

香港鄉郊基金、思匯、長春社、地球之友、香港觀鳥會、綠色大嶼山協會、
綠色和平、綠田園基金會、環保觸覺、嘉道理農場暨植物園

呼籲沙螺洞納入郊野公園，反對興建巨型骨灰龕場

(2012年6月13日新聞稿) 政府確認生態價值僅次於米埔的沙螺洞，正面臨有6萬骨灰龕位的巨型骨灰龕場的威脅。多個團體今日聯合發出呼籲，促請香港政府擱置有關「發展」項目，並盡快把八仙嶺的「綠色心臟」和重要性僅次於米埔濕地的沙螺洞「自然保育優先地區」，納入八仙嶺郊野公園，長遠保育天然美景、珍貴的自然生態和傳統鄉村風貌，為全港市民留下這片休閒和享受自然的寶地。

沙螺洞有八仙嶺「綠色心臟」美譽，境內早已設有「具特殊科學價值地點」，孕育接近全港六成半蜻蜓物種(包括科學界首次發現的8個物種)、三成半蝴蝶物種、鳥類100多種，以及包括以香港命名的「香港鬥魚」*Macropodus hongkongensis* 在內的多種淡水魚。

多個團體強烈反對政府出售沙螺洞內4公頃的「綠化地帶」官地予發展商，興建骨灰龕場，加上擴闊上山道路額外多破壞約16公頃的樹林，合共摧毀約20公頃的香港綠色資源。項目一旦獲批，將嚴重破壞個山谷的天然風景和鄉郊寧靜，以及永久危害該處極具保育價值的生態環境和的珍貴生物，「修路」更會使市民失去一條林蔭滿道的悠閒散步路線。

各團體對於以「自然保育」為名，提出一個實際破壞自然的「發展」項目，表示百思不得其解和不能接受，各團體又認為該項目等同向地產商輸送估計約60億元的利益而政府則從賣地得到估計約30億元進賬，香港700萬市民卻要承受自然美景、自然生態、鄉村風貌和郊遊好去處被破壞的不可彌補損失，故要求政府立刻主動取消該「發展」項目。

環境局和環境保護署署長多次被提醒發展商的「發展」項目多處違反2004年《新自然保育政策》的原則和條款，不得稱為該政策下的「公私營機構伙伴」項目，但是環境保護署署長沒有否決該自稱為「公私營機構伙伴」的項目，反而批准其環境影響評估報告進入公開諮詢程序。對於署長未有嚴格執行政府公開宣示的政策，以及未能及早否決該項目進入環評程序，各團體表示失望，要求政府盡快糾正錯誤，撤銷該項目進入環評程序。由於環評報告疏漏甚多，在政府回應以上要求之前，團體將各自提交獨立意見。

各團體又指出政府換屆在即，候任政府的政綱已表明要檢討2004年《新自然保育政策》，現屆政府沒有必要此時匆匆推動此項目，各團體要求政府將該項目擱置，直如下任政府

確立了新的自然保育政策。

各團體向政府建議，效法市區文物建築保育的辦法，以等價地換地方式，取得發展商在沙螺洞「自然保育優先地區」的土地業權，加上原有官地，政府將擁有 99% 沙螺洞的土地，到時把沙螺洞納入八仙嶺郊野公園便水到渠成，沙螺洞的山谷美景、傳統鄉村風貌、重要生態環境和珍貴生物都會得到具有法律效力的嚴格保護。

背景資料

沙螺洞位於八仙嶺郊野公園西部範圍之內，由於歷史原因沒有劃入郊野公園。

沙螺洞是 2004 年《新自然保育政策》認定為在自然保育方面全港第二重要的「優先地區」，地位僅次於米埔內后海灣濕地，生態價值毋庸置疑。

沙螺洞是一個群山懷抱的山谷，有風水林、荒廢農地、樹林、草地、灌叢、濕地和溪流，以及傳統村屋，是遠足人士喜愛到訪的地方。由汀角路上山，有一條 2.3 公里長狹窄車路，林蔭滿道，是晨運客和單車發燒友的好去處。

今次「發展」項目的內容是：政府在沙螺洞南邊賣地 4 公頃「綠化地帶」官地給發展商，其中部份位於「優先地區」之內，另外擴闊長 2.3 公里的上山車路，削坡和平整土地等工程估計佔地寬度為 70 米，得出破壞 16 公頃林木的數字。

