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Replies to supplementary questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2018-19

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Session No. : 7

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**S-ENB01****(Question Serial No. S0038)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Regarding the management of country parks and country park enclaves by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, please advise on:

- (a) The sizes of private land in each country park and country park enclave.
- (b) The future management plan of the area near Sai Wan apart from the provision of a star-gazing site.
 - (i) Has the Government considered how to support local restaurants and stores?
 - (ii) Has the Government explored the feasibility of developing home-stay lodgings?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dickReply:

- (a) There are a total of 24 country parks and 77 country park enclaves in Hong Kong. The information on the sizes of private land in each country park are as follows:

Name of country park	Approximate size of private land (hectares)
Shing Mun Country Park	0.49
Kam Shan Country Park	0.01
Lion Rock Country Park	0.83
Aberdeen Country Park	0.50
Tai Tam Country Park	0
Sai Kung East Country Park	54.48
Sai Kung West Country Park	74.70

Name of country park	Approximate size of private land (hectares)
Plover Cove Country Park	58.25
Lantau South Country Park	22.73
Lantau North Country Park	3.50
Pat Sin Leng Country Park	100.70
Tai Lam Country Park	57.45
Tai Mo Shan Country Park	11.73
Lam Tsuen Country Park	4.67
Ma On Shan Country Park	22.63
Kiu Tsui Country Park	1.03
Plover Cove (Extension) Country Park	46.58
Shek O Country Park	0.02
Pokfulam Country Park	0
Tai Tam (Quarry Bay Extension) Country Park	0.01
Clear Water Bay Country Park	0.82
Sai Kung West Country Park (Wan Tsai Extension)	0.44
Lung Fu Shan Country Park	0
Lantau North (Extension) Country Park	0

The information on the sizes of private land in country park enclaves is not available.

- (b) The management work of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) at Sai Wan includes the provision and maintenance of recreational facilities, cleaning services, tree planting and vegetation management, etc., so as to provide a safe and pleasant place for recreational activities compatible with country parks to the general public, and at the same time enhance biodiversity, conserve the nature and facilitate ecotourism. Since the inclusion of Sai Wan into the country park, some new facilities, such as a hiking trail from Sai Wan Pavilion to Sai Wan beach and a campsite had been established and are open for public enjoyment. Besides the star-gazing terrace which will be constructed in 2018-19, AFCD has planned to upgrade the sewage treatment system at the two existing public toilets, reconstruct the refuse collection and recycling point, as well as provide a new sitting-out area to cope with the increasing demand from villagers and visitors.

AFCD has discussed with villagers the possibility of and the requirements of the regulations relevant to using existing facilities and village houses to provide home-stay and catering services to visitors. We will continue to communicate with the villagers and provide technical advice for them in exploring the feasibility of transforming the village houses of those interested villagers into food stalls or home-stay lodgings in a lawful and sustainable manner.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**S-ENB02****(Question Serial No. S0039)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Regarding the management of country parks by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the preventive measures against damage to the environment:

- (a) AFCD stated that it would continue to conduct regular patrols in country parks and country park enclaves. What were the numbers of patrols conducted, the time and the manpower involved over the past 5 years?
- (b) What were the numbers of occurrence of hill fires in the 18 districts over the past 5 years?
- (i) What were the respective dates and the numbers of occurrence, the numbers of warning letters issued and the numbers of prosecutions?
- (ii) What measures have been taken in preventing hill fires and the expenditures involved over the past 5 years?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dickReply:

- (a) The number of patrols in country parks and country park enclaves conducted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in the past 5 years is tabulated below:

Calendar year	Number of patrols
2013	18 877
2014	18 284
2015	17 137
2016	18 570
2017	18 840

AFCD does not have a separate breakdown of time and manpower deployed for this area of work.

- (b)(i) From 2013 to 2017, there were 104 cases of hill fires which had affected country parks and special areas. The details are in the **Annex**.

During the same period, there were 67 prosecutions for illegal lighting or use of fire in country parks and special areas, and no written warning relating to the control of fires had been issued by AFCD.

