

For discussion on  
20 November 2017

LanDAC SD SC  
Paper No. 05/2017

**LANTAU DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Rural Conservation Pilot Projects**

**PURPOSE**

This paper aims to brief Members on the proposed actions for rural conservation pilot projects on Lantau and to seek Members' views.

**BACKGROUND**

2. It was proposed in the Sustainable Lantau Blueprint (the Blueprint) promulgated in June 2017 that an overarching principle of "Development in the North; Conservation for the South" be embraced, under which the predominant part of Lantau, in particular South Lantau, would be for conservation with sustainable leisure and recreational uses. The Blueprint proposed the conservation of Pui O wetland, conservation of mudflat and sandflat habitats, Tai O cultural and heritage district and exploration of funding source etc.

3. The Chief Executive mentioned in the Policy Agenda published in October 2017 that different resources would be deployed to take forward various appropriate countryside conservation initiatives in selected pilot areas on Lantau, such as Tai O, Shui Hau and Pui O, to support the efforts in developing and conserving Lantau.

4. On another front, the Task Force on Lantau Conservation under the Sustainable Development Subcommittee discussed and consolidated a Long-list of Major Conservation-related Items with a total of 87 items. Among them, 11 initiatives were shortlisted as the First Batch Discussion Items, including the conservation proposals for Tai O, Shui Hau and Pui O. Please refer to LanDAC SD SC Paper No. 02/2017 for details.

**ACTIONS FOR RURAL CONSERVATION PILOT PROJECTS**

Launching ecological study

## **(Translated Version)**

5. The Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) will commence the “Ecological Study for Pui O, Shui Hau, Tai O and Neighbouring Areas” (Ecological Study) in the fourth quarter of 2017, with the aim of reviewing and consolidating the existing ecological information on Pui O, Shui Hau, Tai O and its neighboring areas, as well as conducting ecological surveys in the pilot areas of the rural conservation policy (such as Pui O, Shui Hau and Tai O) and examining the feasibility of various conservation measures. It is anticipated that the Ecological Study will be completed in 2019. Please refer to LanDAC SD SC No. 06/2017 for details. Its findings on the ecological information of Pui O, Shui Hau, Tai O and its neighboring areas will be useful for setting up a database on Lantau in future.

### Exploring funding resource

6. The Government is actively exploring various resources to take forward the conservation initiatives on Lantau. The Environment and Conservation Fund has already reserved funding to support the nature conservation projects for South Lantau.

7. In light of the fact that community engagement and education form the integral parts of the rural conservation initiatives for South Lantau, we have created a special theme of “Nature Conservation in South Lantau” this year under the Environmental Education and Community Action Projects of the Environment and Conservation Fund, to support non-profit-making organisations to take forward nature conservation work on Lantau, such as education and publicity projects, workshops, exhibitions, field studies and training programmes. We expect that the participating organisations will take green measures and make use of information technology to take forward creative and innovative projects with the view to enhancing awareness and knowledge of environmental protection among the general public, encouraging behavioral changes in their daily living, as well as devoting individual effort to improve and conserve the environment. A briefing on the projects<sup>1</sup> was held on 29 August. The projects have been open to application from 27 October until 18 December. In addition, we will explore making use of funding resource to take forward projects other than environmental education for enhancing nature conservation on Lantau.

### Promoting community engagement

8. In addition to encouraging non-profit-making organisations to take part in promotion of the conservation work by means of funding resource, the Government is actively engaging relevant stakeholders, such as green groups,

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<sup>1</sup> The briefing covered three themes, namely Nature Conservation in South Lantau, Sustainable Consumption of Biological Resources and Clean Shorelines. A total of 28 groups attended the briefing.

**(Translated Version)**

conservation activists and local residents, to participate in discussion about the conservation issues on Lantau, for instance, giving views on issues such as the ecological study and the cattle protection, as well as undertaking joint effort to explore feasible conservation measures.

9. On another front, to strengthen the education in conservation, we are launching a Students Education Programme and invitation letters have been issued to secondary schools in Islands and Tsuen Wan districts. Under the programme, visits to sites of ecological, historical and cultural interests on Lantau will be organised, with a view to reinforcing the students' understanding of the importance of sustainable development on Lantau. Subject to the response to the programme, we will consider extending our invitation to schools in other districts.

Enhancing expert discussion

10. To take forward the conservation initiatives on Lantau, CEDD will set up expert groups in relation to various specific topics, with a view to exploring practicable and feasible conservation measures for Lantau by means of consolidating expert advice through discussion. The five specific topics preliminary proposed for priority discussion include: (1) Conservation of Pui O and Shui Hau; (2) Conservation of Tai O; (3) Green Transport; (4) Land and Waste Management; and (5) Linkage of Sites of Natural and Cultural Interests. It is anticipated that the expert group discussions on some of the specific topics will commence by end 2017.

**CONCLUSION**

11. In the consideration of the existing resource availability and balancing views of various parties, the CEDD initially proposes the above priority actions on taking forward rural conservation projects. In tandem with this effort, we will examine other conservation measures as appropriate.

12. Members are invited to express their views on the proposed priority actions for rural conservation projects.

Civil Engineering and Development Department  
November 2017