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

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in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2021-22**

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB001

(Question Serial No. 1944)

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.: 49)

Reply:

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

Year	2018	2019	2020*
Number of prosecutions	221	226	25
Maximum term of imprisonment (months)	8	24	27
Maximum amount of fine (\$'000)	100	50	300

* We estimate that the apparent decline in the number of prosecutions in 2020 might be due to the effect of the global pandemic situation.

- (b) Possession of endangered species without a licence is one of the offences under the Ordinance. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) conducts law enforcement investigations into 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	2018	2019	2020
Number of prosecutions[#]	36	17	6
Number of convictions	34	17	6

[#] The number of prosecutions is higher than the number of convictions in 2018 mainly due to the fact that it takes time to conduct investigations, initiate summons and schedule the cases for court hearing. Hence, some of the cases were prosecuted and convicted in the following year after their occurrence.

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

Year	2018	2019	2020
Number of individuals	4 140	2 851	426

The most common types of seized animals include tortoises, lizards, birds, snakes, fish and stony corals.

- (d) The numbers of live endangered animals seized at various control points over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows. As the health conditions of the animals seized at control points are often unsatisfactory, deaths in the course of transit out of the control points occur occasionally. The numbers of animals died in the course of transit are 5 (in 2018), 2 (in 2019) and 1 (in 2020) respectively.

Control point[@]	Number of individuals of seized live endangered animals		
	2018	2019	2020
Hong Kong International Airport	2 915	2 723	422
Lo Wu Control Point	6	15	-
Lok Ma Chau Control Point	14	29	4
Lok Ma Chau Spurline Control Point	15	20	-
Man Kam To Control Point	916	-	-
Shenzhen Bay Control Point	193	17	-
Sha Tau Kok Control Point	-	6	-
West Kowloon Control Point	-	8	-
China Ferry Terminal	-	-	-

Control point[@]	Number of individuals of seized live endangered animals		
	2018	2019	2020
Sea boundary	-	-	-

[@] Apart from live endangered animals, other endangered species are seized at various control points from time to time, including orchid, American ginseng, dried seahorse and shark fin, etc.

- (e) In general, relevant departments conduct decoy operations to investigate cases of illegal selling of endangered species on the internet. The numbers of cases detected involving illegal selling of endangered species through internet platforms and the quantity of seizure over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	2018	2019	2020
Number of cases	9	9	4
Quantity of seizure	24 animals	6 animals, 6 plants and 55.3kg of products or specimens	4 animals and 34 plants

- (f) In 2018, 2019 and 2020, the AFCD donated 241, 130 and 64 seized live endangered animals respectively to local institutes/organisations for conservation purposes and/or temporary keeping.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB002

(Question Serial No. 1947)

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:

It is stated in the Budget that \$500 million has been set aside to carry out enhancement works on facilities in some country parks this year. Would the Government advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) What are the specific details and the country parks covered?
- (b) It is stated that the Government will “continue the preparation for the designation of the proposed Robin’s Nest Country Park”. What is the progress and the timetable?
- (c) In view of the report that the construction of concrete path at country parks by the Government would cause damage to the natural environment, does the Government have any plan to construct such concrete path? If yes, what are the details?
- (d) Further to the above question, given that trails in other districts are mostly surfaced with natural materials such as wood or pebbles, will the Government consider using this approach? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- (e) Will Guidelines on Trail Maintenance be compiled? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 52)

Reply:

- (a) As announced in this year’s Budget, the Government will set aside \$500 million to carry out enhancement works on facilities in some country parks, such as providing additional recreational elements like viewing platforms, glamping sites and tree top adventure; improving toilet facilities, barbecue and picnic sites; and revitalising some wartime relics by converting them into open museums, so as to enrich visitors’ experience in the country parks and enable members of the public to better enjoy the fun of local countryside visits.

The new facilities will adopt low carbon and green design that integrates with the natural surrounding, having regard to the needs of people of different ages and physical abilities. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is still identifying suitable sites for various enhancement of facilities at this stage. Projects under the preliminary plan include setting up a new viewing platform overlooking Po Pin Chau in Fa Shan of the Sai Kung East Country Park, providing a glamping site in the Sai Kung West Country Park, adding recreation facilities suitable for people of different ages and physical abilities in the Aberdeen Country Park by reconstructing barbecue and picnic sites, as well as improving toilet facilities with higher utilisation rates, etc.

The above plan will be launched in 2021. After the first stage of site selection, design and detailed assessment, the new facilities are expected to be rolled out gradually starting from 2 to 3 years onwards for public enjoyment.

As for projects of larger scale such as tree top adventure and open museums for wartime relics appreciation, their specific locations and details will be finalised after completion of the feasibility studies and consultation with relevant stakeholders.

- (b) The AFCD has completed the collection of baseline information and literature review for the proposed Robin's Nest Country Park (RNCP), and collected stakeholders' views on the proposal. The Government will continue to carry out other preparation work for the designation of the proposed RNCP, including drafting nature conservation management plans, planning hiking trails, commissioning a consultancy study on the revitalisation of the Lin Ma Hang Lead Mine Cave, etc.
- (c) and (d) Regarding the management and planning of hiking trails, the AFCD subscribes to the fundamental principles that simple designs should be adopted as far as possible, the impact to the natural environment should be minimised and a safe environment should be provided for activities of the members of the public. Therefore, the construction and maintenance of trails by the Department generally involve manual labour and use natural materials as far as possible, e.g. tree trunks, recycled timber and rocks, and blend in with the natural environment and terrain with a view to retaining the natural setting of the countryside. The AFCD has no plan to construct new trails with cement/concrete as raw materials. Only a small amount of cement might be used to anchor the steps built by natural materials on a few trail sections where severe soil erosion or steep terrain are present, in order to ensure the safety of country park visitors.
- (e) The AFCD has formulated internal guidelines on the construction and maintenance of hiking trails in country parks in accordance with the above management and planning principles, which cover the trail construction and maintenance methods, selection of materials, occupational safety, etc. for staff's reference.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB003

(Question Serial No. 1981)

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:

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

- (a) What was the number 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) It is learnt that the design of refuse collection facilities has been improved to reduce foraging by wild pigs in urban areas. What are the expenditure involved and the cost of each litter container?
- (f) What new measures are put in place to control wild pigs?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 105)

Reply:

- (a) and (b) The number of complaints related to and injury reports caused by 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 sightings or nuisance (number of injury reports)
2018-19	1 008 (9)
2019-20	1 073 (7)
2020-21 (as of January 2021)	868 (2)

The AFCD does not have the figures on reports of public facilities damaged by wild pigs.

- (c) The AFCD launched the Capture and Contraception/Relocation Programme (CCRP) as a trial to handle nuisance caused by wild pigs in urban areas in late 2017. To enable a more effective control of the number of wild pigs causing nuisance to urban areas, the AFCD has regularised the CCRP in phases since 2019-20 to vaccinate or sterilise wild pigs caught where condition permits. Figures related to the 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*
2018-19	115 [#]	46	18	81
2019-20	293	59	47	222
2020-21 (as of February 2021)	287	63	75	220

* The number of wild pigs administered with contraceptive vaccine/surgically sterilised may overlap with that of the wild pigs relocated to remote countryside as the wild pigs might be relocated after they have been administered with the vaccine/after the surgery.

[#] This figure does not include all the wild pigs captured as the CCRP was still in pilot stage in 2018-19.

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

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2018-19	6.2
2019-20	7.2
2020-21 (revised estimate)	9.3

- (d) The information on the prosecutions against illegal feeding of wild animals over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows (the AFCD does not have the breakdown of the prosecution instituted against feeding of wild pigs):

Year	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as of February 2021)
Number of prosecutions	32	26	40
Number of successful prosecutions*	20	28	31

* Some of the prosecutions instituted in the latter part of the year might be processed in the following year.

- (e) The AFCD has commissioned a consultancy study with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Environmental Protection Department to improve the design of outdoor refuse collection facilities with a view to reducing scavenging for food by wild animals at these facilities. The consultant has developed 3 new designs of wild pig or monkey-resistant litter containers which were tested at over 70 sites disturbed by wildlife nuisance throughout the territory, and the field trials were completed in the third quarter of 2020. Study results indicated that the new design can effectively reduce wildlife nuisance. The expenditure incurred by the AFCD on this study in 2020-21 was about \$2.4 million.

As the quotation for the newly designed litter containers is based on the overall technical design, production, calibration, delivery and installation services, etc. as a whole, the breakdown of production cost of each litter container is not available at present. The newly designed litter containers will be placed at more suitable sites by the departments concerned according to the actual needs. As regards the actual cost of each litter container, the estimation can only be made after the production method, quantity, mode of supply, etc. have been finalised.

- (f) Currently, the 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. The AFCD has also set up an advisory group comprising experts from various fields to advise on the management of wild pigs.

In addition, studies reveal that wild pigs' reproductive rate is highly dependent on food availability. The AFCD's investigation also reveals that the increase in wild pig nuisance cases in recent years is largely due to intentional feeding and improper disposal of outdoor garbage. In this regard, other than relocation and contraception/sterilisation of wild pigs habitually looking for food in residential areas, the AFCD has been working closely with relevant departments to eliminate the pull factors at black spots by removing food residues, strengthening the promotion of no-feeding of wild pigs, improving the design of refuse collection facilities, etc. In addition, the AFCD will conduct a consultancy study to analyse the reasons for feeding wild pigs by

the public in order to formulate more targeted publicity programmes and long-term management strategy.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB004

(Question Serial No. 1240)

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 stated in its Programme that it would strengthen publicity for celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark (HKUGG) for the promotion, conservation and education of its geological and cultural heritages. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The number of visitors to HKUGG over the past 10 years;
- (b) The specific plans for the relevant publicity and celebration events as well as the preparation work, resources and manpower required; and
- (c) The performance indicators of the promotion, conservation and education efforts in the forthcoming year.

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

Reply:

- (a) Over the past 10 years, the average number of visitors to the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark (HKUGG) was about 1.4 million each year.
- (b) To mark the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the HKUGG, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will organise a series of celebration programmes this year, including public lectures, exhibitions and launching promotional videos, etc. A geopark festival with activities such as community fairs, guided tours and photography competition will be held at various key geosites at the end of this year. In addition, the AFCD will also launch a re-designed geopark website and open new visitor facilities like the Kat O Heritage Trail. Details of the activities will be publicised on the websites of the AFCD and the geopark as well as

the social media. They will also be publicised to the public and the relevant communities through the mass media and various networks of the geopark partners.

The 10th anniversary celebration activities are organised and coordinated by the AFCD and supported by various parties including geopark communities, geopark partners and geopark guide team, etc. Some activities will also be arranged by outsourced contractors. The estimated expenditure and manpower for organising such activities are about \$6 million and 13 staff members respectively.

- (c) The HKUGG, a member of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) under the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, has to be managed in accordance with the GGN guidelines and achieve the objectives for publicity and promotion, conservation, education, geo-tourism and local sustainable development. The AFCD will carry out the work in accordance with the above guidelines and objectives.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB005

(Question Serial No. 2734)

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 of country parks by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD),

- (a) It is stated in the Budget that \$500 million has been set aside to carry out enhancement works on country parks. AFCD will introduce an advance booking system for popular campsites and enhance services at campsites. Please advise of (i) the campsites which will likely or will be included in the booking system; (ii) the campsites which will likely or will have the services improved or enhanced; (iii) the selection criteria for such inclusion and enhancement; and (iv) the number of visitors to these campsites over the past 5 years.
- (b) Please provide the information on AFCD's 4 enhancement proposals on enhancing the recreation and education potential of country parks in table form:

Enhancement proposals	Proposed or selected sites
Enhancement of existing facilities	
Open museums for historical relics appreciation	
Tree top adventure	
Glamping sites and eco-lodges	

- (c) Regarding the "setting up of more campsites" in "enhancing the recreation and education potential of country parks" of AFCD, it is mentioned that AFCD is identifying suitable recreation sites for conversion into campsites. Please advise of the recreation sites that will likely or will be turned into campsites, and the criteria for such conversion.
- (d) Regarding the 4 enhancement proposals in "enhancing the recreation and education potential of country parks" of AFCD, which proposals have their study on the carrying capacity been conducted? If yes, what are the contents, the results and the timetable of the study? If not, what are the reasons? Are there any plans in the future?

- (e) The Government has earmarked \$55 million for the Tourism Commission and AFCD to take forward the second phase of the enhancement programme for 10 popular hiking trails in country parks that have potential for tourism in the coming 5 years. However, some trails, which are of high ecological and landscape value, have limited carrying capacities. Has the Department conducted any study on their carrying capacities? If yes, what are the contents and the timetable? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pierre (LegCo internal reference no.: 128)

Reply:

- (a) to (c) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) completed the consultancy study on enhancing the recreation and education potential of country parks and special areas in Hong Kong in 2019 and formulated 4 proposals, including enhancement of existing facilities, setting up of open museums for historical relics appreciation, tree top adventure and glamping sites. The AFCD consulted the Panel on Environmental Affairs of the Legislative Council on the proposals in April 2020. The enhancement proposals of country parks were supported by the Panel.

To implement the proposals and enrich the experience of country park visitors, the Government will, as announced in this year's Budget, set aside \$500 million to carry out enhancement works on facilities in some country parks, such as providing additional recreational elements like viewing platforms, glamping sites and tree top adventure; improving toilet facilities, barbecue and picnic sites; and revitalising some wartime relics by converting them into open museums, so as to enrich visitors' experience in the country parks and enable members of the public to better enjoy the fun of local countryside visits.

The new facilities will adopt low-carbon and green design that integrates with the natural surrounding, having regard to the needs of people of different ages and physical abilities. The AFCD is still identifying suitable sites for various enhancement of facilities at this stage. Projects under the preliminary plan include setting up a new viewing platform overlooking Po Pin Chau in Fa Shan of the Sai Kung East Country Park, providing a glamping site in the Sai Kung West Country Park, adding recreation facilities suitable for people of different ages and physical abilities in the Aberdeen Country Park by reconstructing barbecue and picnic sites, as well as improving toilet facilities with higher utilisation rates, etc. The above plan will be launched in 2021. After the first stage of site selection, design and detailed assessment, new facilities are expected to be rolled out gradually starting from 2 to 3 years onwards for public enjoyment.

As for projects of larger scale such as tree top adventure and open museums for wartime relics appreciation, their specific locations and details will be finalised after completion of the feasibility studies and consultation with stakeholders.

Regarding the enhancement of campsite facilities, in view of public demand for camping activities in country parks, the AFCD has been gradually improving relevant facilities at designated campsites in country parks in recent years, such as the provision of additional cooking places and camping platforms at the Twisk Campsite at Tai Lam and the Nam Shan and Shek Pik Campsites at Lantau Island during 2020-21. The AFCD also plans to extend the areas of some existing campsites or set up more campsites for campers. The reconstruction work of the Wong Shek Campsite has been completed and those for the Hok Tau and Chung Pui Campsites will be conducted soon. When identifying suitable locations for setting up new campsites and expanding existing camping areas, the AFCD will take into consideration factors such as the geographic conditions and ancillary facilities of country parks, etc.

The \$500 million mentioned in this year's Budget only refers to the expenditure for carrying out minor enhancement works in country parks. It does not include the expenditure for the implementation of the advance campsite booking system. Currently, there are 41 designated campsites in country parks open to the public freely on a first come first served basis. As it is not necessary for the public to make reservation or registration, the AFCD does not have the statistics on the number of users of campsites over the past 5 years. Regarding the introduction of the proposed venue booking system, the AFCD will, subject to the epidemic development, launch the pilot scheme for advance campsite booking at the Twisk Campsite later in 2021 for public use.

- (d) When designing the projects, the AFCD will identify suitable sites for detailed studies, taking into account the geographic conditions and other ancillary facilities to ensure that the operation of the facilities will not have long-term adverse impact on the environment of country parks. The AFCD will also provide various recreational facilities and improve the coverage of the hiking trail network and its linkage, with a view to diverting visitors with different needs to various country parks as far as possible to reduce the pressure arising from visits.
- (e) The \$55 million earmarked for taking forward the enhancement programme for hiking trails as mentioned in this part of the question falls under the policy purview regarding tourism promotion under the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau. According to the information provided by the Tourism Commission, it is working with the AFCD to take forward the enhancement programme for hiking trails from 2021 to 2026. It involves a total of 10 hiking trails within country parks. The enhancement works mainly include improvement to the coverage of the hiking trail network, control of soil erosion at the trails, enhancement of vegetation coverage, addition of lookout points and enrichment of visitor information, etc. In addition, the programme will also enhance and promote some hiking trails with tourism appeal to divert visitors and enrich the leisure experience of the public and visitors. The AFCD will also closely monitor the visitor flow and environment of popular hiking trails or attractions, and when necessary, carry out appropriate improvement work such as repair of damaged trails, enhancement of vegetation coverage, enhancement of

cleansing services, and promotion of public awareness on protecting the environment of country parks, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**ENB006****(Question Serial No. 2745)**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 litter management in country parks by the Agriculture, Fisheries, and Conservation Department (AFCD):

- (a) The amount of litter collected in country parks has decreased from February 2020 as the barbecue sites and campsites have been closed. Please provide by month the figures in the following table for comparison of the amount of litter collected (in kg) from hiking trails as well as closed barbecue sites and campsites before and after the outbreak of epidemic.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
January					
February					
March					
April					
May					
June					
July					
August					
September					
October					
November					
December					
Total					

- (b) Further to the above question, is there any difference in the resources deployed for clearing up litter in the countryside before and after the outbreak of epidemic (e.g. numbers of patrols and frequency of outsourced cleansing services)? If yes, please provide the respective numbers and amounts of expenditure.

- (c) Please set out in tabular form the amount of litter collected in country parks (in tonnes) in activities initiated by the public or organised by green groups between 2017 and 2021 (clean-up activities with applications made to AFCD).

	Amount of litter
2017	
2018	
2019	
2020	
2021	

- (d) Regarding the influx of visitors to country parks after the outbreak of pandemic:
- (i) Has AFCD studied the carrying capacity of popular hiking trails? If yes, please provide the names of the relevant trails and details of the studies.
- (ii) Further to the above question, have repair or conservation works been conducted on these trails? If yes, please provide the relevant information, such as the width of trails after widening, number of visitors, amount of litter collected, changes in the numbers of species and vegetation, as well as soil erosion. If not, what are the reasons?
- (e) (i) Although 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 in 2020-21. What are the details of expenditure on promoting the “Take Your Litter Home” programme or disseminating nature conservation messages between 2018 and 2021?
- (ii) Further to the above question, please set out the channels of publicity used by AFCD (including television, radio and social media) and the expenditure incurred. Has the Department reviewed the effectiveness of various publicity channels?
- (iii) Will AFCD devise more innovative and effective publicity approaches in the future? If yes, how will it target different age groups? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pierre (LegCo internal reference no.: 148)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) only has the statistics on the overall amount of litter collected in country parks throughout the territory and there is no separate breakdown on the litter collected from hiking trails and other recreational sites in its day-to-day management. The total amount of litter collected in country parks by the AFCD from January 2017 to January 2021 by month is tabulated as follows:

Month	Total amount of litter collected in country parks in Hong Kong (in tonnes)				
	2017	2018	2019	2020*	2021*
January	360	278	258	276	172
February	289	233	243	287	-
March	282	245	204	312	-
April	334	291	217	140	-
May	276	210	200	156	-
June	176	174	178	192	-
July	196	169	156	162	-
August	215	151	141	154	-
September	196	247	193	138	-
October	324	292	220	165	-
November	338	312	242	167	-
December	394	341	292	167	-
Total	3 380	2 943	2 544	2 316	172

* Due to the epidemic, all barbecue sites and campsites in country parks were closed from 28 March to 20 May 2020 and from 15 July 2020 to the present. The overall amount of litter collected in country parks has significantly dropped during the closure period.

- (b) During the epidemic, the AFCD has been deploying resources agilely to deal with the litter in country parks and maintain the environmental hygiene of the countryside, and step up patrol and cleaning of litter along popular hiking trails and at picnic sites as and when necessary. As both cleaning work and patrol form part of the regular work for management of country parks, the Department does not have the breakdown of the frequency of the enhanced cleansing services and number of patrols in country parks before and after the outbreak of epidemic and the breakdown of the expenditures.
- (c) The AFCD notes that many countryside visitors and groups take the initiative to collect litter in country parks and disposed of it in the large litter containers. As registration or prior application to the AFCD is not required for such activities, the AFCD does not have the statistics on the litter collected in such activities.
- (d) Since the epidemic broke out last year, many members of the public have visited country parks which led to higher patronage of trails and associated facilities. The AFCD has stepped up patrol at popular picnic sites and hiking spots to monitor and assess the impacts of the increase in visitors on the environment and country park facilities. In respect of certain trails with increased wear and tear due to the effect of increasing visitor flow, the AFCD plans to restore the damaged trails through improvement works, conduct vegetation maintenance and tree planting, as well as increase ancillary facilities at suitable locations in order to reduce the impact brought by visitors to the countryside. Meanwhile, the AFCD will also strengthen publicity and education efforts to raise the awareness of protecting the natural environment among countryside visitors.

Apart from restoration of the damaged parts of trails, the AFCD will also conduct vegetation maintenance and tree planting, etc. at suitable locations to control soil erosion. Taking a section of the trail at the MacLehose Trail Section 4 near Ngong

Ping, Ma On Shan as an example, it has been considerably widened as a result of off-trail trampling by visitors. After completing the manual restoration and repaving works at this section of the trail, the AFCD set up fences along both sides to narrow the width of the hiking trail and replanted vegetation. With educational interpretation panels installed on spot, the restoration of vegetation has started to bear fruit.

- (e) The AFCD attaches great importance to the promotion, publicity and education programmes of country parks. It continues to promote the messages of keeping country parks clean and conserving the nature to countryside visitors through various channels. The AFCD has been implementing the “Take Your Litter Home” publicity and education programme together with green groups and hiking groups since 2015 and has installed water filling stations in country parks. The programme enables public’s participation in the protection of the countryside by nurturing their good habits of taking away their own litter and bringing their own water bottles, etc. when visiting country parks.

The AFCD also displays promotional banners and posters at suitable locations in country parks, broadcasts promotional videos on television, electronic information boards in country parks and visitor centres, appeals to the public through social media and radio programmes to protect the environment and maintain environmental hygiene while visiting the countryside, as well as places relevant advertisements on public transport, large billboards located at tunnels, large televisions in shopping malls and the media to carry out relevant promotion. The Department also conveys the message through the network of partner groups and volunteers. In view of the large number of people visiting country parks recently, the AFCD has employed green ambassadors to promote the concept of “Leave No Trace”, such as “Take Your litter Home”, “bring own bottle to reduce single-use plastic consumables” and “proper disposal of masks”, etc. to the general public at popular hiking spots.

As the promotion of messages related to hiking etiquette and nature conservation forms part of the AFCD’s work on publicity and education of country parks, the Department does not have the breakdown on the expenditure involved in this regard. Over the past 3 years, the AFCD’s expenditure for publicity and education programmes of country parks is tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$million)
2018-19	23.0
2019-20	23.2
2020-21 (revised expenditure)	25.3

Overall speaking, the AFCD considers that since the launch of the “Take Your Litter Home” public education programme in 2015, it has been effective in enhancing the public awareness towards waste reduction and environmental conservation during their visit to the countryside. The relevant figures show that the overall amount of litter collected in country parks is on a downward trend since 2017. The AFCD will promote the message through various channels and means from time to time in view of different circumstances. In the coming year, the AFCD will continue to produce more promotional videos and make use of online platforms and other media channels

for reaching out to the general public widely to promote messages related to hiking etiquette and nature conservation, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**ENB007****(Question Serial No. 2746)**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 years of designation, areas and brief descriptions of the Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

	Name	Year of designation	Area	Brief descriptions
1	Yim Tso Ha Egrettry			
2	Shing Mun Fung Shui Woodland			
3	Tai Mo Shan Montane Scrub Forest			
4	She Shan Fung Shui Woodland			
5	Tai Tam Harbour (Inner Bay)			
6	D'Aguilar Peninsula			
7	Ma On Shan			
8	Tsing Shan Tsuen#			
9	Sunset Peak			
10	Mai Po Marshes			
11	Bluff Island & Basalt Island			
12	Port Island			
13	Kat O Chau#			
14	Ninepin Group			
15	Tung Ping Chau			
16	Mai Po Village Egrettry			
17	Mau Ping			
18	Pak Sha Wan Peninsula#			
19	Lai Chi Wo Beach			
20	Ng Tung Chai			
21	Pak Tai To Yan			
22	Chiu Keng Tam			
23	Tai Long Bay			
24	Pok Fu Lam Reservoir Catchment Area			

	Name	Year of designation	Area	Brief descriptions
25	Tai Tam Reservoir Catchment Area			
26	Beacon Hill			
27	Ho Chung Valley			
28	Lung Kwu Chau, Tree Island & Sha Chau			
29	Castle Peak			
30	Tai Mo Shan			
31	Pak Nai			
32	Man Cheung Po			
33	Lantau Peak			
34	Pat Sin Range			
35	Fung Yuen Valley			
36	South Lamma Island			
37	Yim Tin Tsai & Ma Shi Chau			
38	Tolo Channel (Northern Coast)			
39	Centre Island			
40	Nai Chung Coast			
41	Tsim Bei Tsui			
42	Ting Kok			
43	Sham Chung Coast			
44	A Chau			
45	Lai Chi Chong			
46	Inner Deep Bay			
47	Tsim Bei Tsui Egrettry			
48	Hoi Ha Wan			
49	Hok Tsui (Cape D'Aguiar)			
50	Nam Fung Road Woodland			
51	Sam Mun Tsai Egrettry#			
52	Shuen Wan Egrettry			
53	Tai Po Egrettry			
54	Lin Ma Hang Lead Mines			
55	Tseng Tau Coast			
56	Kei Ling Ha Mangal			
57	Pok To Yan & Por Kai Shan			
58	San Tau Beach			
59	Sha Lo Tung			
60	Shek O Headland			
61	San Chau			
62	Ngong Ping			
63	Tai Ho Stream			
64	Sham Wan			
65	South Tsing Yi			
66	Tai Om Fung Shui Woodland			
67	Shek Ngau Chau			
68	Lin Ma Hang Stream			
69	Siu Lang Shui			
70	Deep Water Bay Valley			

	Name	Year of designation	Area	Brief descriptions
71	Lung Kwu Tan Valley			
72	Sunshine Island			

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pierre (LegCo internal reference no.: 150)

Reply:

There are 67 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in Hong Kong at present. Their names, date of listing, areas and brief descriptions are tabulated as follows:

	Name	Date listed as an SSSI	Area (hectares)	Brief descriptions
1	Yim Tso Ha Egrettry#	25 February 1975	0.9	This site was de-listed from the SSSI Register in 2016 after assessment.
2	Shing Mun Fung Shui Woodland	25 February 1975	6	This site has a rich tree flora.
3	Tai Mo Shan Montane Scrub Forest	15 September 1975	130	This site has many rare plants.
4	She Shan Fung Shui Woodland	15 September 1975	5.7	This site has many plant species, and provides a feeding ground and habitat for birds.
5	Tai Tam Harbour (Inner Bay)	24 October 1975	16	This site is an important coastal habitat on Hong Kong Island which includes mangroves and mudflats, for many animals and plants.
6	D'Aguilar Peninsula	24 October 1975	5	This site has many rare plants.
7	Ma On Shan	23 June 1976	118	This site has many rare plants.
8	Tsing Shan Tsuen#	23 June 1976	No information available	This site was de-listed from the SSSI Register in 2008 after assessment.
9	Sunset Peak	23 June 1976	331	This site has many rare plants.
10	Mai Po Marshes	15 September 1976	393	This site has the largest mangrove area in Hong Kong, and provides habitat for resident and migratory birds.
11	Bluff Island & Basalt Island	16 February 1979	147	The rocks and vegetation at this site are of geological and floristic interest.
12	Port Island	16 February 1979	47	This site is of ornithological interest.
13	Kat O Chau#	16 February 1979	23.3	This site was de-listed from the SSSI Register in 2006 after

