(Translated Version)

For Discussion on 14 November 2014

LanDAC PC SC Paper No. 06/2014

Lantau Development Advisory Committee Planning and Conservation Subcommittee

Proposed Conservation Measures for Lantau

1 Purpose

1.1 This paper aims at introducing the proposed ecology, cultural heritage and landscape conservation measures for Lantau for discussion by this Subcommittee.

2 Sites of Conservation Value

2.1 There is a wealth of ecology, historic and cultural heritage and landscape assets in Lantau. At the first joint meeting of the Planning and Conservation Subcommittee and the Economic and Social Development Subcommittee on 10 October 2014, members were briefed about Lantau's current condition on this aspect and the sites of conservation value (**Plan 1** to **Plan 4**).

3. Direction of Conservation Work and Guiding Principles

- 3.1 The Government has kept undertaking conservation work for Lantau. Following the completion of the "Revised Concept Plan for Lantau" in 2007, the Government has designated the Lantau North (Extension) Country Park in 2008 and completed the Ngong Ping Nature Centre and the Hong Kong Olympic Trail from Mui Wo to Pak Mong at Tai Ho in the same year. The Government has also published statutory plans for Tai O, Yi O, Tai Ho, Luk Wu and Keung Shan etc. to protect sites of conservation value. In addition, the Government also included the Old Tai O Police Station into Batch 1 of the "Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme" in 2008 and it was revitalised as the Tai O Heritage Hotel in February 2012. Work to carry forward the designation of proposed The Brothers Islands Marine Park, the marine park near the Three-Runway System of the Hong Kong International Airport, South West Lantau Marine Park and Soko Islands Marine Park is now in progress.
- 3.2 At its previous meeting, the Subcommittee agreed on the direction of conservation work which was to ensure that the ecology, heritage and landscape of sites of conservation value would not be impaired by development while strengthening the point-line-plane linkage so that the public could enjoy the precious assets of Lantau.
- 3.3 The planning and conservation guiding principles for Lantau were deliberated at

that meeting as proposed in Paper No. 05/2014. Now, in accordance with the relevant guiding principles, the following conservation measures are recommended:

4. Proposed Conservation Measures

4.1 <u>Ecology Conservation</u>

- In site selection or planning for new developments or infrastructure, due consideration should be given to protecting sites of ecological conservation value. Major developments at these sites or their surrounding areas should be avoided as far as possible, and when necessary, ecological impact assessment should be conducted:
- Enhance the ecological value of country parks through tree planting and the Plantation Enhancement Scheme and the provision of facilities and services;
- Monitor the work of carrying forward the proposed marine parks;
- Suitably capitalising on the education, recreation and tourism potential brought about by the natural environment under the sustainable development principle; and
- In site selection and planning for new developments or infrastructure, due consideration should be given to the local habitat of important value and the habits of wild creatures. In the course of urban design, compatibility with the surrounding habitat should be ensured so as to reduce adverse impacts generated by the new developments.

4.2 Heritage Conservation

- Restore, preserve and conserve declared monuments and other sites of heritage value in accordance with the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance:
- During site selection or planning for new developments or infrastructure, due consideration should be given to protecting those sites of conservation value. Major developments at these sites or their surrounding areas should be avoided as far as possible, and heritage impact assessments should be conducted when necessary;
- Continue identify those Government historic buildings suitable for adaptive re-use for inclusion into the "Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme" or other revitalisation schemes. For owners of privately-owned graded historic buildings, they could seek assistance under the "Privately-owned Graded Historical Buildings: Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme" for conducting minor maintenance works to help arrest the historic buildings from deterioration due to lack of maintenance;
- Strengthen linkage of sites of heritage value, for example, by providing

scenic trails, themed historic heritage trails or specific routings and tourist facilities for linking up the various heritage spots to attract tourists and to integrate with villages of unique rural character for maintaining the traditional village artefacts while promoting cultural tourism and education; and

• Consider converting the heritage clusters into a local historic heritage district for creating synergy and highlighting the heritage value of individual facility.

4.3 <u>Landscape Conservation</u>

- It is proposed that some natural areas outside country parks with high landscape value, such as the mountains, river valleys and natural coastlines, be designated as landscape protection areas or coastal landscape protection areas. New developments should not compromise the existing landscape setting or local environment, and landscaping should be carried out to mitigate the adverse effect of any new development;
- Areas with local characteristics and special landscape characters such as Tai
 O Fishing Village and Pui O/Cheung Sha have to be preserved. New
 developments and urban design should not cause damage to the existing
 landscape setting and due respect should be given to the unique character of
 the areas. Viewing corridors should be formulated in areas with special
 character so that they would not be blocked by new developments; and
- Some major projects, such as the Tian Tan Buddha Statute, the airport, Ngong Ping Cable Car and the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge under construction, are landmarks of Lantau and integral parts of its landscape. New developments and urban design need to take into consideration compatibility with these landmarks to enhance the landscape of the new developments.

5. Conclusion

5.1 The above conservation measures are conducive to balancing and co-ordinating the planning and conservation needs of Lantau. Green recreation, tourism and education uses are promoted through these natural and cultural conservation measures under the principle of sustainable development. Members of the Subcommittee are invited to discuss the above proposed conservation measures.

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