

Tai Shue Wan Development at Ocean Park

Updated Woodland Compensation Plan

March 2023

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March 2023

Pursuant to Condition 2.7 of Environmental Permit No. EP-487/2014/A, this Updated Woodland Compensation Plan has been reviewed and certified by the Environmental Team Leader (ETL) and verified by the Independent Environmental Checker (IEC).

Certified by: Jan .

Gary Chow Environmental Team Leader (ETL) Mott MacDonald Hong Kong Limited

Date:

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Verified by:

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Mandy To Independent Environmental Checker (IEC) ERM-Hong Kong Limited

Date:

24 Apr 2023

Pursuant to Conditions 2.3 and 2.7 of Environmental Permit No. EP-487/2014/A, this Updated Woodland Compensation Plan has been prepared by the Qualified Ecologist.

Prepared by:

Yusei Lo Qualified Ecologist Mott MacDonald Hong Kong Limited

Date

21 April 2023

Information class: Standard

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Under the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Ordinance, the EIA Report and the Environmental Monitoring and Audit (EM&A) Manual (Register No.: AEIAR-184/2014) prepared for the "Tai Shue Wan Development at Ocean Park" (the Project) was approved by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) on 27 August 2014. Based on the Application of Variation of Environmental Permit (EP) No. VEP-539/2017, the current valid EP No. EP-487/2014/A was issued on 10 January 2018.

1

As mentioned in Section 10.6.1 of the EIA report, approximately 1.53 ha of woodland will be affected due to site clearance and construction of the Project. The woodland habitat within the Project area has been identified as being in an early development stage by the relatively young to semi-mature existing trees. Impact of permanent loss of woodland habitat is considered to be minor.

In Section 10.7.3.2 of the EIA report, approximately 1.62 ha of woodland compensation is recommended as a mitigation measure for the loss of approximately 1.53 ha of woodland during construction phase of the Project. The proposed location of the woodland compensation area (WCA) is presented in **Figure 1.1**. This area is selected for woodland compensation because it is adjoining to the existing woodland habitat and tall shrubland, thereby enhancing the overall habitat continuity and ecological linkage of the surrounding natural habitats and providing alternative habitats for the fauna affected by the proposed works. In the WCA, whip trees are recommended to be planted with predominately native tree species similar to the affected woodland, such as *Celtis sinensis, Cratoxylum cochinchinense, Polyspora axillaris* and *Sterculia lanceolata*.

In accordance with Condition 2.7 of the EP, a Woodland Compensation Plan was submitted to EPD in October 2014 and approved. As stated in the approved Woodland Compensation Plan, the implementation of the woodland compensation can hardly start until the construction works of the Project is substantially completed. On the other hand, there was minor change in the project boundary referring to the Variation of the EP implemented in January 2018, and an amendment submission of Tree Preservation and Removal Proposal (TPRP) and Landscape Master Plan (LMP) approved in August 2020 by the Planning Department (Application No. A/H15/260). An updated Woodland Compensation Plan with the amendments was approved in July 2022. Subsequently, there were minor changes in the proposed plant species and the planting mixes due to the stock availability in the market and enhancement in planting and maintenance efficiency, as well as a proposed change in monitoring frequency due to cost-effectiveness consideration. Therefore, there is a need to revise the approved Woodland Compensation Plan with the updated information.

Mott MacDonald Hong Kong Limited has been commissioned by the Ocean Park Corporation (OPC) to prepare and submit the Updated Woodland Compensation Plan to meet Condition 2.7 of the EP.

1.2 Objective of Establishment of Woodland Compensation Area

The objective of establishing the WCA is to compensate for the woodland loss due to the Project by providing compensatory whip tree planting to recreate woodland habitat on hillside slopes disturbed during the construction phase. This Woodland Compensation Plan will form the basis to guide the implementation of the proposed woodland mitigation as recommended in the EIA report to provide better quality and diversified secondary woodland areas in the Project Boundary and to ensure the general health condition and survival rate of the plants.

