

(Translated Version)

**Lantau Development Advisory Committee
Sustainable Development Subcommittee**

**Task Force on Lantau Conservation
Fourth Meeting**

Date: 31 July 2018 (Tuesday)

Time: 10:30 am to 12:15 pm

Venue: Conference Room, Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre (Kowloon Park, Haiphong Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon)

Notes of Meeting

Members in Attendance

Mr. Andrew LAM Siu-lo, SBS, JP

Convenor

Mr. Michael LAU Wai-neng

Deputy Convenor

Ms. HO Pui-han

Mr. Julian KWONG Tse-hin

Representative of The Association for
Geoconservation, Hong Kong

Mr. Ken SO Kwok-yin

Representative of The Conservancy Association

Mr. YU Hon-kwan, Randy, MH, JP

Ms. Joan SO Shuk-ye

STP2(L), SLO

Secretary

Facilitators

Ms. Ginger KIANG Kam-yin

DH(P&C), SLO, CEDD

Mr. Simon HO Man-kai

SEPO (RA)5, EPD

Ms. HO Ching-ye

SNCO(S), AFCD

Mr. Patrick WONG Wai-Yin

STP/SP 1, PlanD

In Attendance

Ms. TSE Shuk Yan

AS (Land Supply) 2, DevB

Mr. AU Sheung-man, Benjamin

ADO (Islands)1, HAD

Miss Connie NG Ka-yan

NCO (Lantau), AFCD

Mr. Robin LEE Kui-biu

H (SLO)

Ms. Pauline TONG Yee-Fun

SConO1 (L), SLO

Mr. Henry CHEUNG Kai-cheung

SE13 (L), SLO

Mr. CHAN Wing-tak

TP1 (L), SLO

Mr. Kelvin IP Ka-lok

ConO1 (L), SLO

Mr. CHOW Hing-yin

ConO2 (L), SLO

Mr. Steven Yip Yuk-tsang

E14 (L), SLO

Follow up

Introduction

1. The Convenor welcomed Members to the fourth meeting of the Task Force on Lantau Conservation (Task Force) under the Sustainable Development Subcommittee (SD SC) of the Lantau Development Advisory Committee (LanDAC).

Confirmation of Notes of the Last Meeting

2. Members agreed to confirm the Previous Notes of Meeting (Revised) issued by the Secretariat on 24 July.

Geoconservation (briefed by Mr Julian KWONG)

3. Mr Julian KWONG briefed Members on the geodiversity, conservation of landforms and rocks, and diversity and distribution of geologies in Lantau with a presentation titled "Geoconservation in Lantau". He also offered the following views and recommendations on the conservation of geodiversity and landforms:

(Translated Version)

- up keeping the geodiversity and geological landscape integrity;
 - the existing natural shoreline of Lantau should be preserved;
 - excessive masking of outcrops and strata should be discouraged;
 - initiatives in conserving the geodiversity should be considered in project design stage, in particular to those related to slope and transport infrastructure;
 - accessibility into the countryside should be maintained; and
 - promotion of knowledge on geodiversity and geoconservation in the long term.
4. Mr Randy YU opined that in conserving the geodiversity and landforms, the needs of residents and local economy should also be duly considered. He pointed out that, given the inconvenient transport connection between Tai O and urban area for years, a balance should be struck in conserving natural coastlines and provision of transport facilities. For geoconservation, the works of direct relevancy to community safety, such as slope stabilisation works, should not be compromised.
 5. Mr Julian KWONG responded that the desire of Tai O residents on improving local transport connection was well understood, he and the Association maintained an open view in exploring and exchanging views on transport options. He remarked that geodiversity and landform should not be jeopardise in provision of new public facilities. He agreed that it was essential to undertake the works for natural disaster prevention and mitigation, but was concerned that some slope works arising from development were carried out in close proximity to the country parks, thereby damaging the natural landscape. He understood that while the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) had made due consideration of the works designs in a bid to minimize the impact, there were still rooms for improvement from the perspective of geoconservation.
 6. Mr Ken SO enquired whether geoconservation would involve active intervention to the natural succession of habitats, for example the transition from hillside grassland to forest.
 7. In response, Mr Julian KWONG opined that active intervention to natural succession should be discouraged, and that geodiversity was a result of natural succession. He pointed out that the Association proposed no excessive afforestation, such as on hillside grassland with open views on the consideration of leading to landscape homogeneity.
 8. Ms HO Pui-han opined that the current time for commuting between Tai O and Tung Chung town was still at reasonable level, and the transport services met the daily needs of residents, despite busy traffic during holidays. She remarked that over-development of Tai O, which could result in ecological impacts and cause problems such as land speculation, should be discouraged. In addition, she proposed that the Government should consider planting more native tree species, with a view to enhancing the biodiversity resources.
 9. Mr Randy YU disagreed that there was adequate transport services in Tai O. He pointed out that part of the working population had no alternatives but to move out of Tai O due to inconvenient traffic connection to urban area, while the increase in the number of tourists made it inconvenient for local residents to commute in and out of the area. He believed that there was a need to improve the transport to avoid further aggravation. He hoped that the parties who were concerned about Tai O could

