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世界自然基金會
香港分會

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Clerk to Subcommittee on Country Parks (Designation)
(Consolidation) (Amendment) Order 2010
Legislative Council Secretariat
3/F Citibank Tower,
3 Garden Road,
Central, Hong Kong
(Email: cpnien@legco.gov.hk)

By Email only

5 Jul 2010

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Country Parks (Designation) (Consolidation) (Amendment) Order 2010

WWF would like to express our concern on the captioned and urge the Government to identify suitable sites adjoining the Clear Water Bay Country Park (CWBCP) for designation as country parks to compensate the five-hectare land loss in the CWBCP, following the “no-net-loss” principle.

At the Country and Marine Parks Board (CMPB) meeting on 30 Mar 2009, the CMPB requested the Administration to actively identify suitable sites in the vicinity of the CWBCP for designation as country parks¹. The Administration therefore explored the compensation for the five-hectare land loss in the CWBCP at a later meeting on 18 Jun 2009. However, the Administration so far has failed to identify any suitable sites adjacent to CWBCP for designation as country parks in the Legco papers (EP CR 9/2515, CB(1)2283/09-10(01) and CB(1)2283/09-10(02)). Without further delay, we are grateful if the Subcommittee could request the Administration to provide an update of the progress concerning this issue.

WWF is worried that without an appropriate compensation made under the “no-net-loss” principle, the proposed excision of five hectares of land from the protected area for the proposed extension of the South East New Territories (SENT) landfill will set a bad precedent and seriously damage the integrity of the country park system in Hong Kong.

Section 4 (c) of the Country Park Ordinance clearly stipulates that “it shall be the duty of the Authority to take necessary measures to encourage the use and development of country parks for the purposes of recreation and tourism, to protect the vegetation and wild life inside country parks and special areas, to preserve and maintain buildings and sites of

¹ Reference is made to paragraph 14 of Annex C of LC paper (EP CR 9/25/15)

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historic or cultural significance within them, and to provide facilities and services for the public enjoyment of country parks and special areas”.

WWF considers that any area being designated within a country park should become an integral part of the protected area system in Hong Kong.

If the boundary of a country park has to be revised for any public development, in order to protect the integrity of the country park, the Government should strictly adhere to the principle of “no-net-loss” in order to protect the integrity of the country park itself, and the country park system as a whole. The “no-net-loss” principle should refer to the loss in both “physical area” and “function”, ensuring no decrease of actual country park area and functions to serve the purposes as stated in Section 4 (c) of the Country Park Ordinance.

It is of vital public interest that the Government adheres to the principle of “no-net-loss” when considering development which encroaches on the country park area to avoid setting an undesirable precedent that puts our natural environment further at risk.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alan', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Dr. Alan Leung
Conservation Manager, Terrestrial