

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

**Environmental Committee Meeting**

**Minutes of Meeting No. 41 held at 02:00pm  
on Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> July 2021,  
via Webinar (Microsoft Teams)**

<b>Present:</b>		
Dr. Xianji Wen	WWF Hong Kong	Member (NGO)
Ms. Karen Barretto	Friends of the Earth (Hong Kong)	Member (NGO)
Mr. Michael Kilburn	The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society	Member (NGO)
Mr. Matthew Wong	Civil Maintenance Team	Member (MTR)
Ms. Kenny Yiu	Environmental Team	Member (MTR)
Mr. Peter Choi	Environmental Team	Member (MTR)
Mr. Paul Leader	Ecological Consultant	Member (consultant)
Ms. Elizabeth Wu	Ecological Consultant	Member (consultant)
Ms. Zoe Ho	Ecological Consultant	Member (consultant)
<b>Absent with apology:</b>		
Ms. Catherine Leung	Environmental Team	Member (MTR)
Mr. Taro Wong	Civil Maintenance Team	Member (MTR)

<b>Attachments</b>	
Annex A	Presentation Material of EC Meeting No. 41

<u>Item/Description</u>	<u>Action By</u>
1. Welcomed Members to the EC Meeting No. 41.	Noted
<b><u>Confirmation of minutes of Meeting No. 40</u></b>	
2. There was no comment on the minutes of Meeting No. 40 and the minutes was confirmed.	Noted
<b><u>Ecological Enhancement Works and Monitoring – an Update on Management Works and Look Ahead</u></b>	
3. <i>A member (consultant)</i> reported on the major habitat enhancement, modification works, ecological monitoring and management works undertaken from January to June 2021 at the LMC EEA (detailed in <b>Annex A</b> ) as follows:	
3.1 <i>A member (consultant)</i> reported that 526 Grass Carps and approximately 4,700kg Tilapia were stocked.	Noted
3.2 <i>A member (consultant)</i> reported that fewer dogs were recorded on site and no dog was trapped in the period. Around 120 Red Imported Fire Ant nests were treated in the past six months and the problem of the Ant was not as severe as in previous years.	Noted
3.3 <i>A member (consultant)</i> reported that Camellia seed was applied to control Apple Snail and lime was applied to kill the Climbing Perch. A trial of putting barriers around Pond 11 to exclude the Climbing Perch had been conducted. Hopefully it would be kept fish-free, and site visit might be arranged for EC members in the autumn to check the effectiveness.	Noted
3.4 <i>A member (consultant)</i> reported on the performance of the numerical bird target species. Most target species had met the target level and most of which had the density of five to ten times more than that of the Control Areas. There were small and overgrown ponds at San Tin which attracted more Eurasian Coot.	Noted
3.5 <i>A member (consultant)</i> further reported on the non-numerical bird target species. The recorded density of White-cheeked Starlings was remarkable, about fifty times more than that of the Control Areas.	Noted
3.6 <i>A member (consultant)</i> reported the roost count data. Over 1,700 Great Cormorant were recorded during the winter. High abundance of species, such as 104 Chinese Pond Heron, 148 Eastern Cattle Egret, 143 Great Egret and 250 of Little Egret, was recorded. <i>A member (NGO)</i> enquired if the roost count in March was counted in late-March which resulted in the drop of Great Cormorant. <i>A member (consultant)</i> replied it was and there was not a rapid clear out of Great Cormorant this winter.	Noted

