Women’s Commission

Council for Sustainable Development

Public Engagement on
Promotion of Sustainable Consumption of Biological Resources

Purpose

This paper seeks Members’ views on the issues raised in the public engagement document on promotion of sustainable consumption of biological resources.

Background

2. Biological resources provide for our daily needs and the society’s development. They are the fundamental elements for our clothing, food and feed, shelter, fuel, paper, and medicine, etc. Only if the consumption rate is maintained at a level that does not exceed the reproduction rate can biological resources be sustained. However, our current overconsumption pattern has various impacts and consequences on the ecosystems and the environment, including species depletion and extinction, and the destruction to habitats, etc. These impacts in turn will affect the provision of biological resources. A case in point is overfishing. According to an estimate from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, over 70% of the world’s fish species are either fully exploited or depleted. The dramatic increase of unsustainable fishing practices worldwide has great impact on marine fauna and their habitats. On land, some wild animals and plants are under the pressure of overharvesting. For instance, overconsumption of paper adds pressure to our natural forests and the wildlife therein.

3. In Hong Kong, despite the population only accounting for about 0.1% of the world's population, its unique position as a major trading hub and a world city famous for its food means that our activities may lead to
potential impacts on some species of plants and animals, at the regional or global level. Using seafood as an example, Hong Kong is the seventh largest per capita seafood consumer in the world. An average resident consumes 71.2 kg of seafood each year, more than three times the global average\(^1\). This means that the pattern Hong Kong purchases and consumes seafood could have a significant impact on the marine ecosystem.

4. While the consumption of biological resources in our daily lives can entail significant implications on sustainability, public awareness on and knowledge about sustainable consumption is generally low. The Council for Sustainable Development ("SDC") recognises the urgent need to promote sustainable consumption of biological resources, and believes that only with concerted efforts from all sectors of society can we make a fundamental change. For this reason, SDC has decided to conduct a territory-wide public engagement to arouse public awareness, stimulate public discussion, and explore ways and means to encourage behavioural changes that are conducive to a more sustainable pattern.

**SDC’s Public Engagement**

5. SDC launched the public engagement on 26 July 2016 which adopts a bottom-up and stakeholder-led approach to provide a platform to facilitate the exchange of views among members of the public and stakeholders on how to map out strategies towards more sustainable consumption.

6. To facilitate public discussion, SDC has issued a public engagement document at Annex, which provides background information on why biological resources are important and invites public views on three major aspects:

   (a) Facilitating smart choices for consumers –
   
   What information would consumers need in order to choose sustainable products?

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(b) Promoting best practices among businesses and the public sector –

How could the Government/public sector/private sector take the lead in promoting sustainable consumption of biological resources? What are the drivers for businesses to purchase more sustainable products?

(c) Education and publicity –

What kinds of education and publicity activities should be put forward in promoting sustainable consumption of biological resources?

7. During the public engagement period (which will last till 15 November 2016), SDC will organise five public forums and a series of engagement events to listen to public’s views. These events include meetings with different organisations and stakeholders, for example, green groups, chambers of commerce, relevant sectors, non-governmental organisations, district councils and resident organisations. Views and responses collected during the public engagement period will form the basis for SDC to formulate recommendations for the Government’s consideration.

8. To promote this public engagement and encourage public participation, SDC has carried out various public education and publicity activities, including producing a TV and Radio Announcement of Public Interest as well as posters and launching a dedicated website\(^2\) to facilitate the public to browse through relevant information and give their views. Roving exhibitions will also be held in various locations and a set of on-line picture cards has been developed to bring out the messages in a more lively and interesting manner. SDC also leverages on the synergy from over 100 supporting organisations to help promote the public engagement and mobilise wider participation among different sectors of the community through their network. Through these activities, SDC hopes to reach community consensus on the next steps towards more sustainable consumption patterns and practices.

\(^2\) https://www.susdev.org.hk
Advice Sought

9. Members are invited to provide comments and views on the issues set out in the public engagement document.

Secretariat of the Council for Sustainable Development
Environment Bureau
August 2016
Public Engagement on Promotion of Sustainable Consumption of Biological Resources

Consume Wisely to Conserve our Biological Resources

公眾參與目的及過程
Public Engagement – Objectives and Process

第一階段: 找出優先行動及挑戰
Stage 1: Identifying Priorities and Challenges
• 桌面研究 Desktop Research
• 支援小組會議 Support Group Meetings
• 焦點小組會議 Focus Group Meetings

第二階段: 制定可持續未來的建議
Stage 2: Developing Recommendations for a Sustainable Future
• 電視 / 電台宣傳 TV/Radio API
• 專屬網站 Dedicated Website
• 公眾參與活動 Engagement Activities
• 地區討論坊 Regional Forums

提升意識及知識傳輸
Awareness Raising and Knowledge Transfer

持分者參與及合作
Stakeholders’ Participation and Cooperation

The Importance of Biological Resources

- Biological resources cover animal resources, plant resources and microbial resources.