- (b)(ii) AFCD has taken various measures in the prevention of hill fire in country parks and special areas. Fire danger warning signs are erected in all country parks to alert the public the fire risk on the day. Fire breaks, water tanks, fire lookouts and other facilities / equipment have been constructed and maintained to prevent the spread of hill fires and to facilitate hill fire fighting during an outbreak. The AFCD Fire Control Centre (FCC) and fire crews are on a 24-hour shift standby on days when the fire risk is high. FCC handles reports of hill fire outbreaks in country parks, coordinates AFCD fire crews to attend hill fire outbreaks at the first instant, and contacts the Hong Kong Fire Services Department for taking actions where necessary. Furthermore, the government has launched publicity programmes through school talks, Announcements in the Public Interest, village visits, posters, as well as collaborating with hiking / volunteer groups in distributing fire prevention leaflets to hikers during the Ching Ming Festival and Chung Yeung Festival in order to educate the public about the prevention of hill fires.

The expenditure incurred in hill fire prevention and hill fire fighting over the past 5 years in country parks and special areas is tabulated below:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2013-14	34
2014-15	36
2015-16	35
2016-17	38
2017-18 (revised estimate)	38

Hill fires which had affected country parks and special areas from 2013 to 2017

Serial No.	Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	Country park or special area affected
North District		
1	2013/01/06	Pat Sin Leng
2	2013/10/06	Pat Sin Leng
3	2013/10/25	Plover Cove
4	2013/12/09	Plover Cove
5	2014/01/14	Plover Cove
6	2014/01/23	Pat Sin Leng
7	2014/02/03	Plover Cove
8	2014/10/19	Pat Sin Leng
9	2014/10/25	Pat Sin Leng
10	2015/01/11	Plover Cove
11	2017/04/04	Pat Sin Leng
Yuen Long District		
12	2013/01/30	Tai Lam
13	2013/03/11	Tai Lam
14	2013/10/13	Tai Lam
15	2013/10/13	Tai Lam
16	2013/10/13	Lam Tsuen
17	2013/12/26	Tai Lam
18	2014/03/23	Tai Lam
19	2014/10/19	Tai Lam
20	2014/10/19	Tai Lam
21	2015/01/18	Tai Lam
22	2015/01/23	Tai Lam
23	2015/04/05	Tai Lam
24	2015/04/05	Tai Lam
25	2016/10/05	Lam Tsuen
26	2016/10/06	Lam Tsuen
27	2017/01/22	Lam Tsuen
28	2017/01/24	Lam Tsuen
29	2017/02/14	Tai Lam
30	2017/04/02	Lam Tsuen
31	2017/04/04	Tai Lam
32	2017/04/05	Tai Lam
33	2017/11/23	Tai Lam
34	2017/12/26	Tai Lam

Tsuen Wan District		
35	2014/01/27	Tai Lam
36	2014/01/27	Tai Lam
37	2014/02/04	Tai Lam
38	2015/01/22	Tai Mo Shan
39	2015/10/21	Tai Lam
40	2016/02/11	Shing Mun
41	2016/03/27	Tai Lam
42	2016/12/27	Tai Lam
43	2017/02/04	Tai Lam
44	2017/02/09	Tai Mo Shan
45	2017/03/07	Tai Lam
46	2017/10/22	Tai Mo Shan
47	2017/12/25	Tai Mo Shan
Sha Tin District		
48	2013/01/09	Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve
49	2013/01/29	Ma On Shan
50	2013/12/07	Ma On Shan
51	2013/12/24	Ma On Shan
52	2014/01/13	Ma On Shan
53	2014/01/15	Lion Rock
54	2014/01/16	Lion Rock
55	2014/01/22	Lion Rock
56	2014/12/16	Lion Rock
57	2014/12/16	Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve
58	2014/12/17	Ma On Shan
59	2015/11/27	Ma On Shan
60	2016/02/11	Ma On Shan
61	2017/01/20	Ma On Shan
62	2017/01/21	Ma On Shan
63	2017/02/17	Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve
64	2017/03/03	Golden Hill
65	2017/03/03	Golden Hill
66	2017/10/29	Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve
67	2017/12/19	Lion Rock
68	2017/12/24	Lion Rock
Islands District		
69	2013/12/09	Lantau South
70	2014/03/23	Lantau North
71	2014/04/05	Lantau North
72	2014/04/05	Lantau South

