

**For discussion
14 January 2014**

LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

**“Trap-Neuter-Return” Trial Programme for Stray Dogs and
Handling of Animal Cases**

PURPOSE

This paper updates Members on the progress of the “Trap-Neuter-Return” (“TNR”) trial programme for stray dogs and briefs Members on the handling of animal cruelty cases.

TNR TRIAL PROGRAMME

Background

2. The Government attaches great importance to animal welfare and management. Our policy objective is to ensure that animals and people co-exist in a harmonious way.
3. Under its stray dog management programme, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (“AFCD”) will catch stray dogs in response to complaints of noise and environmental hygiene nuisances, potential danger to members of the public and dog biting incidents.
4. Stray dogs caught will first be sent to AFCD’s Animal Management Centres for observation. Health conditions permitting, the animals will stay for four days. During the observation period, veterinary officers on duty will closely monitor the animals’ health and other conditions to ascertain their suitability for re-homing. For dogs licensed and implanted with a microchip, AFCD will try to contact the owners for reclaiming their animals. For dogs not microchipped or

unclaimed by owners, they may be passed to animal welfare organisations (“AWOs”) for re-homing if they are found to be healthy and of a mild temperament. Animals which are assessed to be unsuitable for re-homing due to health or temperament reasons or cannot be re-homed by AWOs will be euthanised.

5. In recent years, AFCD has been strengthening its efforts in stray animal management through a number of new and enhanced measures. These include implementing an enhanced education and publicity programme to promote animal welfare and responsible pet ownership, stepping up enforcement actions against pet owners and traders in contravention of relevant animal laws, and strengthening collaboration with and the provision of technical and financial support to AWOs in re-homing of animals and conducting activities relating to animal welfare and management. Through AFCD’s on-going efforts, the number of stray dogs euthanised in 2012 has gone down to 5 675 relative to 10 240 in 2008. This represents a 45% drop. Notwithstanding this, there are still concerns about the number of stray dogs euthanised as well as the propriety of the catching and disposal methods. Various AWOs have repeatedly requested that we should explore TNR as an additional method to control the stray dog population.

The TNR Concept

6. We consulted this Panel at its meeting on 8 May 2012 on our proposal to launch a TNR trial programme for stray dogs. The discussion paper (ref.: LC Paper No. CB(2)1870/11-12(05)) is attached at **Annex A**.

7. In short, under the TNR, stray dogs are caught, neutered and then returned to their original habitat. Proponents believe that, through the TNR, the number of stray dogs will gradually decline without resorting to euthanasia. From available overseas experience and data, the effectiveness of the TNR in reducing the stray dog population and its associated nuisance has yet to be proven.

8. In a proactive spirit to respond to calls for trying out TNR as one of the ways to tackle the problems posed by stray dogs and associated nuisance, AFCD proposed to assist two AWOs¹ to carry out a three-year trial programme in selected sites (“trial zones”) to assess the effectiveness or otherwise of the TNR concept as a means to reduce the stray dog population and its associated nuisance. Other than the designated trial zones, the catch-and-remove method would continue to be applied to control the stray dog population in Hong Kong.

9. The AWOs concerned will manage the trial programme as Programme Coordinators (“PCs”). AFCD will take up the monitoring role and provide technical support.

Latest Progress

10. To prepare for the trial, AFCD has been working closely with the PCs in identifying suitable trial zones and consulting the local communities. An appropriate trial zone should be one with an existing stable colony of stray dogs. To minimise the risk of rabies introduction, dog bites and traffic accidents caused by these stray dogs, the trial zone must not be located around hospitals, schools, homes for the elderly, busy roads or within 500 metres from the boundary with the Mainland.

Previously Banned Trial Zone Options

Ha Pak Nai Site (Yuen Long), Lo So Shing Site (Lamma Island) and Ho Chung Site (Sai Kung)

11. As reported in May 2012, we had explored the feasibility of designating Ha Pak Nai in Yuen Long, Lo So Shing in Lamma Island and Ho Chung in Sai Kung as trial zones. Views and opinions were collected from the respective rural committees, village representatives, mutual aid committees and incorporations of owners through questionnaires and local consultation forums. The three respective

¹ Namely the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong) and the Society for Abandoned Animals. They have been strong advocates of the TNR concept.

District Councils (“DCs”) were also consulted in May, June and July 2012.

12. All three districts expressed strong objection to implementing the trial programme in the three respective proposed sites. They were very concerned about the returning of dogs. They suspected that the trial programme, despite the good intention, might lead to a possible consequence of attracting irresponsible dog owners to abandon their unwanted dogs at the zones which might bring about further environmental nuisance and public safety concerns.

13. The two PCs have therefore turned to identify other potential locations for the trial programme.

Po Wong Motor City Site (Yuen Long)

14. In early 2013, there was a suggestion to designate a private site named the Po Wong Motor City in Yuen Long as a trial zone.

15. The selection of this site had initially gained support from the local community. In June 2013, the relevant rural committee endorsed the designation of this area as a trial zone. No objection was received at the local consultation forum held in July 2013. The proposed site selection was further discussed and approved at the meeting of the Environmental Improvement Committee (“EIC”) of the Yuen Long DC in September 2013. However, in October 2013, the proposed use of the site ultimately failed to gain the support of the landlord of the Po Wong Motor City which was vital as the site is on private land.

Newly Proposed Trial Zone

Tai Tong Shan Road Site (Yuen Long)

16. In response to the loss of the Po Wong Motor City site, the relevant PC has proposed taking another site on a private land on Tai Tong Shan Road for the trial programme. A map showing the location

of the Tai Tong Shan Road site is at **Annex B**. With the initial indication of support from the landlord, questionnaires were sent to villagers nearby and a local consultation forum was held in November 2013. No negative feedback was received. Upon receipt of the confirmation of support in writing by the landlord of the proposed site, we shall consult the EIC of Yuen Long DC before finalisation.

Tai Kwai Wan San Tsuen Site (Cheung Chau / North) and Cemetery Site (Cheung Chau / South West)

17. Two sites in Cheung Chau have also been identified as suitable locations for conducting the trial programme, namely (i) the Tai Kwai Wan San Tsuen Site, North of Cheung Chau and (ii) the Cemetery Site, South-west of Cheung Chau. A map showing the boundary of the two sites is at **Annex C**.

18. Meetings were conducted with local representatives in early 2013. They in general did not object to the trial programme and the site selection. Subsequently in March 2013, a consultation forum was conducted. Some people residing in the Tai Kwai Wan San Tsuen Site raised concerns over the possible nuisance to the neighbourhood, enhanced risk to public safety and possible encouragement of abandonment of dogs in the area. To address these concerns, the relevant PC suggested excluding the area of a private residence 'Scenic Garden' from the Tai Kwai Wan San Tsuen Site. Taking into account the boundary adjustment and the expected benefit to be brought about by the trial programme, the Rural Committee of Cheung Chau and the Island DC, on balance, endorsed the conduct of the trial programme at the two proposed sites in March 2013.

