

THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

TREE PRESERVATION ON CAMPUS

Principle

The University endeavours to care for and protect trees and preserve a green environment on the CUHK campus, and to take reasonable and practicable measures to avoid and minimise felling and damage of trees in the course of campus development.

Habitat Map

The University recognises the necessity and importance of having a habitat map with information on the distribution of trees of conservation value on campus for campus planning. Noting the absence of such a map and related information, the University will request relevant Departments/Units

1. to collate and compile data/information from previous tree survey/felling reports to form the basis of the habitat map to be prepared;
2. to undertake a campus-wide vegetation survey for preparing the habitat map; and
3. to undertake, as quickly as reasonably practicable, a campuswide survey of trees of conservation value which includes protected tree species as stipulated by the government, any tree with a diameter of 500 mm or above at breast height (DBH), and any tree of historical value including those planted by a donor or on a special occasion.

Care of Trees of Conservation Value

The University will update the inventory of trees of conservation value and other related information once every three years with particular reference to their occurrence, species composition and health status. Such information will be used to prepare the habitat map and inform decisions on campus planning and development.

In the course of campus development, the University will take reasonable and practicable measures to avoid felling, damaging or risking the survival of any tree of conservation value on campus. Transplanting should be considered if such trees cannot be preserved in situ. If felling is absolutely unavoidable, the works department should seek, prior to the commencement of work, the approval of the Campus Landscaping Enhancement Committee (CLEC) which must be satisfied that the extent of destruction is already kept to a minimum and the proposed compensatory scheme adequate.

The relevant works department will keep the Committee on Campus Environment (CCE) informed of any approval(s) obtained from the CLEC regarding the felling and compensation of trees of conservation value. Such information should include where, when, how many and what species of trees will be felled and what compensatory measures will be provided.

Statutory Consent of Tree Felling as Required by the Government

If the proposed project does not impinge on trees of conservation value, the responsible works department nevertheless must submit, prior to the commencement of work, a plan on how trees at the work site will be affected for vetting of the CLEC which must be satisfied that tree felling has been kept to a minimum.

The works department can then apply directly to the relevant authorities for the consent/permit for the felling of trees. It is the responsibility of the works department to observe all statutory requirements stipulated by the Hong Kong SAR Government and undertake any tree surveys or studies and propose compensatory planting schemes as required.

The relevant works department will keep CCE informed of any consent or permit obtained from the statutory authorities. Such information should include where, when, how many and what species of trees will be felled and what compensatory measures will be provided.

Compensatory Planting

The following principles should apply in compensatory planting:

1. While exotic species should not be excluded for special reasons or purposes, native tree species should be preferred as a matter of principle.
2. The number of trees planted should be more than adequate to compensate for the trees lost in terms of the aggregate DBH.
3. Any works department which takes over from the contractor must be satisfied that the number and status of trees planted are compliant with the requirements of any previously approved compensatory scheme/plan.

Care and Maintenance of Trees At Risk from Construction Activities

Where construction activities take place in the vicinity of trees of conservation value, the following measures should be adopted:

1. Such trees should be tagged, numbered, photographed and fenced.
2. Contractors should be alerted of the obligation to protect such trees and fore-warned of the penalty if such trees are intentionally or inadvertently damaged or destroyed.
3. Appropriate penalty clauses should be built into the works contract.

If construction activities are likely to impinge upon trees other than those of conservation value, the following precautionary principles should apply:

1. The pruning of segmental roots and branches and the repair/rectification of trees should be undertaken by qualified tree specialists.
2. Such works should be monitored by the works department concerned.

Periodic Reports to CCE

The works department should report to CCE at least once every 12 months on the following:

1. projects/plans of tree felling and/or replanting that have taken place during the report period;
2. summary data of where, when and what (number, age, species) of trees felled;
3. the number, age, whereabouts and species of trees planted; and
4. summary findings of post-planting monitoring exercises.

Way Forward

The University administration will

1. promulgate the Policy to relevant Departments/Units and to the wider University community, and
2. take measures to enhance communication with members of the University on salient tree preservation matters.

