





- Conserving and managing the natural environment through the identification, designation and management of country and marine parks, special areas and marine reserves;
- Conserving local flora, fauna and their natural habitats through law enforcement and providing conservation advice on development proposals and planning studies; and
- Conserving endangered species through controlling their international trade.

In delivering these services or conducting business, the department fully complies with environmental legislation and adopts environmentally responsible practices. The efficient use of resources and energy is reviewed regularly and continued improvement is sought.

## **Environmental Performance**

### Agriculture and Fisheries

Programmes have been launched to bring about environmentally responsible practices and sustainable use of natural resources:



**Livestock farm**

A livestock keeping licensing scheme is enforced to ensure such operations comply with environmental protection requirements. In 2003, a total of 497 livestock farms have been licensed.

- The 'Accredited Vegetable Farm Scheme' promotes good horticultural practices and proper use of pesticides. As at 2003-04, the total number of accredited farms is 223.
- Assists the Hong Kong Organic Resource Centre to develop a set of 'Standards for Organic Production and Processing' as a technical guide for farmers to practise organic production. An organic farming conversion





scheme has been launched at Ng Ka Tsuen, Kam Tin, Ping Che, Ho Sheung Heung and Fung Kat Heung in the New Territories. 38 farms participated in the scheme.

- The department develops and manages fresh food wholesale markets and vigilantly enforces against illegal landing and wholesaling of fresh marine fish to eliminate environmental nuisances caused by disorderly, on-street wholesale trading activities.

Energy Saving in Wholesale food market complexes

- Effort in wise use of energy in the two wholesale food market complexes managed by the department has brought about 2.36% saving in electricity consumption in 2003-04.



- Environmental friendly practices are promote among fish farmers, such as the use of pellet feed to replace trash fish. Of the 1 157 mariculture farms, some 540 have adopted the practice by 2003.



Use of pellet feed

- The department has formulated and is implementing a management strategy for fisheries resources and fishing operations.
- The department vigilantly enforces against destructive fishing practices.



An artificial reefs programme has been implemented to enhance fisheries resources. The first phase involving deployment of artificial





reefs in Marine Parks has been completed. The second phase involving deployment of artificial reefs outside Marine Parks has also been completed in 2003.

A biofilter trial has been initiated at Kau Sai Fish Culture Zone to assess the ability of purpose-built and designed biofilter structures to improve water quality and sea bottom conditions at marine fish culture zones.



Nature Conservation

To conserve and enhance our natural environment, measures have been introduced to conserve biodiversity, to protect natural habitats, and to designate and manage country parks, special areas, marine parks and marine reserves. The following projects were carried out in 2003:

- 140 environmental impact assessment applications and studies on development projects were handled.
- Conservation and management projects were undertaken in the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site.
- Removal of invasive exotic mangrove species were undertaken in the Deep Bay area.
- A territory-wide ecological survey is in progress with a view to develop a comprehensive ecological database for Hong Kong.
- The development of Hong Kong Wetland Park at Tin Shui Wai is in progress.
- Phase 1 of the Wetland Park is now opened to the public to serve as an early venue for wetland conservation education before the completion of the whole Wetland Park project. In the past year, more than 120 000 visitors were





recorded.

A variety of school and public education programmes on wetland conservation have been carrying out. In the past year, more than 10 100 students from 317 schools joined various educational guided walks on wetland conservation.

The “Wetland Park Volunteer Scheme” continued to promote direct involvement of the public in wetland conservation works. More than 800 volunteers registered and participated in various conservation works in wetlands.

The Endangered Species Resource Centre continued to serve as the site to promote public awareness of the need for the protection of endangered species. During the year, over 5 800 visitors visited the Resource Centre.



Endangered Species Resource Centre

Sand sculpture competition



A variety of education and publicity programmes on endangered species protection were organized, including a drawing contest and a sand sculpture and photo-taking competition.

