

Agreement No. CE 18/2002 (EP)
Construction of Helipads at Peng Chau and Yung Shue Wan,
Lamma Island



Report for
Coral Monitoring Survey (December 2007)

31st December 2007



miniprojects co. Ltd.

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Lamma Island

Report for
Coral Monitoring Survey
at Yung Shue Wan in December 2007

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

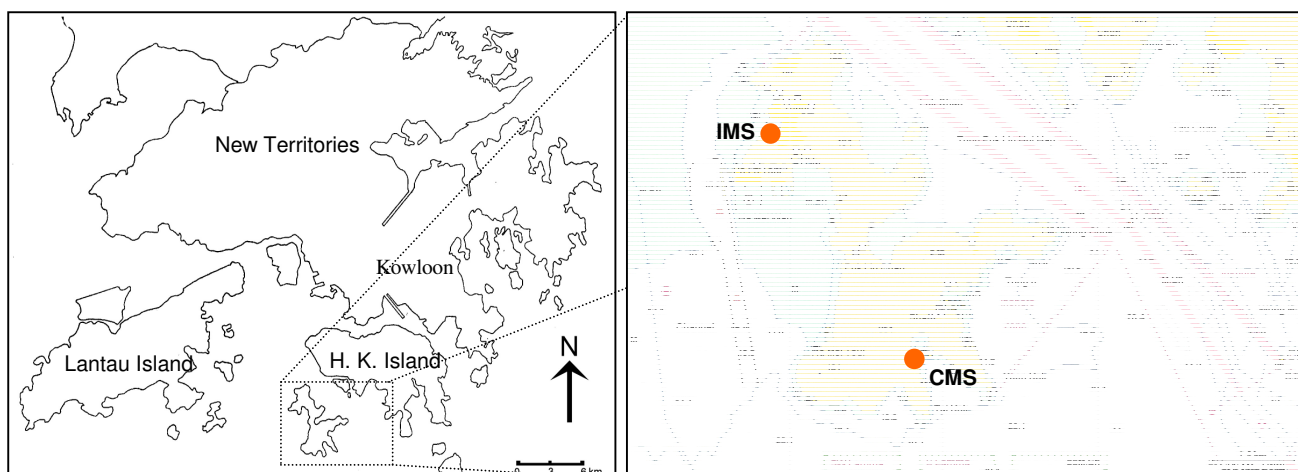
- 1.1.1 Cinotech Consultants Limited has been appointed to formulate a Coral Survey Team to conduct the Marine Ecology Survey for Construction of Helipads at Yung Shue Wan, Lamma Island, Agreement No. CE 18/2002 (EP).
- 1.1.2 miniprojects Company Limited (miniprojects co. Ltd.) have been commissioned by Cinotech Consultants Limited to undertake Coral Monitoring Survey on the tagged hard coral colonies at one Impact Monitoring Station (IMS) and one Control Monitoring Station (CMS).
- 1.1.3 As required by the EM&A manual, frequency of Coral Monitoring Survey is,
- Twice a week for the first two weeks of works affecting seabed
 - Once a week for the following two weeks if no exceedance is detected
 - Once every two weeks for the 2nd and 3rd months if no exceedance is detected
 - Once a month after the 3rd until completion of the construction works if not exceedance is detected
- 1.1.4 This is the monthly report presenting the results of the monthly Coral Monitoring Survey (i.e. 11th) conducted in the 4th month (i.e. December 2007) after the commencement of the construction work.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Impact Monitoring Surveys - Locations

2.1.1 The Impact Monitoring Station (IMS) was located at Yung Shue Wan, close to the seabed construction area (Fig. 2.1). In order to identify background environmental perturbations that are not associated with the construction, Sham Wan, which is away from the impact area, was designated as the Control Monitoring Station (CMS; Fig. 2.1). Locations (GPS coordinates) of IMS and CMS, as well as the conditions during monitoring surveys are summarized in Table 3.1.

Fig. 2.1 Map Showing the Locations of the Impact Monitoring Station (IMS) and Control Monitoring Station (CMS)



2.2 Survey Methods

- 2.2.1 At both IMS and CMS, 10 hard coral colonies were tagged for continuous monitoring over the course of construction phase. Dive surveys were conducted to record the health status of the tagged corals, including percentage area of sedimentation, bleaching and partial mortality.
- 2.2.2 The condition of each tagged coral colony was recorded by taking photographs that best represents the entire colony. General physical parameters were recorded for each survey site, including visibility, weather, tidal conditions and water current.
- 2.2.3 The results of the impact monitoring surveys were reviewed with reference to finding of the Initial Coral Survey and the data from CMS collected during the monitoring.

