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6th Post-transplantation Monitoring and Audit Report (8th February 2023)

Northeast New Territories Landfill Extension (NENTX) | Contract No. EP/SP/77/15

0092/22/ED/0330 02 | 16 February 2023

Formal Submission

Veolia Environmental Services Hong Kong Limited



Our Ref.: CL/91823/0332-VES
Date: 3 April 2023

By Email

Veolia Hong Kong Holding Limited
40/F, One Taikoo Place
979 King's Road
Quarry Bay
Hong Kong

Attn.: Mr. Alvin Kam

**Meinhardt Infrastructure and
Environment Ltd**
邁進基建環保工程顧問有限公司

10/F Genesis
33-35 Wong Chuk Hang Road
Hong Kong
香港黃竹坑道33-35號
創協坊10樓

Tel 電話: +852 2858 0738
Fax 傳真: +852 2540 1580

mail@meinhardt.com.hk
www.meinhardt-china.com
www.meinhardtgroup.com

Dear Sir

Re: Contract No. EP/SP/77/15
North-East New Territories Landfill Extension (NENTX)
6th Post-Transplantation Monitoring Report (8 February 2023)

I refer to Conditions 2.7 and 2.9 under Environmental Permit No. EP-292/2007 and Conditions 2.5 and 2.7 of Further Environmental Permit No. FEP-01/292/2007, regarding the submission of Post-Transplantation Monitoring Report. I hereby verified the captioned "6th Post-Transplantation Monitoring Report (8 February 2023)" dated 16 February 2023.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at 2859 5409.

Yours faithfully
MEINHARDT INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT LTD



Claudine Lee
Independent Environmental Checker

Aurecon Hong Kong Limited
Unit 1608, 16/F, Tower B,
Manulife Financial Centre,
223 – 231 Wai Yip Street, Kwun Tong
Hong Kong

T +852 3664 6888
F +852 3664 6999
E hongkong@aurecongroup.com
W aurecongroup.com



Ref: P521530-0000-REV-NN-0039

23 March 2023

By Email

Meinhardt Infrastructure & Environment Ltd.
10/F Genesis
33-35 Wong Chuk Hand Road
Hong Kong

Attn: Ms. Claudine Lee,

Dear Claudine,

Re: Contract No. EP/SP/77/15
Northeast New Territories Landfill Extension
Submission of 6th Post-Transplantation Monitoring Report (8 February 2023)

In accordance with the requirement specified in Conditions 2.7 and 2.9 of Environmental Permit No. EP-292/2007 and Conditions 2.5 and 2.7 of Further Environmental Permit No. FEP-01/292/2007, we are pleased to submit the certified "6th Post-Transplantation Monitoring Report (8 February 2023)" dated on 16 February 2023 for your verification.

Should you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned or our Mr. Keith Chau on 3664 6788.

Yours faithfully,
For and on behalf of
Aurecon Hong Kong Limited

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Fredrick Leong".

Fredrick Leong
Environmental Team Leader

Encl.

1. 6th Post-Transplantation Monitoring Report (8 February 2023)

cc.

1. IEC - Ms. Claudine Lee (By email: claudinelee@meinhardt.com.hk)
2. IEC Representative - Mr. Jimmy Lui (By email: jimmylui@meinhardt.com.hk)

Document Control

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Client Address	40/F., One Taikoo Place, Taikoo Place, 979 King's Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong
Client Contact	Mr. William Wan
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01	16 Feb 2023	Draft	Awaiting client's comments	Various	FN	FN
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Project Team

Initials	Name	Role
CY	Colin Yung	Project Manager
FN	Fenelyn Nabuab	Ecologist/ ISA Certified Arborist HK1821A/TRAQ
RL	Ray Li	Environmental Consultant/ ISA Certified Arborist HK1838A/TRAQ
JT	Jhomar Tillo	Ecologist
AY	Andy Yuen	Assistant Environmental Consultant

Contents

Document Control

1.	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Background of the Project	1
1.2	Purpose of this Document	2
1.3	Structure of this Document	2
2.	MONITORING RESULTS	3
2.1	Condition of the Transplanted Individuals	3
2.2	Key Maintenance Activities Conducted in The Reporting Month	3
2.3	Recommendation on Post-Transplantation Maintenance	4
3.	POST-TRANSPLANTATION MONITORING SCHEDULE	4
4.	SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION	4

