

Agreement No. CE 28/2004 (GE)
Landslide Preventive Works at Po Shan, Mid-Levels
Design and Construction
(Natural Terrain Risk Mitigation Works)

Landscape & Visual Audit and Monitoring
(Construction Phase)

Monthly Inspection Report No. 20

(November 2009)

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11th December 2009

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Landscape and Visual Audit & Monitoring are conducted to fulfill the requirements of the EIA Report during the Construction and Operational Phases of the project, and are based on the procedures and requirements as set out in the Agreement No. CE 28/2004 (GE) Landslide Preventive Works at Po Shan, Mid-Levels – Design and Construction (Natural Terrain Risk Mitigation Works) - Environmental Monitoring and Audit Manual.

As stated in section 3.5 and 3.6 of the EM&A Manual, all landscape and visual mitigation measures undertaken by the Contractor during the construction phase and the first 12 months of the operational phase shall be audited on a bi-weekly and monthly basis respectively to ensure compliance with the intended aims of the mitigation measures.

2.0 SCOPE OF AUDIT and MONITORING

The broad scope of landscape and visual monitoring and audit on mitigation measures is as detailed below:

2.1 Construction Phase

Identify any potential conflicts between the proposed landscape measures and any other project works or operation requirements, and recorded for the contractor to resolve in early stage, without compromising the intention of the mitigation measures. Also, the followings shall be monitored:

- designation of 'no-intrusion zones', and to record any trespass by the contractor, including damage to existing vegetation;
- allowance for adjustment of soil nails on site for the avoidance of tree trunks and tree roots;
- dust and erosion control for exposed soil;
- tree planting operations, checking method statement against specification requirements;
- all retained trees within the working boundary shall be regularly checked and reported to the engineer, including damage to the tree canopy edge.

Considerations shall also be made to address the appearance and view by public through:

- control over the appearance of construction workers, hoarding, construction plants / machines
- careful selection of security floodlights to avoid light pollution

2.2 Operation Phase

Ensure the compensatory planting and horticultural maintenance operations are properly carried out during the 12 months establishment period, including:

- Inspection for fungal / viral attacks and pest infestations
- Litter collection
- Watering
- Weeding removal
- Replacement of defective planting material
- Grass cutting / groundcover trimming and removal of arisings
- Fertilizing application as required in specification
- Aeration / mulching application

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3.0 INSPECTIONS

3.1 Summary of Inspection – 3rd November 2009

3.1.1 Matters Arising from Previous Inspections

- The Contractor had rectified all tree ID numbers for the remaining existing trees as observed on site.
- Pruning of side branch of existing tree T678 overhanging the footpath and removal of dead tree T612 with half broken branch was outstanding. The Contractor was reminded to carry out the works as soon as possible.
- It was noted that the Contractor's clarification of the status of existing trees T516 and T517 located immediately outside of the works boundary was still outstanding. The Contractor was reminded to provide necessary information as soon as possible.

3.1.2 Protection of Existing Trees

- It was observed that the Contractor has tied safety ropes to existing trees for installation of geotextile and wire-mesh. The Contractor was requested to remove the ropes from trees immediately, and was reminded not to use trees as anchor points in future.

3.1.3 Recommendations

- The Contractor was again reminded to clarify the status of missing trees as soon as possible.
- The Contractor was recommended to prune tree T678 and remove dead tree T612 as soon as possible.
- The Contractor was requested to remove safety ropes from trees and not to use trees as anchor points.

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3.2 Summary of Inspection – 17th November 2009

3.2.1 Matters Arising from Previous Inspections

- The Contractor had removed all safety ropes from existing trees.
- The Contractor had pruned the side branch of existing tree T678 overhanging the footpath and removal of dead tree T612 with half broken branch.
- It has been clarified that T516 and T517 located immediately outside of the works boundary were already missing during the initial tree survey before the commencement of construction of the Project.

3.2.2 Protection of Existing Trees

- No particular observation was made during the inspection period.

3.2.3 Recommendations

- No particular recommendation was made during the inspection period.

4.0 AUDIT SCHEULE

4.1 Audit Schedule for December 2009

The next audits are scheduled to be conducted on 1st, 15th and 29th December 2009.