19. Despite the exclusion of the residence area from the Tai Kwai Wan San Tsuen Site boundary, some residents of 'Scenic Garden' continue to express grievances as the site is still in the vicinity. We shall work with the relevant PC to further liaise with the concerned residents to further explain to them the potential ultimate benefits to be brought about by the TNR, i.e. to reduce the stray dog population without

resorting to euthanasia. We shall seek to obtain a good measure of understanding from them before finalization of the site boundary.

Next Steps

20. As foreshadowed in our paper at Annex A, exemption notices under the Rabies Ordinance (Cap. 421) and the Dogs and Cats Ordinance (Cap. 167) will need to be gazetted to clear the way for the implementation of the trial programme. We are in the process of preparing the exemption notices. Subject to confirmation of local support for the proposed trial zones (as set out in paragraphs 16 to 19 above) and negative vetting by the Legislative Council of the exemption notices, we plan to roll out the trial programme in early 2014.

21. As reported in May 2012, AFCD would commission a consultant to help monitor the trial programme and assess its effectiveness. We wish to put down the marker that even if the trial programme in the selected sites is successful, the result may not be readily applicable to other places in Hong Kong, considering the possible differences that may exist in terms of dog population dynamics, human population densities, traffic conditions, public health, as well as animal health and welfare concerns. If the programme is to be expanded to other areas, any such future sites would have to be assessed individually for suitability.

HANDLING OF ANIMAL CRUELTY CASES

22. Over the years, the Government has been seeking to promote a caring culture in the community towards the protection of animal welfare. The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169) (“the Ordinance”) underlines our commitment to combat cruelty to animals. Officers from various government departments (including senior veterinary officers, health officers, health inspectors, police officers and authorised officers from AFCD) may take enforcement actions under the Ordinance depending on the circumstances.

23. For the purpose of enhancing co-operation among the government departments and organisations concerned, AFCD, in conjunction with the Hong Kong Police Force (“Police”), the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”) and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong) (“SPCA”), set up a working group in 2011 to examine the work on handling such cases.

24. Members of the working group render mutual support to each other. The Police and AFCD carry out detection of animal cruelty cases and, in the process, would exchange information with SPCA from time to time. AFCD provides the expert veterinary advice necessary for taking forward the investigation and judicial proceedings. FEHD assists in handling environmental hygiene issues and animal carcasses. As for SPCA, it provides medical services to the animals involved and runs a 24-hour hotline for public enquiries about animal cruelty cases. It also assists law enforcement agents as necessary. In discharging its duties on animal management and welfare, AFCD is responsible for publicity, education, intelligence gathering, as well as the inspection of the sale outlets for pets.

25. The Police introduced the Animal Watch Scheme (“the Scheme”) in 2011 with support from AFCD, SPCA, veterinary associations and animal concern groups to strengthen Police efforts in the investigation of animal cruelty cases. Under the Scheme, greater public awareness and participation against cruelty to animals is sought and the existing multi-agency approach with the AFCD and SPCA is enhanced. The Scheme is also supported by two professional veterinary associations, namely the Hong Kong Veterinary Association and China (Hong Kong) Veterinary Association. They help encourage their members to report suspected acts of cruelty to animals or the suspected culprits.

26. Public education is the key to safeguarding and promoting animal welfare. To this end, AFCD has established a dedicated team to devise, implement and fortify public education and publicity programmes for promoting care for animals and responsible pet ownership. The

relevant activities include producing announcements in the public interest to be broadcast on TV and radio; advertising on such platforms as public transport, magazines and websites; organising promotional events in shopping arcades; regularly conducting village and community campaigns; holding talks in schools; as well as conducting annual surveys on pet care.

27. All cases of animal cruelty received by the Police are currently investigated by its crime investigation teams in various districts. Members of these teams are professionally trained in crime investigation and have the know-how to follow up cases of cruelty to animals amongst others. Should such cases register a rising trend in a certain district, the Police will consider deploying a special team to tackle the cases with a view to delivering a prompt response through more focused investigations. These arrangements allow the Police to flexibly deploy its limited resources to meet competing demands, including effective management of animal cruelty cases.

28. The measures outlined in paragraphs 23 to 27 above are yielding positive results. Recent examples include the following two cases. In June 2013, the Police and SPCA uncovered an animal cruelty case in Mong Kok with three men and women arrested. In October, the Police received a few reports of animal corpses found in Yuen Long. A man was promptly arrested based on the information provided by a citizen who had taken the initiative to supply the leads. Investigation of the two cases is underway pending toxicological examination results.

29. At present, the maximum penalty under the Ordinance is a fine of \$200,000 and imprisonment for three years. The level of penalty imposed by the court is generally higher than what used to be the case before the penalty provisions in the Ordinance were amended in 2006 (the maximum penalty before amendment was a fine of \$5,000 and imprisonment for six months). The heaviest sentence handed down so far is imprisonment for 16 months. We will keep the deterrent effect of the penalty provisions under review.

30. Public education is the key to safeguarding and promoting animal welfare. We will continue to step up our efforts in publicity and education.

**Food and Health Bureau
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
January 2014**

LC Paper No. CB(2)1870/11-12(05)

For discussion

8 May 2012

LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

“Trap-Neuter-Release” Trial Programme for Stray Dogs

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on the proposed “Trap-Neuter-Release” (TNR) trial programme for stray dogs.

Current Stray Dog Management Strategy

2. One of the core duties of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is to manage the stray dog population to prevent rabies outbreaks, reduce nuisance caused by animals, and safeguard public health and safety in Hong Kong.

3. Under AFCD’s stray dog management programme, AFCD will catch stray dogs in response to complaints of noise and environmental hygiene nuisances, potential danger to members of the public and dog biting incidents. In 2010 and 2011, there were 10 562 and 10 194 such complaints respectively. Stray dogs caught will be retained at AFCD’s Animal Management Centres (AMCs) for observation. During the observation period, duty veterinary surgeons will monitor the animals' health and other conditions to assess their suitability for re-homing. For dogs licensed and implanted with a microchip, AFCD will search for the owner’s contact details and approach the owners to enable them to reclaim their animals. For dogs not microchipped or unclaimed by owners, they may be re-homed through animal welfare organisations (AWOs) if they are found to be healthy and of an acceptable temperament. Animals which are sick, assessed to be unsuitable for re-homing due to health or temperament reasons, or cannot be re-homed by AWOs would be euthanised.

