

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 auditing inspections was conducted in January 2009. The present auditing inspection was the second inspection and was conducted in March 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 – March 2009

3.2 Planting Works and Maintenance Operations

General Observations:

- In the previous monitoring, among the 841 trees to be planted in accordance with the planting plan, 582 dead individuals were observed. With the 114 additional trees planted in additional planting sites (the areas not previously planted with trees) as recorded during the previous monitoring, the total number of trees (i.e. 373) was still below the planting plan, and the Contractor was requested to perform replanting for dead trees after the previous monitoring.
- In the present monitoring, it was observed that a large number of shrubs (mainly *Raphielepis indica*) were recently planted within the East Course, including the original planting locations, as well as some new areas not previously indicated on the landscape plan. In terms of number, the newly planted shrubs should be more than enough to replace all the dead trees recorded in previous monitoring.
- Major landscape maintenance operations were carried out by the Contractor recently as a large number of shrubs were planted, and some dead trees were removed.
- During the present audit, however, some dead trees (341 individuals) were still observed. These trees were part of the previously reported 582 dead trees. As the newly planted shrubs are sufficient in number to compensate the dead trees, the Contractor should either replaced these dead trees or removed them as maintenance works.
- 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 recommended to perform landscape maintenance operations, including replacing or removed all dead 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 replace or remove 341 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 May 2009.