice that could result from disclosure (according to paragraph 2.1.1 of the Guidelines on Interpretation and Application). If yes, please provide the details.

- (c) Any person who believes that a department has failed to comply with any provision of the Code on Access to Information may ask the department to review the situation. Please advise this Committee in each of the past 5 years, (i) the number of review cases received; (ii) the number of cases, among the review cases received in the year, in which further information was disclosed after review; (iii) whether the decisions on review were made at the directorate (D1 or D2) level.

Year in which review cases were received	(i) Number of review cases received	(ii) Number of cases, among the review cases received in the year, in which further information was disclosed after review	(iii) Whether the decisions on review were made at the directorate (D1 or D2) level
2015			
2016			
2017			
2018			
2019			

- (d) With reference to the target response times set out in paragraphs 1.16.1 to 1.19.1 of Guidelines on Interpretation and Application of the Code on Access to Information, please advise this Committee on the following information by year in table form (with text descriptions).

- (i) Within 10 days from date of receipt of a written request:

	Number of requests for which the information requested was provided	Number of requests involving third party information for which the information requested could not be provided	Number of requests for which the information requested could not be provided since the requests had to be transferred to another department which held the information under request	Number of requests for information which were refused under the exemption provisions in Part 2 of the Code on Access to Information	Number of applications which the applicants indicated that they did not wish to proceed with and withdrew since they did not accept the charge
2020					
2019					
2018					
2017					
2016					

Within 10 to 21 days from date of receipt of a written request:

	Number of requests for which the information requested was provided	Number of requests involving third party information for which the information requested could not be provided	Number of requests for which the information requested could not be provided since the requests had to be transferred to another department which held the information under request	Number of requests for information which were refused under the exemption provisions in Part 2 of the Code on Access to Information	Number of applications which the applicants indicated that they did not wish to proceed with and withdrew since they did not accept the charge
2020					
2019					
2018					
2017					
2016					

Within 21 to 51 days from date of receipt of a written request:

	Number of requests for which the information requested was provided	Number of requests involving third party information for which the information requested could not be provided	Number of requests for which the information requested could not be provided since the requests had to be transferred to another department which held the information under request	Number of requests for information which were refused under the exemption provisions in Part 2 of the Code on Access to Information	Number of applications which the applicants indicated that they did not wish to proceed with and withdrew since they did not accept the charge
2020					
2019					
2018					
2017					
2016					

- (ii) cases in which information could not be provided within 21 days from date of receipt of a request in the past 5 years:

Date	Subject of information requested	Specific reason

- (iii) cases in which information could not be provided within 51 days from date of receipt of a request in the past 5 years:

Date	Subject of information requested	Specific reason

- (e) Please state in table form the number of those, among the cases in which requests for information were refused under the exemption provisions in Part 2 of the Code on Access to Information, on which the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data was consulted when they were being handled in the past 5 years. For cases on which advice had been sought, was it fully accepted in the end? For cases where the advice of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data was not accepted or was only partially accepted, what are the reasons?

Date	Subject	Particular exemption provision in Part 2 of the Code on Access to Information under which requests for information were refused	Whether the advice of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data was fully accepted	Reasons for refusing to accept or only partially accepting the advice of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (LegCo internal reference no.: 424)

Reply:

- (a) The information and details regarding the requests for information under the Code on Access to Information (the Code) received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) from October 2018 to present for which only some of the required information has been provided are tabulated as follows:

(i) Content of the requests for which only some of the required information was provided	(ii) Reasons for providing some of the information only	(iii) Whether the decision on withholding some of the information was made at the directorate (D1 or D2) level (according to paragraph 1.8.2 of the Guidelines on Interpretation and Application)	(iv) Whether the decision on withholding some of the information was made subject to a “harm or prejudice test”, i.e. whether the public interest in disclosure of such information outweighs any harm or prejudice that could result from disclosure (according to paragraph 2.1.1 of the Guidelines on Interpretation and Application). If yes, please provide the details.
October to December 2018			
Information on brown cattle and buffaloes in Hong Kong	Management and operation of the public service, paragraph 2.9 of the Code	Yes	Yes. The disclosure of such information did not involve great public interest, but the public interest in disclosure of such information should not outweigh or offset any harm or prejudice that could result from disclosure.
Information on the permits, patrols and prosecutions / warnings in relation to the Lam Tsuen Country Park	Law enforcement, legal proceedings and public safety, paragraph 2.6 of the Code		
2019			
Information relating to a dog found on a ship by AFCD (involving 2 applications)	Privacy of the individual, paragraph 2.15 of the Code	Yes	Yes. The disclosure of such information did not involve great public interest, but the public interest in disclosure of such information should not outweigh or offset any harm or prejudice that could result from disclosure.
Information on local farms registered at AFCD	Privacy of the individual, paragraph 2.15 of the Code		
Information provided in the application forms of the approved	Third party information, paragraph 2.14 of the		

(i) Content of the requests for which only some of the required information was provided	(ii) Reasons for providing some of the information only	(iii) Whether the decision on withholding some of the information was made at the directorate (D1 or D2) level (according to paragraph 1.8.2 of the Guidelines on Interpretation and Application)	(iv) Whether the decision on withholding some of the information was made subject to a “harm or prejudice test”, i.e. whether the public interest in disclosure of such information outweighs any harm or prejudice that could result from disclosure (according to paragraph 2.1.1 of the Guidelines on Interpretation and Application). If yes, please provide the details.
projects of the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund	Code		
Information on service contracts (involving 2 applications)	Business affairs, paragraph 2.16 of the Code		

- (b) The information and details regarding the requests for information under the Code received by AFCD from October 2018 to present for which the required information has not been provided are tabulated as follows:

(i) Content of the requests refused	(ii) Reasons for refusal	(iii) Whether the decision on withholding the information was made at the directorate (D1 or D2) level (according to paragraph 1.8.2 of the Guidelines on Interpretation and Application)	(iv) Whether the decision on withholding the information was made subject to a “harm or prejudice test”, i.e. whether the public interest in disclosure of such information outweighs any harm or prejudice that could result from disclosure (according to paragraph 2.1.1 of the Guidelines on Interpretation and Application). If yes, please provide the details.
October to December 2018			
Information on removal of trees in country parks	External affairs, paragraph 2.4 of the Code	Yes	Yes. The disclosure of such information did not involve great public interest, but the public interest in disclosure of such information should not outweigh or offset any harm or prejudice that could result from disclosure.
2019			
Study of freshwater tortoises in Hong Kong	Law enforcement, legal proceedings and public safety, paragraph 2.6 of the Code and Damage to the environment, paragraph 2.7 of the Code	Yes	Yes. The disclosure of such information did not involve great public interest, but the public interest in disclosure of such information should not outweigh or offset any harm or prejudice that could result from disclosure.

- (c) Any person who believes that AFCD has failed to comply with any provision of the Code may request a review of the situation. The information on the number of review cases received by AFCD, number of cases in which further information was disclosed after review in each of the past 5 years and the salary points of the reviewing officers concerned are tabulated as follows:

Year in which review cases were received	(i) Number of review cases received	(ii) Number of cases, among the review cases received in the year, in which further information was disclosed after review	(iii) Whether the decisions on review were made at the directorate (D1 or D2) level
2015	1	0	The decision was made at the directorate level higher than D2.
2016	2	0	
2017	0	0	
2018	1	1	
2019	1	0	

- (d) (i) With reference to the target response times set out in paragraphs 1.16.1 to 1.19.1 of the Guidelines on Interpretation and Application of the Code, the figures with respect to AFCD's processing of cases upon receipt of written requests by year are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of requests for which the information requested was provided[^]	Number of requests involving third party information for which the information requested could not be provided	Number of requests for which the information requested could not be provided since the requests had to be transferred to another department which held the information under request	Number of requests for information which were refused under the exemption provisions in Part 2 of the Code on Access to Information[^]	Number of applications which the applicants indicated that they did not wish to proceed with and withdrew since they did not accept the charge
Within 10 days from date of receipt of written requests					
2020 [*]	6	0	0	0	0
2019	46	0	0	1	0
2018	50	0	0	0	0
2017	30	0	0	0	0

Year	Number of requests for which the information requested was provided[^]	Number of requests involving third party information for which the information requested could not be provided	Number of requests for which the information requested could not be provided since the requests had to be transferred to another department which held the information under request	Number of requests for information which were refused under the exemption provisions in Part 2 of the Code on Access to Information[^]	Number of applications which the applicants indicated that they did not wish to proceed with and withdrew since they did not accept the charge
2016	15	0	0	0	0
Within 11 to 21 days from date of receipt of written requests					
2020 [*]	4	1	0	0	0
2019	15	1	0	0	0
2018	12	0	0	0	0
2017	12	1	0	0	0
2016	3	0	0	2	0
Within 22 to 51 days from date of receipt of written requests					
2020 [*]	0	0	0	0	0
2019	2	0	0	0	0
2018	1	0	0	1	0
2017	2	0	0	0	0
2016	0	0	0	0	0

^{*} As at February 2020

[^] This column does not cover cases in which the Department could provide some of the information requested.

(ii) Cases in which AFCD could not make replies to within 21 days from the date of receipt of requests over the past 5 years:

Date	Subject of information requested	Specific reason
10/4/2017	Information relating to wildlife products	Involved a considerable amount of information
16/5/2017	Information relating to local vegetables	Involved a considerable amount of information
23/1/2018	Information about planting programme in the nature reserve	Involved a considerable amount of information
17/10/2018	Information on removal of trees in country parks	Involved external affairs
15/11/2018	Information on brown cattle and buffaloes in Hong Kong	Involved a considerable amount of information
29/12/2018	Information on legal hunting activities prior to 1981	Involved a considerable amount of information
13/3/2019	Information relating to a dog found on a ship by AFCD	Legal advice had to be sought
27/3/2019	Enquiries on the remarks of officials of the Food and Health Bureau	Some of the information had to be provided by other government department(s)
30/3/2019	Information relating to a dog found on a ship by AFCD	Legal advice had to be sought
16/9/2019	Information on service contracts	Involved a considerable amount of information

(iii) There were no cases in which AFCD could not make replies to within 51 days from the date of receipt of requests over the past 5 years.

(e) AFCD had not consulted the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data on any case in which requests for information were refused under the exemption provisions in Part 2 of the Code over the past 5 years.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)198

(Question Serial No. 5267)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the masks for use by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, please provide:

- (a) the amount of current stock;
- (b) the amounts of monthly stock over the past 5 years;
- (c) the amounts produced by the Correctional Services Department in the monthly stock over the past 5 years;
- (d) the expenditures incurred over the past 5 years;
- (e) the amounts of monthly consumption over the past 5 years;
- (f) the amounts of procurement over the past 5 years;
- (g) the amounts depleted due to storage problems over the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 1871)

Reply:

- (a) to (g) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) obtains surgical masks produced by the Correctional Services Department from the Government Logistics Department and procures masks from the market for distribution to and use by colleagues, visitors and individual staff of contractors who provide services at AFCD's facilities. AFCD does not keep any information on the distribution of masks from different sources to individual staff.

With an upsurge in the global demand for personal protective equipment (PPE), the HKSAR Government is facing keen competition in its procurement. The

Government considers it inappropriate at this stage to disclose further information about the stock levels, quantities procured and amounts paid, procurement date and consumption in respect of PPE in individual departments in the past few years and recent months so as not to undermine the bargaining power of the Government in procuring PPE.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)199

(Question Serial No. 5707)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

At present, how many hectares of agricultural land are available for rehabilitation? Is there any restriction on the size of land for which a person can apply for agricultural rehabilitation? What is the maximum size of land available for agricultural rehabilitation? How many people are on the waiting list? What is the average waiting time?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 534)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department operates the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme through bringing owners of farmland and interested farmers together to work out leasing agreements for the farmland. At present, about 9 hectares of agricultural land is available for leasing and there is no restriction on the size of farmland that each applicant may rent. In 2019, the average waiting time for successful cases was 3.8 years. 445 applicants were on the waiting list as at the end of 2019.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)200

(Question Serial No. 5708)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Over the past 5 years, what were the respective numbers of applicants under the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund? What were the respective numbers of applications successfully approved? What is the amount of surplus in the Fund?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 535)

Reply:

The \$500 million Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund has received a total of 50 applications since its inception in July 2014. So far, 23 applications have been approved, involving a total commitment of about \$126 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)201****(Question Serial No. 5709)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Over the past 5 years, how many applications were received and approved respectively regarding the lease of agricultural land under the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme (the Scheme) by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department? What is the area of land leased out under the Scheme? What is the average waiting time for applicants? What is the number of waiting cases for leasing agricultural land at present?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 536)Reply:

The requested information is tabulated as follows:

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of new applications	45	65	58	77	49
Number of successful cases	41	29	9	10	43
- Total land area involved (hectare)	5.4	4.0	2.1	1.4	7.9
- Average waiting time (year)	5.0	4.0	5.5	3.2	3.8
Number of applications on the waiting list up to year-end	287	300	347	413	445

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)202****(Question Serial No. 5710)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Please provide the number of existing locally-operated hydroponic farms, their locations, distribution among districts, areas occupied, total production areas, and respective zonings on the Outline Zoning Plan (such as Agriculture, Green Belt, etc.).

	Location	District	Number	Area occupied	Total production area	Zoning on the Outline Zoning Plan
Agricultural Land						
Industrial Building						

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 537)Reply:

Information on local hydroponic farms gathered by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) as at December 2019 is tabulated as follows:

Location	District	Number of farms	Area occupied (m ²)	Total production area (m ²)	Zoning on the Outline Zoning Plan
Agricultural land	Yuen Long	9	37 590	7 710	Agriculture
		1	11 000	6 000	Industrial
		1	6 000	3 350	Village Type Development
		1	3 500	2 500	Green Belt
		1	2 500	2 000	Coastal Protection Area
		3	370	480	Open Storage
	North	9	19 185	9 380	Agriculture
	Tuen Mun	1	110	100	Village Type Development
Industrial building	Chai Wan	1	300	210	Industrial
	Kwun Tong	1	15	30	Other Specified Use
		1	200	105	Industrial
	Yau Tong	1	90	180	Other Specified Use
	Kwai Ching	2	230	240	Other Specified Use
		1	30	30	Industrial
	Tsuen Wan	1	90	200	Other Specified Use
		1	325	450	Industrial
	Tuen Mun	2	5 150	5 100	Industrial
	Sha Tin	1	50	50	Industrial
	Tai Po	1	3 000	13 880	Other Specified Use
Others	Kwai Ching	1	25	25	Government, Institution or Community
	Tin Shui Wai	1	140	300	Government, Institution or Community
	Sham Shui Po [*]	1	250	250	Residential
	Causeway Bay [#]	1	20	10	Other Specified Use

^{*} The Controlled Environment Hydroponic Research and Development Centre is jointly established and operated by AFCD and the Vegetable Marketing Organization on land under a short-term tenancy which allows operation of a small vegetable factory.

[#] In commercial premises

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)203

(Question Serial No. 5711)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme implemented by the Government, please advise of:

- (a) The details of expenditure on implementing the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme, including the departmental manpower and expenditure involved; the number of applications for agricultural land rehabilitation, participating land owners, cases of successful matching, as well as the land area involved in each case.
- (b) The number of new applicants for agricultural land rehabilitation, the cumulative number of applicants on the waiting list and the land area involved.
- (c) The number of cases of successful matching, the details of the land area and rentals involved in each case, as well as the average and the longest waiting time.
- (d) Has the Government put in place any measure to increase the chance of successful matching and reduce the waiting time for agricultural land rehabilitation?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 538)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) operates the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme (ALRS) through bringing owners of farmland and interested farmers together to work out leasing agreements for the farmland. The requested information on ALRS and the relevant statistics on the cases handled in 2019 are tabulated as follows:

Year	2019
Number of staff	1
Expenditure (\$ million)	0.9
Number of landowners participating in ALRS	32
Number of new applications/land area involved (hectare)	49/7.8
Number of successful cases	43
- Total land area involved (hectare)	7.9
- Range of annual rental (per dau chung [*])	\$7 to \$142,900
- Average/longest waiting time (year)	3.8/5.0
Number of applications on the waiting list as at year-end / land area involved (hectare)	445/81.8

^{*} 1 dau chung is equivalent to 7 260 square feet.

Agricultural land in Hong Kong is mainly in private hands. It is up to landowners to decide whether to lease out their land for farming. AFCD will continue to facilitate the leasing out of fallow farmland through ALRS, and provide farmers with technical advice and services to return fallow land to active farming. In addition, to support the development of the local agriculture, the Government is conducting a consultancy study on Agricultural Priority Areas to identify relatively large areas of quality agricultural land and explore suitable policies and measures to encourage landowners to put fallow agricultural land back into long-term agricultural use.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)204

(Question Serial No. 5712)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise this Committee of the following information over the past 5 years:

- (a) The number of stray animals captured by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), and among which the respective numbers of animals rehomed and euthanised with a breakdown by animal type and length of their stay at the Department's facilities (number of days);
- (b) The number of abandoned animals received and saved by AFCD, and among which the respective numbers of animals rehomed and euthanised with a breakdown by animal type and length of their stay at the Department's facilities (number of days);
- (c) The total number of animals euthanised by AFCD and the expenditure involved each year;
- (d) The capacity and utilisation rate of AFCD's animal shelter facilities, and the total cost of shelter services;
- (e) The number of animals caught with animal traps by AFCD with a breakdown by types of animal traps used and animals caught; and
- (f) The number of animals which died due to the use of animal traps with a breakdown by types of animal traps used and animals dead.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 539)

Reply:

- (a) to (c) The type and number of animals received and handled by the 4 Animal Management Centres (AMCs) under the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 5 years are tabulated at the **Annex**.

The average period that the received animals were kept by AMCs over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Average period kept in AMCs (days)		
	Dogs	Cats	Others [^]
2015	9.5	9.7	15.5
2016	10.9	13.0	53.8
2017	13.1	13.0	65.8
2018	20.1	17.6	29.8
2019	22.6	25.6	15.1

[^] Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptiles, pigs, poultry / birds, etc.

The expenditure on euthanasia of animals over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure on euthanasia of animals (\$ million)
2015-16	1.4
2016-17	0.9
2017-18	1.0
2018-19	1.3
2019-20 (revised estimate)	1.2

- (d) AFCD currently operates 4 AMCs in the New Territories North (NTN), New Territories South (NTS), Kowloon (K) and Hong Kong Island (HK) respectively. The maximum capacity of the AMCs is tabulated as follows:

AMC	Maximum capacity (number) [*]			
	Dog kennel	Cat kennel	Bird cage	Enclosure for other animals
AMC / NTS	80	30	-	-
AMC / NTN	130	80	25	16
AMC / K	90	30	-	-
AMC / HK	50	30	-	-
Total	350	170	25	16

^{*} The holding capacity of the kennels depends on a number of factors, including if the animals are from the same litter or pack, the health status and behaviour of each animal. In general, only one animal will be housed in each kennel as far as possible for the sake of better disease control and animal welfare. AFCD does not keep the utilisation rate of the animal keeping facilities of the 4 AMCs.