Appendices

Appendix A Conditions of Transplanted Plant Species of Conservation Importance

Appendix B Photographic Records of Transplanted Plant Species

- B.1 Incense Tree *Aquilaria sinensis*
- B.2 Lamb of Tartary *Cibotium barometz*
- B.3 Bottlebrush Orchid *Goodyera procera*

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Project

- 1.1.1 The North East New Territories Landfill Extension (the NENTX Project) is a designated project. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report was approved (AEIAR-111/2007) with conditions on 20 September 2007 and the Environmental Permit (EP) EP-292/2007 (the "EP") was issued on 26 November 2007. Moreover, a Further Environmental Permit FEP-01/292/2007 (the "FEP") was also issued under the EIA Ordinance on 28 April 2022.
- 1.1.2 The transplantation works were conducted in fulfilment of Conditions 2.7 and 2.9 of the EP and Conditions 2.5 and 2.7 of the FEP and in accordance with the approved Transplantation Proposal for Plant Species of Conservation Importance (Rev.1) (NENTX-FUG-RP-E-EM-002-I02) (the "approved Proposal"). The Transplantation Report (NENTX-AURE-RP-ZZ-E-007-I-I01) was prepared by a qualified ecologist certified by the Environmental Team (ET) Leader and Independent Environmental Checker (IEC) in accordance with Condition 2.7 of the EP and Condition 2.5 of the FEP.
- 1.1.3 The Transplantation Report details the methodology of the transplantation activities. The actual transplantation works for the plant species of conservation importance was described along with the post-transplantation maintenance. The post-transplantation monitoring and audit and the implementation programme was also detailed. The vegetation survey which investigated the plant species of conservation importance before the transplantation work was detailed in the approved Transplantation Proposal.
- 1.1.4 Before the transplantation activities, a detailed vegetation survey was conducted by direct observation to record the plant species of conservation importance present in NENTX. A total of four floral species of conservation importance were identified within the Project Site, namely Incense Tree *Aquilaria sinensis*, Endospermum *Endospermum chinense*, Lamb of Tartary *Cibotium barometz* and Bottlebrush Orchid *Goodyera procera*. Individuals that were directly impacted by the proposed construction of NENTX Landfill had been selected for transplantation. More details to be found in the approved Transplantation Proposal.
- 1.1.5 Based on the findings of the detailed vegetation survey and verification survey, three plant species of conservation importance were considered suitable for transplantation, i.e., two nos. of Incense Tree saplings, one cluster of Lamb of Tartary, and 19 clusters of Bottlebrush Orchid. The transplantation works was carried out by a landscape contractor and supervised by a qualified ecologist. The qualified ecologist has at least five years of relevant experience in transplantation and/or vegetation survey and assessment and is also an ISA Certified Arborist.

- 1.1.6 The three plant species of conservation importance were transplanted to suitable receptor sites. To further safeguard these species, the selected receptor sites were within or adjacent to the facilities managed by the Contractor. Moreover, the similarity in site conditions between the collection site and receptor site and the accessibility of the receptor for future maintenance and monitoring were also considered in the selection. More details to be found in the Transplantation Report.
- 1.1.7 All the transplanted individuals will be maintained by the Contractor for 12 months (establishment period) after planting to the receptor sites in accordance with Section 4 of the approved Proposal. Moreover, their survival and growth will be monitored by a qualified ecologist or botanist of Fugro in accordance with Section 5 of the approved Proposal.

1.2 Purpose of this Document

- 1.2.1 This 6th Post-transplantation Monitoring Report (the "Report") was prepared to present the survival and growth of plant species of conservation importance after transplantation works. Moreover, key maintenance activities conducted this reporting month and recommendations on post-transplantation maintenance are presented in this Report.
- 1.2.2 The post-transplantation monitoring and audit of the transplanted plant species of conservation importance was carried out in accordance with Section 5 of the approved Transplantation Proposal.

1.3 Structure of this Document

Succeeding this introductory section, the remainder of this Report is presented as follows:

- Section 2 details the monitoring results, including the key maintenance activities conducted this reporting month;
- Section 3 presents the succeeding post-transplantation monitoring schedule; and
- Section 4 summarizes the findings of the post-transplantation monitoring and way forward.

