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Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road, Central, Hong Kong
Secretary for the Panel on Environmental Affairs
(Attn.: Ms Angel SHEK)
(By e-mail: aykshek@legco.gov.hk)

Dear Ms Shek,

Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs
Progress of Implementation of Management Plan for Wild Pigs

At the meeting of the Panel on 28 June 2021, Members requested the Administration to provide supplementary information on the implementation progress of the management plan for wild pigs. The information is provided as follows.

How the number of wild pigs (i.e. 1 800 - 3 300) in the countryside in Hong Kong as estimated in the preliminary study on the population size of wild pigs in Hong Kong conducted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is worked out

The AFCD launched the study in August 2019 (i.e. the rearing season of wild pigs). Firstly, a series of infrared cameras, which automatically captured photos of wild pigs when they passed by the cameras, was set up in Ma On Shan Country Park to record the wild pigs. Basing on the statistical analysis of photo records by the Distance Sampling method, the wild pig density was estimated to be 5.72 ± 1.7 pig/km². Through projecting the wild pig density over the total country park area in Hong Kong (443 km²) which was used as an approximation of the countryside area in Hong Kong, the total population of wild pigs in the countryside in Hong Kong was estimated to be 2 500, varying in the range of 1 800 to 3 300.

The AFCD started to extend the scope of the study to cover more sites and different seasons in 2020 in order to collect further data about wild pigs in the countryside.

The concern raised by members about the economic loss on crops caused by wild pig raids

Upon receiving a complaint on the damage of crops by wild pigs, the AFCD will conduct investigation, record the actual extent of crops damaged by wild pigs and provide advice to farmers on how to prevent such damage. Most of the farmland falls within countryside areas and is close to the natural habitats of wild pigs. To effectively minimise the damage to crops by wild pigs, sturdy fences must be built to prevent wild pigs from entering farmland. The AFCD will provide advice to farmers in need on the specifications of the fences. Eligible farmers can apply for financial subsidy from the AFCD's Farm Improvement Scheme for building electric fences which are effective in deterring wild pigs. For example there are farms in Lai Chi Wo and Hok Tau which have effectively deterred wild pigs from damaging the crops after the installation of electric fences following AFCD's recommendations.

Yours sincerely,



(Ms Thebe NG)

for the Director of Environmental Protection

c.c.

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Attn: Mr Simon Chan)