4. We believe that the most effective way to reduce the stray dog population and its associated nuisance is to reduce stray dogs at source. In this connection, apart from the above-mentioned stray dog management programme, AFCD runs a continuous education and publicity programme to promote responsible pet ownership. It urges members of the public to refrain from the impulsive purchase of pet animals, and also to have a lifelong commitment to their pets by taking care of them properly, keeping them under proper control and not abandoning them. In order to reduce unwanted puppies, AFCD also encourages dog owners to neuter their dogs and has been providing free de-sexing services to dogs adopted through AWOs. AFCD has been educating the general public on these messages through various channels including production and dissemination of a comprehensive range of leaflets and posters, radio and television announcements, advertisement on public transportation, roadside bus shelters, magazines and websites, promotional events and exhibitions, as well public and school seminars.

5. Through AFCD's on-going efforts, the numbers of stray dogs caught and euthanised by AFCD have decreased by 34% and 43% respectively from 2008 to 2011. Notwithstanding this, there were still concerns regarding the catching and disposal methods of stray dogs and the number of dogs euthanised. Various AWOs have proposed that TNR as an additional method to control the stray dog population be explored.

The TNR Concept

6. Under TNR, stray dogs are caught, neutered and then returned to their original habitat. The neutering will reduce the number of sexually active dogs and, over time, will reduce the dog population due to their natural death. Proponents believe that, through TNR, the number of stray dog population will gradually decline without resorting to euthanasia. Besides, as neutered dogs are normally less aggressive, nuisance caused by dogs fighting for mating partners should also subside.

7. From available overseas experience and data, the effectiveness of TNR in reducing the stray dog population and its associated nuisance has yet to be scientifically proven. However, in a proactive spirit to tackle the problems posed by stray dogs and associated nuisance, AFCD has

agreed to assist two AWOs that have been advocating the TNR concept to carry out a trial programme in selected sites to assess its effectiveness in reducing the stray dog population and its associated nuisance. To this end, AFCD has been working closely with them in devising a protocol for the trial programme as well as conducting local consultation. The AWOs concerned will manage the trial programme and AFCD will take up the monitoring role and provide technical support when necessary.

The Proposed TNR Trial Programme

Implementation Details

8. The trial programme will study the effectiveness of TNR in reducing stray dog population within a designated area and its associated nuisance. Stray dogs in the designated area will be closely monitored and taken care of (including vaccination, neutering, feeding, etc) during the trial period. The number of stray dogs within the designated area before and after the trial period will be compared to assess the effectiveness of the trial programme. As the designated area will not be fully enclosed, stray dogs are free to move in and out of the area. The possible fluctuation of stray dog number due to these movements will be taken into account in the assessment of the trial programme. We propose that the trial programme should last for three years and will be run by the AWOs concerned, as the Programme Coordinators (PCs), under a set of agreed protocol. A broad framework of the trial programme is set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

The trial zone

9. The trial zone is the designated area described in paragraph 8 above. An appropriate trial zone should be one with an existing stable colony of stray dogs. To minimise the risk of rabies introduction, dog bites and traffic accidents caused by these stray dogs, the trial zone must not be located around hospitals, schools, homes for the elderly, busy roads or within 500 metres from the boundary with the Mainland. In addition, the selection of a trial zone would depend on whether the PCs can recruit sufficient carers who are familiar with the situation of the stray dog population in the trial zone.

10. As the population sample size will affect the statistical significance of the trial, the initial stray dog population in the trial zone should be of a reasonable size (at least 30 dogs). The initial population size will be assessed and confirmed jointly by the PCs and a consultant to be commissioned by AFCD.

11. Based on the above criteria, three areas in Ha Pak Nai in Yuen Long, Lo So Shing in Lamma Island and Ho Chung in Sai Kung have been proposed as the trial zones. Maps showing the exact locations of the proposed sites are at Annex. The map showing the exact boundary of the trial zone and the enquiry telephone number will be provided by the PCs on a notice board erected at conspicuous locations on the perimeter of the zone for public enquiry of the trial programme and report of missing dogs.

Carers

12. The PCs will recruit volunteers as carers to catch and feed stray dogs within the trial zone. The PCs will provide proper training to their carers on animal nutrition, animal behaviour, practical means to identify sick dogs, environmental safety, dog catching methods, necessary data collection and keeping before the carers join the trial programme. The carers will carry an identification card issued under the trial programme while engaging in any activities relating to the trial for better identification.

Catching of the dogs within the trial zone

13. The trial programme targets stray dogs in the trial zone, including feral and semi-feral dogs, irrespective of whether they are already in the trial zone at the start of the programme or move into the trial zone during the trial period. The PCs propose to catch the dogs by first developing a trusting relationship between the carers and the stray dogs through regular feeding. However, if the above feeding approach fails due to the feral nature of the dogs, the traditional catching method may also be employed by the PCs, including the use of catching poles and snares.

Screening and treatment of the dogs

14. Stray dogs caught by the PCs in the trial zone will be transported to their designated veterinary clinic for medical and temperament assessment as well as neutering. If the dog is found with a microchip, appears to be well-socialised or is suspected to have an owner, it will be held in the PCs' facilities or referred to the relevant AMC until ownership status is verified. If a dog is confirmed to be owned, it will be returned to its owner. Unowned dogs will be rehomed if they are healthy and of an appropriate temperament. The aggressive ones may endanger public safety and will be euthanised.

15. Those dogs selected to be kept in the trial programme will undergo a veterinary examination by a registered veterinary surgeon before they are released back to the trial zone. These dogs will be given prophylactic treatments against various parasites such as intestinal worms, heartworms, fleas and ticks. They will be neutered, microchipped and given anti-rabies vaccination and other vaccines for the control of parvovirus infection, canine distemper, hepatitis and leptospirosis. In addition to a microchip, a visual marker will also be put on the dog for easy identification after return to the trial zone.

16. It should be noted that the catching and neutering will be a continuous process in that new dogs, though of a small number, may enter the trial zone from outside. These, together with those already in the trial zone at the beginning of the trial but not yet caught and neutered may continue to have offspring. The PCs are therefore expected to continue with the catching and handling of these relevant dogs throughout the trial period.

Release at the trial zone

17. The carers will be responsible for the care, feeding and monitoring of the dogs under the trial programme. No excessive feeding by the carers will be allowed and they have to ensure that environmental hygiene of the location is not affected by their feeding activities.

18. An exemption notice under the Rabies Ordinance, Cap. 421 and the Dogs and Cats Ordinance, Cap.167 will be gazetted to exempt staff and carers/volunteers of the PCs from the requirement to obtain dog

keeping licences for the dogs under the trial programme and to allow them to return these dogs (including those over 20kg) to the trial zone after neutering and treatment. Without this exemption, the trial programme could not be carried out. Personnel of the PCs will also be exempted from prosecution if a dog bites a person when the dog is in custody of the PCs for the purpose of the trial programme. Moreover, if for any purpose a dog under the trial programme is kept at an AFCD's AMC and the dog is subsequently allowed to return to the trial zone, the PC concerned will be allowed to remove the dog from the AMC without paying a detention fee.