The expenditure on catching and handling stray animals caught over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)		
	Catching stray animals	Handling stray animals caught	Total
2015-16	29.0	3.6	32.6
2016-17	28.5	3.4	31.9
2017-18	28.7	3.6	32.3
2018-19	32.3	4.0	36.3
2019-20 (revised estimate)	33.6	3.9	37.5

- (e) The type and number of animals caught with animals traps are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of animals caught with animal traps				
	Dogs (by cage / snare)	Cats (by cage)	Pigeons (by cage)	Monkeys ^{Note} (by cage / snare)	Wild pigs ^{Note} (by cage, net or dart gun)
2015	159/142	1 009	473	454/14	28
2016	76/118	564	218	521/31	59
2017	118/103	475	273	291/28	106
2018	40/102	299	0	195/29	197
2019	35/35	186	0	216/14	284

^{Note}: The management of wild animals falls under the policy purview of the Environment Bureau.

- (f) AFCD has no record of animals injured or died due to the use of animal traps during the catching operations over the past 5 years.

Year	Stray animals caught			Animals surrendered by owners			Animals received through other channels			Animals reclaimed by owners			Animals rehomed			Animals euthanised		
	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*
2015	2 412	1 359	1 418	1 284	129	109	378	73	3 590	774	626	11	651	168	83	2 421	696	3 469
2016	1 919	876	1 494	1 003	107	56	343	70	674	637	400	1	513	136	92	1 814	449	748
2017	1 566	674	1 640	1 024	84	39	336	65	204	560	269	10	588	67	94	1 478	381	801
2018	1 235	547	1 369	715	80	43	304	62	4 904 [#]	512	206	9	577	89	87	1 026	333	5 007 [#]
2019	965	304	1 031	674	75	69	226	63	2 101 [^]	404	127	9	547	78	44	837	219	2 363 [^]

* Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptile, pigs/cattle, poultry/birds, etc.

[#] The increase in number was mainly due to more animals confiscated under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) and birds seized and culled due to detection of avian influenza in Yuen Po Street Bird Garden in April 2018.

[^] This mainly includes the number of animals confiscated under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)205

(Question Serial No. 6608)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the Government's implementation of the New Agriculture Policy to proactively support the modernisation and sustainable development of local agriculture, including preparing for the establishment of the Agricultural Park, processing of applications for the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund (SADF) and overseeing the consultancy study on designating Agricultural Priority Areas, I have the following questions:

- (a) How does the New Agriculture Policy proactively support the modernisation and sustainable development of local agriculture? The Government stated that it proactively supports the sustainable development of local agriculture. Please set out the details of the distribution and areas of the agricultural land in Hong Kong by the 18 districts.
- (b) The usage of agricultural land varies in Hong Kong. Please set out the details of farmland usage by the 18 districts and the Government's classification or the following types: certified organic farms, traditional farmland, abandoned farmland and brownfield sites.
- (c) What were the details concerning organisation / individual applicants and the successful organisation / individual applicants under SADF as well as the financial provision in each of the past 3 years? What are the details of the study on the Agricultural Priority Areas?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (LegCo internal reference no.: 100)

Reply:

- (a) to (c) According to the survey on agricultural land use conducted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), the total area of agricultural land in Hong Kong is around 4 300 hectares. The estimated area of agricultural land in active farming use, fallow agricultural land and certified organic farm in 2019 is tabulated by district as follows:

District / Estimated area (hectare)	In active farming use^{*#}	Fallow agricultural land[*]	Certified organic farm
North	290	1 160	25.0
Yuen Long	250	680	28.5
Tai Po	90	600	4.1
Tuen Mun	40	80	1.7
Islands	30	400	1.3
Sai Kung	20	340	1.7
Tsuen Wan	10	100	0.2
Others	20	150	0.1
Total	750	3 510	62.6

^{*} Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 hectares.

[#] Figures include certified organic and traditional farms.

AFCD has been implementing the New Agriculture Policy since 2016 to promote the modernisation and sustainable development of the local agricultural sector. Details of the key measures are set out as follows:

- (i) AFCD will establish an Agricultural Park (Agri-Park) in Kwu Tung South to help nurture agro-technology and knowledge of modern farm management. The Agri-Park will be developed in 2 phases. Phase 1 will be developed in a relatively small scale (about 11 hectares) with a view to enabling its partial commissioning for use by farmers as early as possible. Subject to funding approval of the Finance Committee in 2020, the construction works of Agri-Park Phase 1 will commence as soon as possible, and is expected to be completed in stages by 2021-2023. AFCD is in parallel planning and preparing for Agri-Park Phase 2.
- (ii) To support the development of the local agriculture, the Government is conducting a consultancy study on Agricultural Priority Areas to identify relatively large areas of quality agricultural land and explore suitable policies and measures to encourage landowners to put fallow agricultural land back into long-term agricultural use. The consultant is currently reviewing the existing farmland in Hong Kong and studying overseas experience, including regions in Europe, the United States and Asia that have similar experience, before making recommendations. As a considerable size of agricultural land is involved, it is estimated that the study will take several years to complete.
- (iii) The Government has set up a \$500 million Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund (SADF) to provide financial support for the modernisation and sustainable development of local agriculture which is open for applications since December 2016. Over the past 3 years (2017-2019), a total of 299 applications seeking financial assistance for individual farms to acquire farming equipment and / or materials from the Farm Improvement Scheme under SADF were received. 286 applications have been approved, involving a total funding commitment of

about \$8.3 million. 3 applications have been rejected and 6 applications withdrawn by the applicants (including 1 approved application). The rest are being processed. The relevant details are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of applications	Number of approvals	Grant approved (\$ million)
2017	172	158	4.6
2018	66	67	1.9
2019	61	61	1.8
Total	299	286	8.3

In addition, a total of 37 applications seeking funding support for projects that will benefit the local agricultural industry as a whole have been received as at February 2020. Among them, 10 applications have been approved, 13 rejected, 8 withdrawn by the applicants, 2 returned to the applicants (for further information / re-submission if necessary) and 3 found to be ineligible for application. The remaining 1 application is being processed. Applicant organisations include farming organisations, local academic and research institutions, etc. Details of the approved SADF projects are at the **Annex**.

**Approved projects under the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund
(as at 29 February 2020)**

Item	Project	Applicant organisation	Date of implementation	Grant approved (\$ million)
1	Development of sustainable organic fertilisers for output maximisation of outdoor and indoor plant factories	City University of Hong Kong	1/1/2019	2.8
2	Management and operation of the Organic Certification System and its support initiatives	Hong Kong Organic Resource Centre Certification Limited	1/4/2019	15.0
3	Promotion of local organic agriculture and image-building of professional organic certification	Hong Kong Baptist University (Hong Kong Organic Resource Centre)	1/4/2019	14.9
4	Comprehensive support and promotion scheme for agriculture	The Federation of Vegetable Marketing Co-operative Societies, Limited	1/4/2019	14.1
5	Improving pig health and production in Hong Kong	City University of Hong Kong (School of Veterinary Medicine)	1/3/2019	15.0
6	Improving poultry health and production in Hong Kong	City University of Hong Kong (School of Veterinary Medicine)	1/3/2019	15.0
7	Technology demonstration project on application of advanced sewage treatment technologies for local pig farms	Hong Kong Productivity Council	1/1/2019	5.0
8	An interactive and sustainable platform for new farmers (Phase I): agricultural pests commonly found in Hong Kong	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	1/1/2020	2.5

9	Version 3.0 of Hong Kong agriculture: a sustainable development project of vegetable supply chain	Sustainable Ecological Ethical Development Foundation	1/1/2020	5.9
10	Hong Kong Seed Technology and Education Centre	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	1/7/2020 (Tentative)	6.5
Total				96.7

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)206

(Question Serial No. 6609)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Government takes follow-up actions on the implementation of the legislation to ban trawling and better regulate fishing activities in Hong Kong waters, and continues to implement other recommendations of the Committee on Sustainable Fisheries, with the aim of conserving and restoring marine resources. However, some fishermen have relayed to me that illegal fishing by non-local fishing vessels in Hong Kong waters is rampant. In this connection, I have the following questions:

- (a) What was the number of non-local fishing vessels that conducted trawling in Hong Kong waters in each of the past 3 years as known by the Government? How did the Government handle these cases? Is there relevant legislation to regulate the situation? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- (b) I was told that many non-local fishing vessels have engaged in fishing activities in Hong Kong waters with the use of electricity or chemicals. Is the Government aware of the situation? If yes, what are the details? If not, what policies will the Government put in place to safeguard local fishermen?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (LegCo internal reference no.: 101)

Reply:

- (a) and (b) To protect the marine environment and fisheries resources in Hong Kong waters, destructive fishing practices are prohibited under the Fisheries Protection Ordinance (Cap. 171) (the Ordinance). Offenders in contravention of the Ordinance are liable to a maximum fine of \$200,000 and an imprisonment for 6 months upon conviction. Destructive fishing practices include fishing with explosive, toxic substances, electricity-transmitting apparatus, suction device, dredging device, and trawling device. In addition, it is an offence to conduct fishing activities in Hong Kong waters on non-local fishing vessels (including Mainland fishing vessels) that are not registered

under the Ordinance. Offenders are liable to a maximum fine of \$100,000 and an imprisonment for 6 months upon conviction.

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is committed to combating illegal fishing and enforcing the relevant legislation through a risk-based approach, deploying resources flexibly to conduct random and targeted patrols in local waters in light of the circumstances and the intelligence gathered. AFCD also maintains close liaison with the Marine Police with a view to mounting joint operations as appropriate. As regards cross-border illegal fishing, AFCD exchanges intelligence with the relevant Mainland authorities (including the Guangdong Provincial Marine and Fisheries Inspection Bureau) and conducts joint enforcement operations when necessary. To enhance the effectiveness of the enforcement action, AFCD plans to apply technology in its enforcement work, such as using real time satellite information to help identify fishing vessels. Over the past 3 years (2017-2019), AFCD has conducted about 1 630, 1 610 and 1 740 patrols respectively to combat illegal fishing.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)207

(Question Serial No. 6610)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Government administers the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF) to help fishermen adopt a sustainable and high value-added operation mode and subsidise relevant programmes and research so as to enhance the overall competitiveness of the industry. In this connection, I have the following question:

What were the details concerning the organisation/individual applicants and the successful organisation/individual applicants under SFDF as well as the financial provision in each of the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (LegCo internal reference no.: 102)

Reply:

Over the past 3 years (2017-2019), a total of 20 applications were received under the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund. Among them, 12 applications have been approved, involving a funding commitment of about \$67 million. The remaining 8 applications are being processed. Details of the approved projects are at the **Annex**.

Approved projects under the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund

No.	Project	Applicant organisation	Date of implementation	Subvention granted (\$ million)
1	Improving Fish Health and Production in Hong Kong	City University of Hong Kong (College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences)	1/9/2018	4.9
2	BEC × AFFS – Awareness and Opportunities	Business Environment Council Limited	1/6/2019	7.5
3	Feasibility Study and Trial on Improvement of Durability and Strength of Fish Containers for Marine Fish	Hong Kong Productivity Council	1/11/2019	3.4
4	Study Tour to Oman Salalah and Dubai	Hong Kong Fishermen Consortium Sustainable Fishery Development Company Limited	28/6/2019	0.8
5	Equipment Improvement Project	New Territories Fishermen Fraternity Association Limited	1/2/2019	7.2
6	Equipment Improvement Project	Changing Business Limited	1/4/2019	7.1
7	Equipment Improvement Project	Alterway Limited	1/4/2019	4.0
8	Equipment Improvement Project	Hong Kong New Territories Fish Culture Association Limited	15/10/2019	4.0
9	Equipment Improvement Project	Hong Kong Fishermen Consortium Sustainable Fishery Development Company Limited	12/9/2019	7.1
10	Equipment Improvement Project	Hong Kong Fishing Rafts Association Limited	1/10/2019	6.9
11	Equipment Improvement Project	Hong Kong Fishermen Consortium Fishery Development Company Limited	1/10/2019	6.9
12	Equipment Improvement Project	Fisheries Development Company Limited	1/12/2019	7.3
Total				67.1

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)208

(Question Serial No. 6611)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Government assists fishermen in switching to sustainable fisheries operations and fish farmers in developing sustainable aquaculture through technical support services and credit facilities, including offering free training on sustainable fisheries operations, issuing new marine fish culture licences and preparing for the designation of new fish culture zone(s). In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) The details and number of participants in the free training on sustainable fisheries operations provided by the Government in each of the past 3 years.
- (b) The number of new marine fish culture licences issued by the Government in each of the past 3 years and the total number of marine fish culture licences at present.
- (c) The Government has stated that it would assist fishermen in switching to sustainable fisheries operations. What are the details of the Government's interpretation on sustainable fisheries operations?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (LegCo internal reference no.: 103)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been providing free training to help fishermen acquire technical skills and knowledge on sustainable fisheries operations, which includes training courses, seminars, on-site visits, etc. The courses cover practical skills and knowledge on switching to other operations, such as training for local coxswain, development of recreational fishing, aquaculture techniques, etc. The number of training courses provided by AFCD and the number of participants over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of training courses	Number of participants
2017-18	13	340
2018-19	12	338
2019-20	10	293

- (b) AFCD has not issued any new marine fish culture licences over the past 3 years. The total number of the licence is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of marine fish culture licences
2017-18	937
2018-19	930
2019-20	923

- (c) The goals of the sustainable development of the fisheries industry are to promote modern and sustainable operations of fisheries, enhance fishermen's ability to cope with the changing business operating environment and conserve the local marine ecology and fisheries resources in the long run.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)209

(Question Serial No. 6621)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

What are the current numbers and functions of credit unions and co-operative societies?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (LegCo internal reference no.: 113)

Reply:

As at February 2020, there are 44 registered credit unions and 171 registered co-operative societies respectively. A credit union receives the savings of its members and makes loans to them exclusively for provident or productive purposes. A co-operative society is established by persons who wish to associate themselves together voluntarily to promote the economic interests of its members in accordance with co-operative principles.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)210

(Question Serial No. 6646)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Could the Government inform this Committee of the number of farmers who have made applications for and are on the waiting list of agricultural rehabilitation, as well as the average waiting time of each farmer as at end February 2020?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (LegCo internal reference no.: 2038)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department operates the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme through bringing owners of farmland and interested farmers together to work out leasing agreements for the farmland. In 2019, the average waiting time for successful cases was 3.8 years. 444 applicants were on the waiting list as at February 2020.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)211

(Question Serial No. 6677)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding strengthening measures for stray animals management, please advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) the number of times for which snares and animal traps were used over the past 5 years;
- (b) the criteria for using snares and animal traps;
- (c) the number of animals that have been injured by the abovementioned tools in captures (wild pigs, cats, dogs, cattle and others);
- (d) Have the members of the dog-catching team and other animal-catching teams of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department received any training? If yes, what are the format and period of such training?

Please set out the above information in tabular form.

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (LegCo internal reference no.: 5001)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) keeps no statistics on the number of times that animal traps are used.
- (b) and (d) In general, upon receipt of complaints or reports from members of the public regarding nuisance caused by stray animals (mostly cats and dogs), AFCD will conduct inspections at the areas concerned to investigate if there are any stray animals causing nuisance and take follow-up actions including catching operations. AFCD staff responsible for catching stray animals are all trained and instructed by experienced officers for using different types of animal catching tools and handling the animals caught.

All the animal traps including snares and cage traps used by AFCD are specially designed or carefully selected to ensure that they are safe to use on animals. They are widely recognised and used in other countries for catching stray animals. In addition, all the catching operations using animal traps are carried out by trained staff who will take necessary precautionary measures to prevent animals from injury during the process. For instance, when snares are used for catching stray animals, notices at conspicuous places will be put up and the affected area will be fenced off with warning tapes. AFCD staff will ensure that no passers-by or other animals will come close. Once a stray animal is caught, it will be transferred to a cage with the snare immediately loosened, and delivered to an Animal Management Centre for observation and follow-up actions.

- (c) AFCD has no record of animals injured or died due to the use of animal traps during the catching operations over the past 5 years.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)212

(Question Serial No. 6693)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please advise of the following:

- (a) The number of stray animals caught in various districts in Hong Kong over the past 3 years (by District Council constituency areas and by animal types (i.e. dogs, cats, cattle and other animals)).
- (b) The expenditures on catching stray animals in various districts in Hong Kong in each of the past 3 years and the estimated expenditure in 2020-21.
- (c) The names and estimated expenditure of the medication used for euthanising animals in 2020-21.
- (d) The size and capacity of animal accommodation for each animal management centre (AMC) at present.
- (e) The number of stray animals received and kept by each AMC over the past 3 years.
- (f) The number of days on which each of the AMC was filled to capacity with stray animals over the past 3 years.
- (g) The whereabouts of the stray animals received and kept by each AMC over the past 3 years (euthanised, rehomed, died of illness or others).
- (h) The estimated expenditure of each AMC in 2020-21.

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (LegCo internal reference no.: 6021)

Reply:

- (a) The number of stray animals caught by the 4 animal management centres (AMCs) under the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

AMC / Year	Number of stray animals caught								
	2017			2018			2019		
	Dogs	Cats	Others ¹	Dogs	Cats	Others ¹	Dogs	Cats	Others ¹
AMC / Hong Kong (HK)	223	108	13	213	64	7	133	21	7
AMC / Kowloon (K)	370	203	57	210	175	35	143	87	14
AMC / New Territories South (NTS)	359	122	128	204	102	94	259	80	121
AMC / New Territories North (NTN)	614	241	1 337	608	206	1 105	430	116	764
Total	1 566	674	1 535	1 235	547	1 241	965	304	906

¹ Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptile, pigs, poultry/birds, etc.

AFCD does not keep the statistics by District Council constituency areas.

The number of cattle caught by district over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

District / Year	Number of cattle caught		
	2017	2018	2019
Lantau Island	24	27	14
Sai Kung	49	42	26
Northeast and Central New Territories	32	59	85
Total	105	128	125

- (b) and (c) The expenditure on catching stray animals and euthanasia of animals over the past 3 years and in 2020-21 is tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	
	Catching stray animals	Euthanasia of animals
2017-18	28.7	1.0
2018-19	32.3	1.3
2019-20 (revised estimate)	33.6	1.2
2020-21 (estimate)	36.1	1.2

Ketamine, Xylazine and Pentobarbital Sodium are currently used for the purpose of euthanising animals.

- (d) The maximum capacity of the 4 AMCs is tabulated as follows:

AMC	Maximum capacity (number)*			
	Dog kennel	Cat kennel	Bird cage	Enclosure for other animals
AMC / HK	50	30	-	-
AMC / K	90	30	-	-
AMC / NTS	80	30	-	-
AMC / NTN	130	80	25	16
Total	350	170	25	16

* The holding capacity of the kennels depends on a number of factors, including if the animals are from the same litter or pack, the health status and behaviour of each animal. In general, only one animal will be housed in each kennel as far as possible for the sake of better disease control and animal welfare.

