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ACE-NC Paper 3/2026

For discussion on 15 October 2026

Management Action Plan for Monkeys and Wild Pigs (2026-2035)

PURPOSE

This paper briefs Members on the Management Action Plan (MAP) for monkeys and wild pigs (2026-2035) prepared by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD).

NUISANCE REPORT ANALYSIS

2. Hong Kong's rural areas are closely interwoven with urban and residential districts, so it is not uncommon for wild animals such as monkeys and wild pigs to come into conflict with local residents. In Hong Kong, monkeys and wild pigs are wild animals of management concern, particularly due to their resilience, adaptation to human-inhabited environments, nuisance caused, public safety risks and reliance on human-related food sources such as food residue in garbage and illegal feeding. In compiling the MAP for monkeys and wild pigs, we have undertaken a detailed analysis and review of the trends and causes of nuisance reports.

3. For monkeys, we have conducted a multi-pronged management strategy since 2000s, comprising feeding ban enforcement, dedicated nuisance handling, sterilisation programme and public education. Annual reports of nuisance have been about 200 to 400 between 2021 and 2025, with the estimated population remaining at around 2 100. Based on the analysis of monkey reports received, most cases were non-urgent incidents such as sighting or isolated minor nuisance. Only around 15% of cases were classified as urgent requiring immediate responses by the AFCD, including attending the scene to chase away or capture nuisance monkeys. Overall monkey nuisance and conflict levels were considered generally manageable.

Reports remained concentrated geographically around major monkey habitats at Shatin, Sham Shui Po and nearby urban fringes, with emerging cases in Tai Po, Tuen Mun and Sai Kung. About half of the incidents involved solitary monkeys or small bachelor groups, often comprising young males that had been expelled from their natal groups. Based on onsite inspections, the three main attractants identified were fruit-bearing plants, food carried by the public and food residue in garbage.

4. In regard to wild pigs, reports increased progressively alongside population recolonisation and expansion in the 2000s, as well as the species' increasing adaptation to human-inhabited environments. The number of annual nuisance cases exceeded 1 400 in 2021. Since then, we have introduced the capture and dispatch programme in late 2021, together with enhanced enforcement of the feeding ban and other supporting measures. Number of cases dropped to around 1 100 in 2025, while cases involving human injury decreased from a peak of 36 in 2022 to 4 in 2025. The estimated wild pig population also declined from around 2 500 in 2020 to about 990 in 2025. The three main attractants continue to be food-related, namely food residue in garbage, habitats with vegetation cover and illegal feeding.

MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

5. Taking into account the analysis of nuisance reports, the AFCD has formulated the MAP for monkeys and wild pigs in Hong Kong 2026-2035, setting out targeted actions to better manage the populations and minimising human-wildlife conflicts involving both species. Drawing reference from the Chinese Mainland and overseas experience, the MAP provides specific, achievable and time-bound actions, supported by mechanisms for ongoing monitoring, review and adaptive management. The proposed management actions cover a period of 10 years, involving population control, enforcement of feeding ban, identification of priority areas, publicity, education and liaison, as well as in-house training and capacity building.

(a) Population Control & Monitoring

6. To facilitate more accurate population control of monkeys and wild pigs, the AFCD will enhance survey methods and population modelling for both species. Survey data, sterilisation and capture records together with key demographic parameters, will be integrated to provide a more robust justification for setting management targets and adjusting future strategies.

7. For monkeys in particular, the AFCD will continue to implement the sterilisation programme in major habitats and nearby urban fringe areas, guided by the Population Viability Analysis conducted in 2022-23. The AFCD will conduct at least 10 operations each year, sterilising around 120 to 140 monkeys, with the aim of maintaining the annual birth rate below 35%. Based on these efforts, the monkey population is projected to decline to fewer than 2 000 by 2035. The AFCD will regularly review the population survey and projected trends to review the annual sterilisation plan.

8. Moreover, in view of the growth of peripheral monkey populations and the associated nuisances, the AFCD will extend sterilisation programme to these populations through baseline surveys, trapping trials and pilot operations in areas such as Tai Po, Tuen Mun and Sai Kung. Although these peripheral populations are relatively small, early intervention can help prevent population growth and reduce the establishment of new nuisance hotspots.

9. For wild pigs, the AFCD will continue to implement the capture and dispatch programme, which has proven to be an effective population control measure since its deployment. Currently, around 500-700 wild pigs were dispatched annually. To enhance effectiveness, the AFCD will strengthen systematic trapping operations, deploy traps strategically in nuisance-prone areas and movement corridors, and pilot off-site capture strategies where direct capture in urban or densely populated areas is not feasible. Trapping will also be applied, where appropriate, near agricultural land affected by crop-raiding, together with advice on preventive, deterrent and exclusion measures.

(b) Enforcement of Feeding Ban

10. In August 2024, the amended Wild Animals Protection Ordinance came into effect. The amendments introduced a fixed penalty of \$5,000 and increased the maximum penalty for illegal feeding of wild animals and feral pigeons to a fine of \$100,000 and imprisonment for one year, thereby strengthening deterrence against illegal feeding.

