



香港地貌岩石保育協會
Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong

2 May 2012

The Secretary, Town Planning Board
15/F, North Point Government Offices
333 Java Road, North Point, Hong Kong
(E-mail: tpbpd@pland.gov.hk)

Re: Draft Po Toi Islands Development Permission Area Plan No. DPA/I-PTI/1

The Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong, committed to conserving geological heritage, natural and rural scenery in Hong Kong, strongly supports an imminent need to provide planning guidance and development control to protect areas stipulated in captioned Draft Po Toi Islands Development Permission Area Plan.

Po Toi is an excellent outdoor classroom for studying granitic landforms. The Po Toi Granite forming nearly all of Beaufort Island, Po Toi and Sung Kong are the last large magma intrusion in Hong Kong dated back to 140 million years ago. Megacrysts, pegmatitic veins, intrusions of fine grained granite into medium grained granite which intrudes into coarse grained granite are commonly found. Most spectacular are the unique outcrops shaped by various weathering processes including block disintegration and sheet weathering. As a result, Po Toi is renowned for the Buddha's Palm Cliff, Tortoise Rock, Tortoise Egg, Monk Rock, Coffin Rock, BB rock etc. while the resemblance of Waglan as a key are of very high aesthetic and educational value.

Po Toi also offers spectacular panoramic landscape view. From the 188 meters highest accessible peak, Ma On Shan and Pat Sing Leng in the north, the Lantau Island peaks in the west, the islands of Wanshan Qundao to the south and the South China Sea to the east can be seen on a clear day.

Ecologically, Po Toi is important for many migratory birds due to its special geographic location and the diversity of habitats. Habitats such as secondary forest,



rocky coastal areas, scrubland and wetlands provide suitable habitats and food supply for a wide range of migratory birds. More than 300 species of birds have been recorded from the island, which is about 2/3 of the total species of Hong Kong, second only to Mai Po in terms of bird species number. These include many first records for Hong Kong, such as Red-throated Thrush and Hodgson's Redstart. Globally threatened birds such as Japanese Yellow Bunting and Fairy Pitta (*listed as Vulnerable in IUCN red list*) have also been found on the Island. Po Toi Island is therefore of great scientific importance as a prime site for studying bird migration.

Po Toi is one of the four natural habitats in Hong Kong for the Endemic and Endangered Romer's Tree Frog as well as the habitats of over 60 species of butterflies. The waters around Po Toi are of conservation importance because Finless Porpoises also frequent the waters. Waglan Island has a breeding colony of terns.

Po Toi also possesses attractive cultural heritage including the over 3000 years' old rock carving which has been declared as monuments; the annual Da Jiu (Spring Festival) and the traditional coastal collection of sea weeds.

Po Toi has become a famous recreational spot favoured by the public for bird watching, eco and geo touring, hiking and leisure walking.

Due to the unique and invaluable geological, landscape, ecological, biological and cultural significance, any haphazard developments on these islands may cause adverse and irreparable impact. We therefore recommend Po Toi Islands to be zoned as Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and with reference to the Tai Mong Tsai and Tram Chuk Wan OZP No. S/SK-TMT/4 ultimately designated as Country Park for comprehensive management and protection under the Country Park Ordinance.

Recent unscrupulous developments at the southwestern part of Po Toi, near Wan Tsai where land excavation, vegetation clearance, tree felling, streams diversion and laying of concrete slabs would easily lead to landslides in coming rainy season and would seriously impact the natural environment. We therefore strongly object all "destruction first, application later" unauthorized acts and urge respective Government Departments to immediately exercise their rights to prosecute the offenders and to restore the destroyed areas.



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Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong

Your consideration of our recommendation is highly appreciated.

Best regards,

Cindy Choi (signed)

Convener: Publicity/Public Relationship

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