



33/F, Revenue Tower, 5 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong
香港灣仔告士打道5號稅務大樓33樓

ACE Paper 1/2022
For advice by circulation

Report on the 150th Environmental Impact Assessment Subcommittee Meeting

PURPOSE

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Subcommittee considered the EIA report on “**Mai Po Nature Reserve Infrastructure Upgrade Project**” (the Project) submitted under Section 6(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO) at the meeting on Monday, 10 January 2022. The EIA report was submitted by the World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong (WWF) (the Project Proponent).

2. Members are requested to note the views of the EIA Subcommittee and advise on whether the EIA report should be endorsed.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR THE PROJECT

3. Mai Po Nature Reserve (MPNR) is an internationally recognised important wetland providing habitats for birds and supporting the East-Asian Australasian Flyway migrations. The MPNR also showcases the practice of gei wai as an example of traditional wise-use of wetlands and is a regional center for knowledge and awareness on wetland conservation.

4. Most of the existing facilities within the MPNR have been in use for more than 30 years and are showing their age. The proposed project will facilitate universal access and provide new education components through the widening of the existing footpaths with wooden boardwalks and the provision of two new tower hides.

5. Please refer to ACE-EIA Paper 1/2022 (*Annex A*) for the details of the EIA project.

VIEWS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE

6. Members noted that the EIA report was made available for public inspection during the period from 19 November to 18 December 2021. During the inspection period, no public comment had been received by the Environmental Protection Department.

7. Relevant extract of the draft minutes of the EIA Subcommittee meeting held on 10 January 2022 is at *Annex B*.

VIEWS OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

8. The Director of Environmental Protection (DEP), in consultation with relevant authorities, considered that the EIA report has met the requirements in the EIA Study Brief and the Technical Memorandum on EIA Process (TM), for the purpose of its exhibition for public inspection under Section 7(4) of the EIAO.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE

9. Having regard to the findings of the EIA report as well as the information provided by the Project Proponent and its consultants at the meeting, the EIA Subcommittee recommended the full Council to endorse the EIA report with the following conditions and recommendations –

Conditions of Endorsement

The Project Proponent shall –

- (i) devise a Tree Pruning / Felling Plan (the Plan) by qualified ecologist(s), if tree pruning / felling is necessary, with a view to mitigating any potential adverse impact / disturbance to the wildlife, including bats or birds. The Project Proponent shall consult the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) on the Plan prior to submission to DEP for approval before commencement of the construction works;
- (ii) devise an Egretty Mitigation Measures Plan (the Plan) by qualified ecologist(s) with a view to mitigating any potential adverse impact / disturbance to the egretty and breeding ardeids, if they are identified in the vicinity of and may be affected by the proposed works. The Project Proponent shall consult the AFCD on the Plan prior to submission to the DEP for approval before commencement of the construction works; and

- (iii) develop, in consultation with the AFCD, a method statement and management plan for the design and construction of the wooden boardwalk, including but not limited to the maintenance of the wooden boardwalk and the existing concrete footpath beneath the wooden boardwalk, with a view to minimising disturbances to the wildlife and sensitive habitats in the vicinity. The Plan shall be submitted to the DEP for approval before commencement of the construction works.

Recommendations

The Project Proponent is recommended to –

- (iv) identify and justify the choices of the bamboo species used for screen planting, in consultation with the AFCD, with a view to avoiding invasive species being deployed in the project;
- (v) explore ways to enhance the habitat quality in the project site as far as practicable;
- (vi) minimise the amount of excavated materials generated from the proposed construction of tower hides, reduce the duration of the temporary storage of the sediment on the nearby bunds as well as backfilling as far as practicable in order to avoid possible cross contamination in the works area and the immediate vicinity; and
- (vii) adopt effective and innovative measures to minimise carbon emissions arising from the proposed construction works with the aim to achieve carbon neutrality within the project site.

10. Members of the EIA Subcommittee have agreed at the meeting that the Project Proponent would not be required to attend the full Council meeting in respect of the EIA report.

**EIA Subcommittee Secretariat
January 2022**