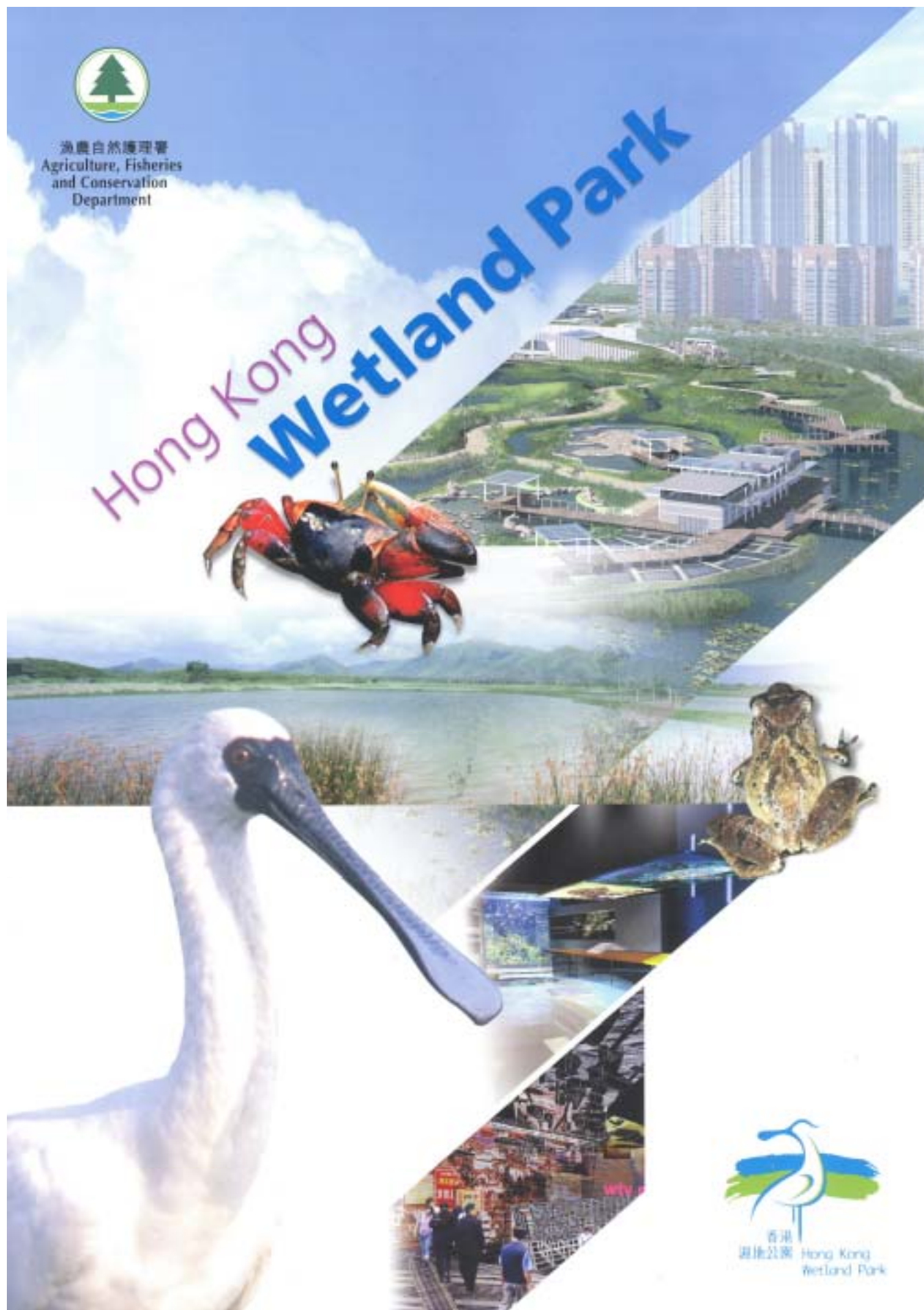


Appendix 5 : Hong Kong Wetland Park



Introduction

The Hong Kong Wetland Park (HKWP) project is a millennium capital works project designed by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. It is built upon the Ecological Mitigation Area (EMA) in Tin Shui Wai, New Territories to create a world-class conservation, education and tourism facility.

The EMA is part of the endorsement of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) undertaken for Territory Development Department under Agreement No. CE 10/95, the *Engineering Investigation for the Further Development of Tin Shui Wai*. It is aimed to provide different types of ecological habitats, including wetlands, woodlands, grasslands, reedbed, fishponds, mangrove and intertidal mudflats, to replace those habitats lost under the Tin Shui Wai New Town development. In addition, it acts as a buffer between Tin Shui Wai and Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site. The HKWP will upgrade the EMA to a world-class eco-tourism facility without comprising its ecological mitigation functions.



The HKWP project has two phases. The Phase 1 of the HKWP was completed and opened to the public in December 2000, which serves as an early venue for publicity of the HKWP project and promotion on wetland conservation. Since opening, the Phase 1 venue attracts some 100,000 visitors per year. Admission to Phase 1 venue is free and the guided visit and education programme are offered by the Department under a prior booking system. The planning and development of Phase 2 of HKWP is now being undertaken by the Architectural Services Department and is anticipated for completion in late 2005.

The Site

The HKWP site is located in the southern side of Deep Bay, south of the Tsim Bei Tsui Peninsula and northeast of the New Town of Tin Shui Wai.

The main entrance of the HKWP is located near the Wetland Park Station of the Tin Shui Wai Light Rail Extension (Phase 4).



Scope

The HKWP will be approximately 64 hectares in size, including an indoor visitor centre of about 10,000 square metres and some 60 hectares outdoor park and marshes for the re-constructed wetlands.



