

Country Parks – Submission to Subcommittee on Country
Parks(Designation)(Consolidation)(Amendment) Order 2013

I make this submission as an individual who has resided in Hong Kong over 40 years and am one of the 12 million people who annually enjoy the natural beauty and tranquility that our Country Parks (CP's) provide. These CP's are, in fact, a vital ingredient that makes HK a livable metropolis. It is still possible to walk for 3 hours or more and not meet anyone so you really get a feel of getting away from it all. This provides HK citizens like myself an important life balance in contrast to the hectic, sometimes frantic, urban lifestyle that generally dominates our lives.

Nothing must be done to destroy the unique qualities that our CP's provide and I am most concerned by some of the recent statements being made by our Policy Secretaries that may undermine this. I refer of course to the treatment of the Enclaves three of which are the subject of today's discussion. By definition an enclave is, in most cases, situated in the heart of an existing CP, usually without road access and surrounded by pristine countryside. Tai Long Sai Wan is one such enclave situated a good half an hours walk from a road, it sits adjacent to Section 2 of the MacLehose Trail and next to one of the most beautiful beaches not only in HK but in Asia! Consequently the proposal to include this area within the adjoining CP is obviously the only meaningful way the current beauty of this area can be guaranteed to be preserved. This would then be consistent with the statements made in the Chief Executive's 2013 Policy Address with its declarations for protection of our Country Parks, Enclaves and areas of high conservation value in compliance with our conservation obligations under the Convention of Biological Diversity which must now be implemented in Hong Kong.

I consider these enclaves to be analogous to Victoria Harbour where there is now an established presumption against further reclamation such that in these Enclaves, in order to ensure they have proper and adequate protection, there must now be established a presumption against any new development.

Thank you

Roger Nissim
1st November 2013