	Name	Date listed as an SSSI	Area (hectares)	Brief descriptions
				assessment.
14	Ninepin Group	16 February 1979	45	The rocks and vegetation at this site are of geological and floristic interest.
15	Ping Chau	16 February 1979	111	The rocks at this site are of geological interest.
16	Mai Po Village	16 February 1979	5.3	This site is a breeding site for ardeids.
17	Mau Ping	16 February 1979	3.7	This site has a number of rare plants.
18	Pak Sha Wan Peninsula#	16 February 1979	110.2	This site was de-listed from the SSSI Register in 2006 after assessment.
19	Lai Chi Wo Beach	16 February 1979	11	This site has 2 rare seagrass species.
20	Ng Tung Chai	16 February 1979	226	This site has a number of rare plants.
21	Pak Tai To Yan	20 September 1979	32	This site has a number of rare plants.
22	Chiu Keng Tam	20 September 1979	3.1	This site has a number of rare plants.
23	Tai Long Bay	20 September 1979	2.3	This site shows a clear vegetation zonation from the sea landwards.
24	Pok Fu Lam Reservoir Catchment Area	20 September 1979	217.3	This site has many plant species, and is a habitat for animals and birds.
25	Tai Tam Reservoir Catchment Area	20 September 1979	1 243.2	This site has many plant species, and is a habitat for animals and birds.
26	Beacon Hill	20 September 1979	53.2	This site has a number of rare plants.
27	Ho Chung Valley	20 September 1979	395	This site has a number of rare plants.
28	Lung Kwu Chau, Tree Island & Sha Chau	20 September 1979	54.4	This site is a habitat for winter migratory birds.
29	Castle Peak	5 February 1980	73.7	This site has a number of rare plants.
30	Tai Mo Shan	5 February 1980	95	This site is a breeding site for montane birds, and is a habitat for some rare snakes.
31	Pak Nai	5 February	15.5	This site is a habitat for migratory

	Name	Date listed as an SSSI	Area (hectares)	Brief descriptions
		1980		birds.
32	Man Cheung Po	5 February 1980	29.2	This site has a number of rare plants.
33	Lantau Peak	5 February 1980	116	This site has a number of rare plants.
34	Pat Sin Range	5 February 1980	128	This site has a number of rare plants.
35	Fung Yuen Valley	5 February 1980	42.8	This site has a number of rare plants, and is a breeding site for some uncommon butterflies.
36	South Lamma Island	5 February 1980	345	This site is of ornithological interest.
37	Yim Tin Tsai & Ma Shi Chau	24 September 1982	54.4	The rocks at this site are of geological interest.
38	Tolo Channel (Northern Coast)	24 September 1982	1 287	The rocks at this site are of geological interest.
39	Centre Island	24 September 1982	3.1	The rocks at this site are of geological interest.
40	Nai Chung Coast	24 September 1982	2.2	The rocks at this site are of geological interest.
41	Tsim Bei Tsui	10 January 1985	2.1	The mangroves at this site are of conservation interest.
42	Ting Kok	1 March 1985	37.5	The mangroves at this site are of conservation interest.
43	Sham Chung Coast	25 March 1985	26	The rocks at this site are of geological interest.
44	A Chau	9 April 1985	4.4	This site is a breeding site for ardeids.
45	Lai Chi Chong	26 April 1985	5	The rocks at this site are of geological interest.
46	Inner Deep Bay	18 March 1986	1 036	The mangroves and mudflat at this site are important habitats for migratory birds.
47	Tsim Bei Tsui Egretty	5 January 1989	4.8	This site is a breeding site for ardeids.
48	Hoi Ha Wan	5 January 1989	278	This site has a rich hard coral fauna.
49	Hok Tsui (Cape D'Aguilar)	19 July 1990	31.5	This site has many coastal features that are of biological and geological interest.
50	Nam Fung Road Woodland	22 June 1993	8	This site has a rich tree flora.
51	Sam Mun Tsai	13 August	1.2	This site was de-listed from the

	Name	Date listed as an SSSI	Area (hectares)	Brief descriptions
	Egretry#	1994		SSSI Register in 2010 after assessment.
52	Shuen Wan Egretry	13 August 1994	2.1	This site is a breeding site for ardeids.
53	Tai Po Egretry	13 August 1994	1.2	This site is a breeding site for ardeids.
54	Lin Ma Hang Lead Mines	13 August 1994	10	This site is an important habitat for bats.
55	Tseng Tau Coast	13 August 1994	4.3	The rocks at this site are of geological interest.
56	Kei Ling Ha Mangal	13 August 1994	48.4	This site is one of the largest mangrove stands in Hong Kong.
57	Pok To Yan & Por Kai Shan	13 August 1994	76.4	This site has a number of rare plants.
58	San Tau Beach	19 October 1994	2.7	This site has 2 rare seagrass species.
59	Sha Lo Tung	16 January 1997	22.05	This site is an important habitat for many dragonfly species, including some rare ones.
60	Shek O Headland	3 February 1998	0.66	This site is one of the areas with the most seaweed species in Hong Kong.
61	San Chau	4 May 1999	36	This site has a number of rare plants.
62	Ngong Ping	4 May 1999	14	This site is a habitat for an endemic frog.
63	Tai Ho Stream	5 May 1999	5	This stream has a rich freshwater and brackish water fish fauna, as well as some mangrove and seagrass patches close to the estuary.
64	Sham Wan	3 June 1999	4	This site is a nesting site for Green Turtles.
65	South Tsing Yi	13 April 2005	1.1	This site has a number of rare plants.
66	Tai Om Fung Shui Woodland	30 December 2005	2.7	This site has a rich flora.
67	Shek Ngau Chau	30 December 2005	0.92	This island is an important breeding site for summer migratory birds.
68	Lin Ma Hang Stream	6 July 2007	0.64	This stream has a rich freshwater fish fauna.
69	Siu Lang Shui	8 January 2008	2.3	This site is one of the known butterfly overwintering sites in Hong Kong.
70	Deep Water Bay Valley	18 February 2008	4.2	This site has a number of rare plants.

	Name	Date listed as an SSSI	Area (hectares)	Brief descriptions
71	Lung Kwu Tan Valley	3 April 2012	6.72	This site has a number of uncommon butterflies and rare plants.
72	Sunshine Island	27 February 2015	54	This site is a habitat for an endemic reptile.

De-listed from the SSSI Register.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB008

(Question Serial No. 3170)

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 in 2018 that it would establish the Robin's Nest Country Park and would complete the designation by the end of 2020. More than 2 years have elapsed, but there is no further progress yet. During the designation of the country park, the Department has no authority to manage and prevent damages to the area concerned. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The reasons for the delay in designation of the country park and the latest schedule of designating the Robin's Nest Country Park.
- (b) Please set out in tabular form the manpower involved in the establishment of the Robin's Nest Country Park between 2018 and 2021 (including the ranks and number of staff).

Grade and rank	2018	2019	2020	2021

- (c) Please set out in tabular form the expenditure involved in the establishment of the Robin's Nest Country Park between 2018 and 2021 with a breakdown by category.

	2018	2019	2020	2021
e.g. Facility planning				
e.g. Baseline study				

- (d) Please set out in tabular form the estimated expenditure and manpower involved in the major aspects below in connection with the establishment of the Robin's Nest Country Park.

Major aspects	Estimated expenditure and the financial year concerned	Estimated manpower
(i) Conservation management plans		
Identification of conservation zonings in the Robin's Nest Country Park		
Enhancement of biodiversity and cultural heritage		
Monitoring and performance assessment		
Prevention and control of fires		
Patrol and law enforcement		
(ii) Recreation and education management plans		
Recreational activities and facilities		
Visitor services and engagement of local villagers		

- (e) Has the Government received any report in relation to environmental damages in the proposed Robin's Nest Country Park over the past 5 years (between 2017 and 2021)? If yes, please set out in tabular form the complaints and reports received on environmental damages. If they were not received or handled by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, please make requests to the relevant departments (e.g. the Police Force) for information.

	Complaints or damages to the environment	Number of cases	Number of cases with prosecution completed**	Total amount of fines (\$) **
2017				
2018				
2019				
2020				
2021				

** if any

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pierre (LegCo internal reference no.: 132)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has completed the collection of baseline information and literature review for the proposed Robin's Nest Country Park (RNCP), and collected stakeholders' views on the proposal. The Government has been conducting preliminary studies for the designation of the proposed RNCP over the past few years, such as the consultancy study on traffic review and the preliminary planning for hiking trails. However, such work has been affected to a certain extent by the epidemic. The Government will continue to carry out other preparation work for the designation of the proposed RNCP, including drafting nature conservation management plan, planning hiking trails and commissioning a consultancy study on the revitalisation of the Lin Ma Hang Lead Mine Cave, etc., with a view to completing the relevant designation work as soon as possible.
- (b) The preparation for the proposed RCNP is conducted by the AFCD through the deployment of existing manpower and resources.
- (c) The preliminary studies conducted by the AFCD from 2018-19 to 2021-22 for the designation of the proposed RNCP and the expenditure involved are tabulated as follows:

Studies	2018-19 (\$ million)	2019-20 (\$ million)	2020-21 (\$ million) (revised estimate)	2021-22 (\$ million) (estimate)
Consultancy study on the proposed RNCP (planning, design and consultation)	0.2	0.2	0.4	N/A
Consultancy study on the traffic review for the proposed RNCP	N/A	N/A	0.2	0.2
Preliminary planning for the hiking trails in the proposed RNCP	N/A	0.2	0.4	0.4
Consultancy study on the revitalisation of the Lin Ma Hang Lead Mine Cave	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.3

- (d) The AFCD will formulate the Management and Operation Plan for the proposed RNCP, which will cover the nature conservation management plan as well as recreation and education plans. As it is still in the planning stage, the AFCD does not have the estimate for the manpower and resources to be involved.
- (e) AFCD has received 1 complaint about suspected illegal felling of trees in the Robin's Nest area over the past 5 years. No prosecution was instituted due to insufficient evidence.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB009

(Question Serial No. 2182)

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 the 2021-22 Budget, \$500 million will be set aside to enhance the facilities in country parks and \$55 million will be earmarked to take forward the second phase of the enhancement programme for hiking trails. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) Has the Government assessed the economic benefits brought about by the enhancement of country parks?
- (b) Which country parks will the expenditure be allocated? Please set out the country park sites which are initially considered for enhancement of facilities.
- (c) Regarding the proposed treetop adventure, will the Government make reference to overseas experiences by providing facilities which are suitable for different age groups, for example, treetop walkways which are more suitable for the elderly and children?
- (d) Is additional manpower required for taking forward the proposal?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 61)

Reply:

Regarding the \$55 million earmarked for taking forward the enhancement programme for hiking trails as mentioned in the question, it falls under the policy purview of tourism promotion of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB). Having consulted CEDB, our consolidated reply is as follows:

- (a) and (b) As announced in this year's Budget, the Government will set aside \$500 million to carry out enhancement works on facilities in some country parks, such as providing additional recreational elements like viewing platforms, glamping sites

and tree top adventure; improving toilet facilities, barbecue and picnic sites; and revitalising some wartime relics by converting them into open museums, so as to enrich visitors' experience in the country parks and enable members of the public to better enjoy the fun of local countryside visits.

The new facilities will adopt low-carbon and green design that integrates with the natural surrounding, having regard to the needs of people of different ages and physical abilities. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is still identifying suitable sites for various enhancement of facilities at this stage. Projects under the preliminary plan include setting up a new viewing platform overlooking Po Pin Chau in Fa Shan of the Sai Kung East Country Park, providing a glamping site in the Sai Kung West Country Park, adding recreation facilities suitable for people of different ages and physical abilities in the Aberdeen Country Park by reconstructing barbecue and picnic sites, as well as improving toilet facilities with higher utilisation rates, etc. The above plan will be launched in 2021. After the first stage of site selection, design and detailed assessment, new facilities are expected to be rolled out gradually starting from 2 to 3 years onwards for public enjoyment.

As for projects of larger scale such as tree top adventure and open museums for wartime relics appreciation, their specific locations and details will be finalised after completion of the feasibility studies and consultation with stakeholders.

In addition, the Tourism Commission, in collaboration with the AFCD, will take forward the enhancement programme for hiking trails from 2021 to 2026 to promote green tourism. It involves a total of 10 hiking trails within country parks. The enhancement works mainly include improvement to the coverage of the hiking trail network, control of soil erosion at the trails, enhancement of vegetation coverage, addition of lookout points and enrichment of information for visitors, etc. The estimated expenditure of the whole programme is \$55 million.

The Government aims to provide more outdoor recreational and educational facilities for the public, promote the message of nature protection and ecological conservation, improve the quality of life of the public, and at the same time promote green tourism by enhancing the recreational facilities in country parks. The Government has not assessed the corresponding economic benefits.

- (c) The AFCD will conduct a feasibility study on the proposed tree top adventure facilities to explore the site selection, design, operation mode and operating requirements of the facilities, and make reference to the experiences of other places, with a view to providing diversified adventurous experiences for people of different age groups.
- (d) The AFCD and relevant departments will implement the programme by redeploying some of their existing manpower resources.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB010

(Question Serial No. 2197)

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 Financial Secretary has stated in the Budget that \$500 million will be set aside to carry out enhancement works on facilities in some country parks and revitalise some wartime relics by converting them into open museums so as to enrich visitors' experience. Please advise the Committee of the following:

- (a) Have any wartime relics been selected for converting into open museums? If yes, please give details of the selected sites and the types, ages and details of the relics.
- (b) When selecting wartime relics for enhancement works, will the Government consult experts in historical architecture and conservation and the Antiquities Advisory Board to ensure that the revitalisation will not change the original features of the historical relics, or make any improper removal or damage?
- (c) Will the Government solicit public views before the selection, conservation and enhancement of wartime relics for better public engagement?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 77)

Reply:

As announced in this year's Budget, the Government will set aside \$500 million to carry out enhancement works on facilities in some country parks, such as providing additional recreational elements like viewing platforms, glamping sites and tree top adventure; improving toilet facilities, barbecue and picnic sites; and revitalising some wartime relics by converting them into open museums, so as to enrich visitors' experience at the country parks and enable members of the public to better enjoy the fun of local countryside visits.

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is still identifying suitable sites of wartime relics at this stage. The area to be revitalised, the approach and the budget would be subject to actual circumstances of individual relic sites. The AFCD will consult the Antiquities and Monuments Office when necessary. When conducting detailed studies

on the project, the AFCD will collect views from stakeholders (including experts and academics on history and monuments) and the public through public engagement activities to ensure that the historical relics can be properly preserved while the facilities are enhanced.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB011

(Question Serial No. 2218)

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 Financial Secretary has stated in the Budget this year that \$55 million will be earmarked to enhance 10 popular hiking trails in country parks that have potential for tourism. With the current outbreak of epidemic, many people wish to pursue a healthy life, which makes many hiking trails overcrowded with people during holidays. Does the Government have any plan to use the provision to open up more new hiking trails with a view to diverting visitors away from the existing popular hiking routes?
- (b) For the \$500 million provision, apart from enhancing and providing more facilities in country parks, are there any measures in place for nature conservation and publicity and education purposes?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

- (a) Regarding the enhancement programme for 10 popular hiking trails in country parks that have potential for tourism as mentioned in the question, it is an initiative under the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB). According to information provided by CEDB, the Tourism Commission, in collaboration with the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), will take forward the enhancement programme for hiking trails from 2021 to 2026 to promote green tourism. It involves a total of 10 hiking trails within country parks. The enhancement works mainly include improvement to the coverage of the hiking trail network, control of soil erosion at the trails, enhancement of vegetation coverage, addition of lookout points and enrichment of information for visitors, etc. In addition, the programme will also enhance and introduce some hiking trails with tourism appeal to divert visitors and enrich the leisure experience of the public and visitors.

- (b) The \$500-million provision mentioned in the Budget is earmarked for works projects and does not include the expenditure on conservation of countryside as well as the publicity and education work. In the coming year, the AFCD will continue to use existing resources to carry out conservation, as well as promotion, publicity and education programmes in country parks, and to promote the messages of keeping country parks clean and conserving the nature to countryside visitors through various channels. The AFCD will continue to implement the “Take Your Litter Home” publicity and education programme together with green groups and hiking groups and install water filling stations in country parks. The programme enables public’s participation in the protection of the countryside by nurturing their good habits of taking away their own litter and bringing their own water bottles, etc. when visiting country parks. The Department also displays promotional banners and posters at suitable locations in country parks, appeals to the public through social media and radio programmes to protect the environment and maintain environmental hygiene while visiting the countryside, as well as places advertisements on public transport and media to carry out relevant publicity, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB012

(Question Serial No. 2221)

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) As more and more people go hiking amid the epidemic, the countryside is packed with visitors during holidays. But at the same time, it results in damages and pollution to the countryside. What was the number of inspections conducted at country parks by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department over the past year? What were the numbers of warnings (including verbal and written) and summons issued to those visitors who violated the rules and caused damages to the country parks respectively? Please tabulate the reasons and the number of warnings issued and prosecutions taken.
- (b) What was the amount of litter collected in country park areas over the past 3 years? Is the littering issue deteriorating? If yes, what measures would the Government put in place to deal with it? Will the Government re-consider placing more litter collection containers at countryside?
- (c) What education and publicity work has been done to call on countryside visitors to care for the nature over the past year? Is there any plan to step up the work?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

- (a) In 2020, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) conducted a total of 13 362 patrols in country parks and special areas across the territory and instituted 833 prosecutions and issued 123 written warnings under the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations (Cap. 208A), which mainly involved littering, unauthorised possession or driving of bicycles or vehicles, damage of plants, and lighting of fire or camping outside the designated areas, etc. The number of cases by type is tabulated as follows:

Type of offences	Number of prosecutions	Number of written warnings
Littering	77	0
Unauthorised possession or driving of bicycles or vehicles	575	39
Damage of plants	38	2
Illegal lighting of fires	13	3
Illegal camping	18	40
Entry of closed sites	106	26
Others	6	13
Total	833	123

(b) and (c) The volume of litter collected by the AFCD in country parks over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Volume of litter (tonnes)
2018	2 943
2019	2 544
2020	2 316

The AFCD has been implementing the “Take Your Litter Home” publicity and education programme in collaboration with green groups and hiking groups since 2015, and has installed water filling stations in country parks. The programme enables public’s participation in the protection of the countryside by nurturing their good habits of taking away their own litter and bringing their own water bottles, etc. when visiting country parks.

To tie in with the relevant publicity and education programme, litter bins and recycling bins along the hiking trails in country parks have been removed since the end of 2017 while there are still litter collection facilities at recreational sites (e.g. barbecue sites and campsites) for use by members of the public if needed. Although all barbecue sites and campsites in country parks are temporarily closed during the epidemic, in view of the increased number of visitors recently, the AFCD has adjusted the cordoned off area as needed to ensure that country park visitors could continue to use the litter collection facilities in some barbecue sites and campsites to maintain environmental hygiene. When patrolling the country parks, the AFCD staff would remind visitors to take away their litter and take appropriate enforcement actions against littering if detected.

Besides, the AFCD also displays promotional banners and posters at suitable locations in country parks, appeals to the public through social media and radio programmes to protect the environment and maintain environmental hygiene while visiting the countryside and to avoid crowded places during peak times, as well as places advertisements on public transport and media to carry out relevant promotion, etc. In view of the large number of people visiting country parks recently, the AFCD has employed green ambassadors to promote the concept of “Leave No Trace”, such as “Take Your Litter Home”, “bring own bottle to reduce single-use plastic consumables” and “proper disposal of

masks”, etc. to the general public at popular hiking spots. In the coming year, the AFCD will produce more promotional videos and make use of the internet and other media channels for reaching out to the public widely so as to continue promoting messages related to hiking etiquette and nature conservation, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB013

(Question Serial No. 1484)

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 paragraph 51 of the Budget Speech by the Financial Secretary that additional resources will be allocated to enhance country parks. The enhancement will improve people's quality of life when the epidemic is over and may also appeal to the visitors. Please advise this Committee of the specific details of the plan. Is there any implementation timetable? What is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 46)

Reply:

As announced in this year's Budget, the Government will set aside \$500 million to carry out enhancement works on facilities in some country parks, such as providing additional recreational elements like viewing platforms, glamping sites and tree top adventure; improving toilet facilities, barbecue and picnic sites; and revitalising some wartime relics by converting them into open museums, so as to enrich visitors' experience at the country parks and enable members of the public to better enjoy the fun of local countryside visits.

The new facilities will adopt low-carbon and green design that integrates with the natural surrounding, having regard to the needs of people of different ages and physical abilities. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is still identifying suitable sites for various enhancement of facilities at this stage. Projects in the preliminary plan include setting up a new viewing platform overlooking Po Pin Chau in Fa Shan of the Sai Kung East Country Park, providing a glamping site in the Sai Kung West Country Park, adding recreation facilities suitable for people of different ages and physical abilities in the Aberdeen Country Park by reconstructing barbecue and picnic sites, as well as improving toilet facilities with higher utilisation rates, etc.

The above plan will be launched in 2021. After the first stage of site selection, design and detailed assessment, new facilities are expected to be rolled out gradually starting from 2 to 3 years onwards for public enjoyment.

As for projects of larger scale such as tree top adventure and open museums for wartime relics appreciation, their specific locations and details will be finalised after completion of the feasibility studies and consultation with stakeholders.

In addition, the Tourism Commission, in collaboration with the AFCD, will take forward the enhancement programme for hiking trails from 2021 to 2026 to promote green tourism. It involves a total of 10 hiking trails within country parks. The enhancement works mainly include improvement to the coverage of the hiking trail network, control of soil erosion at the trails, enhancement of vegetation coverage, addition of lookout points and enrichment of visitor information, etc. The estimated expenditure of the whole programme is \$55 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB014

(Question Serial No. 0822)

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 the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21), what were the number of complaints received by the Government about alleged illegal bird prevention 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 Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170), and the number of convictions thereof?
- (b) Over the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21), regarding farmers who have installed bird preventive netting or other measures, what were the numbers of applications for low-interest loans from loan funds and the Farm Improvement Scheme grants under the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), and the amounts so involved in the applications?
- (c) Over the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21), how did AFCD assist farmers and fish farmers in reducing their loss due to bird predation in farmland and fish ponds?
- (d) Over the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21), 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.: 9)

Reply:

The provision of assistance, relevant loans and funds to fish farmers and farmers on bird preventive measures as mentioned in the question fall under the purview of the Food and

Health Bureau (FHB). Our consolidated reply after consulting the FHB is set out as follows:

- (a) 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 2021), the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has prosecuted a total of 218 cases for contravening the Ordinance and a total of 165 cases were convicted. During the same period, the AFCD received 4 complaints about suspected use of illegal bird prevention measures by farmers or fish farmers. It usually takes 3 to 6 months to process these cases.
- (b) Over the past 3 years (up to February 2021), the AFCD has received 6 applications for the Farm Improvement Scheme (FIS) grants under the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund (SADF) related to installing bird preventive netting to protect their crops from birds. The amount requested was around \$30,000 in total. No applications for low-interest loans for installing bird preventive netting or other measures has been received.
- (c) The AFCD understands the concern of farmers and fish farmers over their loss due to predation by wild birds in farmland and fish ponds. The AFCD aims to strike a balance between supporting the agriculture and fisheries industries as well as conservation of wild birds, and assists farmers and fish farmers in taking appropriate measures to reduce predation by wild birds in farmland and fish ponds without causing harm to birds. Regarding farmers, the AFCD regularly organises talks and farmland visits where technical advice on bird prevention would be provided to assist farmers in taking appropriate measures to reduce bird predation in farmland. Farmers who are interested in installing bird preventive netting or other measures can apply for low-interest loans from loan funds administered by the AFCD, or purchase the necessary materials for self-installation with FIS grants under SADF. Regarding fish farmers, the AFCD regularly organises talks and workshops on good aquaculture practices and general fish farming guidelines, where methods on prevention of predation by wild birds would be introduced, such as pond wiring, hanging of reflective materials, etc., to reduce loss of fish produce. Fish farmers can also apply for low-interest loans from loan funds administered by the AFCD should they need any financial assistance, or purchase the necessary materials with the Equipment Improvement Project grants under the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund.

Besides, the AFCD has published 2 pamphlets on the “Methods of Preventing Bird Predation in Farmland” and “Methods of Preventing Bird Predation in Fish Ponds” for the reference of farmers and fish farmers respectively. According to the AFCD’s observation, many farmers and fish farmers have adopted the AFCD’s recommendations to reduce the risk of wild bird predation in farmland and fish ponds.

- (d) There were 2 Management Agreement projects with funding from the Environment and Conservation Fund conducted during the period 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 are tabulated as follows:

(1) Ramsar Site		
Project period	March 2017 to February 2019	March 2019 to February 2021[#]
Total approved budget (\$)	7,034,532	7,456,636
Number of fishpond operators engaged	67	69
Area of fishponds engaged (hectare)	286	265
Percentage of area of fishponds engaged in eligible fishponds* (%)	98	91
(2) Deep Bay Wetland outside Ramsar Site		
Project period	March 2017 to February 2019	March 2019 to February 2021[#]
Total approved budget (\$)	7,659,992	7,246,276
Number of fishpond operators engaged	88	89
Area of fishponds engaged (hectare)	327	329
Percentage of area of fishponds engaged in eligible fishponds* (%)	88	91

* Eligible fishponds are those registered under the AFCD's Voluntary Registration Scheme.

Figures may vary slightly during the project period as some fishpond operators had withdrawn while some were newly engaged in the project during the period.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB015

(Question Serial No. 0824)

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) What is 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 (2018-19 to 2020-21)?
- (c) What were 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 (2018-19 to 2020-21)?
- (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 (2018-19 to 2020-21)?
- (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 (2018-19 to 2020-21)? What were the average, maximum and minimum penalties imposed respectively?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

- (a) As wild pigs' tracks are difficult to trace and their distribution in the territory is wide with an extensive home range, it is often difficult to conduct large-scale population surveys on them. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) launched a pilot scheme in 2019 to estimate the number of wild pigs in the countryside using infrared camera traps. It was estimated that there were about 1 800 to 3 300 wild pigs in the countryside all over Hong Kong basing on the wild pig population density at the trial sites. The AFCD extended the scope of the study in 2020 to cover

more sites and different seasons so as to make a more accurate estimation of the wild pig population in the countryside. The study is expected to be completed in 2021.

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

Year	Number of cases
2018-19	1 008
2019-20	1 073
2020-21 (as of January 2021)	868

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

Year/Number of wild pigs (heads)	Captured	Administered with contraceptive vaccine *	Surgically sterilised *	Relocated to remote countryside *
2018-19	115 [#]	46	18	81
2019-20	293	59	47	222
2020-21 (as of February 2021)	287	63	75	220

* The number of wild pigs administered with contraceptive vaccine/surgically sterilised may overlap with that of the wild pigs relocated to remote countryside, as wild pigs might be relocated after they have been administered with the vaccine/after the surgery.

[#] This figure does not include all the wild pigs captured as the CCRP was still in pilot stage in 2018-19.

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

Year	Manpower (number of staff)	Total expenditure on wild pig management (\$ million)	Expenditure involved in CCRP (\$ million)
2018-19	14	9.9	6.2
2019-20	26	14.5	7.2
2020-21 (revised estimate)	32	17.6	9.3

- (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 areas). Any person feeding wild animals in the feeding ban areas is

liable to a maximum fine of \$10,000. The AFCD arranges regular patrol in the feeding ban areas and will take prosecution action against anyone who has violated the law and fed wild animals, subject to sufficient evidence. The AFCD will, from time to time, review the patrolling and enforcement arrangements in the feeding ban areas as appropriate, including the deployment of additional manpower to conduct enforcement and blitz operations at night and on public holidays where necessary, as well as collaborating with relevant departments to strengthen the measures in combating illegal feeding of wild animals. The information on the prosecutions against illegal feeding of wild animals (including wild pigs) over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as of February 2021)
Number of prosecutions against illegal feeding of wild animals (including wild pigs)*	32	26	40
Number of successful prosecutions against illegal feeding of wild animals (including wild pigs)	20	28	31
Fine (\$)	1,000 [#]	1,500-2,000	300-2,000

* Some of the prosecutions instituted in the latter part of the year might be processed in the following year.

[#] The amount of fine imposed on each case in 2018-19 was \$1,000.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB016

(Question Serial No. 0837)

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 3 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 3 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) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has stated that investigations on some cases of illegal display of large vertical banners had been conducted, yet no suspects could be identified eventually and hence no further actions could be taken. In this regard, has any study been conducted to resolve the issue; 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.: 64)

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 inspections and investigations as soon as possible. Depending on the situation, the AFCD will deploy staff to remove them or refer to the relevant government departments to follow up the removal 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 the AFCD. The number of cases of illegal display of large vertical banners, slogans and graffiti in country parks received by the AFCD and the manpower and time involved in handling cases of illegal display of large vertical banners in country parks by relevant government departments over the past 3 years are set out at **Table 1 and Table 2 in Annex**. Relevant departments do not keep separate breakdowns of expenditure for handling such cases.
- (b) The number of patrols conducted by the AFCD in country parks and special areas in Hong Kong and the expenditure on patrols and law enforcement over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of patrols
2018	15 456
2019	14 814
2020	13 362

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2018-19	65.4
2019-20	67.0
2020-21 (revised estimate)	65.7

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

- (c) At present, a total of about 150 staff members of the AFCD are responsible for conducting regular patrol and law enforcement work at country parks and special areas in Hong Kong.
- (d) Most of the sites involved in illegal display of large vertical banners are located in difficult terrains, making it difficult to monitor, intercept suspects on the spot, and collect evidence at these sites. Over the past 3 years, the AFCD successfully

instituted 1 prosecution against illegal display of banners with subsequent conviction under the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations (Cap. 208A) (the Regulations). The AFCD will continue to maintain close communication with the Police to step up intelligence exchange and cooperation with a view to combating the illegal activities.