2.3 Coral Monitoring Frequency

2.3.1 Monitoring on the tagged corals for degree of sedimentation and area of bleaching shall be conducted at the frequencies indicated below during works affecting the seabed.

- During the first two weeks of works affecting seabed: twice a week.
- If no exceedance detected for the first 2 weeks of monitoring: once a week for the following 2 weeks.
- If no exceedance detected for the first 4 weeks of monitoring: once every two weeks for the 2nd and 3rd months (i.e. October and November 2007, respectively).
- If no exceedance in the 3rd month of monitoring, coral monitoring shall be conducted once per month (i.e. since December 2007) until completion of the construction works.

2.4 Actions on Exceedance of Action & Limit Levels

2.4.1 Where the coral survey indicates the health conditions of the corals exceed the action and limit levels, the Engineer may direct more frequent monitoring to be carried out until exceedance stops. The action and limit level of coral monitoring is shown in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1. Action and Limit Level for Coral Monitoring

Parameter	Action Level Definition	Limit Level Definition
Sedimentation	If during Coral Monitoring a 15% increase in the percentage of sediment cover on hard corals occurs at more than 20% of the tagged coral at any one Coral Monitoring Site that is not recorded at the Control Site, then the Action Level is exceeded.	If during Coral Monitoring a 25% increase in the percentage of sediment cover on hard corals occurs at more than 20% of the tagged coral at any one Coral Monitoring Site that is not recorded at the Control Site, then the Limit Level is exceeded.
Bleaching	If during Coral Monitoring a 15% increase in the percentage of bleaching (bleached white) on hard corals occurs at more than 20% of the tagged coral at any one Coral Monitoring Site that is not recorded at the Control Site, then the Action Level is exceeded.	If during Coral Monitoring a 25% increase in the percentage of bleaching (bleached white) on hard corals occurs at more than 20% of the tagged coral at any one Coral Monitoring Site that is not recorded at the Control Site, then the Limit Level is exceeded.

- 2.4.2 The Contractor shall take all necessary steps to ensure that the actions of the Contractor are not contributing to the deterioration. These steps shall include, but not be limited to the following:
- Checking of water quality monitoring data;
 - Checking of all marine plant and equipment; maintenance or replacement of any marine plant or equipment contributing to the deterioration;
 - Checking and maintenance of silt curtains;
 - Review of all working methods; and
 - Reduced construction rate.
- 2.4.3 Upon action level being exceeded and after agreement from the Environmental Specialist and AFCD has been obtained regarding the most appropriate method for reducing the adverse impacts during works affecting the seabed, this mitigated method should then be enacted on the next working day.
- 2.4.4 Upon limit level being exceeded, the Contractor shall suspend all works affecting the seabed until an effective solution is identified. Once the solution has been identified and agreed with the Environmental Specialist and AFCD, construction works affecting seabed may recommence.
- 2.4.5 The Engineer and AFCD shall be kept informed of all steps taken; and written reports and proposals for action shall be passed to the Engineer and AFCD by the Contractor whenever the coral survey shows any adverse impact upon the corals.
- 2.4.6 After the Contractor have implemented the agreed mitigating measures, if the coral surveys indicate the coral condition is unacceptable, additional mitigation measures should be recommended by the Contractor after consulting the Environmental Specialist for the approval of the Engineer and AFCD to rectify the situation. The Engineer can temporarily suspend the site activities until the problem is under control and an acceptable coral condition is restored.
- 2.4.7 In case the Contractor fails to implement the agreed mitigation measures, the Engineer can direct the Contractor to slow down or suspend his work until the Engineer and AFCD is convinced that the mitigation measures have restored the corals to an acceptable condition.
- 2.4.8 The Environmental Specialist shall assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the proposed mitigation measures and/or remedial actions for construction activities affecting the seabed. The performance of the Environmental Monitoring and Audit Programme shall be reviewed and audited by the Environmental Specialist on a quarterly basis. The findings of this review shall be included in the quarterly EM&A summary reports, together with any recommendations to improve the performance of the Environmental Monitoring and Audit Programme.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Monitoring Surveys in December 2007

3.1.1 In December 2007 (i.e. the 4th month after the start of the construction work), both IMS and CMS were surveyed. The date of the survey and physical conditions of each sites are summarized in Table 3.1

Table 3.1 IMS and CMS – Physical Conditions.