As stipulated in Condition 2.7 (a) of the EP, the Woodland Compensation Plan shall include:

- 1. Native tree species and size of trees to be selected for planting with justifications (detailed in **Section 2.2**);
- 2. Size of the woodland compensation areas (detailed in **Section 2.1** and **Figure 1.1**) and planting spacing (detailed in **Section 2.2** and **Figure 1.1**);
- 3. Schedule for tree planting (detailed in Section 2.3); and
- 4. A detailed 3-year post-planting monitoring and maintenance programme (detailed in Section 3).

1.3 Personnel

This Updated Woodland Compensation Plan prepared in accordance with Condition 2.7 of the Environmental Permit No. EP-487/2014/A has been checked and endorsed by Qualified Ecologist who has at least 5 or more years of relevant experience in tree planting or woodland monitoring. The qualification of the qualified ecologist has been reviewed and agreed with the Environmental Team (ET) Leader and the Independent Environmental Checker (IEC).

2 Woodland Compensation Proposal

2.1 Extent of Woodland Compensation Area

As discussed in Section 10.7.3.2 of the EIA report, a total of approximately 1.62 ha of WCA is proposed. Further to the detailed design and construction of the Project, the building layout has been refined. The proposed WCA is therefore updated according to the latest Project design with the total area remains unchanged. The proposed WCA location is shown in **Figure 1.1**. The proposed WCA is adjoining to existing woodland and tall shrubland habitats for maintaining an ecological linkage.

2.2 Planting Strategy

To ensure slope stability and proper development of the new whip tree planting, the compensatory whip planting will be provided on unaffected natural vegetated slope that are less steep within the WCA, and limited to grassland areas, avoiding disturbance to existing trees. Steeply sloping areas with gradient larger than 35 degrees, or with shotcrete geo-tech treatments and rocky sloping area with limited soil depth will not be considered. The dense native shrubland and existing trees (all of which were approved to be felled in previous Tree Removal Application in 2014) can now be retained, thus providing greater slope stability and ecological benefits for the development of secondary woodland for both the existing trees and compensatory whip trees.

Whip trees of 0.01 m diameter with height between 900 mm and 2,000 mm are proposed for tree planting for their higher survival rate and vigour to withstand the exposed condition. The planting spacing varies over the WCA, depending on the natural terrain and existing vegetation coverage. An estimated quantity of whip trees that can be planted without significant disturbance to the existing natural shrubland will be assigned based on the density of existing shrub vegetation.

Tree species proposed to be planted in the WCA are particularly selected for their high tolerance to the local environment including exposed to windy conditions and salt spray near the seashore. Seasonal foliage growth is also considered during tree selection, thus a mix of evergreen and deciduous tree species are selected. Stock availability in the market is also considered to ascertain the practicability of the planting proposal.

The proposed species are predominantly native tree species. However, the use of exotic species as pioneer species is considered necessary because no native species, with available stock in the market, has comparable tolerance to the specific site conditions, survival rate and growth rate to commonly used exotic species such as *Acacia* species. Therefore, exotic species is proposed in the planting mix to help creating a habitat more suitable for the establishment of native species. The use of exotic species has been minimised in the proposed planting to maintain the ecological value of the WCA.

To ensure the proposed species are well adapted to the specific site condition of the WCA, tree species which are commonly recorded in the area in the EIA report will be proposed as far as practicable. The plant species and estimated quantity are shown in **Table 2.1**.

Botanical Name	Chinese Name	Habit	Native / Exotic	Percentage	Estimated Quantity
Pioneer species					
Acacia confusa	台灣相思	Evergreen	Exotic	24%	555
Ficus hispida	對葉榕	Evergreen	Native	6%	142
Pinus massoniana	馬尾松	Evergreen	Native	10%	228
Sub-climax species					
Brucea javanica	鴉膽子	Evergreen	Native	7%	171
Cratoxylum cochinchinense	黃牛木	Deciduous	Native	2%	55
Ficus variegata	青果榕	Evergreen	Native	12%	286
Macaranga tanarius var. tomentosa	血桐	Evergreen	Native	1%	33
Mallotus paniculatus	白楸	Evergreen	Native	2%	45
Polyspora axillaris	大頭茶	Evergreen	Native	5%	120
Rhus succedanea	野漆樹	Deciduous	Native	10%	228
Schefflera heptaphylla	鴨腳木	Evergreen	Native	3%	72
Sterculia lanceolata	假蘋婆	Evergreen	Native	4%	97
Climax species					
Celtis sinensis	朴樹	Deciduous	Native	5%	106
Choerospondias axillaris	南酸棗	Deciduous	Native	7%	171
			Sub-total:	100%	2309