Complaint Handling

19. During the trial period, any complaint of dog nuisance regardless of whether it is inside or outside the trial zone will continue to be handled by AFCD. AFCD will inform and involve the PCs in any investigation, mediation and remedial action regarding the complaints. Any dogs caught in the trial zone in response to complaints, irrespective of whether they have gone through the screening and treatment described in paragraph 15, will be returned to the PCs or held at the respective AMCs. The dogs concerned will only be released back to the trial zone if they are deemed to be suitable after a joint assessment by the PCs and AFCD.

20. Any dogs in the trial zone which are involved in biter cases will be removed from the trial programme. AFCD will then handle these dogs under the established procedures for handling stray dogs involved in biter cases.

Record Keeping

21. Record keeping is essential for assessing the effectiveness of the trial programme. All carers are requested to fill in records related to their feeding activities, dog catching activities and post-neuter monitoring. The PCs will keep a database of the population survey, including photos of all dogs found in the trial zone during the study period. The database will also comprise all veterinary examination reports, temperament assessment reports, microchip numbers, vaccination records, date of neutering and any medical treatment given to individual dogs during the trial period. Any dogs noted to be missing from the trial zone, found dead, being put under an adoption scheme or euthanised will also be

recorded. The PCs will provide reports to AFCD and the consultant for reference and analysis on a monthly basis.

22. Both AFCD and the PCs will maintain complete records of the complaints and enquiries lodged by local residents and other organisations, and of the dogs returned by AFCD after complaint investigations. The records will also contain follow-up actions taken in response to complaints and enquiries received.

Monitoring and Assessment

23. To ensure an independent assessment of the outcome of the trial programme, a consultant will be commissioned to conduct a baseline population survey in collaboration with the PCs before the commencement of the programme. AFCD will, along with the consultant, monitor the field work conducted and records compiled by the PCs in the trial zone during the three-year trial period. To this end, AFCD will hold regular meetings with the PCs to chart the progress of the trial programme and to resolve any issues that may arise during the trial period.

24. The consultant will analyse and submit regular reports on the data concerning the change in the number, distribution and ecology of stray dogs as well as the number of complaints received in the trial zone during the trial period and the correlation among them. It will also conduct a mid-term review and an overall assessment on the effectiveness of the trial programme upon its completion. As stated in paragraph 8, the goal of conducting the TNR trial programme is to assess its effectiveness in reducing the stray dog population and its associated nuisance. Therefore, the evaluation of the effectiveness of the trial programme will be carried out with reference to the targets set out below:

- (a) catching at least 80% of stray dogs in the trial zone during the first six months of the trial programme;
- (b) achieving an average 10% annual decrease in the population of stray dogs in the trial zone, which is set with reference to the previous data that there has been a 6%-12% annual reduction of stray dogs being caught in response to complaints in the past ten years in the whole of Hong Kong; and

- (c) at least matching with the territory-wide trend in complaint figures during the trial period.

25. For observation purposes, other quantitative and qualitative analyses will be carried out. These include aspects such as animal health and welfare of the dogs in the trial programme, number of animal rescues in the area, the dogs' reproductive rates and cost effectiveness, etc.

26. The sustainability of the trial programme will hinge on a number of factors, including the continued support of local residents, the potential nuisance and/or danger to the local public in the vicinity, and the successful prevention of dog abandonment by irresponsible owners in the area. These factors have been taken into account when devising the implementation protocol for the trial programme and selecting suitable sites for the trial with a view to ensuring the smooth running and sustainability of the programme. Furthermore, AFCD and the PCs will carry out suitable education and publicity activities in the vicinity of the trial zone prior to and during the implementation of the trial programme to provide local residents with a better understanding of the concept of the TNR trial programme. The activities will include distribution of leaflets and organising seminars. We believe that such activities will help gain wider community support for the trial programme and minimise complaints from the local residents.

27. It should be noted that even if the trial programme is successful, the result may not be applicable to other places in Hong Kong, especially areas with different dog population dynamics, high human population densities, busy traffic conditions, other public health and animal health and welfare concerns. Any future sites would have to be assessed individually for suitability if the programme is to be adopted and expanded.

Suspension / Termination of the Trial Programme

28. In order to safeguard public health and safety, the trial programme will be immediately terminated upon the confirmation of the emergence of a rabies outbreak or a zoonotic disease in Hong Kong during the trial period where transmission by stray dogs plays a role in

the disease epidemiology. The trial programme will be suspended if any of the following conditions arise:

- (i) significant increase in the number of complaints concerning animal nuisance and animal welfare in respect of the trial programme; or
- (ii) fatal or serious accident(s) caused by one or more dogs of the trial programme.

During the suspension period, AFCD and the PCs will work together to derive possible remedial actions. If it is not possible to come up with feasible solutions to prevent future occurrence of these incidents, the programme will be terminated.

29. AFCD may also require the PCs to suspend the trial programme if (i) there are procedural irregularities or non-compliance with the agreed protocol by the PCs; or (ii) the relevant District Council or local community groups have withdrawn their support to the trial programme, depending on the seriousness of the matter. During the suspension period, AFCD will make the best endeavour to work with the PCs and other parties to resolve issues. If mediation and remedial action fails, then the trial programme will be terminated. Upon termination of the TNR trial programme, the traditional catch-and-remove approach will resume in the trial zone concerned.

Local Consultation

30. Since December 2011, AFCD has been seeking the opinions of the local residents of the proposed sites on the trial programme. Questionnaires were sent to Village Committees, Mutual Aids Committees as well as Owners' Incorporations. In collaboration with the PCs, AFCD has also organised two consultation forums in early 2012 in each of the proposed sites to explain the operation of the trial programme and to further gauge the views of the nearby residents. In general, local views are diverse, with those opposed to the TNR trial programme pointing out the nuisance caused by stray dogs and supporters of TNR stressing the benefits of a trial programme. The residents living

near the trial zones tended to raise stronger objection to the programme.

31. In mid-May, AFCD will proceed to consult the three relevant District Councils (DCs) (i.e. Yuen Long, Islands, and Sai Kung) on the proposal to conduct the trial programme in their respective areas.