(Translated Version)

balance conservation and local residents' needs.

10. The Convenor enquired whether CEDD got hold of data on the geology and landforms of Lantau, and whether impacts to geology and landforms could be considered at the design stage of future works projects.

11. In reply, Ms. Ginger KIANG remarked that the Sustainable Lantau Office (SLO) was gathering data on the geology and landforms of Lantau, and that SLO planned to upload those of significance onto its website so to enhance public awareness on geology and landforms conservation. She supplemented that Hong Kong's important and significant geology and landform resources had been mostly covered by country parks and marine protected areas subject to relevant legal protection. SLO would study appropriate conservation options on other significant geology resources, such as the coastal areas of Tai O, in collaboration with the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in a timely manner.

SLO

12. Mr Julian KWONG pointed out that, in the long run, the Association hoped to promote the inclusion of geodiversity assessment in the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance, with a view to stepping up the conservation effort of local geology and landform resources.

EPD

[Post-meeting notes: In response, the EPD appreciated the initiative of promoting geodiversity assessment, which may be taken forward through the assessment process for different scales of planning and development projects. Given that the statutory process under the EIAO is for assessment of environmental impacts arising mainly from designated projects as defined under Schedules 2 and 3 of the EIAO, consideration may be given to applying the concept through the established landuse planning and/or public works project planning process. Moreover, EPD reiterated that geodiversity assessment is not included in the TM on EIA Process.]

13. Mr Robin LEE agreed that while previous projects paid less attention to landforms, more consideration could be made to geoconservation, alongside other factors at the design stage for future projects, for achieving better balance. On the transport arrangement in Tai O, Mr Robin LEE opined that innovative solution should be sought to provide more convenient transport service for local residents, for example, to explore the provision of prioritised services, including water-borne transport, Ngong Ping 360 cable car, bus service, etc., to local residents by means of ancillary transport platform.

SLO

14. Ms HO Pui-han pointed out that Tung Chung New Development Ferry Pier was quite far away from Tung Chung Town Centre and feeder transport service was limited. She looked for better arrangement to facilitate the elderly.

TD

[Post-meeting notes: The opinions had been conveyed to the Transport Department (TD). In response, the TD responded that passengers could use the NLB Route no. 37 (Ying Tung Estate- Yat Tung Estate) to go to Tung Chung Development Pier and Tung Chung Station. Besides, the NLB has increased the number of trips of NLB Route No. 37S (Tung Chung Development Pier to Tung Chung Station) to cater for the passenger demand during Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays. If sufficient resources permit, the NLB would deploy buses with low-floor design and wheelchair parking space to operate the concerned routes, to facilitate the elderly and passengers in need.]

(Translated Version)

15. The Convenor agreed with Mr. Robin LEE. He expressed gratitude to Mr Julian KWONG for sharing his views and to Members for offering their comments. On the inclusion of geology and landform conservation into the legislation, it would be subject to further consideration in the long term.

