

**Proposed changes to the project
under Pilot Scheme for Management Agreement**

Purpose

This paper aims to seek Members' endorsement on the proposed change of project 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. The Conservancy Association (CA), Project Proponent of the ECF Project "Sustainable Habitat Management in Long Valley", proposed to defer project completion date from 31 October 2007 to 31 March 2008. No additional fund was requested. Justifications for the proposed change and details of the project progress are at Appendix.

Advice Sought

4. Members are invited to consider the progress of the project as detailed in the Appendix and advise whether the proposed change stipulated in paragraph 3 above should be approved.

Secretariat, Environment and Conservation Fund Committee
September 2006

**ECF Paper 17/2006-07
For Discussion**

Appendix

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| Reference Number | EP 86/21/67C |
| Project Title | Sustainable Habitat Management in Long Valley |
| Proponent | Conservancy Association (CA) |
| Person-in-charge | Ms Lister Cheung |
| Project summary | CA will cooperate with local farmers to manage their farmlands through Habitat Deterioration Prevention Agreement or Habitat Diversity Enhancement Agreement. Active conservation works will be carried out to enhance the heterogeneity within the habitat of abandoned agricultural lands. Food web study will be conducted to provide important ecological information of Long Valley. |
| Commencement Date | 1 November 2005 |
| Project Duration | 24 months |
| Target Completion Date | 31 October 2007 |
| Total Approved Amount (A) | \$1,514,160 |
| Funds disbursed up to 31.8.2006 (B) | \$576,060 |
| Balance to be claimed as at 31.8.2006 (A) – (B) | \$938,100 |
| Proposed Change to Project | The time needed for communication and negotiation with the farmers was longer than expected. While the first agreement was signed in early 2006, some agreements were concluded in July 2006. To ensure sufficient time for effective habitat management in Long Valley, CA opined that the management agreement should last for at least 1.5 years. Therefore, some of the habitat management agreements signed between the CA and the farmers will only end in March 2008, instead of October 2007. No additional fund was requested for the deferral. |
| Assessments/Remarks | CA has spent long time to negotiate with local farmers. Extension of the project period to cover all |

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| | <p>agreements with the farmers could secure their commitments and enhance the sustainability of the habitat management of the MA project. The proposed change would not affect the original schedule of other planned activities. CA would be requested to submit progress report during the extended project period. Having examined the progress of the project, both EPD and AFCD have no objection to the proposed change.</p> |
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