- (e) and (f) The number of animals received by the 4 AMCS under AFCD over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

AMC / Year	2017			2018			2019		
	Dogs	Cats	Others ²	Dogs	Cats	Others ²	Dogs	Cats	Others ²
AMC / HK	451	147	26	342	101	11	282	52	17
AMC / K	584	266	72	409	219	44	294	121	35
AMC / NTS	500	131	128	364	111	100	394	88	134
AMC / NTN	1 391	279	1 552	1 139	258	6033 ³	895	181	2 890 ⁴
Total	2 926	823	1 778	2 254	689	6 188	1 865	442	3 076

² Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptile, pigs, poultry/birds, etc.

³ The increase in number was mainly due to more animals confiscated under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) and birds seized and culled due to detection of avian influenza in Yuen Po Street Bird Garden in April 2018.

⁴ This mainly includes the number of animals confiscated under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586).

When there is a large quantity of animals to be received, the 4 AMCs will communicate and coordinate with each other to ensure that there is enough space for accommodation. The keeping facilities of the 4 AMCs have not been filled to capacity over the past 3 years.

- (g) The handling methods and number of animals handled by the 4 AMCs under AFCD over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

AMC / Year	2017			2018			2019		
	Reclaimed by owners	Rehomed	Euthanised	Reclaimed by owners	Rehomed	Euthanised	Reclaimed by owners	Rehomed	Euthanised
AMC / HK	229	240	76	191	235	44	103	196	42
AMC / K	239	152	318	193	148	254	171	117	146
AMC / NTS	120	178	413	86	134	243	90	128	327
AMC / NTN	251	179	1 827	257	236	5 786 ⁵	176	228	2 897 ⁶

Total	839	749	2 634	727	753	6 327	540	669	3 412
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⁵ The increase in number was mainly due to more animals confiscated under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) and birds seized and culled due to detection of avian influenza in Yuen Po Street Bird Garden in April 2018.

⁶ This mainly includes the number of animals confiscated under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586).

In addition, the number of animals that died at the 4 AMCs in 2017, 2018 and 2019 was 789, 727 and 669 respectively. These animals were mainly birds and reptile and most of them were already suffering from different levels of injury or illness by the time they were received.

(h) The estimated operational expenditure of the 4 AMCs in 2020-21 is tabulated as follows:

Year	Operational expenditure (\$ million)			
	AMC / HK	AMC / K	AMC / NTS	AMC / NTN
2020-21 (estimate)	18.8	22.0	18.4	26.6

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)213

(Question Serial No. 3558)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the imports and exports of fresh food as well as agricultural and fisheries products, please advise of the following:

The total values of locally produced fresh food and agricultural and fisheries products for supply to the local market over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20).

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 60)

Reply:

The total values of locally produced fresh agricultural and fisheries products (including live pigs, live chickens, live and chilled fish and shellfish, vegetables and fruits) supplied to the local market in 2017, 2018 and 2019 were about \$2,480 million, \$2,650 million and \$2,960 million respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)214****(Question Serial No. 3560)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

On the regulation and technical services for the flower cultivation industry, please inform:

- (a) the details, respective expenditures and manpower involved in the Government's regulation and technical services for the flower cultivation industry over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20);
- (b) the details, estimated expenditure and manpower involved in the Government's regulation and technical services for the flower cultivation industry in 2020-21;
- (c) the total amount and quantities of local and imported flowers over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20);
- (d) the measures that the Government currently takes to promote the local flower cultivation industry.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 64)Reply:

- (a), (b) and (d) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) provides support services to all crop farmers including florists. The services provided include technical support in respect of cultivation techniques, control of plant pests and diseases and soil analysis, as well as the lending of farm machinery and provision of loans. The resources deployed for these services over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (number of staff)
2017-18	8.2	18
2018-19	8.5	18
2019-20 (revised estimate)	8.7	18

The manpower and expenditure involved in providing support services to the flower cultivation industry and promotion of the industry is an integral part of the above provision and there is no separate breakdown.

In 2020-21, AFCD will continue to provide the above services to crop farmers including florists with a similar level of resources as in 2019-20.

(c)

AFCD does not have the data in quantities for local production and import of flowers. The value of local production and net import over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Local production (\$ million)	Net import (\$ million)
2017	158	406
2018	149	501
2019	154	400

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)215

(Question Serial No. 3561)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding epidemic prevention for livestock and poultry keeping industry, please advise of the following:

- (a) The latest progress of the epidemic prevention work, and the work plan, estimated expenditure and manpower involved in 2020-21.
- (b) The types of pig and poultry vaccines introduced into the local industry and the expenditure involved respectively over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20).
- (c) The total expenditures involved respectively in vaccinating pigs and poultry over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20). What were the respective average costs? What were the respective numbers of pigs and poultry vaccinated?
- (d) Regarding the outbreaks of epidemic diseases in livestock and poultry at different levels of the local supply chain, what were the numbers, locations (e.g. markets, wholesale markets or farms), and virus(es) concerned respectively over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)?
- (e) Will the Government implement any new measures to strengthen the work on prevention of influenza related to poultry and livestock?
- (f) Will the Government implement any new measures to strengthen the work on prevention of the African Swine Fever?

- (g) What was the number of wild pig carcasses found in Hong Kong in each of the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)? What was the number of wild pigs captured each year? Has the Government conducted African Swine Fever testing on the said wild pigs?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 65)

Reply:

- (a) and (e) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) prevents and controls the outbreak of animal and zoonotic diseases in local chicken and pig farms through (i) conducting regular inspections of local farms to ensure that the farmers comply with the biosecurity, farm hygiene and other related requirements, including proper vaccination of poultry against Avian Influenza, (AI), and taking enforcement action against non-compliant cases; (ii) providing technical advice and assistance to farmers on proper farm management, prevention and control of animal diseases; and (iii) organising education seminars on farm management and disease prevention for local farmers and their workers. The estimated expenditure and manpower involved in this area of work in 2020-21 are \$68 million and 72 staff respectively.
- (b) Over the past 3 years, AFCD has required all local chicken farms to apply bivalent vaccine that could guard against both H5 and H7N9 AI viruses, which AFCD has provided technical assistance in the process. This area of work will be absorbed by the existing resources of AFCD, so there is no breakdown in this regard.
- (c) Apart from the mandatory AI vaccination programme for chickens in local poultry farms, pig or chicken farmers may decide whether any other vaccines should be used for better protection of their farm animals against any particular diseases. Commonly used vaccines include those against porcine circovirus, Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome, etc. in pigs, and those against New Castle Disease, Infectious Tracheitis and Gumboro Disease, etc. in poultry. All the vaccines used in local farms are purchased by farmers at their own cost. AFCD does not have information on the total expenditure and the average costs involved in vaccinating pigs and poultries.
- (d) Over the past 3 years, there were 5 FMD cases in local pig farms, in February (1 case), March (3 cases) and June (1 case), all in 2018 respectively. In addition, there were African Swine Fever (ASF) cases in local slaughterhouse in May (2 cases) and September (1 case) in 2019.
- (f) Since the first ASF case was reported in the Mainland in early August 2018, AFCD has been closely monitoring the situation and implementing corresponding measures in a timely manner. Major measures implemented include:

- (i) maintaining close contact with pig farmers, and stepping up inspection to all local pig farms;
- (ii) advising farmers to implement proper biosecurity measures and providing assistance and loans to facilitate farmers to acquire appropriate facilities to enhance biosecurity;
- (iii) requesting all pig farms to step up the cleansing and disinfection of vehicles and personnel entering and leaving pig farms;
- (iv) suspending the import of breeders from the Mainland;
- (v) banning the storage or use of swill of pork origin as pig feed;
- (vi) devising a contingency and surveillance plan for detecting ASF and conducting ASF testing when there is suspected infection of pigs;
- (vii) purchasing necessary equipment and conducting drills on culling of pigs to prepare for ASF outbreaks in local pig farms;
- (viii) liaising with relevant government departments regarding tightening up on collection of pig waste and carcasses;
- (ix) disseminating information on clinical signs of ASF, biosecurity and mode of transmission by posters and the cleansing and disinfection of vehicles for transporting pigs through guidance booklet, etc. for enhancing pig farmers' understanding on prevention of ASF; and
- (x) conducting a pilot programme for enhancing the surveillance of ASF in local wild pigs within a designated area since November 2019.

AFCD will remain vigilant and closely monitor the situation with a view to taking further measures as and when necessary.

- (g) The number of wild pig carcasses found in Hong Kong by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of wild pig carcasses found
2017-18	282
2018-19	218
2019-20 (as of February 2020)	307

The number of wild pigs captured by AFCD over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of wild pigs captured
2017-18	142
2018-19	192
2019-20 (as of February 2020)	261

AFCD and FEHD have launched a pilot programme for enhancing the surveillance of ASF in local wild pigs by conducting testing of ASF on wild pig carcasses found within a designated area since November 2019.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)216

(Question Serial No. 3562)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding antibiotic use in livestock, please advise of the following:

- (a) What was the number of cases of using prohibited antibiotic and restricted antibiotic exceeding maximum residue level in local pig farms and chicken farms, as well as chickens and pigs imported from the Mainland over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)?
- (b) Further to the above question, what were the respective numbers of prosecutions and convictions?
- (c) What were the expenditure and manpower on matters concerning inspections of meat safety, technical support rendered to farmers and publicity on antibiotics over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)?
- (d) It is stated in the Hong Kong Strategy and Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance that the Government would explore how to seek proper support and veterinary services for the industry in order to prevent and treat diseases. What is the progress of the work?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 66)

Reply:

- (a) and (b) Over the past 3 years (i.e. 2017-2019), there was 1 suspected case of prohibited antimicrobial and 3 suspected cases of restricted antimicrobial exceeding maximum residue level in local pig farms. Prosecution was not initiated by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) for the said cases due to insufficient evidence. During the same period, no suspected cases of prohibited antimicrobial or restricted antimicrobial exceeding maximum residue level were found in local chicken farms. The Food and Environmental Hygiene

Department did not find any related cases among live pigs imported from the Mainland to Hong Kong. As there has been no import of live chickens from the Mainland since 2016, the figures in this respect are not available.

- (c) AFCD is responsible for the testing of veterinary drug residues in samples collected from food animals to be slaughtered, and carrying out regular inspections of local livestock farms to monitor the health of pigs and chickens. AFCD also advises local farmers on prudent use of veterinary drugs (including antimicrobials) and the related responsibility. Since the work above forms part of AFCD's supervision of local livestock farms, there is no breakdown of the expenditure and manpower involved.
- (d) Following the announcement of the Hong Kong Strategy and Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in July 2017, AFCD has been engaging local veterinary associations, tertiary institutions and the livestock sector with a view to facilitating and supporting projects for the provision of veterinary services to food animal production farms by the non-government veterinary sector. 3 projects under the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund and the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund have been approved for providing veterinary services to local pig farms, local chicken farms and local fish farms. These projects involve formulation of tailor-made farm-specific disease management plans for the purposes of disease prevention and promoting proper and prudent use of antimicrobials, and assisting farmers in sourcing vaccines and other veterinary medications. AFCD maintains liaison with the personnel responsible for implementation of the said plan through on-site inspections and meetings to closely monitor the progress of provision of veterinary services.

In addition, AFCD commissioned a consultancy study in October 2017 to devise a programme to monitor antimicrobial usage as well as the prevalence of bacteria with AMR in local food animal farms including livestock and fish farms. The consultancy study was completed in mid-2019 and the recommended surveillance programmes for fish and livestock farms have been launched since June and July 2019 respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)217

(Question Serial No. 3563)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding co-operative societies, please advise of:

- (a) the numbers of co-operative societies related to the fisheries and agriculture industries, as well as other co-operative societies respectively over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20);
- (b) the expenditures and manpower involved in co-operative societies related to the fisheries and agriculture industries, as well as other co-operative societies respectively over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20).

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 67)

Reply:

The requested information is tabulated at the **Annex.**

Year / Industry	2017-18			2018-19			2019-20		
	Number of Co-operative societies [*]	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (number of staff)	Number of Co-operative societies [*]	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (number of staff)	Number of Co-operative societies [#]	Expenditure (revised estimate) (\$ million)	Manpower (number of staff)
Agriculture	54	1.6	3	54	1.4	3	54	1.7	3
Fisheries	56	1.9	4	55	2.0	4	55	2.5	4
Others	64	4.7	9	64	4.4	9	62	5.5	9
Total	174	8.2	16	173	7.8	16	171	9.7	16

^{*} As at the end of the period

[#] As at end February 2020

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)218

(Question Serial No. 3564)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding hydroponic farming, please advise of the following:

- (a) What were the expenditures and manpower involved in the Controlled Environment Hydroponic Research and Development Centre (the Centre) established at the Cheung Sha Wan Wholesale Vegetable Market over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)?
- (b) What are the production area, crop varieties, production quantity, production value, and the number of sales outlets of the Centre?
- (c) What are the Government's current policies for facilitating the development of the local hydroponic farming industry? What are the expenditure and manpower involved in facilitating the development of the hydroponic farming industry?
- (d) What are the production value, production quantity, the number of hydroponic farms and the distribution of the local hydroponic farming industry (by the 18 districts) respectively?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 68)

Reply:

- (a) In 2013, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO) jointly set up the Controlled Environment Hydroponic Research and Development Centre (the Centre) for demonstrating hydroponic technology and facilities, with a view to facilitating technology transfer to the trade. The Centre was initially funded by VMO. As extra resources are essential to carry out additional research and development work, the operational expenditure of the Centre has been funded by the Government since April 2018. The expenditure and manpower involved over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (number of staff)
2017-18	1.4	5
2018-19	3.0	8
2019-20 (revised estimate)	8.8*	8

* To meet the demand of the hydroponic farming industry for technical support and facilitate the development of the industry, an additional one-off provision of \$4.5 million was / is to be allocated in 2019-20 and 2020-21 respectively to support the expansion plan of the Centre.

- (b) The Centre has a total area of about 500 square metres, half of which is used for production and the rest for research and development. At present, 7 varieties of baby salad green (i.e. Mizuna, Oak Leaf Lettuce, Red Asian Mustard, Chinese Flat Cabbage, Rocket, Red Komatsuna and Broccoli) and 3 varieties of common local leafy vegetables (i.e. 60-day Choy Sum, Hok Tau Pak Choy and Water Cress) are produced. About 6 kilogrammes of vegetables are produced daily at a wholesale value of about \$200 per kilogramme and sold through 11 retail outlets.
- (c) The Government encourages the adoption of modern farming practices as well as the development of new agricultural technology and related knowledge transfer. Hydroponics is one such example. The Centre will continue to undertake research and development work including selection and testing of new varieties, introduction of improved hydroponic technology and collaboration with research institutes on testing innovative technology in hydroponics application. In addition, AFCD will also continue to provide technical advice and support to investors who are interested in setting up hydroponic systems as an alternative option for agricultural production. In 2019-20, AFCD allocated 8 staff members and \$8.8 million and to support the work and the expansion of the Centre.
- (d) Currently, there are 43 local hydroponic farms producing annually over 465 tonnes of vegetables with an estimated value of \$75 million. Distribution of the hydroponic farms is tabulated as follows:

District	Number
Yuen Long	16
North	9
Kwai Tsing	4
Tuen Mun	3
Kwun Tong	2
Tsuen Wan	2
Tai Po	1
Yau Tong	1
Sham Shui Po	1
Shatin	1
Chai Wan	1
Causeway Bay	1
Tin Shui Wai	1

District	Number
Total	43

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)219****(Question Serial No. 3566)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Regarding the Mainland Fishermen Deckhands Scheme (the Scheme) of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, please advise of the following:

- (a) What were the expenditures and manpower involved in processing the applications under the Scheme over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)?
- (b) What were the numbers of applications for and deckhands involved in different types of fishing vessels (including pair trawlers, stern trawlers, shrimp trawlers, hang trawlers, purse seiners with light, purse seiners, liners and gillnetters, fish carriers, and other fishing vessels) over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)?
- (c) What were the numbers of different types of vessels applying for Mainland deckhands over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)?
- (d) What were the numbers of cases of contravening the relevant legislation and codes of the Scheme, and the heaviest penalties imposed, over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 70)Reply:

- (a) The expenditure and manpower involved in processing the applications under the Mainland Fishermen Deckhands Scheme (the Scheme) over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)
2017-18	1.3	3
2018-19	1.1	3
2019-20 (revised estimate)	1.2	3

(b) and (c) The number of applications and deckhands involved by types of fishing vessels over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year / Vessel type	2017-18		2018-19		2019-20*	
	Number of [#]					
	Applications	Deckhands involved	Applications	Deckhands involved	Applications	Deckhands involved
Pair trawler	53 (47)	292	27 (27)	137	24 (24)	139
Stern trawler	46 (45)	191	44 (40)	190	38 (36)	161
Shrimp trawler	55 (53)	251	52 (52)	244	40 (40)	188
Hang trawler	25 (25)	138	20 (20)	113	15 (15)	88
Purse seiner with light and Purse seiner	49 (49)	355	62 (62)	456	56 (54)	434
Liner and Gill netter	74 (72)	483	91 (88)	564	82 (80)	521
Fish carrier	271 (258)	1 790	292 (284)	1 985	267 (254)	1 755
Other fishing vessel	49 (42)	285	39 (37)	231	28 (25)	172
Total	622 (591)	3 785	627 (610)	3 920	550 (528)	3 458

* Up to February 2020

[#] The number in the bracket indicates the number of fishing vessels applying for Mainland deckhands by type of fishing vessel.

(d) The number of cases contravening the Scheme in 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 (as at February 2020) is 9, 8 and 10 respectively. The heaviest penalties imposed under the Scheme include cancellation of quota approved for all deckhands for the subject vessel and prohibition of the concerned applicant from applying under the Scheme for 2 years.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)220

(Question Serial No. 3567)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets
(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the reprovisioning of livestock farms, please advise of the following:

- (a) The distribution of those sites currently designated as (i) livestock waste prohibition areas, (ii) livestock waste control areas and (iii) livestock waste restriction areas (mark the locations and boundaries of such sites in different colours on a map); the respective numbers of (i) pig farms and (ii) chicken farms operating in those 3 types of areas in each of the past 5 years (2015-16 to 2019-20); the differences in respect of the restrictions (including the requirements and procedure regarding application for operating a livestock farm) imposed by the Government on the operation of livestock farms in those 3 types of areas.
- (b) The sites which are in compliance with the relevant provisions of the 2 aforesaid pieces of legislation and other relevant legislation and are available to farmers for building new livestock farms or reprovisioning existing farms, as well as the areas of such sites (mark the locations of such sites on a map).
- (c) As farmers may, through the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme, identify sites for relocating their livestock farms, has any farmer who had been affected by planned developments succeeded in identifying suitable sites for relocating their farms through the Scheme over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)? If yes, what are the details? If not, has the Government put in place new measures to help such farmers in reprovisioning their livestock farms and suitably expanding their farms to improve their livestock keeping technology?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 71)

Reply:

Having consulted the Environmental Protection Department, we set out our reply to the various parts of the question as follows:

- (a) Under sections 15, 15A and 15AA of the Waste Disposal Ordinance (Cap. 354) (the Ordinance), Hong Kong is classified into 3 areas, namely livestock waste prohibition, control and restriction areas as shown at the **Annex**. Their control on the operation of livestock farms is generally as follows:
- (i) urban areas of Hong Kong are livestock waste prohibition areas, where livestock keeping is banned;
 - (ii) within livestock waste control areas, a livestock keeper must apply for licence from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and comply with the Waste Disposal (Livestock Waste) Regulations (Cap. 354A) (the Regulations); and
 - (iii) within livestock waste restriction areas (i.e. parts of the New Territories and outlying islands), no livestock keeping is allowed, unless the relevant premises had been in use continuously for livestock keeping during the 12 months before 1994 and the livestock keeper holds a licence from AFCD, or is authorised to do so by the Director of Environmental Protection, and the livestock keeping operation complies with the Regulations.