73	2015/04/05	Lantau North
74	2015/04/05	Lantau North (Extension)
75	2016/10/09	Lantau South
76	2016/10/09	Lantau South
77	2017/04/02	Lantau North
78	2017/04/04	Lantau North
79	2017/04/04	Lantau North
80	2017/12/21	Lantau North (Extension)
Tai Po District		
81	2013/02/15	Pat Sin Leng
82	2013/02/22	Shing Mun
83	2013/12/05	Sai Kung West
84	2014/02/02	Pat Sin Leng / Plover Cove
85	2015/10/21	Tai Mo Shan
86	2015/10/21	Sai Kung East
87	2016/04/04	Pat Sin Leng
88	2016/12/27	Sai Kung East
89	2017/02/04	Tai Mo Shan
90	2017/04/04	Tai Mo Shan
91	2017/10/28	Sai Kung West
Tuen Mun District		
92	2013/12/28	Tai Lam
93	2014/07/30	Tai Lam
94	2015/11/26	Tai Lam
95	2016/01/25	Tai Lam
96	2016/01/26	Tai Lam
97	2016/12/18	Tai Lam
Sai Kung District		
98	2013/02/26	Sai Kung East
99	2013/10/06	Ma On Shan
100	2013/10/13	Sai Kung East
101	2013/11/30	Clear Water Bay
102	2014/03/23	Sai Kung East
103	2014/03/26	Sai Kung East
Eastern District		
104	2014/01/29	Tai Tam

Note: There is no hill fire in country parks and special areas in Kwai Tsing, Central and Western, Southern, Wan Chai, Sham Shui Po and Wong Tai Sin Districts during the past 5 years. There is no country park or special area in Kowloon City, Kwun Tong and Yau Tsim Mong Districts.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**S-ENB03****(Question Serial No. S0049)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

- (a) It is stated under the indicators for nature conservation and country parks that the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department planted about 400 000 tree seedlings in 2016 and 2017 respectively. What were the expenditures involved?
- (b) The number of hill fires in 2017 was more than double the number in 2016. What were the numbers of trees destroyed in those fires in 2016 and 2017 respectively?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dickReply:

- (a) The expenditures on the planting of tree seedlings in 2016-17 and 2017-18 were \$10.7 million and \$10.3 million respectively.
- (b) The numbers of hill fires and trees damaged in the hill fires in country parks over the past 2 years are tabulated below:

Calendar year	2016	2017
Number of hill fires	13	29
Number of trees damaged	10 600	1 647

-End-

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-ENB04

(Question Serial No. S0036)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Donald TONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Environmental Protection Department compiles the Monitoring of Solid Waste in Hong Kong Report annually. However, a breakdown of the recovery rates of municipal solid waste (MSW) from various sources by waste composition has not been set out. In order to enhance our understanding of the local waste reduction and recycling situation, would the Department provide this Committee a breakdown of the annual quantity of MSW from the domestic, commercial and industrial sectors disposed of at landfills as well as the recovery rates by the waste composition in each of the past 5 years (2012-2016). A breakdown table of the waste composition is at Annex.