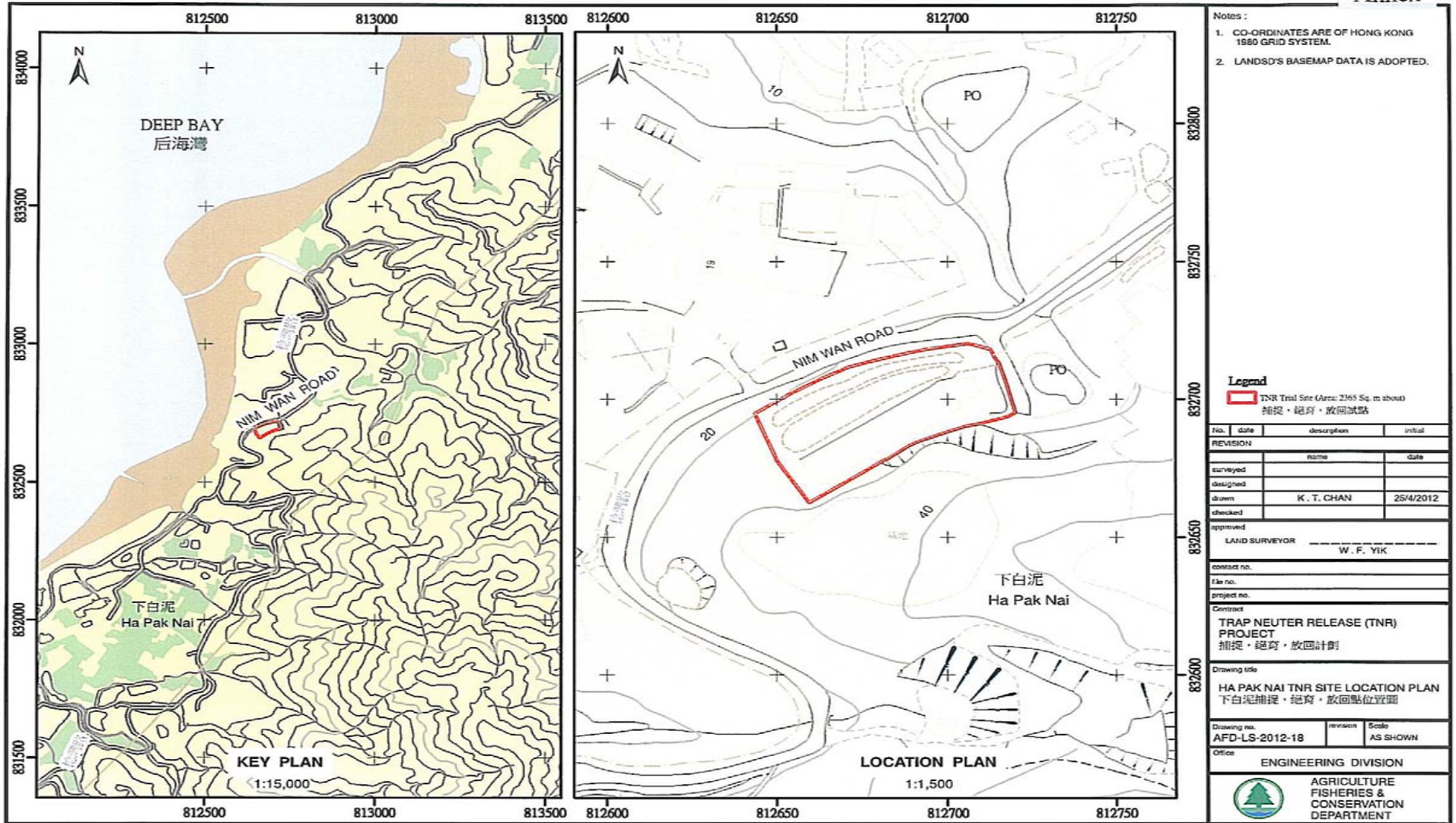
Way Forward

32. Subject to Members' views and comments, as well as the outcome of the DC consultation, we will finalise the protocol and make necessary preparation for the implementation of trial programme, including tabling the exemption notice as mentioned in paragraph 18 above at the Legislative Council for negative vetting as soon as possible. Provided there is support of the relevant DCs, the Administration will be able to roll out the trial programme in end 2012/early 2013.

Advice Sought

33. Members are requested to note and advise on the proposed TNR trial programme set out in this paper.

Food and Health Bureau
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
May 2012



Notes:
 1. CO-ORDINATES ARE OF HONG KONG 1980 GRID SYSTEM.
 2. LANDSD'S BASEMAP DATA IS ADOPTED.

Legend
 TNR Trial Site (Area: 2365 Sq. m about)
 捕捉·絕育·放回試驗點

No.	date	description	initial
REVISION			
		name	date
surveyed			
designed			
drawn	K. T. CHAN		25/4/2012
checked			

approved
 LAND SURVEYOR _____ W. F. YIK

contract no. _____
 file no. _____
 project no. _____

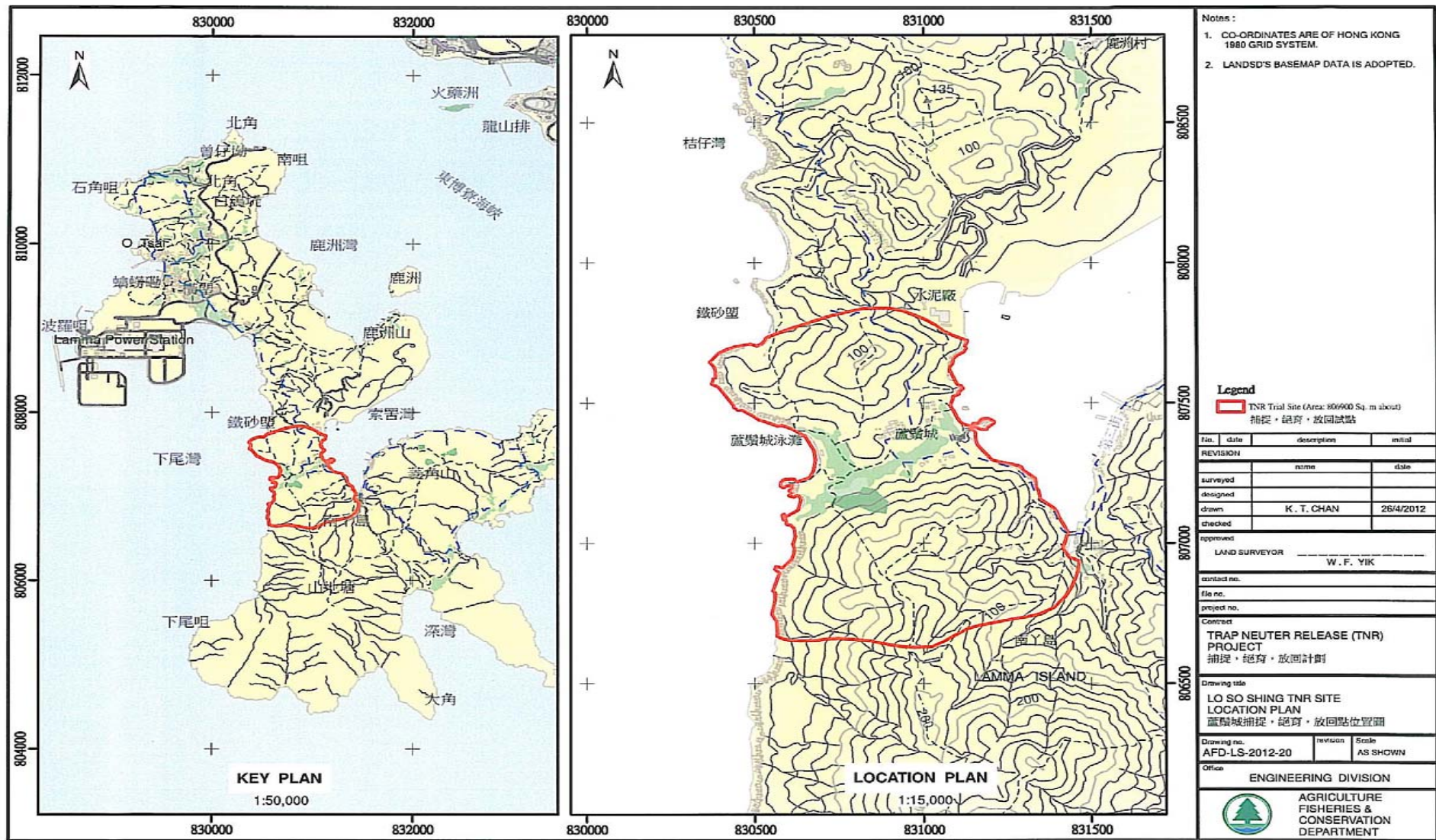
Contract
TRAP NEUTER RELEASE (TNR) PROJECT
 捕捉·絕育·放回計劃

