

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, second, third and fourth auditing inspections were conducted in January, March, May, July, and November 2009 respectively. The present auditing inspection was the sixth and final inspection and was conducted in November 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 – November 2009

3.2 Planting Works and Maintenance Operations

General Observations:

- In the previous monitoring, according to the 980 trees shown in as-built planting plan, 175 individuals of trees were found missing, dead, or fallen on ground, and would thus need remedial actions (replanting or erecting). The majority of these trees was still part of the 582 dead trees previously reported in January 2009 inspection. The Contractor was required either to replace these dead trees or to remove them as maintenance works.

- During the present audit, however, replanting works were observed in many planting locations. 305 individuals of trees were found missing, dead, or fallen on ground, and would thus need remedial actions (replanting or erecting or replacement).
- Major landscape maintenance operations and replanting works were carried out by the Contractor recently as recently replanted trees were observed in different locations.
- 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 providing replacement plants, and removing all dead trees; erecting the fallen 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.
- It is suggested that the Contractor should consider the replace the missing or dead trees with shrubs in areas which are more exposed or windy. As observed from previous monitoring, the exposed and windy areas with higher ratios of missing/fallen trees and higher frequency of tree replacement. On the other hand, the native shrubs planted in various locations of the site have been in good conditions since their planting, and were observed fruiting in the present monitoring. Fruits/berries on shrubs are a food source for birds and can enhance the ecological resources in the area.
- The Contractor was reminded to erect the fallen trees and to provide tree stakes to those trees for supporting.
- 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.

4 AUDIT SCHEULE

4.1 Audit Schedule during Establishment Period

The present audit is the final audit of the one year monitoring programme (once in every two months) starting from January 2009.