2. MONITORING RESULTS

Following the transplantation works on 10 November 2022, the 6th post-transplantation monitoring and audit was carried out on 8 February 2023 to check the condition of the transplanted plant individuals.

2.1 Condition of the Transplanted Individuals

2.1.1 The transplanted individuals of the 19 clusters of Bottlebrush Orchid *Goodyera procera* were all in fair to good condition with minor health issues observed in some individuals, i.e., slightly chlorotic leaves and presences of holes in the leaves. The Lamb of Tartary *Cibotium barometz*, however, exhibited discoloration and wilting of leaves. Its stems also showed some decay but its roots were still in fair condition. The two saplings of the Incense Tree *Aquilaria sinensis* also both demonstrated poor health conditions with die back and fallen leaves.

2.1.2 Albeit strict compliance of the transplantation works and post-transplantation maintenance to the approved Transplantation Proposal, transplanted individuals would require time to adapt and establish in the new environment/substrate of the receptor site. Hence, signs of leaf discoloration and/or wilting, dehydration, and even die-off are expected. Thus, succeeding post-transplantation maintenance and monitoring and audit are crucial to assess the progress of recovery and establishment of transplanted individuals in the receptor site.

2.1.3 The numbers, measurements, and health conditions of the transplanted plant species of conservation importance during the current monitoring period are shown in **Appendix A**.

2.1.4 The photographic records of the transplanted plant species of conservation importance during the current monitoring period are shown in **Appendix B**.

2.2 Key Maintenance Activities Conducted in The Reporting Month

2.2.1 The key maintenance activities carried out for the current reporting month are the following:

- Watering frequency of the two Incense Tree saplings was 2-3 times per week. The watering dates were 27 Jan, 30 Jan, 1 Feb, 3 Feb, 6 Feb, 8 Feb.
- The watering frequency of the cluster of Lamb of Tartary was 2 times a week. The watering dates were 27 Jan, 30 Jan, 3 Feb, 6 Feb.
- Once a week watering of Bottlebrush Orchid. The watering dates were 30 Jan, 6 Feb.
- Manual removal of weeds when observed during watering activities; and
- Checking of insect attacks and/or fungal infestation during watering activities.
- Prevention of human disturbance by fencing off area around the two Incense Tree saplings.

2.3 Recommendation on Post-Transplantation Maintenance

Immediately after the monitoring and audit activity, the following post-transplantation maintenance was discussed with the Contractor for their prompt implementation:

- The watering frequency for the two saplings of Incense Tree should be maintained at 2-3 times a week. Improve/place organic mulch around the two saplings of Incense Tree to retain soil moisture, protect damaged roots against extreme temperatures, and improve soil quality.
- The watering frequency of the cluster of Lamb of Tartary should be maintained at twice a week. Wilted leaves should be pruned away.
- The watering frequency for all 19 clusters of Bottlebrush Orchid should remain the same. During watering activities, the surrounding dead branches and dry leaves should be removed to ensure no plants are damaged by them.
- Markers should be placed around the Bottlebrush Orchid individuals to prevent people stepping on them by accident.

3. POST-TRANSPLANTATION MONITORING SCHEDULE

- 3.1.1 As per Section 10.3 and Table 10.1 of the EM&A Manual, the survival and growth of the transplanted species will be monitored by a qualified ecologist or botanist at least twice a month during the first three months after transplantation and once a month in the following nine months.
- 3.1.2 As only one monitoring activity was conducted in November, the forthcoming monitoring and audit activities will be conducted twice a month for December, January and February. Then, the monitoring activities will be conducted monthly until October 2023.
- 3.1.3 The need for any further monitoring will be reviewed and determined according to the monitoring results of the 12-month monitoring.

4. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

- 4.1.1 The health of the transplanted individuals of Bottlebrush Orchid were all in fair to good condition. The minor deficiencies on some individuals did not have a large impact on their health. The two individuals of Incense Tree saplings were both in poor health condition. The individuals had dieback and fallen leaves. This could be due to transplantation shock brought about by the changes in the environment and the individual has not acclimated to these changes yet. Lastly, the transplanted cluster of Lamb of Tartary was also under poor health condition with a portion of its leaves have wilted and showed discoloration. As aforementioned, it takes time for newly transplanted plants to grow accustomed to the new environment of the recipient site. Therefore, signs of leaf discoloration and/or wilting, dehydration, and even die-off are expected.