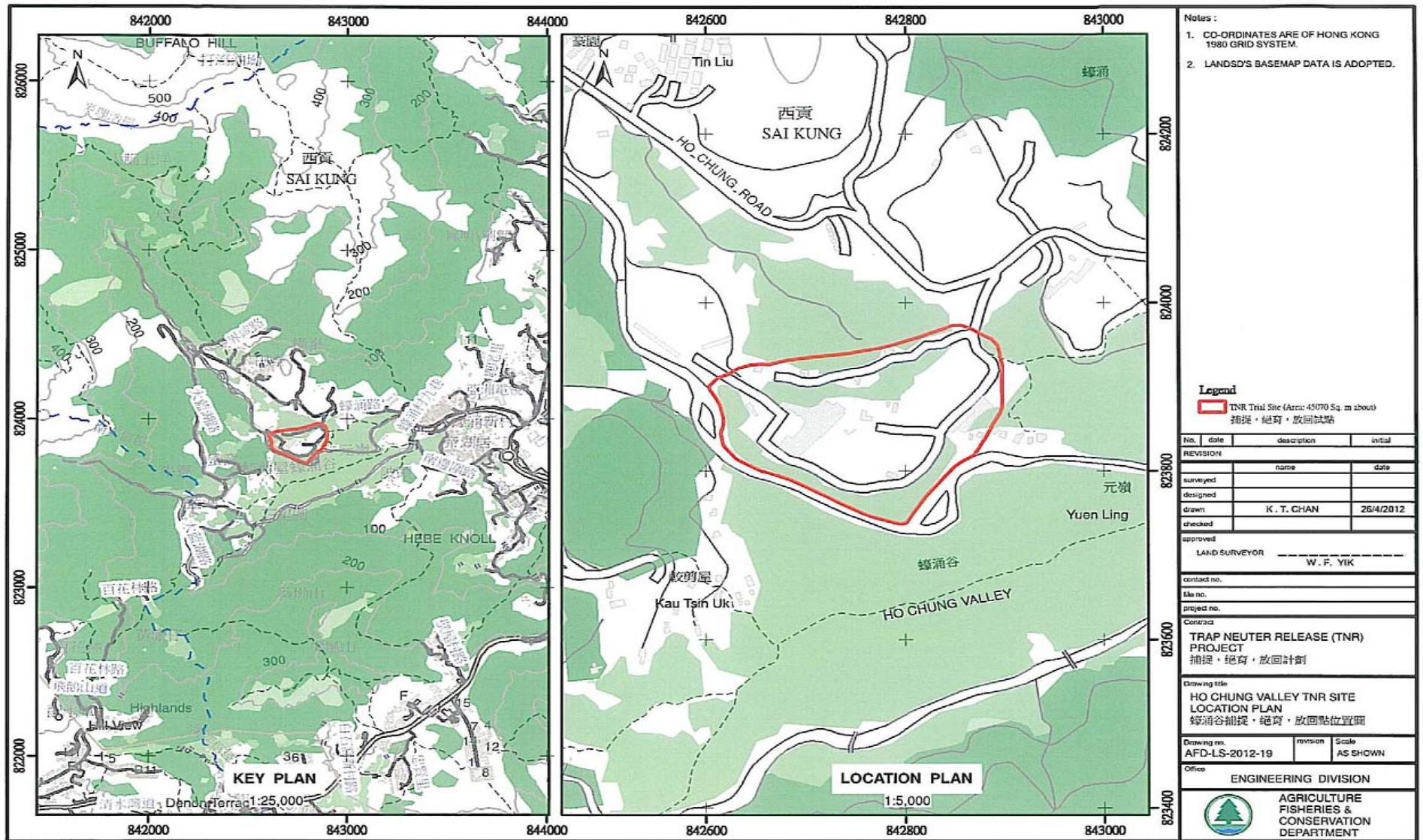
Drawing title
HA PAK NAI TNR SITE LOCATION PLAN
 下白泥捕捉·絕育·放回點位置圖