11. Since then, the AFCD has stepped up enforcement through regular patrols and special operations during public holidays, weekends, and early morning or evening periods. For instance, in August 2026, the AFCD conducted patrols and enforcement operations, with a focus on combating illegal feeding on monkeys and other wild animals, including illegal feeding by drivers and passengers in vehicles. A total of 8 fixed penalty notices (FPNs) were issued. We plan to launch six special enforcement operations per year, targeting illegal feeding activities at identified blackspots. Since the commencement of feeding ban up to August 2026, the AFCD has issued 145 FPNs and prosecuted 14 cases by summons. Of these, 10 cases resulted in convictions, with the highest penalty being a fine of \$10,500.

12. The AFCD will also strengthen technology-assisted enforcement. Infrared cameras will continue to be deployed at illegal feeding blackspots to support surveillance, intelligence gathering and evidence collection. In parallel, AI-enabled CCTV systems are being piloted at selected locations, e.g. Kam Shan Country Park, to detect suspected illegal feeding activities involving monkeys or wild pigs and to alert enforcement officers for timely follow-up. A dedicated taskforce will continue to stand ready to respond to reports outside normal office hours. Where practicable, the AFCD will explore the use of emerging technologies, including mobile CCTV systems and drone patrols, to enhance detection capability and strengthen deterrence.

(c) Identification of Mitigation Priority Areas (MPAs)

13. The AFCD will adopt a more proactive, data-driven approach to identify and manage priority areas affected by monkey and wild pig nuisances. Based on the spatial distribution, frequency and seriousness of public reports, the AFCD will identify MPAs and prioritise them for phased and targeted follow-up. For the identified MPAs, the AFCD will conduct site-specific assessments to identify underlying causes, such as illegal feeding, food residue in garbage accessible to them, or food attractants, and implement suitable measures, including enhanced patrols, enforcement actions, capture operations where appropriate, advice on preventive measures, and focused public education. Enforcement operations will continue to be reinforced with additional frontline officers, where warranted by enforcement needs, particularly at MPAs involving identified habitual feeders and serious illegal feeding activities. More PR efforts will be made to sustain the deterrent effect.

14. Through regular assessment of extent of nuisance in MPAs and monitoring of changes over time, the AFCD will also be able to evaluate whether the situations have been improved, redeploy resources to other priority areas where appropriate, and adjust management strategies where problems persist.

(d) Publicity, Education, Liaison

15. We place equal emphasis on publicity and education to foster understanding and support for management measures. Following the identification of MPAs and in-depth analysis, the AFCD will arrange targeted publicity, education and liaison with the local community tailored to the underlying causes of nuisances in different areas.

16. The AFCD will work with contractors to launch targeted outreach programme engaging students, the elderly, and residents in nuisance-prone areas through seminars, workshops, guided tours and community events. The AFCD will work closely with local organisations, community representatives, property managers and other stakeholders to strengthen community-level cooperation.

17. These efforts will be supported by a publicity campaign, such as the ongoing “All for No Feeding” programme, including social media posts and promotional videos disseminated to the public to highlight practical preventive measures and encourage the adoption of nuisance-prevention practices. Noting that refuse may serve as a food source for monkeys and wild pigs, the AFCD reminds the public to manage outdoor rubbish bins properly or to use animal-proof bins, particularly for residents living adjacent to the countryside. Members of the public in rural areas are also advised to harvest ripened fruits from trees to reduce food attractants for wild animals.

18. In relations to the feeding ban, following special enforcement operations, we will publicise the number of FPNs issued through press releases and social media

posts to remind the public not to engage in illegal feeding activities, thereby enhancing public awareness and strengthening the deterrent effect against such activities. We will also install banners and posters at identified MPAs and country park entrances, highlighting the penalties for illegal feeding and conveying safety messages to remind visitors of the risks associated with feeding monkeys and to encourage compliance with the feeding prohibition. To promote the territory-wide feeding ban among Chinese Mainland and overseas visitors, AFCD will strengthen publicity efforts through advertisements and promotional booths at boundary control points.

In-house Training & Capacity Building

19. To ensure that the AFCD staff and contractors are well equipped to manage monkey and wild pig-related issues safely, effectively and in line with international best practices, the AFCD will regularly review and update relevant operational guidelines, circulars and manuals covering wildlife handling, nuisance response, capture operations, feeding ban enforcement and occupational safety. Targeted training will be provided for both new and existing frontline staff to strengthen their capacity in wildlife management and nuisance handling.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDEX (KPI)

20. The MAP sets out a series of KPIs to provide clear and measurable benchmarks for assessing the effectiveness, accountability and continuous improvement of management measures for both monkeys and wild pigs. Core KPIs will focus on maintaining the populations of both species at sustainable and manageable levels through the effective population management programme for both species. For monkeys, the KPI is to maintain the annual birth rate below 35%, with a view to gradually reducing the population to fewer than 2 000 by 2035. For wild pigs, the KPI is to maintain the population below 1 000 across the territory.

21. Additional KPIs will be adopted to assess the effectiveness of nuisance management and operational responses. The AFCD will aim to handle public reports efficiently, with over 95% of cases resolved in accordance with relevant operational guidelines. For MPAs, we aim to achieve measurable improvement in at least 60% of the identified areas each year, based on factors such as report numbers, evidence of illegal feeding, food attractants, environmental hygiene conditions and the presence of habituated animals.

22. All KPIs will be reviewed periodically having regard to programme evaluations, operational experience and updated ecological information, so as to adjust the management actions where necessary to remain effective and relevant.

ADVICE SOUGHT

23. Members are invited to take note of the MAP and provide comments.

**Environment and Ecology Bureau
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
October 2026**