

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, second, third and fourth auditing inspections were conducted in January, March, May and July 2009 respectively. The present auditing inspection was the fifth inspection and was conducted in September 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 – September 2009

3.2 Planting Works and Maintenance Operations

General Observations:

- In the previous monitoring, according to the 980 trees shown in as-built planting plan, 417 individuals of trees were found missing, dead, or fallen on ground, and would thus need remedial actions (replanting or erecting). The majority of these trees was still part of the 582 dead trees previously reported in January 2009 inspection. The Contractor was required either to replace these dead trees or to remove them as maintenance works.
- During the present audit, however, replanting works were observed in many planting locations. 174 individuals of trees were found missing, dead, or fallen on ground, and would thus need remedial actions (replanting or erecting). Some trees were found fallen on ground (but still alive), probably due to the recent adverse weather.
- Major landscape maintenance operations and replanting works were carried out by the Contractor recently as recently replanted trees were observed in different locations.
- Some stakes for trees were found in poor conditions or leaning.
- A detailed summary of the inspection was shown on the drawings enclosed under EM&A report.

3.3 Recommendations

- The Contractor was recommended to perform landscape maintenance operations, including replacing or removed all dead trees; erecting the fallen 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 dead and missing trees, and any other trees found to be in poor conditions prior to the next site inspection.
- The Contractor was reminded to erect the fallen trees and to provide tree stakes to those trees for supporting.
- 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.
- It is recommended that the Contractor could consider tree species which have higher wind resistance when selecting the replanting trees.

4 AUDIT SCHEULE

4.1 Audit Schedule during Establishment Period

The next and final audit (once in every two months) is schedule in November 2009.