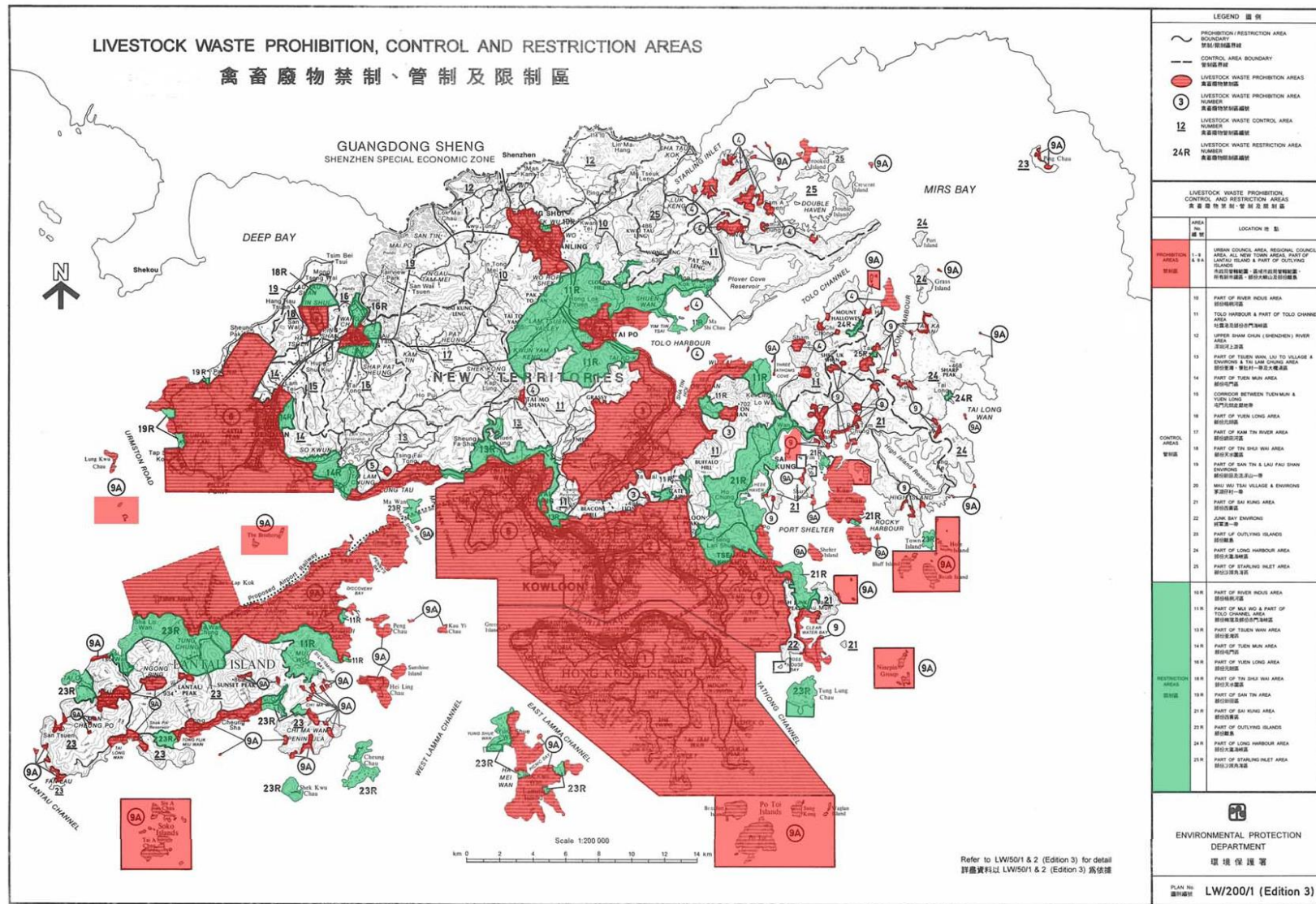
Over the past 5 years, the number of licensed livestock farms in the 3 areas is tabulated as follows:

Year	Livestock waste prohibition areas		Livestock waste control areas		Livestock waste restriction areas	
	Pig farms	Chicken farms	Pig farms	Chicken farms	Pig farms	Chicken farms
2015	0	0	42	26	1	3
2016	0	0	42	26	1	3
2017	0	0	42	26	1	3
2018	0	0	42	26	1	3
2019	0	0	42	26	1	3

- (b) and (c) Since 2017, there has not been any relocation of livestock farm arising from Government development projects. In the event that a licensed livestock farm is affected by Government development projects, the licensee may consider relocation. The relocation site must fulfil the requirements under the Ordinance and the Regulations governing the handling of livestock waste; the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Licensing of Livestock Keeping) Regulation (Cap. 139L) with regard to livestock keeping control, biosecurity, environmental protection, etc. and those related to planning and land controls. Whether an individual site is suitable for relocation is subject to its actual circumstances, and thus we do not have the information of sites and land area available for relocation of livestock farms.

Under the current provisions of Cap. 139L, it is difficult for existing chicken farms to identify other premises in the livestock waste control areas which can satisfy the relevant conditions for relocation. To further minimise the risk of avian flu, the abovementioned regulations have been amended to relax the current statutory requirements of chicken keeping premises so as to strengthen the biosecurity measures of chicken farms and allow those affected by Government development projects to continue with their operations by relocation. The relevant amendment regulation was gazetted on 13 March and tabled in the Legislative Council for vetting on 18 March this year. It is expected to come into operation on 1 July this year.

Livestock farmers requiring assistance in farm relocation may apply for the Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Loan Fund and the J.E. Joseph Trust Fund which provide low-interest loans to farmers as development and working capital. AFCD will also provide adequate support in accordance with the needs of individual farmers.



- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)221

(Question Serial No. 3568)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the imports of birds, poultry and ostriches, please advise of the following:

- (a) Over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20), what was the number of birds imported? Please set out by bird species (in particular those endangered species which require possession licences) and place of import.
- (b) Over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20), what was the number of shops with animal trader licences?
- (c) Currently, how many birds in Hong Kong are accompanied with possession licences issued by the Government? Over the past 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20), what was the number of possession licences issued by the Government?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 72)

Reply:

Measures taken by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) to control the import of live birds under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) Regulations (Cap. 139A) and the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) (the Ordinance) are overseen by the Food and Health Bureau and the Environment Bureau respectively. Our reply to the various parts of the question is as follows:

- (a) The requested information is tabulated in the **Annex**.
- (b) The number of holders of animal trader licence for selling birds was 57, 48 and 34 in 2017, 2018 and 2019 respectively.
- (c) According to the Ordinance, possession of live endangered birds which are listed in Appendix I, and of live endangered birds which are listed in Appendix II and are of

wild origin, requires a licence to possess (PL) for each keeping premises if they are kept for commercial purposes. A PL can cover more than 1 species/individual. Currently, there are 30 valid PLs in respect of live endangered birds, covering 4 407 individuals of 54 species.

The number of PLs issued by AFCD (including licences renewed) covering live endangered birds is 17, 6 and 1 in 2017, 2018 and 2019 respectively.

Birds Imported into Hong Kong from 2017 to 2019

Year	Species	Quantity (head)	Country/place of export
2017	<i>Amazona aestiva</i> *	30	Czech Republic
	<i>Amazona ochrocephala</i> *	32	Czech Republic
	<i>Ara ararauna</i> *	7	Czech Republic
	<i>Ara ararauna x Ara chloroptera</i> *	2	Czech Republic
	<i>Ara chloropterus</i> *	5	Czech Republic
	<i>Cacatua alba</i> *	2	Czech Republic
	<i>Cacatua galerita</i> *	2	Czech Republic
	<i>Amandava subflava</i>	290	Guinea, Mali
	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>	50	Guinea
	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	935	Malaysia
	<i>Crithagra flaviventris</i>	100	Mozambique
	<i>Crithagra mozambicus</i>	3 250	Mozambique
	<i>Dryonastes courtoisi</i>	2	U.K.
	<i>Lamprotornis iris</i>	20	Guinea
	<i>Lamprotornis purpureus</i>	50	Guinea
	<i>Mandingda nitidula</i>	70	Mali
	<i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i>	100	Malaysia
	<i>Nymphicus hollandicus</i>	31	Australia, Malaysia
	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	1	Singapore
	<i>Serinus alario</i>	100	Mozambique
	<i>Serinus atrogularis</i>	500	Mozambique
	<i>Serinus citrinipectus</i>	1 000	Mozambique
	<i>Serinus flaviventris</i>	550	Mozambique
	<i>Serinus leucopygius</i>	7 580	Guinea, Mali
	<i>Serinus mozambicus</i>	6 080	Guinea, Mali, Mozambique
	<i>Serinus sulphuratus</i>	400	Mozambique
	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>	220	Guinea
2018	<i>Amazona aestiva</i> *	97	Belgium, Czech Republic, Mali
	<i>Amazona ochrocephala</i> *	66	Czech Republic, Mali
	<i>Anthobaphes violacea</i>	10	Guinea
	<i>Ara ararauna</i> *	54	Czech Republic, Mali
	<i>Ara chloropterus</i> *	18	Czech Republic, Mali
	<i>Cacatua alba</i> *	4	Czech Republic, Mali
	<i>Cacatua leadbeateri</i> *	2	Mali
	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	1 130	Malaysia
	<i>Cossypha niveicapilla</i>	20	Guinea
	<i>Crithagra atrogularis</i>	550	Mozambique
	<i>Crithagra mozambicus</i>	5 000	Mozambique
	<i>Deroptyus accipitrinus</i> *	1	Czech Republic
	<i>Diopsittaca nobilis</i> *	4	Mali

Year	Species	Quantity (head)	Country/place of export
	<i>Eclectus roratus</i> *	20	Czech Republic, Mali
	<i>Eolophus roseicapilla</i> *	28	Belgium, Mali
	<i>Euplectes capensis</i>	300	Guinea
	<i>Euplectes orix</i>	300	Guinea
	<i>Forpus coelestis</i> *	6	Taiwan
	<i>Lamprotornis caudatus</i>	50	Mali
	<i>Lamprotornis iris</i>	20	Mali
	<i>Laniarius barbarus</i>	20	Guinea
	<i>Lonchura atricapilla</i>	1 000	Malaysia
	<i>Lonchura maja</i>	1 000	Malaysia
	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	1 000	Malaysia
	<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i> *	4	Belgium
	<i>Nymphicus hollandicus</i>	90	Czech Republic, Malaysia
	<i>Pionites leucogaster</i> *	45	Belgium, Czech Republic, Mali, Singapore
	<i>Pionites melanocephalus</i> *	26	Belgium, Czech Republic, Mali
	<i>Pionus chalcopterus</i> *	3	Czech Republic
	<i>Pionus fuscus</i> *	7	Czech Republic
	<i>Poicephalus gulielmi</i> *	300	Democratic Republic of the Congo
	<i>Poicephalus meyeri</i> *	3	Mali
	<i>Poicephalus robustus</i> *	20	Mali
	<i>Poicephalus senegalus</i> *	500	Mali
	<i>Serinus atrogularis</i>	1 150	Mozambique
	<i>Serinus canaria</i>	538	Czech Republic, Mali
	<i>Serinus flaviventris</i>	1 250	Mozambique
	<i>Serinus leucopygius</i>	12 400	Mali
	<i>Serinus mozambicus</i>	6 900	Guinea, Mali, Mozambique
	<i>Serinus sulphuratus</i>	600	Mozambique
	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>	80	Mali
	<i>Vidua paradisaea</i>	400	Mali
	<i>Zosterops senegalensis</i>	50	Mali
2019	<i>Alisterus scapularis</i> *	10	Czech Republic
	<i>Amadina fasciata</i>	150	Mali
	<i>Amazona aestiva</i> *	67	Czech Republic, Mali, Belgium
	<i>Amazona ochrocephala</i> *	46	Czech Republic, Mali, Belgium
	<i>Aprosmictus erythropterus</i> *	10	Czech Republic
	<i>Ara ararauna</i> *	27	Czech Republic, Mali
	<i>Ara ararauna x Ara chloropterus</i> *	1	Czech Republic
	<i>Ara chloropterus</i> *	10	Czech Republic, Belgium
	<i>Cacatua alba</i> *	7	Mali, Belgium
	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	2 240	Malaysia
	<i>Cygnus</i>	4	Malaysia
	<i>Eclectus roratus</i> *	30	Mali, Taiwan

Year	Species	Quantity (head)	Country/place of export
	<i>Eolophus roseicapilla</i> *	74	Czech Republic, Mali, Belgium
	<i>Estrilda caerulescens</i>	300	Mali
	<i>Estrilda melpoda</i>	150	Mali
	<i>Estrilda troglodytes</i>	150	Mali
	<i>Forpus coelestis</i> *	20	Taiwan
	<i>Forpus passerines</i> *	40	Czech Republic
	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>	250	Mali
	<i>Lonchura cucullata</i>	200	Mali
	<i>Lorius lorry</i> *	4	Taiwan
	<i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i>	73	Czech Republic, Japan, Portugal
	<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i> *	90	Taiwan
	<i>Pionites leucogaster</i> *	82	Czech Republic, Mali, Belgium, Taiwan
	<i>Pionites melanocephalus</i> *	20	Taiwan
	<i>Pionus chalcopterus</i> *	6	Czech Republic, Belgium
	<i>Pionus maximiliani</i> *	2	Czech Republic
	<i>Pionus menstruus</i> *	2	Czech Republic
	<i>Pionus senilis</i> *	7	Czech Republic, Belgium
	<i>Platycercus elegans</i> *	11	Czech Republic
	<i>Platycercus eximius</i> *	10	Czech Republic
	<i>Polytelis swainsonii</i> *	11	Czech Republic
	<i>Psephotus haematonotus</i> *	18	Czech Republic
	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	8	Belgium
	<i>Psittacus erithacus</i> *	11	U.K., Philippines
	<i>Pyrrhura molinae</i> *	3	Taiwan
	<i>Serinus atrogularis</i>	800	Mali
	<i>Serinus canaria</i>	160	Czech Republic
	<i>Serinus citrinipectus</i>	200	Mali
	<i>Serinus leucopygius</i>	12 550	Mali
	<i>Serinus mozambicus</i>	9 250	Guinea, Mali
	<i>Serinus sulphuratus</i>	200	Mali
	<i>Taeniopygia guttata</i>	10	Czech Republic
	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>	400	Mali
	<i>Vidua paradisaea</i>	280	Mali

* Endangered species under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)222

(Question Serial No. 3569)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

It is mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2020-21 under Programme (1) that the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will “implement the New Agriculture Policy to proactively support the modernisation and sustainable development of local agriculture, including preparing for the establishment of the Agricultural Park and overseeing the consultancy study on designating Agricultural Priority Areas”. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the expenditure and manpower related to the Agricultural Park and Agricultural Priority Areas in the coming year? What is the progress of the work? What are the challenges in implementing the New Agricultural Policy?
- (b) What is the amount of the consultation fee for the study on the Agricultural Priority Areas? Which countries does AFCD primarily make reference to when studying overseas experiences?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

- (a) and (b) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will establish an Agricultural Park (Agri-Park) in Kwu Tung South to help nurture agro-technology and knowledge of modern farm management. The Agri-Park will be developed in 2 phases. Phase 1 will be developed in a relatively small scale (about 11 hectares) with a view to enabling its partial commissioning for use by farmers as early as possible. Subject to funding approval of the Finance Committee in 2020, the construction works of Agri-Park Phase 1 will commence as soon as possible, and is expected to be completed in stages by 2021-2023. AFCD is in parallel planning and preparing for Agri-Park Phase 2.

To support the development of the local agriculture, the Government is conducting a consultancy study to identify relatively large areas of quality agricultural land and explore suitable policies and measures to encourage land owners to put fallow agricultural land back into long-term agricultural use. The consultant is currently reviewing the existing farmland in Hong Kong and studying overseas experience, including regions in Europe, the United States and Asia that have similar experience, before making recommendations. As a considerable size of agricultural land is involved, it is estimated that the study will take several years to complete. The cost for conducting the consultancy study on Agricultural Priority Areas (APAs) was about \$17.5 million.

In 2020-21, 12 staff members (in addition to their other on-going duties) and \$11.5 million have been earmarked for the above work on Agri-Park and APAs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)223

(Question Serial No. 3573)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

It is stated in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2020-21 under this Programme that the Government will “follow up on the public consultation on the review of the existing legislation related to animal welfare, including introducing a positive duty of care on animal keepers”. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The Government originally aimed to launch a three-month public consultation on proposals to enhance animal welfare in mid-2019. However, the public consultation could not be launched eventually with the occurrence of the large-scale social incidents in the second half of 2019 in Hong Kong. Please set out the expenditure and manpower incurred due to the delay. When is the public consultation expected to be held?
- (b) What was the number of reported cases of suspected animal cruelty received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department over the past year? What were the follow-up actions?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

- (a) Having launched a three-month public consultation exercise in 2019 on enhancement of animal welfare, the Government is now examining the views received and plans to report the findings of the consultation and the way forward to the Legislative Council Panel concerned in April this year. Upon finalising the legislative proposals, we will commence the drafting work of the legislation.
- (b) Upon receiving reports of suspected animal cruelty cases, the Hong Kong Police Force (the Police) and / or the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will conduct investigation. Prosecution will be initiated if there is sufficient evidence. The number of suspected animal cruelty reports received and details of

successful prosecutions under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169) initiated by the Police and AFCD in 2019 are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of suspected animal cruelty reports received*	Number of persons convicted	Penalty imposed	
			Fine (\$)	Range of imprisonment
2019 (up to September)	288	19	2,000 to 8,000	20 days to 2 months

* Upon investigation, most of the cases were found to be related to nuisance with no elements of cruelty.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)224****(Question Serial No. 4546)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Would the Department set out in tabular form the following information regarding (i) wild pigs, (ii) cattle, (iii) goats, (iv) stray cats and (v) stray dogs over the past 5 years:

- (a) The number of reports of animals from the public received by the Department;
- (b) The number of cases that required follow-ups;
- (c) The number of successful captures made by the Department;
- (d) The number of animals that were injured or died during the operations; and
- (e) The number of animals that had to be euthanised after the operations.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (LegCo internal reference no.: 127)Reply:

- (a) and (b) The number of nuisance complaints and reports for assistance related to animals received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of nuisance complaints and reports for assistance				
	Wild pigs	Cattle	Goats	Stray cats	Stray dogs
2015	518	215	4	3 140	6 060
2016	583	242	5	2 383	5 171
2017	738	214	5	1 842	4 268
2018	929	332	4	1 141	3 751
2019	1 184	272	12	814	3 259

In general, upon receipt of such complaints/reports from members of the public, AFCD would deploy staff to conduct inspections and take follow up actions as appropriate.

