

**Advisory Council on the Environment  
Nature Conservation Subcommittee**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2007  
at 10:30 am in Conference Room 2825, 28/F., Southorn Centre, Wanchai**

**Present:**

Professor WONG Yuk-shan, B.B.S., J.P. (Chairman)

Ms HO Siu-fong, Betty

Professor LAM Kwan-sing, Paul

Dr MAN Chi-sum, J.P.

Dr NG Cho-nam, B.B.S.

Dr YAU Wing-kwong

**Absent with apologies:**

Ms LAU Wai-kuen, Goretta

Mr. Markus J. SHAW

**In Attendance :**

Mr. Vincent TANG      Assistant Director (Conservation), Environmental Protection  
Department (EPD)

Mr. C C LAY            Assistant Director (Conservation),  
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)

Dr P M SO             Senior Conservation Officer (Biodiversity), AFCD

Miss Florence CHAN   Senior Administrative Officer (Nature Conservation), EPD  
(Secretary)

**In Attendance for Agenda Item 3 :**

Ms Lister CHEUNG    (Chief Executive of Conservancy Association (CA))

Dr. CHEUNG Ho Fai   (Chairman of Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (HKBWS))

Dr. HUNG Wing Tat   (Board of Director of CA)

Mr. LO Wai Yan       (Project Manager of HKBWS)

Mr. Ken SO            (Conservation Manager of CA)

Ms YEUNG Lee Ki     (Project Officer of HKBWS)

Dr YAU Wing-kwong Chairman, Tai Po Environmental Association (TPEA)  
Mr. Alan LAM Project Officer, TPEA

**In Attendance for Agenda Item 4:**

Dr T W TAM Nature Conservation Officer (Lantau), AFCD

**In Attendance for Agenda Item 5**

Mr. Edmond LAM Executive Director (Hong Kong Wetland Park), AFCD  
Ms Carrie MA Wetland Park Manager/Education, AFCD

\*\*\*\*\*

Action

The Chairman welcomed Members to the meeting of the Nature Conservation Subcommittee (Subcommittee).

**Agenda Item 1: Confirmation on Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 21 May 2007**

2. The draft minutes were confirmed without any amendments.

**Agenda Item 2: Matters arising**

3. The Chairman reminded Members to declare potential conflict of interest. Members noted that a member and another member were the Director and Chairman of Conservancy Association respectively; and another member was the Chairman of the Tai Po Environmental Association. The Chairman suggested that the concerned members continue to attend the meeting but refrain from discussion when discussing the relevant project. Such arrangement was in line with the usual practice of the Subcommittee.

**Agenda Item 3: Two Applications under Nature Conservation Management Agreement (MA) Scheme (NCSC Paper 2/07)**

4. Dr PM SO brought members through the paper. The Chairman asked if there were any other new applications received other than the two applications to be discussed at this meeting. Dr NG responded that HKBWS was exploring with landowners to implement new MA projects. However, the negotiation with landowners was difficult and it was not easy to agree on the amount of rental payment.

5. Mr. Vincent TANG said that the Government would widely promulgate the MA Scheme through the media visit to be held on 7 December 2007 and encouraged interested parties to submit new applications.

***Presentation by CA and HKBWS***

6. The Chairman invited representatives of CA and HKBWS to present the joint application submitted by the two organizations. A member opined that cooperation between CA and HKBWS was essential. The Chairman said that CA and HKBWS worked quite well in the pilot projects and he expected a closer partnership between them in the new project. The member asked the applicants if they had any plans to enhance cooperation, e.g. setting up a separate organization which pooled together expertise from CA and HKBWS. Dr HUNG Wing-tat said both CA and HKBWS were represented in the steering and management committees of the project. Dr CHEUNG added that there were common members of CA and HKBWS. Dr HUNG said they had no plan to set up a separate organization for the joint project. Setting up a separate organization needed to resolve complicated issues such as the need to set up new offices, recruit personnel, etc. and the benefits of such arrangement were uncertain.