- (e) According to the Regulations, it is an offence to display any sign, notice, poster, banner or advertisement within a country park or special area without the permission of the Country and Marine Parks Authority (the Authority), and it is also an offence to wilfully or negligently deface, injure, soil or defile any notice, marker, fence, building, shelter, equipment or installation erected, used or maintained by the Authority within a country park or special area. Contravention of the relevant regulations is liable to a maximum fine of \$2,000 and imprisonment for 3 months. The AFCD will continue to step up patrol at locations with past illegal display of large vertical banners, and arrange special operations to deter activities contravening the Regulations as necessary. The AFCD will institute prosecution against offenders if there is sufficient evidence.

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

Year	Number of cases involving large vertical banners	Number of cases involving slogans/graffiti
2018	3	0
2019	22	0
2020	12	8

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

Month/Year[#]	Number of staff involved[*]	Total time involved in the operations (hours)
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
January 2020	69	24.3
May 2020	44	8.1
June 2020	59	33.5
October 2020	48	23.4

[#] The months with no cases received are not listed above.

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

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB017

(Question Serial No. 0838)

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 expenditures involved in public education and promotion of the feeding ban over the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21)?
- (b) What were the numbers of complaints received by the Department about nuisances of or attacks by wild monkeys over the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21)?
- (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 (2018-19 to 2020-21)?
- (d) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department extended the contraceptive programme to monkey troops causing nuisance to residential areas near country parks in 2018. How effective is the programme?
- (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.: 65)

Reply:

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

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2018-19	1.1
2019-20	1.2
2020-21 (revised estimate)	1.7

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

Year	Number of complaints about monkey nuisance/attack
2018-19	409
2019-20	292
2020-21 (as of January 2020)	224

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

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (number of staff)
2018-19	5.2	12
2019-20	5.4	12
2020-21 (revised estimate)	7.3	17

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

- (d) The AFCD extended the contraceptive programme to monkey troops causing nuisance to residential areas near country parks in 2018. Trapping cages were set up in the districts of Wong Tai Sin, Sha Tin, Tsuen Wan and Sham Shui Po to carry out sterilisation operations for suitable monkeys. Capturing operations were also improved through the application of real-time monitoring technology, with a view to further mitigating nuisance caused by monkeys in urban areas and controlling their populations. The case number of monkey nuisance/attack has significantly reduced from 409 cases in 2018-19 to 224 cases in 2020-21 (as of January 2021), which indicates that the measures are evidently effective.
- (e) The AFCD has completed the review of the management plan which addresses monkey nuisances in 2020-21 and reported the result to the Nature Conservation Subcommittee (Subcommittee) under the Advisory Council on the Environment in October 2020. Members of the Subcommittee supported the AFCD's continuous implementation of the relevant management plan and commencement of new research projects.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB018

(Question Serial No. 0850)

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 (2018-19 to 2020-21).
- (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 (2018-19 to 2020-21)? 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 (2018-19 to 2020-21)?
- (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 (2018-19 to 2020-21)?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

- (a) The information on the names, locations, sizes, core area sizes and dates of designation of the existing and proposed marine parks and marine reserve are at **Annex 1**. The relevant map is at **Annex 2**.
- (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 relevant permits			
	First year of establishment	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as of February 2021)
Cape D'Aguilar Marine Reserve ⁽ⁱ⁾	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park (HHWMP) ^{(ii) (iii)}	409	240	239	66
Yan Chau Tong Marine Park (YCTMP) ^{(ii) (iii)}	409	244	243	69
Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park (SCLKCMP) ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾	208	81	81	22
Tung Ping Chau Marine Park (TPCMP) ^{(ii) (iii)}	280	200	200	56
The Brothers Marine Park	472	474	403	873
Southwest Lantau Marine Park (SLMP) ^(iv)	738	N/A	N/A	738

- (i) The number of fishing permits issued to fishing vessels for the Cape D'Aguilar Marine Reserve is not available as commercial fishing is banned in the marine reserve.
- (ii) Some fishing permits cover the TPCMP, YCTMP and/or HHWMP simultaneously.
- (iii) Commercial fishing in the 4 specified marine parks (namely the HHWMP, YCTMP, TPCMP and SCLKCMP) will be banned with effect from 1 April 2022 under the new fisheries management strategy in marine parks. Some of the permit holders have surrendered their fishing permits.
- (iv) Some fishing permits issued for the SLMP also cover The Brothers Marine Park. In addition, as the SLMP was designated on 1 April 2020, the number of fishing permits issued in the first year of establishment of the SLMP was counted until February 2021 only.

- (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 amount of fine (\$)
2018-19	12	12,900
2019-20	7	6,400
2020-21 (as of February 2021)	1	(Prosecution in progress)

To strengthen the measures for combating illegal fishing and the related law enforcement work, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) consolidated its internal resources and set up a dedicated sea enforcement team in August 2020 with a view to enhancing the ability to combat illegal fishing. The AFCD will continue to exchange intelligence with relevant government departments and Mainland authorities, as well as adjust its enforcement strategy from time to time in the light of circumstances to combat illegal fishing activities jointly. As the dedicated enforcement team was just set up by the AFCD in the middle of last year, its effectiveness is yet to be observed.

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

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (number of staff)
2018-19	26.1	51
2019-20	29.0	61
2020-21 (revised estimate)	36.7	66

As combating illegal fishing is part of the daily management of marine parks and marine reserve, the AFCD does not have the relevant breakdown.

- (e) The AFCD will continue to conduct patrol and combat illegal fishing in marine parks, including flexibly deploying manpower dedicated to law enforcement at sea as well as providing additional patrol vessels and replacing some of the vessels. In early 2021, the Department provided additional patrol vessels and replaced some vessels deployed to marine parks (including existing and proposed ones), the marine reserve and surrounding waters. The Marine Police and their patrol vessels also provide assistance in law enforcement within marine parks and marine reserve from time to time at the AFCD's request. The AFCD is also planning to procure 3 patrol vessels (including 2 new vessels and replacement of 1 existing patrol vessel) to further combat illegal fishing and other irregularities in marine parks.

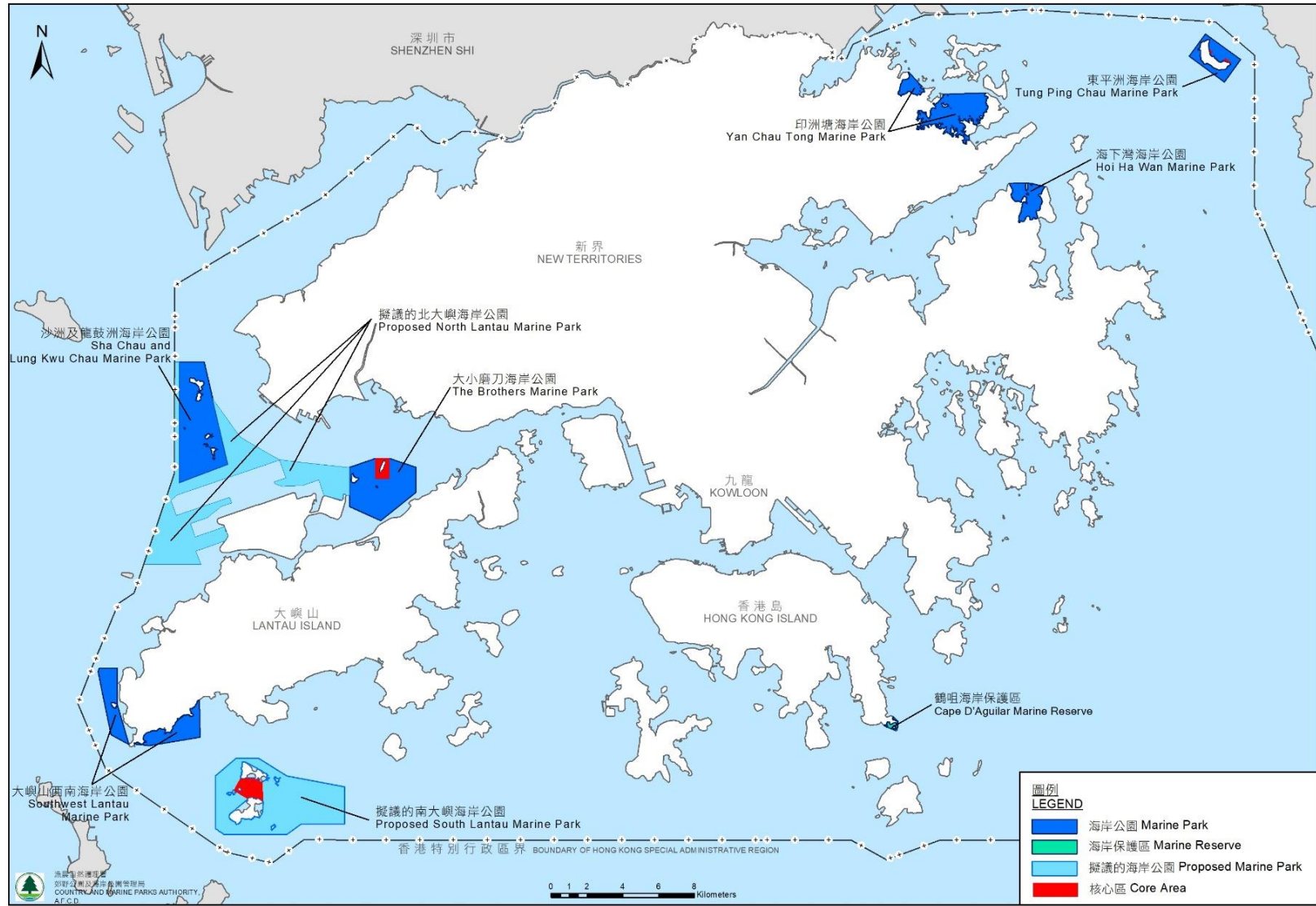
The number of patrols conducted over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of patrols
2018-19	3 330
2019-20	3 154
2020-21 (as of February 2021)	2 624 [#]

[#] The number of patrols has slightly decreased due to the effect of the epidemic.

Annex 1

Name of existing or proposed 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 in the 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
Southwest Lantau Marine Park	Waters in the vicinity of Fan Lau in southwestern Lantau	650	0	April 2020
South Lantau Marine Park	Waters in the vicinity of Soko Islands in southern Lantau	~2 067	~145	2022 (Tentative)
North Lantau Marine Park (the marine park for the Three-Runway System of the Hong Kong International Airport)	Waters enclosing the airport in northern Lantau	~2 400	0	2024 (Tentative)



- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB019

(Question Serial No. 0887)

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 new fisheries management strategy in marine parks, please advise of the status of surrendering of permits due to the fishing ban in the 4 specified marine parks since the introduction of the scheme. Please set out by time period the number of permits that have been surrendered and the number of permits that will be surrendered.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 49)

Reply:

The new fisheries management strategy in marine parks (the new strategy) has come into effect on 1 April 2020, under which the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department no longer grants new fishing permits for 4 marine parks (namely Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park, Yan Chau Tong Marine Park and Tung Ping Chau Marine Park in the eastern waters and Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park in the western waters) for commercial fishing. At present, the fishing permits already granted for these 4 marine parks remain valid and can be renewed according to the established mechanism, although their validity period will not be extended beyond the 2-year transitional period under the new strategy (i.e. by 31 March 2022).

Fishermen who are currently holding relevant valid permits may surrender their permits during the transitional period or upon the expiry of the permits. As at February 2021, about 250 fishermen permit holders have surrendered their fishing permits. Approximately 100 remaining permit holders shall surrender their fishing permits on or before 31 March 2022.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB020

(Question Serial No. 0888)

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 expansion of the Sham Wan Restricted Area on Lamma Island and the extension of the restricted period, please advise of the following:

- (a) What are the expenditure and manpower involved in handling the aforesaid matters?
- (b) What is the progress of implementing the related work?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 50)

Reply:

- (a) and (b) To better protect Green Turtles, the Government will expand the restricted area at Sham Wan, Lamma Island (Sham Wan Restricted Area) from the 0.5-hectare sandy beach to the sea inlet adjoining the beach (about 98.2 hectares). The restricted period will also be extended from 5 months each year to 7 months (i.e. from 1 April to 31 October) each year. The Government has completed the relevant legislative amendments and the relevant measures will come into effect on 1 April 2021.

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will take forward multi-pronged measures to enhance management of the Sham Wan Restricted Area with a view to protecting Green Turtles. They include setting up notice boards at conspicuous locations of the headlands of the sea inlet of Sham Wan and road entrances to Sham Wan for demarcating the boundary of the Sham Wan Restricted Area, reminding passing vessels and the public not to enter the area without permission during the restricted period, stepping up patrol by sea and on land against unauthorised entry during the restricted period each year, installing a remote surveillance camera system to monitor the restricted area as well as removing abandoned fishing nets, rubbish and unwanted vegetation at the

Sham Wan Restricted Area regularly to maintain suitable habitats for the breeding of Green Turtles, etc.

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

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB021

(Question Serial No. 0410)

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 will set aside \$500 million to carry out enhancement works on facilities in some country parks, including adding recreational elements, improving toilets, barbeque and picnic sites, providing new facilities which adopt low-carbon and green design, etc. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) How is the amount of provision calculated?
- (b) What is the specific allocation of the provision, including the amount allocated to each project, the time each project is expected to take, the manpower and miscellaneous expenses involved, etc.?
- (c) Will the Government use the provision to upgrade the software, such as enhancing the online information platform on popular hiking trails, providing local real-time information.

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

- (a) and (b) As announced in this year's Budget, the Government will set aside \$500 million to carry out enhancement works on facilities in some country parks, such as providing additional recreational elements like viewing platforms, glamping sites and tree top adventure; improving toilet facilities, barbecue and picnic sites; and revitalising some wartime relics by converting them into open museums, so as to enrich visitors' experience at the country parks and enable members of the public to better enjoy the fun of local countryside visits. The estimate of the budget required is roughly based on the experience of previous enhancement works.

The new facilities will adopt low-carbon and green design that integrates with the natural surrounding, having regard to the needs of people of different ages and physical abilities. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is still identifying suitable sites for various enhancement of facilities at this stage. Projects in the preliminary plan include setting up a new viewing platform overlooking Po Pin Chau in Fa Shan of the Sai Kung East Country Park, providing a glamping site in the Sai Kung West Country Park, adding recreation facilities suitable for people of different ages and physical abilities in the Aberdeen Country Park by reconstructing barbecue and picnic sites, as well as improving toilet facilities with higher utilisation rates, etc.

The above plan will be launched in 2021. After the first stage of site selection, design and detailed assessment, the new facilities are expected to be rolled out gradually starting from 2 to 3 years onwards for public enjoyment. As for projects of larger scale such as tree top adventure and open museums for wartime relics appreciation, their specific locations and details will be finalised after completion of the feasibility studies and consultation with stakeholders. The AFCD and relevant departments will implement the plan by redeploying some of their existing manpower resources.

- (c) The AFCD launched the enhanced thematic website “Enjoy Hiking” in December 2019 to provide detailed information on hiking trails and countryside attractions to enrich visitors’ experience. Electronic display panels have also been put on trial by the AFCD at popular spots in country parks since November 2019 to provide real-time weather information to visitors alongside with travelling information about the areas concerned. The \$500-million provision mentioned in the Budget is earmarked for construction projects and does not include the expenditure on software enhancement.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB022

(Question Serial No. 0534)

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 combat of illegal trade and smuggling of local endangered animals and plants, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Over the past 5 years, what were the number of cases and the number of trees involved in respect of illegal felling of protected and endangered trees?
- (b) Over the past 5 years, what were the types and the number of endangered animals seized?
- (c) Over the past 5 years, what were the details of the endangered species seized in various control points?
- (d) Over the past 5 years, what was the number of prosecutions instituted under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance? What were the number of convicted cases and the penalties imposed?
- (e) Over the past 5 years, what was the expenditure on public education and publicity regarding the protection of endangered animals and plants?

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 80)

Reply:

- (a) According to the information from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, all trees involved in cases of illegal felling of protected endangered trees over the past 5 years were Incense Trees, and all such cases were handled by the Hong Kong Police Force under the Theft Ordinance (Cap. 210), the Summary Offences Ordinance (Cap. 228) or the Crimes Ordinance (Cap. 200). Relevant statistics are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of cases	Estimated number of trees involved
2016	54	172
2017	53	102
2018	41	78
2019	32	53
2020	13	26

- (b) The endangered species seized in enforcement operations against illegal trade in endangered species vary and usually include leather products of reptiles, pangolin scales/carcasses, ivory, timber, orchid, etc. The quantity of endangered animals seized over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Quantity of seizure	149 000 kg and 2 594 items	63 000 kg and 4 272 items	273 000 kg and 18 975 items	376 000 kg	279 000 kg

- (c) The number of cases involving seizure of endangered species at various control points over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Year / Control point	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Hong Kong International Airport	194	297	397	357	132
Lo Wu Control Point	8	16	77	64	16
Lok Ma Chau Control Point	52	42	63	60	64
Lok Ma Chau Spurline Control Point	4	11	125	53	3
Man Kam To Control Point	2	1	4	3	2
Shenzhen Bay Control Point	22	40	43	40	20
Sha Tau Kok Control Point	8	4	5	10	4
West Kowloon Control Point	N/A	N/A	9	30	9
China Ferry Terminal	0	1	2	3	0
Hong Kong-Macau Ferry Terminal	0	1	0	4	0
Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge	N/A	N/A	1	19	5
Hong Kong Port					
Sea boundary	19	20	19	16	21

The endangered species seized at land control points were mainly orchid, American ginseng, dried seahorse, etc., while the majority of those seized in sea containers were timber, shark fin, pangolin scales, etc. The majority of those seized at the Hong Kong International Airport were ivory, pangolin scales, American ginseng, live tortoise/turtle, leather products of reptiles, dried seahorse, etc.

- (d) The number of prosecutions instituted and convictions under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance and the penalties imposed over the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*
Number of prosecutions[#]	154	189	221	226	25
Number of convictions	126	170	178	199	45
Maximum term of imprisonment (months)	8	3	8	24	27
Maximum amount of fine (\$)	80,000	100,000	100,000	50,000	300,000

* We estimate that the apparent decline in the number of prosecutions and convictions in 2020 might be due to the effect of the global pandemic situation.

As prosecution takes time, cases prosecuted might not be convicted within the same year.

- (e) The expenditure on public education and publicity regarding the protection of endangered animals and plants over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (revised estimate)
Expenditure (\$ million)	3.9	2.9	3.0	2.9	2.2

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**ENB023****(Question Serial No. 1755)**

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 recent years, wild pigs have appeared frequently in urban areas and even forage near residential areas, causing nuisance to the residents. From 2019 onwards, the Department has progressively regularised the pilot Capture and Contraception/Relocation Programme (CCRP) which was introduced in 2017. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The manpower and expenditures involved in handling wild pigs over the past 3 years;
- (b) The number of wild pigs handled under CCRP over the past 3 years; and
- (c) Will the Government introduce any new programme to tackle the problem, apart from the existing measures including implementing CCRP and educating the public not to feed wild animals? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 51)

Reply:

- (a) The manpower and expenditure involved in wild pig management by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), including the implementation of the Capture and Contraception/Relocation Programme (CCRP), over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Manpower (number of staff)	Expenditure (\$ million)
2018-19	14	9.9
2019-20	26	14.5
2020-21 (revised estimate)	32	17.6

- (b) The number of wild pigs handled under the CCRP over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year/number of wild pigs (heads)	Captured	Administered with contraceptive vaccine *	Surgically sterilised *	Relocated to remote countryside *
2018-19	115 [#]	46	18	81
2019-20	293	59	47	222
2020-21 (as of February 2021)	287	63	75	220

* The number of wild pigs administered with contraceptive vaccine/surgically sterilised may overlap with that of the wild pigs relocated to remote countryside as wild pigs might be relocated after they have been administered with the vaccine/after the surgery.

[#] This figure does not include all the wild pigs captured as the CCRP was still in pilot stage in 2018-19.

- (c) Currently, the 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. The AFCD has also set up an advisory group comprising experts from various fields to advise on the management of wild pigs.

In addition, studies reveal that wild pigs' reproductive rate is highly dependent on food availability. The AFCD's investigation also reveals that the increase in wild pig nuisance cases in recent years is largely due to intentional feeding and improper disposal of outdoor garbage. In this regard, other than relocation and contraception/sterilisation of wild pigs habitually looking for food in residential areas, the AFCD has been working closely with relevant departments to eliminate the pull factors at black spots by removing food residues, strengthening the promotion of no-feeding of wild pigs, improving the design of refuse collection facilities, etc.

The AFCD has also commissioned a consultancy study with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Environmental Protection Department to improve the design of outdoor refuse collection facilities with a view to reducing scavenging for food by wild animals at these facilities. The consultant has developed 3 new designs of wild pig or monkey-resistant litter containers which were tested at over 70 sites disturbed by wildlife nuisance throughout the territory, and the field trials were completed in the third quarter of 2020. Study results indicated that the new design can effectively reduce wildlife nuisance. The newly designed litter containers will be placed at more suitable sites by the departments concerned according to the actual needs in order to minimise wildlife nuisance. In addition, the AFCD will conduct a consultancy study to analyse the reasons for feeding wild pigs by the public

in order to formulate more targeted publicity programmes and long-term management strategy.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB024

(Question Serial No. 1336)

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:

Regarding strengthening the control of trade in endangered species:

- (a) With the passage of the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants (Amendment) Bill 2017 (the Amendment Bill) earlier, the import and re-export of pre-Convention (i.e. the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) ivory (except antique ivory) have been banned and the possession of pre-Convention ivory (except antique ivory) for commercial purposes in the local market is subject to licensing control. Please advise this Committee of the enforcement efforts of the Government since the passage and implementation of the Ordinance, including the relevant law enforcement data, the amount of imported and exported pre-Convention and post-Convention worked ivory seized, as well as the number of licences issued for the commercial possession of pre-Convention ivory since the Ordinance came into force.
- (b) Regarding the licensing control of international trade in endangered species and curbing of illegal trade in endangered species in Hong Kong, please give details of the expenditures and manpower involved over the past 3 years and in the forthcoming year.
- (c) What are the details of the expenditures and manpower involved in the Government's efforts to protect endangered species and combat wildlife smuggling over the past 3 years? Apart from ivory, what are the manpower and expenditure involved in relation to the increase in penalties under the Ordinance by virtue of the Amendment Bill?

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffery (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

- (a) The Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 (the Amendment Ordinance) came into effect on 1 May 2018. With the implementation of the Amendment Ordinance, all import and export of ivory (except antique ivory) for commercial purposes have been banned starting from 1 August 2018. A possession licence is required for keeping pre-Convention (i.e. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)) ivory for commercial purposes. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will scrutinise the applications and inspect the commercial stocks of pre-Convention ivory by recording the weight, taking photographs and putting on tamper-proof hologram stickers. In addition, the AFCD has also been implementing a series of measures that aims at curbing smuggling and strengthening the relevant control of the local ivory trade. The measures included 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 the detection and prevention of the smuggling of ivory; and using hi-tech radiocarbon dating analysis to determine the age and hence the legality of ivory.

On the other hand, the 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 to the general public, travellers and traders. These include issuing letters, press releases and Facebook posts; distributing handbills and displaying posters at various import and export control points; broadcasting TV and radio Announcements of Public Interest on cross-boundary coaches and YouTube Channel; publicising regulatory measures and sharing information on cases and penalties through the AFCD Facebook page; as well as conducting visits to licensed ivory shops and other art and craft shops for education and promotion, etc. Internationally, the AFCD has also notified the World Trade Organization and all Parties to the CITES the relevant details.

Statistics on law enforcement related to ivory since the Amendment Ordinance took effect are tabulated as follows:

Year	2018 (May to December)	2019	2020*
Quantity of ivory seized (kg)	336	2 058	0.07
Number of persons convicted	24	18	1
Maximum term of imprisonment	4 months	6 weeks	24 months
Maximum amount of fine	\$8,000	N/A	N/A

* We estimate that the apparent decline in figures in 2020 might be a result of the global pandemic situation.

The AFCD has issued 11 possession licences in respect of pre-Convention ivory for commercial purposes as at the end of 2020, covering around 1.5 tonnes of pre-Convention ivory.

- (b) and (c) Our efforts in protecting endangered species and combating wildlife smuggling include carrying out licensing control of international trade in endangered species, as well as curbing the illegal trade in endangered species in Hong Kong. The expenditure and manpower involved in the above work over the past 3 years and the forthcoming year are tabulated as follows:

Year	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (revised estimate)	2021-22 (estimate)
Expenditure (\$ million)	47.2	50.8	52.8	52.8
Manpower (number of staff)	57	61	61	61

No additional manpower or expenditure was involved in relation to the increase in penalties under the Amendment Ordinance.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB025

(Question Serial No. 2059)

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 of country parks, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The number of patrols conducted in each country park in each of the past 3 years;
- (b) The number of prosecutions instituted against illegal camping in each of the past 3 years;
- (c) The utilisation rate of each designated campsite; and
- (d) Whether there is any plan to review and provide more campsites in view of public demand.

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 41)

Reply:

- (a) The number of patrols conducted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in country parks and special areas throughout the territory over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of patrols
2018	15 456
2019	14 814
2020	13 362

As some of the patrols cover a number of country parks, there is no breakdown on the number of patrols conducted in individual country parks.

- (b) According to the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations (Cap 208A) (the Regulations), members of the public may set up tents for camping only at designated

campsites in country parks or special areas, and it is an offence if otherwise. Over the past 3 years, the number of prosecutions instituted against illegal camping outside the designated campsites in country park areas is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of prosecutions
2018	37
2019	24
2020 [#]	18 [*]

[#] All designated campsites and designated barbecue sites in country parks were temporarily closed from 28 March to 20 May 2020 and from 15 July 2020 to the present until further notice. During the closure period, no one should enter the closed sites for barbecuing or camping activities.

^{*} Another 131 cases are still under investigation.

- (c) Currently, there are 41 designated campsites in country parks open to the public freely on a first come first served basis. As it is not necessary for the public to make reservation or registration, the AFCD does not have the statistics on the utilisation rate of campsites. In general, campsites which are easily accessible and with better facilities are more popular with campers.
- (d) In view of the public demand for camping activities in country parks, the AFCD has been improving relevant facilities at designated campsites in country parks in recent years, such as the provision of additional cooking places and camping platforms at the Twisk Campsite at Tai Lam and the Nam Shan and Shek Pik Campsites on Lantau Island during 2020-21. The AFCD is also planning to extend the areas of some existing campsites or set up more campsites for campers. Amongst them, the reconstruction work of the Wong Shek Campsite has been completed and those for the Hok Tau and Chung Pui Campsites will be conducted soon. In addition, as announced in this year's Budget, the Government will set aside \$500 million to carry out enhancement works on facilities in some country parks. The projects under the preliminary plan include the provision of a glamping site in the Sai Kung West Country Park with a view to offering diversified facilities and experience.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB026

(Question Serial No. 2060)

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 construction of fire lookouts, please advise this Committee of:

- (a) the number of occurrence of hill fires over the past 3 years;
- (b) the number of fire lookouts expected to be constructed, their location and the timetable.

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 42)

Reply:

- (a) Over the past 3 years, there were 23 (in 2018), 17 (in 2019) and 25 (in 2020) cases of hill fires which had affected country parks and special areas.
- (b) At present, there are 11 fire lookouts set up by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) at strategic locations in country parks and special areas in Hong Kong to assist AFCD staff members in detecting hill fires. As the detection range of these fire lookouts has covered important forests and habitats in country parks and special areas, the AFCD has no plan to set up additional fire lookouts in this regard.

Besides, the AFCD is exploring the use of video analytic robotics and artificial intelligence to enhance the accuracy of the existing hill fire detection system to assist in the detection of hill fires in country parks with a view to reducing damage to the nature environment by hill fire. The AFCD has selected the Pat Heung Fire Lookout to install the artificial intelligence surveillance system for real time monitoring of hill fire as a trial. The project is expected to complete by the end of 2021.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB027

(Question Serial No. 0368)

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 the influence of the COVID-19 pandemic, many people prefer to go sightseeing locally. It is estimated that there will be 12 million visitors to country parks in 2021. In this regard, please advise of the following:

- (a) What assessment has been made on the impacts posed to country parks by the large influx of visitors? What are the plans for country park conservation?
- (b) What are the posts, number of staff and expenditure involved for the 15 posts created this year?
- (c) In view of the large influx of visitors, what are the plans to put forward the promotion/publicity/education programmes?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Che-cheung (LegCo internal reference no.: 33)

Reply:

- (a) Since the epidemic broke out last year, many members of the public have visited country parks which led to higher patronage of trails and associated facilities. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has stepped up patrol at popular picnic sites and hiking spots to monitor and assess the impact of the increase in visitors on the environment and country park facilities. In respect of certain trails with increased wear and tear due to the effect of increasing visitor flow, the Department plans to restore the damaged trails through improvement works, conduct vegetation maintenance and tree planting, as well as increase ancillary facilities at suitable locations in order to reduce the impact brought by the visitors to the countryside. Meanwhile, the AFCD will also strengthen publicity and education efforts to raise the awareness of protecting the natural environment among countryside visitors.

