

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.

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 – January 2009

3.2 Planting Works and Maintenance Operations

General Observations:

- It is noted that the Contractor was requested to perform replanting for dead trees prior to the present monitoring. It was however observed that the majority of the compensatory planting trees were still dead trees. No/little landscape maintenance operations were carried out by the Contractor recently, or the maintenance works were not satisfactory.
- Among the 841 trees to be planted in accordance with the planting plan, 642 individuals were previously found dead and the Contractor was request to perform replanting.

- During the present audit, however, there were still 582 dead trees observed.
- Although another 114 individual trees have been recently planted in some additional planting sites (the areas not previously planted with trees), the total number of planted trees was still much below that in the planting plan.
- 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 strongly recommended to perform all landscape maintenance operations, including replacing all dead trees; replanting any missing 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 replant altogether over 400 new trees as replacement for all 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 March 2009.