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### Replies to supplementary written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2019-20

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Session No. : 7

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-ENB001**

**(Question Serial No. S088)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Further to Reply Serial No. FHB(FE)068, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the procedures, content and criteria regarding the application for the funding of \$1 million earmarked for the Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden (KFBG) every year?
- (b) Why is the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong) not required to apply for the funding while KFBG has to follow the procedures to apply for the funding?
- (c) Has the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) formulated funding terms and performance indicators for the wild animal rehabilitation programmes? If yes, what are the details? If not, what references will AFCD base on when formulating reasonable indicators?
- (d) Will this kind of funding scheme be extended to cover other organisations engaging in similar work? If yes, what are the potential organisations? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick

Reply:

- (a) and (c) Starting from 2019-20, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will earmark \$1 million each year to support the operating expenses of the wild animal rehabilitation programmes of the Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden (KFBG).

After the passing of the Appropriation Bill by the Legislative Council, AFCD will formulate funding terms and performance indicators, and also invite KFBG to submit an application proposal. When vetting applications, AFCD will consider an array of factors, including the evaluation of the objectives and effectiveness of the programmes concerned, the cost-effectiveness of the programmes concerned, whether the proposed expenditures are justified, the operation and execution capability of the subsidised organisation, etc. AFCD will also make reference to the Guide to Corporate Governance for Subvented Organisations drawn up by the Efficiency Unit to ensure proper and effective use of public funds.

When formulating terms and performance indicators of the wild animal rehabilitation programmes, AFCD will consider the objectives and expected effectiveness of the projects under application, so as to ensure that the injured wild animals can receive professional and proper rehabilitation care.

- (b) All projects subsidised by AFCD (including those run by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) have to go through the same application and vetting procedure.
- (d) KFBG has set up the current one and only civic Wild Animal Rescue Centre in Hong Kong, which is operated by a professional team of experts on wild animals and veterinary surgeons. They provide treatment and rehabilitation care for thousands of injured wild animals each year. At present, there is not another wild animal rescue centre of a similar scale as that of KFBG in Hong Kong.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****S-ENB002****(Question Serial No. S036)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Regarding part (g) of Reply Serial No. ENB006 (Question Serial No. 1161), please further set out the amounts granted to fishpond operators participating in the Management Agreement projects in the approved budgets for the Ramsar Site and Deep Bay Wetland outside Ramsar Site over the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, StevenReply:

There are 2 Management Agreement projects being carried out in the Ramsar Site and Deep Bay Wetland outside Ramsar Site respectively. Participating fishpond operators who take eco-friendly management measures are granted management fees of the projects. The amounts earmarked for the fishpond operators as management fees for ecological conservation in the approved budgets of the 2 projects from March 2015 to February 2017 and from March 2017 to February 2019 are as follows:

<b>Project period</b>	<b>March 2015 to February 2017</b>	<b>March 2017 to February 2019</b>
<b>Ramsar Site</b>		
Total amount of approved budget (for 2 years) (\$)	6,614,888	7,034,532
Budget granted to fishpond operators as management fees for ecological conservation (for 2 years) (\$)	3,297,000	3,047,000
<b>Deep Bay Wetland outside Ramsar Site</b>		
Total amount of approved budget (for 2 years) (\$)	6,606,968	7,659,992
Budget granted to fishpond operators as management fees for ecological conservation (for 2 years) (\$)	4,011,000	3,872,000

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-ENB003**

**(Question Serial No. S041)**

Head: (33) Civil Engineering and Development Department  
Subhead (No. & title): ( )  
Programme: (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials  
Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development (Ricky C K LAU)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

- 1) With regard to Reply Serial No. ENB031, what forms of statistics may be compiled on the quantity of public fill? What criteria may be adopted in assessing the public fill for “direct reuse in suitable local construction projects”? What criteria may be adopted in assessing the public fill for “use in reclamation or earth filling projects”?
- 2) With regard to Reply Serial No. ENB031, what is the quantity of the aggregates annually processed and generated by the crushing facilities at the temporary fill bank in Tseung Kwan O Area 137?
- 3) With regard to Reply Serial No. ENB032, what was the expenditure involved in delivering the surplus public fill to Taishan for disposal over the past 3 years? What will be the estimated expenditure in 2019?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (LegCo internal reference no.: )