	IMS (Yung Shue Wan)	CMS (Sham Wan)
GPS Coordinates	N 22°13'28.4 E 114°06'30.6	N 22°11'15.0 E 114°08'04.0
Date	15 Dec 07	15 Dec 07
Sedimentation on Rock surfaces (mm)	1 to 2	1 to 2
Visibility (m)	0.5 to 1	2 to 3
Weather	Beaufort Force 4 (Northeast to East wind); sunny	Beaufort Force 4 (Northeast to East wind); sunny
Tide	Flood	Flood
Current (Knot)	0 to 0.5	0 to 0.5
Remark	-	-

3.1.2 Percentages of sedimentation, bleaching and mortality of each tagged colony are presented in Table 3.2. Photographs of each tagged coral in the surveys are illustrated in Appendices Ia and Ib.

IMS

3.1.3 In the survey conducted in December 2007, sedimentation on the tagged coral colonies varied from +5% to -2% when compared with the baseline level in July 2007. Increment in sedimentation level was observed in 5 colonies (A02, A04, A05, A06 and A07). Lower sedimentation was found in 2 colonies (A08 and A10). The sedimentation was either lower then or equal to the record in the previous month (Nov 2007) except for 1 colony (A05). Bleaching was recorded in 3 colonies (A05, A08 and A09). The bleaching in colony A03 observed in previous surveys was not evidenced in the present survey. Partial mortality recorded in colony A08 remained steady and no new mortality was found (Table 3.2).

3.1.4 The colony A03 was found partially damaged in this survey that about 10% of the colony was lost (Appendix Ia). The damage was caused by physical impact of unknown source. The remaining part of the colony was in normal state. As no consequent bleaching and mortality was shown by this colony as a result of the damage, the colony A03 was believed to be qualified for monitoring purpose, and hence will be utilized for the onward monitoring surveys.

CMS

- 3.1.5 When compared with baseline data in July 2007, the tagged colonies generally showed the same or lower sedimentation. Decreased sedimentation was recorded in 5 colonies (B03, B05, B07, B08 and B09). Bleaching and mortality was not recorded except for colony B05 in which 2% bleaching was recorded in September 07, but no further increase was observed in the subsequent surveys (Table 3.2).

Table 3.2 IMS and CMS – Code, Species Name, Area, Percentage of Sedimentation, Bleaching and Mortality of the Tagged Coral Colonies in Initial Coral Survey (21st July 2007), 3 previous (28th October 2007; 11th and 24th November 2007) and 1 present monitoring surveys (15th December 2007). “▲” and “▼” indicate increased and decreased in percentage, respectively, when compared with the Initial Coral Survey.

IMS (Yung Shue Wan)

Code	Coral Species	Area (cm ²)	Sedimentation (%)					Bleaching (%)					Mortality (%)					
			21 Jul 07 (Baseline)	28 Oct	11 Nov	24 Nov	15 Dec	21 Jul 07 (Baseline)	28 Oct	11 Nov	24 Nov	15 Dec	21 Jul 07 (Baseline)	28 Oct	11 Nov	24 Nov	15 Dec	
A01	<i>Favites pentagona</i>	110	1	1	0 ▼	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A02	<i>Favia rotumana</i>	220	0	5 ▲	5 ▲	5 ▲	1 ▲	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A03	<i>Platygyra carnosus</i>	400*	0	0	0	1 ▲	0	0	1 ▲	1 ▲	1 ▲	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A04	<i>Favia rotumana</i>	570	0	3 ▲	7 ▲	7 ▲	3 ▲	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A05	<i>Cyphastrea serailia</i>	330	3	5 ▲	8 ▲	5 ▲	8 ▲	0	1 ▲	1 ▲	1 ▲	1 ▲	0	0	0	0	0	0
A06	<i>Cyphastrea serailia</i>	190	0	5 ▲	1 ▲	2 ▲	2 ▲	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A07	<i>Favites pentagona</i>	200	0	2 ▲	3 ▲	3 ▲	2 ▲	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A08	<i>Porites sp</i>	440	3	1 ▼	0 ▼	1 ▼	1 ▼	0	1 ▲	1 ▲	1 ▲	1 ▲	0	2 ▲	2 ▲	2 ▲	2 ▲	2 ▲
A09	<i>Favites pentagona</i>	300	0	0	2 ▲	1 ▲	0	0	1 ▲	1 ▲	1 ▲	1 ▲	0	0	0	0	0	0
A10	<i>Porites sp.</i>	300	3	0 ▼	0 ▼	2 ▼	1 ▼	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