- (c) The number of animals caught by AFCD over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of animals caught				
	Wild pigs	Cattle	Goats	Stray cats	Stray dogs
2015	28	88	3	1 359	2 412
2016	59	114	4	876	1 919
2017	106	105	3	674	1 566
2018	197	128	2	547	1 235
2019	284	125	5	304	965

- (d) AFCD has no record of animals injured or died during the catching operations over the past 5 years.

- (e) The number of animals that were euthanised after being caught by AFCD over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of animals euthanised				
	Wild pigs	Cattle	Goats	Stray cats	Stray dogs
2015	2	18	1	605	1 424
2016	4	51	0	380	1 039
2017	1	26	0	325	762
2018	1	39	0	271	512
2019	12	7	0	176	390

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)225

(Question Serial No. 4556)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the establishment of the Agricultural Park,

- (a) What was the actual expenditure in 2019-20?
- (b) What is the estimated expenditure in 2020-21?
- (c) What is the estimated manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (LegCo internal reference no.: 137)

Reply:

- (a) to (c) Regarding the establishment of the Agricultural Park, the expenditure (revised estimate) involved in 2019-20 was about \$8.5 million. In 2020-21, 12 staff members (in addition to their other on-going duties) and \$9.2 million have been earmarked for the above work.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)226****(Question Serial No. 5098)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale MarketsControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Has the Government deployed staff to carry out sea patrol regularly so as to implement the trawl ban over the past 3 years? What were the details of the manpower arrangement? In addition, has the Government received any request for assistance and complaint in this respect? What were the respective numbers and details of requests for assistance and prosecutions in this respect?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (LegCo internal reference no.: 1138)Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the Marine Police conduct regular and targeted patrols and joint enforcement operations against illegal fishing (including trawling) in Hong Kong waters. AFCD also participates in joint enforcement operations and exchanges intelligence with the Guangdong Provincial Marine and Fisheries Inspection Bureau to combat illegal fishing activities along the boundary waters. Information on enforcement over the past 3 years against illegal trawling is tabulated below.

Year	2017	2018	2019
Manpower involved [#] (number of staff)	18	18	18
Number of requests for assistance and complaints received	46	46	67
Number of successful prosecutions	1	5	2
Number of persons convicted [^]	5	20	11

[#] The officers concerned conduct enforcement operations to combat illegal fishing, including but not limited to those against trawling.

[^] All prosecuted persons were convicted.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)227

(Question Serial No. 5104)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the expenditure on engaging dedicated personnel to manage and maintain the Director's personal social media platforms, including Facebook fan page, Instagram and website:

- (a) What were the number of staff responsible for maintaining the Director's social media platforms and the staff expenses involved (in terms of annual salary) over the past 3 years?
- (b) Were there any outside companies engaged to assist in maintaining the social media platforms over the past 3 years? If yes, what were the expenditure and companies involved?
- (c) What were the number of advertisements posted on social media and the annual expenditure on such advertisements in the past year?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (LegCo internal reference no.: 1144)

Reply:

- (a) to (c) The Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation does not have any personal social media accounts, pages or websites that are managed by the Department.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)228****(Question Serial No. 3694)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

It is mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2020-21 that AFCD will focus its work on strengthening measures for stray animal management in 2020-21. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) The average number of complaints about stray animal nuisance received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in each of the past 3 years (with a breakdown by type of animal);
- (b) AFCD's recurrent expenditures for handling complaints upon receipt over the past 3 years;
- (c) Apart from collaborating with non-profit animal welfare organisations (AWOs) and entrusting the work on animal rehoming to its partner AWOs, will AFCD consider establishing its own animal rehoming centre? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 84)Reply:

- (a) The number of stray animal nuisance complaints received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of stray animal nuisance complaints received (cases)		
	Dogs	Cats	Others [*]
2017	4 268	1 842	276
2018	3 751	1 141	213
2019	3 259	814	186

* Including small mammals, reptiles, pigs/cattle, birds, etc.

- (b) In general, when complaints related to nuisances caused by stray animals are received, AFCD will conduct site inspections and catch the stray animals. Stray animals caught will be put in Animal Management Centres (AMCs) for observation. For those with a microchip implanted, AMCs will try to locate their owners based on the information on their records. In general, these animals will stay in AMCs for about 10 to 20 days. AMCs will keep the non-microchipped ones for at least 4 days, allowing time for their owners to reclaim them. In cases where the animals being left unclaimed are in good health and assessed by a veterinary officer as having a gentle temperament and suitable for rehoming, AFCD will arrange their transfer to animal welfare organisations (AWOs) for rehoming by members of the public as far as possible.

The expenditure of AFCD involved in catching stray animals and handling animals caught over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)		
	Catching stray animals	Handling stray animals caught	Total
2017-18	28.7	3.6	32.3
2018-19	32.3	4.0	36.3
2019-20 (revised estimate)	33.6	3.9	37.5

- (c) AFCD is currently collaborating with non-profit making AWOs to arrange rehoming of suitable animals. The AWOs concerned provide animal rehoming services in various districts across the territory, which include assessing the suitability of prospective adopters and their living environment for animal adoption, and following up with adopters to see if the adopters take proper care of the animals rehomed. They are armed with relevant experience and adopter network, and could provide members of the public with more service locations and better meet the current needs of the community. Meanwhile, AFCD is actively liaising with other AWOs with a view to further increasing the number of partnering organisations.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)229****(Question Serial No. 3735)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Would the Bureau provide the balance, government injection amount, investment or other income, and total expenditure of the following funds in 2018-19? If there are other funds under the ambit of the Bureau but not included below, please also provide information as per the items above.

- (a) Agricultural Products Scholarship Fund;
- (b) Co-operative for American Relief Everywhere Loan Fund;
- (c) Fisheries Development Loan Fund;
- (d) Fish Marketing Organization Loan Fund (FMOLF) including the Fishing Moratorium Loan Scheme set up under FMOLF;
- (e) J.E. Joseph Trust Fund;
- (f) Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Loan Fund;
- (g) Marine Fish Scholarship Fund;
- (h) Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund;
- (i) Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund;
- (j) Vegetable Marketing Organization Agricultural Development Fund;
- (k) Vegetable Marketing Organization Loan Fund; and
- (l) World Refugee Year Loan Fund.

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department currently administers 12 funds related to the agriculture and fisheries sectors. The requested information about the funds is tabulated at the **Annex.**

Amount of government injection, income, expenditure and fund balance of various funds related to the agricultural and fisheries sectors

Item	Fund	Government injection (\$ million) (up to 31 December 2019)	2019		
			Income [#] (\$ million)	Expenditure [^] (\$ million)	Fund balance (\$ million) (up to 31 December 2019)
(a)	Agricultural Products Scholarship Fund	-	0.1	0.4	5.4
(b)	Co-operative for American Relief Everywhere Loan Fund	-	-	-	0.2
(c)	Fisheries Development Loan Fund	1,100.0 [*]	10.2	41.5	197.6
(d)	Fish Marketing Organization Loan Fund [@]	60.0 [*]	0.8	93.0	57.3
(e)	J.E. Joseph Trust Fund	0.8	0.3	1.2	19.0
(f)	Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Loan Fund	2.0	0.2	3.2	11.8
(g)	Marine Fish Scholarship Fund	-	<0.1	0.4	3.8
(h)	Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund	500.0 [*]	-	37.6	452.8
(i)	Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund	500.0 [*]	-	15.9	454.3
(j)	Vegetable Marketing Organization Agricultural Development Fund	-	0.4	19.3	21.0
(k)	Vegetable Marketing Organization Loan Fund	-	0.2	1.6	13.1
(l)	World Refugee Year Loan Fund	-	<0.1	-	2.1

^{*} Government commitment

[#] Including interest income from loan borrowers, bank deposits and government bonds

[^] Including grants / loans issued

[@] Including the Fishing Moratorium Loan Scheme set up under the Fish Marketing Organization Loan Fund

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)230****(Question Serial No. 4444)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: Not SpecifiedControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

- (a) Please set out the quantity, value and stock of surgical masks produced by the Correctional Services Department (CSI masks) that the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) obtained from the Government Logistics Department (GLD) each month over the past 3 years in the following table:

Month/Year	Number of CSI masks obtained	Value of CSI masks obtained	Stock of CSI masks

- (b) Please set out the quantity, value, stock and consumption of surgical masks that AFCD obtained from GLD or procured each month over the past 3 years in the following table:

Month/Year	Number of surgical masks obtained from GLD (value)	Number of surgical masks procured (value)	Stock	Consumption

- (c) Please set out the quantity, value, stock and consumption of N95 masks that AFCD obtained from GLD or procured each month over the past 3 years in the following table:

Month/Year	Number of N95 masks obtained from GLD (value)	Number of N95 masks procured (value)	Stock	Consumption

- (d) Please set out the quantity, value, stock and consumption of gowns that AFCD obtained from GLD or procured each month over the past 3 years in the following table:

Month/Year	Number of gowns obtained from GLD (value)	Number of gowns procured (value)	Stock	Consumption

- (e) Please set out the quantity, value, stock and consumption of protective coverall suits that AFCD obtained from GLD or procured each month over the past 3 years in the following table:

Month/Year	Number of protective coverall suits obtained from GLD (value)	Number of protective overall suits procured (value)	Stock	Consumption

- (f) Please set out the quantity, value, stock and consumption of face shields that AFCD obtained from GLD or procured each month over the past 3 years in the following table:

Month/Year	Number of face shields procured	Value of face shields procured	Stock of face shields	Consumption

- (g) Please set out the quantity, value, stock and consumption of goggles that AFCD obtained from GLD or procured each month over the past 3 years in the following table:

Month/Year	Number of goggles procured	Value of goggles procured	Stock of goggles	Consumption

- (h) Did AFCD supply or sell surgical masks, N95 masks, face shields, goggles, gowns and protective coverall suits to other organisations over the past 3 years? If yes, please provide the relevant information, including the quantity, consumption and stock, in the following table:

Month/Year	Name of organisations	Manner of provision (e.g. sold or supplied for free)	Surgical masks	N95 masks	Face shields	Goggles	Gowns	Protective coverall suits

- (i) If AFCD is to supply or sell surgical masks, N95 masks, face shields, goggles, gowns and protective coveralls to other organisations, what are the departments and the ranks of the officers responsible for making such decisions? Please provide the ranks of the officers involved in each decision, the date they made the decision and other relevant information.

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (LegCo internal reference no.: 116)

Reply:

- (a) to (i) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) obtains surgical masks produced by the Correctional Services Department from the Government Logistics Department and procures masks from the market for distribution to and use by colleagues, visitors and individual staff of contractors who provide services at AFCD's facilities. AFCD does not keep any information on the distribution of masks from different sources to individual staff.

With an upsurge in the global demand for personal protective equipment (PPE), the HKSAR Government is facing keen competition in its procurement. The Government considers it inappropriate at this stage to disclose further information about the stock levels, quantities procured and amounts paid, procurement date and consumption in respect of PPE in individual departments in the past few years and recent months so as not to undermine the bargaining power of the Government in procuring PPE.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)231

(Question Serial No. 6700)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) What are the current number and geographical distribution of community brown cattle and buffaloes in Hong Kong?
- (b) Please set out, by year, the Department's total expenditure involved in dealing with the community cattle, as well as a breakdown of all the expenditure involved over the past 5 years and in the financial year 2020-21.
- (c) Please set out the current staff establishment of the Cattle Management Team by rank, and provide, by year, the Department's total expenditure and an exhaustive breakdown of all expenditure on the "Capture-Sterilisation-Relocation" programme (the programme), including expenditure involved in handling public complaints, the purchase of medicines, capturing stray cattle, contraception control/sterilisation for stray cattle, relocation operation, total staff cost, and administrative expenses, etc. over the past 5 years and in the financial year 2020-21.
- (d) In August 2019, the Department devised a stray cattle management plan, setting out short to long-term goals. What are the details of the plan, the staff establishment, total expenditure and a breakdown of all expenditure involved in the plan in the past and that in the financial year 2020-21?
- (e) How effective is the programme? What are the way forward and target of the programme?
- (f) How effective is the study on contraceptive vaccine for cattle? Has the Department collected enough samples for pregnancy analysis? What are the respective success rates of contraception of the vaccines for brown cattle and buffaloes? What counter-measures does the Department have if the target for the controlling of their number of cattle is unable to be achieved?

- (g) Please set out, by year and with an exhaustive account, the following breakdown statistics related to the relocation programme over the past 5 years:
 - (i) The number of complaints/reports related to cattle;
 - (ii) The number of operations;
 - (iii) The number of cattle caught and the districts where they were caught;
 - (iv) The number of cattle that have received contraceptive vaccines and that of the sterilised cattle;
 - (v) The number of cattle sterilised at treatment centres or on site;
 - (vi) The number of relocated cattle and their age;
 - (vii) The number of cattle staying in the relocated sites;
 - (viii) The number of cattle euthanised due to sickness, injury in traffic accidents or during transit or other incidents.
- (h) What are the objective grounds for determining whether the survival conditions of cattle can be satisfied? Will the Department stop relocating cattle to sites like the Chong Hing Water Sports Centre, where grass and water supply is not sufficient?
- (i) The Department stated last year that it “would continue to identify suitable sites for the relocation of cattle”. What are the progress and result concerned?
- (j) The Department stated last year that it would engage stakeholders (including rural committees concerned and cattle concern groups) in identifying sites for relocation of cattle to explore how to step up the stray cattle management measures in various districts. What stakeholders has the Department engaged in the related work? What are the details of expenditure and manpower involved? Will the Department consider adopting the suggestion put forward by certain civil organisations to develop sites like Sha Tau Kok, which are suitable for the survival of cattle?
- (k) The Department stated last year that it would implement the long term strategy for the management of stray cattle in collaboration with relevant animal welfare organisations (AWOs) and local communities. What are the AWOs and local communities concerned? What are the details of expenditure and manpower involved? What long-term strategies has the Department planned, formulated or implemented for stray cattle management?
- (l) Currently, there are some civil organisations volunteering to look after community cattle, and handle cattle shelters, traffic incidents involving cattle and capturing operations. Will the Department cooperate with these organisations or assist them in stray cattle management?
- (m) It was mentioned in last year’s Audit Report that AFCD should honour its pledge and brief the relevant AWOs and stakeholders on the stray cattle management plan. What is the current progress concerned? Has AFCD introduced the plan to the AWOs and stakeholders concerned? If yes, what are the details?
- (n) Please set out, by year and district, the number of times AFCD deployed staff to conduct site inspection of the relocation sites and monitor the health of cattle over the past 5 years. The Department has stated that the internationally recognised “Body Condition Scoring System” is currently used for assessing the health condition of

cattle. Herd health is monitored and checked by observing the posture, gait, appetite and excretion of the cattle. The cattle will be treated accordingly by a veterinary surgeon when any abnormalities are identified. What were the details and frequency of abnormalities identified in the past, as well as the number and location involved?

- (o) The Department has launched the “Herdsman Program” on Lantau Island since February 2018. What are the details of the programme, expenditure and manpower involved? How many complaints have been received each year since the launch of the programme? How many surprised inspections on the performance of the herdsmen has been conducted each month? How is the performance of the herdsmen? How can the public contact the herdsmen?
- (p) The Department has stated that the way in which the Department handles cattle is different from that of private veterinary surgeons providing treatment for pets, and thus it is not necessary to keep medical records of the cattle handled in accordance with section 18 of the Code of Practice for the Guidance of Registered Veterinary Surgeons. What are the legal grounds for this practice?
- (q) The Department has stated that it will not disclose the medical records of community animals handled by the Department as advised by the Veterinary Surgeons Board of Hong Kong in order to safeguard the interests of the attending veterinary surgeons. Nonetheless, the Department of Justice advised that the said issue can be handled in accordance with the Code on Access to Information. It is difficult to determine whether the public fund involved is used properly if the public are not informed of the performance of the veterinary surgeons in handling community animals. Apart from having a fear of public scrutiny, what are other reasons for the Department to allow the public’s right to know to be overridden by personal interests of the veterinary surgeons?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

- (a) According to a territory-wide population survey on stray cattle conducted in 2018, there were around 1 140 stray cattle in the rural areas of Hong Kong. Their number and distribution are tabulated as follows:

Species	Number of stray cattle				
	Lantau Island	Sai Kung/ Ma On Shan	North East New Territories	Central New Territories	Total
Buffalo	120	0	0	40	160
Brown cattle	170	400	260	150	980
Total	290	400	260	190	1 140

- (b) and (c) The expenditure and manpower of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) involved in stray cattle management (including the “Capture-Sterilisation-Relocation” (CSR) programme) over the past 5 years and

the estimated expenditure and manpower for such work in 2020-21 are tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (number of staff)
2015-16	3.0	6
2016-17	3.2	6
2017-18	3.5	7
2018-19	6.7	7
2019-20 (revised estimate)	5.6	8*
2020-21 (estimate)	5.3	8*

* Comprising 1 Veterinary Officer, 2 Field Officer II, 4 Field Assistant and 1 Motor Driver posts.

The expenditure on the CSR programme over the past 5 years, and the estimated expenditure in this respect in 2020-21 are tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2015-16	2.3
2016-17	2.4
2017-18	2.7
2018-19	4.0
2019-20 (revised estimate)	3.3
2020-21 (estimate)	3.2

AFCD does not have a separate breakdown of the above expenditure.

(d) and (e) AFCD launched the stray cattle management plan in 2019 to continue the implementation of the CSR programme and sterilise cattle based on their respective populations in various districts with a view to maintaining their populations at a controllable level. As mentioned in (b) and (c) above, AFCD has earmarked \$5.3 million and 8 staff for stray cattle management in 2020-21 and will also commission a consultant to regularly review the effectiveness of the existing cattle management measures, including the CSR programme.

(f) AFCD is now studying the feasibility of controlling the fertility of cattle with the use of a contraceptive drug called Gonacon. In the first phase of the study, AFCD has vaccinated 33 captive female brown cattle and the result indicated that the vaccine yielded a success rate of approximately 70% in rendering infertility in the captive brown cattle. In the second and the third phases of the study,

AFCD has vaccinated a total of 64 wild female brown cattle and 33 wild female buffaloes. The result indicated that the vaccine was able to render infertility in most of the wild brown cattle but was unable to render infertility in wild buffaloes effectively. AFCD is now carrying out the fourth phase of the study to continue to monitor the effectiveness of the vaccine in cattle (especially buffaloes). The whole study will be completed in late 2020 and AFCD will assess whether the vaccine is suitable to be applied to stray cattle in Hong Kong. No matter whether the vaccine will be used, AFCD will continue to surgically sterilise stray cattle to control the populations of cattle.

- (g) (i) The number of cattle nuisance complaints received by AFCD over the past 5 years is tabulated by district as follows:

District/Year	Number of cases				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Lantau Island	71	91	39	30	27
Sai Kung	13	11	10	9	5
North East New Territories and Central New Territories	19	22	14	43	60
Total	103	124	63	82	92

- (ii) Inspections of relocated stray cattle are conducted by AFCD for around 3 times a week, amounting to at least 200 inspections annually for Sai Kung and Lantau Island where the CSR programme is implemented.