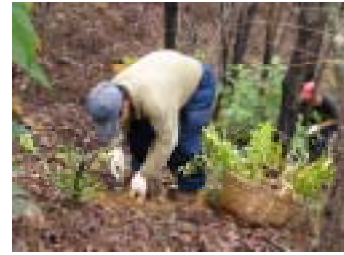
237 prosecutions in respect of illegal import, export or possession of endangered species were made. In recognition of Hong Kong’s exemplary efforts in the crackdown on illegal trade in endangered species, the CITES Secretary-General awarded the “Secretary-General’s Certificate of Commendation” to Hong Kong, the first recipient of such an award within the Convention.

A green house has been established in Tai Tong Nursery for ex-situ conservation of rare plant species.





More than 880 000 tree seedlings were planted  
in country parks.



Tree planting

120 applications for development inside  
country parks were handled.

457 ha of woodland outside country parks were managed.

A variety of education programmes on the conservation of country and  
marine parks, natural habitats and local flora and fauna were launched.

### Waste Recycling in Country Parks

Park visitors were encouraged to separate their rubbish such as plastic bottles  
and aluminum cans and put them into different bins.



Recycle bin in Country Parks

Fallen trees during typhoon season or other tree felling operations were made  
use of to create animated features and placed in recreation areas for  
children's enjoyment.

Park visitors were encouraged to re-use their barbecue forks.

The metal parts of used barbecue forks were made use of to serve as  
reinforcement materials for the concrete used in country parks.





Reuse of barbecue forks

## **Green Management**

Assistant Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Agriculture and Administration) is the department's Green Manager to steer a working group to develop, implement and monitor green office practices. Various measures have been implemented to economise the use of resources and reduce pollution.

### Economise the Use of Paper

- ☞ Use both sides of paper.
- ☞ Cut down on photocopying.
- ☞ Default double-sided printing for all network printers at HQ office.
- ☞ Reduce the number of copies of circulars for distribution.
- ☞ Discard use of fax leader pages.
- ☞ Encourage the use of electronic mail and soft copies within and outside the department for exchange of documents.
- ☞ Reduce the use of envelopes and re-use envelopes.

### Energy Conservation

- ☞ Check vehicles regularly to ensure that they are in good conditions to enhance fuel efficiency.



- Issue guidance/advice to staff to save energy.
- Control fuel consumption by encouraging staff to share pool car for duty visits and site visits.
- Use public transport whenever possible.
- Switch off electrical appliances when staff leave the office.
- Shade sun-exposed windows and keep exterior doors/windows closed as much as possible.
- Individual light zones are controlled by different light switches.
- Extend the measure of advance turning off of central lighting to more light zones at HQ office.
- Use manual sectional switches to turn off parts of the lighting and mechanical ventilation systems in those areas of the wholesale food markets exposed to sunlight and natural flow of air as appropriate.

Waste Minimisation and Recycling:

- Use refillable ball pens.
- Separate collection of used and waste paper.
- Encourage staff to use their own cups instead of paper cups.
- Minimize use of products which are not environmentally friendly such as correction fluid.
- Re-use loose minute jackets.
- Proactively inform other departments/bureaus the minimum number of hard copies of reports, newsletters, circulars, publications, etc. required and request soft copies whenever feasible.

Recycle bin at HQ office







- Enforce non-smoking policy throughout the offices.
- Introduce recycle bins in offices to encourage separation of wastes (paper, plastic bottles, aluminum cans, CDs and stationary) for recycling.



Used CD collection box

### Environmental Audit

We set up environmental auditing teams to monitor the implementation of existing and new green office practices. The objectives of conducting environmental audit are:

- to understand the environmental effects, impacts and consequences arising from the activities, products and services of the organization;
- to evaluate compliance with Government directive and accepted good practices;
- to increase staff awareness and participation in environmental protection;
- to identify areas where environmental performance can be improved and set priorities where appropriate; and
- to provide a documented basis for future audits.

### Comments and Enquiries

We welcome any comments and enquiries on this report. You can contact us by one of the following methods:

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