Annex:

Composition	Domestic waste		Commercial waste		Industrial waste		Municipal solid waste	
	Disposal quantity	Recovery rate	Disposal quantity	Recovery rate	Disposal quantity	Recovery rate	Disposal quantity	Recovery rate
Glass - Glass bottles - Other glass (Sub-total)								
Metals - Aluminium cans - Ferrous metals - Other non-ferrous metals (Sub-total)								
Paper - Cardboard - Newsprint - Office paper - Tetrapak - Others (Sub-total)								
Plastics - Non-PET plastic bottles								

Composition	Domestic waste		Commercial waste		Industrial waste		Municipal solid waste	
	Disposal quantity	Recovery rate	Disposal quantity	Recovery rate	Disposal quantity	Recovery rate	Disposal quantity	Recovery rate
- PET plastic bottles								
- Plastic bags								
- Plastic dining wares								
- Polyfoam-dining wares								
- Polyfoam-others								
- Others								
(Sub-total)								
Putrescibles								
- Food waste								
- Yard waste								
- Others								
(Sub-total)								

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 36)

Reply:

The Environmental Protection Department does not have statistical figures on the recovery of municipal solid waste (MSW) with a breakdown by source and waste composition. The disposal quantity of MSW component by source and the recovery rate of MSW from 2012-2016 are as follows.

2016

	Domestic waste	Commercial waste	Industrial waste	MSW	
Composition	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Recovery rate (%)
Glass					
- Glass bottles	157	85	1	243	-
- Other glass	37	13	36	86	-
(Glass) Sub-total	193	98	37	329	7
Metals					
- Ferrous metals	102	57	22	181	92
- Aluminium cans	18	7	0	25	76
- Other non-ferrous metals	19	9	8	36	
(Metals) Sub-total	139	73	30	242	91
Paper					
- Cardboard	235	168	115	518	-
- Newsprint	313	73	3	389	-
- Office paper	76	52	5	132	-
- Tetrapak	44	18	22	83	-
- Others ⁽¹⁾	690	396	35	1 121	-
(Paper) Sub-total	1 358	707	179	2 244	50
Plastics					
- Plastic bags	443	221	27	690	-
- Polyfoam-dining wares	28	11	1	39	-
- Polyfoam-others	24	27	2	53	-
- PET plastic bottles	79	73	5	158	-

	Domestic waste	Commercial waste	Industrial waste	MSW	
Composition	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Recovery rate (%)
- Non-PET plastic bottles	52	13	4	69	-
-Plastic dining wares	83	60	11	154	-
- Others ⁽²⁾	548	246	175	970	-
(Plastics) Sub-total	1 257	650	225	2 132	14
Putrescibles					
- Food waste	2 326	1 137	138	3 600	1
- Yard waste ⁽³⁾	140	34	3	177	-
- Others ⁽⁴⁾	427	65	10	502	-
(Putrescibles) Sub-total	2 893	1 235	151	4 279	-

2015

	Domestic waste	Commercial waste	Industrial waste	MSW	
Composition	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Recovery rate (%)
Glass					
- Glass bottles	196	75	4	275	-
- Other glass	46	14	32	92	-
(Glass) Sub-total	242	88	37	367	6

	Domestic waste	Commercial waste	Industrial waste	MSW	
Composition	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Recovery rate (%)
Metals					
- Ferrous metals	95	54	18	167	93
- Aluminium cans	17	23	1	41	77
- Other non-ferrous metals	11	9	8	28	
(Metals) Sub-total	123	86	27	236	92
Paper					
- Cardboard	259	166	78	503	-
- Newsprint	327	101	4	432	-
- Office paper	91	79	8	178	-
- Tetrapak	51	28	12	91	-
- Others ⁽¹⁾	611	411	31	1 053	-
(Paper) Sub-total	1 339	785	132	2 257	52
Plastics					
- Plastic bags	461	164	25	649	-
- Polyfoam-dining wares	31	15	1	48	-
- Polyfoam-others	42	16	6	64	-
- PET plastic bottles	78	54	4	136	-
- Non-PET plastic bottles	53	14	3	70	-
-Plastic dining wares	73	50	7	131	-
- Others ⁽²⁾	613	292	179	1 084	-
(Plastics) Sub-total	1 351	606	226	2 183	11
Putrescibles					
- Food waste	2 397	914	71	3 382	1

	Domestic waste	Commercial waste	Industrial waste	MSW	
Composition	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Recovery rate (%)
- Yard waste ⁽³⁾	124	31	3	157	-
- Others ⁽⁴⁾	319	56	3	378	-
(Putrescibles) Sub-total	2 840	1 000	77	3 917	-