- (iii) to (vi) The number of cattle handled by AFCD under the CSR programme over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of cattle		
	Captured [#]	Sterilised	Relocated/Returned [#]
2015	88	16	70
2016	114	64	69
2017	105	43	72
2018	128	105	80
2019	125	207	98

[#] Figures include repeated capture and relocation/return of the same cattle.

AFCD does not have information on the age of the cattle concerned.

The number of cattle captured is tabulated by district as follows:

District/Year	Number of cattle captured
---------------	---------------------------

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Lantau Island	21	33	24	27	14
Sai Kung	50	51	49	42	26
North East New Territories and Central New Territories	17	30	32	59	85
Total	88	114	105	128	125

AFCD has been studying the feasibility of sterilising cattle chemically with the use of Gonacon in parallel with the CSR programme. Up to February 2020, a total of 172 cattle have been involved in the study.

(vii) In general, AFCD relocates the nuisance-causing stray cattle to country parks nearby. Since the cattle can inhabit and roam around freely in the country parks, AFCD does not have the number of cattle staying in the relocated sites over the past 5 years.

(viii) The number of cattle euthanised due to sickness or injury over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of cattle
2015	18
2016	51
2017	26
2018	39
2019	7

(h) To reduce the nuisance caused by lingering cattle in urban areas or roads and assure the safety of cattle and road users, AFCD captures, sterilises and relocates stray cattle to country parks. AFCD will carry out on-site inspections to ensure adequacy of grass, water, woodland in the potential relocated sites for cattle inhabitation before deciding on the sites for cattle relocation.

Cattle herds have been found dwelling at grassland of the Chong Hing Water Sports Centre in the Sai Kung Country Park. Since no fences have been erected around the grassland, cattle can inhabit and roam around freely in the Sai Kung Country Park.

(i) and (j) In recent years, residents affected by stray cattle and the animal welfare organisations (AWOs) hold differing views on stray cattle management. In the previous public consultation exercises, relevant community groups, District Councils and local communities and groups that are concerned about stray cattle are, in general, supportive of AFCD's multi-pronged approach for stray cattle management, including the CSR programme and the "Herdsman Program", etc.

Regarding the identification of suitable cattle relocation sites, AFCD has also been maintaining liaison with cattle concern individuals and groups on Lantau Island, Rural Committees, Area Committee of Lantau Island and Islands District Council, and has been studying the potential sites on Lantau Island and other outlying islands. Nevertheless, suitable or feasible sites have yet been identified. Currently, AFCD does not have any plan to relocate stray cattle in other districts to Sha Tau Kok.

AFCD does not have a separate breakdown of the expenditure and manpower involved in the above work.

- (k) and (l) AFCD has been implementing the CSR programme in collaboration with stakeholders such as the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, local cattle concern groups and individuals, etc. They report nuisance or injury cases caused by lingering cattle in urban areas or roads to AFCD for follow-up actions.

AFCD does not have a separate breakdown of the expenditure and manpower involved in the above work.

- (m) AFCD has briefed the Working Group on Managing Animal Population under the Animal Welfare Advisory Group, which comprises AWOs' representatives and veterinarians, on the stray cattle management plan and has solicited their support. AFCD has already started implementing the plan.

- (n) As mentioned in (g)(ii) above, AFCD has been conducting inspections of relocated stray cattle for around 3 times a week, amounting to at least 200 inspections annually for Sai Kung and Lantau Island where the CSR programme is implemented over the past 5 years. No abnormalities caused by relocation were found among the cattle during the inspections.

- (o) AFCD has implemented the "Herdsman Program" on Lantau Island since February 2018. At present, 4 staff are deployed to lead stray cattle away from roads and nuisance black spots in different areas of Lantau South. The herdsman will advise visitors not to feed cattle to safeguard health and welfare of the cattle.

The herdsman is requested to sign in for work at specific locations every day and AFCD will conduct surprise checks at least once a week. Since the launch of the programme, the number of complaints about cattle nuisance on Lantau Island has shown a downward trend (see (g) above for the figures concerned). Local residents may forward their requests for service at specific locations or

their suggestions on herdsmen to AFCD, which will take follow-up actions as appropriate.

In 2019-20, the expenditure (revised estimate) involved in the “Herdsmen Program” was about \$600,000.

- (p) As stipulated in section 18 of the Code of Practice for the Guidance of Registered Veterinary Surgeons (CoP) promulgated by the Veterinary Surgeons Board of Hong Kong (VSB) under the Veterinary Surgeons Registration Ordinance (Cap. 529), all registered veterinary surgeons in Hong Kong shall keep medical records for the animals attended by them and the Veterinary Officers of AFCD shall also comply with CoP to keep medical records for the animals seen or treated by them.
- (q) In addition to the Government’s Code on Access to Information (the Code), relevant provisions of CoP should also be complied with when considering whether the medical records of stray animals attended by AFCD’s Veterinary Officers should be released upon request by members of the public. Section 18.1.2 of the Code of Practice for the Guidance of Registered Veterinary Surgeons stipulates that “A medical record documents the basis for the clinical management of a patient. It reflects on the quality of care and is necessary for continuity of care. It protects the legal interests of the patient and veterinary surgeons.” Based on the above considerations, AFCD is of the view that VSB’s advice should be sought regarding the scope of applicability of the said provision.

After consideration, VSB is of the view that, in general, medical records are only released upon request by the owner or agent of the animal, or for sharing of information among veterinary surgeons in providing treatment for the animal concerned (subject to owners’ consent), or when such records are required for legal purpose under the Law. Thus, medical records should not be released to any persons other than the owner. Regarding the medical records of stray animals, VSB is of the view that such records shall not be released to any persons, except with the consent of the record owner. VSB also agrees that, in some cases, personal interests of the attending veterinary surgeons who are responsible for keeping medical records for stray animals, are overridden by public interests when the medical records concerned are released. To conclude, the owner of medical records has the right to decide whether and to whom such information should be released. As the owner of the medical records compiled by Veterinary Officers, AFCD will handle the requests for medical records of stray animals in accordance with the Code and make reference to the above advice provided by VSB.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)232****(Question Serial No. 6702)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

- (a) What are the types and numbers of the existing animal traps kept by the Department? What is the total expenditure of procuring such animal traps?
- (b) Please set out the type and number of animals captured by the Department over the past 5 years, with a breakdown by reason of capture.
- (c) Please set out the type and number of animals injured during the captures by the Department's staff over the past 5 years.
- (d) Will the Department consider ceasing the use of animal traps, e.g. snares, which cause injuries to animals easily? Will the Department explore the use of other tools or methods that are less likely to cause injuries to animals in captures?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)Reply:

- (a) At present, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has a total of 182 cage traps for catching cats and dogs, 56 snares for catching dogs, 40 cage traps for catching feral pigeons, 12 snares and 54 cage traps for catching monkeys, and 10 cage traps for catching wild pigs^{Note}.

The expenditure of AFCD on purchasing and maintaining animal traps over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$' 000)
2017-18	20
2018-19	80
2019-20 (revised estimate)	50

Note: The management of wild animals falls under the policy purview of the Environment Bureau.

- (b) In general, upon receipt of complaints or reports from members of the public regarding nuisance caused by stray animals (mostly cats and dogs) or wild animals (e.g. wild pigs and monkeys), AFCD will conduct inspections to the areas concerned to investigate if there are any animals causing nuisance and take follow-up actions as necessary, including catching or chasing away animals.

The type and number of animals caught with animal traps by AFCD over the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of animals caught with animal traps				
	Dogs (by cage/ snare)	Cats (by cage)	Pigeons (by cage)	Monkeys (by cage/ snare)	Wild pigs (by cage, net or dart gun)
2015	159/142	1 009	473	454/14	28
2016	76/118	564	218	521/31	59
2017	118/103	475	273	291/28	106
2018	40/102	299	0	195/29	197
2019	35/35	186	0	216/14	284

- (c) AFCD has no record of animals injured or died due to the use of animal traps during the catching operations over the past 5 years.
- (d) All the animal traps including snares and cage traps used by AFCD are specially designed or carefully selected to ensure that they are safe to use on animals. They are widely recognised and used in other countries for catching animals. In addition, all the catching operations using animal traps are carried out by trained staff who will take necessary precautionary measures to prevent animals from injury during the process. For instance, when snares are used for catching animals, notices at conspicuous places will be put up and the affected area will be fenced off with warning tapes. AFCD staff will ensure that no passers-by or other animals will come close. Once a target animal is caught, it will be transferred to a cage with the snare immediately loosened, and delivered to an Animal Management Centre for observation and follow-up actions.

AFCD will continue to use snares or cages for catching animals where appropriate.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)233

(Question Serial No. 6711)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) The Government has been granting subventions to animal welfare organisations (AWOs) since 2013. Please set out by year and with an exhaustive breakdown the names of the organisations that have submitted applications to the Department, the projects and amounts of subventions applied for, the application results and the amounts of subventions granted, etc. since the inception of the scheme.
- (b) Among the AWOs having been granted subventions, is there any organisation that has been granted more than once? If yes, please set out the name(s) of the organisation(s), year(s) of application, the project(s) and amount(s) of subvention(s) applied for and the amount(s) of subvention(s) granted.
- (c) In the financial year 2019-20, the Government will allocate \$1 million for supporting the Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden (KFBG) to carry out a rehabilitation programme for wild animals in Hong Kong. What are the details of the programme and expenditures involved? Would the Government regularise such funding support?
- (d) Starting from 2019-20, the Government will earmark \$1 million each year for KFBG to apply for funding to support part of the operating expenses of its wild animal rehabilitation programme. What are the funding terms and performance indicators of the programme? Has KFBG applied for the subvention? If yes, what are the details of the project(s) approved or rejected and amount(s) of subvention(s) applied for, and the amount(s) of subvention(s) granted?
- (e) Over the past 5 years, has the Government received any application for government land and subvention from civil organisations for operation of premises for activities related to animal right? If yes, please set out by year the details of the project(s) approved or rejected / amount(s) of subvention(s) applied for, the applicants, the location(s) of government land permitted to be used for the said purpose/the amount(s) of subvention(s) granted, etc.

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

(a) and (b) Details of projects under application as well as the amounts of subvention applied for, given and released to different animal welfare organisations (AWOs) over the past 5 years are set out at **Annex 1**. Information on AWOs receiving subvention more than once is at **Annex 2**.

(c) and (d) The Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden (KFBG) has been assisting the Government in rescuing and rehabilitating wild animals in Hong Kong. Starting from 2019-20, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has earmarked \$1 million each year for KFBG to apply for funding to support part of the operating expenses of its wild animal rehabilitation programmes.

In 2019-20, a subvention of \$1 million was granted to KFBG for rescuing and rehabilitating wild animals, public education and technical training. When vetting KFBG's application in 2019-20, an array of factors were considered, including the evaluation of the objectives and effectiveness of the programmes concerned, the cost-effectiveness of the programmes concerned, whether the proposed expenditures are justified, the operation and execution capability of the subvented organisations, etc. Reference has also been made to the Guide to Corporate Governance for Subvented Organisations drawn up by the Efficiency Unit to ensure proper and effective use of the public funds.

(e) According to the information from the Development Bureau (DEVB), 1 short term tenancy (STT) application in relation to a vacant government site for animal adoption use was approved over the past 5 years (i.e. 2015-16 up to end of December 2019). The non-governmental organisation (NGO) has also applied for financial assistance under DEVB's "Funding Scheme to Support the Use of Vacant Government Sites by Non-governmental Organisations" to carry out essential restoration works. The details are as follows:

Year	Site location	Name of NGO	Proposed short term uses	Ceiling of funding approved
2019-20	Ko Po San Tsuen, Kam Tin, Yuen Long	House of Joy & Mercy	Animal boarding establishment	\$7.4 million

From January 2018 to December 2019, a total of 3 STT applications for animal adoption use were received but were later withdrawn by the applicants or rejected. In general, it is not appropriate for Lands Department (LandsD) to disclose the details of those rejected / withdrawn cases. LandsD does not keep the number of the relevant applications prior to 2018.

(i) Subvention from AFCD to AWOs (applied for in 2014-15 and released in 2015-16)

	AWOs	Projects under application	Amount sought (\$)	Amount approved (\$)	Amount released (\$)
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	To operate an adoption centre and conduct animal welfare projects	160,000	90,000	76,679
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To conduct an adult dog rehome scheme	224,000	150,000	150,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	To purchase medications and feeds for rehoming animals and conduct publicity and education programmes	1,808,000	120,000	120,000
4	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To conduct education programmes and provide medical treatment for rabbits	135,000	49,000	48,181
5	Hong Kong Rescue Puppies	To produce a publicity booklet entitled “Responsible Pet Ownership” and conduct a rehome scheme	185,232	40,000	0*
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	To conduct various animal management programmes	227,000	45,000	45,000
7	Cheung Chau Animal Care	To conduct education, publicity, rescue and adoption programmes	80,000	30,000	30,000
Total			2,819,232	524,000	469,860

* No claim for reimbursement from the AWO concerned has been received.

(ii) **Subvention from AFCD to AWOs (applied for in 2015-16 and released in 2016-17)**

	AWOs	Projects under application	Amount sought (\$)	Amount approved (\$)	Amount released (\$)
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	To conduct adoption promotion programmes, produce educational materials and further improve the Foundation's website	180,000	80,000	73,934
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To operate an adult dog rehome scheme	204,000	125,000	125,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	To provide medical treatment and food for rehoming animals	1,571,000	100,000	100,000
4	Society for Abandoned Animals	To conduct various education programmes	388,155	40,000	38,591
5	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To produce educational materials and provide medical treatment for sick or injured rabbits	129,000	45,000	41,620
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	To provide medical treatment and food for rehoming dogs	235,000	45,000	45,000
7	Cheung Chau Animal Care	To operate a rehome scheme and conduct education and publicity programmes	80,000	28,000	28,000
8	Hong Kong Cats	To conduct adoption promotion programmes, produce educational materials and further improve the organisation's website	54,000	24,000	16,365
9	Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong)	To conduct an Animal Caring Ambassador Programme	200,000	45,000	44,854
Total			3,041,155	532,000	513,364

(iii) **Subvention from AFCD to AWOs (applied for and approved in 2016-17 and released in 2017-18)**

	AWOs	Projects under application	Amount sought (\$)	Amount approved (\$)	Amount released (\$)
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	To run the animal adoption centre, provide food and veterinary care for rehoming animals and conduct education and publicity programmes	120,000	85,000	84,602
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To provide vaccination and food for rehoming animals	218,400	130,000	130,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	To provide preventive medical treatment for rehoming animals	1,962,000	100,000	100,000
4	Society for Abandoned Animals	To produce educational materials for promoting animal welfare and responsible pet ownership	53,040	42,000	42,000
5	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To produce educational materials and provide medical treatment for sick rabbits	62,000	48,000	45,120
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	To provide preventive medical treatment and food for rehoming dogs	320,000	46,000	46,000
7	Cheung Chau Animal Care	To operate a rehome scheme and conduct education and publicity programmes	80,000	28,000	28,000
8	Hong Kong Cats	To promote adoption, produce educational materials and further improve the organisation website	40,500	21,000	18,300
9	Hong Kong Paws Guardian	To catch stray dogs for neutering, vaccination and treatment	120,000	0	-
10	Conservation of Earth and Animal Association	To purchase mobile surgical equipment for veterinary treatment and provide human counselling service	3,200,000	0	-
Total			6,175,940	500,000	494,022

(iv) Subvention from AFCD to AWOs (applied for in 2017-18 and released in 2018-19)

	AWOs	Projects under application	Amount sought (\$)	Amount approved (\$)	Amount released (\$)
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	To run the animal adoption centre, provide food and veterinary care for rehoming animals and conduct education and publicity programme	140,000	85,000	83,329
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To provide preventive care and food for rehoming animals	324,000	130,000	130,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	To enhance rehoming facilities	1,629,579	82,000	82,000
4	SPCA	To promote animal welfare on public transport	210,000	0	-
5	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To produce educational materials and provide medical treatment for sick rabbits	60,000	48,000	47,960
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	To provide preventive medical treatment and food for rehoming dogs	400,150	48,000	48,000
7	Cheung Chau Animal Care	To operate a rehome scheme and conduct education and publicity programmes	80,000	28,000	28,000
8	Hong Kong Cats	To produce educational materials for promotion of animal welfare and adoption	24,700	20,500	16,522
9	Hong Kong Paws Guardian	To conduct education and publicity for responsible pet ownership	92,000	24,000	0*
10	Conservation of Earth and Animal Association	To conduct animal ophthalmology project / dental health plan / purchase mobile medical vehicle	5,140,000	0	-
11	Kirsten's Zoo	To provide preventive care and food for rescued and rehomed animals	270,000	45,000	45,000
12	Animal Friends	To provide medical treatment for rehoming animals	250,000	45,000	45,000
13	Hong Kong Saving Cat and Dog Association	To enhance public awareness on animal welfare and adoption	62,390	45,000	45,000
Total			8,682,819	600,500	570,811

* No claims for reimbursement from the AWO concerned have been received.

(v) **Subvention from AFCD to AWOs (applied for in 2018-19 and released in 2019-20)**

	AWOs	Projects under application	Amount sought (\$)	Amount approved (\$)	Amount released (\$)
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	To run the animal adoption centre, provide food and veterinary care for rehoming animals and conduct education and publicity programme	130,000	120,000	117,552
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To provide preventive care and food for rehoming animals	345,600	250,000	250,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	To educate children on responsible pet ownership and adoption	926,000	120,000	120,000
4	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To produce educational materials and provide medical treatment for sick rabbits	125,000	120,000	118,450
5	Sai Kung Stray Friends	To provide medical treatment and food for rehoming dogs	401,537	150,000	150,000
6	Cheung Chau Animal Care	To operate a rehome scheme and conduct education and publicity programmes	80,000	53,500	53,500
7	Hong Kong Cats	To conduct publicity for adoption	16,000	10,000	4,408
8	Society for Abandoned Animals	To refurbish the electric power system of the animal centre	189,450	120,000	120,000
9	Kirsten's Zoo	To provide preventive care and food for rescued and rehomed animals	285,000	120,000	120,000
10	Animal Friends	To provide medical treatment for rehoming animals	300,000	150,000	150,000
11	Hong Kong Saving Cat and Dog Association	To enhance public awareness on animal welfare and adoption	63,079	50,000	50,000
Total			2,861,666	1,263,500	1,253,910

List of AWOs receiving AFCD subvention funding more than once

AWOs/Year		Amount released in (\$)				
		2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	76,679	73,934	84,602	83,329	117,552
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	150,000	125,000	130,000	130,000	250,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	120,000	100,000	100,000	82,000	120,000
4	Society for Abandoned Animals	-	38,591	42,000	-	120,000
5	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	48,181	41,620	45,120	47,960	118,450
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	45,000	45,000	46,000	48,000	150,000
7	Cheung Chau Animal Care	30,000	28,000	28,000	28,000	53,500
8	Hong Kong Cats	-	16,365	18,300	16,522	4,408
9	Kirsten's Zoo	-	-	-	45,000	120,000
10	Animal Friends	-	-	-	45,000	150,000
11	Hong Kong Saving Cat and Dog Association	-	-	-	45,000	50,000

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)234

(Question Serial No. 6717)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) Please set out, by year, the total expenditure and an exhaustive breakdown of all expenditures, staff establishment, and overall expenditure on salaries of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) involved in (i) catching, (ii) rehoming and (iii) euthanising animals over the past 5 years and in the financial year 2020-21. If the abovementioned figures are not available, will AFCD keep such figures starting from this year to enable the public to have a better understanding of the proper use of the public money involved?
- (b) What are the staff establishment and overall expenditure on salaries of the 4 Animal Management Centres (AMCs) of AFCD respectively?
- (c) What are the respective types and numbers of the animals given up by owners, caught by AFCD or received through other channels over the past 5 years? What are the respective types and numbers of animals reclaimed, rehomed or euthanised over the past 5 years?
- (d) How long did the animals that were caught by AFCD, microchipped or non-microchipped stay at AMCs on average before they were euthanised over the past 5 years? What were the shortest and longest periods that they were kept?
- (e) It is stated in the Audit Report last year that AFCD's guidelines on handling stray dogs and cats should be improved as it did not adequately cover for how long a dog/cat should be observed before the Department could determine whether it became more suitable for rehoming. In this connection, are there any improvement measures?
- (f) Will the Department consider developing policies that are targeted at increasing the rehoming rate and gradually reducing euthanasia (including the gradual transition of expenditure from euthanasia of animals to the Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) programme, opening the AMCs for animal rehoming, and the application for provision to expand

the current AMCs or set up more animal rehoming centres)? If yes, what are the details and timetable in this respect? If not, what are the reasons?