- (b) Of the 15 posts created by the AFCD in 2021-22, 8 are involved in the work of the Nature Park Division (including 1 Forestry Officer, 5 Field Officers and 2 Field Assistants), amounting to about \$3.4 million, while 7 are involved in the work of the Marine Parks Division (including 1 Fisheries Officer, 2 Fisheries Supervisors and 4 Field Assistants or Artisans), amounting to about \$2.8 million.
- (c) The AFCD attaches great importance to the promotion, publicity and education programmes of country parks. It continues to promote the messages of keeping country parks clean and conserving the nature to countryside visitors through various channels. The AFCD has been implementing the “Take Your Litter Home” publicity and education programme together with green groups and hiking groups since 2015 and has installed water filling stations in country parks. The programme enables public’s participation in the protection of the countryside by nurturing their good habits of taking away their own litter and bringing their own water bottles, etc. when visiting country parks.

The AFCD also displays promotional banners and posters at suitable locations in country parks, appeals to the public through social media and radio programmes to protect the environment and maintain environmental hygiene while visiting the countryside and avoid crowded places during peak times, as well as places advertisements on public transport and media to carry out relevant promotion, etc. In view of the large number of people visiting country parks recently, the AFCD has employed green ambassadors to promote the concept of “Leave No Trace”, such as “Take Your Litter Home”, “bring own bottle to reduce single-use plastic consumables” and “proper disposal of masks”, etc. to the general public at popular hiking spots.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB028

(Question Serial No. 2584)

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:

In recent years, there were members of the public hanging large banners with slogans on hills or even within country parks from time to time without permission.

- (a) What were the number of large vertical banners removed by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department over the past 3 years? Were there other government departments involved? Were there additional expenditures incurred?
- (b) What were the number of persons arrested, prosecuted and convicted in each of the past 3 years for illegal display of large vertical banners, slogans or graffiti within country parks?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 124)

Reply:

- (a) Upon receipt of the reports of illegal display of large vertical banners in country parks, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will conduct site inspection and investigation as soon as possible. For cases which were located in difficult terrains, joint removal operations will be carried out by various government departments, including the Fire Services Department, the Government Flying Service, the Hong Kong Police Force (the Police) and the AFCD. As handling irregularities in country parks forms part of the daily work of the AFCD, no additional expenditure is involved. The number of cases of illegal display of large vertical banners in country parks received by the AFCD over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of cases
2018	3
2019	22
2020	12

- (b) 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 within a country park or special area without the permission of the Country and Marine Parks Authority (the Authority). It is also an offence to wilfully or negligently deface, injure, soil or defile any notice, marker, fence, building, shelter, equipment or installation erected, used or maintained by the Authority within a country park or special area. Contravention of the relevant regulations is liable to a maximum fine of \$2,000 and imprisonment for 3 months. Over the past 3 years, the AFCD has successfully initiated 1 prosecution against illegal display of banners with subsequent conviction under the Regulations. The AFCD has investigated other cases of illegal display of large vertical banners and graffiti. However, no suspects could be identified after the investigation. The AFCD will continue to maintain close communication with the Police to step up intelligence exchange and cooperation with a view to combating relevant illegal activities.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB029

(Question Serial No. 0332)

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 paragraph 149 of the Budget Speech that the Government would set aside \$500 million and \$55 million to improve the country park facilities and hiking trails respectively. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) How will the 2 aforesaid provisions be used specifically?
- (b) Many country parks and hiking trails are crowded with people during holidays in recent years. Has the Government conducted any study on the carrying capacity of the local scenic attractions? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- (c) Has the Government reviewed the traffic planning and arrangement for those exceptionally popular scenic attractions? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

- (a) As announced in this year's Budget, the Government will set aside \$500 million to carry out enhancement works on facilities in some country parks, such as providing additional recreational elements like viewing platforms, glamping sites and tree top adventure; improving toilet facilities, barbecue and picnic sites; and revitalising some wartime relics by converting them into open museums, so as to enrich visitors' experience in the country parks and enable members of the public to better enjoy the fun of local countryside visits.

The new facilities will adopt low-carbon and green design that integrates with the natural surrounding, having regard to the needs of people of different ages and physical abilities. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is still identifying suitable sites for various enhancement of facilities at this stage.

Projects under the preliminary plan include setting up a new viewing platform overlooking Po Pin Chau in Fa Shan of the Sai Kung East Country Park, providing a glamping site in the Sai Kung West Country Park, adding recreation facilities suitable for people of different ages and physical abilities in the Aberdeen Country Park by reconstructing barbecue and picnic sites, as well as improving toilet facilities with higher utilisation rates, etc.

The above plan will be launched in 2021. After the first stage of site selection, design and detailed assessment, new facilities are expected to be rolled out gradually starting from 2 to 3 years onwards for public enjoyment.

As for projects of larger scale such as tree top adventure and open museums for wartime relics appreciation, their specific locations and details will be finalised after completion of the feasibility studies and consultation with stakeholders.

In addition, the Tourism Commission, in collaboration with the AFCD, will take forward the enhancement programme for hiking trails from 2021 to 2026 to promote green tourism. It involves a total of 10 hiking trails within country parks. The improvement works mainly include improvement to the coverage of the hiking trail network, control of soil erosion at the trails, enhancement of vegetation coverage, addition of lookout points and enrichment of information for visitors, etc. The estimated expenditure of the whole programme is \$55 million.

- (b) When designing the projects, the AFCD will identify suitable sites for detailed studies, taking into account the geographic conditions and other ancillary facilities to ensure that the operation of the facilities will not have long-term adverse impact on the environment of country parks. The AFCD will also provide various recreational facilities and improve the coverage of the hiking trail network and its linkage, with a view to diverting visitors with different needs to various country parks as far as possible to reduce the pressure arising from visits.

In addition, the AFCD will also closely monitor the visitor flow and environment of popular hiking trails or attractions, and when necessary, carry out appropriate improvement work such as repair of damaged trails, control of soil erosion at the trails, enhancement of vegetation coverage, enhancement of cleansing services, enrichment of information for visitors and promotion of public awareness on protecting the environment of country parks, etc.

- (c) For particularly popular countryside attractions, the AFCD has been communicating and coordinating closely with relevant departments such as the Transport Department (TD), the Hong Kong Police Force and the Home Affairs Department regarding relevant transportation planning and arrangements, and has made corresponding improvement measures according to actual circumstances. In addition, the TD has been closely monitoring public transport services to country parks and will work with public transport operators to strengthen existing services or introduce new services when necessary to meet passenger demand. The TD will continue to carry out the work as mentioned above.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB030

(Question Serial No. 0052)

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 has mentioned that it would continue to implement the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Hong Kong (BSAP). In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The manpower and resources allocated by the Government to BSAP over the past year. What were the specific projects and the amount of money involved for each project?
- (b) Currently, only 2.5% of the Hong Kong waters are protected. Will the Government consider increasing the area of protected waters in 2021-22? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- (c) Will resources be allocated to set up a dedicated independent body for marine protection, such as managing the network of marine parks?

Asked by: Hon LO Wai-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

- (a) 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 manpower and expenditure (revised estimate) involved in the implementation of BSAP by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in 2020-21 were 29 staff members and about \$42 million respectively, and the major projects implemented and relevant expenditure are as follows:
 - (i) enhancing the existing conservation measures, which include enhancing habitat management in protected areas, implementing species action plans for Incense

Tree and Chinese Pangolin, as well as improving identification and control of invasive alien species, involving an expenditure (revised estimate) of about \$10 million;

- (ii) mainstreaming biodiversity to facilitate the public and private sectors to take biodiversity into consideration in relevant policies, programmes, works and projects, involving an expenditure (revised estimate) of about \$2 million;
 - (iii) improving knowledge on biodiversity, such as monitoring and studying important habitats and species, developing a habitat map and a biodiversity information hub, as well as commissioning a study on ecosystem services, involving an expenditure (revised estimate) of about \$10 million; and
 - (iv) enhancing public awareness and participation in biodiversity through publicity and education activities to encourage the public to practise conservation, involving an expenditure (revised estimate) of about \$20 million.
- (b) To further protect the important marine habitats and species in the Hong Kong waters (e.g. Chinese White Dolphins and Finless Porpoises), the Government has been working to designate more marine parks over the past few years to protect their habitats. The Government designated the Southwest Lantau Marine Park in April last year and is preparing to designate the proposed South Lantau Marine Park and North Lantau Marine Park (i.e. the marine park for the three-runway project of the Hong Kong International Airport), of which the designation is expected to be completed in 2022 and 2024 respectively. Upon establishment of those marine parks, the total area of marine waters of the marine parks/reserves will increase 1.5 times from the original 3 400 hectares to over 8 500 hectares.
- (c) Marine conservation in Hong Kong is currently undertaken by the AFCD. Key measures being implemented include designating ecologically important waters as marine parks or marine reserves and managing the habitats and species in these protected areas; continuously studying and monitoring the biodiversity of Hong Kong's marine environment; formulating and adopting appropriate measures to conserve important marine species (e.g. Chinese White Dolphins, corals and turtles); implementing relevant public education and publicity programmes to enhance public awareness and participation in marine conservation; and jointly conserving precious marine ecology and resources in Mainland and Hong Kong waters through cross-border liaison and collaboration, etc. In addition, the Country and Marine Parks Board (the Board) advises the Government on the policies and programmes formulated in respect of the existing and proposed marine parks and marine reserves. Members of the Board come from various sectors and background (such as the academia, construction and surveying, green groups, agriculture and fisheries, education, ecotourism industry, etc.). In this regard, the Government considers that there is no need to set up another dedicated independent body for marine protection.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB031

(Question Serial No. 0198)

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 paragraph 51 of the Budget Speech that additional resources will be allocated to enhance country parks. The enhancement will improve people's quality of life when the epidemic is over and may also appeal to the visitors. Does the Bureau have any timetable for completion of such work and the estimated expenditure for the works of each facility?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 159)

Reply:

As announced in this year's Budget, the Government will set aside \$500 million to carry out enhancement works on facilities in some country parks, such as providing additional recreational elements like viewing platforms, glamping sites and tree top adventure; improving toilet facilities, barbecue and picnic sites; and revitalising some wartime relics by converting them into open museums, so as to enrich visitors' experience in the country parks and enable members of the public to better enjoy the fun of local countryside visits.

The new facilities will adopt low-carbon and green design that integrates with the natural surrounding, having regard to the needs of people of different ages and physical abilities. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is still identifying suitable sites for various enhancement of facilities at this stage. Projects under the preliminary plan include setting up a new viewing platform overlooking Po Pin Chau in Fa Shan of the Sai Kung East Country Park, providing a glamping site in the Sai Kung West Country Park, adding recreation facilities suitable for people of different ages and physical abilities in the Aberdeen Country Park by reconstructing barbecue and picnic sites, as well as improving toilet facilities with higher utilisation rates, etc.

The above plan will be launched in 2021. After the first stage of site selection, design and detailed assessment, the new facilities are expected to be rolled out gradually starting from 2 to 3 years onwards for public enjoyment.

As for projects of larger scale such as tree top adventure and open museums for wartime relics appreciation, their specific locations and details will be finalised after completion of the feasibility studies and consultation with stakeholders.

In addition, the Tourism Commission, in collaboration with the AFCD, will take forward the enhancement programme for hiking trails from 2021 to 2026 to promote green tourism. It involves a total of 10 hiking trails within country parks. The enhancement works mainly include improvement to the coverage of the hiking trail network, control of soil erosion at the trails, enhancement of vegetation coverage, addition of lookout points and enrichment of information for visitors, etc. The estimated expenditure of the whole programme is \$55 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB032

(Question Serial No. 2420)

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 patrols conducted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in tabular form as follows:

Areas managed/Year	2019-20 (Actual)	2020-21 (as of February 2021) (Actual)	2021-22 (Estimate)
Country parks and special areas			
Marine parks			
Marine reserve			

- (b) Please set out the number of prosecutions related to offences under the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations and the Marine Parks and Marine Reserves Regulation respectively in 2020.

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 55)

Reply:

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

Areas managed	2019-20 (Actual)	2020-21 (as of February 2021) (Actual)	2021-22 (Estimate)
Country parks and special areas	14 194	12 542	14 000
Marine parks	2 699	1 879	2 600
Marine reserve	455	446	450

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

Year	Number of successful prosecutions
2018	724
2019	574
2020	678

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

Year	Number of successful prosecutions
2018	10
2019	10
2020	5

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB033

(Question Serial No. 2430)

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 nature conservation and management of the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site (the Ramsar Site), would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The permanent establishment of and expenditure incurred by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in nature conservation and management of the Ramsar Site;
- (b) The number of special permits issued for entering the Mai Po Marshes Restricted Area over the past 5 years (please set out by nature of activity);
- (c) The number of prosecutions instituted against the contravention of the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance by entering or staying in the Ramsar Site over the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 68)

Reply:

- (a) The work carried out by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) for the conservation and management of the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site includes monitoring of the ecological conditions of the wetland; wetland habitat management, law enforcement to protect the species within the area and providing advice on conservation and wise use of wetland for planning/development proposals in and around the wetland area. The expenditure and manpower involved in the said work in 2020-21 were about \$27 million and 13 staff members respectively.
- (b) The Mai Po Marshes is a restricted area designated under the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170) (the Ordinance). Any person who needs to enter the Mai Po Marshes for bird watching, scientific research or nature conservation activities, must possess a permit issued by the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation.

The number of permits issued by the AFCD for entering the Mai Po Marshes over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of permits
2016-17	1 468
2017-18	1 480
2018-19	1 364
2019-20	1 300
2020-21 (as of February 2021)	1 411

The AFCD does not have the breakdown of permits issued by nature of activity.

- (c) The number of prosecutions instituted by the AFCD against the contravention of the Ordinance by entering or staying in the Mai Po Marshes over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of prosecutions
2016-17	24
2017-18	39
2018-19	10
2019-20	40
2020-21 (as of February 2021)	40

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB034

(Question Serial No. 0671)

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's estimate for production and planting of seedlings in 2021-22 is higher than that in 2020-21. Would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The reason(s) for such increase.
- (b) In 2020-21, what are the number of seedlings produced and planted respectively? Please set out by the 18 districts.
- (c) In 2021-22, what are the number of seedlings estimated to be produced and planted respectively? Please set out by the 18 districts.

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

- (a) The number of seedlings produced and planted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has slightly dropped in 2020 as a result of the epidemic. Therefore, the estimated numbers of seedlings to be produced and planted in 2021 have been adjusted appropriately to meet the need of the tree planting work in country parks.

(b) and (c) All seedlings are propagated in the Tai Tong Nursery. The numbers of seedlings produced and planted in 2020 and 2021 are tabulated as follows:

(i) The total number of seedlings for production and planting:

	2020 (Actual)	2021 (Estimate)
Seedlings produced (number)	228 600	260 000
Seedlings planted (number) ^{Note 1}	220 100	250 000

Note 1: The seedlings produced are mainly planted in country parks and about 10 000 seedlings are provided to other departments for urban planting purpose.

(ii) The number of seedlings for planting in country park areas by district

Note 2 :

	2020 (Actual)	2021 (Estimate)
Eastern	300	300
Islands	80 100	71 000
North	13 000	83 000
Sai Kung	31 000	14 000
Sha Tin	15 600	8 000
Southern	700	400
Tai Po	7 400	3 000
Tsuen Wan	9 900	8 000
Tuen Mun	27 600	50 000
Wan Chai	0	300
Yuen Long	34 500	12 000

Note 2: There is no country park in Kowloon City, Kwun Tong, Sham Shui Po, Yau Tsim Mong and Kwai Tsing districts. In addition, no planting of seedlings was/will be carried out in Wong Tai Sin (in which there is only a small area of Ma On Shan Country Park) and the Central and Western District in 2020 and 2021.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB035

(Question Serial No. 0672)

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 under the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22 that the Government would continue the implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Hong Kong. What are the specific initiatives concerned? What are the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

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. In 2021-22, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has earmarked a provision of about \$25 million to continue the implementation of some long-term and sustainable measures under BSAP. It is expected to involve a total of 26 staff members. Key measures include:

- (i) enhancing the existing conservation measures, which include enhancing habitat management in protected areas, further implementing species action plans for Incense Tree and Chinese Pangolin, as well as improving identification and control of invasive alien species, etc.;
- (ii) mainstreaming biodiversity to facilitate the public and private sectors to take biodiversity into consideration in relevant policies, programmes, works and projects;
- (iii) improving knowledge on biodiversity, such as monitoring and studying important habitats and species, developing a habitat map and a biodiversity information hub, as well as commissioning a study on ecosystem services; and
- (iv) enhancing public awareness and participation in biodiversity through publicity and education activities to encourage the public to practise conservation.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB036

(Question Serial No. 0673)

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 2021-22 that the Government will strengthen the control of trade in endangered species and combat their illegal trade and smuggling. What are the specific initiatives concerned? What are the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

The Government is committed to protecting every endangered species and regulates the trade in endangered species by implementing the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586), with a view to fulfilling the requirements of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) . In view of the amendments made to the species listed in the Appendices to CITES and some of the content adopted at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES held in August 2019 ^{Note}, the Government has made the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Amendment of Schedules 1 and 3) Order 2021 (the Amendment Order) to reflect the latest requirements of CITES. The Government solicited views from stakeholders on the Amendment Order in 2019 and consulted the Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs on the relevant legislative amendments in January 2021. The Amendment Order is currently under the negative vetting procedure and will come into effect on 30 April 2021.

Apart from that, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has also implemented a series of measures that aim at curbing smuggling of endangered species and strengthening the control of local trade in endangered species. The measures include, deploying sniffer dogs to assist in detecting smuggling of endangered species at import and export control points, conducting inspections at markets and shops that might sell endangered species from time to time, as well as developing and applying new technologies to assist in enforcement, for example, using hi-tech radiocarbon dating analysis for

determining the age and legality of ivory, etc. The AFCD also conducts joint operations with the Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) at various import and export control points to combat illegal import and export of endangered species from time to time. They also collaborate with overseas and Mainland law enforcement agencies through joint operations and intelligence exchange to combat smuggling of endangered species.

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

The AFCD's manpower and estimated expenditure for controlling trade and combating smuggling of endangered species in 2021-22 are about 60 staff members and \$51 million respectively.

Note: The amendments involved multiple lizard species, salamanders, sea cucumbers, mako sharks, otters, turtles and tortoises, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB037

(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:

It is mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22 that the Government would implement the expansion of the Sham Wan Restricted Area on Lamma Island and extension of the restricted period to enhance protection of Green Turtles. What are the specific details? What are the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

To better protect Green Turtles, the Government will expand the restricted area at Sham Wan, Lamma Island (Sham Wan Restricted Area) from the 0.5-hectare sandy beach to the sea inlet adjoining the beach (about 98.2 hectares). The restricted period will also be extended from 5 months each year to 7 months (i.e. from 1 April to 31 October) each year. The Government has completed the relevant legislative amendments and the relevant measures will come into effect on 1 April 2021.

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will take forward multi-pronged measures to enhance management of the Sham Wan Restricted Area with a view to protecting Green Turtles. They include setting up notice boards at conspicuous locations of the headlands of the sea inlet of Sham Wan and road entrances to Sham Wan for demarcating the boundary of the Sham Wan Restricted Area, reminding passing vessels and the public not to enter the area without permission during the restricted period, stepping up patrol by sea and on land against unauthorised entry during the restricted period each year, installing a remote surveillance camera system to monitor the restricted area as well as removing abandoned fishing nets, rubbish and unwanted vegetation at the Sham Wan Restricted Area regularly to maintain suitable habitats for the breeding of Green Turtles, etc.

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

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB038

(Question Serial No. 0473)

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 recent years, hikers and visitors are ever increasing and still on a rising trend. The many visitors will bring about negative impacts on the ecology and environment. In this connection, will the Department advise on the following:

- (a) Is there any action plan on public education and publicity this year to remind residents to protect the country parks and ecological environment? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- (b) Has any review been conducted to examine whether the current enforcement action is sufficient? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- (c) Will the Department collaborate with relevant departments to enhance enforcement with a view to curbing the situation from deteriorating? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham (LegCo internal reference no.: 79)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) attaches great importance to the publicity and education programmes regarding the protection of country parks. It continues to promote the messages of keeping country parks clean and conserving the nature to countryside visitors through various channels. The AFCD has been implementing the "Take Your Litter Home" publicity and education programme together with green groups and hiking groups since 2015, and has installed water filling stations in country parks. The programme enables the public's participation in the protection of the countryside by nurturing their good habits of taking away their own litter and bringing their own water bottles, etc. when visiting country parks.

The AFCD also displays promotional banners and posters at suitable locations in country parks, appeals to the public through social media and radio programmes to protect the environment and maintain environmental hygiene while visiting the countryside and avoid crowded places during peak times, as well as places advertisements on public transport and media to carry out relevant promotion, etc. In view of the large number of people visiting country parks recently, the AFCD has employed green ambassadors to promote the concept of “Leave No Trace”, such as “Take Your Litter Home”, “bring own bottle to reduce single-use plastic consumables” and “proper disposal of masks”, etc. to the general public at popular hiking spots.

- (b) and (c) The AFCD is committed to combating illegal activities in country parks so as to protect the natural environment. The AFCD staff conduct patrol in country parks and special areas in various districts to monitor the conditions of country parks and the use of related facilities by visitors. If irregularities such as littering, illegal camping or lighting of fires, illegal plucking or damaging of plants are detected, the AFCD will take enforcement actions against the persons involved under the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations (Cap. 208A) (the Regulations) and other relevant legislation. Over the past 3 years, the number of convicted cases under the Regulations were 724 (in 2018), 574 (in 2019) and 678 (in 2020) respectively, and the offenders were fined from \$100 to \$2,000.

In the light that many members of the public have visited country parks since the epidemic last year, the AFCD has stepped up patrol and law enforcement at popular hiking spots. The AFCD will review and adjust the patrolling arrangements in country parks from time to time in the light of the situation and conduct special operations at specific locations when necessary to combat the irregularities in country parks. It will also conduct joint operations with relevant law enforcement departments to enhance publicity, inspection, enforcement, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB039

(Question Serial No. 1686)

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:

During 2021-22, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will focus on the promotion of public education and publicity on nature conservation and compatible use of country parks and marine parks. Regarding the enhancement of the education and recreation functions of country parks, \$500 million and \$55 million will be set aside to enhance the facilities and hiking trails in country parks respectively. In this connection, will the Government advise of the details of relevant measures and the breakdown of the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (LegCo internal reference no.: 42)

Reply:

As announced in this year's Budget, the Government will set aside \$500 million to carry out enhancement works on facilities in some country parks, such as providing additional recreational elements like viewing platforms, glamping sites and tree top adventure; improving toilet facilities, barbecue and picnic sites; and revitalising some wartime relics by converting them into open museums, so as to enrich visitors' experience in the country parks and enable members of the public to better enjoy the fun of local countryside visits.

The new facilities will adopt low-carbon and green design that integrates with the natural surrounding, having regard to the needs of people of different ages and physical abilities. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is still identifying suitable sites for various enhancement of facilities at this stage. Projects under the preliminary plan include setting up a new viewing platform overlooking Po Pin Chau in Fa Shan of the Sai Kung East Country Park, providing a glamping site in the Sai Kung West Country Park, adding recreation facilities suitable for people of different ages and physical abilities in the Aberdeen Country Park by reconstructing barbecue and picnic sites, as well as improving toilet facilities with higher utilisation rates, etc.

The above plan will be launched in 2021. After the first stage of site selection, design and detailed assessment, new facilities are expected to be rolled out gradually starting from 2 to 3 years onwards for public enjoyment.

As for projects of larger scale such as tree top adventure and open museums for wartime relics appreciation, their specific locations and details will be finalised after completion of the feasibility studies and consultation with stakeholders.

In addition, the Tourism Commission, in collaboration with the AFCD, will take forward the enhancement programme for hiking trails from 2021 to 2026 to promote green tourism. It involves a total of 10 hiking trails within country parks. The improvement works mainly include improvement to the coverage of the hiking trail network, control of soil erosion at the trails, enhancement of vegetation coverage, addition of lookout points and enrichment of information for visitors, etc. The estimated expenditure of the whole programme is \$55 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB040

(Question Serial No. 0551)

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 paragraph 149 of the Budget that \$500 million will be set aside to carry out enhancement works on facilities in some country parks, such as providing recreational elements like additional lookout points, treetop adventure and glamping sites, improving toilet facilities and barbeque and picnic sites, and revitalising some wartime relics by converting them into open museums so as to enrich visitors' experience and enjoyment at the countryside. It is also mentioned that \$55 million has been earmarked for the Tourism Commission to work with the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department to take forward the second phase of the enhancement programme for 10 popular hiking trails in country parks that have potential for tourism in the coming 5 years, with a view to enriching leisure experience of the public and visitors.

- (a) How does the Government assess the carry capacities of the aforesaid country parks?
- (b) What are the assessment criteria?
- (c) What is the outcome of the assessment?

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

As announced in this year's Budget, the Government will set aside \$500 million to carry out enhancement works on facilities in some country parks, such as providing additional recreational elements like viewing platforms, glamping sites and tree top adventure; improving toilet facilities, barbecue and picnic sites; and revitalising some wartime relics by converting them into open museums, so as to enrich visitors' experience in the country parks and enable members of the public to better enjoy the fun of local countryside visits. The new facilities will adopt low-carbon and green design that integrates with the natural surrounding, having regard to the needs of people of different ages and physical abilities.

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is still identifying suitable sites for various enhancement of facilities at this stage.

In addition, the Tourism Commission, in collaboration with the AFCD, will take forward the enhancement programme for hiking trails from 2021 to 2026 to promote green tourism. It involves a total of 10 hiking trails within country parks. The improvement works mainly include improvement to the coverage of the hiking trail network, control of soil erosion at the trails, enhancement of vegetation coverage, addition of lookout points and enrichment of visitor information, etc. The estimated expenditure of the whole programme is \$55 million.

When designing the projects, the AFCD will identify suitable sites for detailed studies, taking into account the geographic conditions and other ancillary facilities to ensure that the operation of the facilities will not have long-term adverse impact on the environment of country parks. The AFCD will also provide various recreational facilities and improve the coverage of the hiking trail network and its linkage, with a view to diverting visitors with different needs to various country parks as far as possible to reduce the pressure arising from visits.

In addition, the AFCD will also closely monitor the visitor flow and environment of popular hiking trails or attractions, and when necessary, carry out appropriate improvement work such as repair of damaged trails, control of soil erosion at the trails, enhancement of vegetation coverage, enhancement of cleansing services, enrichment of information for visitors and promotion of public awareness on protecting the environment of country parks, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB041

(Question Serial No. 0182)

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 will set aside of \$500 million to carry out enhancement works on facilities in some country parks, such as providing recreational elements like additional lookout points, treetop adventure and glamping sites, improving toilet facilities and barbeque and picnic sites, and revitalising some wartime relics by converting them into open museums so as to enrich visitors' experience and enjoyment at the countryside.

- (a) Regarding the enhancement of facilities, which country parks are involved? What is the work schedule and the estimated expenditure for the improvement projects this year?
- (b) What projects are involved in the revitalisation of some wartime relics by converting them into open museums and the estimated expenditure for each project?
- (c) Will an open design competition be organised for some of these projects to enable professionals to unleash their creativity? If yes, what is the estimated number of projects? Will open museums be included?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 130)

Reply:

- (a) and (b) As announced in this year's Budget, the Government will set aside \$500 million to carry out enhancement works on facilities in some country parks, such as providing additional recreational elements like viewing platforms, glamping sites and tree top adventure; improving toilet facilities, barbecue and picnic sites; and revitalising some wartime relics by converting them into open museums, so as to enrich visitors' experience at the country parks and enable members of the public to better enjoy the fun of local countryside visits.

The new facilities will adopt low-carbon and green design that integrates with the natural surrounding, having regard to the needs of people of different ages

and physical abilities. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is still identifying suitable sites for various enhancement of facilities at this stage. Projects in the preliminary plan include setting up a new viewing platform overlooking Po Pin Chau in Fa Shan of the Sai Kung East Country Park, providing a glamping site in the Sai Kung West Country Park, adding recreation facilities suitable for people of different ages and physical abilities in the Aberdeen Country Park by reconstructing barbecue and picnic sites, as well as improving toilet facilities with higher utilisation rates, etc.

The above plan will be launched in 2021. After the first stage of site selection, design and detailed assessment, new facilities are expected to be rolled out gradually starting from 2 to 3 years onwards for public enjoyment.

As for projects of larger scale such as tree top adventure and open museums for wartime relics appreciation, their specific locations and details will be finalised after completion of the feasibility studies and consultation with stakeholders.