* part of the colony lost due to physical damage

CMS (Sham Wan)

Code	Coral Species	Area (cm ²)	Sedimentation (%)					Bleaching (%)					Mortality (%)						
			21 Jul 07 (Baseline)	28 Oct	11 Nov	24 Nov	15 Dec	21 Jul 07 (Baseline)	28 Oct	11 Nov	24 Nov	15 Dec	21 Jul 07 (Baseline)	28 Oct	11 Nov	24 Nov	15 Dec		
B01	<i>Favia lizardensis</i>	360	1	1	1	2 ▲	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B02	<i>Porites sp.</i>	370	1	5 ▲	0 ▼	4 ▲	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B03	<i>Psammocora profundacella</i>	440	2	5 ▲	5 ▲	2	1 ▼	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B04	<i>Cyphastrea serailia</i>	220	0	0	0	2 ▲	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B05	<i>Favites abdita</i>	650	2	2	1 ▼	1 ▼	1 ▼	0	2 ▲	2 ▲	2 ▲	2 ▲	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B06	<i>Leptastrea pruinosa</i>	450	1	2 ▲	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B07	<i>Platygyra acuta</i>	350	1	0 ▼	0 ▼	1	0 ▼	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B08	<i>Leptastrea pruinosa</i>	690	2	2	1 ▼	2	1 ▼	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B09	<i>Leptastrea pruinosa</i>	400	2	2	1 ▼	3 ▲	1 ▼	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B10	<i>Favites pentagona</i>	130	0	5 ▲	1 ▲	5 ▲	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

4 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

4.1 Summary – Monitoring Surveys

- 4.1.1 In the monitoring surveys conducted in December 2007, the sedimentation level was generally lower than the record in November 2007 in both IMS and CMS. No increment in bleaching and partial mortality was found across all the tagged colonies.
- 4.1.2 In both survey sites, level of sedimentation on the tagged corals varied within a small range (<10%). The variation was believed to be contributed by combined environmental factors such as monsoonal wind, tidal current, peripheral transports, etc. During the dry season, the two survey sites were less affected by the prevailing North-eastern monsoonal wind, which may be a factor for the lower sedimentation levels. The low level of increment in bleaching and partial suggested minor/no adverse effect was caused by the observed sedimentation variation.
- 4.1.3 The data from the monitoring surveys showed no significant enhancement in sedimentation, bleaching or mortality in IMS when compared with the CMS. Hence, no adverse impact by the construction activity on the coral community was evidenced.

4.2 Compliance / Event Action Plan

- 4.2.1 The monitoring results were evaluated against the Action and Limit Levels as defined in the EM&A manual (Table 2.1), and is summarized in Table 4.1
- 4.2.2 Overall, the healthy status of the tagged coral colonies was normal, with low to medium levels of sedimentation. Low levels of bleaching and mortality were observed in both Monitoring and Control Sites. Neither action/limit level of sedimentation, bleaching or mortality was exceeded in both monitoring survey conducted in December 2007.

Table 4.1 Evaluation of Monitoring Results against Action and Limit Level for Coral Monitoring Surveys. Note Definition of Action/Limit levels are listed in Table 2.1. “No” indicates NO exceedance.

15th Dec 2007

Site \ Exceedance	Sedimentation		Bleaching		Mortality	
	Action Level	Limit Level	Action Level	Limit Level	Action Level	Limit Level
IMS	No	No	No	No	No	No
CMS	No	No	No	No	No	No

APPENDIX

Appendices Ia Photographs of the tagged corals at IMS (15th Dec 2007)

Appendices Ib Photographs of the tagged corals at CMS (15th Dec 2007)

Appendix Ia Tagged Coral Colonies at the Impact Monitoring Site (IMS).