- (g) If AMCs are to be open for animal rehoming, what is the estimated expenditure involved?
- (h) The Department has stated that it remains open towards assisting animal welfare organisations in conducting the TNR programme at specific locations since its completion in January 2018. In this connection, what are the details and expenditure involved in the Department's work in this respect? Will the Department consider implementing the TNR programme in various districts of Hong Kong, in particular rural areas, redevelopment areas and development areas?
- (i) To reduce large-scale abandonment resulting from development / redevelopment, will the Department consider devising in advance supporting policies for development / redevelopment areas (districts such as the New Territories North, Yuen Long South and Kam Tin South), e.g. conducting surveys of the animals in the districts, evaluating the impacts of the development / redevelopment towards the animals in the districts and neighbouring communities, devising animal rehoming plans and providing transportation, financial or administrative support to residents with difficulties in relation to microchipping, neutering and vaccinating dogs and applying for dog licences? If yes, what are the details and timetable in this respect? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

- (a) and (b) The 4 animal management centres (AMCs) under the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) are responsible for, among other duties, handling stray animals, including catching, rehoming and euthanising animals as necessary. The expenditure and manpower of AFCD involved in catching stray animals and handling stray animals caught over the past 5 years, and the estimated expenditure and manpower involved in 2020-21 are tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)			Salary expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (number of staff)
	Catching stray animals	Handling stray animals caught (breakdown on euthanasia of animals)	Total		
2015-16	29.0	3.6 (1.4)	32.6	17.5	179
2016-17	28.5	3.4 (0.9)	31.9	23.7	187
2017-18	28.7	3.6 (1.0)	32.3	25.0	187
2018-19	32.3	4.0 (1.3)	36.3	27.9	188
2019-20 (revised estimate)	33.6	3.9 (1.2)	37.5	30.2	187
2020-21 (estimate)	36.1	3.9 (1.2)	40.0	31.0	188

There are currently 4 Veterinary Officers and 183 technical / frontline staff members at the 4 AMCs, which are overseen by 1 Senior Veterinary Officer.

- (c) The requested information is tabulated at the **Annex**.
- (d) The average period that the received animals were kept by AMCs over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Average period kept in AMCs (days)		
	Dogs	Cats	Others [^]
2015	9.5	9.7	15.5
2016	10.9	13.0	53.8
2017	13.1	13.0	65.8
2018	20.1	17.6	29.8
2019	22.6	25.6	15.1

[^] Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptile, pigs, poultry / birds, etc.

AFCD does not keep the information on the shortest and longest periods for which the received animals were kept by AMCs over the past 5 years.

- (e) AFCD has established guidelines on handling stray animals. As the health conditions and temperament of animals vary, in cases where the dogs being left unclaimed are in good health and assessed by a veterinary officer as having a gentle temperament and suitable for adoption, AFCD will in general arrange their transfer to animal welfare organisations (AWOs) for adoption by members of the public. AFCD will determine for how long after the animals have been kept under observation are fit for adoption according to the professional judgement of veterinary surgeons with a view to allowing as many animals to be rehomed as possible.
- (f) and (g) To minimise the number of animals being euthanised, AFCD has strengthened collaboration with and provided support to rehoming partners in rehoming services, which includes providing free desexing operations to animals that are rehomed through these rehoming partners. The Government has also been providing subventions to eligible AWOs and supporting their work as far as possible, subject to the availability of resources. AFCD has also set up a dedicated team to devise and implement public education and publicity programmes to promote responsible pet ownership and proper care of animals. Over the past 5 years, the number of dogs and cats euthanised has dropped by 65% and 69% respectively. AFCD will continue to implement and enhance these measures to achieve greater effectiveness.

As a matter of fact, the World Organisation for Animal Health agrees that in situations where the number of stray dogs caught remain high or the dogs are not fit for adoption despite the deployment of various stray dog management measures, euthanasia would be an appropriate and humane solution. Besides, there are animals that need to be euthanised due to illness or injury.

The 18 rehoming partners of AFCD provide animal rehoming services in various districts across the territory. These services include assessing the suitability of prospective adopters and their living environment for animal adoption, and following up with adopters to see if the adopters take proper care of the animals rehomed. These partners are armed with relevant experience and adopter network, and can provide members of the public with more service locations and better meet the current needs of the community. For biosecurity and public health reasons, AFCD will not arrange for adoption by members of the public at the 4 AMCs. Instead, they may do so through the arrangements of the rehoming partners. AFCD does not have any estimate on the expenditure involved if AMCs are to be open for animal adoption.

- (h) While the Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) trial programme did not achieve the predetermined performance targets, AFCD keeps an open mind towards rendering assistance to AWOs in conducting similar programmes in other specific locations. To this end, AFCD issued letters to AWOs inviting their views on sites that may be suitable for conducting the TNR trial programme. The letter is also available on the Department's thematic website (www.pets.gov.hk). AFCD will consider a range of factors, including population density, community facilities in the vicinity and traffic condition, in order to determine if a specific location is suitable for conducting such a programme. If a location is found suitable, AFCD will facilitate the liaison between the coordinating AWOs and the District Councils concerned as well as the local stakeholders in order to introduce the programme, with a view to enlisting their support and seeking approval from the Legislative Council for the relevant legislative exemption.

So far, AFCD has not received any formal proposals from AWOs to launch a programme at a specific location, and no resources have been earmarked specifically for this purpose at this stage. Subject to the availability of suitable location(s), we will review the resources requirement.

- (i) AFCD has been working closely with the relevant government departments to promote and appeal to residents affected by government development projects to make appropriate arrangements for their pets as early as practicable (such as transferring their pets to relatives or friends). Animal owners are also advised to approach AFCD for assistance in a timely manner so as to enable the department and AWOs to make early preparation for receiving their animals. AFCD will also proactively liaise with AWOs to try and arrange them to accommodate animals affected by the development projects and strengthen the work in animal neutering and adoption in the affected areas. AFCD will also send officers to assist local residents in vaccinating their dogs against rabies and obtaining licences if so required. Starting from 2019-20, AFCD's resources for subventing AWOs to conduct events and provide services to promote animal welfare, including that of rehoming, have been increased. AWOs interested in operating animal rehoming centres for animals affected by development projects may consider vacant government sites under the management of the Lands Department that are available for leasing by non-governmental organisations for community purposes on short-term basis. Non-profit making AWOs may also

apply from a funding scheme run by the Development Bureau for subsidies to carry out one-off, basic and necessary restoration works so as to put the vacant government sites fit-for-use as rehoming centres. Under the prevailing policies, except for the baseline studies (including those for wild plants and animals) conducted for specific development projects on ecological grounds, relevant departments do not compile statistics on other animals affected by development projects.

Year	Stray animals caught			Animals surrendered by owners			Animals received through other channels			Animals reclaimed by owners			Animals rehomed			Animals euthanised		
	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*	Dogs	Cats	Others*
2015	2 412	1 359	1 418	1 284	129	109	378	73	3 590	774	626	11	651	168	83	2 421	696	3 469
2016	1 919	876	1 494	1 003	107	56	343	70	674	637	400	1	513	136	92	1 814	449	748
2017	1 566	674	1 640	1 024	84	39	336	65	204	560	269	10	588	67	94	1 478	381	801
2018	1 235	547	1 369	715	80	43	304	62	4 904 [#]	512	206	9	577	89	87	1 026	333	5 007 [#]
2019	965	304	1 031	674	75	69	226	63	2 101 [^]	404	127	9	547	78	44	837	219	2 363 [^]

* Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptile, pigs/cattle, poultry/birds, etc.

[#] The increase in number was mainly due to more animals confiscated under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) and birds seized and culled due to detection of avian influenza in Yuen Po Street Bird Garden in April 2018.

[^] This mainly includes the number of animals confiscated under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)235

(Question Serial No. 6718)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

- (a) Regarding the enforcement of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance, what were the details of work, the expenditure involved and the breakdown of all expenditure over the past 5 years and that expected in the financial year 2020-21?
- (b) Regarding the protection of animal rights, what were the details of work and the expenditure involved over the past 5 years and that expected in the financial year 2020-21?
- (c) Please set out by year the number of suspected animal cruelty complaints, the total number of animal cruelty cases, the number of prosecutions initiated, the type and number of animals involved in the cases, the number of persons arrested, the number of persons convicted and their respective penalties (amounts of fine and terms of imprisonment) over the past 5 years.
- (d) Apart from amending the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance, would the Government consider enacting the Animal Welfare Act or implementing other sustainable policies for protecting domestic and community animals in Hong Kong, so as to promote harmony between humans and animals and transform Hong Kong into an animal-friendly and civilised city? If yes, what are the details and timetable? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

- (a) Upon receiving reports of suspected animal cruelty cases, the Hong Kong Police Force (the Police) and / or the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will conduct investigation. Prosecution will be initiated if there is sufficient evidence.

The expenditure of AFCD involved in the above work over the past 5 years and the estimated expenditure in 2020-21 are tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$million)
2015-16	2.6
2016-17	2.9
2017-18	3.0
2018-19	3.2
2019-20 (revised estimate)	3.3
2020-21 (estimate)	3.3

- (b) AFCD implements the following measures to safeguard and promote animal welfare:
- (i) conducting a review on the existing legislation and overseas experience related to animal welfare, as well as launching a three-month public consultation exercise in 2019 on proposals to enhance animal welfare;
 - (ii) enhancing public education and publicity programme to promote responsible pet ownership and proper care of animals, advise against the abandonment and needless surrendering of pets, and champion the need for dog licensing and rabies vaccination as well as the benefits of neutering;
 - (iii) implementing the licensing regime under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations (Cap. 139B) to regulate pet trading and breeding of dogs for sale;
 - (iv) devising codes of practices for the proper trading, breeding and keeping of pets and other animals;
 - (v) enhancing enforcement against pet owners and traders in contravention of relevant legislation;
 - (vi) improving the handling of reports or complaints on cruelty to animals through the inter-departmental special working group comprising representatives of the relevant government departments and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong);
 - (vii) strengthening collaboration with, and providing technical and financial support to animal welfare organisations (AWOs) in rehoming of animals and carrying out activities relating to animal welfare and management; and
 - (viii) implementing the long term strategy for the management of stray cattle in collaboration with the relevant AWOs and local communities.

The expenditure and manpower involved in the above work over the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (number of staff)
2015-16	50.5	194
2016-17	53.7	207
2017-18	60.3	216
2018-19	74.7	217
2019-20 (revised estimate)	73.1	218

In 2020-21, \$78.1 million and 219 staff members have been earmarked for the above work.

- (c) The number of suspected animal cruelty reports received by the Police and AFCD over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of suspected animal cruelty reports
2015	236
2016	262
2017	275
2018	368
2019 (up to September)	288

Upon investigation, most of the cases were found to be related to nuisance with no elements of cruelty. The Government does not have the information on the type and number of animals involved in the cases.

The number of successful prosecutions under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169) and the relevant penalties over the past 5 years are as follows:

Year	Number of persons convicted	Penalties imposed	
		Fine (\$)	Range of imprisonment
2015	10	2,000	14 days to 2 months
2016	11	5,000	28 days to 6 months
2017	24	4,000	7 days to 1 year
2018	21	2,000 to 6,000	14 days to 8 months
2019 (up to September)	19	2,000 to 8,000	20 days to 2 months

- (d) AFCD will continue to implement the above measures to safeguard and promote animal welfare. In addition, having launched a three-month public consultation exercise in 2019 on enhancement of animal welfare, the Government is now examining the views received and plans to report the findings of the consultation and the way forward to the Legislative Council Panel concerned in April this year. Upon finalising the legislative proposals, we will commence the drafting work of the legislation.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)236

(Question Serial No. 3944)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

What are the manpower and expenditure of the Government for strengthening the promotion of animal welfare over the past 3 years? Has the Government assessed the effectiveness of the related work? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 86)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) implements the following measures to safeguard and promote animal welfare:

- (i) conducting a review on the existing legislation and overseas experience related to animal welfare, as well as launching a three-month public consultation exercise in 2019 on proposals to enhance animal welfare;
- (ii) enhancing public education and publicity programme to promote responsible pet ownership and proper care of animals, advise against the abandonment and needless surrendering of pets, and champion the need for dog licensing and rabies vaccination as well as the benefits of neutering;
- (iii) implementing the licensing regime under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations (Cap. 139B) to regulate pet trading and breeding of dogs for sale;
- (iv) devising codes of practices for the proper trading, breeding and keeping of pets and other animals;
- (v) enhancing enforcement against pet owners and traders in contravention of relevant legislation;

- (vi) improving the handling of reports or complaints on cruelty through an inter-departmental special working group comprising representatives of the relevant government departments and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong);
- (vii) strengthening collaboration with, and providing technical and financial support to animal welfare organisations (AWOs) in rehoming of animals and carrying out activities related to animal welfare and management; and
- (viii) implementing the long-term strategy for the management of stray cattle in collaboration with the relevant AWOs and local communities.

The expenditure and manpower involved in the above work over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (number of staff)
2017-18	60.3	216
2018-19	74.7	217
2019-20 (revised estimate)	73.1	218

The above measures have started to bear fruit in recent years. With the strengthening of public education, more and more people have come to recognise the responsibility and commitments as a pet owner. Over the past 5 years, the number of complaints received by AFCD about animal-related nuisances has decreased by 55%, whereas the number of stray cats and dogs caught by AFCD and those given by owners, has dropped by 66% and 47% respectively, and the proportion of animals rehomed is increasing. We will continue to take forward the abovementioned work to safeguard and promote animal welfare.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)237

(Question Serial No. 3945)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the implementation of the trial programme for neutering stray dogs by the Government in the past, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) What were the number of stray dogs neutered in each of the past 3 years and the manpower and expenditure involved?
- (b) Has the Government evaluated the effectiveness of the programme? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- (c) What were the respective numbers of subvented projects run by non-profit making animal welfare organisations in each of the past 3 years? Please set out the names of the subvented organisations, the amount of subvention, the content and progress of the subvented programmes in tabular form.

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 87)

Reply:

- (a) and (b) The three-year Trap-Neuter-Return trial programme (the trial programme) for stray dogs was launched in early 2015. 2 animal welfare organisations (AWOs) were responsible for deploying staff to conduct the programme in Cheung Chau and Yuen Long respectively while the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) was responsible for overseeing and handling related complaints and commissioning an independent consultant to conduct surveys and analysis. The expenditure involved was borne by the AWOs concerned and AFCD respectively. Although the trial programme was completed in early 2018, the 2 concerned AWOs have agreed to continue to monitor the number of dogs recorded for the trial programme, and regularly provide AFCD with the information on the condition, average lifespan and changes in the population of the dogs concerned in the coming years. AFCD will make use of the data concerned for assessment in due course.

AFCD's expenditure on implementation of the trial programme and the number of stray dogs neutered at the 2 trial sites over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$'000)[^]	Number of neutered dogs[*]
2017-18	1,020	0
2018-19	560	2
2019-20	50 (revised estimate)	1 (up to February 2020)

[^] AFCD's expenditure in 2017-18 and 2018-19 covered the cost of commissioning an independent consultant to conduct surveys and analysis while the expenditure in 2019-20 was incurred by AFCD on monitoring the programme.

^{*} Since the launch of the trial programme in 2015 up till end 2019, a total of 103 dogs were neutered and returned to the 2 trial sites.

- (c) The requested information is tabulated in the **Annex**. All projects were completed in respective years as planned.

(i) **Subvention from AFCD to AWOs (applied for in 2016-17 and released in 2017-18)**

	AWOs	Projects under application	Amount released (\$)
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	To run the animal adoption centre, provide food and veterinary care for rehoming animals and conduct education and publicity programmes	84,602
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To provide vaccination and food for rehoming animals	130,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	To provide preventive medical treatment for rehoming animals	100,000
4	Society for Abandoned Animals	To produce educational materials for promoting animal welfare and responsible pet ownership	42,000
5	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To produce educational materials and provide medical treatment for sick rabbits	45,120
6	Sai Kung Stray Friends	To provide preventive medical treatment and food for rehoming dogs	46,000
7	Cheung Chau Animal Care	To operate a rehome scheme and conduct education and publicity programmes	28,000
8	Hong Kong Cats	To promote adoption, produce educational materials and further improve the organisation website	18,300
Total			494,022

(ii) Subvention from AFCD to AWOs (applied for in 2017-18 and released in 2018-19)

	AWOs	Projects under application	Amount released (\$)
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	To run the animal adoption centre, provide food and veterinary care for rehoming animals and conduct education and publicity programmes	83,329
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To provide preventive care and food for rehoming animals	130,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	To enhance rehoming facilities	82,000
4	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To produce educational materials and provide medical treatment for sick rabbits	47,960
5	Sai Kung Stray Friends	To provide preventive medical treatment and food for rehoming dogs	48,000
6	Cheung Chau Animal Care	To operate a rehome scheme and conduct education and publicity programmes	28,000
7	Hong Kong Cats	To produce educational materials for promotion of animal welfare and adoption	16,522
8	Hong Kong Paws Guardian	To conduct education and publicity for responsible pet ownership	0*
9	Kirsten's Zoo	To provide preventive care and food for rescued and rehomed animals	45,000
10	Animal Friends	To provide medical treatment for rehoming animals	45,000
11	Hong Kong Saving Cat and Dog Association	To enhance public awareness on animal welfare and adoption	45,000
Total			570,811

* No claims for reimbursement from the AWO concerned have been received.