Table 2.1: Proposed Tree Planting for the WCA

Compared to the previous proposed planting strategy, there is a major difference in the combination of three different planting areas, namely Seaside Area (SEA), Sheltered Area (SHA) and Exposed Area (EXA) into one planting area as shown in **Figure 1.1**, which can be justified with due consideration of the ecological connectivity between woodland habitats, as well as planting and maintenance efficiency. Other than that, the proposed plant species is slightly adjusted due to the stock availability on the market.

Concerning the survival rate of the proposed tree planting in the WCA, the WCA was divided into three different areas based on their micro-environment in the previous proposed planting strategy. However, from the observations of recent WCA monitoring in late 2022, the difference in environmental conditions between these three planting areas is deemed to be insignificant from botanical perspective as similar flora species composition was observed in the WCA. Therefore, it is considered that combining the three different planting areas shall have similar survival rate than dividing the plating areas into three patches. From the planting management and maintenance perspective, the current updated planting strategy will increase the efficiency in planting the whip trees and during the post-planting maintenance, thus facilitate the overall WCA establishment. In addition, the current strategy could maintain the integrity of the woodland habitats as well as enhance the ecological connectivity and biodiversity of the existing vegetation, without greatly affecting the existing flora compositions that are similar across the WCA, thus is beneficial for the development of natural woodland in the long term.

The estimated quantity of whip trees and the overall size of WCA in the current planting strategy remains the same with the previous approved Updated Woodland Compensation Plan. Overall, slope areas that are suitable for growing new whip trees are selected, and areas with dense shrubland or maturing trees are avoided to reduce competition. Moreover, the majority of the proposed whip tree planting will be native species. With the retaining dense shrubland and

vegetation acting as a nurturing ground, the natural propagation of the new whip trees into secondary woodland can be facilitated.

Selective removal of exotic species (i.e. *Acacia confusa*) is not proposed for the WCA within the 3-year post-planting period because the main function of the proposed exotic species is to help creating a habitat more suitable for the initial establishment of native species. Selective removal of the proposed exotic species within the first few years of planting will defeat of purpose of having them as "shelter" for the native species.

The specifications for planting works will follow the General Specification for Civil Engineering Works (2006) Section 3 – Landscape Softworks and Establishment Works.

2.3 Implementation Schedule

The construction works of the Project was completed in August 2021. The implementation of the woodland compensation has been started for planting works in Q4 of 2022. An Implementation Schedule summarising the relevant mitigation measures for woodland compensation with reference to the Implementation Schedule for Environmental Mitigation Measures of the EM&A Manual for the Project is shown in **Appendix A**. The schedule for tree planting and post-plating works is shown in **Table 2.2**.

Table 2.2: Proposed Schedule for Tree Planting and Post-planting Works

	2022		20)24	0		20	025		20	026
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q 3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Planting works			R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Establishment works **															
3-year post-planting monitoring and maintenance															

Remarks: R = replacement planting, as required

* Year refers to the time after completion of construction works or after the identified earliest possible planting opportunity; Q1 = Jan to Mar; Q2 = Apr to Jun; Q3 = Jul to Sep; Q4 = Oct to Dec

** Establishment works include those for replacement planting, if any

2.4 Implementation and Maintenance Arrangement

Both the implementation and maintenance of the compensatory planting will be fully funded by OPC, the Project Proponent, who will be responsible for the planting and maintenance works during the planting phase and the 3-year post-planting monitoring period as shown in **Table 2.3**.

