

## Environment and Conservation Fund

### Proposed Variations to the Rehabilitation Project for Sai Wan Area Under the Nature Conservation Management Agreement Scheme

#### Purpose

This paper seeks Members' endorsement of the proposed variations to the Rehabilitation Project for Sai Wan Area under the Nature Conservation Management Agreement Scheme (SWMA).

#### Background

2. In October 2015, the Sai Kung District Community Centre (SKDCC) assisted by Heung Yee Kuk submitted a Management Agreement (MA) application titled "Rehabilitation Project for Sai Wan Area" for 36 months from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2019. A brief summary of the application is given at Annex A.

3. The Environment and Conservation Fund Committee (the Committee) considered the application at its meeting on 17 December 2015. While acknowledging that the proposal would contribute to nature conservation as well as the rehabilitation of indigenous villages and therefore should be supported, the Committee considered that certain part of the budget was on the high side. After discussions, the Committee decided to adjust downward the proposed budget and the project was approved with a budget of \$9,457,730. SKDCC was informed of the decision of the Committee on 21 March 2016.

#### Revised Proposal from SKDCC

4 - 10. Note

11. The Sai Wan enclave was designated as part of the Sai Kung East Country Park in December 2013 with a view to improving the

management of the area, enhancing the overall conservation and landscape value of the area, and increasing its enjoyment and amenity. While statutory control measures are effective to prevent incompatible development in the Sai Wan enclave, in order to holistically conserve the area, there is a need to provide incentive to engage relevant stakeholders to carry out conservation activities there. The MA Scheme has proven to be a successful modus operandi to bring non-profit making organisations and landowners together for better conservation of private land with ecological significance. **We consider that the SWMA will play a crucial role in effectively and holistically conserving the Sai Wan area.** In the past year, continuous efforts have been made by SKDCC and Heung Yee Kuk to engage the local community in support of the SWMA and the associated conservation work. Since the SWMA is the first MA project involving country park enclave, implementation of the project would set an example for local villagers and private owners of land situated in the country parks or country park enclaves to make gainful conservation efforts. Besides, with Sai Wan being part of the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark (HKUGG), the SWMA would contribute to the demonstration of HKUGG's commitment to the underlying philosophy and principles of Global Geoparks through engaging the local communities in cultivating and sharing the benefits of a Global Geopark.

### **The Recommendation**

12. The Committee has acknowledged that the SWMA proposal would help contribute to nature conservation as well as the rehabilitation of indigenous villages and approved the application with a revised budget. The proposed variations to the proposal as detailed above are the outcome of further negotiation and compromise with the applicant and the relevant stakeholders with a view to taking forward the SWMA proposal in a gainful manner that would be acceptable to all parties concerned. There is no budgetary implication for the approved funding. Given the merits of the proposal in enhancing the overall conservation, education and scenic values of Sai Wan and its exemplary effect on other potential conservation projects at private land in country parks or country park enclaves involving local participation, as well as its contribution to the

efforts of HKUGG, we recommend that the proposed variations be endorsed by the Committee.

**Advice Sought**

13. Members are invited to endorse the proposed variations to SWMA.

**Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department  
Environmental Protection Department  
October 2016**

Note: The paragraphs were not included in the version of notes uploaded in the ECF webpage because they contained sensitive information.