[Post-meeting notes: Mr Julian KWONG's presentation and suggestions on geoconservation had been conveyed to the Geotechnical Engineering Office (GEO) and Highways Department. HyD noted the information and suggestion. GEO pointed out that it is Government policy to make slopes look as natural as possible to reduce their visual impact and improve the environment. While maintaining the highest standard of slope safety, the Government gives priority attention to the aesthetics of slopes. It has been a long-standing Government policy to make slopes look as natural as possible, blending them with their surroundings and minimizing their visual impact on the built environment. To pursue this policy, vegetation is used as slope surface cover and existing vegetation is preserved wherever possible in the formation of new slopes, in the upgrading of existing slopes and in the mitigation of natural terrain hazards under the Landslip Prevention and Mitigation Programme (LPMitP). A hard surface cover is used only after other techniques for providing a vegetation cover have been explored and found impractical or inadequate on slope stability grounds. Where the use of a hard surface cover is unavoidable, landscape measures are taken to minimise its visual impact wherever practicable.]

Funding Scheme under Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF)

16. Ms Pauline TONG reported the progress of the Environmental Education and Community Action (EE&CA) Projects dedicated to the theme of "Nature Conservation in South Lantau". She remarked that the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) approved nine projects in early 2018 and briefed Members on the types of the projects approved. She noted that ECF has already reserved funding in 2018/19 for supporting the EE&CA Projects related to conservation in South Lantau, and would be open for applications tentatively in the third quarter of 2018. In addition, SLO would also study the use of funding resources to promote other nature conservation projects for Lantau.
17. Mr Ken SO enquired on the current progress of implementation of the approved projects. Ms. Pauline TONG responded that the EE&CA Projects approved in early 2018 were still at the preparation stage. SLO was still coordinating the time table for rollout of various projects, which would be uploaded onto its website later to encourage the public's active participation.
18. The Convenor enquired if the preparation of the codes of conduct for clam digging was largely for educational purpose and could not impose restrictions on such activities. In addition, he wished to know if any programmes would be put in place for consistent monitoring for the public observance of such codes. In response, Ms Pauline TONG said that such initiative was aimed to raise the public awareness of the importance of conservation at Shui Hau, and make the public reflect on the ecological impacts of clam digging. She remarked that the organiser had plans to review the effectiveness of the codes upon implementation.
19. The Deputy Convenor enquired whether SLO would report the progress of the various

(Translated Version)

projects to the Task Force in future, including the achievements of the projects or the difficulties to be encountered in their implementation. Ms Pauline TONG responded that SLO would report the progress of the projects concerned to the Task Force in a timely manner. The Convenor proposed that tables should be prepared by SLO to report the progress of the projects. SLO

20. Ms. HO Pui-han enquired whether there were valid duration for the projects concerned. In response, Ms Joan SO said that such projects would, in general, have durations of no more than 2 years.
21. Mr. Ken SO enquired if SLO would be in charged with monitoring the progress of implementation of the approved projects. In reply, Ms Ginger KIANG said that the progress of implementation of the nine projects approved, with the theme of “Nature Conservation in South Lantau”, would be monitored by the SLO, with a view to achieving a higher degree of coordination among various conservation projects for South Lantau. Mr. Robin LEE supplemented that the projects, with the theme of “Nature Conservation of South Lantau”, were chiefly scrutinised by ECF, while the progress of implementation of the approved projects was monitored by SLO.

Community Engagement and Education Programme

22. Mr. Henry CHEUNG reported the progress in promoting community engagement and education. He remarked that, in addition to leveraging ECF’s resources to spur non-profit making organisations to participate in conservation, SLO strived to promote Lantau’s conservation by means of community engagement, including the “Campaign on Conservation of Coastal Areas in Lantau” co-organised with the Department of Ocean Science, HKUST in July and August 2018. Primarily through a series of education activities including roving exhibitions, guided tours and workshops, the event targeted to raise the public awareness of the conservation of the coastal habitats in Lantau, and promoting the sustainable Lantau development. SLO will report to the Task Force in a timely manner the progress of the community engagement and education activities.
23. Mr. Henry CHEUNG reported that SLO launched its Facebook page on “Sustainable Lantau” in June 2018, with a view to publicising the initiatives, such as those relating to conservation, as set out in the Sustainable Lantau Blueprint and other promotion events by means of social media platforms. Also, SLO planned to erect information boards at Pui O and Shui Hau, in a bid to promote the natural and cultural resources in the areas.
24. The Convenor remarked that on the front of cultural conservation, SLO should, in addition to conserving historical buildings, consider promoting local cultures, such as the history of local agriculture. In response, Ms. Ginger KIANG remarked that on the front of cultural conservation, SLO was gathering information about Lantau’s culture and history, which would be shared in a timely manner with the public by means of information boards or online platforms. In addition, SLO was planning to disseminate the information on Tai O’s leisure and recreation assets, thereby allowing tourists to Tai O to take different routes when exploring featured places in Tai O.
25. Mr. Randy YU reiterated that the Government should first enhance the transport infrastructure between Tai O and Tung Chung. Mr. Robin LEE remarked that the Government was currently in discussion with ferry operators to increase the frequency