- Provide for our daily needs and support the society’s development.
不可持續的消耗所帶來之影響
The Impact of Unsustainable Consumption

• 生物資源是生態系統的重要元素。
  Biological resources are fundamental elements to the ecosystem.

• 過度開發野生動物和植物資源可能會：
  Over-exploitation of wild animals and plant resources may:
  – 導致一些物種枯竭和滅絕，影響糧食供應；
    lead to the depletion and extinction of some species, resulting in unstable food supply;
  – 破壞生物棲息地及生態平衡，影響人類生存及發展。
    destroy the natural habitat and disrupt the ecological balance. Human survival and development will be affected.

• 要使生物資源得以持續，則我們的消耗不可以超過資源再生的速度。
  Biological resources are sustainable only if the consumption rate is maintained at a level that does not exceed the reproduction rate.
不可持續的消耗所帶來之影響
The Impact of Unsustainable Consumption

食材（如海產）
Food supplies (e.g. seafood)

• 科學家預測，如現時過度捕魚和破壞棲息地的趨勢持續，世界漁業資源和海産到了2048年將會耗盡。

• Scientists predict that world fisheries and seafood populations will collapse by 2048 if current trends in overfishing and habitat destruction are to continue.

• 香港人經常食用的紅衫魚的漁獲量，在過去十年間已經下降了30%，部份原因是南中國海過度捕魚。

• Partly due to overfishing in South China Sea, the catches of a common fish consumed by Hong Kong people, i.e., Golden Threadfin Bream, has declined by 30% over the past 10 years.

人類食用魚翅如何影響海洋生態及扇貝養殖業？
How does the shark fin consumption affects the marine ecology and scallop industry?

鲨鱼数量减少
Number of sharks drops

魔鬼魚數量倍增
Number of stingray increases substantially

魔鬼魚捕食扇貝類，扇貝業大受影響
Stingrays prey on scallops and thus affecting the scallop industry
The Impact of Unsustainable Consumption

Catering paper products (e.g. napkins, paper towels, paper tableware, food packaging)

• Globally, an estimated 70,000 km² of forests are lost each year due to the huge demand for timber and wood products, equivalent to the size of 20 football fields every minute.

• 由於木材和木製產品的需求龐大，估計全球每年有70,000平方公里的森林遭到砍伐，相等於每分鐘有20 個足球場大小的森林消失。
The Impact of Unsustainable Consumption

Palm oil for cooking, Cleaning supplies containing palm oil

1990年至2010年間，印尼、馬來西亞和巴布亞新幾內亞共有約35,000平方公里的雨林因開發棕櫚油種植園而消失，導致許多瀕危物種，例如：犀牛、大象、老虎和猩猩的自然棲息地被破壞。

About 35,000 km² of rainforests in Indonesia, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea were lost for oil palm plantations between 1990 and 2010, causing destruction of natural habitats which were homes for many endangered species, such as rhinos, elephants, tigers and orangutans.
甚麼是可持續使用？
What is Sustainable Consumption?

- 可持續使用並不是避免使用生物資源。
Sustainable consumption is NOT about avoiding the use of biological resources.
截至2015年5月，政府已就150种产品，制订及采用环保采购指引。As of May 2015, the Government has developed and adopted green procurement guidelines for 150 items.

政府自2012年起禁止在本港水域内进行拖网捕捞。
Trawling was banned in Hong Kong waters in 2012 to protect marine resources and ecosystem.

一些例子 Some examples:

高等教育界的可持续采购框架
Sustainable Purchasing for the Higher Education Sector

公务酬酢活动中
采用符合可持续发展概念的环保菜单
Sustainability-conscious Menus at Government Entertainment Functions

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Current Efforts in Hong Kong – Private Sectors

Some examples:

**A large hotel group**

- Self 2012, stopped供应魚翅且不再提供瀕危品種的食材。 *Group-wide ban on shark fin since 2012, and endangered species are removed from food and beverages offerings.*
- Offered sustainable sturgeon caviar that produced from internationally certified caviar farm.
- Target to purchase paper products from certified sustainable sources such as FSC by 2017.

**Theme Park**

- Became Asia's first theme park to use only sustainably sourced seafood in the restaurants and bakery it operates.
- Use MSC-certified seafood to produce fish ball.
香港的現行措施 – 非政府機構
Current Efforts in Hong Kong – NGOs

一些例子 Some examples:

可持續海鮮行動
Sustainable Seafood Movement

- 世界自然基金會 (WWF) 在2007年推出了全港首套海鮮選擇指引，並在2014年推出更新版本。


- 指引羅列了70種香港常見的海鮮品種。

  Covering 70 popular seafood species.

環保採購 Green Purchasing

- 由可持續發展基金資助，香港餐飲聯業協會和環保促進會將制訂「香港餐飲業環保採購指引」，預計於2016年年內完成制訂工作。

  Supported by Sustainable Development Fund, the HKFORT and Green Council planned to establish the “Hong Kong Green Purchasing Guidelines for Food and Beverage (F&B) Sector” by end of 2016.