Reply:

1. In general, Construction and Demolition (C&D) materials of different nature are generated in daily construction works, most of which are reusable inert materials such as rock, rubble, boulder, earth, soil, sand, concrete, asphalt, brick, tile, masonry and used bentonite. These inert materials are generally referred to as “public fill”. The local construction industry annually generates a large quantity of public fill. While part of the public fill are delivered to local construction projects for direct reuse, the rest are transported to public fill reception facilities (including 2 temporary fill banks) for storage and future reuse in reclamation or earth filling projects. Therefore, the quantity of public fill generated in Hong Kong comprises (i) the public fill delivered to local construction projects for direct reuse and (ii) the public fill not suitable for direct reuse in construction projects but transported to temporary fill banks for storage or handling. For the case (i), matching will be conducted among relevant construction projects to arrange the delivery of public fill for direct reuse, in light of the material properties, design and contractual requirements etc.. As regards the case (ii), the information

provided by relevant construction projects shows that the public fill currently collected from the temporary fill banks are mainly used in reclamation or earth filling works. If necessary, the public fill may meet the design and contractual requirements of such projects by means of simple mechanical sorting.

2. Crushing facilities are provided at the temporary fill bank in Tseung Kwan O Area 137 to crush large C&D materials or large rock into recyclable inert hard C&D materials for use by construction projects. The Civil Engineering and Development Department will provide recyclable inert hard C&D materials for use in construction projects in light of their demand. It is anticipated that the demand for the recyclable inert hard C&D materials will be about 0.4 million tonnes in 2019, and the crushing facilities at the fill bank in Tseung Kwan O will have the capacity to handle such demand.
3. As local reuse could not absorb all the public fill generated in Hong Kong in recent years, coupled with the fact that the capacities of temporary fill banks are limited, the Government has been delivering surplus public fill to Taishan in the Guangdong Province for disposal since 2007, with a view to avoiding the delivery of surplus public fill to landfills for disposal. The Government's expenditures on the management of public fill in the past 3 financial years and in 2019-20 are tabulated as follows:

Financial Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2016-17	1,175.3 (actual)
2017-18	1,032.2 (actual)
2018-19	949.3 (revised estimate)
2019-20	1,258.6 (estimate)

The above expenditure mainly includes the operation and maintenance costs of public fill reception facilities, costs for the delivery of surplus public fill to the Mainland and for the supply of the public fill stockpiled in fill banks to local projects for reuse, associated staff costs and administrative expenses, as well as costs for the provision of required facilities for disposal of public fill at disposal sites. As the delivery of surplus public fill to the Mainland and the supply of the public fill stockpiled in fill banks to local projects for reuse are both undertaken by a single contractor, there is no breakdown of the costs for individual operations in the contract.

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-ENB004**

**(Question Serial No. S048)**

Head: (33) Civil Engineering and Development Department  
Subhead (No. & title): ( )  
Programme: (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials  
Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development (Ricky C K LAU)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

In connection with the handling of inert construction materials (also known as public fill), please provide the following supplementary information:

1. As far as the local public fill is concerned, what are its maximum stockpile quantity, actual stockpile quantity and anticipated stockpile quantity over the coming 3 years?
2. The Government has delivered the surplus public fill to Taishan, Guangdong Province in recent years. Does the Government know how such public fill would be handled there?
3. In addition to transport costs, does the Government need to pay extra handling fees to Taishan? If so, how were such fees determined?
4. Has the Government reached any agreements with Taishan stipulating the minimum annual delivery quantity? Is it possible for the Government to halt the delivery of public fill at any time in light of the local demand for public fill?
5. Has the Government assessed the future local demand for public fill upon commencement of the reclamation works under the "Lantau Tomorrow Vision"? If the local demand outstrips the supply at that time, does the Government have a plan in place to increase the existing maximum stockpile quantity of public fill prior to commencement of such works, with a view to avoiding the increase in imports of marine sand and mechanical sand due to the undersupply of public fill?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: )

Reply:

