



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

27 April 2015

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 Outline Zoning Plan No. [S/I-PTI/1](#)

The Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong, committed to conserving geological heritage, natural and rural sceneries in Hong Kong, welcomes the need to provide planning and development guidance of Po Toi Islands and support the proposed zonings in S/I-PTI/1 except the “Residential (Group D)” (R(D)) zoning.

We strongly object the “Residential (Group D)” (R(D)) zoning, which is primarily for upgrading existing temporary structures and for low-rise, low-density residential developments. The R(D) zone is located at the mature woodland next to the pier. Any development in the area would cause adverse impact on the woodland which is an important foraging and roosting location for migratory birds. The area should be zoned as “Conservation Area” (CA), which “redevelopment of houses” can be applied through the TPB and considered on a case-by-case basis.

Our reasons for above objection are the followings:-

1. Po Toi is an excellent outdoor classroom for studying granitic landforms and appreciating granite geomorphology as well as an interesting attraction for sightseers. 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 intrude into coarse grained granite are commonly found. Most spectacular are the unique spectacular tor 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. There are no other areas in Hong Kong which has such high concentration of high aesthetic valued granite tors on just one small island.
2. 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.
 3. 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 international importance and of special scientific value for studying bird migration in Hong Kong and the East Asian Flyway.
 4. 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.
 5. The waters around Po Toi are of conservation importance because Finless Porpoises also frequent the waters. Waglan Island has a breeding colony of terns.
 6. Cultural-wise, Po Toi 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.



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Due to captioned unique and invaluable geological, landscape, ecological, biological and cultural significance, any haphazard and recreational 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 and Marine Park Ordinance. We firmly believe that under the active management of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department that Po Toi can be a well managed recreational spot by the public for bird watching, eco and geo touring, hiking and leisure walking while local communities can benefit and achieve sustainable economic development.

Your kind consideration is highly appreciated.

Best regards,

Cindy Choi (signed)

Vice Chairman

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