2014

	Domestic waste	Commercial waste	Industrial waste	MSW	
Composition	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Recovery rate (%)
Glass					
- Glass bottles	144	56	3	204	-
- Other glass	34	18	29	81	-
(Glass) Sub-total	178	75	32	285	7
Metals					
- Ferrous metals	94	48	13	155	94
- Aluminium cans	15	14	1	30	79
- Other non-ferrous metals	11	12	1	25	
(Metals) Sub-total	120	74	15	209	92
Paper					
- Cardboard	197	142	60	399	-
- Newsprint	385	80	4	470	-

	Domestic waste	Commercial waste	Industrial waste	MSW	
Composition	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Recovery rate (%)
- Office paper	76	53	9	138	-
- Tetrapak	46	16	11	74	-
- Others ⁽¹⁾	518	296	28	842	-
(Paper) Sub-total	1 223	588	111	1 922	57
Plastics					
- Plastic bags	466	175	24	665	-
- Polyfoam-dining wares	31	12	1	43	-
- Polyfoam-others	30	12	2	45	-
- PET plastic bottles	82	47	3	132	-
- Non-PET plastic bottles	59	11	3	74	-
-Plastic dining wares	73	42	7	122	-
- Others ⁽²⁾	562	261	112	935	-
(Plastics) Sub-total	1 303	560	152	2 015	12
Putrescibles					
- Food waste	2 608	933	100	3 640	1
- Yard waste ⁽³⁾	83	25	2	111	-
- Others ⁽⁴⁾	351	52	2	405	-
(Putrescibles) Sub-total	3 042	1 010	104	4 156	-

2013

	Domestic waste	Commercial waste	Industrial waste	MSW	
Composition	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Recovery rate (%)
Glass					
- Glass bottles	184	71	3	258	-
- Other glass	64	14	18	95	-
(Glass) Sub-total	248	85	21	353	7
Metals					
- Ferrous metals	81	46	17	144	91
- Aluminium cans	14	6	0	21	87
- Other non-ferrous metals	7	4	1	13	
(Metals) Sub-total	102	56	19	177	90
Paper					
- Cardboard	211	117	50	378	-
- Newsprint	347	82	5	435	-
- Office paper	83	64	8	155	-
- Tetrapak	45	18	6	69	-
- Others ⁽¹⁾	509	254	23	786	-
(Paper) Sub-total	1 195	534	93	1 823	61
Plastics					
- Plastic bags	452	169	19	640	-
- Polyfoam-dining wares	31	11	1	43	-
- Polyfoam-others	24	19	4	46	-
- PET plastic bottles	70	56	2	129	-

	Domestic waste	Commercial waste	Industrial waste	MSW	
Composition	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Recovery rate (%)
- Non-PET plastic bottles	61	14	2	77	-
-Plastic dining wares	63	36	2	101	-
- Others ⁽²⁾	511	199	120	831	-
(Plastics) Sub-total	1 212	504	150	1 866	26
Putrescibles					
- Food waste	2 645	936	67	3 648	2
- Yard waste ⁽³⁾	126	24	5	154	-
- Others ⁽⁴⁾	329	54	3	386	-
(Putrescibles) Sub-total	3 100	1 014	75	4 189	-

2012

	Domestic waste	Commercial waste	Industrial waste	MSW	
Composition	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Recovery rate (%)
Glass					
- Glass bottles	177	49	3	229	-
- Other glass	43	4	14	61	-
(Glass) Sub-total	220	53	17	289	15