1. There are currently 2 temporary fill banks in Hong Kong, located at Tseung Kwan O Area 137 and Tuen Mun Area 38, with a total capacity of about 20 million tonnes. In 2018, the capacities of the 2 temporary fill banks are already near saturation. The Government has been promoting the reuse of public fill in suitable local construction projects as far as possible. As local reclamation projects (including the Three-Runway System project and Tung Chung New Town Extension project under construction) started absorbing public fill progressively, the quantity of public fill supplied to local construction projects for reuse by the temporary fill banks has been on the gradual increase. The future

stockpile level of the temporary fill banks will be subject to the actual quantity and timing of the public fill to be absorbed from the temporary fill banks by works projects, which are, in turn, contingent on the works progress and needs of such projects, as well as other weather and environmental factors etc..

2-4. As local reuse could not absorb all the public fill generated in Hong Kong in recent years, coupled with the fact that the capacities of temporary fill banks are limited, the Government has been delivering surplus public fill to Taishan in the Guangdong Province for disposal in the reclamation works since 2007. The Government's expenditure on the management of public fill mainly includes the operation and maintenance costs of public fill reception facilities, costs for the delivery of surplus public fill to the Mainland and for the supply of the public fill stockpiled in fill banks to local projects for use, associated staff costs and administrative expenses, as well as costs for the provision of required facilities for disposal of public fill at disposal sites. As the delivery of surplus public fill to the Mainland and the supply of the public fill stockpiled in the fill banks to local works projects for reuse are both undertaken by a single contractor, there is no breakdown of the costs for individual operations in the contract. The Government and the relevant Mainland authorities keep close communication to review the actual operation of delivering surplus public fill to Mainland waters for disposal, and are in discussion about the estimated delivery quantity to be involved in the coming year. There is no agreement over the minimum annual delivery quantity.

5. The local construction industry annually generates a large quantity of public fill. As mentioned above, the Government has been promoting the reuse of public fill in suitable local construction projects as far as possible. As regards the reclamation projects under the "Lantau Tomorrow Vision", the Government will actively seek measures as appropriate in the preliminary planning stage to maximize the use of public fill in such reclamation projects.

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-ENB005**

**(Question Serial No. S042)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Donald TONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

- 1) With regard to Reply Serial No. ENB056, the government's expenditure on purchasing agriculture and horticulture materials rose rapidly in 2016 and 2017. What are the reasons?
- 2) Further to the above question, what is the estimated expenditure in 2019?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (LegCo internal reference no.: 42)

Reply:

The Government has been setting an example by taking the lead to adopt green procurement. Government departments are required to take environmental factors into account in setting out tender specifications and purchase green products as far as possible and where economically rational. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) reviews the standards and practices in the market regularly and develops green specifications and guidelines for the products and services commonly used by the Government for adoption by government departments to practise green procurement. The EPD reviewed and increased the items on the Government's green procurement list in mid-2015, during which the category of "agriculture and horticulture" products was added to the list. The government departments followed accordingly and progressively purchased agriculture and horticulture products that comply with the relevant green specifications. As a result, there was a relatively significant rise in the government's expenditures on purchasing such type of materials in 2016 and 2017 as compared with 2015. The EPD does not have information on the estimated expenditures of governments departments on purchasing green agriculture and horticulture materials in 2019-20.

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-ENB006**

**(Question Serial No. S043)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Donald TONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

- 1) As a follow-up to the Reply Serial No. ENB089, "...the shredded wood or wood logs from the yard waste collected by government departments are available to interested parties or members of the public free of charge for suitable recycling or upcycling", what are the details of the plan? Through what channels can groups or members of the public apply for this plan? What is the estimated expenditure for 2019?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (LegCo internal reference no.: 43)

Reply:

To encourage waste reduction and reuse as well as recycling of resources, the shredded wood or wood logs from the yard waste collected by government departments are provided for interested parties or members of the public by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) free of charge for suitable recycling or upcycling. The arrangements have been progressively implemented following the passage of super typhoon Mangkhut last year. As at 10 April 2019, groups or members of the public have collected about 880 pieces of suitable wood logs. Moreover, the EPD has worked with the Leisure and Cultural Services Department to provide 20 tonnes of wood logs for local art creators and horticulturists for making wooden sculptures and displays. In addition, about 28 tonnes of shredded wood from yard waste have been collected for use as mulch for planting purposes. During the Hong Kong Flower Show 2019, the EPD has set up a stall for distributing 1 250 packs of free mulch made from tree waste for use by members of the public. The EPD will continue to collaborate with other government departments to select suitable wood logs when handling yard waste, and provide them for interested members of the public for recycling or upcycling. Groups or members of the public who are interested in using shredded wood or wood logs may call the EPD's hotline 2838 3111 for enquiries. The EPD will arrange appointments for them to select suitable shredded wood or wood logs according to their needs.

