### Highlights

- **During 1993-2016**, the overall territorial size of Hong Kong has increased by a cumulative 3.3% to 1,111 km². Although built-up land (e.g., land for residential, business, and infrastructure usage) has gone up by a larger magnitude of 78% to 270 km² over the same period, it accounted for just about 24% of the total land available at end-2016 (Figure 1).

- **Breaking the aforementioned 24-year period** into three sub-periods, net addition of built-up land was just 900 hectares during 2009-2016, representing a sharp decrease of 88% from that of 7,800 hectares during 1993-2000 (Figure 2). To a certain extent, this reduction in addition of built-up land was attributable to a significant slowdown in reclamation, which witnessed a plunge of 91% from 2,130 hectares to only 202 hectares over the same periods. Also contributed was a noticeable reduction in new land obtained from a change in land usage (e.g., land rezoning and resumption) over the past two decades or so.

- **Only about 200 hectares of net addition** of land in Hong Kong was designated for residential usage during 2007-2016. This was considered to be too small to meet the cumulative growth in local population by 479,500 or 7% over the same period. Actually, the population density of Hong Kong is amongst the highest across major global cities, with 25,900 persons per km² of built-up urban area in 2018 (Figure 3). This is much higher than the respective figure in Singapore (by 127%), Seoul (194%), Taipei (241%) and London (363%).

### Figure 1 – Land usage in Hong Kong at end-2016

- Total land area*: 1,111 km²
- Built-up land: 5670 hectares (6.9%)
- Residential: 558 hectares (6.5%)
- Transportation: 558 hectares (6.5%)
- Institutional/Open space: 698 hectares (8.0%)
- Industrial: 2,130 hectares (24.7%)
- Others: 2,542 hectares (30.7%)

**Note:** (*) 1 km² = 100 hectares.

### Figure 2 – Net addition of built-up land during 1993-2016

- 1993-2000: 5,670 hectares
- 2001-2008: 2,542 hectares
- 2009-2016: 698 hectares

**Note:** From 2000 onwards, figures were updated based on satellite images and caution is required in data comparison.

### Figure 3 – Population density in major cities in 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selected cities</th>
<th>Population density*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>25,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>11,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seoul-Incheon</td>
<td>8,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taipei</td>
<td>7,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London</td>
<td>5,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beijing</td>
<td>5,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tokyo-Yokohama</td>
<td>4,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** (#) In terms of number of persons per km² of built-up urban area.
Highlights

- In face of the land shortage, there has been a suggestion on enlarging the built-up area through changing the existing usage of undeveloped land. At end-2016, there were some 841 km² of undeveloped areas in Hong Kong, mostly (88%) in the form of woodland, shrubland, grassland or wetland (Figure 4).

- There were 24 country parks and 22 special areas subject to statutory protection in Hong Kong, totaling 44 300 hectares or some 40% of the total land area (Figure 5). In May 2017, the Hong Kong Housing Society has commenced feasibility studies on two sites lying within or close to country parks (i.e. located in Tai Lam and Shui Chuen O with a total area of 40 hectares) to explore their potential for development into residential usage.

- This apart, 8% of local undeveloped land was agricultural land. There has been a suggestion in the community to convert the part of abandoned agricultural land into built-up areas. In 2017, there was some 3 700 hectares abandoned agricultural land, accounting for 84% in total agricultural land. Abandoned agricultural land was located mainly in North district (31%), followed by Yuen Long (21%) and Tai Po district (17%) (Figure 6).

- Most recently on 26 April 2018, the Task Force on Land Supply is putting forward a total of 18 recommendations on the sources of land supply for public consultation, with 4 options in the short-to-medium term, 6 options in the medium-to-long term and 8 conceptual options. After the completion of consultation in September 2018, a report is reportedly scheduled for submission to the Government for consideration by end-2018.

Data sources: Latest figures from Planning Department, Lands Department, Census and Statistics Department, Demographia, and Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department.