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12 July 2018

Clerk to Establishment Subcommittee
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn.: Ms Mandy Li)

Dear Ms Li,

**Establishment Subcommittee
Follow-up to the meeting on 26 June 2018**

**Supplementary Information for EC(2018-19)9
Provided by the Government**

We consulted the Establishment Subcommittee on the proposal to create a permanent post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (AOSGC) for leading the Countryside Conservation Office, formulating nature conservation policy and supervising the relevant work; and to regrade a permanent post of AOSGC to a departmental professional grade Assistant Director of Environmental Protection post for specifically pursuing food waste management strategies and overseeing the construction and planning of waste recycling infrastructure in the Environmental Protection Department at the Establishment Subcommittee meeting on 26 June 2018. A Member requested the Government to provide details on the work on nature conservation, and details of the work to be implemented by the proposed Assistant Director (Nature Conservation) (AD(NC)) in the coming five years, including listing the relevant proposal on conservation area, and species to be protected. I am authorised to provide a reply as follows.

The Government's Nature Conservation Policy aims to protect and manage natural resources that are of vital importance, with a view to conserving the biodiversity of Hong Kong for the benefit and enjoyment of the present and future generations of the community. Under this Policy, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), being the policy department for nature conservation, has been taking forward works including -

- managing and protecting 24 country parks, 22 special areas, 5 marine parks, 1 marine reserve, the Hong Kong Wetland Park, Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark (Geopark) and Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site through the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD);
- implementing measures to better protect country park enclaves, in particular the assessment of suitability of other enclaves for inclusion as part of country parks, through the AFCD;
- overseeing the work on enhancing biodiversity, and promoting compatible use of country and marine parks;
- overseeing the formulation and implementation of the first Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Hong Kong (BSAP); and
- implementing the Management Agreement (MA) and Public-Private Partnership schemes to strengthen the conservation of ecologically important sites in private ownership;

In the past five years, the Government has completed various works on enhancing nature conservation including -

- incorporated enclaves in Sai Wan, Kam Shan and Yuen Tun in 2013 and Fan Kei Tok, Sai Lau Kong and the one near Nam Shan in 2017 into country parks respectively;
- coordinated with UNESCO in the completion of revalidation work of the Geopark in 2015 and 2017 respectively;
- completed the work on designation of The Brothers Marine Park in 2016;
- launched the first city-level BSAP in 2016, in order to enhance conservation of biodiversity to support the sustainable development of Hong Kong;
- completed the amendment of the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) in 2017 to phase out the local ivory trade by 31 December 2021; and to increase the maximum

penalties on smuggling and illegal trade in endangered species to a \$10 million fine and 10 years' imprisonment to provide stronger deterrent effect;

- obtained the in-principle approval of the Chief Executive-in-Council to protect the private land in Sha Lo Tung with high ecological value by way of a non-in-situ land exchange in 2017; and
- continued implementation of seven MA projects at Fung Yuen, Long Valley and Ho Sheung Heung, Ramsar Site, Deep Bay Wetland outside Ramsar Site, Sai Wan, Lai Chi Wo and Sha Lo Tung which covered 37 hectares of land and 600 hectares of fishponds.

In the coming five years, the proposed AD(NC) will assist the Government to continue implementing the work on nature conservation as mentioned in paragraph two above, including -

- leading the newly established Countryside Conservation Office to promote sustainable development of remote countryside; promoting countryside conservation programmes with Lai Chi Wo and Sha Lo Tung as the pilot areas, and keeping under review the implementation of these initiatives and their effectiveness in due course, with the aim of extending the initiatives progressively to other remote countryside areas; providing secretariat support to the newly established Advisory Committee to examine applications on the relevant conservation and revitalisation work submitted by non-governmental organisations and monitor the implementation of approved projects and proposals;
- continuing to discuss with the landowner to work out the detailed arrangements of the non-in-situ land exchange, and to seek formal approval from the Chief Executive-in-Council on the associated basic terms and conditions in relation to the proposed non-in-situ land exchange;
- conducting relevant legislative work if the AFCD identifies enclaves that are suitable to be incorporated into country parks in accordance with the established principles and criteria;
- conducting relevant legislative work on the designation of the Robin's Nest area as a country park;
- providing policy direction for the AFCD to explore the enhancement of the recreation and education potential of country parks for public enjoyment;

- conducting relevant legislative work on designation of marine parks, including the Southwest Lantau Marine Park, South Lantau Marine Park, and the marine park to be set up for the three-runway system at the Hong Kong International Airport in order to enhance conservation of ocean resources of surrounding waters of Lantau; and providing policy direction for the AFCD's review of the holistic fisheries management strategy in marine parks;
- reviewing the implementation of the first BSAP; and
- providing policy direction for the AFCD's review of the Green Turtle Species Action Plan, including the extent and period of the Sham Wan Restricted Area.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes that form a stylized representation of the name Eric LIU.

(Eric LIU)

for Director of Environmental Protection