- (c) The AFCD will consider organising design competitions for suitable projects. Currently, in collaboration with the Architectural Services Department, the AFCD is organising a design competition for professionals on the new viewing platform in Fa Shan of the Sai Kung East Country Park.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB042

(Question Serial No. 1445)

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 Financial Secretary, \$500 million will be set aside to carry out enhancement works on facilities in some country parks, such as providing recreational elements like additional lookout points, treetop adventure and glamping sites, improving toilet facilities and barbeque and picnic sites, and revitalising some wartime relics by converting them into open museums so as to enrich visitors' experience and enjoyment at the countryside. How will the provision be allocated? Which country parks will be given priority in funding allocation to enhance their facilities? What is the implementation timetable of the whole project?

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

As announced in this year's Budget, the Government will set aside \$500 million to carry out enhancement works on facilities in some country parks, such as providing additional recreational elements like viewing platforms, glamping sites and tree top adventure; improving toilet facilities, barbecue and picnic sites; and revitalising some wartime relics by converting them into open museums, so as to enrich visitors' experience in the country parks and enable members of the public to better enjoy the fun of local countryside visits.

The new facilities will adopt low-carbon and green design that integrates with the natural surrounding, having regard to the needs of people of different ages and physical abilities. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department is still identifying suitable sites for various enhancement of facilities at this stage. Projects under the preliminary plan include setting up a new viewing platform overlooking Po Pin Chau in Fa Shan of the Sai Kung East Country Park, providing a glamping site in the Sai Kung West Country Park, providing recreation facilities suitable for people of different ages and physical abilities in the Aberdeen Country Park by reconstructing barbecue and picnic sites, as well as improving toilet facilities with higher utilisation rates, etc.

The above plan will be launched in 2021. After the first stage of site selection, design and detailed assessment, new facilities are expected to be rolled out gradually starting from 2 to 3 years onwards for public enjoyment.

As for projects of larger scale such as tree top adventure and open museums for wartime relics appreciation, their specific locations and details will be finalised after completion of the feasibility studies and consultation with stakeholders.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)014

(Question Serial No. 1410)

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:

Regarding the construction works of the Agriculture Park (Agri-Park) Phase 1, please advise of the following:

- (a) What is the progress of the preparation work? Is there a specific timetable for the opening of Agri-Park in phases?
- (b) How many farmers are expected to be benefited by Phase 1 of the project and when will it be open for application?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 46)

Reply:

- (a) The construction of infrastructure of the Agriculture Park (Agri-Park) Phase 1 has commenced and will be completed in stages between the end of this year and early 2023. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will formulate proposals for the management and development of the Agri-Park. Agri-Park Phase 1 is expected to come into full operation in early 2023.
- (b) So far, 15 farmers affected by government development projects (including the Agri-Park) have indicated their intention to resume farming in the Agri-Park. AFCD will continue to process the applications for renting agricultural land in the Agri-Park from farmers who are affected by the government development projects that happen to take place within the same timeframe and wish to resume farming. If agricultural land is available after processing the applications made by the said farmers, AFCD will announce the details of open application for renting agricultural land in the Agri-Park in due course.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)015

(Question Serial No. 1938)

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 strengthened the regulation of animal trading and dog breeding activities since 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) How many licences were issued each year?
- (c) How many licensed dog breeding establishments whose licences were cancelled or not renewed each year?
- (d) How many dogs were bred locally each year? What were their species?
- (e) How many times did the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department collect DNA samples of registered breeding dogs and offspring for examination? How many samples did not pass the DNA test? If the parentage test revealed that their DNA profiles did not match, how would the Government follow up the case?
- (f) What were the respective numbers of complaints received and substantiated cases each year? What were the number of prosecutions and the penalties imposed?
- (g) What were the number of regular inspections, surprise inspections and decoy operations conducted (including those conducted on the internet) each year?
- (h) Would the regime be extended to cover cats? If so, what are the estimated resources required accordingly?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 40)

Reply:

- (a) The Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations (Cap. 139B) (the Regulations) came into effect on 20 March 2017 to strengthen the regulation of animal trading and dog breeding activities. The expenditure and manpower involved in the related regulatory work of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 3 years are tabulated below.

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (number of staff)
2018-19	17.2	30
2019-20	18.7	30
2020-21 (revised estimate)	18.0	30

- (b) The number of Animal Trader Licences (ATLs), Dog Breeder Licences (DBLs) and one-off permits issued by AFCD in each of the past 3 year is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of licences issued			
	ATL	DBL (category A)	DBL (category B)	One-off permit
2018	317	12	22	3
2019	281	9	24	3
2020	291	8	25	1

- (c) Over the past 3 years, there were 15 licensed dog breeding establishments (including DBL (category A) and DBL (category B)) whose licences were cancelled or not renewed. The details are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of licences cancelled or not renewed	
	DBL (category A)	DBL (category B)
2018	4	0
2019	5	2
2020	4	0

- (d) The number of dogs bred by local licensed dog breeding establishments over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of dogs bred by licensed dog breeding establishments
2018	1 962
2019	2 061
2020	1 901

The breeds of dogs were mainly Poodle, Shiba Inu, Corgi, Pomeranian and Bichon Frise.

- (e) AFCD has conducted a total of 2 191 DNA parentage tests (including re-verification) for enrolled female dogs and offspring to verify their parental relationship over the past 3 years, and it was found that 20 offspring did not tally with the parentage of the enrolled female dogs as specified on the Dog Breeder's Declaration by the licence holder. Since there were suspected breaches of the licensing condition, AFCD had conducted investigations and taken follow-up actions, including re-verification of samples and

taking statements from the licence holders concerned, etc. Upon investigation, AFCD found that 13 of the 20 offspring mentioned above were actually offspring of other enrolled female dogs kept by the licence holders concerned and it was believed that the licence holders or their staff had accidentally mixed up the dogs. AFCD therefore issued warnings to the licence holders concerned and required them to improve their dog identification method. As for the cases involving the remaining 7 offspring, the licence holders concerned were not prosecuted due to insufficient evidence.

- (f) 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 over the past 3 years 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	Fine (\$)	Number of cases	Fine (\$)
2018	309	0	N/A	34 [^]	2,000 to 10,000
2019	237	2	2,000	34 [^]	600 to 20,000
2020	269	3	2,000	28	800 to 15,000

[^] 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.

- (g) The number of inspections (including routine ones, surprise checks and decoy operations) conducted on animal trading and dog breeding activities over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number
2018	4 735
2019	4 259
2020	3 531

- (h) AFCD amended the Regulations in 2017 to strengthen the regulation of dog breeding and trading activities mainly in consideration of the fact that cases in which the welfare of dogs being compromised during the process of breeding activities were more frequently found, and stricter regulation of dog breeding and trading activities was also for the prevention and control of the spread of rabies from the public health perspective. We will monitor the situation of cat trading and breeding activities and conduct a review when necessary.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)016

(Question Serial No. 1939)

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 successful prosecutions instituted under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (the Ordinance) and the penalty imposed on each case?
- (d) 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?
- (e) What was the number of prosecutions not instituted by the Department of Justice under the Ordinance? What were the details?
- (f) The Government has proposed reviewing the Ordinance. What is the progress?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 41)

Reply:

- (a) to (c) 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 by AFCD 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)
2018-19	17	3.2
2019-20	17	3.3
2020-21 (revised estimate)	17	2.9

The number of suspected animal cruelty reports received and details of successful prosecutions instituted by AFCD and the Police under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169) (the Ordinance) 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
2018	368	22	2,000 to 6,000	14 days to 1 year
2019	288	25	2,000 to 8,000	14 days to 10 months
2020 (up to September)	199	9	N/A	14 days to 8 months

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

- (d) to (e) The Department of Justice (DoJ) has not compiled the relevant statistics. Similar to other criminal cases, after the court has imposed a sentence for a local animal cruelty case, DoJ will carefully consider the relevant information, including the reports of the prosecutors, the relevant sentencing principles and the reasons for sentence of the courts. If the sentence is “not authorised by law, wrong in principle or manifestly excessive or manifestly inadequate”, DoJ may take the case further. For instance, DoJ lodged applications to the magistracy and the Court of Appeal respectively on the same case in 2017, requesting for a review of sentence in respect of the charge of “cruelty to animals” under the Ordinance.
- (f) The Government proposes to amend the Ordinance to further safeguard animal welfare. Proposed amendments include introducing a positive duty of care on persons responsible for animals to provide for their welfare needs, as well as enhancing the provisions for prevention of animal cruelty, including the increase in the penalties, the introduction of an indictable offence, and the enhancement of enforcement powers to prevent and protect animals from suffering. The Government conducted a public consultation on the above proposals in 2019 and reported the results of the consultation to the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene of the Legislative Council in April 2020. We understand the public’s concerns and expectations towards the legislative amendment, and the

drafting of the legislation is now in full swing. Once the drafting work is completed, we will introduce the bill to the Legislative Council for scrutiny as soon as practicable.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)017

(Question Serial No. 1940)

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

- (a) How many dogs in Hong Kong have been involved in the TNR programme? Are they tracked by the Government?
- (b) Does the Government plan to implement the TNR programme for community dogs again? If yes, what are the details?
- (c) Further to the above question, what are the expenditure and manpower earmarked?
- (d) How many complaints about community dogs have been received by the Government over the past 3 years?
- (e) Has the Government received any proposal from animal welfare organisations to conduct the programme in specific districts? If yes, what are the details?
- (f) Will the Government seek the support from the 18 District Councils for conducting the programme? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 43)

Reply:

- (a) The Trap-Neuter-Return trial programme (the programme) was conducted at the 2 trial sites in Cheung Chau and Tai Tong, Yuen Long from February 2015 to January 2018. Although the trial period has ended, the 2 coordinating organisations participating in the programme have agreed to continue managing the trial sites and monitoring the dogs recorded for the programme, and will regularly provide the

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) with reports on the condition, average lifespan and changes of the population of the dogs concerned. As at January 2021, a total of 106 dogs have been neutered under the programme and returned to their original locations.

- (b), (c), (e) and (f) While the programme did not achieve the performance target of reducing the number of stray dogs at the trial sites, AFCD keeps an open mind towards animal welfare organisations (AWOs) or other organisations who are interested in conducting the programme in other locations. To this end, AFCD issued letters to AWOs inviting their views on sites that may be suitable for conducting the programme. The letter is also available on the Department's thematic website (www.pets.gov.hk). In addition, AFCD introduces the details and way forward of the programme to various District Councils from time to time upon receiving their enquiries and invitation to meetings.

Upon receipt of a proposal on new trial site from AWOs, AFCD will consider a range of factors, including population density, community facilities in the vicinity and traffic condition, in order to determine if the location is suitable for conducting the 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 and the introduction of the programme, with a view to enlisting their support and proposing respective legislative amendments.

AFCD received a proposal from the World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong (WWF Hong Kong) in 2020 for launching the programme in the vicinity of Mai Po, Yuen Long. The site was considered suitable for launching the programme upon preliminary assessment by AFCD. WWF Hong Kong is liaising with relevant stakeholders. If the programme is supported by local communities, AFCD will render assistance, strengthen liaison with local stakeholders as well as propose respective legislative amendments. AFCD will earmark appropriate resources for the relevant work.

- (d) The numbers of complaints about stray dog nuisance received by AFCD in 2018, 2019 and 2020 were 3 751, 3 259 and 1 568 respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)018

(Question Serial No. 1941)

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 work of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) on animal management over the past 3 years, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The number and breakdown of animals caught each year and their sources;
- (b) The number of animals received by each animal management centre (AMC) each year;
- (c) The number of animals neutered, rehomed and euthanised by animal type;
- (d) The manpower and turnover rates of each AMC;
- (e) The operational expenditure of each AMC;
- (f) The number of inspections and enforcement actions taken as well as prosecutions instituted 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 cats and dogs permitted to be imported and exported;
- (i) The number of cats and dogs traded each year by animal traders who were required to provide the relevant transaction records upon request from AFCD; and
- (j) The number of smuggled animals each year.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 45)

Reply:

- (a) At present, stray animals caught are mainly 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
2018	1 235	547	1 369	3 151
2019	965	304	1 031	2 300
2020	603	209	997	1 809

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

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

AMC	2018			2019			2020		
	Dogs	Cats	Others ²	Dogs	Cats	Others ²	Dogs	Cats	Other ²
AMC/HK	342	101	11	282	52	17	157	49	29
AMC/K	409	219	44	294	121	35	205	101	38
AMC/NTS	364	111	100	394	88	134	245	52	608
AMC/NTN	1 139	258	6 033 ³	895	181	2 890 ⁴	798	114	754
Total	2 254	689	6 188	1 865	442	3 076	1 405	316	1 429

² Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptiles, 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 upon detection of avian influenza in Yuen Po Street Bird Garden in April 2018.

⁴ Including animals confiscated under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586).

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

Year	Number of rehomed animals neutered		
	Dogs	Cats	Rabbits
2018	157	36	6
2019	129	45	5
2020 (up to November)	135	39	9

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

Year	Number of animals rehomed		
	Dogs	Cats	Others ⁵
2018	577	89	87

Year	Number of animals rehomed		
	Dogs	Cats	Others ⁵
2019	547	78	44
2020	427	80	412

⁵ Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptiles, 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
2018	1 026	333	5 007 ⁷
2019	837	219	2 363 ⁸
2020	602	99	470

⁶ Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptiles, pigs/cattle, 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 Including 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
2018-19	4	184	0%	9.8%
2019-20	4	183	0%	8.7%
2020-21	4	184	0%	6.0%

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
2018-19	26.5	18.7	22.0	18.7
2019-20	27.5	18.9	23.2	18.9
2020-21 (revised estimate)	28.1	19.0	23.3	19.0

- (f) 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
2018	5 596	0	N/A	N/A
2019	5 195	2	\$2,000	\$2,000
2020	4 355	3	\$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
2018	8	188
2019	7	173
2020	1 ¹⁰	28 ¹⁰

¹⁰ The numbers of sessions and participants of the Dog Obedience Training Course were comparatively lower than those in previous years due to the COVID-19 epidemic and the need to avoid crowd gathering.

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. We will review and adjust the course taking into account the feedback from the learners in a timely manner.

- (h) The import of live animals 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 to cats and dogs over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of permits issued¹¹ (Cats and dogs)
2018	6 236
2019	6 585
2020	5 957

¹¹ A permit may cover one or multiple cats and dogs. AFCD does not have a breakdown on the number of permits issued by categories of cats and dogs.

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 cats and dogs issued by AFCD over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of animal health certificates issued¹² (Cats and dogs)
2018	3 352
2019	3 825
2020	3 731

¹² An animal health certificate may cover one or multiple cats and dogs. AFCD does not have a separate breakdown on the number of such certificates issued by categories of cats and dogs.

- (i) The licensing conditions stipulated in the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations (Cap. 139B) do not require animal traders to provide figures related to sale of animals. According to the statistics of AFCD, the total number of dogs sold by licensed animal trading premises in 2019 and 2020 was about 3 000 and 2 200 respectively.
- (j) The number of illegally imported 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
2018	7	3	533	4 258	0	0
2019	24	31	623	2 159	3	48 kg and 292 reptiles
2020	16	418	564	297	0	0

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)019

(Question Serial No. 1942)

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 was the number of cases failing to comply with the requirement of vaccination against rabies? What were the number of prosecutions instituted and penalties imposed?
- (e) What were the number of prosecutions related to and the penalties for animal keepers abandoning their animals without reasonable excuses?
- (f) What were the number of prosecutions related to and the penalties for failing to keep dogs under proper control?
- (g) What was the number of dog bite cases received each year?
- (h) 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.: 46)

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)
2018-19	38.1	188
2019-20	37.4	187
2020-21 (revised estimate)	38.3	188

- (b) Under section 20 of the Rabies Regulation (Cap. 421A) (the Regulation), a dog aged over 5 months is required to be licensed every 3 years. The number of dog licences issued by AFCD over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of dog licences issued
2018	59 034
2019	56 092
2020	52 643

The number of dog licences newly issued over the past 3 years by their sources is tabulated as follows:

Source of the dogs	Number of dog licences newly issued		
	2018	2019	2020
Dog breeding establishments and dog trading premises	2 062	2 868	2 546
Legally imported	2 564	2 958	2 920
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.	811	613	270
Other sources	8 955	9 122	9 157
Total	14 392	15 561	14 893

“Other sources” mainly include puppies born of privately owned pet dogs and some stray dogs handed over 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)
2018-19	0.9
2019-20	1.0
2020-21 (revised estimate)	0.8

- (d) Under section 20 of the Regulation, a dog aged over 5 months is required to be licensed, and must be vaccinated against rabies prior to the grant of the licence. Information on the number of convictions for violation of the above requirement over the past 3 years and the relevant penalties is tabulated as follows:

Year	Without a valid dog licence	
	Number of convicted cases	Heaviest penalty imposed
2018	317	A fine of \$1,500
2019	288	A fine of \$2,000
2020	210	A fine of \$2,000

- (e) and (f) 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	Failing to keep dogs under proper control in public places	
	Number of convicted cases	Heaviest penalty imposed
2018	140	A fine of \$1,500
2019	169	A fine of \$3,000
2020	103	A fine of \$2,000

- (g) The number of dog biting cases received by AFCD over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of dog biting cases
2018	1 354
2019	1 067
2020	970

- (h) 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
2018	169	12	0	0	383	2
2019	102	8	2	0	205	3
2020	118	3	0	0	375	4

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)020

(Question Serial No. 1943)

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 the safety of pet food, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) What was the figure of imported pet food each year, and what was the local demand?
- (b) What was the number 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 was the number 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.: 48)

Reply:

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

Year	Quantity of pet food imported (kg)
2018	62 782 532
2019	67 435 913
2020	70 717 889

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

- (b) AFCD received 5, 6 and 3 complaints in 2018, 2019 and 2020 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) and (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. The results of all samples tested are within the limits permitted by major pet food producing countries/places. AFCD will continue to closely monitor the local situation and keep in view further development on the international front related to the safety of pet food products.
- (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)021

(Question Serial No. 1945)

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 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.: 50)

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	Number of newly registered veterinary surgeons		
	2018	2019	2020
Australia	33	24	17
Canada	0	1	0
Europe*	1	1	4
Germany	0	1	1
Ireland	1	1	0
Italy	0	0	1
New Zealand	2	4	2
South Africa	2	2	3
Taiwan	32	27	8
United Kingdom	14	19	18
United States	7	7	6
Total	92	87	60

* Holder of a veterinary specialist qualification recognised 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 2018, 2019 and 2020 was 39, 41 and 47 respectively.

Some veterinary surgeons have more than one specialty. Details of the specialities (showing position as at 31 December 2020) are tabulated as follows:

Speciality	Number of veterinary surgeons
Anesthesia and Analgesia	3
Avian Practice	2
Canine and Feline Practice	3
Companion Animals (Internal Medicine)	2
Dental Practice	1
Dermatology	2
Emergency and Critical Care	3
Equine Surgery	1
Exotic Companion Mammal Practice	2
Feline Medicine	2
Internal Medicine (Cardiology)	3
Internal Medicine (Oncology)	4
Neurology	1
Ophthalmology	3
Poultry Practice	1
Public Health and Food Hygiene	1
Public Health (Population Medicine)	1
Small Animal Internal Medicine	5
Small Animal Surgery	5
Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging	2
Veterinary Pathology	4
Zoological Medicine	1

- (c) According to VSB, the number of local registered veterinary surgeons in 2018, 2019 and 2020 was 988, 1 049 and 1 075 respectively.

The veterinarian-to-pet ratio is a common indicator for assessing the overall situation of veterinary services: the higher 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 2019 and 2020, 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 above 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 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
2018	51 [#]	41	1	8	7
2019	41 [#]	32	1	2 [^]	1
2020	42 [#]	18	0	2 [^]	2

[#] Some of the cases are still being investigated.

[^] To match with the holding of the first Election of Members to VSB in 2020 in accordance with the Veterinary Surgeons Registration (Amendment) Ordinance 2015, disciplinary inquiry hearings were suspended from the second half of 2019 to the first half of 2020. After the newly constituted VSB had come into full operation on 1 October 2020, VSB resumed disciplinary inquiry hearings in November 2020.

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 10 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	7
Reprimand	3
Total	10

- (f) Among the cases received and closed over the past 3 years, the shortest time taken for processing the case was about 2 month while the longest time was about 26 months. The average processing time was about 8 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)022

(Question Serial No. 1946)

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:

If a patient confirmed with 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 to an animal keeping facility at the Hong Kong Port of Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) for quarantine. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the details of the animal keeping facility at the Hong Kong Port of Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge? What are the operating expenses?
- (b) What is the number of animals tested positive for the virus? If an animal is tested positive, how does AFCD handle it?
- (c) Since the outbreak of the epidemic, what is the total number of animals subject to quarantine? Has any animal passed away due to COVID-19 infection?
- (d) Has any owner abandoned his/her pet animal because it has been infected with COVID-19?
- (e) What is the quarantine period for animals? What is the shortest and longest period taken respectively?
- (f) Has any report been received from private veterinary surgeons about animals suspected of carrying the virus? If yes, how does the Government handle it?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 51)

Reply:

- (a) and (f) If a person with confirmed 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

delivered to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) for quarantine and veterinary monitoring. AFCD has received no report from private veterinary surgeons about animals suspected of carrying the COVID-19 virus so far. The New Territories South Animal Management Centre (NTSAMC) has been used as a quarantine facility for animals, in addition to the animal keeping facility at the Hong Kong Port of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge. Currently, the animal keeping facility at the Hong Kong Port of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge is only used for quarantine and veterinary monitoring for animals tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. There are a total of 12 separate rooms for animal keeping, and facilities for veterinary inspection, all air-conditioned. The process of quarantine and veterinary monitoring is supervised by veterinary surgeons to safeguard public and animal health. The work is taken up by the Animal Management (Operations) Division under AFCD. AFCD does not keep a breakdown of the expenditure involved for carrying out the above work at the animal keeping facility at the Hong Kong Port of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge.

- (b) and (c) As at February 2021, the total number of mammals related to COVID-19 that have been delivered to the animal keeping facility at the Hong Kong Port of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge and NTSAMC under AFCD for quarantine and veterinary monitoring is 338, of which 17 animals (including 9 dogs and 8 cats) have been tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. All animals tested positive for the COVID-19 virus are subject to quarantine and veterinary monitoring under the supervision of veterinary surgeons, who will conduct repeated tests for the animals. The animals will not be returned to their owners until they are tested negative. So far, no animal delivered to AFCD for quarantine and veterinary monitoring has passed away due to COVID-19 infection.
- (d) So far, AFCD has not received any animal that is abandoned due to suspected COVID-19 infection.
- (e) As at February 2021, the longest and shortest periods for pet animals to undergo quarantine and veterinary monitoring are 54 days and 3 days respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)023

(Question Serial No. 1980)

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 Department for the said work each year? What were the manpower and expenditure on the "Herdsman Program"?
- (b) What is the current number of vets responsible for conducting surgical sterilisation for stray cattle? Will the number be increased in the future?
- (c) What was the distribution of local cattle?
- (d) What was the number of injuries and deaths of cattle each year? What was the number of cattle euthanised each year?
- (e) What was the number of complaints related to the cattle in the New Territories received each year?
- (f) What were the details of the "Capture-Sterilisation-Relocation" programme? What was the number of cattle sterilised?
- (g) 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?
- (h) Is there any timeframe for the installation of cattle grids? If not, are there any measures to reduce the injuries and deaths of cattle?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 104)

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)
2018-19	6.7	7
2019-20	6.3	8
2020-21 (revised estimate)	5.7	8

AFCD has been hiring 4 “herdsmen” since 2017 to work at some locations in South Lantau where more complaints about nuisances from stray cattle are received. They are on duty in South Lantau, leading cattle away from roads and nuisance black spots. The herdsmen will advise visitors not to feed cattle to safeguard health and welfare of the cattle.

The expenditure involved in hiring “herdsmen” over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2018-19	0.6
2019-20	0.8
2020-21 (revised estimate)	1.0

- (b) At present, there is 1 veterinary officer responsible for stray cattle management in the Cattle Management Team under AFCD, including sterilising captured stray cattle. AFCD has no plan to increase the number of veterinary officers for performing surgical sterilisation for stray cattle at this stage.
- (c) 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)				Total
	Lantau Island	Sai Kung/ Ma On Shan	North East New Territories	Central New Territories	
Buffalo	120	0	0	40	160
Brown cattle	170	400	260	150	980
Total	290	400	260	190	1 140

- (d) AFCD does not have information on the number of injured or dead cattle. The number of cases involving injured or sick cattle handled 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)
2018	250	39
2019	180	7
2020	127	7

[#] A case may involve more than one cattle. The same animal may be involved in more than one case.

- (e) 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
2018	82
2019	92
2020	45

- (f) 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 to reduce the nuisance to members of the public. AFCD staff monitor the health of 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)
2018	128	105	80
2019	125	207	98
2020	65	61	58

[^] Figures include repeated capture and relocation/return of the same cattle.

- (g) AFCD notes that certain cattle concern groups have put reflective strips on some cattle. While AFCD may conduct the study on this measure, the initial view is 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.
- (h) 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 overseas 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. If stray cattle are found to have accidentally entered the urban areas and put the safety of themselves and that of the public in jeopardy, AFCD will remove and return them to country parks or remote locations in the rural areas.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)024

(Question Serial No. 3046)

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 local animal welfare organisations (AWOs) and animal shelters, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) 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.
- (b) What was the number of partner AWOs of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 3 years? Has AFCD taken the initiative to invite more AWOs to become partner AWOs?
- (c) 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 forthcoming year?
- (d) How many animals were handed to AWOs by AFCD each year? What are the successful rate and number of rehoming?
- (e) Has AFCD regularly visited the above AWOs? How does the Government monitor their operation and use of subvention?
- (f) 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?
- (g) How many non-profit AWOs are currently operating adoption centres on government sites? Please set out the specific locations and sizes.
- (h) How many "boarding establishments" granted with planning permission are there in Hong Kong at present and where are they located? Has the Government conducted inspections at these establishments?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 42)

Reply:

- (a) The requested information is tabulated at the **Annex**.
- (b) The number of partner animal welfare organisations (AWOs) of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 3 years (2018, 2019 and 2020) was 18. AFCD welcomes applications from AWOs to become rehoming partners of the Department and has uploaded the application details to the thematic website (<https://www.pets.gov.hk>).
- (c) AFCD and AWOs jointly organised 9 and 7 events, such as pet adoption days, carnivals etc., in 2018 and 2019 respectively to promote animal rehoming and welfare. AFCD did not organise such events in 2020 due to the COVID-19 epidemic and the need to avoid crowd gathering. AFCD will continue to work closely with AWOs to organise events for publicising and promoting animal welfare once the epidemic eases.
- (d) 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*
2018	2 254	689	6 316 [#]	577 (33.1%)	89 (18.4%)	87 (1.4%)
2019	1 865	442	3 201 [^]	547 (37.4%)	78 (24.8%)	44 (1.4%)
2020	1 405	316	1 494	427 (38.1%)	80 (36.7%)	412 (27.7%)

* 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.

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

⁺ Animals received by AFCD but subsequently reclaimed by owners were not counted towards the rehoming rate.

- (e) In general, AFCD will verify the receipts submitted by AWOs to confirm that the expenditures are spent in compliance with the purposes of subvention applications. AFCD will also visit the relevant facilities of AWOs in the course of assessing their applications and visit such facilities regularly afterwards. AFCD paid 7 visits to AWOs with animal keeping facilities in 2020.
- (f) 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, under the management of the Lands Department that are available for leasing by non-governmental organisations for community purposes on a 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.

- (g) Currently, 2 AWOs have been granted short-term tenancies by the Government for constructing rehoming centres on 2 government sites in Ko Po San Tsuen, Kam Tin and it is expected that the rehoming centres will commence service within this year with a view to enhancing the work on animal rehoming in development areas.
- (h) As at end February 2021, a total of 77 premises were holding valid boarding establishment licences issued by AFCD under the Public Health (Animals) (Boarding Establishment) Regulations (Cap. 139I), of which 11, 29 and 37 were located on Hong Kong Island, in Kowloon and the New Territories respectively. AFCD deploys staff to conduct regular and surprise inspections to licensed boarding establishments to ensure that such premises are in compliance with the licensing requirements.

(i) 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 programmes	140,000	83,329
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To provide preventive medical treatment 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 rehoming 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.

