

本署檔案
OUR REF:
來函檔案
YOUR REF:
電話
TEL NO: 2594 6229
圖文傳真
FAX NO: 2136 3304
電子郵件
E-MAIL: vivien_li@epd.gov.hk
網址
HOMEPAGE: <http://www.epd.gov.hk>

Environmental Protection Department
Headquarters
46/F, Revenue Tower,
5 Gloucester Road,
Wan Chai, Hong Kong.



環境保護署總部
香港灣仔
告士打道五號
稅務大樓四十六樓

13 May 2011

Miss Becky YU
Ch Council Secy (1)1
Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
3rd floor, Citibank Tower,
3 Garden Road, Hong Kong

Dear Mr Yu,

**Follow-up actions arising from the meeting of the Panel on
Environmental Affairs held on 28 March 2011**

**Proposed capital injection into the
Environment and Conservation Fund**

The captioned meeting requested the Government to provide written responses regarding its views on the setting up of a nature conservation fund proposed by Members. The Government's views are set out at **Annex**.

Yours sincerely,

(Miss Vivien Li)
for Director of Environmental Protection

**Follow-up actions arising from the meeting of the Panel on
Environmental Affairs held on 28 March 2011**

**Proposed capital injection into the
Environment and Conservation Fund**

The captioned meeting requested the Government to provide written responses regarding its views on the setting up of a nature conservation fund proposed by Members. The Government's views are set out as follows:

2. The Government is committed to nature conservation. At present, nearly 40% of Hong Kong's land has been designated as country parks under statutory protection, where diversified species of animals and plants can be found. In terms of the share of these protected areas, Hong Kong compares favourably with many other places in the world.

3. While we will continue our efforts in nature conservation, we pay particular attention to the protection of ecologically sensitive sites under private ownership. Our nature conservation policy respects the rights of private land owners. In 2004, the Government promulgated the New Nature Conservation Policy (NNCP). This policy has an objective to enhance the conservation of ecologically important sites in private ownership through providing economic incentives to the landowners. To achieve this policy objective, 12 ecologically important sites (priority sites) in private ownership have been identified under a scoring system drawn up by an Expert Group with membership comprising key academics with expertise in ecology and major green/interest groups. Two measures were proposed for the conservation of these priority sites under the NNCP, they are the Pilot Scheme for Management Agreements (MA) and Public-private Partnership (PPP).

4. Under the MA scheme, a non-profit making organisation may enter into management agreements with landowners, and through the financial assistance provided by the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF), conduct nature conservation works on the 12 priority sites under private ownership. Since its launch in 2005, three projects under the MA scheme have been implemented at two sites, namely Long Valley and

Fung Yuen. Up till now, the ECF has granted a total of \$21 million to run the projects. From the angle of nature conservation, the MA projects have achieved very encouraging results. They have protected the natural habitats and increased the quantity as well as number of species at the two sites. For instance, the bird species recorded at Long Valley and the butterfly species at Fung Yuen have increased by more than 20% since the launching of the MA projects. Besides, the projects are successful in raising public awareness in nature conservation through engaging the local villagers in the management of the sites and various public education and volunteer programmes. And indeed, the proposed capital injection into the ECF, as discussed at the meeting on 28 March 2011, was seeking to continue to provide funding support to worthwhile projects, like the MA projects.

5. As to the public-private partnership scheme, developments of an agreed scale would be allowed at the less ecologically sensitive portions of the priority sites provided that the developer undertakes to conserve and manage the rest of the site that is ecologically more sensitive on a long-term basis. Through the public-private partnership scheme, we hope to allow regulated development at the ecologically important sites under private ownership and provide economic incentives. This could cater both the need for development as well as to achieve the nature conservation objective. Currently, we are taking forward PPP projects at two sites, namely Sha Lo Tung and Fung Lok Wai.

6. As regards the suggestion for the Government to set up a nature conservation fund in order to compensate land owners whose lands are listed as conservation zones, we are of the view that public funds have to be used carefully and the practicability of the proposal should be thoroughly examined. At this stage, we are proactively taking forward the MA and PPP schemes under the NNCP, and will continue to monitor the conservation value of the sites, in order to step up public education efforts and promote nature conservation works.

Environmental Protection Department
May 2011