<u>Item/Description</u>	<u>Action By</u>
3.7 <i>A member (consultant)</i> reported that most of the bird nest boxes provided on site were occupied by 76 breeding pairs of White-shouldered Starlings. The University of Hong Kong did a detailed study of the breeding ecology of the nesting White-shouldered Starlings in the LMC EEA. Predation of chicks were found. Measures of addressing the predation would be looked at. More details of the study would be discussed in the next meeting.	Noted
3.8 <i>A member (consultant)</i> reported the other breeding birds recorded in the LMC EEA. There were 12 pairs of Little Grebe and increased pairs of Common Moorhen recorded in the first half of 2021. The lower water level of ponds favoured Greater Painted-snipe; one pair of which was found, in addition, one male on nest and one male with four chicks were also seen.	Noted
3.9 <i>A member (consultant)</i> reported on the globally threatened bird species recorded. Falcated Duck and Common Pochard were recorded in the winter, and the number of Black-faced Spoonbill peaked at 172. Up to four Greater Spotted Eagle and three Eastern Imperial Eagle were recorded. Collared Crow was recorded regularly on site. Manchurian Reed Warbler was recorded on several dates in April.	Noted
3.10 <i>A member (consultant)</i> reported that Eurasian Otter was recorded and Leopard Cat was recorded on 28 dates.	Noted
3.11 <i>A member (consultant)</i> reported that a Chinese Soft-shelled Turtle was recorded. The remaining two target species, Reeves' Turtle and Burmese Python, were not recorded yet.	Noted
3.12 <i>A member (consultant)</i> reported on the number of Red-eared Slider recorded. Red-eared Slider occurred in fewer ponds. A license of trapping was obtained from AFCD. Meanwhile, Lingnan University would also look at the genetics of any other turtle species trapped.	Noted
3.13 <i>A member (consultant)</i> reported that there were six amphibian species recorded, and the target species Chinese Bullfrog was not recorded yet. The number of species recorded was fairly typical for the first half of the year and more surveys will be conducted in the season.	Noted
3.14 <i>A member (consultant)</i> reported that 20 dragonfly species were recorded. The number of species recorded was fairly typical for the first half of the year and more surveys will be conducted in the season.	Noted
3.15 <i>A member (consultant)</i> reported the pond capacity of last five years in the LMC EEA. The water level in June 2021 was the lowest of the last five years. Water on site was redistributed and Pond 2 was served as a reservoir such that water was transferred to the main site where high water level can be maintained. It was suggested to revise the contingency plan about the water capacity lower than	Noted

<u>Item/Description</u>	<u>Action By</u>
<p>30% in the coming five-yearly review and the corresponding HCMP. <i>A member (NGO)</i> supplemented the low water level meant fewer prey options that explaining the Starlings were preyed, and agreed to hold the water in Pond 2 for use if necessary.</p> <p>3.16 <i>A member (consultant)</i> reported that the reprofiling works at Pond 16, 17, 18 and 20a were completed. Ponds 16, 17 and 18 are now shallow water ponds for rice planting. Upgrade of power supply system, modification of boundary fences and construction of artificial otter holts would be finished next year. Group visit to LMC wetland could be re-opened in 2022/2023 dry season.</p> <p>3.17 <i>A member (NGO)</i> enquired which type of rice were used in planting, the generic rice or other types. <i>A member (consultant)</i> replied that the contractors used generic rice which the sprouted rice were sowed on the pond.</p> <p>3.18 <i>A member (NGO)</i> enquired more information about the lime application dealing with the Climber Perch. <i>A member (consultant)</i> replied that the practice was advised by fishpond operator in which the pond should be limed after draining to concentrate the fish as far as possible.</p>	<p></p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
<p><b><u>Any Other Business</u></b></p> <p>4. <i>A member (MTR)</i> mentioned site visit for EC members might be arranged in Autumn. The exact date and time will be confirmed.</p>	<p>MTR</p>
<p><b><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></b></p> <p>5. The date of the next meeting will be advised.</p>	<p>MTR</p>

# Lok Ma Chau Spur Line 41<sup>st</sup> Environmental Committee Meeting

## Report on Ecological Monitoring and Management, and Works Programme January – June 2021

30<sup>th</sup> July 2021

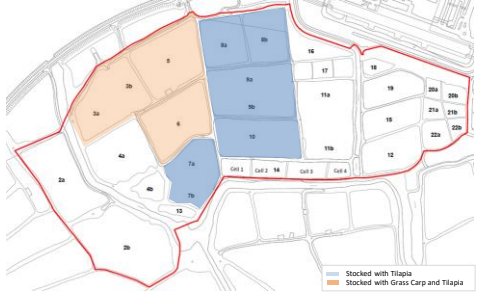


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### Management Works: Fish Stocking

- 526nos. of Grass Carp and 4,771kg of Tilapia were stocked



Legend:  
■ Stocked with Tilapia  
■ Stocked with Grass Carp and Tilapia



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### Management Works: Pest Management

#### Dog Trapping


- Dog trapping – none.

#### Pest Management (Red Imported Fire Ant)

- 123 Red Imported Fire Ant nests were treated with the approved pesticide;
- Red Imported Fire Ant nest treatment using the approved pesticide will be continued.