(ii) **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 programmes	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 animal 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 animal 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 rehoming 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

(iii) Subvention from AFCD to AWOs (applied for in 2019-20 and released in 2020-21)

	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	160,000	150,000
2	Hong Kong Dog Rescue	To provide preventive care and food for rehoming animals	393,600	211,809
3	Lifelong Animal Protection Charity	To enhance the facilities of the rehoming centre	800,000	98,500
4	Hong Kong Rabbit Society	To produce educational materials and provide medical treatment for sick rabbits	163,000	150,000
5	Sai Kung Stray Friends	To provide medical treatment and food for rehoming dogs	150,000	150,000
6	Cheung Chau Animal Care	To operate a rehome scheme and conduct education and publicity programmes	80,000	60,000
7	Hong Kong Cats	To conduct publicity for animal adoption	15,000	5,669
8	Society for Abandoned Animals	To conduct education programmes for animal welfare enhancement	146,951	146,951
9	Kirsten's Zoo	To provide preventive care and food for rescued and rehoming animals	305,600	150,000
10	Paws United Charity	To provide medical treatment for rehoming dogs and promote the implementation of rehome scheme	300,000	150,000
11	Hong Kong Animal Adoption Centre	Animal Rehome Scheme 2020	465,000	100,000
12	Second Life Charity Foundation Limited	Mutual Love Programme (matching suitable cats with the elderly for their adoption)	300,000	0*
Total			3,279,151	1,372,929

* The reimbursement could not be made due to insufficient information provided.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)025****(Question Serial No. 2246)**

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:

Regarding the lease of agricultural land under the Agricultural Land Rehabilitation Scheme, please advise of the number of applications received and approved and the area of land leased out over the past 3 years, as well as the number of cases and applicants waiting for leasing agricultural land and the median waiting time at present.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 133)

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. The related information over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	2018	2019	2020
Number of applications received	77	49	79
Number of successful cases	10	43	48
Total land area involved in successful cases (hectares)	1.4	7.9	4.0

The median waiting time for the above successful cases was 4 years. There were 520 applications on the waiting list as at February 2021.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)026

(Question Serial No. 2769)

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, please advise of:

- (a) the respective types and numbers of animals surrendered by owners, caught by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department or received through other channels;
- (b) the respective types and numbers of animals reclaimed by owners, rehomed or euthanised.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 130)

Reply:

- (a) and (b) The number and type of animals received and handled through various channels by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department over the past 3 years are tabulated at 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*
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 [^]
2020	603	209	997	531	60	65	271	47	432	284	98	6	427	80	412	602	99	470

* Including small mammals (rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rats), reptiles, 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 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)027****(Question Serial No. 2771)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (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 3 years, please provide the statistics of the repayment amount, the repayment rate, as well as the overdue or default cases concerned.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 132)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 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Amount of loans issued (\$ million)	Amount of repayment (up to December 2020) (\$ million)
2018	5.7	5.4
2019	5.0	4.8
2020	4.9	0

Over the past 3 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)028

(Question Serial No. 2772)

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:

Please advise of the number of applicants under the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (Fund) and the balance of the Fund at present, as well as the number of applications successfully approved last year.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 134)

Reply:

The Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund has received a total of 57 applications as at February 2021, with a balance of approximately \$400 million. 7 applications were approved last year (in 2020).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)029****(Question Serial No. 2773)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (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 us of the number of existing locally-operated hydroponic farms and their locations, distribution among districts, areas occupied, total production areas and zonings on the Outline Zoning Plan (Agriculture, Green Belt, etc.).

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 135)Reply:

Information on local hydroponic farms gathered by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) as at February 2021 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	11	19 740	11 340	Agriculture
		1	6 000	3 350	Village Type Development
		1	2 500	2 000	Coastal Protection Area
		2	290	400	Open storage
	North	10	19 685	9 580	Agriculture
	Tuen Mun	1	110	100	Village Type Development
Industrial building	Tai Po	1	3 000	13 880	Other Specified Use
	Tuen Mun	2	2 650	8 850	Industrial
	Kwai Tsing	2	230	240	Other Specified Use
		3	620	910	Industrial

Location	District	Number of farms	Area occupied (m²)	Total production area (m²)	Zoning on the Outline Zoning Plan
	Tsuen Wan	1	90	200	Other Specified Use
		2	940	890	Industrial
	Kwun Tong	2	105	210	Other Specified Use
		2	1 300	1 205	Industrial
	Wong Tai Sin	3	655	1 855	Industrial
	Chai Wan	2	400	290	Industrial
Others	Kwai Tsing	1	25	25	Government, Institution or Community
	Yuen Long	1	140	300	Government, Institution or Community
	Sham Shui Po	1 [*]	250	450	Residential
	Southern	1	30	30	Other Specified Use

* This hydroponic farm is the Controlled Environment Hydroponic Research and Development Centre 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.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)030****(Question Serial No. 0825)**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 (2018-19 to 2020-21) (please show with a map). What were the sizes of the said land?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 52)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 4 200 hectares. The estimated area of agricultural land in active farming 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	Estimated area in active farming use (hectare)		
	2018	2019	2020
North	286	285	283
Yuen Long	234	251	251
Tai Po	87	87	87
Tuen Mun	46	42	43
Islands	33	33	34
Sai Kung	21	22	24
Tsuen Wan	13	13	18
Others	15	16	15
Total	735	749	755

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)031

(Question Serial No. 0827)

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 (FCZs) over the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21)? (Please set out by the 26 FCZs.)
- (b) What were the total sizes of FCZs over the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21)?
- (c) What were the expenditures and manpower involved in processing matters related to FCZs over the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21)?
- (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 4 priority sites identified by the consultant for designation of new FCZs, namely Wong Chuk Kok Hoi, outer Tap Mun, Po Toi (Southeast) and Mirs Bay, 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.: 54)

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	2018-19		2019-20		2020-21 (up to end February 2021)	
	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	9 739	4.5	9 837	4.6	14 189	6.6
Kai Lung Wan	5 508	20.4	5 439	20.1	5 476	20.2
Kat O	3 059	9.4	3 013	9.3	2 905	9.0
Kau Lau Wan	1 202	10.7	1 205	10.8	1 199	10.7
Kau Sai	12 507	27.1	12 524	27.1	12 490	27.0
Leung Shuen Wan	5 826	33.7	5 825	33.7	5 705	33.0
Lo Fu Wat	1 476	27.3	1 532	28.4	1 422	26.3
Lo Tik Wan	21 421	19.6	21 550	19.7	21 064	19.3
Ma Nam Wat	5 380	13.4	5 368	13.4	5 064	12.6
Ma Wan	13 871	30.0	13 853	29.9	13 851	29.9
O Pui Tong	277	0.3	442	0.4	2 468	2.3
Po Toi	265	8.8	265	8.8	265	8.8
Po Toi O	3 423	9.0	3 164	8.3	3 216	8.4
Sai Lau Kong	142	2.0	132	1.8	296	4.1
Sha Tau Kok	11 904	6.6	11 509	6.4	11 846	6.6
Sham Wan	12 220	6.8	12 370	6.8	12 399	6.9
Sok Kwu Wan	26 846	19.0	26 571	18.8	26 173	18.5
Tai Tau Chau	12 168	19.4	12 155	19.4	12 076	19.2
Tap Mun	7 710	10.6	7 670	10.6	7 707	10.6
Tiu Cham Wan	0	0.0	0	0.0	131	0.8
Tung Lung Chau	11 878	14.8	11 156	13.9	11 060	13.8
Wong Wan	2 063	9.2	2 060	9.2	2 500	11.1
Yim Tin Tsai	21 051	15.4	21 232	15.6	21 377	15.7
Yim Tin Tsai (East)	21 147	14.1	20 641	13.8	20 185	13.5
Yung Shue Au	35 307	10.3	34 507	10.1	35 433	10.4
Total	246 645	11.8	244 275	11.7	250 752	12.0

* 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)
2018-19	10.6	21
2019-20	10.3	21
2020-21 (revised estimate)	11.6	21

- (d) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) invited licence holders and persons interested in engaging in mariculture to apply for the new marine fish culture licence in December 2019. A total of 14 applications have been received and after examination, 8 new marine fish culture licences were issued in 2020.
- (e) AFCD proposes to designate 4 new FCZs at Wong Chuk Kok Hoi, outer Tap Mun, Po Toi (Southeast) and Mirs Bay, which can further facilitate mariculture development and assist capture fishermen in switching to sustainable operations. AFCD has commissioned a consultant to conduct a statutory environmental impact assessment study for the project at a fee of about \$7.5 million, which is expected to be completed in 2022. The manpower on overseeing the consultancy study is absorbed by the existing resources of AFCD.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)032

(Question Serial No. 0829)

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 (SADF), the Agricultural Park (Agri-Park) and the Agricultural Priority Areas (APAs) respectively over the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21)?
- (b) What is the current estimated total expenditure involved in SADF, Agri-Park and APAs respectively?
- (c) Since the introduction of SADF and the Farm Improvement Scheme (FIS) 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 SADF and FIS thereunder over the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21)?
- (e) What is the progress of the work on Agri-Park and APAs? What are the estimated work schedules for the two projects?
- (f) What were the details, expenditures 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 (2018-19 to 2020-21)?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 56)

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)
2018-19	8.1	17
2019-20	12.9	22
2020-21 (revised estimate)	17.5	22

(c) and (d) As at February 2021, a total of 345 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. Over 330 applications have been approved, involving a total funding commitment of about \$9.8 million. 3 applications have been rejected and 7 applications have been withdrawn (including 2 approved applications). The rest are being processed.

In addition, a total of 43 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 and the projects already commenced, 14 rejected, 9 withdrawn by the applicants, 2 returned to the applicants (for provision of supplementary information/re-submission if necessary) and 3 with applicants found to be ineligible for application. The remaining 5 applications are being processed. 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	25	5
Facilitating rehabilitation of fallow agricultural land	2	0
Brand-building and marketing of local agricultural produce	9	4
Total	43	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. With the Finance Committee's funding approval for development of the Agri-Park Phase 1 on 2 July 2020, the works has commenced and is expected to be completed in stages from the end of 2021 to early 2023. 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 explore the feasibility of identifying relatively large areas of quality agricultural land for development of APAs and explore suitable policies and measures to encourage landowners to put existing fallow agricultural land back into long-term agricultural use. With reference to relevant overseas experience, the consultant will study the attributes of APAs, and then review the conditions of the existing agricultural land and make recommendations to the Government. 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)
2018-19	56.4	114
2019-20	70.1	123
2020-21 (revised estimate)	81.2	130

* Due to the COVID-19 epidemic and the need to avoid crowd gathering, the FarmFest 2021 was held online to showcase local agricultural and fishery production.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)033

(Question Serial No. 0831)

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 (2018-19 to 2020-21) and the timeframe for the surveys;
- (b) the area of the waters involved in, the numbers of and the mechanism put in place for the surveys (please show with a map);
- (c) the ways that the Department currently uses to inform the fishing vessels operating in relevant waters;
- (d) 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.: 58)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) conducts 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.

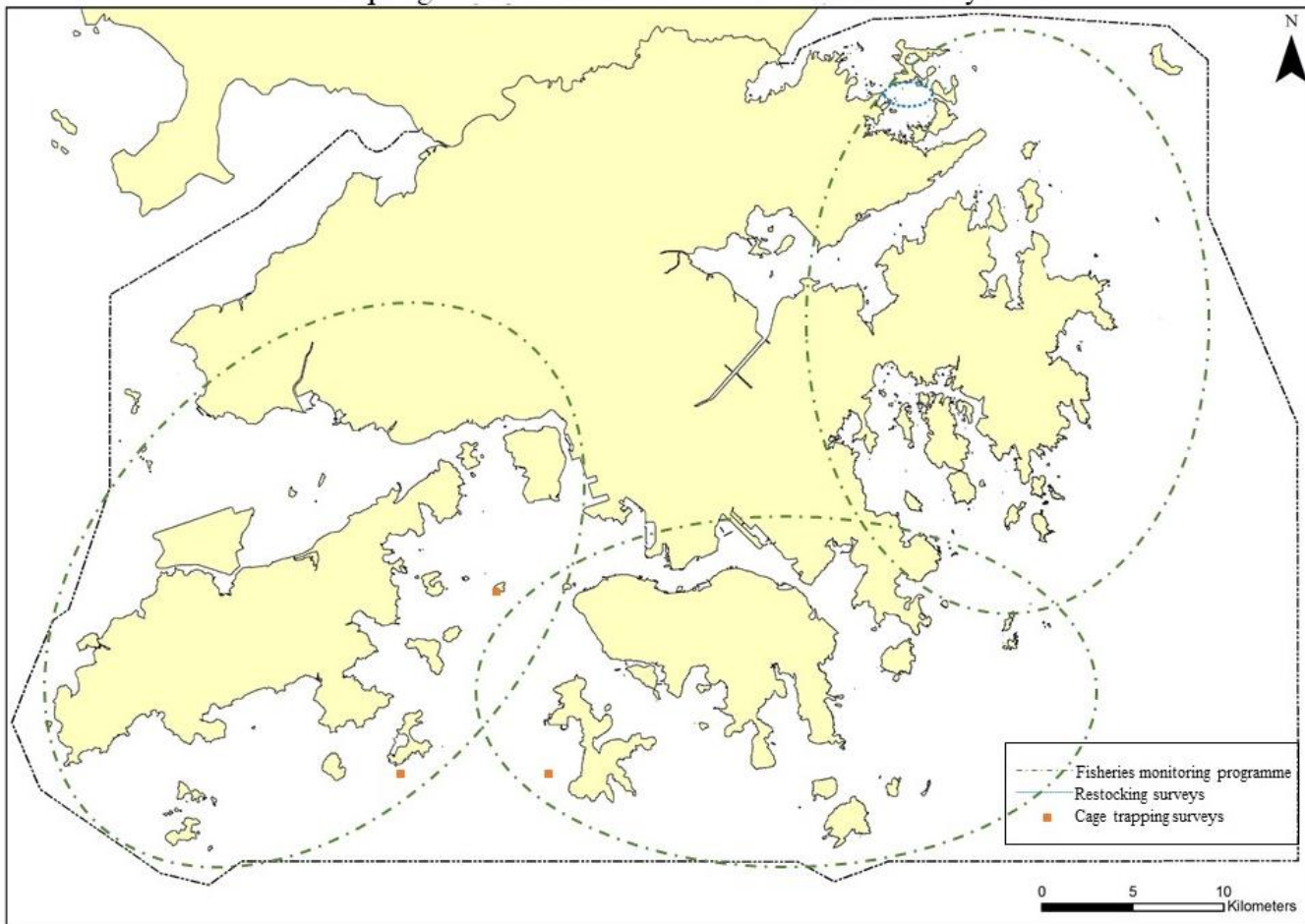
Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (number of staff)
2018-19	4.2	3
2019-20	11.7	4
2020-21 (revised estimate)	10.3	4

- (b) The surveys mentioned in part (a) above include:
- (i) the monitoring programme for fisheries resources in Hong Kong waters undertaken 6 times a month by cage-trapping, long-lining and gill-netting at sampling stations in the eastern, southern and western coastal waters of Hong Kong;
 - (ii) the cage trapping surveys conducted twice a month to study the impacts of different cage traps (including snake cages) on fisheries resources at sampling stations in the waters south of Cheung Chau and near Kau Yi Chau; and
 - (iii) 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 northeastern waters of Hong Kong.

A map indicating the sampling stations is at the [Annex](#).

- (c) All surveys being conducted at present employ non-trawling methods such as cage-trapping, long-lining and gill-netting, which in general do not cause impacts on other fishing vessels in operation. It is therefore not necessary to inform the fishing vessels operating in the waters nearby.
- (d) Over the past 3 years, AFCD officers went on board 72 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.

Sampling Locations of Fisheries Resources Surveys



- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)034

(Question Serial No. 0832)

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:

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 of the numbers of the permits concerned that were issued by the Department over the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21). 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.: 59)

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)
2018-19	0 (N/A)
2019-20	2 (Sok Kwu Wan FCZ and Kau Sai FCZ)
2020-21 (up to end February 2021)	1 (Sok Kwu Wan FCZ)

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)035

(Question Serial No. 0834)

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 how the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department put up publicity banners and posters to enhance public awareness of stray cattle in 2020-21.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 61)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has put up publicity leaflets and banners in areas (such as Sai Kung and Lantau Island) where stray cattle frequently appear in order to enhance public awareness of stray cattle and remind the public of the points to note when encountering stray cattle. To further disseminate the messages and target on the issue of indiscriminate feeding of stray and wild animals (including stray cattle), AFCD advertised on buses and minibuses travelling in areas where stray cattle and wild animals frequently appeared in 2020-21 to urge the public not to feed stray and wild animals.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)036****(Question Serial No. 0835)**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 (2018-19 to 2020-21) in tabular form; and
- (b) the manpower and the expenditure involved in conducting inspections at each fish culture zone over the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21) and the timeframe for the inspections.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 62)Reply:

- (a) The number of fish rafts in the 26 fish culture zones (FCZs) over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

FCZ	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (up to end February 2021)
Ap Chau	4	4	4
Cheung Sha Wan	60	57	62
Kai Lung Wan	39	39	39
Kat O	28	28	27
Kau Lau Wan	20	20	20
Kau Sai	64	64	65
Leung Shuen Wan	64	64	62
Lo Fu Wat	33	19	19
Lo Tik Wan	68	67	67
Ma Nam Wat	43	43	42
Ma Wan	94	94	94

FCZ	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (up to end February 2021)
O Pui Tong	3	3	5
Po Toi	6	6	6
Po Toi O	38	35	35
Sai Lau Kong	2	2	2
Sha Tau Kok	110	110	110
Sham Wan	162	163	161
Sok Kwu Wan	141	140	138
Tai Tau Chau	101	101	101
Tap Mun	71	71	72
Tiu Cham Wan	0	0	2
Tung Lung Chau	57	57	57
Wong Wan	15	15	18
Yim Tin Tsai	254	254	252
Yim Tin Tsai (East)	195	196	195
Yung Shue Au	280	278	285
Total	1 952	1 930	1 940

- (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 FCZs. The expenditure and manpower involved over the past 3 years are tabulated below. There is no breakdown by individual FCZ.

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (number of staff)
2018-19	9.8	18
2019-20	9.5	18
2020-21 (revised estimate)	9.7	18

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)037

(Question Serial No. 0844)

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 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.: 71)

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, restricted areas, 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, the marine reserve, fish culture zones and restricted areas. As the respective waters are under the purview of different departments, AFCD does not have comprehensive information on waters in Hong Kong where entry of fishing vessels and fishing activities are permitted.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)038****(Question Serial No. 0846)**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 number 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 (2018-19 to 2020-21)?
- (b) What were the number of fishing vessels registered in Hong Kong over the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21)?
- (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.: 2)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		
	2018	2019	2020
Fish carrier	26	29	26
Fishing sampan "C7"	1 961	1 892	1 908
Fishing vessel	1 899	1 874	1 680
Outboard open sampan "P4"	2 619	2 599	2 776
Total	6 505	6 394	6 390

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) does not have further breakdown on the number of fishing vessels.

- (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 AFCD under the Fisheries Protection Ordinance (Cap. 171) (the Ordinance). The number of fishing vessels registered under the Ordinance in 2018, 2019 and 2020 is 4 145, 4 116 and 4 139 respectively.
- (c) The breakdown of various fishing methods used by fishing vessels registered in accordance with the requirements in (b) above over the past 3 years is tabulated below:

Fishing method	Number of local fishing vessels		
	2018	2019	2020
Purse seining / purse seining with light	32	41	45
Long lining / hand lining	35	36	34
Gill netting	514	516	516
Cage trapping	46	38	41
Mixed fishing methods	3 518	3 485	3 503
Total	4 145	4 116	4 139

Since trawling is prohibited in Hong Kong waters, no trawler could be registered under the Ordinance.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)039

(Question Serial No. 0847)

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, expenditures and manpower involved in promoting the sustainable development of the fisheries industry over the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21)?
- (b) What were the expenditures and manpower involved in the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF) over the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21)?
- (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.: 3)

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 deep water mariculture, recreational fishing, ecotourism and offshore fishing, as well as leveraging the opportunities arising from the Greater Bay Area, 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)
2018-19	182.9	107
2019-20	168.3	107
2020-21 (revised estimate)	156.4	105

- (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)
2018-19	2.7	7
2019-20	3.1	7
2020-21 (revised estimate)	3.8	8

- (c) Since its inception, 57 applications have been received under SFDF and its Equipment Improvement Project (EIP). Details of these applications are tabulated as follows:

Number of applications (as at February 2021)	Type					
	Aquaculture	Capture fisheries	Recreational fisheries	Others	EIP	Total
Received	33	2	6	6	10	57
Approved	15	1	2	1	10	29
Rejected	10	0	2	4	0	16
Withdrawn by the applicant	5	0	1	1	0	7
Under processing	3	1	1	0	0	5

- (d) As at February 2021, 7 SFDF projects were completed, benefiting around 420 in-service fishermen. Upon completion of more projects including EIPs, more fishermen will benefit.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)040****(Question Serial No. 0849)**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 (2018-19 to 2020-21);

Year		2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
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 (2018-19 to 2020-21) 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 no arrest was made; (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 repeat offenders arrested and cases (please set them out in the table below);

	Year		
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Number of complaint cases received			
Number of cases relating to illegal fishing activities detected during patrols or joint operations (number of cases in which no arrest was made)			
Number of successful arrests (number of persons arrested)			
Number of successful prosecutions (number of persons successfully prosecuted)			
Maximum and minimum penalties			
Number of repeat offences (number of repeat 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 (2018-19 to 2020-21);

		Year		
		2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
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 (2018-19 to 2020-21) 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 no arrest was made; (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 repeat offenders arrested and cases (please set them out in the table below);

	Year		
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Number of complaint cases received			
Number of cases relating to illegal fishing activities detected during patrols or joint operations (number of cases in which no arrest was made)			
Number of successful arrests (number of persons arrested)			
Number of successful prosecutions (number of persons successfully prosecuted)			
Maximum and minimum penalties			
Number of repeat offences (number of repeat 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 (2018-19 to 2020-21)?
- (g) What were the numbers of patrol launches, patrol areas and numbers of patrols conducted against illegal fishing activities over the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21)?
- (h) Regarding illegal fishing activities, what fishing practices were detected during patrols or joint operations over the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21), and what were their numbers and percentages involved?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

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:

Location		2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-21 (as at end February 2021)
Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park	Patrol	841	805	572
	Joint operation	13	11	11
Yan Chau Tong Marine Park	Patrol	535	511	378
	Joint operation	12	7	0

Location		2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-21 (as at end February 2021)
Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park	Patrol	405	438	200
	Joint operation	0	0	0
Tung Ping Chau Marine Park	Patrol	513	497	280
	Joint operation	10	5	0
Cape D'Aguiar Marine Reserve	Patrol	479	455	446
	Joint operation	0	0	0
The Brothers Marine Park	Patrol	441	448	250
	Joint operation	0	0	0
Southwest Lantau Marine Park [#]	Patrol			199
	Joint operation			0

[^] Concurrently with operations of relevant Mainland authorities in nearby Mainland waters in some cases.

[#] The Southwest Lantau Marine Park was designated in April 2020.

- (b) Statistics on illegal fishing activities at marine parks and marine reserve over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Item	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at end February 2021)
Number of complaints received	3	4	12
Number of cases relating to illegal fishing activities detected during patrols or joint operations (number of cases in which no arrest was made)	17 (2)	14 (7)	3 (2)
Number of successful arrests (number of persons arrested)	15 (15)	7 (7)	1 [#] (1)
Number of successful prosecutions (number of persons successfully prosecuted)	12 (12)	6 (6)	0 (0)
Minimum and maximum penalties imposed	A fine of \$600 to \$1,500	A fine of \$800 to \$1,000	N/A
Number of repeat offences (number of repeat offenders)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)

[#] 1 prosecution case is 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:

Waters		2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at end February 2021)
Waters over the Hong Kong territory	(i)	1 688	1 625	1 485
	(ii)	78	41	57
Waters around Cheung Chau, Shek Kwu Chau and Soko Islands	(i)	507	489	418
	(ii)	44	25	38
Waters off the Brothers	(i)	54	46	137
	(ii)	0	0	0
Waters off Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau	(i)	66	49	136
	(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 (c) over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Item	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at end February 2021)
Number of complaints received	102	157	149
Number of cases relating to illegal fishing activities detected during patrols or joint operations (number of cases in which no arrest was made)	44 (36)	42 (34)	105 (93)
Number of successful arrests (number of persons arrested)	8 (23)	8 (17)	12* (44)
Number of successful prosecutions (number of persons successfully prosecuted)	7 (22)	8 (16)	10 (38)
Minimum and maximum penalties imposed	A fine of \$1,500 to \$2,000; imprisonment for 2 weeks to 2 months	A fine of \$500 to \$3,000; imprisonment for 2 weeks to 2 months	A fine of \$1,000; imprisonment for 2 to 6 weeks
Number of repeat offences (number of repeat offenders)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)

* 2 of the cases are 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 that refuse to stop for inspection) as and when appropriate.

Under the Fisheries Protection Ordinance (Cap. 171), 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.

To enhance law enforcement capacity, AFCD consolidated its internal resources to set up a dedicated enforcement team at sea in mid-August 2020 to enhance the mobility and responsiveness of enforcement actions against illegal fishing. The number of members in the enforcement team and the number of vessels have increased from 18 to 34 (as at end February 2021) and from 3 to 7 respectively. AFCD also deploys the newly developed real-time satellite automatic identification system to help identify fishing vessels that engage in illegal fishing. The system helps to acquire information of these vessels, such as their past navigation routes, locations and numbers, etc. for follow-up investigation and tracking. In addition, AFCD works with fishermen associations to gather intelligence regarding illegal fishing by using their fishing vessels. Together with the analysis of real-time satellite data, this would help the Department obtain more information on illegal fishing to formulate more effective and targeted enforcement operations, with a view to enhancing the efficiency of enforcement actions at sea.

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.

- (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)
2018-19	14.0	18
2019-20	16.9	18
2020-21 (revised estimate)	18.6	34

- (g) From mid-August 2020 onwards, AFCD has increased the number of vessels deployed for regular and targeted patrols at random hours (including night time and early morning) from 3 to 7 to combat illegal fishing under the Fisheries Protection Ordinance (Cap. 171) and the Marine Parks Ordinance (Cap. 476). AFCD officers, when discharging duties on other vessels, will also stay vigilant to any illegal fishing activities,

and inform AFCD's enforcement team and the Marine Police for follow-ups. The coverage and number of patrols conducted are set out in (a) and (c) above.

- (h) Information on illegal fishing practices detected during patrols over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Illegal fishing practices	2018-19		2019-20		2020-21 (as at end February 2021)	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Shrimp trawling	17	38.7	16	38.1	51	48.5
Hang trawling	0	0.0	2	4.8	8	7.6
Stern trawling	2	4.5	0	0.0	1	1.0
Pair trawling	2	4.5	8	19.0	12	11.4
Purse seining	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.0
Gill netting	16	36.4	11	26.2	27	25.7
Cage trapping	7	15.9	5	11.9	0	0.0
Long lining	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	2.9
Set netting	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	1.9
Total	44	100.0	42	100.0	105	100.0

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)041

(Question Serial No. 0852)

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 (2018-19 to 2020-21):

- (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.: 8)

Reply:

- (a) to (i) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department 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 set out in Table 1 and Table 2 respectively:

Table 1: Manpower and expenditure involved in operating ALRS

Year	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (revised estimate)
Manpower (number of staff)	1	1	1
Expenditure (\$ million)	0.9	0.9	0.9

Table 2: Relevant statistics on the cases handled under ALRS

Year	2018	2019	2020
Number of landowners participating in ALRS	24	32	29
Number of new applications/ land area involved (hectare)	77 / 8.1	49 / 7.8	79 / 13.1
Number of successful cases	10	43	48
- Total land area involved (hectare)	1.4	7.9	4.0
- Range of annual rental (per dau chung*)	\$25 to \$60,000	\$7 to \$142,900	\$1 to \$92,308
- Average waiting time (year)	3.2	3.8	4.2
Number of applications on the waiting list as at year-end/ land area involved (hectare)	413 / 81.0	445 / 81.8	517 / 92.7

*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 (NDA) projects. The Government will identify government land suitable for agricultural rehabilitation. So far, the Government has provided land for agricultural rehabilitation for the first batch of applicants, i.e. 4 farmers affected by the first phase of the Kwu Tung North and Fanling North NDA project. The Development Bureau, in collaboration with relevant departments, is now processing the remaining 10 applications received for agricultural rehabilitation to strive for making the SALRS sites available when the affected farmers move out in phases in 2021. This scheme is undertaken by the existing manpower and resources.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)042

(Question Serial No. 0854)

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 (2018-19 to 2020-21).
- (b) Has the Government ever assessed the effectiveness of the artificial reefs project?
- (c) Why is the expenditure on artificial reefs not available this year? What are the details of the actual and estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

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 has conducted regular 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 as feeding, sheltering, spawning and nursing grounds.

As the underwater surveys were completed in 2019-20, no expenditure was incurred in this regard in 2020-21.

