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**Roles and Involvement of the Advisory Council on the Environment
in the Implementation of
Hong Kong Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2016-21**

PURPOSE

Further to the discussion at the meeting of the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE) on 13 March 2017, this note provides supplementary information on the roles and involvement of the ACE¹ and the Nature Conservation Subcommittee of the ACE² (ACE-NCSC) in the implementation of Hong Kong Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2021 (BSAP).

BACKGROUND

2. At its meeting on 13 March 2017, ACE was briefed on the implementation of BSAP³ which outlines the strategy and actions to be taken during the period from 2016 to 2021 for conserving biodiversity and supporting sustainable development. Among other things, the ACE requested that the Government should report regularly to ACE on the implementation progress of BSAP. It was also agreed at the meeting

¹ The terms of reference for ACE are to keep under review the state of the environment in Hong Kong and to advise the Government through the Secretary for the Environment on appropriate measures which might be taken to combat pollution of all kinds and to protect and sustain the environment.

² The terms of reference of ACE-NCSC are to advise the Administration through the Secretary for the Environment on nature conservation and to examine nature conservation proposals referred to by the Administration.

³ The BSAP sets out an action plan of 67 specific actions categorised under four areas, namely enhancing conservation measures, mainstreaming biodiversity, improving knowledge and promoting community involvement.

that the Government would prepare a paper to clarify the roles and responsibilities of ACE-NCSC.

IMPLEMENTATION OF BSAP

3. The Hong Kong BSAP has included 67 specific actions to be implemented from 2016 to 2021. The primary responsibility to ensure its implementation rests with the Government.

4. As stated in the paper submitted to the ACE in March 2017, a working group comprising relevant Government bureaux and departments, and chaired by the Secretary for the Environment, has been established to oversee and coordinate the implementation of the BSAP. While the Environment Bureau (ENB) and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will serve as the management unit, specific actions in the BSAP will also be implemented by other Government bureaux and departments and relevant sectors. The working group will monitor closely the implementation of BSAP, and it will also take into account the feedback and views of non-government stakeholders (including the ACE), so that those views and observations could be taken into account by the Government as BSAP is implemented.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ACE-NCSC

5. To ensure the actions under the BSAP are robust, practical and responsive to public aspiration on biodiversity conservation, the Government will closely collaborate with various stakeholders, including green groups, academics, professional bodies and community partners to secure their buy-in and appeal to their support. As ACE-NCSC is a standing subcommittee of the ACE to advise the Government on nature conservation matters, we will seek its comments and advice when taking forward major actions in the BSAP, including promoting sectoral and community involvement in biodiversity conservation, mainstreaming biodiversity and promoting biodiversity awareness in society through conducting citizen science monitoring programmes and/or surveys on knowledge and attitudes of local people on biodiversity. We will also take into account ACE-NCSC's views on setting priority areas for research/studies related to the BSAP. Members' views and feedback will be conveyed to relevant Government bureaux and departments timely for follow-up actions as appropriate.

6. At present, the ACE-NCSC is consulted on the applications under Management Agreement and Public-Private Partnership Scheme. Such role and responsibility will continue.

REGULAR REPORTING TO ACE

7. As regards the involvement of ACE, we treasure the views and advice from ACE in the BSAP implementation. In this connection, the AFCD plans to report the progress of BSAP implementation to the ACE on an annual basis. We also intend to consult ACE on strategic issues or matters related to BSAP implementation with wider implications when necessary. As with other matters under ACE, the advice of ACE will be conveyed to the Government through the Secretary for the Environment.

8. Members are invited to note the roles and involvement of ACE and ACE-NCSC in the implementation of the BSAP.

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Environment Bureau
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