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021*
No. of Nests Treated	315	790	1,760	1,211	1,333	939	969	269	254	366	123

\* Include data from January to June



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### Management Works: Pest Management

#### Pest Management (Apple Snail – Camellia seed)

- A total of 225kg of Camellia seed was applied to Ponds 19 – 22.

#### Pest Management (Unwanted fish - lime)

- Lime was applied to the wet mud to kill unwanted fish, e.g. Climbing Perch;
- An approximate 1,020kg of Lime was applied to Pond 12.



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### Numerical Bird Target Performance in the Past 5 Years

Year	Jul 2016 – Jun 2017			Jul 2017 – Jun 2018			Jul 2018 – Jun 2019			Jul 2019 – Jun 2020			Jul 2020 – Jun 2021		
	LMC	CA	Ratio	LMC	CA	Ratio	LMC	CA	Ratio	LMC	CA	Ratio	LMC	CA	Ratio
Eurasian Teal	1.9	<0.1	122.8	0.5	<0.1	46.6	0.6	<0.1	144.7	3	<0.1	61.7	1.7	<0.1	119.8
Japanese Quail	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	<0.1	nr	LMC	<0.1	nr	LMC	<0.1	nr	nr
Black-faced Spoonbill	0.5	<0.1	10.3	0.8	0.1	15.1	0.3	<0.1	15.1	0.4	<0.1	21.4	1.0	0.1	7.3
Chinese Pond Heron	0.9	0.7	1.4	1.3	0.7	2	1.6	0.6	2.8	1.0	0.4	2.4	1.1	0.6	1.8
Grey Heron	2	0.1	16.4	2.5	0.1	16.9	1.8	0.2	11.2	1.9	0.2	12.3	2.3	0.2	14.4
Great Egret	1.5	0.5	2.9	2.7	0.5	4.9	1.4	0.2	6.5	1.9	0.5	3.6	2.4	0.8	3.0
Little Grebe	0.6	0.9	0.6	1.1	0.7	1.6	0.6	0.6	1.2	1.1	0.7	1.5	1.5	1.0	1.4
Great Cormorant	8.1	0.5	16.5	5.5	0.5	10.7	9.6	0.4	23.2	13.9	0.2	52.7	11.6	0.2	52.3
Greater Spotted Eagle	<0.1	nr	LMC	<0.1	nr	LMC	<0.1	nr	LMC	<0.1	nr	LMC	<0.1	nr	LMC
Eastern Imperial Eagle	<0.1	nr	LMC	<0.1	nr	LMC	<0.1	nr	LMC	<0.1	nr	LMC	<0.1	nr	LMC
Eurasian Coot	0.1	<0.1	249.1	<0.1	<0.1	24.7	<0.1	<0.1	16.9	<0.1	<0.1	6.6	<0.1	<0.1	0.3
Black-winged Stilt	0.1	0.1	1.5	0.2	0.1	1.1	0.2	0.2	0.8	0.6	0.3	1.8	0.7	0.5	1.3
Greater Painted-snipe	<0.1	nr	LMC	<0.1	nr	LMC	<0.1	nr	LMC	<0.1	nr	LMC	<0.1	nr	LMC
Pheasant-tailed Jacana	<0.1	<0.1	23.4	<0.1	nr	LMC	<0.1	<0.1	7.4	<0.1	<0.1	33.3	<0.1	nr	LMC
Pintail/Swinhoe's Snipe*	<0.1	<0.1	2.2	<0.1	<0.1	23.3	0.1	<0.1	17.5	<0.1	<0.1	11.5	<0.1	<0.1	50.1
Common Snipe	<0.1	<0.1	4.2	<0.1	<0.1	2.6	<0.1	<0.1	6.4	<0.1	<0.1	5.1	<0.1	<0.1	5.8
Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler	<0.1	<0.1	1.6	<0.1	<0.1	27.1	<0.1	<0.1	59.2	<0.1	<0.1	26.3	<0.1	nr	LMC
Zitting Cisticola	<0.1	<0.1	0.6	0.1	0.1	1	0.1	<0.1	11.8	0.1	<0.1	2.5	0.1	<0.1	2.5
Red-billed Starling	3.2	0.4	9	1.9	0.3	6.7	3.5	0.1	41.6	3.2	0.1	26.2	2.5	0.1	48.0
Bluethroat	nr	<0.1	CA	<0.1	<0.1	5.9	<0.1	<0.1	3.3	<0.1	<0.1	12.3	<0.1	nr	LMC
Japanese Yellow Bunting	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr

1. Includes one species pair, Pintail/Swinhoe's Snipe, not distinguishable in the field.  
 \* Started from 2020, data is calculated based on the maximum count of all surveys i.e. also including the afternoon counts and roost count.  
 Lr – Not recorded within LMC EEA or Control Areas during the period  
 LMC – Only recorded in LMC EEA  
 CA – Only recorded in the Control Areas



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### Non-numerical Bird Target Performance in the Past 5 Years

Year	Jul 2016 – Jun 2017			Jul 2017 – Jun 2018			Jul 2018 – Jun 2019			Jul 2019 – Jun 2020			Jul 2020 – Jun 2021		
	LMC	CA	Ratio	LMC	CA	Ratio	LMC	CA	Ratio	LMC	CA	Ratio	LMC	CA	Ratio
Species/Density (mean/ha)	0.5	nr	LMC	<0.1	nr	LMC	0.1	<0.1	47.5	0.2	<0.1	60.1	<0.1	<0.1	71.5
Little Grebe	1.9	0.7	1.9	1.4	0.9	1.3	1.4	0.8	1.3	0.2	0.7	0.9	0.5	0.2	0.7
Yellow Bittern	Became a target in November 2019														
Cinnamon Bittern	<0.1	nr	LMC	<0.1	<0.1	7.4	<0.1	<0.1	2.5	<0.1	<0.1	9.9	<0.1	nr	LMC
Black-crowned Night Heron	0.2	<0.1	15.5	0.3	<0.1	12.8	0.5	<0.1	11.3	0.2	<0.1	5.7	0.6	<0.1	12.2
Intermediate Egret	0.1	<0.1	3.7	0.2	<0.1	34.5	0.1	<0.1	10.2	<0.1	<0.1	6.6	<0.1	<0.1	3.0
Wood Sandpiper	Became a target in November 2019														
White-cheeked Starling	0.3	<0.1	9	0.2	0.1	2.8	0.5	<0.1	27.2	0.6	<0.1	151.0	0.3	<0.1	54.8
White-shouldered Starling	1.1	0.1	14.8	1.3	0.1	21.1	1.2	0.1	12.2	1.2	0.1	22.7	1.6	<0.1	42.5
Yellow-breasted Bunting	<0.1	<0.1	27.1	<0.1	<0.1	0.8	<0.1	<0.1	23.4	<0.1	<0.1	0.8	<0.1	<0.1	12.3

\* Started from 2020, data are calculated based on the maximum count of all surveys i.e. also including the afternoon counts and roost count.  
 nr – Not recorded within LMC EEA or Control Areas during the period  
 LMC – Only recorded in LMC EEA  
 CA – Only recorded in the Control Areas



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### Roost Count from January to June 2021

- Roost is mainly located at Pond 2, including the island and the northern bund.

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Black-faced Spoonbill*	30	24	-	1	-	-
Black-crowned Night Heron	-	-	-	-	5	3
Chinese Pond Heron	22	104	16	2	3	13
Eastern Cattle Egret	-	148	-	-	3	-
Grey Heron	1	7	1	2	-	1
Great Egret	143	123	32	63	46	45
Little Egret	165	250	6	45	55	22
Great Cormorant	1,701	1,756	3	1	-	-
<b>Total of Large Waterbirds</b>	<b>2,602</b>	<b>2,412</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>84</b>

\* The species occurred on site or recorded dropping into the main site during the surveys.

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### Nest Box Occupation from April to June 2021

- 93 nest boxes are accessible for survey;
- 92 nest boxes were occupied:  
76 nest boxes with eggs/chicks and 16 with nesting materials only;
- All 76 nest boxes with eggs/ chicks were occupied by White-shouldered Starling.