A01



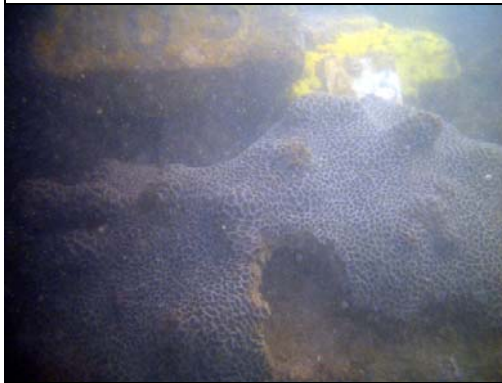
Favites pentagona



A02



Favia rotumana



A03



Platygyra carnosus



A04



Favia rotumana

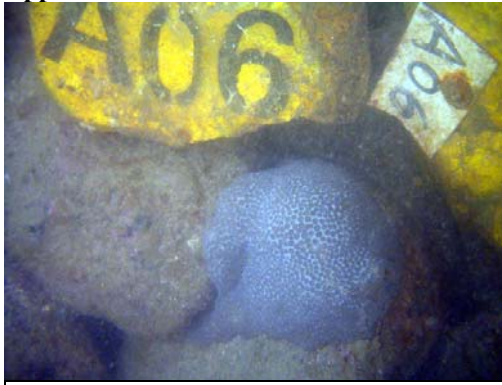


A05

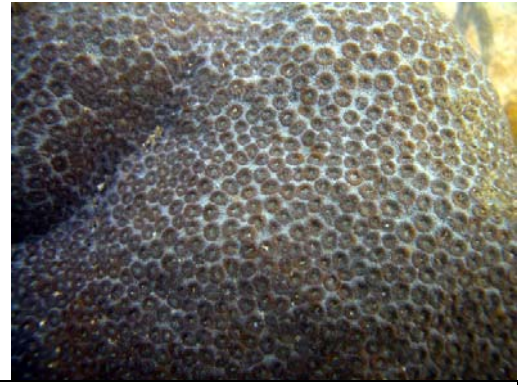


Cyphastrea serailia

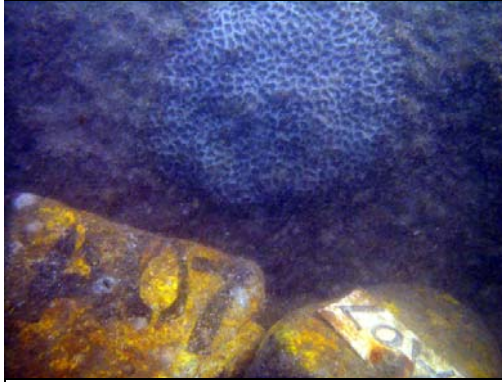
Appendix Iacontinued.



A06



Cyphastrea serailia



A07



Favites pentagona



A08



Porites sp.



A09



Favites pentagona



A10



Porites sp.

Appendix Ib Tagged Coral Colonies at the Coral Monitoring Site (CMS).



B01



Favia lizardensis



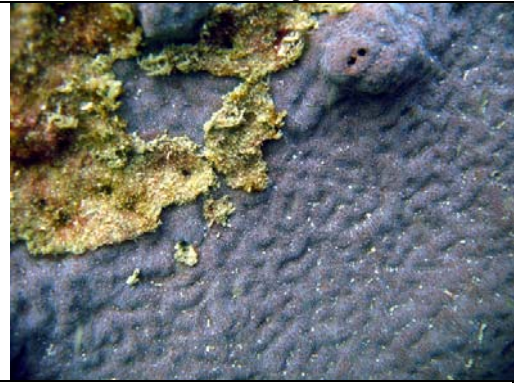
B02



Porites sp.



B03



Psammocora profundacella



B04



Cyphastrea serailia

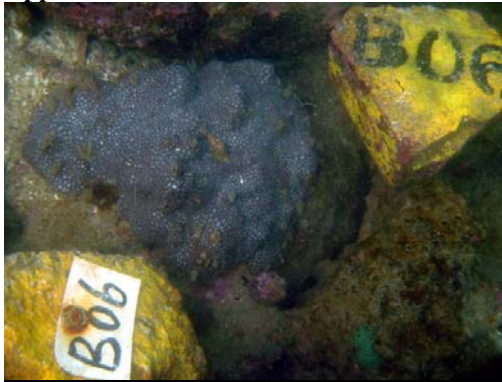


B05



Favites abdita

Appendix Ibcontinued.



B06



Leptastrea pruinosa



B07



Platygyra acuta



B08



Leptastrea pruinosa



B09



Leptastrea pruinosa



B10



Favites pentagona