	Domestic waste	Commercial waste	Industrial waste	MSW	
Composition	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Recovery rate (%)
Metals					
- Ferrous metals	143	34	13	190	88
- Aluminium cans	18	8	2	28	82
- Other non-ferrous metals	13	6	2	21	
(Metals) Sub-total	174	48	17	239	87
Paper					
- Cardboard	227	142	56	424	-
- Newsprint	375	126	8	509	-
- Office paper	90	96	5	191	-
- Tetrapak	45	51	3	100	-
- Others ⁽¹⁾	417	243	19	680	-
(Paper) Sub-total	1 154	659	92	1 905	63
Plastics					
- Plastic bags	523	212	24	758	-
- Polyfoam-dining wares	32	19	1	52	-
- Polyfoam-others	22	23	2	48	-
- PET plastic bottles	80	49	3	132	-
- Non-PET plastic bottles	56	26	1	84	-
-Plastic dining wares	73	53	2	128	-
- Others ⁽²⁾	359	157	108	623	-
(Plastics) Sub-total	1 144	540	141	1 826	32
Putrescibles					
- Food waste	2 528	702	107	3 337	1

	Domestic waste	Commercial waste	Industrial waste	MSW	
Composition	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day)	Recovery rate (%)
- Yard waste⁽³⁾	143	12	1	156	-
- Others⁽⁴⁾	324	44	4	372	-
(Putrescibles) Sub-total	2 995	759	112	3 865	-

Note:

- Statistical figure on this item is not available.
- (1) Other paper waste includes tissue paper, paper bags, etc.
- (2) Other plastics waste includes packaging materials, toys, off-cuts, scrap, etc.
- (3) Yard waste not disposed of at landfills is not included. For example, part of the yard waste collected by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department is treated in country parks managed by the Department.
- (4) Other putrescibles waste includes cotton personal care products, other organic waste, etc.
- (5) Figures may not add up to total due to rounding off.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-ENB05

(Question Serial No. S0037)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (6) Nature Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Donald TONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

1. Regarding the Countryside Conservation Office, the Government has earmarked \$1 billion for such conservation and revitalisation efforts, as well as minor improvement works. What are the funding criteria?

2. Is there any plan to extend the project to non-remote places, such as Nam Sang Wai, which are high risk areas of significant public interests and ecological value?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 37)

Reply:

The Countryside Conservation Office (CCO) will be set up in 2018-19. The CCO will devise future specific work plans and projects, as well as details such as the funding criteria, upon establishment. We will also set up an advisory committee (AC) comprising non-official members to examine applications on the relevant conservation and revitalisation projects (not including minor improvement works) submitted by non-governmental organisations and monitor the implementation of approved projects and proposals. The CCO will consult the AC on the scope of and application procedures (including funding criteria) for conservation and revitalisation projects.

The objective of setting up the CCO is to co-ordinate conservation projects that would promote sustainable development of remote countryside. Priority will be given to considering conservation of sites with high ecological importance, such as the 12 priority sites for enhanced conservation, among which the Deep Bay Wetland outside Ramsar Site has already included Nam Sang Wai. As a priority, the CCO will enhance countryside revitalisation in Lai Chi Wo, as well as ecological conservation in Sha Lo Tung, and will keep under review the implementation of these initiatives and their effectiveness from time to time, with the aim of extending the initiatives progressively to other remote countryside areas.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-ENB06

(Question Serial No. SV012)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Donald TONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Please provide the latest conservation-conscious menus for official entertainment functions, and the list of endangered wild fauna and flora which are not included in the menus.

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth

Reply:

To promote green living and raise social awareness of sustainability-conscious lifestyle, the Environment Bureau issued a circular memorandum in 2013 to provide guidance for Bureaux and Departments, recommending government officers to take the lead in adopting conservation-conscious menus in official entertainment functions. The last update of the guidelines was issued in 2017. The existing guidelines recommend that shark fin, bluefin tuna, humphead wrasse, wild caught Hong Kong grouper, sturgeon caviar, black moss and food items related to the above species should not be included in the menus of official entertainment functions.

We would continue to keep in view the local and international development of awareness on conservation and trend on green living and update the list of items from time to time.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-ENB07

(Question Serial No. S0040)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment (Donald TONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

1. Looking at the local carbon emissions figures from 2011 to 2015, carbon emissions from both transport and waste were rising. Has the Government analysed the reasons as well as the crisis and expenditure incurred?
2. Does the Government have the carbon emissions figures for 2016 and 2017?
3. Did the greenhouse gas uptake by local carbon pools increase or decrease in the past 5 years?
4. Does the Government have any plans to increase the greenhouse gas uptake by local carbon pools? If yes, what are the plans? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 40)

Reply:

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) compiles the greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory and estimates the GHG uptake by carbon pools¹ annually in accordance with the methodologies as specified in the guidelines published by the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC Guidelines).