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### Breeding Birds (in addition to nest box)

Number of pairs recorded:

Little Grebe	12 pairs
Cinnamon Bittern	1 pair
Yellow Bittern	2 pairs
White-breasted Waterhen	8 pairs
Common Moorhen	5 pairs
Greater Painted-snipe	1 pair; In addition 1 male on a nest and 1 male with chicks



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### Globally Threatened Bird Species (maximum number) from January to June 2021

Species	IUCN	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Falcated Duck	NT	6	1	-	-	-	-
Common Pochard	VU	1	-	-	-	-	-
Ferruginous Duck	NT	1	1	1	-	-	-
Black-faced Spoonbill	EN	112	172	24	23	10	-
Greater Spotted Eagle	VU	2	2	4	-	-	-
Eastern Imperial Eagle	VU	3	1	-	-	-	-
Curlew Sandpiper	NT	-	-	-	2	-	-
Red-necked Stint	NT	-	-	-	1	-	-
Collared Crow	VU	3	2	2	2	2	2
Manchurian Reed Warbler	VU	-	-	-	1	-	-
Yellow-breasted Bunting	CR	-	-	-	1	-	-

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### Video: Eastern Imperial Eagle feeding on site



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### Mammal Targets Recorded in the Past 10 Years

- Eurasian Otter was recorded on 1 day in this reporting period;
- Leopard Cat was recorded on 28 days with an OI of 28.2.

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 <sup>a</sup>
<b>Eurasian Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i></b>											
Maximum Count	0	1	1	2	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
No. of Records <sup>1</sup>	0	1	13 <sup>b</sup>	5 <sup>a</sup>	0	1	2	5	6	19	1
<b>Leopard Cat <i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i></b>											
No. of Records/OI <sup>2</sup>	121	11	111	871	114 <sup>1%</sup>	65 <sup>1</sup> , 25.2 <sup>2</sup>	51 <sup>1</sup> , 24.1 <sup>2</sup>	54 <sup>1</sup> , 22.6 <sup>2</sup>	70 <sup>1</sup> , 31.2 <sup>2</sup>	53 <sup>1</sup> , 53.6 <sup>2</sup>	28 <sup>1</sup> , 28.2 <sup>2</sup>

Note:  
1. Number of dates recorded by all installed cameras plus direct observations.  
2. Occurrence index.

Key:  
# Including one dead individual found at LMC EEA  
\* Including direct observation of one individual at Pond 12  
% Footprints were recorded  
<sup>a</sup> Include data from January to June

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**Mammal Targets - Leopard Cat**



12-Mar (12:15hr), Pond 2



20-May (04:18hr), Pond 2

**Reptile Targets Recorded in the past 10 years**

- Chinese Soft-shelled Turtle was recorded once in February 2021.
- Burmese Python and Reeves' Turtle were not recorded in 2021 yet.

Species	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 <sup>Ⓢ</sup>
Reeves' Turtle <i>Mauremys reevesii</i>	-	-	-	-	2 (1)	4 (2)	8 (2)	-	2 (1)	1 (1)	0 (0)
Chinese Soft-shelled Turtle <i>Pelodiscus sinensis</i>	1 (1)	1 (1)	2 (1)	2 (1)	2* (1)	*	3 (1)	1 (1)	0 (0)	1 (1) <sup>Ⓢ</sup>	1 (1)
Burmese Python <i>Python bivittatus</i>	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (1)	3 (1)	1 <sup>Ⓢ</sup> (1)	1 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0) <sup>Ⓢ</sup>	0 (0)	1 (1)	0 (0)

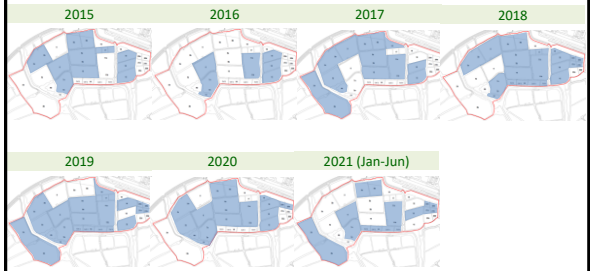
Reeves' Turtle became target species from November 2019.  
Number of surveys recorded is indicated in the table, whereas the numbers in brackets are the maximum count per survey.

Key:  
% Sighting reported by the reprofiling contractor  
\* Include one record of track  
# It was recorded in the Clean-up Redbed  
Ⓢ It was recorded by the installed camera  
Ⓢ Include data from January to June

**Red-eared Slider Recorded since 2015**

- A maximum of 4 individuals were recorded on one day (in January and February);
- Recorded in all Compartments;
- Maximum number recorded in the past years:
  - 2020 – 6;
  - 2019 – 7;
  - 2018 – 19, egg laying also noted;
  - 2017 – 14, mating also noted;
  - 2016 – 2, egg laying also noted;
  - 2015 – 7.