- 提供涵蓋五方面的環保採購指引：

  - 餐飲食材、餐廳設備、清潔用品、包裝/餐具、廚餘管理

    Guidelines on five areas: Food supplies, Restaurant equipment, Cleaning supplies, Packaging/utensils, Kitchen waste management.

- 從原材料供應、生產、包裝、運送/儲存、消耗/使用、到棄置的過程，都要考慮對環境所構成的各種影響。

- Take into account the environmental impact: raw material extraction, production, packaging, transport/storage, consumption/usage, disposal
我們需要加強行動
More Action is Needed

1. 促進消費者作明智的選擇
   Facilitating Smart Choices for Consumers

2. 推動企業和公營機構採取最佳實踐
   Promoting Best Practices Among Businesses and the Public Sector

3. 教育及宣傳
   Education and Publicity
Facilitating Smart Choices for Consumers

環保標籤 Eco-labels

Information Platforms on Sustainable Sources and Sustainable Products for Consumers

What information would consumers need in order to choose sustainable products?
澳洲的可持續海鮮選擇指南 Australia’s Sustainable Seafood Guide

- 澳洲海洋保育協會針對野生捕撈和水產養殖的可持續性訂下準則。AMCS developed criteria against which to assess the sustainability of wild capture fisheries and farmed seafood.

- 協會也推出了一個免費的智能手機應用程式，以便消費者作出負責任的海產選擇。A mobile app has been developed which enables consumers to make responsible choices more easily.

加拿大的可持續壽司選擇指南 Canada Sustainable Sushi Guide

- 加拿大國家海產計畫 SeaChoice 推出壽司選擇指南，建議市民避免進食瀕危魚種，以保護海洋生態。The SeaChoice programme of Canada has rolled out the sustainable sushi guide, suggesting people to avoid endangered fish species in order to protect the marine ecosystem.
How could the Government/public sector/private sector take the lead in promoting sustainable consumption of biological resources?

What are the drivers for businesses to purchase more sustainable products?
**英國可持續棕櫚油約章 UK Statement on Sustainable Palm Oil**

- 於2012年發起，簽署團體包括政府、石油加工和分銷商、食品和飲料製造商、零售商、動物飼料生產商。
  Initiated in 2012. Signed parties include the government, petroleum process and distributors, food and beverage manufacturers, retailers, animal feed producers.

- 承諾所有政府部門在採購食物貨品時，其所含的棕櫚油需來自可持續來源。
  Committed that all palm oil used for cooking and as an ingredient in food for all government departments must be sustainably produced.

**美國沃爾瑪 Walmart U.S.**

- 在採購棕櫚油和海產方面 Procurement of palm oil and seafood products:
  
  - 現時，在沃爾瑪獨有品牌產品中使用的棕櫚油，有27%是來自可持續來源。
    To date, 27% of palm oil used in the private-label products globally is sustainably sourced.

  - 在沃爾瑪品牌的養殖和野生海產，超过90%已獲海洋管理委員會認證(MSC)、最佳水產養殖模範(BAP)認證或有參與漁業改善計劃。
    More than 90% of Walmart’s farmed and wild seafood has gained Marine Stewardship Certification (MSC) or Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP) Certification, or is engaged in a Fishery Improvement Project.
What kinds of education and publicity activities should be put forward in promoting sustainable consumption of biological resources?
**South Korea – Green Card**

- Encourage the adoption of **sustainable lifestyle**.

- Green card products must carry **eco-label, carbon footprint label or eco-friendly agriculture certification**.

- Over 4.5 million Koreans being card-holders.

**Sustainable Consumption Week in the Mainland**

- **Promote the concept of “Green Life, Consume with Wisdom”**.

- Over 600 chain stores participated in the Sustainable Consumption Week in 2015.
## Public Engagement Activities

### Regional Forums

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>日期及時間</th>
<th>地點</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>19.09.2016 (Mon)</strong> 19:00-22:00</td>
<td>禮頓山社區會堂 Leighton Hill Community Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>24.09.2016 (Sat)</strong> 14:30-17:30</td>
<td>朗屏社區會堂 Long Ping Community Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>27.09.2016 (Tue)</strong> 19:00-22:00</td>
<td>太和鄰里社區中心 Tai Wo Neighbourhood Community Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>21.10.2016 (Fri)</strong> 19:00-22:00</td>
<td>黃大仙社區中心 Wong Tai Sin Community Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>23.10.2016 (Sun)</strong> 14:30-17:30</td>
<td>麗閣社區會堂 Lai Kok Community Hall</td>
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網上報名 Online Registration: [https://www.susdev.org.hk/tc/events.php](https://www.susdev.org.hk/tc/events.php)

電話報名 Registration by phone: **3917-4763 / 2219-4763**
歡迎您提出意見

Your Views Are Welcome