Table 2.3: Proposed Inspection and Maintenance During Planting and Post-planting Periods

	Planting Phase	3-year Post-planting Period				
Inspection frequency	Monthly during planting period (Section 2.5)	Bi-monthly during the first year of post-planting period, quarterly during the second and third year of post- planting period (Section 3.1)				
Maintenance and establishment works	All necessary regular maintenance in accordance with the General Specification for Civil Engineering Works (2006) Section 3 – Landscape Softworks and Establishment Works	As specified in Table 3.2				

2.5 Planting Management

The proposed planting management works include monitoring and establishment of softworks which aim to ensure that the compensation meets the planting performance in accordance with the requirements of the planting strategy.

The specifications for standard practices of inspection and establishment works will follow the General Specification for Civil Engineering Works (2006) Section 3 – Landscape Softworks and Establishment Works. The inspection of planting works shall be carried out at monthly intervals during planting phase to determine the maintenance / establishment works as necessary.

To ensure the establishment of the WCA, a 3-year post-planting monitoring is proposed, apart from the standard practices and site inspections regularly conducted by the landscape contractors. The necessity for further monitoring would be reviewed after the 3-year post-planting monitoring programme.

The 3-year post-planting monitoring of planting includes parameters of general health condition and survival rate; while establishment works would include basically replacement of dead plants, weeding and watering.

Monitoring is proposed to be carried out by means of inspection walk. Monitoring in inspection walk aims to observe the overview / progress of the planting within the WCA.

3 Monitoring Programme

3.1 **Post-planting Monitoring**

The post-planting monitoring shall be conducted by ET and supervised by a qualified botanist / ecologist (Project Botanist / Ecologist) who will be a member of the ET.

To maximise monitoring effectiveness and provide a more accurate general overview of the planting areas, inspection walk, instead of fixed quadrats, is proposed for the post-planting monitoring.

As the post-planting monitoring conducted through inspection walk aims to observe the general condition of the WCA, the routes of the inspection walks should be selected to cover representative areas of each section of the WCA as far as possible. During each inspection walk, no less than 20% of the planting areas should be covered for the WCA. The general health condition (good / fair / poor / dead) and survival rate (%) of individual species of planted trees will be recorded by direct observation for the WCA. For steep and inaccessible area, the monitoring will be conducted with aid of a pair of binoculars. The table as shown in **Table 3.1** should be completed after each inspection walk in order to quantify the percentage of individuals in poor health and survival rate for each species in the WCA. The health condition in the representative areas of the WCA will be assumed to reflect the overall health condition of the planted trees in the whole area.

Table 3.1: Inspection Record for Post-planting Monitoring

Species	General health condition of individual plant species (good/ fair/ poor/ dead)	% of individual plant species in poor health condition	Survival rate of individual plant species (%)	Remarks
Pioneer species				
% of planting area inspecte	d:			
Acacia confusa				
Ficus hispida				
Pinus massoniana				
Sub-climax species				
% of planting area inspecte	d:			
Brucea javanica				
Cratoxylum cochinchinense				
Ficus variegata				
Macaranga tanarius var. tomentosa				
Mallotus paniculatus				
Polyspora axillaris				
Rhus succedanea				
Schefflera heptaphylla				
Sterculia lanceolata				

	General health condition of individual plant species	% of individual plant species in	Survival rate of	
Species	(good/ fair/ poor/ dead)	poor health condition	individual plant species (%)	Remarks
	ucauj	condition	species (70)	Remarks
Climax species				
% of planting area ins	pected:			
Celtis sinensis				
Choerospondias axillari	s			

The frequency of monitoring is proposed to be bi-monthly during the first year of the 3-year postplanting monitoring period. Starting from the second year of the post-planting period, the frequency of monitoring is proposed to be reduced to quarterly basis when the whip trees are well established in the WCA. This would enhance the cost-effectiveness of the monitoring programme while achieving the objectives of post-planting monitoring of WCA. To ensure the general health condition and survival rate of the trees throughout the post-planting period, however, the postplanting monitoring may be resumed to biweekly at any month as advised by the Project Botanist / Ecologist based on each monitoring result. Change of monitoring frequency shall be advised by the Project Ecologist / Botanist of the ET and approved by EPD and AFCD.