1. In the past 5 years, the carbon emissions from transport rose by about 3% from 7.24 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂-e) in 2011 to 7.47 million tonnes of CO₂-e in 2015, which was mainly caused by the increased driving mileage of private cars. The carbon emissions from waste, which were mainly affected by the change in quantity of solid waste, rose by about 10% from 2.3 million tonnes of CO₂-e in 2011 to 2.53 million tonnes of CO₂-e in 2014, and then dropped by about 4% to 2.44 million tonnes of CO₂-e in

¹ According to the IPCC Guidelines, "carbon pool" means "A reservoir, a component or components of the climate system where a greenhouse gas or a precursor of a greenhouse gas is stored."

2015. Although the carbon emissions from transport and waste have increased in the past 5 years, the total GHG emissions in Hong Kong in the same period dropped by about 2% from 42.6 million tonnes of CO₂-e in 2011 to 41.6 million tonnes of CO₂-e in 2015.

The Government will continue to implement the measures in respect of mitigation, adaptation and resilience, etc. in Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2030+ (the Action Plan) to combat the climate change problems. These measures have been absorbed as part of the relevant work programmes or projects of various bureaux and departments, and the expenditure and manpower involved are met by the recurrent expenditure of the bureaux and departments concerned or the expenditure of relevant projects.

2. The Hong Kong GHG inventories for 2016 and 2017 are still being compiled. The 2016 GHG inventory is expected to be released in the 3rd quarter of this year. Internationally, the release of the GHG inventory generally lags behind by 2 to 3 years.

3. Details of the total GHG uptake by carbon pools of woodlands, shrublands and grasslands in Hong Kong from 2011 to 2015 are set out as follows:

Year	Total GHG uptake by carbon pools (thousand tonnes CO ₂ -e)
2011	476
2012	466
2013	459
2014	459
2015	461 (<i>Provisional figure to be confirmed</i>)

4. The total GHG uptake by carbon pools of woodlands, shrublands and grasslands in Hong Kong in 2015 was 461,000 tonnes of CO₂-e, which compares to about 1% of the total GHG emissions in Hong Kong. Forests have capability to absorb and store carbon from the atmosphere, and therefore have an essential role in climate mitigation. The Government will continue to enhance ecosystems and carry out appropriate landscaping in urban areas, and implement the relevant plans in Chapter 8 of the Action Plan to expand country and marine parks and promote urban forestry and ecology.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-ENB08

(Question Serial No. S0050)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment (Donald TONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

To formulate an appropriate climate change strategy, please advise on the following:

- (1) What are the carbon emissions in the process of turning each square kilometer of agricultural land into brownfields? What is the annual increase in carbon emissions after the process?
- (2) What are the carbon emissions in the process of turning each square kilometer of agricultural land into industrial land? What is the annual increase in carbon emissions after the process?
- (3) What are the carbon emissions in the process of turning each square kilometer of agricultural land into commercial land? What is the increase in carbon emissions after the process?
- (4) What are the carbon emissions in the process of turning each square kilometer of agricultural land into high-density residential land? What is the increase in carbon emissions after the process?
- (5) What is the annual increase in the frequency of trips made in the city as a result of turning each square kilometer of agricultural land into high-density residential land? What is the annual increase in carbon emissions incurred by such frequency of trips?
- (6) Regarding the major infrastructural projects, including the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link, Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, the third runway at the airport, the Loop and the North East New Territories New Development Areas, please set out the carbon emissions during their construction and the annual increase in carbon emissions after their completion.

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 50)

Reply:

The Environmental Protection Department compiles the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory annually in accordance with the methodologies as specified in the guidelines published by the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The inventory does not include information about GHG emissions arising solely from changes in land use or individual infrastructure projects.

- End -