

**Proposed changes to two projects
under Pilot Scheme for Management Agreement**

Purpose

This paper aims to seek Members' endorsement on the proposed changes to two projects under the Pilot Scheme for Management Agreement (MA) funded by the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) as set out in paragraph 3.

Background

2. As a condition of project approval, any major changes to the project including deferral of the statement of accounts and completion reports must be approved by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) / Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in consultation with the ECF Committee.

Proposal

3. Two ECF Projects, "Birds and Humans in Harmony – A Sustainable Management Scheme in Long Valley" and "A Pilot Scheme of Management Agreement on the Private Land with High Conservation Value at Fung Yuen Valley in Tai Po, Hong Kong" are expected to be completed on 1 December 2007 and 1 November 2007 respectively. The project proponents of the two projects (the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society and the Tai Po Environmental Association) proposed to extend the project completion date to 31 January 2008. Both project proponents did not request additional fund. Justifications for the proposed change and details of the progress of the two projects are at Appendices i and ii.

Advice Sought

4. Members are invited to consider the progress of the two projects as detailed in the Appendices and advise whether the proposed changes stipulated in paragraph 3 above should be approved.

Secretariat, Environment and Conservation Fund Committee
November 2007

**ECF Paper 26/2007-08
For Discussion**

Appendix i

Reference Number	EP 86/21/67B
Project Title	Birds and Humans in Harmony – A Sustainable Management Scheme in Long Valley
Proponent	The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Ltd. (HKBWS)
Person-in-charge	Dr. Cheung Ho Fai
Project summary	HKBWS cooperates with local farmers to manage their farmlands through careful adoption of specific management on conventional farming operations to benefit wildlife, in particular wild birds. The project also provides baseline information for the enhancement and creation of different habitats in Long Valley that are favourable to target species which are of high conservation value. Through organized visits, general public also understand the importance of conserving the Long Valley.
Commencement Date	1 December 2005
Project Duration	24 months
Target Completion Date	30 November 2007
Total Approved Amount (A)	\$1,362,560
Funds disbursed up to 31.8.2007 (B)	\$1,103,210
Balance to be claimed as at 31.8.2007 (A) – (B)	\$259,350
Proposed Change to Project	HKBWS is interested in continuing the captioned project upon its expiration on 30 November 2007, and is currently cooperating with the Conservancy Association (CA) to submit a new joint application for the continuation of the existing project. However, the application is delayed and they may not be able to obtain the necessary funding from ECF for the new project before the existing project ends. HKBWS therefore proposed to extend the project for two months till 31 January 2008 to ensure that the farmlands as well as the bird monitoring programme which are essential for the success of this project are maintained.

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	<p>No additional fund is being requested for the deferral.</p> <p>Unspent budget for the project will be utilized for the extension period. Any proposed change to the budget for individual items will be processed in accordance with the Guide to Application.</p>
Assessments/Remarks	<p>HKBWS has been running the project for almost two years to preserve the natural habitat for birds and other animals in the area. Extension of the project period will cover all agreements with the farmers to secure their commitments and enhance the sustainability of the habitat management of the MA project. HKBWS would be requested to submit progress report during the extended project period.</p> <p>Having examined the progress of the project, both EPD and AFCD have no objection in principle for the extension.</p>

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Appendix ii

Reference Number	EP 86/21/67A
Project Title	A Pilot Scheme of Management Agreement on the Private Land with High Conservation Value at Fung Yuen Valley in Tai Po, Hong Kong
Proponent	Tai Po Environmental Association (TPEA)
Person-in-charge	Dr. Yau Wing Kwong
Project summary	The project maintains and enhances the habitat in Fung Yung, Tai Po for the conservation and propagation of butterflies through cooperation with local landowners. TPEA holds public workshops and organize volunteer services regularly to promote conservation of natural habitat.
Commencement Date	1 November 2005
Project Duration	24 months
Target Completion Date	31 October 2007
Total Approved Amount (A)	\$1,743,630
Funds disbursed up to 31.8.2007 (B)	\$1,346,630
Balance to be claimed as at 31.8.2007 (A) – (B)	\$397,000
Proposed Change to Project	<p>TPEA is interested in continuing the captioned project after its expiration on 31 October 2007, and is currently applying for new project funding from ECF. However, their submission has been delayed and they may not be able to obtain the necessary funding from ECF for the new project before the existing project ends. TEPA therefore proposed to extend the project for three months till 31 January 2008 to ensure that the butterfly conservation work in Fung Yuen are maintained.</p> <p>No additional fund is being requested for the deferral.</p> <p>Unspent budget for the project will be utilized for the extension period. Any proposed change to the</p>

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	<p>budget for individual items will be processed in accordance with the Guide to Application.</p>
Assessments/Remarks	<p>TPEA has been running the project for almost two years to preserve the natural habitat for butterflies and other animals in the area. Extension of the project period will cover all agreements with the local landowners to secure their commitments and enhance the sustainability of the habitat management of the MA project. TPEA would be requested to submit progress report during the extended project period.</p> <p>Having examined the progress of the project, both EPD and AFCD have no objection in principle for the extension.</p>