4.1.2 It is recommended to pay additional attention to the health conditions of the Lamb of Tartary cluster and the Incense Tree saplings. Moreover, should there be drastic change in the health conditions of these individuals observed during post-transplantation maintenance activities, the Contractor is advised to immediately advise the ecologist to discuss possible remedial actions.

Appendix A

Conditions of Transplanted Plant
Species of Conservation
Importance

Post-Transplantation Monitoring
Conditions of Transplanted Plants at Receptor Sites

Date of Submission: _____

Surveyor: 08/02/2023

Date of Monitoring and Maintenance	Receptor Site	No.	Species	Plant Size Measurements			Amenity Value	Form	Health Condition	Structural Condition	Recommendation on Post-Transplantation Maintenance	Key Maintenance Activities Conducted	Remark
				DBH (mm)	Crown Spread (m)	Height (m)	(High/ Medium/ Low)	(Good/ Fair/ Poor)	(Good/ Fair/ Poor)	(Good/ Fair/ Poor)			
08/02/2023	B	GP01	C. barmetzi			1.8		Poor					wilted leaves
08/02/2023	B	GP15	G. procera			0.19		Fair					wilted leaf, chlorotic leaves
08/02/2023	B	GP7	G. procera			0.10		Fair					change wilted leaf; leaning
08/02/2023	B	GP13	G. procera			0.07		Good					
08/02/2023	B	GP14	G. procera			0.15		Fair					wilted leaf, chlorotic leaves
08/02/2023	B	GP19	G. procera			0.20		Fair					wilted leaf, chlorotic leaves
08/02/2023	B	GP0	G. procera			0.24		Fair					wilted leaf, chlorotic leaves
08/02/2023	B	GP09	G. procera			0.14		Good					
08/02/2023	B	GP11	G. procera			0.11		Good					
08/02/2023	B	GP08	G. procera			0.11		Fair					chlorotic leaves
08/02/2023	B	GP07	G. procera			0.13		Fair					Pests sign
08/02/2023	B	GP16	G. procera			0.13		Good					
08/02/2023	B	GP05	G. procera			0.19		Fair					chlorotic leaves
08/02/2023	B	GP06	G. procera			0.17		Fair					wilted leaf, chlorotic leaf
08/02/2023	B	GP01	G. procera			0.15		Good					
08/02/2023	B	GP04	G. procera			0.24		Fair					wilted leaves, chlorotic leaves
08/02/2023	B	GP12	G. procera			0.07		Fair					chlorotic leaf; perforated leaves
08/02/2023	B	GP03	G. procera			0.07		Fair					chlorotic leaf
08/02/2023	B	GP18	G. procera			0.10		Fair					wilted leaf
08/02/2023	B	GP02	G. procera			0.07		Fair					leaning
08/02/2023	A	AS03	A. sinensis			1.75		Poor					no foliage
08/02/2023	A	AS02	A. sinensis			1.15		Poor					no foliage

Note:

1. Measurements of spread and DBH are not applicable for undersized tree, shrubs, herbs and ferns.

Note: For the orchids, markers should be placed around the area where these are planted so that people will not step on it.

Appendix B

Photographic Records of
Transplanted Plant Species

B.1 Incense Tree *Aquilaria sinensis*



Photo B.1.1 : General view of the transplanted individual AS-03.



Photo B.1.2 : Stem condition of the transplanted individual AS-03.



Photo B.1.3 : General view of the transplanted individual AS-02.



Photo B.1.4 : Branch condition of the transplanted individual AS-02.

B.2 Lamb of Tartary *Cibotium barometz*



Photo B.2.1 : General view of the transplanted individual CB-01.



Photo B.2.2 : Leaf condition of the transplanted individual CB-01.



Photo B.2.3 : Leaf condition of the transplanted individual CB-01.



Photo B.2.4 : Stem condition of the transplanted individual CB-01.