7. Noting the increase in budget compared to the pilot projects, a member said that the money had to be well spent. He

asked CA to justify the increase in budget. He opined that enhancing the habitat should be the major deliverable of the project. Ms Lister CHEUNG agreed with the member. As regards the increase in budget, she said that a lot of support would be required to implement the project. Some management measures were labour intensive. Dr CHENG said that, unlike Mai Po, conservation work in Long Valley was unlikely to gain benefit from economies of scale. More than 30 farmers were involved and lengthy negotiation with each of them was required. Some farmers also requested increase in rental. Dr CHEUNG said that any revenue generated would be ploughed back to the MA project. Mr. Vincent TANG asked whether money or habitat enhancement was the major incentive for landowners. Ms CHEUNG said that financial incentive was the landowners' major concern, although the landowners were also glad to witness the improvements in the environment of Long Valley.

8. In response to a member's enquiry, Miss Florence CHAN responded that the applicant had to adhere to the budget ceiling of individual items and approval from EPD or the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) Committee would be required to transfer funds for other uses. A member said that it was reasonable to employ more people to conserve larger area of land. He also noted the increasing trend of salary in the market recently.

9. Mr. C C LAY said that the results of the pilot projects were satisfactory. AFCD and EPD would work closely to monitor the use of money in MA projects. The ECF Committee would also vet the budget.

10. A member reiterated that the two organizations should explore the feasibility and merits of setting up a separate organization to run the project.

### ***Presentation by TPEA***

11. The Chairman invited Dr YAU Wing-kwong to present the submission from TPEA. A member was concerned about the

recurrent implication of the rental contract of the visitor centre. He also asked about the need to spend a significant portion of money on education and visitor services. Dr YAU said the rental contract would last for two years. He said that educational activity to promote nature conservation was a core part of the project as they would in turn help conserve Fung Yuen.

12. A member said that habitat management in Fung Yuen was of prime importance. The Chairman agreed and said that the key objective of conserving Fung Yuen should be met, supplemented with education activities. Dr. YAU said that the new centre was essential to support educational activities and volunteer services. It was also closer to the conservation area and would facilitate patrolling work.

13. After some discussion, the Chairman concluded that the Subcommittee supported the two applications and would recommend the applications to ECF for funding support.

**Agenda Item 4: Dragonflies of Hong Kong and their representation in protected areas** *(NCSC Paper 3/07)*

14. The Chairman invited Dr TW TAM to present the paper.

15. A member said that wetland conservation was important to protect dragonflies in Hong Kong. HKBWS was discussing with landowners to implement a management agreement project in Luk Keng marshes.

16. The Chairman asked if similar data on butterflies was available. Dr SO said that collection of similar data on butterfly species would need longer time and more analysis due to the large number of butterfly species (about 230) in Hong Kong.

**Agenda Item 5: Hong Kong Wetland Park Progress Report and Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA)**

**Programme in 2007/08** (NCSC Paper 4/07)

17. The Chairman invited Mr. Edmond LAM and Ms Carrie MA to present the paper.

18. The Chairman appreciated the work of the Hong Kong Wetland Park (HKWP). A member was impressed to learn that over 6300 education activities were carried out in HKWP. He opined that HKWP could provide job opportunities for Tin Shui Wai community. Mr. LAY said that some of the full time staff in HKWP were Tin Shui Wai residents. Vacancy information was passed to local community, but recruitment had to be done on a transparent and fair basis.

19. The Chairman suggested that a documentary video be produced to showcase the conservation work in HKWP and promote Hong Kong to foreigners. Mr. Edmond LAM said that promotional booklets were produced for that purpose and he would explore other opportunities including the production of a documentary video to promote HKWP. Mr. LAY added that his team would continue to run HKWP with passion.

AFCD

20. The meeting concluded at 12:30 pm.

**Secretariat, Nature Conservation Subcommittee  
February 2008**