The Trigger and Action Levels for monitoring and Action Plan of the WCA are presented in **Table 3.2.**

Table 3.2: Trigger and Action Levels for Monitoring and Action Plan of the Woodland
Compensation Area

Parameters	Trigger and Action Levels	Action Plan						
General Health Condition	Trigger Level: % of individual plant species in poor health condition >20%	 the ET should inform OPC / Contractor appointed by OPC and IEC immediately; identify the cause(s) of the increased % in poor condition; advise OPC / Contractor appointed by OPC the necessity of replanting; Should replanting be considered necessary, OPC / Contractor appointed by OPC should start the replanting works within one month or in the appropriate planting season. 						
	Action Level: % of individual plant species in poor health condition >30%	 the ET should inform OPC / Contractor appointed by OPC and IEC immediately; identify the cause(s) of the increased % in poor condition; advise remedial action and work out solution including change of species in replanting; and seek acceptance from AFCD; Once the remedial action has been accepted by AFCD, OPC / Contractor appointed by OPC should start implementing the remedial action within two weeks or as agreed with AFCD. 						
Survival of Plants	Trigger Level: Survival rate of individual plant species < 80%	 the ET should inform OPC / Contractor appointed by OPC and IEC immediately; identify the cause(s) of the drop in survival rate; advise OPC / Contractor appointed by OPC the necessity of replanting; Should replanting be considered necessary, OPC / Contractor appointed by OPC should start the replanting works within one month or in the appropriate planting season. 						
	Action Level:	 the ET should inform OPC / Contractor appointed by OPC and IEC immediately; 						

Parameters	Trigger and Action Levels	Action Plan
	Survival rate of individual plant species < 70%	 identify the cause(s) of the drop in survival rate; advise remedial action and work out solution including change of species in replanting; and seek acceptance from AFCD; Once the remedial action has been accepted by AFCD, OPC / Contractor appointed by OPC should start implementing the remedial action within two weeks or as agreed with AFCD.

3.2 Post-Planting Maintenance

The detailed maintenance programme for the 3-year post-planting period is shown in Table 3.3.

		-			•		-	-				
Maintenance action	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Watering *	3/W	3/W	2/W	2/W	1/W	1/W	1/W	1/W	2/W	2/W	3/W	3/W
Fertilizing			1						1			
Pruning and selective thinning	R			R			R				R	
Pest Control **	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Weeding ***	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Replacement planting			R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R		
Refuse collection	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
- ·												

Table 3.3: Detailed Maintenance Programme for the 3-year Post-planting Period

Remarks:

The integer (i.e., 1,2,3) = the number of times a service to be completed each month; W = Week; R = as required

* Frequency of watering as shown is for reference only and should be adjusted according to site conditions and rainfall

** To minimize impact on establishing insect communities in the WCA, pest control will be undertaken only as required

*** Only invasive species, such as *Leucaena leucocephala* and *Mikania micrantha*, weeds, unwanted species and parasitic plants on the whip tree planting will be removed during weeding

3.3 Reporting

After each post-planting monitoring event, a completed inspection record (refer to **Table 3.1**) should be provided to the OPC, IEC and relevant parties for information. If there are any adverse findings for the post-planting monitoring event causing Trigger Level or Action Level for monitoring, the ET should inform OPC, IEC and relevant parties according to the Action Plan (refer to **Table 3.2**) and follow up necessary actions. All monitoring findings, site observations, recommendations on woodland management and remedial measures taken shall be reported and summarised in the periodic Environmental Monitoring and Audit (EM&A) Reports, which should be submitted every six months, and the 3-year Post-planting Review Report in accordance with Condition 2.7 (b) of the EP. The 3-year Post-planting Review Report shall be prepared by the Qualified Ecologist(s) to demonstrate that Condition 2.7 (a) has been fulfilled and to recommend the need for further monitoring with justification. AFCD shall be included in the circulation list of the EM&A reports and the 3-year Post-planting Review Report.