香港中文大學

校園樹木保育政策

宗旨

大學致力保育樹木及保護校園的綠化環境，採取合理及可行的方法避免及盡量減少於校園發展過程中砍伐及損害樹木。

生境地圖

大學確認一個標明校園內具有"保育價值"樹木分佈的生境地圖對校園規劃的重要性。有鑑於大學現時沒有此類生境地圖及相關資料，大學將要求有關部門/單位：

1. 校對及匯編以往有關樹木調查/砍伐報告中的資料，以作為生境地圖的基礎；
2. 進行一個整體校園的植物調查以編纂生境地圖；
3. 在可行的情況下盡快進行一個整體校園有關樹木保育價值的調查，其中包括政府所指定的受保護樹木品種，任何胸徑達 500 毫米或以上的樹木，及任何具歷史價值的樹木，包括由捐贈者或於特別場合下栽種的樹木。

保護具保育價值的樹木

大學將每三年更新具保育價值樹木的詳細目錄及其生長地點、品種成份、以至健康狀況的資料。這些資料將會用作編纂生境地圖及制定校園規劃及發展的方案。在校園發展的過程中，大學將採取合理及可行的措施去避免砍伐及損壞校園內任何具保育價值的樹木或危害其生命。如這些樹木不能被保留原處，大學定會考慮移植。如砍伐是絕對不能避免的話，工程部門定要於工程展開前獲得校園景觀美化委員會的批准，證明已採取適當措施將工程的破壞減至最低，及提出適當的補償方案。

工程部門將通知校園環境委員會有關校園景觀美化委員會對具保育價值樹木的砍伐及補償方案的任何批准。有關資料應包括將被砍伐的具保育價值樹木的生長地點、砍伐時間、數目、品種，以及補償方案。

政府法定的樹木砍伐批核

縱然提出的計劃沒有對具保育價值的樹木構成威脅，負責的工程部門仍須於工程展開前提交有關工程對地盤內樹木所造成的影響，讓校園景觀美化委員會作檢核，證明工程已盡量減少砍伐樹木。工程部門隨後可直接向有關管理當局申請批准砍伐樹木。工程部門有責任遵守所有香港特別行政區政府的法定要求，進行樹木調查或研究與及提出補償方案。

工程部門將通知校園環境委員會有關法定當局有任何砍伐樹木的批核。資料應包括將被砍伐樹木的生長地點、砍伐時間、數目、品種，以及補償方案。

代償性栽種

以下的原則應用於代償性栽種：

1. 不應因特別原因或用途而完全排除外來的品種，但仍應以本地品種為優先。
2. 以樹木胸徑的方法計算樹木損失的數量，然後栽種相等或更多的樹木作為補償。
3. 工程部門在接收承辦商的工程時，必須確認新栽種樹木的數量和情況符合補償方案的要求。

因建築工程而可能受損害的樹木

當建築工程於具保育價值的樹木附近進行時，應採取以下措施：

1. 為樹木加上標籤及編號，並拍照及以籬笆圍繞。
2. 提醒承辦商保護該樹木的責任及預先通知承辦商故意或非故意地損壞或損毀樹木的刑罰。
3. 在工程合約內加入適當懲罰性條款。

如建築工程可能對不具保育價值的樹木造成破壞時，應實施以下預防性原則：

1. 由合資格的樹木專家修剪樹根及樹枝和執行修補/矯正樹木的工作。
2. 由有關的工程部門監管以上工作。

定期向校園環境委員會遞交報告

工程部門應最少每十二個月向校園環境委員會報告一次以下各項：

1. 報告覆蓋期間已實行的砍伐及移植樹木計劃；
2. 已被砍伐樹木的生長地點、砍伐時間、數目、樹齡及品種的資料總結；
3. 新種植樹木的數目、樹齡、種植地點及品種；及
4. 種植後的監管工作摘要。

未來方向

大學行政當局將會：

1. 向有關部門/單位及大學各社團公佈樹木保育政策；及
2. 採取措施加強與大學各成員在樹木保育重點事宜的溝通。