(Translated Version)

of the ferry services between Tai O and Tung Chung during holidays, with a view to diverting the passenger flow during holidays.

26. Ms HO Pui-han pointed out that in addition to Pui O, Shui Hau and Tai O, there were many other places with cultural and historical sites of high conservation values in Lantau, such as Mui Wo and Sha Lo Wan. The Deputy Convenor proposed that the design of the information boards should reflect the uniqueness of the areas concerned and other facilities/fixtures should show the same character. SLO

Ecological Study

27. Ms Pauline TONG reported the progress of the “Ecological Study for Pui O, Shui Hau, Tai O and Neighbouring Areas” launched in December 2017. Set up by SLO in February 2018, an expert working group was charged with offering professional advice on the Study. She reported that the 12-month ecological surveys at three priority sites has been initiated. The Expert Group, together with the consultant in commission, had conducted a joint site inspection to the three priority sites, with a view to understanding the current ecological conditions and threats, to facilitate future discussion of feasible conservation measures.

28. Mr Ken SO enquired whether the progress of the ecological surveys would be reported to the Task Force in due course. Ms. Ginger KIANG replied that the consolidated results of the 12-month ecological surveys would be reported in a timely manner to the Task Force upon completion of the study. The Convenor reminded the Members not to disclose the preliminary results of the surveys to outside parties on account of sensitivity considerations. SLO

29. Ms HO Pui-han enquired, in addition to the three priority sites, whether other locations in Lantau would be covered by the ecological study as well.

30. Ms Pauline TONG explained that detailed ecological surveys would be undertaken at the three priority sites. The consultant would initiate review of the ecological values of the remaining areas within the Study Area in the next stage, and evaluate the need and priority of ecological survey for these sites.

Dumping of Construction and Demolition (C&D) Waste in Lantau

31. Ms Joan SO reported on the dumping issues in Lantau. To step up the control of C&D waste at source, SLO sent letters to stakeholders and organised briefing session to remind their responsibility and effort on strengthening monitoring of and proper disposal of public fill generated from their works. SLO was also working with relevant departments such as the Transport Department and the Police to study appropriate traffic control measures. In addition, SLO would assist the District Lands Office in stepping up the effort to reinstate the spoiled government lands, while continue to work with the various policy bureaux and departments to study other feasible measures as appropriate.

32. Mr Ken SO expressed his gratitude to SLO for making follow-up actions, and hoped that the Government could achieve more concrete results in combating dumping issues in Lantau.

33. To conclude, the Convenor remarked that the solid outcome achieved so far on various

(Translated Version)

projects would not be possible without the continued cooperation between the Task Force and SLO. He expressed his gratitude to SLO for taking follow-up actions on the discussion items.

Any Other Business

34. The Secretary reported that Mr Paul Zimmerman, though could not attend the meeting, had expressed via email his concerns about the issuance of the Lantau Closed Road Permits to date and in the future with the completion of the new developments. TD

[Post-meeting notes: The opinions had been conveyed to TD. TD responded that TD would issue Lantau Closed Road Permits to applicants with genuine needs to enter South Lantau. TD would continue to closely monitor the traffic condition of roads on South Lantau and take appropriate measures where necessary to ensure safe and smooth road traffic.]

35. There being no other businesses, the Convenor thanked the Members for their attendance at the fourth meeting of the Task Force. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm.