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**SHEUNG SHUI TO LOK MA CHAU SPUR LINE**

**Environmental Committee Meeting**

**Minutes of Meeting No. 35 held at 10:00am**

**on Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2018,**

**at Room 19A, 19/F, MTR Headquarters Building, Telford Plaza, Kowloon Bay**

<b>Present:</b>		
Mr. Xianji Wen	WWF Hong Kong	Member (NGO)
Mr. Michael Kilburn	The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society	Member (NGO)
Dr. Ng Cho-nam	The University of Hong Kong	Member (NGO)
Mr. CK Leung	Acting Maintenance Manager	Member (MTR)
Ms. Kenny Yiu	Manager-Environmental Engineering	Member (MTR)
Mr. Peter Choi	Environmental Engineer	Member (MTR)
Mr. Paul Leader	Ecological Consultant	Member (consultant)
Ms. Elizabeth Wu	Ecological Consultant	Member (consultant)
<b>Absent with apology:</b>		
Ms. Karen Barretto	Friends of the Earth (Hong Kong)	Member (NGO)
Ms. Catherine Leung	Environmental Engineering Manager	Member (MTR)

<b>Attachments</b>	
Annex A	Presentation Material of EC Meeting No. 35

<u>Item/Description</u>	<u>Action By</u>
Welcomed Members to the EC Meeting No. 35.	Noted
<p><b><u>Confirmation of minutes of Meeting No. 34</u></b></p> <p>1. There were no comments on the minutes of Meeting No. 34 and the minutes were confirmed.</p>	Noted
<p><b><u>Ecological Enhancement Works and Monitoring – an Update on Management Works and Look Ahead</u></b></p>	
<p>2. <u>A member (consultant)</u> reported on the major habitat enhancement and modification works, ecological monitoring and management works undertaken during January to June 2018 at the LMC EEA (detailed in <b>Annex A</b>) as follows:</p> <p>2.1. LMC EEA seemed fewer Red Imported Fire Ant nests on site.</p> <p>2.2. Camellia seed was used to control Apple Snails for rice planting at Long Valley. Camellia seed was applied to Ponds 20 – 22 as a trial and it seemed effective with no obvious adverse impact to other wildlife.</p> <p>2.3. The performance of the numerical bird target species. Most of the target species met the target level in the reporting year. The overall ratio for the past five years of all numerical target species was over 2 (the target level).</p> <p>2.4. The winter roost surveys of the winter 2017 – 2018.</p> <p>2.5. Nest boxes were provided on site continuously. Larger nest boxes for tree ducks were also installed this year; though they were not occupied by tree ducks. A single Lesser Whistling Duck was recorded on site this summer.</p> <p>2.6. A number of breeding birds were recorded in the LMC EEA. Fewer Pheasant-tailed Jacanas and breeding records of other species were recorded this summer, which was probably related to a drier start to the wet season this year.</p> <p>2.7. No Eurasian Otters were recorded in this reporting period, but good number of Leopard Cats was recorded.</p> <p>2.8. The reptile target species were not recorded. No record of Chinese Soft-shelled Turtle maybe related to drier wet season, but records may occur with more drained ponds in the coming months.</p> <p>2.9. Amphibian target species, Chinese Bullfrog, was not recorded in this reporting period, after good numbers recorded last year. Again, this was probably related to the dry start to the wet season this year.</p>	Noted
<p>3. <u>A member (NGO)</u> reported that trespassers were occasionally sighted fishing</p>	MTR

<u>Item/Description</u>		<u>Action By</u>
	within Pond 2 and suggested to rectify the fence or install signs to deter trespassers. <i>A member (MTR)</i> replied that barbed wire was installed to potential climbing points and signs were also installed but were removed by unknown parties; more rectification works will be investigated.	
4.	<i>A member (NGO)</i> enquired if the birds roosted on island of Pond 2. <i>A member (consultant)</i> replied that Eastern Cattle Egrets and Chinese Pond Herons mainly roosted on island, while other ardeids and Great Cormorant mainly roosted on trees.	Noted
5.	<i>A member (NGO)</i> enquired if there was Red-eared Slider trapping yet. <i>A member (consultant)</i> replied that it was not started yet and was waiting the approval of the latest revision to the HCMP.	Noted
6.	<i>A member (NGO)</i> had enquired about Collared Crow numbers in the previous meeting. <i>A member (consultant)</i> presented data on the species for the past 10 years noting that the highest number was recorded in 2017.	Noted
7.	<i>A member (NGO)</i> invited MTRC to consider further leveraging the successful operation of the LMCEEA by using strategically located webcams to make the birds and other wildlife attracted to the site more accessible to the public without creating further disturbance on the site.	MTR
<b><u>Any Other Business</u></b>		
8.	<i>A member (MTR)</i> thanked EC members for their time and valuable suggestions.	Noted
<b><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></b>		
9.	The date of the next meeting is to be advised.	MTR



### Nest Boxes Occupation in April to June 2018

- 75 out of 85 bird nest boxes are accessible for survey (the others are too high, outside the boundary fence etc.), in which one was missing;
- All of these 75 nest boxes were occupied: 37 recorded with chicks (White-shouldered Starlings), 21 with eggs (one was occupied by Oriental Magpie Robin and the others by White-shouldered Starlings), 17 with nesting materials only.



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### Nest Boxes Occupation in April to June 2018

- 6 nest boxes of larger size were installed and targeted for tree ducks (a pair of Lesser Whistling Ducks recorded in the summer of 2017).
- Whistling Ducks were not recorded this year.
- All 6 boxes were occupied: 2 with eggs (Starlings), 4 with nesting materials only.



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### Breeding Birds

- Chicks of Little Grebe were recorded in 3 ponds (Ponds 2, 8 and 21), with a maximum of 7 chicks recorded on one date;
- Chicks of White-breasted Waterhen were recorded 5 ponds (Ponds 2, 3, 5, 11 and 13), with a maximum of 4 chicks recorded on one date;
- Two chicks of Common Moorhen were recorded at Ponds 20 and 21 in April and June respectively.



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### Mammal Targets Recorded in the Past 10 Years

- Eurasian Otter was not recorded in this reporting period;
- Leopard Cat was recorded on 34 days with an OI of 31.3;
- A PhD study on Eurasian Otter is on-going.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018@
<b>Eurasian Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i></b>											
Maximum Count	2	1	3*	0	1	1	2	0	1	1	0
No. of Records <sup>1</sup>	2	1	2	0	1	13 <sup>#</sup>	5 <sup>^</sup>	0	1	2	0
<b>Leopard Cat <i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i></b>											
No. of Records <sup>1</sup> /OI <sup>2</sup>	51	91	201	123	11	111	871	114 <sup>1,3</sup>	65 <sup>1,3</sup> / 25.2 <sup>3</sup>	51 <sup>1</sup> / 24.1 <sup>1</sup>	34 <sup>1</sup> / 31.3 <sup>2</sup>

Note:  
1 Number of dates recorded by all installed cameras plus direct observations  
2 Occurrence index  
Key  
\* Up to 3 individuals recorded between Ponds 1 and 2 by AKCD  
# Including one dead individual found at LMCE EA  
^ Including direct observation of the individual at Pond 12  
^ Footprints were recorded  
@ Include data from January to June

Other species in appendix for reference



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### Mammal Targets

Pond 13, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2018



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### Mammal Recorded



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### Reptile Targets Recorded in the past 10 years

- The two reptile target species, Burmese Python and Chinese Soft-shelled Turtle, were not recorded from January to June 2018.

Species	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 <sup>#</sup>
Burmese Python <i>Python bivittatus</i>	1 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (1)	3 (1)	1* (1)	1 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Chinese Soft-shelled Turtle <i>Pelodiscus sinensis</i>	1* (1)	2* (1)	1 (1)	1 (1)	1 (1)	2 (1)	2 (1)	2* (1)	-	3 (1)	0 (0)

Number of surveys recorded as indicated in the table, whereas the numbers in brackets are the maximum count per survey  
Key:  
% Signing reported by the reporting contractor  
\* include other record of track  
@ Include data from January to June

Other species in appendix for reference



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### Reeves' Turtle Recorded since 2015

- None recorded in 2018;
- Past records include:

- 2017 – recorded in Ponds 11, 12, 15, 17 and 19
  - 1 on 10<sup>th</sup> February
  - 1 on 3<sup>rd</sup> March
  - 1 on 24<sup>th</sup> April
  - 1 on 9<sup>th</sup> May
  - 2 on 24<sup>th</sup> May
  - 2 on 29<sup>th</sup> May
  - 1 on 19<sup>th</sup> July
  - 1 on 19<sup>th</sup> September

- 2016 – all recorded in Pond 12
  - 2 on 14<sup>th</sup> February
  - 1 on 2<sup>nd</sup> March
  - 1 on 18<sup>th</sup> September
  - 1 on 1<sup>st</sup> November

- 2015 – all recorded in Pond 22
  - 1 on 29<sup>th</sup> October
  - 1 on 20<sup>th</sup> November



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**Red-eared Slider Recorded since 2015**

- A maximum of 19 individuals were recorded on one day (in February);
- Recorded in all compartments;
- Egg laying was also recorded.
- Maximum number recorded in the past three years:
  - 2017 – 14, mating also noted;
  - 2016 – 2, egg laying also noted;
  - 2015 – 7.



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**Dragonfly Findings since 2006**

Dragonfly Recorded as Adults or Larvae at LMC EEA	2005 - 2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015*	2016*	2017*	2018*
Number of Species Recorded	25	24	21	25	22	21	17	21	25	18
Total Number of Species Recorded	34									

Key \* A Midget species was also recorded  
@ Include data from January to June  
Other species in Appendix for reference.



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Thank You



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**Amphibian Findings since 2005**

- Target species, Chinese Bullfrog, was not recorded.

Species/ Maximum Total Number of Individuals Recorded in All Ponds in LMC EEA	2005 - 2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018*
Asian Common Toad	<i>Bufo melanostictus</i>	3	2	4	3	1	2	7	1	7
Asiatic Painted Frog	<i>Kelsoia pulchra</i>	-	-	2	2	1	-	-	-	-
Butler's Pigmy Frog	<i>Microhyla butleri</i>	3	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	42
Ornate Pigmy Frog	<i>Microhyla ornata</i>	46	128	25	5	7	4	-	-	20
Marbled Pigmy Frog	<i>Microhyla pulchra</i>	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Paddy Frog	<i>Feyrhothya lemnachans</i>	35	12	7	20	6	1	10	35	19
Chinese Bullfrog	<i>Hoplobatrachus chinensis</i>	2 (2)	4 (8)	2 (5)	2 (8)	1 (2)	1 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Günther's Frog	<i>Rana guentheri</i>	157	137	85	132	106	293	115	82	342
Two-lipped Grass Frog	<i>Rana topehensis</i>	-	2	1	1	1	-	2	-	-
Brown Tree Frog	<i>Polypedates megocephalus</i>	33	27	33	12	14	7	3	6	3
Number of species recorded		7	8	8	8	9	7	5	4	5

Maximum count (per survey) is indicated in the table, for Chinese Bullfrog, the number in brackets are the total number of individuals recorded in the year  
@ include data from January to June



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**Collared Crow Recorded at LMC EEA**

In 34<sup>th</sup> EC Meeting (January 2018): Mr. Kilburn enquired if Collared Crow was the target species. Mr. Leader replied that this is not a target species, but its number recorded can be reviewed in next EC meeting.

Collared Crow	Year									
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Bird Day per Year	10	31	33	12	17	32	32	34	24	39



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