AFCD will continue to monitor and assess the effectiveness of AR deployment as well as explore the feasibility of further deploying ARs in suitable locations.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)043

(Question Serial No. 0855)

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 (2018-19 to 2020-21).
- (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 (2018-19 to 2020-21), 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 (2018-19 to 2020-21)? 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 (2018-19 to 2020-21)? 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.: 12)

Reply:

- (a) The expenditure and manpower involved in monitoring water quality and red tides over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (Number of staff)
2018-19	17.9	11
2019-20	16.0	11
2020-21 (revised estimate)	12.7	11

- (b) The number of red tides observed in different districts and the information of phytoplankton species that caused red tides over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

District	Number of red tides observed and the causative species involved		
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at February 2021)
Tai Po	15 <i>Scrippsiella trochoidea</i> , <i>Takayama tuberculata</i> , <i>Prorocentrum balticum</i> , <i>Mesodinium rubrum</i> , <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i> , <i>Akashiwo sanguinea</i> , <i>Heterosigma akashiwo</i>	Nil	8 <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i> , <i>Scrippsiella trochoidea</i> , <i>Mesodinium rubrum</i> , <i>Akashiwo sanguinea</i> , <i>Phaeocystis globosa</i>
Sha Tin	3 <i>Cyclotella choctawhatcheeana</i> , <i>Heterosigma akashiwo</i> , <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>	Nil	1 <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>
Sai Kung	7 <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i> , <i>Akashiwo sanguinea</i>	Nil	3 <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i> , <i>Mesodinium rubrum</i> , <i>Phaeocystis globosa</i>
Southern	3 <i>Mesodinium rubrum</i> , <i>Gonyaulax polygramma</i> , <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>	Nil	13 <i>Heterosigma akashiwo</i> , <i>Pseudo-nitzschia pungens</i> , <i>Chaetoceros pseudocurvisetus</i> , <i>Guinardia delicatula</i> , <i>Phaeocystis globosa</i> , <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>

District	Number of red tides observed and the causative species involved		
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at February 2021)
Islands	10 <i>Takayama tuberculata</i> , <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i> , <i>Akashiwo sanguinea</i> , <i>Prorocentrum triestinum</i> , <i>Gonyaulax polygramma</i>	2 <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>	4 <i>Heterosigma akashiwo</i> , <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>
Tuen Mun	2 <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i> , <i>Mesodinium rubrum</i>	5 <i>Phaeocystis globosa</i>	2 <i>Heterosigma akashiwo</i> , <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>
Kwun Tong	Nil	Nil	1 <i>Amphora</i>
Tsuen Wan	5 <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i> , <i>Mesodinium rubrum</i>	4 <i>Phaeocystis globosa</i>	5 <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i> , <i>Phaeocystis globosa</i>
Kwai Tsing	1 <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>	Nil	1 <i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>

- (c) and (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) and (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 heavy rainstorms and Super Typhoon Mangkhut in 2018-19. The details concerned are as follows:

Category	Number of applications received (approved)	Amount issued (\$ million)
Marine fish farmers	478 (434)	6.5
Pond fish farmers	56 (32)	0.4
Total	534 (466)	6.9

In 2019-20 and 2020-21 (as at February 2021), no financial assistance under ERF was granted to fish farmers.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)044

(Question Serial No. 0857)

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 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 (2018-19 to 2020-21)? Please set out the information with a breakdown by the 18 districts.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

- (a) As at 31 December 2020, there were about 2 400 crop farms (including vegetables, flowers and orchards) with a total cultivated area of about 755 hectares. These farms are mainly located in the North District and Yuen Long. Amongst these crop farms, there are 326 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 20 farms located in industrial buildings in Chai Wan, Kwun Tong, Kwai Tsing, Tsuen Wan, Tai Po, Tuen Mun and Wong Tai Sin Districts with a total area of 2.8 hectares.

Information on the number and distribution of vegetable marketing co-operative societies (VMCSs) and vegetable depots as at 31 December 2020 by district is tabulated as follows:

District	VMCSs	Vegetable depots
Yuen Long	13	0
North	9	0

District	VMCSs	Vegetable depots
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 2020 is as follows:

- (i) There were about 930 licensed marine fish culture farms with about 1 940 fish rafts in 26 designated Fish Culture Zones*. The size of farms ranged from 13 to about 6 800 m².
- (ii) There were about 340 pond fish farms with about 1 130 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 10 300 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 2020 are tabulated as follows:

Pig farms

	2018			2019			2020		
	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	902.78	1 000	Yuen Long	902.78	1 000	Yuen Long	902.78	1 000
6	Yuen Long	938.49	850	Yuen Long	938.49	850	Yuen Long	938.49	850
7	Yuen Long	1 142.90	600	Yuen Long	1 142.90	600	Yuen Long	1 142.90	600
8	Yuen Long	1 180.97	1 200	Yuen Long	1 153.33	1 990	Yuen Long	1 180.97	1 200

	2018			2019			2020		
	District	Licensed area (m ²)	Licensed capacity (number)	District	Licensed area (m ²)	Licensed capacity (number)	District	Licensed area (m ²)	Licensed capacity (number)
9	Yuen Long	1 327.53	1 000	Yuen Long	1 180.97	1 200	Yuen Long	1 327.53	1 000
10	Yuen Long	1 374.87	1 200	Yuen Long	1 327.53	1 000	Yuen Long	1 374.87	1 200
11	Yuen Long	1 392.30	1 990	Yuen Long	1 374.87	1 200	Yuen Long	1 709.24	1 500
12	Yuen Long	1 709.24	1 500	Yuen Long	1 709.24	1 500	Yuen Long	1 725.58	1 900
13	Yuen Long	1 725.58	1 900	Yuen Long	1 725.58	1 900	Yuen Long	1 864.27	600
14	Yuen Long	1 864.27	600	Yuen Long	1 864.27	600	Yuen Long	1 923.26	1 500
15	Yuen Long	1 923.26	1 500	Yuen Long	1 923.26	1 500	Yuen Long	2 105.33	1 990
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	2 765.33	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	2 000
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
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

	2018			2019			2020		
	District	Licensed area (m ²)	Licensed capacity (number)	District	Licensed area (m ²)	Licensed capacity (number)	District	Licensed area (m ²)	Licensed capacity (number)
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		103 597.32	74 640		103 358.35	74 640		104 310.35	74 640

Chicken farms

	2018			2019			2020		
	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
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	4 693.83	80 000	Yuen Long	4 693.83	80 000

	2018			2019			2020		
	District	Licensed area (m ²)	Licensed capacity (number)	District	Licensed area (m ²)	Licensed capacity (number)	District	Licensed area (m ²)	Licensed capacity (number)
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	708.10	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		62 186.83	1 300 500		62 186.83	1 300 500

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)045****(Question Serial No. 0858)**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 number of Hong Kong fishermen, the number of their fishing vessels, and their production values (both within and outside Hong Kong) over the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21).

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)Reply:

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
2018	6 505	4 145	10 240	966	1,789
2019	6 394	4 116	10 130	1,022	1,777
2020	6 390	4 139	10 149	1,043	1,664

[#] 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.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)046

(Question Serial No. 0859)

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 (2018-19 to 2020-21), 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)?
- (c) Over the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21), what were the maximum amounts of the above loans granted in each year?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

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. 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)
2018	19.8	10	10	1.3
2019	20.1	7	7	1.2
2020	20.4	4	4	0.7

The Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Loan Fund

Year	Capital	Number of loans		Loans issued
	(as at 31 December) (\$ million)	Applications	Issued*	Amount# (\$ million)
2018	15.3	31	33	3.3
2019	15.5	30	30	3.2
2020	15.7	26	25	3.2

The Vegetable Marketing Organization Loan Fund

Year	Capital	Number of loans		Loans issued
	(as at 31 December) (\$ million)	Applications	Issued*	Amount# (\$ million)
2018	12.9	25	25	2.1
2019	13.1	19	19	1.6
2020	13.2	21	21	1.7

The Fisheries Development Loan Fund

Year	Capital	Number of loans		Loans issued
	(as at 31 December) (\$ million)	Applications	Issued*	Amount# (\$ million)
2018	1,100	4	14	138.3
2019	1,100	5	6	41.5
2020	1,100	0	3	31.5

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)
2018	146.8	599	588	105.4
2019	187.1	570	553	93.0
2020	397.9 ^o	636	595	99.9

* 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.

° As approved by the Legislative Council Finance Committee in July 2020, the approved commitment of the Fishing Moratorium Loan Scheme set up under the Fish Marketing Organization Loan Fund has increased by \$210 million, i.e. from \$60 million to \$270 million.

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.

- (c) The maximum amount for each loan under the loan funds in each of the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Loan Funds	2018 (\$)	2019 (\$)	2020 (\$)
J.E. Joseph Trust Fund	130,000	390,000	200,000
The Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Loan Fund	130,000	130,000	200,000
The Vegetable Marketing Organization Loan Fund	130,000	130,000	200,000
The Fisheries Development Loan Fund	9,900,000	9,900,000	9,900,000
The Fish Marketing Organization Loan Fund	300,000	900,000	990,000

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)047

(Question Serial No. 0863)

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 (2018-19 to 2020-21)? 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 on 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 (2018-19 to 2020-21)? What are the details?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

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. 0867)**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 (2018-19 to 2020-21)?
- (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 (2018-19 to 2020-21)?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)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)
2018	43 468	119	205	16
2019	43 224	118	167	20
2020	43 585	119	179	14

Information on the wholesale quantity of marine fish traded over the past 3 years 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
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 [^]
2020	26,712	26,357	26,457	26,474	26,493	26,696	26,532	26,642	26,802 [*]	26,399	26,308	25,929 [^]

* 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 is shown in **Annex B**.

Wholesale quantity of marine fish from 2018 to 2020

Year	Fish	Total quantity (tonnes)	Daily average quantity (tonnes)	Highest daily quantity (tonnes)	Lowest daily quantity (tonnes)
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 (鮫魚)	1 459.5	4.0	4.8	2.2
	Croakers (鰺魚)	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 (鮫魚)	1 589.0	4.4	5.3	2.4
	Croakers (鰺魚)	543.7	1.5	2.2	0.9
2020	Golden thread (紅衫)	2 617.2	7.2	8.6	5.4
	Horse-heads (馬頭)	2 967.1	8.1	9.4	6.2
	Yellow croakers (黃花)	2 554.5	7.0	8.2	5.1
	Big-eyes (木棉)	1 899.2	5.2	6.0	4.0
	Scads (池魚)	854.6	2.3	3.0	1.7
	Breams (立魚)	2 246.2	6.1	7.1	4.4
	Hair-tails (牙帶)	1 364.7	3.7	4.7	2.2
	Mackerels (鮫魚)	1 691.8	4.6	5.6	2.8
	Croakers (鰺魚)	413.3	1.1	1.7	0.6

Data on Filefish (沙鯧) are not readily available.

Monthly average wholesale price of marine fish from 2018 to 2020

Year	Fish	Monthly average wholesale price (\$/kg)											
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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 (鹹魚)	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 [^]

2020	Golden thread (紅衫)	81.29*	79.01	79.46	76.66	76.14	73.85	70.01	71.26	67.72^	71.68	73.60	71.39
	Horse-heads (馬頭)	60.15*	57.12	59.56	57.46	56.05	54.04	51.29^	52.63	52.52	54.47	57.04	59.08
	Yellow croakers (黃花)	85.85	89.18	91.89	88.80	79.92	73.19^	73.66	73.88	87.01	90.98	107.79*	107.03
	Big-eyes (木棉)	97.78*	93.28	92.86	89.68	88.73	85.27	82.04	82.79	71.40^	81.28	83.28	79.99
	Scads (池魚)	24.24	24.03	23.64^	24.66	25.27	25.05	25.62	29.14*	25.09	25.06	26.96	27.82
	Breams (立魚)	83.83*	78.79	77.06	78.12	80.56	76.58	74.79	73.78	66.04^	74.31	78.41	78.63
	Hair-tails (牙帶)	41.41	40.17^	43.48	45.46	49.56	54.07	53.77	55.45*	48.48	46.80	44.06	46.52
	Mackerels (鯪魚)	76.74	75.39	74.98	75.86	77.01*	75.25	74.96	75.29	68.70^	72.39	71.70	70.92
	Croakers (鹹魚)	24.11	22.89^	25.76	24.92	26.42	27.63	28.46	30.73	27.16	29.86	34.75*	33.85

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. 0868)

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 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 (2018-19 to 2020-21)?
- (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 (2018-19 to 2020-21)?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

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
2018	252 022	690	894	49
2019	264 274	724	855	48
2020	254 245	695	878	61

- (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
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
2020	11,745	11,977	11,325	11,508	10,904^	11,375	11,441	11,717	12,022	12,416	12,596	12,668*

* Highest monthly value

^ Lowest monthly value

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)050

(Question Serial No. 0869)

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 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 (2018-19 to 2020-21)?
- (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 (2018-19 to 2020-21)?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

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
2018	62 964	173	337	1
2019	68 760	188	415	3
2020	65 669	179	389	6

- (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
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 [*]
2020	16,194 [*]	16,172	16,135	16,160	16,168	15,580	15,258	15,465	15,093	15,058	14,907	14,819 [^]

Year	Monthly average wholesale price (\$ / tonne) for brown-shelled medium eggs (USA)											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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 [^]
2020	14,839	14,821 [^]	14,839	15,100	15,265 [*]	15,193	14,974	14,948	15,027	15,006	14,960	14,858

* Highest monthly average wholesale price

[^] Lowest monthly average wholesale price

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)051

(Question Serial No. 0872)

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 (2018-19 to 2020-21);
- (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 (2018-19 to 2020-21);
- (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 (2018-19 to 2020-21);
- (d) the monthly average prices, as well as the highest and the lowest monthly prices of imported minor poultry over the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21);
- (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 (2018-19 to 2020-21);
- (f) the percentage of live chickens, minor poultry and day-old chicks imported from various places over the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21);
- (g) the total expenditure on handling matters on imports 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 2020-21 and the estimated expenditure in 2021-22.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

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
2018 [#]	4 255 909	11 660	38 775	630
2019 [#]	4 246 862	11 635	45 866	4 600
2020 [#]	4 391 952	12 000	41 132	6 730

[#]There has been 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
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 [*]
2020 [#]	416 476 [*]	317 682 [^]	368 588	339 879	351 677	354 048	350 994	359 008	401 284	368 723	359 802	403 791

* Highest monthly quantity

[^] Lowest monthly quantity

[#] There has been 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
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
2020 [#]	69.66	70.43 [*]	65.92	67.05	67.61	68.68	64.93	56.02	54.35 [^]	55.81	55.28	66.67

* Highest monthly average price in the respective year

[^] Lowest monthly average price in the respective year

[#] There has been no import of live chickens from the Mainland since 17 February 2016.

- (c) and (d) There has been no import of live minor poultry from the Mainland over the past 3 years.

- (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
2018	2 385 291	6 535	37 500	2 500
2019	2 763 020	7 570	28 500	3 000
2020	3 425 400	9 359	26 500	2 480

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
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
2020	242 300 [^]	284 440	294 080	279 280	279 180	298 580	277 860	270 100	293 200	276 060	347 620 [*]	282 700

* Highest monthly quantity

[^] Lowest monthly quantity

- (f) Over the past 3 years, there has been no import of live chickens and minor poultry from the Mainland, while the percentage of supply of day-old chicks imported from various places is tabulated as follows:

Year	Percentage of imported supply	
	Guangdong	Zhuhai
2018	94	6
2019	97	3
2020	96	4

- (g) The revised estimate for the expenditure of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) incurred in handling live chickens in CSWTWPM in 2020-21 is \$20.52 million and the manpower involved is 17 staff members. As an increase in the contracting-out price was expected and for stepping up the pest and rodent control work in the market, the estimated expenditure for 2021-22 will be \$24.28 million.

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 in the allocation for AFCD's surveillance on avian influenza.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)052

(Question Serial No. 0876)

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 (2018-19 to 2020-21).

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

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 2018, 2019 and 2020 were about \$2,650 million, \$2,960 million and \$3,310 million respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)053

(Question Serial No. 0878)

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:

On the regulation and technical services for the flower cultivation industry, please advise of the following:

- (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 (2018-19 to 2020-21);
- (b) the details, estimated expenditure and manpower involved in the regulation and technical services for the flower cultivation industry over the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21);
- (c) the total amount and quantities of local and imported flowers over the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21);
- (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.: 40)

Reply:

- (a), (b) and (d) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) provides supporting 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. The resources deployed for these services over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (number of staff)
2018-19	8.5	18
2019-20	9.1	18
2020-21 (revised estimate)	9.8	18

The manpower and expenditure involved in providing supporting 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 2021-22, AFCD will continue to provide the above services to crop farmers including florists with a similar level of resources as in 2020-21.

- (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)
2018	149	501
2019	154	400
2020	150	266

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)054

(Question Serial No. 0879)

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 over the past 3 years (2018-19 to 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 (2018-19 to 2020-21).
- (c) The total expenditures involved respectively in vaccinating pigs and poultry over the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21). 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 (2018-19 to 2020-21)?
- (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 (2018-19 to 2020-21)? 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.: 41)

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 to local farms to ensure that the farmers comply with the biosecurity, farm hygiene and other relevant 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, as well as producing publicity materials to raise farmers' awareness of prevention and control of diseases.

The estimated expenditure and manpower involved in this area of AFCD's work over the past 3 years are as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Manpower (number of staff)
2018-19	51.9	59
2019-20	64.6	61
2020-21 (revised estimate)	70.0	72

- (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 is 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 various 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 Newcastle disease, infectious bronchitis 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 was only 1 FMD case reported in a local pig farm in June 2018. In addition, there were 2 and 1 African Swine Fever (ASF) cases in the Sheung Shui Slaughterhouse (SSSH) in May and September 2019 respectively, and the first case of ASF in local pig farm was reported in February 2021.

- (f) AFCD has been closely monitoring epidemic situation of the ASF and implementing corresponding measures in a timely manner. Major measures implemented include:
- (i) devising a surveillance and contingency plan for detecting ASF, including stepping up inspection to all local pig farms and collecting pig samples for ASF virus testing when necessary;
 - (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) commissioning contractors to thoroughly cleanse and disinfect all local pig transportation vehicles at designated positions every time before they leave SSSH;
 - (vii) liaising with relevant government departments regarding improvement in the collection arrangements for pig waste and carcasses;
 - (viii) maintaining close contact with the pig farming sector, organising meetings and seminars with the trade from time to time, and raising local pig farmers' knowledge of preventing ASF through producing a lot of publicity materials on information about ASF including posters, videos and guidelines on cleansing and disinfection procedures of pig transportation vehicles, etc. so as to provide local pig farmers with information about the disease, its infection as well as the preventive and control measures that pig farms should heed;
 - (ix) maintaining continuous cooperation with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) in conducting a regular surveillance programme for ASF in local wild pig carcasses; and
 - (x) devising an action plan and providing the necessary equipment for culling of pigs.

AFCD has notified the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) of the first case of ASF in a local pig farm reported in February 2021. Relevant samples were sent to the OIE reference laboratory for further testing and virus analysis.

AFCD will collaborate with relevant international experts in investigating and tracing the source of the virus. AFCD will remain vigilant and closely monitor the situation, and will take appropriate measures as and when necessary.

- (g) The number of wild pig carcasses found in Hong Kong by FEHD over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of wild pig carcasses found
2018-19	218
2019-20	364
2020-21 (as at February 2021)	316

The number of wild pigs captured by AFCD over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of wild pigs captured
2018-19	192
2019-20	293
2020-21 (as at February 2021)	287

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. The pilot programme has been regularised as an ongoing programme since July 2020.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)055

(Question Serial No. 0880)

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 (2018-19 to 2020-21)?
- (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 (2018-19 to 2020-21)?
- (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 and the result of the work?

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

Reply:

- (a) and (b) Over the past 3 years (i.e. 2018-2020), there were no suspected cases of using prohibited antimicrobial and 5 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 using prohibited antimicrobial or having 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 corresponding 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 animal farming sector with a view to facilitating and supporting projects for the provision of veterinary services to food animal farms. A total of 4 projects under the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund and the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund have been approved for providing veterinary services to local pig, chicken and fish farms. These projects involve the provision of disease diagnosis and treatment services for animals kept on farms, formulation of tailor-made farm-specific disease management plans for the purposes of disease prevention and promoting proper and prudent use of antimicrobials, as well as assisting farmers in sourcing vaccines and other veterinary drugs. 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 immediately afterwards.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)056

(Question Serial No. 0881)

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 (2018-19 to 2020-21);
- (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 (2018-19 to 2020-21).

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 43)

Reply:

The requested information is tabulated at the **Annex**.

Industry	2018-19			2019-20			2020-21		
	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	1.4	3	54	1.7	3	54	1.8	3
Fisheries	55	2.0	4	55	2.5	4	54	2.0	3
Others	64	4.4	9	60	5.5	9	60	5.9	9
Total	173	7.8	16	169	9.7	16	168	9.7	15

* As at end of the year

As at end February 2021

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)057

(Question Serial No. 0882)

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 (2018-19 to 2020-21)?
- (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 (with a breakdown by the 18 districts) respectively?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 44)

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 (R&D) 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)
2018-19	3.0	8
2019-20	8.8*	8
2020-21(revised estimate)	10.3*	8

* To meet the demand of the hydroponic farming industry for technical support and facilitate the development of the industry, additional provisions of \$3.79 million and \$6.5 million were allocated in 2019-20 and 2020-21 respectively to support the expansion plan of the Centre and installation of new R&D facilities.

- (b) The Centre has a total area of about 500 square metres, half of which is used for production and the rest for R&D. 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), 5 varieties of common local leafy vegetables (i.e. 60-day Choy Sum, Hok Tau Pak Choy, Green Pak Choy, Spinach and Water Cress) and 2 varieties of fruiting vegetables (i.e. Small-fruited Tomato and Strawberry) are produced. About 5 kilogrammes of vegetables are produced daily at a wholesale value of about \$200 per kilogramme and sold through 14 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 (including aquaponics and aeroponics) is one such example. The Centre will continue to undertake R&D work including selection and testing of new crop varieties and equipment, introduction of improved hydroponic technology and collaboration with tertiary institutions and research institutes on testing innovative technology and automation facilities 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. On the other hand, exhibitions, workshops and guided tours will be held to help tertiary students and the public learn more about such production technology, with a view to attracting more young people to join the industry or conduct relevant researches to open up markets. In 2020-21, AFCD allocated 8 staff members and \$10.3 million to support the work and the expansion of the Centre.
- (d) Currently, there are 50 local hydroponic farms producing about 360 tonnes of vegetables with an estimated value of \$72 million in 2020. Distribution of the hydroponic farms is tabulated as follows:

District	Number of hydroponic farms
Yuen Long	16
North	10
Tuen Mun	3
Tai Po	1
Kwai Tsing	6
Tsuen Wan	3
Kwun Tong	4
Wong Tai Sin	3
Sham Shui Po	1

Eastern	2
Southern	1
Total	50

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)058****(Question Serial No. 0884)**

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 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 (2018-19 to 2020-21)?
- (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 (2018-19 to 2020-21)?
- (c) What were the numbers of different types of vessels applying for Mainland deckhands over the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21)?
- (d) What were the numbers of cases contravening the relevant legislation and codes of the Scheme, and the heaviest penalties imposed, over the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21)?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 46)

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)
2018-19	1.1	3
2019-20	1.2	3
2020-21 (revised estimate)	1.5	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:

Vessel type	2018-19		2019-20		2020-21*	
	Number of [#]					
	Applications	Deckhands involved	Applications	Deckhands involved	Applications	Deckhands involved
Pair trawler	27 (27)	137	24 (24)	139	29 (27)	160
Stern trawler	44 (40)	190	38 (36)	161	43 (42)	183
Shrimp trawler	52 (52)	244	40 (40)	188	42 (42)	190
Hang trawler	20 (20)	113	15 (15)	88	18 (18)	109
Purse seiner with light and Purse seiner	62 (62)	456	56 (54)	434	52 (52)	398
Liner and Gill netter	91 (88)	564	82 (80)	521	72 (70)	449
Fish carrier	292 (284)	1 985	267 (255)	1 755	257 (255)	1 705
Other fishing vessel	39 (37)	231	28 (25)	172	18 (18)	112
Total	627 (610)	3 920	550 (529)	3 458	531 (524)	3 306

* Up to February 2021

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 rules of the Scheme in 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 (as at February 2021) is 8, 10 and 2 respectively. The heaviest penalties imposed under the Scheme include cancellation of all deckhand quota approved 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)059

(Question Serial No. 0885)

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 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 (2016-17 to 2020-21); 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 (2018-19 to 2020-21)? 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.: 47)

Reply:

Having consulted the Environmental Protection Department, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) sets out the 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 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:

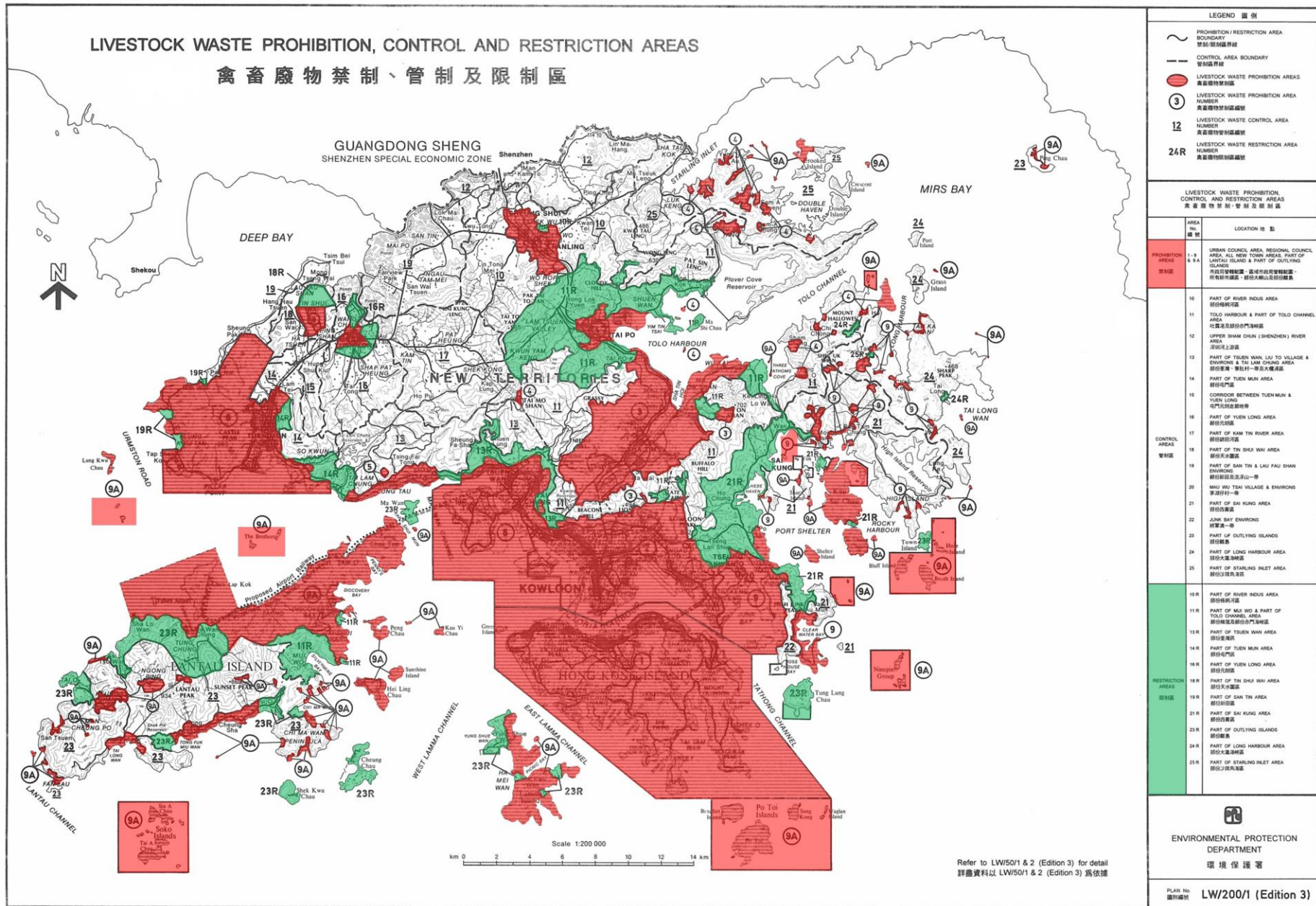
Year	Livestock waste prohibition areas		Livestock waste control areas		Livestock waste restriction areas	
	Pig farms	Chicken farms	Pig farms	Chicken farms	Pig farms	Chicken farms
2016	0	0	42	26	1	3
2017	0	0	42	26	1	3
2018	0	0	42	26	1	3
2019	0	0	42	26	1	3
2020	0	0	42	26	1	3

- (b) and (c) No livestock farm has been affected by government development projects and cleared since 2018. 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.

The Government has amended Cap. 139L to relax the existing statutory requirements for premises used for keeping chickens, so as to facilitate the relocation of existing chicken farms to other suitable sites in the livestock waste control areas that have not received ex-gratia payments for cessation of

livestock keeping to continue with their operations and further development. Enhanced measures (e.g. enhanced biosecurity) are also introduced with a view to further reducing the risk of avian flu and enabling those affected by government development projects to continue with their operations by relocation. The amendment came into force on 1 July 2020.

