

Conservation Committee: AGM Report (June 2005 – May 2006)

1) Kranji Marshland Management Proposal

This proposal was discussed and approved by the EXCO & Council last year. The objective is to manage a nature area so as to generate more hands-on nature management activities & programmes for members, students, environmental professionals, etc. The area is about 39 ha in extent and is designated as a Kranji Marshes Park in the URA Master Plan 2003. Feedback meeting had been carried out with some relevant organizations.

2) Rescue of Trapped Horseshoe Crabs



Several trips were conducted in July 2006 to rescue Horseshoe Crabs trapped in discarded nets at the Mandai Mudflat, followed by a couple of monitoring trips (13 Nov 2005 & 30 April 2006). Altogether, 291 Horseshoes were found trapped in 11 nets, out of which 164 were found alive and rescued. The rest were kaput.

It appears that dysfunctional nets discarded by fishermen along the intertidal shore were acting as inadvertent traps, attracting and entangling the Horseshoes Crabs that crawled into them for some reason or other. The monitoring by volunteers is ongoing. A meeting will be called to work out a course for preventive action.

3) Conservation Chat

4 sessions of Conservation Chat were mounted since the last AGM to provide a forum for conservation issues to be brought up for discussion and feedback. The turnout varied from 10 - 20 people per session. Some of the topics discussed are: the Kranji Marshland management proposal, Bird Flu, the trapped Horseshoe Crabs, SGP 3-Yearly Review, Project Noah & Southern Island Reclamation.

4) Meeting on Project Noah

A Conservation Committee meeting was held on 27 April 2006 to discuss Project Noah with its key initiators --- Mr Howard Shaw (ED of SEC) & Mr Sydney Chew (member fo SUF) --- as guests. Howard & Sydney assured the Committee that the Project will start with a new slate and a meeting of all relevant stakeholders will be called to formulate a road-map for marine conservation. MCG will be prepared to reconsider its support of the Project after the forthcoming meeting.

5) Red Data Book (2nd/Revised Edition)

The revised text for the various taxa have been completed. Lists of species, with the endangered category for each one, have been prepared for most groups (one or two lists are still awaited). A call is going out now for photographs for all species described in the text. Expected date of publication is in September 2006.

6) The Three-Yearly Review of the Singapore Green Plan 2012

The Committee Chairman participated in this Review as member of the Clean land, Nature & Public Health Focus Group, Chaired by Mr Heng Chiang Meng & Ms Loh Wai Kiew. The Chairman brought up and/or support the following issues in the meetings he attended:

- 1) Need for biodiversity surveys for all nature areas to demarcate boundaries;
- 2) Need to implement green corridors (not just park connectors) for wildlife, (esp. betw, Bt. Timah & the Central Catchment);
- 3) Need for more publicity to the nature areas;
- 4) Need for a Marine Nature Park to re-instate the 4 Marine Sites into the Green Plan.

Acknowledgment

Thanks to the following for feedback & support: Angie Ng, Ben Lee, Ching Chabo, Cyril Ng, Ed Lim, Geh Min, Goh Si Gium, Hsu Chia Chi, Lioe Kim Swee, Leong Kwok Peng, Linda Oei, Margie Hall, Lim Kim Keang, Lim Kim Seng, Nick Baker, Shawn Lum, Stephen Lau, Wing Cheong, Simon Chan, Sunny Yeo, Tang Peck Chan, Sutari Supari, Tan Choon Ming, Vilma d'Rozario, Willie Foo, Yap Chung Kui.

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