Mission and Objectives

Mission

To foster public awareness, knowledge and understanding of the inherent values of wetlands throughout the East Asian region and beyond, and to marshal public support and action for their conservation.

Objectives

The primary objective of the HKWP is to create a visitor attraction of international status, catering both for the general public and visitors, and also for those with special interest in wildlife and ecology. Other objectives of the HKWP include:

- demonstrating the diversity of Hong Kong's wetland ecosystem and highlight the need to conserve them;
- providing an attraction which will diversify the range of visitor experience in Hong Kong for visitors from abroad;
- serving the recreational needs of the residents of the adjoining urban areas in the Northwest New Territories;
- providing a facility that will both complement and supplement those offered at the Mai Po Nature Reserve;
- providing opportunities for education and public awareness.



Market Potential

It is expected that HKWP will attract some 540,000 visitors each year coming from Hong Kong, Mainland China and overseas. The HKWP will be particularly attractive to –

- (a) family groups (i.e. those associated with children);
- (b) school and college groups;
- (c) adult tourist groups; and
- (d) specialist interest groups (such as natural history and bird-watching).

Further assumptions as to the mix of visitors are: overseas and mainland visitors 29%; students 43% and others 28%.

Construction Costs

The capital cost for the EMA construction is about HK\$125 million and the capital cost for the HKWP project is about HK\$518 million.



Ramsar Tour

It is a guided visit programme of the HKWP tailor-made for students studying biology or geography, and undergraduates studying natural science. It aims at providing an in-depth understanding in biology, ecology and wise use of wetlands (such as fishponds and Gei Wai) in the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site in Hong Kong.

Phase 1 Guided Tour

It is a guided tour around Phase 1 Exhibition Pavilion and its outdoor exhibits to introduce the wetland ecosystem and development of the HKWP project. The tour, guided by a Wetland Park interpreter, lasts for about 20 minutes. Tours are provided at regular intervals on Sundays and Public Holidays, from 10:30am to 12noon and from 1:30pm to 4pm.

Hong Kong Wetland Park Phase 1

The Phase 1 venue includes a 230-square metre Exhibition Pavilion (wetland simulation, interactive touch-screen computer devices, animal and plant models and display panels) and a landscaped forecourt.

Opening hours :

Monday, Wednesday to Saturday	9:30am – 4:30pm
Sunday and Public holiday	10:30am – 5:30pm
Tuesday	Closed

Education and Conservation Programmes

Wetland Tour

Wetland Tour is a guided tour. It is a conservation education programme of the HKWP, aiming to arouse public awareness on the wetland ecosystem in Hong Kong.

World Wetlands Day

The date of 2nd February is the anniversary of the signing of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance in Ramsar, Iran in 1971 (commonly known as the Ramsar Convention). The Ramsar Bureau has designated 2nd February as the World Wetlands Day. A number of activities are organized to celebrate and to publicize the importance of wetlands. Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department organizes the World Wetlands Day Celebration Ceremony to address this meaningful day each year.

HKWP Volunteer Scheme

The scheme was first launched in February 2002, and till February 2004, more than 820 voluntary workers and 36 voluntary groups have been recruited and participated in a number of voluntary services categorized under four separate schemes, namely Eco-tour team, Education and Information team, Outdoor Service team and Community Programme team.

Hong Kong Wetland Park Phase 2

The Park will have a 10,000-square metre Visitor Centre overlooking a 60-hectare Outdoor Park. The Visitor Centre will have three major exhibition galleries, AV theatre, souvenir shop, café, play areas, classroom and resource centre. The areas of the galleries range from 800 to 1,200 square metres. The Outdoor Park is constructed wetlands and re-created habitats for waterfowls. Action stations, educational facilities, boardwalks and bird hides will be installed along the outdoor visitor trails, allowing visitors to get closer to the natural wetland heritage and migratory birds.

The full range of services for the operation and management of the HKWP is intended to be outsourced to one single service provider. AFCD will be responsible for the day-to-day monitoring and supervision of the contractor.



Main Facilities

Description

Entry Plaza	The first point for visitors to escape from the hustle and bustle and prepare for a different and eye-opening experience.
Visitor Centre	A 10,000-square metre indoor exhibition centre with themed exhibition galleries and visitor facilities.
Atrium	This is the first "WOW" space and sets the tone of the whole visit. Exhibition Galleries include What are Wetlands, Living Wetlands, Wetlands and People, Wetland Challenge and Viewing Gallery.
Play Areas	Both indoor and outdoor which adults and kids can both have fun.
AV Theatre	A 200-seater multi-purpose theatre for film showing, conference, seminar and other stage performance.
Café	A 250-seater café to provide catering service to visitors.
Souvenir Shop	A wetland company selling souvenirs and books.
Resource Centre	A complex of classroom, library and workshop for wetland studies.
Outdoor Park	A 60-hectare outdoor wetland reserve with field study centre, walks, bird hides and outdoor interpretations.



Transportation

Private Car – Open car park with 26 parking spaces at Visitor Centre and 20 overflow parking spaces at Maintenance Office.
Coach (60-seater) – 27 open coach park at Maintenance Office.

West Rail and Light Rail – Take exit C at Tin Shui Wai West Rail Station, interchange for Light Rail at Tin Yiu Station (Route 761 towards Tin Wing) and get off at Wetland Park Light Rail Station, the park is right ahead for 5-minute walk.

More Information

West Rail / Light Rail www.krcr.com
 Bus Citybus www.citybus.com.hk
 Kowloon Motor Bus www.kmb.com.hk

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