ACE-EIA Paper 4/2007
For Advice

# Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Cap. 499) Environmental Impact Assessment Report Drainage Improvement in Northern New Territories – Package C

### **Purpose**

This paper presents the key findings and recommendations of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report for Drainage Improvement in Northern New Territories – Package C (hereafter known as the Project), submitted under section 6(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO) with the application no. EIA-128/2007. The Drainage Services Department (the applicant) and their consultants will make a presentation. Comments from the public and the Advisory Council on the Environment will be taken into account by the Director of Environmental Protection when she makes the decision on the approval of the EIA report under the EIAO.

### **Advice Sought**

2. Members' views are sought on the findings and recommendations of the EIA report.

### **Need for the Project**

3. The Project is to alleviate recurring flooding problems in Man Uk Pin and Lin Ma Hang areas by improving the secondary and local stormwater drainage systems in accordance with the recommendation of the Drainage Master Plan Study in the Northern New Territories.

### **Description of the Project**

4. The Project involves the construction of secondary and local drainage channels at Man Uk Pin in the Indus Basin and improvement works to the Lin Ma Hang stream in the Ganges Basin. The location of the Project is shown in **Figure 1** and the general

arrangement of the drainage channels at Man Uk Pin and Lin Ma Hang is shown in **Figures 2, 3 and 4**. Major works of the Project include:

### Man Uk Pin Area

- (i) a two-stage channel of about 550 m long with existing natural river bed, gabion walls and/or mattress lining (MUP05);
- (ii) trapezoidal channels of about 670 m long with gabion walls and mattress lining (MUP03, MUP04A, MUP05);
- (iii) 210 m long U-channels, 170 m long underground drainage pipes and 80 m long box culverts (MUP03, MUP04, MUP05); and
- (iv) other ancillary works include re-provision of crossings, provision of inlet/outlet pipes, maintenance ramps & accesses and final landscaping works.

### Lin Ma Hang Area

- (i) construction of about 190 m gabion wall channel and localized river bank improvement works at Lin Ma Hang stream (LMH01); and
- (ii) other ancillary works include re-provision of crossings, provision of flood alarm and flood siren, improvement on outlet security grille and final landscaping works.
- 5. The Project is classified as a designated project under Item I.1(b)(i) and (vii), Part I, Schedule 2 of the EIAO, i.e. "a drainage channel or river training and diversion works which discharges or discharge into area which is less than 300 m from the nearest boundary of an existing or planned site of special scientific interest and conservation area".

## Consideration of Alternative Means, Avoidance of Environmental Impacts and Alternative Drainage Design

6. The following drainage improvement options were considered for relieving flooding in Man Uk Pin and Lin Ma Hang areas, with environmental factors taken into consideration, for recommending the preferred options in the Project:

Option 1 – Distant flood banks

Option 2 – Two-stage channels

Option 3 – Relief or by-pass channels

Option 4 – Flood storage

- Option 5 Bank stabilization
- Option 6 Clearing and removal of obstructions
- Option 7 Enlargement of channel by widening
- Option 8 Enlargement of channel by deepening
- Option 9 Realignment/straightening
- Option 10 Use of artificial non-vegetative smooth lining
- 7. Having regard to the environmental factors, among other factors, and the comments received during the Continuous Public Involvement (CPI) process (see paragraph 14 below), a combination of the above options is recommended for the Project. The recommended options include the two-stage channel, bank stabilization and improvement of bottlenecks by channel widening and deepening. The options will minimize the ecological impact by reducing the areas of affected habitats.

### **Specific Environmental Aspects to Highlight**

### **Ecological Impact**

- 8. Lin Ma Hang stream, which is a planned site of special scientific interest, supports a number of freshwater fish species of conservation importance, such as Chinese Rasbora *Rasbora sterineri* and Predaceous Chub *Parazacco spilurus*. In order to avoid potential ecological impact on the stream, the original proposal to construct a 13 m wide and 250 m long flood bypass concrete channel is replaced by a scheme which only involves localized stream bank repairing and improvement works so that the existing stream alignment, natural stream bed and habitat can be retained. To further minimize the potential ecological impacts on the stream, the bank improvement works will be carried out in the dry season (November to March) and existing concrete banks will be replaced by gabions.
- 9. Environmentally friendly design measures such as the two-stage channel with gabion and mattress lining will be adopted at River Indus for retaining the natural stream bed and river banks. To avoid potential ecological impacts to the upper part of Loi Tung stream which is a semi-natural stream surrounded by abundant agricultural land, the proposed new channel at the Loi Tung stream will be reduced from 340 m to 160 m and works will only be limited to the lower part of the stream that has been highly disturbed by human activities and has low ecological value.
- 10. With the implementation of mitigation measures, no permanent loss of habitat of conservation importance is expected and hence no compensation is required.

### Water Quality Impact

11. The project will not involve large scale of construction activities. With the implementation of mitigation measures such as carrying out of major construction works in the dry season, restricting construction in sections of 100 m to 300 m long and placing of earth bunds or walls along the river channels to provide dry zone for construction, and implementation of good site practices to minimize site runoff and prevent erosion, no adverse water quality impact is anticipated during the construction phase of the Project.

### **Other Environmental Impacts**

12. The EIA report has also assessed the impacts of air quality, construction noise, waste management, cultural heritage, and recommended necessary landscape design to minimize the impacts of landscape and visual quality. The assessments concluded that, with appropriate mitigation measures in place, the anticipated environmental impacts are considered acceptable in meeting relevant requirements under the Technical Memorandum on Environmental Impact Assessment Process.

### **Environmental Monitoring and Audit**

13. The EIA report includes an Environmental Monitoring and Audit (EM&A) Manual which recommends an EM&A programme during both the construction and operation phases of the Project.

#### **Public Consultation**

- 14. The applicant has applied the CPI process and consulted some green groups, the North District Council, Sha Tau Kok Rural Committee, Fanling Rural Committee and village representatives to seek their comments on the Project during the preparation of the EIA report.
- 15. The applicant has also made the EIA report, EM&A Manual and Executive Summary available for public inspection under the EIAO on 3 May 2007. Members will be briefed on any comments received from the public at the meeting.

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Environmental Assessment Division
Environmental Protection Department