B.3 Bottlebrush Orchid *Goodyera procera*



Photo B.3.1: Individual GP-01. Partially wilted leaf.



Photo B.3.2: Individual GP-02. Leaning.



Photo B.3.3: Individual GP-03. Perforated leaves.



Photo B.3.4: Individual GP-03. Perforated leaves.



Photo B.3.5: Individual GP-04.



Photo B.3.6: Individual GP-04. Partially wilted leaves.



Photo B.3.7: Individual GP-05. Partially wilted leaf.



Photo B.3.8: Individual GP-05. Partially wilted leaf.



Photo B.3.9: Individual GP-06. Partially wilted leaf.

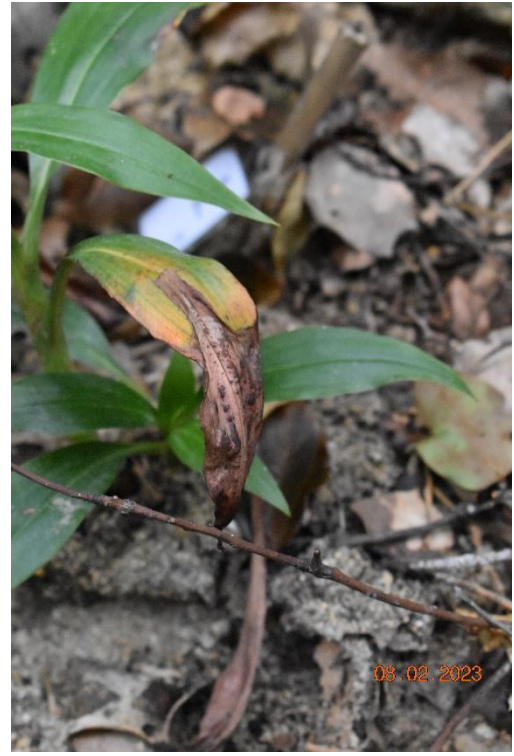


Photo B.3.10: Individual GP-06. Partially chlorotic and wilted leaf.



Photo B.3.11: Individual GP-07.



Photo B.3.12: Individual GP-07. Pest sign.



Photo B.3.13: Individual GP-08. Chlorotic leaves.



Photo B.3.14: Individual GP-08. Minor chlorotic leaves.



Photo B.3.15: Individual GP-09.



Photo B.3.16: Individual GP-10. Holes in leaves.



Photo B.3.17: Individual GP-11. Partially wilted leaves.



Photo B.3.18: Individual GP-12. Perforated leaves.



Photo B.3.19: Individual GP-13.



Photo B.3.20: Individual GP-14. Chlorotic leaves.



Photo B.3.21: Individual GP-15. Partially chlorotic leaves.



Photo B.3.22: Individual GP-16.



Photo B.3.23: Individual GP-17. Partially wilted leaf.



Photo B.3.24: Individual GP-18. Partially wilted leaves.



Photo B.3.25: Individual GP-19.

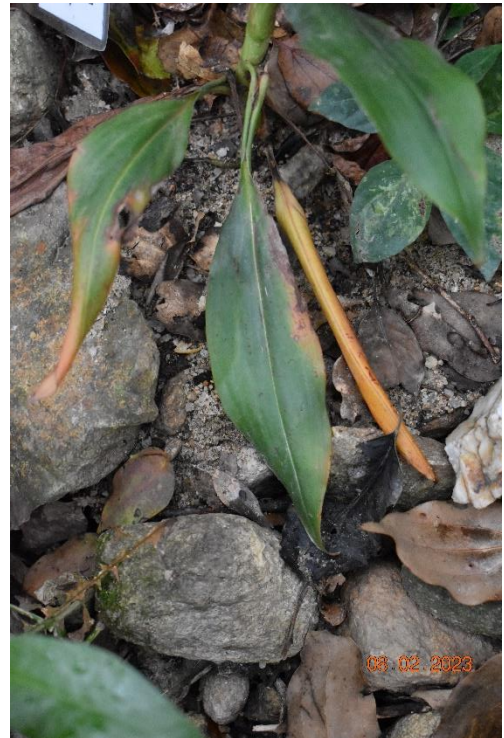


Photo B.3.26: Individual GP-19. Chlorotic and partially wilted leaves.