Regarding relocation proposals from livestock farms, the Government is open to proposals, provided they will not increase the livestock rearing capacity and biosecurity measures in farms can be enhanced to reduce the risk of diseases infecting livestock. The Government will consider such proposals and provide advice and assistance as appropriate. AFCD will also provide support based on the relocation needs of individual farmers. Livestock farmers who require assistance for relocation may apply to AFCD for low-interest loans under the Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Loan Fund and the J. E. Joseph Trust Fund, granted for development and working capital.



CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)060

(Question Serial No. 0886)

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 (2018-19 to 2020-21), 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 (2018-19 to 2020-21), 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 (2018-19 to 2020-21), what was the number of possession licences issued by the Government?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 48)

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) 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 at the **Annex**.
- (b) The number of holders of animal trader licence for selling birds was 48, 34 and 35 in 2018, 2019 and 2020 respectively.
- (c) Under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586), 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

possession licence (PL) for each keeping premises if they are kept for commercial purposes. A PL can cover more than 1 species/individual. Currently, there are 25 valid PLs in respect of live endangered birds, covering 2 443 individuals of 41 species.

The number of PLs issued by AFCD (including licences renewed) covering live endangered birds is 6, 1 and 0 in 2018, 2019 and 2020 respectively.

Birds Imported into Hong Kong from 2018 to 2020

Year	Species	Quantity (head)	Country/place of export
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>Deropterus accipitrinus</i> *	1	Czech Republic
	<i>Diopsittaca nobilis</i> *	4	Mali
	<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	

Year	Species	Quantity (head)	Country/place of export
	<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 cygnus</i>	4	Malaysia
	<i>Eclectus roratus</i> *	30	Mali, Taiwan
	<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	

Year	Species	Quantity (head)	Country/place of export
	<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
2020	<i>Agapornis roseicollis</i>	830	Malaysia
	<i>Aix sponsa</i>	64	Taiwan
	<i>Amadina erythrocephala</i>	50	Mali
	<i>Amadina fasciata</i>	70	Mali
	<i>Amazona aestiva</i> *	14	Belgium, Czech Republic
	<i>Amazona ochrocephala</i> *	8	Belgium
	<i>Ara ararauna</i> *	1	Czech Republic
	<i>Ara chloropterus</i> *	6	Belgium
	<i>Ara severus</i> *	3	Belgium
	<i>Cacatua leadbeateri</i> *	2	Belgium
	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>	20	Mali
	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	2 110	Malaysia
	<i>Crithagra atrogularis</i>	50	Malaysia
	<i>Crithagra citrinipectus</i>	50	Malaysia
	<i>Crithagra mozambicus</i>	300	Malaysia
	<i>Erythrura gouldiae</i>	350	Malaysia
	<i>Euplectes capensis</i>	150	Mali
	<i>Euplectes orix</i>	260	Mali
	<i>Lamprotornis iris</i>	20	Mali
	<i>Lonchura atricapilla</i>	6 600	Malaysia
	<i>Lonchura maja</i>	6 600	Malaysia
	<i>Lonchura malabarica</i>	100	Mali
	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	7 800	Malaysia
	<i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i>	2 341	Czech Republic, Japan, Malaysia
	<i>Nymphicus hollandicus</i>	1 605	Mali, Taiwan
	<i>Passer luteus</i>	50	Mali
	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>	40	Mali
	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	592	Mali, Taiwan
	<i>Serinus canaria</i>	610	Czech Republic, Malaysia
	<i>Serinus flaviventris</i>	100	Malaysia
	<i>Serinus leucopygius</i>	1 000	Mali
	<i>Serinus mozambicus</i>	3 103	Mali
<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>	130	Mali	
<i>Vidua paradisaea</i>	150	Mali	
<i>Zosterops senegalensis</i>	60	Mali	

* Endangered species specified in the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)061

(Question Serial No. 1331)

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:

In 2020-21, what initiatives did the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department undertake to strengthen the management of stray animals and promote animal welfare? What was the actual expenditure involved in the said work?

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) implements various measures to strengthen the management of stray animals and promote animal welfare, which include:

- (i) 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;
- (ii) 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;
- (iii) devising codes of practices for the proper trading, breeding and keeping of pets and other animals;
- (iv) enhancing enforcement against pet owners and traders in contravention of relevant legislation;
- (v) improving the handling of reports or complaints on animal cruelty through collaboration with relevant departments and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong);

- (vi) 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;
- (vii) implementing the long-term strategy for the management of stray cattle in collaboration with the relevant AWOs and local communities; and
- (viii) liaising with different AWOs to carry out preventive management measures for stray animals and proactively promote animal rehoming in new development areas.

In 2020-21, about \$82.7 million was involved in the abovementioned work.

In addition, AFCD proceeds actively with the drafting of legislative amendments to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169) for further safeguarding animal welfare.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)062

(Question Serial No. 1333)

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) Please set out the Government's expenditures, as well as the breakdown of such expenditures, on detecting unlicensed animal breeding and trading in Hong Kong over the past 5 years and that for the financial year of 2021-22.
- (b) Please set out, according to the declarations submitted to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department by licence holders, the species and number of animals involved in animal breeding and trading over the past 5 years.
- (c) Please set out the number of persons convicted, the conditions breached and the penalties imposed for contravention of the Public Health (Animals and Birds)(Trading and Breeding) Regulations (the Regulations) over the past 5 years.
- (d) Apart from reminding licence holders in writing of the need to comply with the Regulations and the Animal Trader Licence, does the Department have any measures to ensure that the requirements of the Regulations will be observed in animal breeding and trading? If yes, what are the details of work and expenditure involved? If not, will the Department consider stepping up the monitoring of unlicensed animal breeding and trading facilities (such as surprise checks) so that the legislation will not exist in name only?

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

- (a) and (d) Regarding all premises for carrying on animal trading business, including those for dog breeding purpose and selling those breeding dams or their offspring, application for a valid animal trader licence (ATL) or a dog breeder licence (DBL) must be made in advance under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations (Cap. 139B) (the Regulations). All holders of ATL and DBL issued under the Regulations must comply strictly

with the statutory requirements concerning accommodation, living conditions, provision of food and water, pest control, etc. for animals under the Regulations as well as the relevant licensing conditions. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) conducts surprise inspections to the licensed animal trading premises from time to time proactively or upon reports from members of the public to ensure compliance with the licensing requirements by animal traders. The staff will also pay attention to the health conditions and welfare of the pets when conducting inspections. AFCD will consider instituting prosecution against any person who is found breaching the licensing requirements.

Besides, AFCD has set up a dedicated investigation unit to monitor advertisements for animal trading on the Internet, taking appropriate follow-up actions on suspicious cases and responding to related complaints.

The expenditure involved in the regulatory work of AFCD under the Regulations over the past 5 years and the estimated expenditure in 2021-22 is tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2016-17	14.2
2017-18	16.1
2018-19	17.2
2019-20	18.7
2020-21 (revised estimate)	18.0
2021-22 (estimate)	18.0

AFCD does not keep a breakdown of the expenditure involved in detecting unlicensed animal trading and breeding activities.

- (b) As licensing conditions stipulated in the Regulations do not require animal traders to provide figures related to sale of animals, AFCD does not have statistics on the relevant categories.
- (c) Information on successful prosecutions initiated by AFCD against breaches of licensing conditions stipulated in the Regulations and trading animals without a valid licence or permit, as well as the relevant penalties over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Successful prosecutions against breach of licensing conditions		Successful prosecutions against trading animals without a valid licence or permit	
	Number of cases	Fine (\$)	Number of cases	Fine (\$)
2016	2	500	3	1,000 to 2,000
2017	0	N/A	11 [*]	400 [#] to 5,000
2018	0	N/A	34 [^]	2,000 to 10,000
2019	2	2,000	34 [^]	600 to 20,000
2020	3	2,000	28	800 to 15,000

^{*} 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.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)063

(Question Serial No. 1335)

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 recent occurrences of abandoned animals, would the Government inform this Committee of the following information concerning the operation of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department over the past 3 years:

- (a) The number and breakdown of animals caught each year;
- (b) The number and breakdown of animals with a microchip implanted;
- (c) The geographical distribution of abandoned animals by animal type;
- (d) The number and breakdown of animals euthanised after being caught by the animal management centres;
- (e) The number and breakdown of animals rehomed at each animal management centre;
- (f) The details of expenditure involved in the publicity of rehoming services.

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

- (a) At present, stray animals caught are mainly 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*	Total
2018	1 235	547	1 369	3 151
2019	965	304	1 031	2 300
2020	603	209	997	1 809

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

- (b) Under the Rabies Regulation (Cap. 421A), only dogs aged over 5 months are required to be microchipped, and therefore AFCD only keeps records on the number of dogs microchipped. Among the dogs caught, 318, 206 and 121 of them were microchipped in 2018, 2019 and 2020 respectively.
- (c) The numbers and breakdown of animals surrendered by owners to AMCs over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

AMC	Number of animals surrendered by owners								
	2018			2019			2020		
	Dogs	Cats	Other Animals*	Dogs	Cats	Other Animals*	Dogs	Cats	Other Animals*
AMC/HK	67	3	4	105	1	10	61	4	11
AMC/K	131	26	9	100	15	21	74	24	21
AMC/NTS	121	5	6	106	7	13	68	2	11
AMC/NTN	396	46	24	363	52	25	328	30	22
Total	715	80	43	674	75	69	531	60	65

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

AFCD does not keep the statistics by geographical areas.

- (d) The numbers of stray animals caught and euthanised by the 4 AMCs under AFCD over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of stray animals caught and euthanised		
	Dogs	Cats	Other animals [#]
2018	512	271	459
2019	390	176	346
2020	264	78	394

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

- (e) The numbers and breakdown of animals at the 4 AMCs under AFCD that were rehomed subsequently over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

AMC	Number of animals rehomed								
	2018			2019			2020		
	Dogs	Cats	Other Animals*	Dogs	Cats	Other Animals*	Dogs	Cats	Other Animals*
AMC/HK	205	14	16	182	7	7	76	10	23
AMC/K	84	37	27	78	24	15	89	30	24
AMC/NTS	78	15	41	99	12	17	69	7	363
AMC/NTN	210	23	3	188	35	5	193	33	2
Total	577	89	87	547	78	44	427	80	412

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

- (f) AFCD has been promoting animal welfare through public education and publicity programmes, which include promoting responsible pet ownership and proper care of animals, advising the public against the abandonment of pets, reminding the public that they should give careful consideration to various factors before keeping pets, as well as encouraging animal rehoming. Over the past 3 years, the activities conducted by AFCD include production and broadcasting of educational videos and Announcements in the Public Interest on animal welfare through various platforms, publication and distribution of leaflets, posters and pamphlets on animal welfare through various channels and publicity of the latest information on animal welfare through a thematic website, placing of advertisements on various platforms (e.g. public transport), organisation of events to promote pet adoption and holding of talks at school and housing estates on a regular basis, etc. The expenditure involved in the aforementioned work is tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure on education and promotion of animal welfare (\$ million)
2018-19	19.6
2019-20	18.2
2020-21 (revised estimate)	22.0

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)064

(Question Serial No. 1337)

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:

With regard to supporting the development of local agriculture,

- (a) In the 2021-22 Estimates, the estimated provision for agriculture, fisheries and fresh food wholesale markets is \$675.5 million. Please advise this Committee how the provision would be used and allocated in detail.
- (b) The provision has increased by 41.3% year-on-year, and is higher than the original estimate by 27.7%. Please advise this Committee of the details regarding the year-on-year increase in provision, as well as the factors that contributed to the increase from the original estimate.
- (c) The Government mentioned that the above provision aims to provide infrastructural support, technical assistance and advice, credit facilities and vocational training to local farmers and fishermen. Please advise this Committee of the expenditure and manpower related to the above work.
- (d) The Government has been conducting adaptive and technical studies, as well as introducing modern technology and practices to local farmers and fishermen to facilitate their efficient production and improve the quality of their products over the past 3 years. What were the details and how effective were these measures?

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

- (a) and (b) Under the programme on Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) aims to facilitate agricultural and fisheries production and improve productivity. AFCD's work in pursuit of its aim involves:

- (i) the provision of infrastructural support, technical assistance and advice, credit facilities and vocational training to local farmers and fishermen;
- (ii) the conduct of adaptive and technical studies, as well as introduction of modern technology and practices to local farmers and fishermen to facilitate their efficient production and improve the quality of their products;
- (iii) the planning and implementation of effective management activities and services for promoting sustainable development of the agriculture and fisheries industries;
- (iv) the provision of administrative and technical support to the operation of the Vegetable Marketing Organization and the Fish Marketing Organization; and
- (v) the management of government fresh food wholesale markets.

Provision for 2021-22 under this programme is 41.3% higher than the revised estimate for 2020-21. This is mainly due to increased cash flow requirement for processing the appeal cases in connection with the one-off assistance package to trawler vessel owners, local deckhands and fish collector owners affected by the trawl ban and procurement of minor plant, vehicles and equipment.

- (c) and (d) In 2021-22, AFCD has earmarked 230 staff members and \$406 million (including the provisions for Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF) and the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund (SADF), the estimated expenditure on processing the appeal cases in connection with the one-off assistance package provided to fishermen affected by the trawl ban, etc.) for the provision of infrastructural support, technical assistance and advice, credit facilities and vocational training to local farmers and fishermen.

AFCD has all along encouraged and supported the modernisation and sustainable development of local agriculture and fisheries industries. The Department currently administers 2 sustainable funds (SFDF and SADF) for application of grants by eligible applicants (including tertiary and research institutions, non-profit-making agricultural and fisheries industry associations, trade unions, agricultural and fisheries co-operative societies, as well as entrepreneurs pioneering agricultural and fisheries production in Hong Kong) to carry out projects and researches that are conducive to the sustainable development of the agriculture and fisheries industries in Hong Kong.

AFCD has been conducting adaptive and technical studies, as well as introducing modern technology and practices to local farmers and fishermen. Regarding the agriculture industry, the work includes promotion of organic farming, development and promotion of new farming techniques (e.g. controlled-environment hydroponic farming, multi-layer farming, greenhouse production, etc.) to raise productivity, introduction of new and improved crop

varieties for local propagation, introduction and promotion of an integrated pest and disease control management system to reduce chances of crop failure, as well as introduction and promotion of the use of various modern farm machinery to raise productivity.

Regarding the fisheries industry, AFCD has been assisting fishermen in switching to and developing sustainable operations, which include aquaculture, offshore fishing, recreational fishing, ecotourism, etc. To assist the industry in developing sustainable aquaculture, AFCD has implemented various measures such as promoting good aquaculture practices (e.g. enhancing biosecurity, feed management and the aquaculture system), applying new technology in the monitoring of aquaculture environment, exploring and introducing new deep water mariculture technology and facilities, as well as introducing new culture species of high value such as pearl oysters and lobsters in addition to new fish species. In recent years, some fishermen have applied new technologies such as wave resistant cage systems, high-efficiency recirculation system and tried rearing some new fish species.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)065

(Question Serial No. 2058)

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 estimated provision for Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets for 2021-22 is 41.3% higher than the revised estimate for last year. The Department mentioned that this is mainly due to the one-off assistance package (assistance package) to trawler vessel owners, local deckhands and fish collector owners affected by the trawl ban. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee, in 2021-22:

- (a) What are the estimated number of beneficiaries of the assistance package and the average amount received by each person?
- (b) What is the estimated work schedule for the assistance package?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 40)

Reply:

The Government has set up an inter-departmental working group (the working group) to handle matters related to the one-off assistance package (the assistance package) to trawler vessel owners, local deckhands and fish collector owners affected by the trawl ban, and the vetting of applications under the assistance package has been completed. The Fishermen Claims Appeal Board (the Appeal Board) is now processing the appeals lodged by applicants aggrieved by the decisions of the working group. It is expected to be completed in 2021-22 the earliest, depending on actual circumstances. As the number of appeals allowed and the amount of grant on individual cases are subject to the decisions of the Appeal Board, we do not have a precise estimate on the number of beneficiaries and the average amount of grant received by each person in 2021-22.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)066****(Question Serial No. 1570)**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 2021-22 that the Department will focus on strengthening promotion of animal welfare. In this connection, would the Department advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) Details of the publicity programmes related to animal welfare, such as talks and seminars, organised over the past 3 years, the number of participants and the effectiveness of such programmes.
- (b) The ways in which the above programmes be promoted in the community and the number of people reached.
- (c) Details of the promotion efforts such as the plan, timetable and publicity channels.

Asked by: Hon LAU Kwok-fan (LegCo internal reference no.: 33)Reply:

- (a) and (b) The publicity programmes related to animal welfare organised by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 3 years are as follows:

2018-19		
Publicity programmes related to animal welfare	Number	Number of participants
Adoption Day and Carnival	2	22 803
Talk held at school / housing estate	105	12 869
Roving exhibition	36	8 674
Dog training course	7	164
On-street publicity activities, distribution of publicity leaflets and souvenirs	22	1 640

2019-20		
Publicity programmes related to animal welfare	Number	Number of participants
Adoption Day	1	16 803
Talk held at school / housing estate	103	12 399
Roving exhibition	23	8 116
Dog training course	6	152
On-street publicity activities, distribution of publicity leaflets and souvenirs	23	2 217

2020-21 (as of 1 March 2021)[#]		
Publicity programmes related to animal welfare	Number	Number of participants
Talk held at school / housing estate	22	1 865
Roving exhibition	1	117
On-street publicity activities, distribution of publicity leaflets and souvenirs	2	110

[#]The numbers of publicity programmes and participants are comparatively lower than those in previous years due to the COVID-19 epidemic and the need to avoid crowd gathering.

The publicity channels of the above programmes include postal mails, on-street booths and advertisements on various media and platforms, etc. AFCD has conducted questionnaire surveys with participants of some programmes to solicit their views. As shown from the results, participants have positive response towards the programmes in general, indicating that the programmes can bring them more information on enhancing animal welfare.

- (c) AFCD will continue to strengthen promotion of animal welfare and responsible pet ownership through public education and publicity activities. The activities include production and broadcasting of educational videos and Announcements in the Public Interest on animal welfare through various platforms, publication and distribution of leaflets, posters and pamphlets on animal welfare through various channels and publicity of the latest information on animal welfare through a thematic website, placing of advertisements on various platforms (e.g. public transport), organisation of events to promote pet adoption and holding of talks at school and housing estates on a regular basis, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)067

(Question Serial No. 1571)

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 2021-22 that the Department will focus on following up on the public consultation on the review of the existing legislation related to animal welfare, including introducing a positive duty of care on persons responsible for animals and enhancing enforcement powers to prevent and protect animals from suffering. In this connection, would the Department advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) Please provide details of the legislation review, including the work plan, the progress and the timetable. Does the Department have any plans to conduct further consultation on the review?
- (b) Recently, the cases of animal abuse and cruelty occurred repeatedly. It was commented that “even if the police succeeded in making arrest, the Department of Justice failed to institute prosecution and the persons involved were released”. Regarding the review of “enhancing enforcement powers to prevent and protect animals from suffering”, will the Department explore how to enhance the co-ordination among various parties with a view to strengthening the enforcement efforts? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- (c) Will the Department consider introducing a microchip regime or a widely use of similar technology on more types of animals in order to locate their owners “with a positive duty of care”? If yes, what are details of the estimated expenditure? Is there any timetable?

Asked by: Hon LAU Kwok-fan (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

- (a) The Government proposes to amend the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169) to further safeguard animal welfare. Proposed amendments include introducing a positive duty of care on persons responsible for animals to provide for

their welfare needs, as well as enhancing the provisions for prevention of animal cruelty, including the increase in the penalties, the introduction of an indictable offence, and the enhancement of enforcement powers to prevent and protect animals from suffering. The Government conducted a public consultation on the above proposals in 2019 and reported the results of the consultation to the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene of the Legislative Council in April 2020. We understand the public's concerns and expectations towards the legislative amendment, and the drafting of the legislation is now in full swing. Once the drafting work is completed, we will introduce the bill to the Legislative Council for scrutiny as soon as practicable.

- (b) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been collaborating with the Hong Kong Police Force (the Police) and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong) (SPCA) to review and improve the handling of reports or complaints on animal cruelty. AFCD works closely with the Police and SPCA by rendering mutual support and holding regular meetings to discuss the handling of relevant cases, sharing information and experience, and devising and reviewing guidelines to improve efficiency in the detection and prevention of animal cruelty cases so that animal welfare is protected. AFCD and the Police also organise various training courses to enhance the knowledge of frontline staff in animal welfare and their skills in handling and investigating animal cruelty cases. In addition, AFCD provides expert veterinary advice necessary for the investigations and carries out post-mortem examination to find out the cause of death including whether the animals have been cruelly treated.
- (c) Under the Rabies Regulation (Cap. 421A), a dog aged over 5 months is required to be vaccinated, implanted with a microchip and licensed. The primary purpose of the provisions is to prevent and control the spread of rabies more effectively. The risk of infected cats or other animals spreading rabies is relatively lower than that of infected dogs, and the Government currently has no plans to extend the requirement to cats and other commonly-kept animals. We understand that for a number of overseas places that have imposed a “duty of care” onto persons responsible for animals under their legislation, they also do not impose a microchipping requirement for cats or other animals. These places generally do not confine the persons with positive “duty of care” for an animal to the owner, but also include the persons in charge of, or having custody of the animal, whether permanently or temporarily.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)068

(Question Serial No. 3147)

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:

Would the Bureau provide the balance, amount of government injection, investment or other incomes, and total amount of expenditure of the following funds respectively in 2019-20? 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.: 81)

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 2020)	2020		
			Income [#] (\$ million)	Expenditure [^] (\$ million)	Fund balance (\$ million) (up to 31 December 2020)
(a)	Agricultural Products Scholarship Fund	-	0.1	0.6	4.9
(b)	Co-operative for American Relief Everywhere Loan Fund	-	-	-	0.2
(c)	Fisheries Development Loan Fund	1,100.0*	3.3	31.5	178.2
(d)	Fish Marketing Organization Loan Fund [@]	270.0*	0.6	99.9	250.8
(e)	J.E. Joseph Trust Fund	0.8	0.3	0.7	19.4
(f)	Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Loan Fund	2.0	0.2	3.2	11.8
(g)	Marine Fish Scholarship Fund	-	0.1	0.5	3.4
(h)	Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund	500.0*	-	26.2	426.8
(i)	Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund	500.0*	-	41.9	412.4
(j)	Vegetable Marketing Organization Agricultural Development Fund	-	0.3	12.4	17.9
(k)	Vegetable Marketing Organization Loan Fund	-	0.2	1.7	11.2
(l)	World Refugee Year Loan Fund	-	<0.1	-	2.1

* Government commitment to the fund

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. As approved by the Legislative Council Finance Committee in July 2020, the approved commitment of the scheme has increased by \$210 million, i.e. from \$60 million to \$270 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)069

(Question Serial No. 0675)

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 Government stated that it will safeguard the welfare of animals through the enforcement of relevant legislation. Would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) As mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021–22, the Government will follow up on the public consultation on the review of the existing legislation related to animal welfare. Is there any progress on the proposed amendment to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169)?
- (b) What are the specific measures in strengthening the promotion of animal welfare? What are the manpower and expenditure involved? Has the Government assessed the effectiveness of the relevant work over the past 2 years? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- (c) The United Kingdom has enacted the Animal Welfare Act in 2006 based on the welfare concept that owners must take positive steps to take care of their animals and they are also required to provide basic welfare and survival conditions for their animals, covering the duty of care to their physical, psychological, social needs, etc. Will the Government promptly commence the formulation of legislature on animal welfare?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

- (a) and (c) The Government proposes to amend the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169) to further safeguard animal welfare. Proposed amendments include introducing a positive duty of care on persons responsible for animals to provide for their welfare needs, as well as enhancing the provisions for prevention of animal cruelty, including the increase in the penalties, the introduction of an indictable offence and the enhancement of enforcement powers to prevent and protect animals from suffering. The Government conducted a public consultation on the above

proposals in 2019 and reported the results of the consultation to the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene of the Legislative Council in April 2020. We understand the public's concerns and expectations towards the legislative amendment, and the drafting of the legislation is now in full swing. Once the drafting work is completed, we will introduce the bill to the Legislative Council for scrutiny as soon as practicable.

- (b) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) implements the following measures to safeguard and promote animal welfare:
- (i) 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;
 - (ii) 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;
 - (iii) devising codes of practices for the proper trading, breeding and keeping of pets and other animals;
 - (iv) enhancing enforcement against pet owners and traders in contravention of relevant legislation;
 - (v) improving the handling of reports or complaints on animal cruelty through collaboration with relevant departments and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong);
 - (vi) 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;
 - (vii) implementing the long-term strategy for the management of stray cattle in collaboration with the relevant AWOs and local communities; and
 - (viii) liaising with different AWOs to carry out preventive management measures for stray animals and proactively promote animal rehoming in new development areas.

In 2020-21, about \$82.7 million and 220 staff members were involved in the abovementioned work.

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 2 years, the number of complaints received by AFCD about nuisances related to stray animals has decreased by 49%, whereas the numbers of stray cats and dogs caught by AFCD and those given by owners have dropped by 36% and 21% 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)070

(Question Serial No. 0676)

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 under the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22 that the Government would strengthen measures for stray animals management. What are the specific measures? What are the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

In 2021-22, 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 and advise the public against the abandonment of pets;
- (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 \$44.1 million for the said work in 2021-22, which involves 196 staff members.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)071

(Question Serial No. 3036)

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 animal management, how will the Department strengthen its efforts in this aspect in 2021-22 and what are the new measures? What are the details of the new measures, including the specific details, manpower and expenditure involved, as well as the implementation schedule? Has the effectiveness of the current measures been reviewed? If yes, what are the results and follow-up actions in the future? If not, what are the reasons and will reviews be conducted?

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

In 2021-22, 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 and advise the public against the abandonment of pets;
- (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 \$44.1 million for the said work in 2021-22, which involves 196 staff members.

Our efforts to control the number of stray animals and promote rehoming have started to bear fruit upon the implementation of relevant measures. 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 nuisances related to stray animals has decreased by 73%, whereas the numbers of stray cats and dogs caught by AFCD have dropped by 69% and 76% respectively, and the proportion of cats and dogs rehomed is increasing. We will continue to take forward and strengthen the abovementioned measures to further reduce the number of stray animals.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(PL)221

(Question Serial No. 2079)

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 Development

Question:

What are the reasons for the significant increase in the estimated figures of “area assessed for crop ex-gratia payment (hectares)”, “area assessed for aquaculture fisheries ex-gratia payment (m²)” and “claims assessed for capture fisheries ex-gratia payment” under “ex-gratia payment assessment” of the indicators for “Technical services” in 2021? What are the programmes for land clearance and development works involved? What is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-kin (LegCo internal reference no.: 73)

Reply:

The annual estimated figures of ex-gratia payment assessment for crop, aquaculture fisheries and capture fisheries vary from year to year according to the Government's programme for land clearance and development works, the area of agricultural lands and fish farms affected by the works and the number of affected fishermen.

In 2021, the area assessed for crop ex-gratia payment is mainly related to development of Kwu Tung North and Fanling North New Development Areas, Kam Tin South (Yuen Long) and Lok Ma Chau Loop. As regards the area assessed for aquaculture fisheries ex-gratia payment, it is mainly related to the development of Lok Ma Chau Loop. In respect of claims assessed for capture fisheries ex-gratia payment, it is mainly related to an exercise to be launched for registration and assessment of ex-gratia allowance claims by fishermen of large vessels (exceeding 15m in length) affected by marine works in Hong Kong waters. The major works projects involved in this exercise include the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge related projects, the Three-Runway System of Hong Kong International Airport and Tung Chung New Town Extension.

The expenditure involved in the assessments above will be absorbed by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department's existing resources hence no separate breakdown is available in this respect.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-ENB001

(Question Serial No. S010)

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:

How many new hiking trails have been constructed since the handover in 1997? Will the Government establish a "Chief Executive Trail" of a scale that is comparable to the MacLehose Trail or the Wilson Trail?

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) constructs various kinds of trails in country parks according to the environmental conditions and public needs, which include long-distance hiking trails, country trails, nature trails, tree walks, etc. The trails constructed after the handover in 1997 mainly include the hiking trails provided in new country parks, such as the Fitness Trail and the Pinewood Battery Heritage Trail in the Lung Fu Shan Country Park, as well as the Lo Fu Tau Country Trail in the Lantau North (Extension) Country Park. Besides, new hiking trails such as the Plover Cove Reservoir Country Trail and the Double Haven Country Trail have also been constructed to address different needs of the public.

As the current trail network in country parks has covered the majority of country park areas, there is no plan to construct new long-distance hiking trails extensively at present. The AFCD will focus the resources mainly on the maintenance, repair and improvement of existing trails to meet the public's needs.

- End -