

Reports of Technical Visits / Seminars

Seminar on the Basic Principles of the EIA Process

Date :	13 November 2003
Topic :	Considerations for Mitigating Ecological Impact of Habitat Fragmentation
Speaker :	Dr Bryan Wong, Conservation Officer, AFCD
Venue :	Conference Room, ERM

Summary



On 13 November 2003, Dr. Bryan Wong of AFCD gave an extremely informative presentation on habitat fragmentation. During his presentation, Dr. Wong explained how road networks would act as a barrier to animal movements between patches of habitat as a classical example of habitat fragmentation. He also pointed out that species number would decline as habitat patches reduced in size. In addition, isolating wildlife into smaller populations might cause inbreeding. He further indicated that habitat fragmentation could be mitigated by avoidance of critical areas, realignment or adoption of tunnel/viaduct option. In cases that avoidance could not be achieved by realignment, measures such as over-and underpass for wildlife (Ecoducts), combined passages for traffic, human & small wildlife could be considered.

The audience acknowledged that the subject was relatively new in Hong Kong and there had not been many local examples of mitigation measures specifically designed for mitigating habitat fragmentation. Nonetheless, the audience still participated with great enthusiasm in the discussion session that followed.