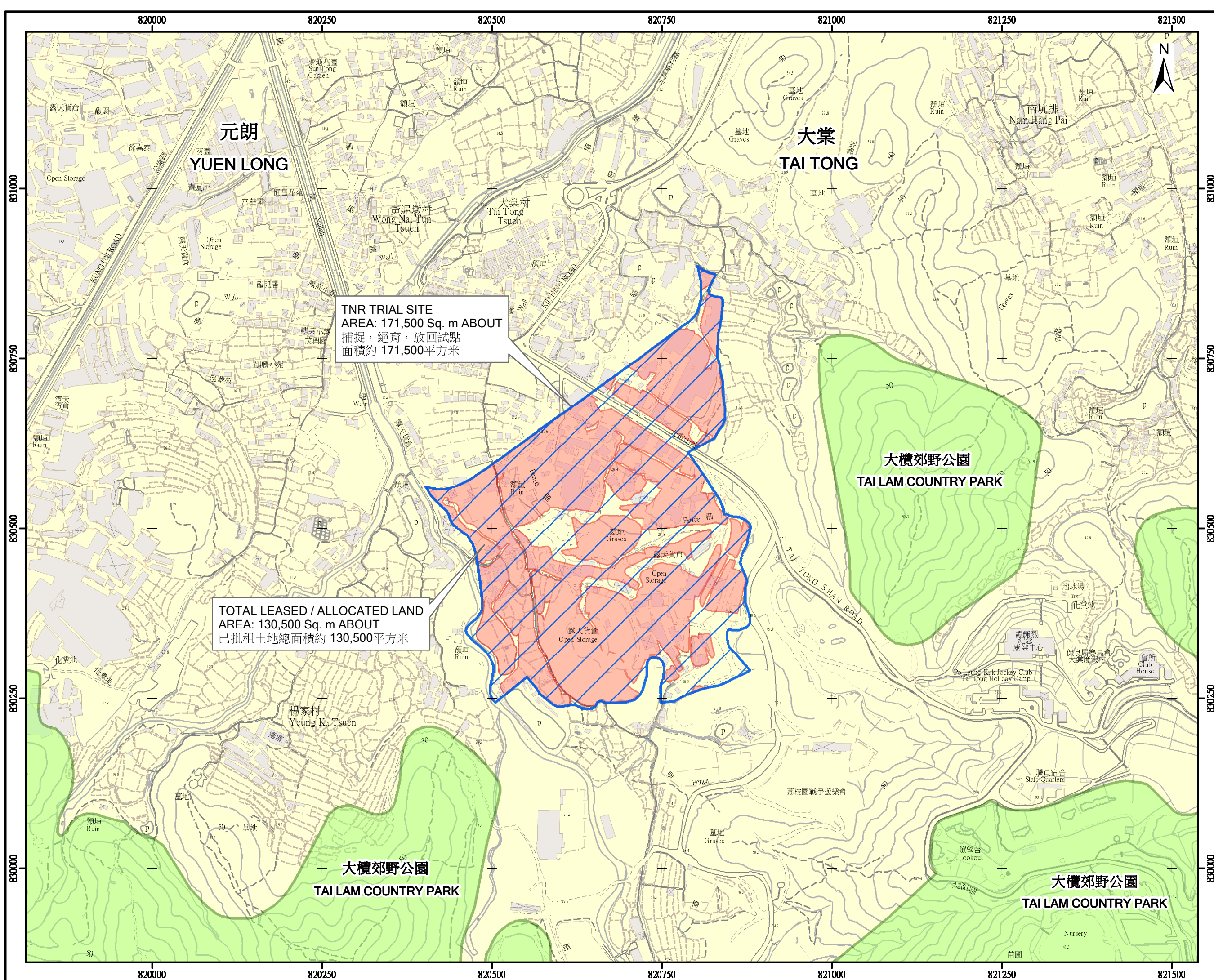
Drawing no. AFD-LS-2012-18 revision Scale AS SHOWN

Office ENGINEERING DIVISION









TNR TRIAL SITE
 AREA: 171,500 Sq. m ABOUT
 捕捉, 絕育, 放回試點
 面積約 171,500 平方米

TOTAL LEASED / ALLOCATED LAND
 AREA: 130,500 Sq. m ABOUT
 已批租土地總面積約 130,500 平方米

Notes : **Annex B**

1. CO-ORDINATES ARE OF HONG KONG 1980 GRID SYSTEM.
2. LANDSD'S CIS & BMS DATA AS AT DEC 2013 IS ADOPTED.

Legend (圖例)

- TNR Trial Site (捕捉, 絕育, 放回試點)
- Country Park Area (郊野公園)
- Leased / Allocated Land Area (已批租土地)

No.	date	description	initial
REVISION			
		name	date
		surveyed	
		designed	
		drawn	K. T. CHAN 24/12/2013
		checked	

approved
 LAND SURVEYOR -----
 W. F. YIK

contract no.
 file no.
 project no.
 Contract

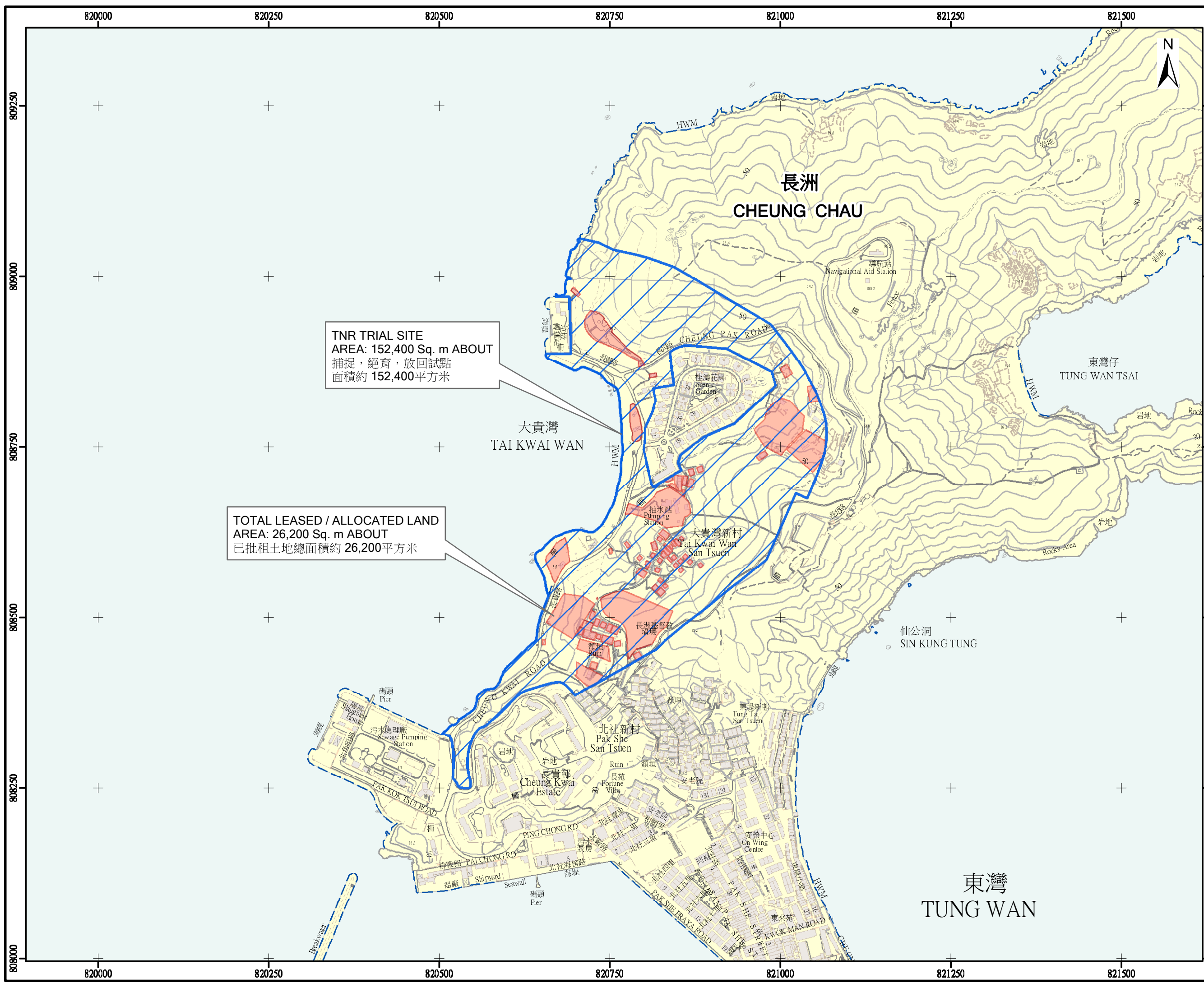
TRAP NEUTER RETURN (TNR) PROJECT
 捕捉, 絕育, 放回計劃