4 Conclusion

The Woodland Compensation Plan has been developed to facilitate the establishment of the WCA to mitigate for the loss of woodland habitat due to the implementation of the Project. The three planting areas of the WCA is combined into one planting area to maintain the integrity of the woodland habitats and the ecological connectivity while enhancing the tree planting and maintenance efficiency. Other than that, the proposed plant species is updated due to the stock availability in the market. To ensure the planting works are properly implemented, monthly monitoring is proposed throughout the planting phase. The frequency of the 3-year post-planting monitoring is proposed to be bi-monthly during the first year and quarterly starting from the second year. The monitoring findings and recommendations will be reported and summarised in periodic EM&A reports and in the 3-year Post-planting Review Report. The necessity for further monitoring shall be reviewed after the 3-year post-planting monitoring programme.



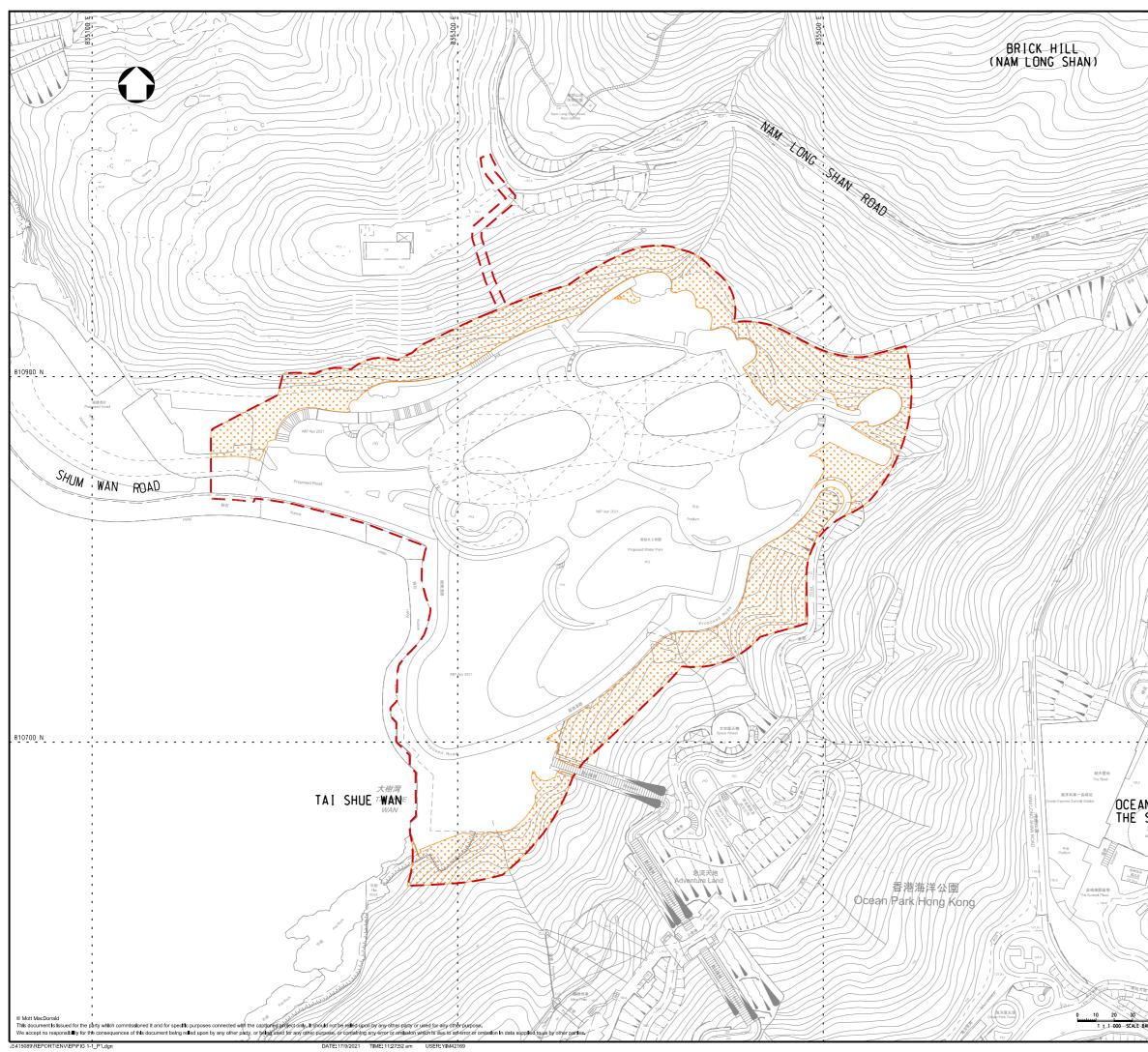
Appendix A – Implementation Schedule

EIA ref.	EM&A	Environmental Protection Measures	Location / Duration of measures/	Implementation	Imple	ementa	tion St	age ⁽¹⁾	Relevant Legislation &	
ref. Log Ref.			Timing of completion of measures	Agent	Des	Con	Ор	Dec	Guidelines	
Cat. 1 K	ey / specif	ic proposed mitigation measure								
Ecologic	al Impact									
S10.7	8.3	 Compensation for Woodland Habitat Provision of a Woodland Area of about 1.62 ha, which includes 0.84 ha woodland compensation on-site and 0.78 ha on-site woodland reinstatement, to mitigate for permanent loss of woodland habitat. In the woodland compensation area, whips should be planted with predominately native tree species similar to the affected woodland, such as <i>Celtis sinensis</i>, <i>Cratoxylum cochinchinense</i>, <i>Polyspora axillaris</i> and <i>Sterculia lanceolata</i>. 	Location of Woodland Compensation Area indicated in Figure 1.1 / Before and throughout construction stage / Until completion of all construction activities	Contractor appointed by OPC	~	✓	✓		EIAO-TM ⁽²⁾	
Landsca	pe and Vis	ual Impact (Operation)				_		_		
