



BY EMAIL ONLY

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
7/F, Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices,
303 Cheung Sha Wan Road, Kowloon
(Email: dafcoffice@afcd.gov.hk)

6 May, 2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

Designation of Robin's Nest Country Park

Environment Bureau launched *Hong Kong Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2021* in December 2016 in which designation of new Country Park at Robin's Nest in the Northeast New Territories is one of the "Enhancing Conservation Measures" to conserve ecologically important habitats outside the existing protected areas.

Green Power urges the Administration to designate Robin's Nest area (the Area) as a Country Park as soon as possible in order to protect the Area from increasing threats and safeguard its important ecological resources and high educational, cultural, recreational and landscape values.

In the past, major portion of the Area, including Lin Ma Hang, Sha Tau Kok, northern and eastern slopes, was protected from human disturbance as Frontier Closed Area where access of human and vehicles were strictly controlled. Therefore, most of the Area in turn kept pristine, tranquil and natural. The Area was identified as "Significant Area" in Territorial Development Strategy Review as early as 1990's. Its ecological and landscape value was further confirmed by Study of Land Use Planning for Closed Area in which Robin's Nest Area is proposed as a Country Park.

However, after the open of Frontier Closed Area in 2012, the Area is vulnerable to human disturbance and development pressure. Along with statutory Country Park designation, resources and facilities should be in place to promote the educational, aesthetic, recreational functions of Country Park, and more importantly to eliminate the existing and potential threats and eco-vandalism, such as illegal and incompatible developments, open-up of vehicular access, poaching and collection of wild animals and plants, pollution of countryside and streams, fly-tipping and filling up of wetlands and farmlands, hill fires, village extension, etc.

Moreover, the boundary of the proposed Robin's Nest Country Park(RNCP) should enable the manifest of the legal and environmental functions of Country Park, and effective combat the aforementioned threats and eco-vandalism. Therefore, based on our concerns we opine that

- (1) The boundary of proposed RNCP should include sites of good vegetation and habitat in the Area whatever not developed or used as burial grounds.
- (2) The boundary of the proposed RNCP should follow the 2011 "Principles and Criteria for Designating New Country Parks or Extending Existing Country Parks", i.e. "*the mere existence of private land will not be automatically taken as a determining factor for exclusion from the boundary of a country park*".
- (3) Proposed RNCP should ecologically connect with Pat Sin Leng Country Park and other surrounding habitats in Hong Kong or across the border.

For any enquiries, please contact the undersigned at Green Power (T: 3961 0200. F: 2314 2661, email: lkcheng@greenpower.org.hk)

I look forward to your favourable and prompt response.

Yours faithfully,



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Director

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