

LANTAU CONSERVATION AND RECREATION MASTERPLAN

Major Content of the Masterplan

1. Under the overarching principle of “Development in the North; Conservation for the South” adopted in the Sustainable Lantau Blueprint and the characters of different parts of Lantau, the Sustainable Lantau Office of Civil Engineering and Development Department has formulated the Lantau Conservation and Recreation Masterplan (the Masterplan) to provide a framework guiding our conservation and recreation initiatives, and orchestrate public and private projects better for achieving synergy in conservation of Lantau. Individual conservation projects to be submitted under the Lantau Conservation Fund could be prioritised if it fits in the planning intention of the Masterplan.

2. Being multi-faceted, the Masterplan represents a point-line-plane approach, with various attractions, activities and event bases linked up by connectors in the form of trails, bike network, road/water transport to create five themed clusters:

- i. North Lantau Recreation Corridor
- ii. Northwest Lantau Eco-Cultural Corridor
- iii. South Lantau Eco-Recreation Corridor
- iv. Rural Township Improvement
- v. Hiking Hub

(i) North Lantau Recreation Corridor

3. North Lantau is the gateway to the World through the airport and to the urban area through Tung Chung and Sunny Bay.

4. Complementing various major developments in the North, e.g. Tung Chung New Town Extension and Siu Ho Wan depot topside development, and to create synergy with the Hong Kong Disneyland Resort, North Lantau at a gateway location is planned to accommodate a diversity of recreation activities.

Such recreation activities include the River Park to be taken forward under the Tung Chung New Town Extension Project; the Sunny Bay Recreation Node and possible water-based activities to be reviewed under the potential Sunny Bay Planning and Engineering Study; and the coastal biking to be explored and implemented under studies of Tung Chung New Town extension, Road P1, etc. Apart from being a leisure recreational pursuit itself, coastal biking will connect different recreation nodes along the North Lantau coastline.

(ii) Northwest Lantau Eco-Cultural Corridor

5. The northwest Lantau used to be a cluster of old settlements. The rural villages dotted along the Tung O Ancient Trail are rich in cultural value.

6. Targeting to preserve the cultural setting of the corridor, we are commissioning studies by phases to understand the cultural and historical elements of the rural villages in Lantau, with the first study on San Tau, Sha Lo Wan, Sham Shek, Sham Wat and Tai O commenced in November 2019, and the second study on Yi O and Fan Lau commenced in July 2020. Besides, we will engage the stakeholders, including the villagers, in a bid to forge an appropriate way together to revitalise the villages along Tung O Ancient Trail through a design thinking process. Village revitalisation shall be a showcase of collaborative efforts between the Government, local villagers and non-profit making organisations. Furthermore, we will continue to explore appropriate measures to conserve the important nature and cultural heritage values of Tai O. Facilities along the Tung O Ancient Trail will be enhanced for members of the public to appreciate the rich cultural history of the villages and the ecological interest of the area. There is potential for possible development of eco-farming complementing the village environment in this Northwest Lantau corridor.

(iii) South Lantau Eco-Recreation Corridor

7. Green and blue attractions thrive along the south Lantau coast, with the Pui O wetland, Shui Hau sandflat and serene beaches spanning along the coastline against the mountainous backdrop. This stretch of land could be

further enhanced in terms of its eco-recreation potential to enrich public enjoyment and appreciation.

8. The potential for water-based activities at Cheung Sha and possible recreation nodes at Shek Pik and Chi Ma Wan will be explored to add further vibrancy and diversity to the area. Bike network in the area is being further extended. Suitable land-based and/or water-based connectors will be enhanced to strengthen connectivity and facilitate mobility. Besides, the Ecological Study has confirmed the conservation of Pui O and Shui Hau. Proactive conservation measures plus some sustainable nature based recreation and education events/ activities/ facilities could add to the diversity of this corridor, enrich the conservation experience and enhance knowledge and awareness of the public through participation.

(iv) Rural Township Improvement

9. Mui Wo and Tai O, fringing on the eastern and western coasts of Lantau, are two major rural townships in Lantau with rich history, amazing attractions and glamour attracting visitors. Face-lifting proposals have already been formulated with some works commenced to improve the living environment for locals as well as the visiting experience of visitors. We will continue to carry out district improvement works to enhance the environment and attractions, injecting vibrancy to living and visiting. In particular, through the facelift project, it is intended to reinstate the gateway function of Mui Wo along with the promotion of leisure and recreation activities. Improvement works for a few streams at Mui Wo is being explored in collaboration with relevant departments to restore their naturalness and ecological function. For Tai O, its tourist receiving capacity is also being reviewed in parallel.

(v) Hiking Hub

10. Lantau is already famous for its scenic views and magnificent hiking experience for both local and international visitors. To further strengthen the sustainability of the hiking resources and promote healthy living, we have formulated the Lantau Trails and Recreation Plan and will take forward this

visionary plan in phases for developing Lantau into a Hiking Hub for people in Hong Kong. The trail network will be improved with sensible injection of supporting facilities, eco-recreation activities and connected with the natural and cultural assets for public enjoyment and appreciation. We have commenced study to improve Lantau's Trail Network, with the aim to integrate existing and new trails of Lantau into a Round-the-Lantau Route with a total length of about 100km.

11. We aim to maximise opportunities to position Lantau as a hiking hub with variety of eco-recreation outlets for all walks of life and to promote Lantau as short-stay getaway.

Follow Up Works and Way Forward

12. The concepts proposed in the Masterplan are subject to further study and implementation. Feasibility of individual proposals will be explored with suitable consultation with stakeholders to be conducted at project stage in accordance with the established procedure. The Masterplan will evolve to reflect the latest situation as our work progresses.

Civil Engineering and Development Department
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