**Red-eared Slider Recorded since 2015**



**Amphibian Findings since 2006**

- Target species, Chinese Bullfrog, was not recorded in 2021 yet.

Species/ Maximum Total Number of Individuals Recorded in All Ponds in LMC EEA	2006 - 2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 <sup>Ⓢ</sup>
Asian Common Toad <i>Bufo melanostictus</i>	4	1	2	7	1	7	15	6	8	1
Asiatic Painted Frog <i>Kaloula pulchra</i>	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	1
Butler's Pigmy Frog <i>Micrhylla butleri</i>	2	2	-	-	-	-	45	-	3	-
Ornate Pigmy Frog <i>Micrhylla ornata</i>	128	7	4	-	-	-	20	18	-	4
Marbled Pigmy Frog <i>Micrhylla pulchra</i>	-	-	1	-	-	-	50	-	-	-
Paddy Frog <i>Fejervarya limncharis</i>	35	6	1	10	35	19	13	6	7	3
Chinese Bullfrog <i>Hoplobatrachus chinensis</i>	4 (9)	1 (2)	1 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	4 (9)	0 (0)	1 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Günther's Frog <i>Rana guentheri</i>	157	108	293	115	82	342	172	127	73	42
Two-striped Grass Frog <i>Rana taipehensis</i>	2	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brown Tree Frog <i>Polypedates megacephalus</i>	33	14	7	3	6	6	1	5	7	5
American Bullfrog <i>Lithobates catesbeianus</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
<b>Number of species recorded</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>

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.

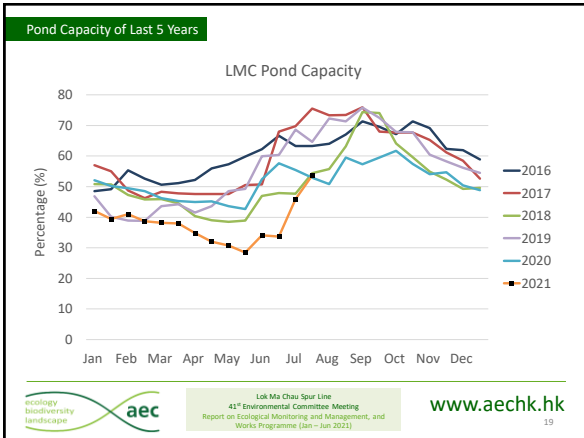
Ⓢ Include data from January to June.

**Dragonfly Findings since 2006**

Dragonfly Recorded as Adults or Exuviae at LMC EEA	2006 - 2012	2013	2014	2015 <sup>*</sup>	2016 <sup>*</sup>	2017 <sup>*</sup>	2018	2019	2020	2021 <sup>Ⓢ</sup>
Number of Species Recorded	30	22	21	17	21	25	21	24	24	20
Total Number of Species Recorded	35									

Key: \* A Midget species was also recorded.  
Ⓢ Include data from January to June.

Species recorded are presented in Appendix for reference.



### Improvement Works

- Pond reprofiling works at Ponds 16 – 18 and 20a are completed;
- Modification of boundary fences (*target to complete in 2022*);
- Construction of artificial otter holts (*target to complete in 2022*); and
- Upgrading power supply system (*target to complete in 2022*).

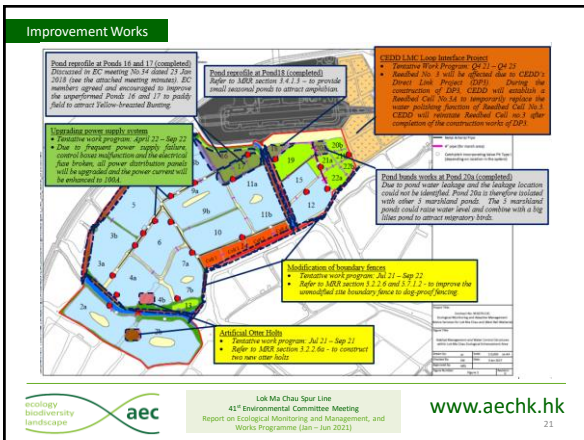
Re-open the LMC wetland to groups visit in 2022/2023 dry season subject to the latest COVID-19 pandemic situation.

ecology biodiversity landscape aec

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**Reprofiling at Pond 20a**

Before (Mar-2021)



After (Jul-2021)





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**Thank You**





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