(iii) Subvention from AFCD to AWOs (applied for in 2018-19 and released in 2019-20)

	AWOs	Projects under application	Amount released (\$)
1	Hong Kong Society of Herpetology Foundation	To run the animal adoption centre, provide food and veterinary care for rehoming animals and conduct education and publicity programmes	117,552
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To provide preventive care and food for rehoming animals	250,000
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	To educate children on responsible pet ownership and adoption	120,000
4	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To produce educational materials and provide medical treatment for sick rabbits	118,450
5	Sai Kung Stray Friends	To provide medical treatment and food for rehoming dogs	150,000
6	Cheung Chau Animal Care	To operate a rehome scheme and conduct education and publicity programmes	53,500
7	Hong Kong Cats	To conduct publicity for adoption	4,408
8	Society for Abandoned Animals	To refurbish the electrical power system of the animal centre	120,000
9	Kirsten's Zoo	To provide preventive care and food for rescued and rehomed animals	120,000
10	Animal Friends	To provide medical treatment for rehoming animals	150,000
11	Hong Kong Saving Cat and Dog Association	To enhance public awareness on animal welfare and adoption	50,000
Total			1,253,910

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)238

(Question Serial No. 3769)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

It is mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2020-21 under Programme (3), that the Department will strengthen the promotion of animal welfare, will the administration advise the Committee of the details, targets, implementation timetable and latest progresses to promote animal welfare.

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham (LegCo internal reference no.:80)

Reply:

In 2020-21, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will implement the following measures and initiatives to safeguard and promote animal welfare:

- (a) following up on the public consultation exercise on the review of the existing legislation related to animal welfare;
- (b) enhancing public education and publicity programme to promote responsible pet ownership and proper care of animals, advise against the abandonment and needless surrendering of pets, and champion the need for dog licensing and rabies vaccination as well as the benefits of neutering;
- (c) implementing the licensing regime under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations (Cap. 139B) to regulate pet trading and breeding of dogs for sale;
- (d) devising codes of practices for the proper trading, breeding and keeping of pets and other animals;
- (e) enhancing enforcement against pet owners and traders in contravention of relevant legislation;

- (f) improving the handling of reports or complaints on cruelty through an inter-departmental special working group comprising representatives of the relevant government departments and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong);
- (g) strengthening collaboration with, and providing technical and financial support to animal welfare organisations (AWOs) in rehoming of animals and carrying out activities relating to animal welfare and management;
- (h) implementing the long-term strategy for the management of stray cattle in collaboration with the relevant AWOs and local communities; and
- (i) liaising with various AWOs to implement preventive and control measures on stray animals and actively promote animal rehoming in new development areas.

Regarding following up on the public consultation exercise on the review of the existing legislation related to animal welfare in the abovementioned item (a), the Government, having launched a three-month public consultation exercise in 2019, is now examining the views received and plans to report the findings of the consultation and the way forward to the Legislative Council Panel concerned in April this year. Upon finalising the legislative proposals, we will commence the drafting work of the legislation.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)239

(Question Serial No. 5143)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

The Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) Regulations (Cap. 139B) has come into force since 2017. Could the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) The number of staff of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (the Department) responsible for issuing licences and implementing regulation on private breeders. What are the specific details of the work and respective salaries of the staff in this regard?
- (b) The latest numbers of applicants and various licences issued under Cap. 139B.
- (c) The numbers of complaints received monthly in relation to illegal breeding establishments and those breeding establishments that failed to meet the requirements.
- (d) The numbers of inspections conducted by the Department at various breeding establishments with different licences.
- (e) The numbers of decoy operations conducted by the Department on the internet and on-site at the breeding establishments, as well as the number of prosecutions instituted.
- (f) The numbers of breeding establishments that were successfully prosecuted and convicted, as well as their respective penalties.
- (g) Please set out the respective numbers of new applications for dog licences over the past 2 years by the following categories:
 - (i) dogs bred by licenced dog breeding establishments;
 - (ii) legally imported dogs;
 - (iii) dogs naturally bred and rehomed;
 - (iv) other sources.

- (h) According to past statistics, the total number of applications for dog licences far outnumbered that of (i) the number of dogs bred by licenced dog breeding establishments and (ii) the number of legally imported dogs. How would the Department interpret these statistics?
- (i) Has the Department worked closely with the Customs and Excise Department to investigate into cases of illegal smuggling of animals? What was the number of arrests and seizures over the past 3 years? What were the Department's manpower and establishment for investigating into animal smuggling cases?

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (LegCo internal reference no.: 408)

Reply:

- (a) In 2019-20, 30 staff members of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) were responsible for administering the licensing regime under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) Regulations (Cap. 139B) (the Regulations). Major areas of work include:
- (i) processing applications for licences which involve verification of information provided by applicants, inspecting the proposed premises concerned to ensure the facilities therein are in compliance with the required standards, and collecting relevant information for assessing the suitability of the applicants to hold the licence;
 - (ii) inspecting licensed animal trading and dog breeding premises to ensure compliance with the licensing requirements;
 - (iii) collecting samples from breeding dogs and offspring for DNA testing to verify the parentage and the source of dogs; and
 - (iv) carrying out investigations upon complaints or irregularities detected.

The rank and salary on the Government's Master Pay Scale (MPS) of officers carrying out the above duties are as follows: Veterinary Officer (MPS 31-44), Senior Field Officer (MPS 29-33), Field Officer I (MPS 22-28), and Field Officer II (MPS 8-21).

- (b) Since the Regulations came into effect in March 2017 and up to February 2020, the number of applications for Animal Trader Licences (ATL), Dog Breeder Licences (DBL) and one-off permits received, approved, under processing and rejected (including those withdrawn by applicants) by AFCD is tabulated as follows:

Licence / Permit	Number of applications			
	Received	Approved	Under processing	Rejected / Withdrawn by applicants
ATL	991	911	22	58
DBL (category A)	51	33	4	14

Licence / Permit	Number of applications			
	Received	Approved	Under processing	Rejected / Withdrawn by applicants
DBL (category B)	87	60	11	16
One-off permit	11	7	0	4

- (c) to (f) The information requested between March 2017 and February 2020 is tabulated as follows:

Number of complaints received	76
Number of inspections (including routine ones and surprise checks) conducted	1 205
Number of decoy operations conducted on the internet	28
Number of physical decoy and enforcement operations	11
Number of convicted cases*	12

* The cases involved selling of dogs without a permit or dog breeding establishments in breach of licensing requirements.

- (g) and (h) The number of new dog licences issued in 2018 and 2019 by their sources is tabulated as follows:

Source of the dogs	Year / Number of new dog licences issued	
	2018	2019
Dog breeding establishments and dog trading premises	2 062	2 868
Legally imported	2 564	2 958
Handled by government departments such as dogs rehomed under AFCD's rehome scheme through AFCD's partner animal welfare organisations (AWOs), service dogs of government departments, etc.	811	613
Other sources	8 955	9 122
Total	14 392	15 561

"Other sources" mainly include puppies born of privately owned pet dogs and some stray dogs handled by AWOs and individuals.

- (i) AFCD works closely with the Customs and Excise Department to combat illegal import of live animals and birds through sharing of intelligence and conducting joint operations and investigation. Investigation of suspected illegal import of live animals and birds is part of the duties of AFCD's Airport and Boundary Control Team which comprises 93 posts headed by a Veterinary Officer. There is no separate breakdown of manpower involved in investigation of illegal import of live animals and birds.

The number of illegally imported live animals and birds seized by AFCD over the past 3 years is as follows:

Year	Cats / Dogs	Other mammals	Birds	Pet reptiles	Food poultry	Food reptiles
2017	27	417	3	3 205	1	3 kg
2018	7	3	533	4 258	0	0
2019	24	31	623	2 159	3	48 kg and 292 reptiles

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)240

(Question Serial No. 5144)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

It was estimated in the consultancy report on the development of the veterinary profession in Hong Kong published by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in 2017 that there were 681 600 pets in Hong Kong last year, among which about 510 000 were pet cats and dogs, marking an increase of nearly 80% within 10 years. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The number of veterinary surgeons registered under the Veterinary Surgeons Registration Ordinance in Hong Kong and among which the number of veterinary specialists over the past 5 years (set out by specialty).
- (b) The number of general veterinary clinics, veterinary clinics in which surgeries can be conducted as well as those with veterinary specialists, in each of the 18 districts in Hong Kong.
- (c) The number of complaints received by the Veterinary Surgeons Board by year, the major reasons for such complaints, the number of complaints accepted and then put under investigation, the number of substantiated cases of misconduct, the penalties imposed and whether there is any veterinary surgeon having his/her licences revoked due to the complaints.
- (d) The City University of Hong Kong began to offer the Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine programme in the 2017/18 academic year, and the students of the programme are expected to take up their practical training in local veterinary clinics. Has the Department followed up such practical training?
- (e) Does the Department consider that the veterinary medicine programme can provide sufficient personnel to the industry to cope with the surging population of pets? If not, what measures does the Department put in place to appeal to foreign veterinary professionals to practise in Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon TAM Man-ho, Jeremy (LegCo internal reference no.: 409)

Reply:

- (a) According to the Veterinary Surgeons Board of Hong Kong (VSB), the number of local registered veterinary surgeons over the past 5 years (as at the end of each year) is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of registered veterinary surgeons
2015	823
2016	861
2017	920
2018	988
2019	1 049

The number of registered veterinary surgeons in Hong Kong who were authorised to advertise as, or profess to be, specialists over the past 5 years (as at the end of each year) is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of authorised specialists
2015	18
2016	24
2017	32
2018	39
2019	41

Some veterinary surgeons have more than one specialty. Details of the specialties (showing position as at the end of 2019) are tabulated as follows:

Speciality	Number of veterinary surgeons
Anesthesia and Analgesia	3
Avian Practice	2
Canine and Feline Practice	2
Companion Animals (Internal Medicine)	1
Dental Practice	1
Dermatology	2
Emergency and Critical Care	2
Equine Surgery	1
Exotic Companion Mammal Practice	2
Internal Medicine (Cardiology)	3
Internal Medicine (Oncology)	3
Neurology	1
Ophthalmology	4

Speciality	Number of veterinary surgeons
Poultry Practice	1
Public Health and Food Hygiene	1
Public Health (Population Medicine)	1
Small Animal Internal Medicine	5
Small Animal Surgery	4
Veterinary Pathology	6
Zoological Medicine	1

- (b) VSB is established under the Veterinary Surgeons Registration Ordinance (Cap. 529) and charged with responsibility for the regulation of the practice of veterinary surgery, the registration of veterinary surgeons, and the disciplinary oversight of the professional conduct of registered veterinary surgeons. Although VSB does not keep the number of clinics regularly, according to the report of study on the development of the veterinary profession in Hong Kong (study report) published by VSB in 2017, there were 146 private veterinary clinics in Hong Kong, of which 35 were located on Hong Kong Island, 5 in Kowloon East, 38 in Kowloon West, 29 in New Territories East, and 39 in New Territories West in mid-2016. However, further breakdown of the locations is not available. The study also indicated that apart from general consultation (e.g. health examination, vaccination, microchipping), among the clinics, the vast majority (99.3%) provided routine/simple surgeries; about half (50.3%) provided advanced surgeries and about one-fifth (21.3%) provided specialty services. In addition, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department also provides a list of veterinary clinics for the reference of the public on its thematic website (pets.gov.hk) (this list only includes those clinics which have voluntarily agreed to be listed).
- (c) In accordance with the Rules of the Veterinary Surgeons Board (Disciplinary Proceedings), all complaints received by VSB are first investigated by the Preliminary Investigation Committee, which will determine and advise on whether VSB should conduct a disciplinary inquiry. VSB will then consider whether or not the complaint cases should be referred to the Inquiry Committee for disciplinary inquiry.

The number of complaints about registered veterinary surgeons received by VSB, the number of complaint cases referred to the Inquiry Committee (as at February this year), and the number of cases found substantiated upon completion of disciplinary inquiry hearings over the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of complaints received	Number of complaints dismissed after preliminary investigation	Number of complaints referred to Inquiry Committee	Number of inquiry hearings completed within the year	Number of complaints found substantiated upon inquiry hearings
2015	57	43	14	3	3
2016	54 [#]	39	13	12	12
2017	56 [#]	42	5	8	4
2018	51 [#]	25	0	8	7
2019	41 [#]	14	0	2	1

[#] Some of the cases are still being investigated.

The complaints received were mainly related to the process or results of the diagnosis and treatment or surgery provided by the veterinary surgeons.

Over the past 5 years, a total of 27 cases in relation to disciplinary offences of misconduct or neglect in a professional respect of veterinary surgeons were found substantiated by the Inquiry Committee after conducting inquiry hearings with the following orders made:

Order concerned	Number of cases involved
Removal of name from the register for 3 months	2
Reprimand and compulsory participation in continuing professional development programme/professional seminar	23
Reprimand	1
Compulsory participation in continuing professional development programme	1
Total	27

- (d) The City University of Hong Kong (CityU) is offering a Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine degree course, the programme of which includes practical training. CityU has informed VSB that accreditation of the programme by the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council is being conducted with a view to seeking VSB's recognition of the programme for registration of its graduates for practising in Hong Kong. VSB will continue to keep track of CityU's accreditation progress.
- (e) The veterinarian-to-pet ratio is a common indicator for assessing the overall situation of veterinary services: the lower the ratio, the greater the number of veterinary surgeons. According to the Thematic Household Survey Report No. 66 compiled by

the Census and Statistics Department, there were about 221 100 dogs and 184 100 cats being kept by households in Hong Kong in 2018. According to VSB's data on the number of registered veterinary surgeons in 2018, the veterinarian-to-pet (dogs and cats) ratio was about 1:410 that year. The said ratio is far below than the ratios of other places (e.g. Singapore (1:2 543), the United Kingdom (1:2 374) and the United States (1:3 072)) (the data is retrieved from the study report published by VSB in 2017). With locally trained veterinary surgeons expected to be available in a few years' time, pet owners should be able to seek suitable veterinary services for their pets in Hong Kong.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-ENB001

(Question Serial No. S023)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

It is stated in part (c) of Reply Serial No. ENB010 that the number of wild pigs captured, administered with contraceptive vaccine, surgically sterilised and relocated to remote countryside is 261, 54, 38 and 202 respectively in 2019-20. Would the Government please give further reply on the following:

- (a) Among the 261 wild pigs captured, how many have been euthanised eventually?
- (b) Regarding the 202 wild pigs relocated to remote countryside, do they include all those which have been administered with contraceptive vaccine and surgically sterilised?
- (c) Are there any wild pigs administered with contraceptive vaccine and surgically sterilised being released back to the vicinity of the locations where they have been captured (that is, not the remote countryside)? If yes, what is the number?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick

Reply:

- (a) Among the 261 wild pigs captured by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department when handling nuisance cases or carrying out rescue operations from April 2019 to February 2020, 11 of them were examined and assessed by Veterinary Officers as seriously injured and difficult to recover, and thus had to be euthanised.
- (b) and (c) Among the 202 wild pigs relocated to remote countryside, 77 of them were administered with contraceptive vaccine or surgically sterilised. In addition, 15 wild pigs were returned to the location where they were captured after being administered with contraceptive vaccine or surgically sterilised.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-ENB002

(Question Serial No. S024)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

- (a) When were the green turtles last seen by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) at Sham Wan on Lamma Island?
- (b) Has AFCD assessed how likely the green turtles would not return to Sham Wan on Lamma Island when they have ceased to return to lay eggs for some years?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick

Reply:

- (a) Green turtle was last found by Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in the waters of Lamma Island in June 2019.
- (b) According to the literature, it takes 20 to 30 years or even longer for a green turtle to mature. The turtles born at the sandy beach at Sham Wan since it was gazetted as a Restricted Area in 1999 may not yet have matured, they may return to Sham Wan on Lamma Island for nesting only when they reach maturity. Green turtles may return to their nesting sites once every several years.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-ENB003

(Question Serial No. S026)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

According to the reply of the Government, the number of prosecutions against bringing bicycle into country parks or special areas without authorisation decreased from 340 to 212 between 2015 and 2019. Would the Government please give further reply on the following:

- (a) According to the Government's observation and analysis, is the decrease in the number of prosecutions related to the construction of additional bike trails within country parks in recent years?
- (b) Does the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department have any plan to further open carriageways within country parks for bicycle use to facilitate the public? If yes, please set out the proposed sites and timetable in detail.

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick

Reply:

- (a) In recent years, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has constructed and designated mountain bike trails in country parks. Apart from actively promoting the facilities, AFCD has also strengthened publicity and education efforts to disseminate the message to members of the public that it is an offence to carry out cycling activities in country parks in areas outside the designated mountain bike trails and offenders may be prosecuted. Over the past 5 years, there was a decrease in the number of prosecutions instituted by AFCD against bringing a bicycle into country parks or special areas without permission. Since the number of prosecution cases may be subject to many factors, it is difficult to identify the specific reasons for the decrease in the number of prosecution cases.

- (b) The roads in country parks are mainly designed to facilitate the maintenance of facilities and emergency rescue by government departments and public utilities organisations, thus they may not be suitable for share use amongst vehicles, bicycles and hikers. When considering whether to open certain roads in country park areas for bicycle use, AFCD must strike a careful balance among different users' needs, potential conflicts and safety issue. AFCD will review the feasibility of opening suitable roads in country parks for bicycle use from time to time.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-FHB(FE)001

(Question Serial No. SV009)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the combat of illegal fishing activities, please state the strategies to be adopted and resources to be allocated by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) enforces the relevant legislation through a risk-based approach, deploying resources flexibly to conduct random and targeted patrols in local waters (including marine parks and marine reserve), particularly at blackspots of illegal fishing activities, having regard to the circumstances to combat illegal fishing activities. AFCD also maintains close liaison with the Marine Police with a view to mounting joint operations (including using “vessel arrest systems” to intercept trawlers who refuse to stop for inspection) as and when appropriate. AFCD will continue to enhance enforcement, exchange information and intelligence with the relevant government departments and Mainland authorities, adjust its enforcement strategy from time to time in the light of circumstances and intelligence gathered, and collaborate with the relevant parties to combat illegal fishing.

To enhance the effectiveness of the enforcement action, AFCD plans to apply technology in its enforcement work, such as using real time satellite information to help identify fishing vessels. AFCD also plans to collaborate with fishermen to gather intelligence regarding illegal fishing in Hong Kong waters to formulate more effective enforcement operations.

The expenditure (revised estimate) and manpower involved in combating illegal fishing by AFCD was \$17.3 million and 18 staff members respectively in 2019-20. Similar resources will be allocated in 2020-21 to combat illegal fishing. AFCD also plans to consolidate the internal resources on enforcement operations at sea and set up a dedicated enforcement team at sea with a view to achieving synergy and combating illegal fishing more effectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-FHB(FE)002

(Question Serial No. S075)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

In respect of “strengthening measures for stray animals management”, would the Government advise of the following:

- (a) Please tabulate the expenditure of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) on capturing stray animals and euthanasia of animals in 2020-21.
- (b) Please tabulate AFCD's expenditure on procurement and maintenance of animal traps in 2020-21.

Asked by: Hon KWONG Chun-yu

Reply:

- (a) and (b) In 2020-21, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has earmarked \$36.1 million, \$1.2 million and \$120,000 for capturing stray animals, euthanasia of animals and procurement and maintenance of animal traps respectively.

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