Table 12.14 (OP07)	Table 9.2 (OP07)	Woodland Compensation 1.53ha of affected woodland is recommended to be reinstated / compensated by 1.62ha of whip tree planting adjacent to the existing unaffected woodland and tall shrubland. Native species should be proposed as far as practicable to re-create a native landscape, restore the ecological habitats and blend in with the existing native vegetation.	Project area / During design stage / Throughout operation phase	Design Architect / Contractor appointed by OPC	√		√		EIAO-TM	
Cat. 2 S	ubmission	required post EIA stage								
Ecologic	al Impact (Construction)								
S10.7	8.3	 Woodland Compensation Plan A Woodland Compensation Plan shall be prepared and submitted to AFCD for approval no later than one month prior to commencement of site clearance. The plan shall include but not limited to the following: Timing of planting works Planting location Species, size and number of trees Monitoring methodology Action Plan 	Location of Woodland Compensation Area indicated in Figure 1.1 / Before construction stage / No later than one month prior to commencement of site clearance	Qualified botanist / ecologist of the ET appointed by OPC	\checkmark				EIAO-TM	
Landsca	pe and Vis	ual Impact (Operation)								
Table 12.14 (OP02)	Table 9.2 (OP02)	Compensatory Tree Planting Existing trees to be felled should be compensated as far as practicable. Native species should be proposed as far as practicable to re-create a native landscape, restore the ecological habitats and blend in with the existing native vegetation. A compensatory tree planting proposal should be submitted together with the tree removal application for approval by relevant authorities in accordance with LAO Practice Note No. 7/2007 ("LAO PN No. 07/2007"). It is recommended that approximately 608 heavy standard trees and approximately 18,202 whip trees ⁽²⁾ could be planted on-site. The availability of off-site compensatory tree planting area is still subject to further investigation and agreement	Project area / During design stage / Throughout operation phase	Design Architect / Contractor appointed by OPC	✓		\checkmark		- EIAO-TM - LAO PN No. 07/2007	

Notes: (1) Des = Design ; Con = Construction ; Op = Operation ; Dec = Decommissioning ; (2) EIAO-TM = Technical Memorandum of the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance

(2) With reference to the updated Tree and Preservation Removal Proposal, no. of heavy standard trees and whip trees should be 534 and 2,309 respectively. The amendment has been included in the previous updated Woodland Compensation Plan approved in July 2022.





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