



生態教育及資源中心  
Eco-Education & Resources Centre



**BY EMAIL ONLY**

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19 October 2020

Dear Sir/Madams,

**Consultation on the Proposed Expansion of Sham Wan Restricted Area and  
Extension of the Restriction Period**

1. Sham Wan is a regular nesting site of Green Sea Turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) in Hong Kong which is classified by the International Union for Conservation (IUCN) as an endangered species. The beach in the site is designated as a restricted area every summer from June to October, restricting access to the beach in order to minimise disturbances to Green Turtles while they are nesting.
2. As per the consultation meeting for green groups with Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department on 24 September 2020 for above-captioned consultation, Eco-Education & Resources Centre and Green Power (ERC & GP) would like to re-iterate our concerns expressed during the meeting regarding the conservation of only known local breeding ground of the endangered Green Sea Turtle at Sham Wan, Lamma.
3. ERC & GP conducted a survey in Sham Wan in 2013 and found that several pleasure boats and water sports activities were observed at Sham Wan and tourists went on to the beach, i.e. the restriction area, during the restriction period. The noise, glare and water sports activities seriously disturbed the breeding of Green Sea Turtles.
4. Therefore, we have been continuously urging that the government expands the Restricted Area in Sham Wan covering the sea and sandy beach parts, and extends the restricted period to seven months, i.e. April to October. These could protect the sea turtles more effectively in Sham Wan area and prevent them being disturbed by human activities while mating and laying eggs.
5. Regarding the above-captioned consultation, ERC & GP welcome the proposed expansion of the Sham Wan restricted area at Lamma Island covering the seas of Sham Wan bay and sandy beach, and the extension of the restriction period to cover April to October every year.
6. Regarding reinforcing law enforcement in the proposed plan, owing to the remoteness of Sham Wan, it is crucial that enforcement personnel could detect and reach suspected boats that enter the restricted area during the restriction period promptly.

7. Ghost nets, which will fatally trap the Green Sea Turtle, should be removed regularly as one of the important management measures for Sham Wan.
8. The fishing method and gears within Sham Wan restriction area should be controlled during the non-restricted period to prevent the damage of habitats and abandon of fishing nets in the site, which may threaten the Green Sea Turtle.
9. There will be no conservation without education. We hope that innovative education programme could be organized to promote the conservation of sea turtles and marine ecology in Hong Kong.
10. In order to better conserve the biodiversity of Sham Wan and adjoining area, a long-term ecological survey should be conducted to monitor the changes of the biodiversity after the expansion of the Sham Wan restricted area and the extension of the restriction period. The data collected from the survey serve as important basis for the improving management of the site.
11. ERC & GP hope that the Administration could address our concerns stated above. We recommend that the government should take a more proactive management approach to conserve our precious Green Sea Turtle and their breeding ground upon the availability of updated ecological data.

For any enquiries and questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at Eco-Education & Resource Centre (T: 2697 2029; F: 2697 0066; Email: [michelle@erc.org.hk](mailto:michelle@erc.org.hk)).

For and on behalf of  
**Eco-Education & Resources Centre and  
Green Power,**



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Dr Cheung Ma Shan  
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