Drawing title
TAI TONG SHAN ROAD SITE LOCATION PLAN
 大棠山道捕捉, 絕育, 放回試點位置圖

Drawing no.	revision	Scale
AFD-LS-2013-78-2B		1:5,000

Office
ENGINEERING DIVISION





TNR TRIAL SITE
 AREA: 152,400 Sq. m ABOUT
 捕捉, 絕育, 放回試點
 面積約 152,400平方米

TOTAL LEASED / ALLOCATED LAND
 AREA: 26,200 Sq. m ABOUT
 已批租土地總面積約 26,200平方米

Notes : **Annex C (1/2)**

1. CO-ORDINATES ARE OF HONG KONG 1980 GRID SYSTEM.
2. LANDSD'S CIS & BMS DATA AS AT DEC 2013 IS ADOPTED.

Legend (圖例)

- TNR Trial Site (捕捉, 絕育, 放回試點)
- Country Park Area (郊野公園)
- Leased / Allocated Land Area (已批租土地)

No.	date	description	initial
REVISION			
		name	date
surveyed			
designed			
drawn	K. T. CHAN		24/12/2013
checked			

approved
 LAND SURVEYOR
 W. F. YIK

contract no.
 file no.
 project no.

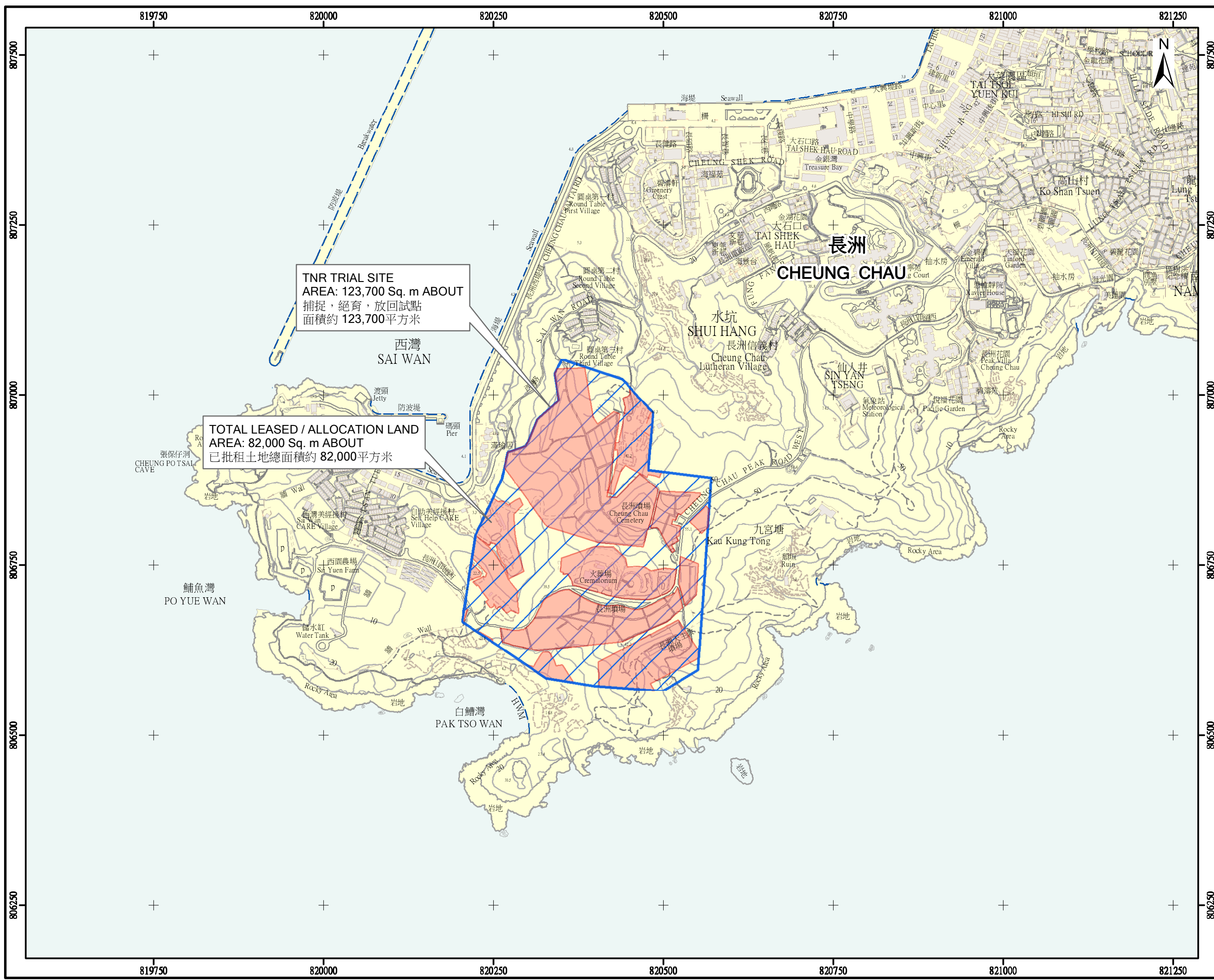
Contract
TRAP NEUTER RETURN (TNR) PROJECT
 捕捉, 絕育, 放回計劃

Drawing title
CHEUNG CHAU NORTH SITE LOCATION PLAN
 長洲北捕捉, 絕育, 放回試點位置圖

Drawing no.	revision	Scale
AFD-LS-2013-78-3B		1:5,000

Office
ENGINEERING DIVISION





Notes : **Annex C (2/2)**

1. CO-ORDINATES ARE OF HONG KONG 1980 GRID SYSTEM.
2. LANDSD'S CIS & BMS DATA AS AT DEC 2013 IS ADOPTED.

Legend (圖例)

- TNR Trial Site (捕捉, 絕育, 放回試點)
- Country Park Area (郊野公園)
- Leased / Allocation Land Area (已批租土地)

No.	date	description	initial
REVISION			
		name	date
1		surveyed	
2		designed	
3		drawn	K. T. CHAN 24/12/2013
4		checked	
approved			
LAND SURVEYOR		W. F. YIK	

contract no.
 file no.
 project no.
 Contract
TRAP NEUTER RETURN (TNR) PROJECT
 捕捉, 絕育, 放回計劃

Drawing title
CHEUNG CHAU SOUTH SITE LOCATION PLAN
 長洲南捕捉, 絕育, 放回試點位置圖

Drawing no.	revision	Scale
AFD-LS-2013-78-4B		1:5,000

Office
ENGINEERING DIVISION

