

THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Committee on Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development

Tree Preservation Guidelines

Preamble

1. The Tree Preservation Guidelines are provided to all departments/units and the staff members to inform them of the details and requirements of the University's Tree Preservation Policy:

'The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) endeavors to preserve the beautiful natural environment of its campus and, as far as practicable, to protect all its trees. It seeks to minimize destruction and damage to trees in the course of campus development.'

General Principles and Practices

Care of Trees

2. The Estates Management Office provides routine irrigation, trimming, fertilizer application and pest control for trees on campus.
3. During the course of campus development, CUHK will take reasonable and practicable measures to avoid felling, damaging or risking the survival of any tree of conservation value on campus. Transplanting might be considered if such trees cannot be preserved in situ.

Maintenance of Trees at Risk from Work Activities

4. Where work activities take place in the vicinity of trees of conservation value, the following measures should be adopted:
 - Such trees should be tagged, numbered, photographed and fenced.
 - Contractors should be alerted to their obligation to protect such trees, and follow the relevant guidelines of the Development Bureau of the HKSAR Government.
5. If work activities are likely to impinge upon trees other than those of conservation value, the following precautionary principles should apply:
 - The pruning of segmental roots and branches and the repair/rectification of trees should be undertaken by qualified tree specialists.
 - Such works should be monitored by the works department concerned.

Statutory Duty to Regulate Tree Felling

6. The responsible works department must submit prior to the commencement of work, except in the event of an emergency or safety risk, a plan showing how trees at the work site will be affected and, if tree felling is unavoidable, apply to the relevant authorities for consent or permission.
7. It is the responsibility of the works department to observe all statutory requirements imposed by the HKSAR Government and to undertake any tree surveys or studies and propose compensatory planting schemes as required.

Compensatory Planting

8. The following principles should apply in compensatory planting:
 - Native tree species should be preferred as a matter of principle. Under special circumstances, and subject to the approval of the HKSAR Government and other relevant authorities, exotic species might be considered.
 - Any works department which takes over from the contractor must be satisfied that the number and status of trees planted are in compliance with the requirements of the final compensatory scheme/plan approved by the HKSAR Government.

Reporting to the Committee on Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development

9. The works department should submit an annual report every February to the Committee on Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development on the following:
 - completed work activities involving the felling or replanting of trees that took place during the previous calendar year; and
 - summary data of trees either felled or planted, including the number, location, species and other details considered relevant by the works department.

(March 2023)