As the above work is undertaken by the existing staff establishment of the EPD, there is no breakdown on the estimated expenditure for the relevant work.

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-ENB007**

**(Question Serial No. S044)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Donald TONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

1) As a follow-up to Reply Serial No. ENB072, what was the number of non-government works which required the adoption of Global Positioning System (GPS) on construction waste collection vehicles in the past year? Currently, how many construction waste collection vehicles (including vehicles for non-government public works) across the territory are adopting GPS?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (LegCo internal reference no.: 44)

Reply:

The Environmental Protection Department does not have the information mentioned in the question.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-ENB008**

**(Question Serial No. S046)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (6) Nature Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Donald TONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

- 1) Further to Reply Serial No. ENB073, please advise on the estimated expenditure of the Advisory Committee on Countryside Conservation (ACCC) in 2019. How many members are there in the ACCC? What is the scope of the projects? Will country park enclaves be included?
- 2) Further to Reply Serial No. ENB110, please advise on the latest situation of the non-in-situ land exchange proposal in respect of Sha Lo Tung.

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (LegCo internal reference no.: 46)

Reply:

- (1) The Countryside Conservation Office (CCO) will take forward conservation and revitalisation efforts as well as minor improvement works with the \$1 billion earmarked by the Government. The CCO plans to launch a Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme (CCFS) with half of the \$1 billion (i.e. \$500 million) under a non-recurrent account to support non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to interact and co-operate with villagers. Moreover, the CCO will spend the remaining \$500 million on suitable minor improvement works and rehabilitation of the existing architectural environment in the countryside.

The Advisory Committee on Countryside Conservation (ACCC), which will be established in the first half of 2019, comprises representatives of relevant government departments as well as non-government stakeholders such as scholars, professionals, rural/district stakeholders and representatives of green groups, etc. The main duties of the ACCC are to examine applications on conservation and revitalisation projects (excluding minor improvement works) submitted by NGOs, and monitor the implementation of approved projects and proposals. The CCO will also consult the ACCC on the scope of and application procedures for conservation and revitalisation projects.

The CCFS is expected to be launched in the third quarter of 2019. Conservation and revitalisation projects in country park enclaves may also apply for funding support. We have earmarked \$40 million in 2019-20 to meet the cash flow requirements for the CCFS.

- (2) The Government has been discussing with the Sha Lo Tung Development Company Limited (SLTDC) the detailed arrangements of the non-in-situ land exchange involving a piece of land in the Shuen Wan Restored Landfill in Tai Po and the private land with high ecological importance in Sha Lo Tung. The Government is also verifying the land ownership of the sites proposed to be included in the land exchange proposal. Meanwhile, an NGO is implementing a Nature Conservation Management Agreement project to actively conserve the ecological environment of Sha Lo Tung under the funding support of the Environment and Conservation Fund. Separately, the SLTDC submitted the Environmental Impact Assessment Report of the Shuen Wan Golf Course in Tai Po to the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) for vetting on 28 January 2019. The EPD is processing the application in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-ENB009**

**(Question Serial No. S045)**

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Power

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment (Donald TONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

1) As a follow-up to Reply Serial No. ENB174, what are the reasons for the progressive decrease in the yearly number of applications received by the Inland Revenue Department for concessionary tax deductions in relation to environmental protection installations since the year 2012/13? What are the reasons for the progressive increase in the total deductions involved since the year 2013/14?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (LegCo internal reference no.: 45)

Reply:

The Government has not set any restriction on the number of applications as well as the deduction amount for the concessionary tax deduction in relation to environmental protection installations. There is no other objective basis for the Government to give an explanation for the decrease in the number of applications or increase in the total deductions involved.

- End -