計劃興建的骨灰龕場有 6 萬個龕位，以龕位每個 10 萬元計算，發展商可進賬 60 億元，雖然地產商在「自然保育」名義下，捐出一筆款項予政府，由環境及保育基金資助非政府團體在沙螺洞做長期保育工作，此後保育反而變成政府的長遠責任。但是發展商並不交出擁有的沙螺洞土地，將來仍然可以建屋賺錢，總之政府可從賣地得到估計約 30 億進賬，但卻沒有為沙螺洞的長遠保育取得確實保障。

香港鄉郊基金早於去年九月去信環境局，說明發展商的項目多處違反 2004 年《新自然保育政策》的原則和條款，以及會造成多種環境和生態破壞，基金今年二月與環境局開會和重申以上觀察，但是不知何故環境局及環境保護署署長沒有吸納意見，現在項目的環境影響評估報告已經進入了公開諮詢程序。

[完]

Hong Kong Countryside Foundation, Civic Exchange, Conservancy Association,
Friends of the Earth, Hong Kong Bird Watching Society,
Green Lantau Association, Green Peace, Green Produce Foundation,
Green Sense, Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden

**Calling for Sha Lo Tung to be incorporated into Pat Sin Leng Country Park
Objection to the construction of a huge columbarium**

(Press release 13 June 2012) Sha Lo Tung which the government has identified as a site with high ecological importance, second only to Mai Po, is facing the threat of a huge columbarium with 60,000 niches. Today, several organizations joint call on the government to shelve the so-called “development” project. They also ask that Sha Lo Tung, the Green Heart of Pat Sin Range and a Priority Site for nature conservation second only to Mai Po, be incorporated into Pat Sin Leng Country Park, to enable the permanent conservation of the beautiful scenery, the important habitats and species as well as traditional village heritage. This would keep for all Hong Kong citizens a valuable piece of land for recreation and enjoyment of nature.

Sha Lo Tung is the Green Heart of Pat Sin Range, with Site of Special Scientific Interest already designated in the area. It nurtures some 65% of dragonfly species in Hong Kong (including eight first discovered in Hong Kong), some 35% of butterfly species, 100 plus bird species, and many fresh water fish species including *Macropodus hongkongensis*, a species named after Hong Kong.

The organizations object to the sale by government of 4 hectares of government land zoned “Green Belt” to the developer for constructing the columbarium as well as the significant widening of the access road, damaging an estimated 16 hectares of woodland, thus causing the loss of a total of 20 hectares of valuable countryside. If the project gets through, it would destroy the naturally beautiful scenery, the quietude of the traditional village setting and the habitats and species of high conservation value. Road widening (and cutting of trees) would also result in the loss of a road under leafy shade most treasured by people for leisurely strolls.

The organizations cannot understand why a “development” project damaging nature could have been advocated in the name of “nature conservation” and find it unacceptable. The organizations consider that the project amounts to passing an advantage worth 6 billion dollars to the developer, with the government pocketing an estimated land premium of 3 billion dollars. But this is at the expense of 7 million of Hong Kong people losing the

irreplaceable natural scenery, natural habitats and species and an excellent destination for recreation. Thus the government should immediately take the initiative to cancel the so-called “development” project.

The Environment Bureau and the Director of Environmental Protection have been reminded that the “development” project breaches the principles and terms of the New Nature Conservation Policy of 2004 and that the project does not qualify as a Public Private Partnership (PPP) project under that Policy. But the Director has not rejected the self-claimed PPP project at the instance but instead has approved its environmental impact assessment (EIA) report for public comments. The organizations are disappointed the Director has not adhered to publicly announced government policy and ask the government to rectify the situation as soon as possible by removing the project from the EIA process. Because the EIA report is deficient in many ways, the organizations will submit their individual comments before the government respond to the above request.

The organizations further point out that as the new government will take over soon and since the incoming government has said that it would review the New Nature Conservation Policy of 2004, there is no need to hurry through this project. The organizations ask the government to shelve the project until the incoming government has established the replacement nature conservation policy.

The organizations recommend to the government that following the model of heritage conservation, it should acquire the land owned by the developer in Sha Lo Tung Priority Site for nature conservation. Together with government land, the government would own 99% of the land in Sha Lo Tung, greatly facilitating the incorporation of Sha Lo Tung into Pat Sin Leng Country Park. Secure protection with the force of law would then be conferred to the beautiful scenery of the valley, the traditional village setting and the valuable habitats and species.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

(Sorry, please refer to the Chinese text.)