

1 INTRODUCTION

This is a Landscape and Visual Audit conducted during the Operational Phase of the project to follow up the compensatory planting under the requirements of the EIA for Proposed Extension of Public Golf Course at Kau Sai Chau , Sai Kung.

Under the Environmental Impact Assessment for the above, the proposed mitigation measures included both the compensatory planting works and treatment to structures. As stated in paragraphs 8.3 of the EM&A Manual, the contractor shall maintain all soft landscape works for a period of 12 months after implementation. This period shall be the establishment period and will be year one of the operation phase. Auditing inspections and reporting shall be undertaken once every two months of the operation phase.

The first and second auditing inspections were conducted in January and March 2009 respectively. The present auditing inspection was the third inspection and was conducted in May 2009.

2 SCOPE OF AUDIT

The broad scope of the audit on mitigation measures during operation phase is as detailed below:

2.1 Compensatory Planting

Operation Phase:

- Monitoring of the maintenance operations to ensure all plants are well developed and grow during the Establishment Period.

3 INSPECTIONS

3.1 Summary of Inspection – May 2009

3.2 Planting Works and Maintenance Operations

General Observations:

- In the previous monitoring, among the 980 trees in as-built planting plan, 341 dead individuals were observed. But a large number of shrubs (mainly *Raphielepis indica*) were planted within the East Course, including the original planting locations, as well as some new areas not previously indicated on the landscape plan. In terms of number, those planted shrubs should be more than the tree numbers to be shown in planting plan. The Contractor should either replaced these dead trees or removed them as maintenance works.
- Some landscape maintenance operations were carried out by the Contractor recently as some dead trees were removed.
- During the present audit, however, some dead trees (371 individuals) were still observed. The majority of these trees was still part of the 582 dead trees previously reported in January 2009 inspection.
- Some stakes for trees were found in poor conditions or leaning.
- A detailed summary of the inspection was shown on the drawings enclosed under Appendix A.

3.3 Recommendations

- The Contractor was recommended to perform landscape maintenance operations, including replacing or removed all dead trees; providing stakes for leaning trees; re-staking all trees with broken/leaning tree stakes; pruning of die back tree branches; fertilizing of plants; and cutting of overgrown grass and removal of weeds on slopes, to ensure a healthy establishment of the compensatory planting.

- The Contractor was reminded to replace or remove 371 dead trees, and any other trees found to be in poor conditions prior to the next site inspection.
- The Contractor was reminded to carry out regular inspection of all tree stakes, especially trees on locations where it could be easily blown over in strong wind conditions, and rectify all defects as soon as possible.
- The Contractor was reminded to update the drawings to show the locations of replacement/replanting trees after the replanting is implemented.

4 AUDIT SCHEULE

4.1 Audit Schedule during Establishment Period

The next audit (once in every two months) is schedule in July 2009.