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26<sup>th</sup> September 2016

**Dr Shawn Lum**

President  
Nature Society (Singapore)  
510 Geylang Road  
#02-05, The Sunflower  
Singapore 389466

Dear Shawn,

I would like to thank the Nature Society Singapore (NSS) for working closely with us since the inception of the Mandai Project in August 2014. NSS members have provided valuable inputs, suggestions and advice through active participation in the EIA process as well as during our numerous meetings with the nature representatives, which have helped to guide and shape our plans.

Mandai Park Holdings (MPH), the parent company of Mandai Park Development (MPD) and Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS), is committed to protecting Singapore's biodiversity and to forging collaborative efforts with local nature groups. As NSS has acknowledged, the new Bird Park and Rainforest Park will be on a plot that has been identified for development by the Government. This is impacted land that was formerly occupied by the Mandai Orchid Garden, as well as an abandoned village and farmland. MPH is committed to be a very good neighbour to the Central Catchment Nature Reserve (CCNR) throughout the tenure of our lease. We are confident that the Mandai Development will become a secure habitat for indigenous fauna and flora, as demonstrated by the richness of the indigenous biodiversity in our existing Mandai parks (the Singapore Zoo, River Safari and Night Safari).

We envision that the rejuvenated Mandai will be a multi-generation endeavour built on the foundation of the three core philosophies of sustainability, inclusion and integration. We plan for the new Bird Park and Rainforest Park to be environmentally sustainable showcases for the current and future generations. We intend to deliver a Mandai precinct that is sensitive to the environment and will be a rejuvenating escape for families and friends to enjoy nature in a fun and inspiring way. We will place a strong focus on the thoughtful integration of the new development with the existing attractions and Mandai's cultural and natural heritage.

MPH's vision is to be a world-leading zoological institution that inspires people to value and conserve biodiversity. As a responsible steward of nature, we will strike a balance between access for guests and protecting nature and wildlife across the Mandai precinct, with a strong focus on helping our visitors to understand, value and love nature. We are also committed to extending our conservation impact beyond the border of our parks by continuing to grow our support for multiple projects in Singapore and Southeast Asia through funding, education, research and the direct involvement of our highly trained staff in fieldwork. Our development will also include an animal rehabilitation and release centre for displaced or injured native fauna.

We have met with members of NSS on various occasions and we have deliberated on the main concerns NSS has highlighted in your position paper, i.e. loss of natural habitats, the Eco-link bridge across Mandai Lake Road, the CCNR fragmentation and wildlife displacement. We clarified that various measures have been put in place to address these concerns. We discussed:

- how we have carefully safeguarded the areas identified in the baseline surveys as having important vegetation and habitats, including patches of disturbed primary forest;
- how we have taken care to plan the design and orientation of the Eco-link bridge with inputs from NSS and NParks to give animals a safe passage over Mandai Lake Road and thereby reduce fragmentation within the CCNR;

- the measures we will take to manage the traffic and control vehicular speeds along Mandai Lake Road to reduce the likelihood of road kills;
- the setting aside of sizeable land buffers along the edge of the CCNR to reduce the edge effects; and
- the careful phasing of the wildlife shepherding programme to move fauna away from the development and ensure there will be minimal impact on the displaced wildlife.

To reiterate, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which was commissioned at the early conceptualisation phase of the project, guided our master planning and will continue to guide us through the detailed design, construction and operation phases. Significant changes have already been made to the plans to reduce the development's environmental impact and we will continue to work towards this goal over the coming years.

There are also good suggestions in the position paper that we will be taking on board. With regards to the Eco-link bridge, MPH shares the same objective as NSS in wanting to link the CCNR on either side of Mandai Lake Road. The proposed Eco-link bridge is sited within the 50m wide buffer along the western edge of the CCNR. The Eco-link is designed to be 30m wide at its narrowest point due to the need to provide a setback from the CCNR to prevent the construction footprint from extending into the nature reserve. MPH will explore the feasibility of widening the Eco-link bridge beyond 30 metres as we embark on the detailed design work.

The mitigation measures for the project have been captured in an Environmental Management and Monitoring Plan (EMMP). The EMMP will be monitored and enhanced as the project progresses to ensure that it remains relevant. MPH has established MPD as its full development arm with design and delivery expertise. MPD includes staff that are experienced in managing environmental impacts and they will be dedicated to operationalising the commitments in the EMMP. An Environmental Advisory Panel comprising external subject matter experts and



chaired by Professor Peter Ng (Head of Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum), will also be set up to monitor the effective implementation of the EMMP during the construction and operation phases, and to advise on the necessary modifications to be made to the project if required. The panel will include representation from the local nature groups.

We thank the NSS for the efforts you have invested in the position paper. We are very pleased that NSS is prepared to continue to work with Mandai to improve the management of environmental impacts throughout the project development. We greatly appreciate the Society's constructive engagement with us.

With my very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Barclay".

Mike Barclay  
Group CEO  
Mandai Park Holdings