Environmental Impact Assessment guides sustainable development at Mandai

Singapore, 26 July 2016 – Mandai Park Holdings (MPH) today gazetted the results of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for its plans to develop Mandai into an integrated nature and wildlife destination that promotes sustainability and wildlife conservation.

In line with international best practice, the EIA, a process by which the potential environmental effects of a proposed development are assessed, was commissioned by MPH to consider environmental risk and protection measures from the outset as the project was being conceptualised.

“We want sustainability and conservation to be at the heart of the Mandai project,” said Mr Mike Barclay, Group CEO of MPH. “As we are committed to being a responsible steward for nature, we made a conscious effort to conduct the EIA at the concept stage of the project to allow key mitigation measures to be built into the design of the new Mandai precinct.”

Situated outside the nature reserve, the total development area for the project is 63.94ha: the sites of the new Bird Park and the Rainforest Park will be developed on impacted land that was formerly occupied by the Mandai Orchid Garden, as well as an abandoned village and farmland; the nature-themed indoor education centre and eco-accommodation options will respectively be located on the site of a multi-storey carpark and back-of-house facilities of the existing Mandai wildlife attractions managed by Wildlife Reserves Singapore.

Key outcomes

Experts worked closely with MPH to develop a concept design, which incorporates measures that will minimise environmental impact following the mitigation hierarchy of “avoid, minimise, manage and compensate”. As a result, these are some of the key measures integrated:

- As part of MPH’s long-term proactive conservation efforts, an Eco-Link across Mandai Lake Road will be constructed to connect the two parcels of the nature reserves on either side of the Mandai Lake Road and facilitate wildlife movement in the nature reserves. The Eco-Link will be constructed in the area adjoining the nature reserves, avoiding any direct impact on vegetation and trees within those reserves.
- The Rainforest Park will be built in the Northern land parcel to better protect the existing forest as the mature trees can be integrated into the park’s design, while the Bird Park will be located on more impacted land in the South.
- Buffer zones, where no construction nor human activity will take place, will be provided between development areas and the nature reserves to minimise disturbance to flora and fauna.
- There will be decentralised arrival plazas across two locations in the West and East of the development, which will spread out visitors by diverting a significant proportion of visitors away from the sensitive areas near the nature reserves.
- A nature-themed indoor education centre, formerly designed to be housed in two different areas, will now be combined into a single building on the site of an existing multi-storey carpark to reduce footprint and avoid impact to an area of important vegetation.
- The pedestrian walkways and boardwalks in the public areas will be constructed to avoid areas of high biodiversity value and facilitate the movement of indigenous wildlife.

Other mitigation measures at the construction and operation phases will include:
A multi-phased approach to reduce impact to species and habitats that will be implemented from the onset of construction through the project lifespan (e.g. Wildlife Protection Plan and Forest Restoration Plan).

Training to all workers onsite to educate them about the ecological sensitivities at the project area and ensure compliance to environmental protocols.

Design and operational protocols to reduce the likelihood of potential escape of species and the introduction of invasive species.

The mitigation measures for the project will be captured in an Environmental Management and Monitoring Plan (EMMP) and further assessment will be carried out as the project progresses to ensure that it remains relevant.

An Environmental Advisory Panel comprising external subject matter experts will also be set up to monitor the effective implementation of the EMMP during the construction and operation phases, and advise on necessary modifications made to the project if required.

With the mitigation measures and key changes undertaken, the majority of the impact factors cited in the EIA would be reduced to a level where the majority of impact can be reduced to a residual impact of small or below.

**A collaborative journey**

The EIA, which was conducted by global consultancy firm Environmental Resources Management (ERM), was developed through an ongoing consultation process involving multiple stakeholders, including nature groups and government agencies.

The National University of Singapore provided technical advice and oversight, led by Prof Peter Ng and Prof Leo Tan from the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum. Local experts and academics were also actively involved and helped to collect and analyse the biodiversity data.

Project planners met regularly with nature groups since the Mandai project was initiated and their feedback and suggestions have been incorporated in the latest draft of the EIA report where possible.

"We will continue to actively involve and engage the stakeholders to thoughtfully design the new parks, not just to minimise the impact but also to enhance the biodiversity on-site,” said Ms. Neo Gim Huay, Managing Director of Enterprise Development and Sustainability, Temasek International. "We would like the rejuvenated Mandai nature precinct to be a destination for all Singaporeans and a gold standard for environmental sustainability."

MPH continues to welcome suggestions from the public on the rejuvenation of Mandai. Members of the public will have from now to 22 August 2016 to view and provide feedback on the full EIA report. The report can be viewed at [www.mandai.com/eia](http://www.mandai.com/eia) or in-person at River Safari Tea House outside of the River Safari, 80 Mandai Lake Road, Singapore 729826 by registering through the website or booking an appointment by calling 68286135.
About Mandai Park Holdings (MPH)

MPH is driving the rejuvenation of Mandai into an integrated nature and wildlife destination. MPH also oversees the business and strategic development of Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS), the operator of Singapore’s award-winning Jurong Bird Park, Night Safari, River Safari and Singapore Zoo. For more details about the proposed concept for the rejuvenation of Mandai, please visit www.mandai.com.

About Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS)

Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS) is the holding company of the award-winning attractions Jurong Bird Park, Night Safari, River Safari and Singapore Zoo. WRS is dedicated to the management of world-class leisure attractions that foster conservation and research while educating visitors about animals and their habitats. A self-funded organisation, WRS also collaborates with various partners, organisations and institutions aimed at protecting local and global biodiversity.

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