



11th Post-transplantation Monitoring and Audit Report (16th June 2023)

Northeast New Territories Landfill Extension (NENTX) | Contract No. EP/SP/77/15

0092/22/ED/0385 02 | 23 June 2023

Formal Submission

Veolia Environmental Services Hong Kong Limited



Our Ref.: CL/91823/0552-VES
Date: 13 July 2023

By Email

Veolia Environmental Services Hong Kong Limited
40/F, One Taikoo Place
979 King's Road
Quarry Bay
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Attn.: Mr. Colin Mitchell

**Meinhardt Infrastructure and
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Dear Sir

Re: Contract No. EP/SP/77/15
North-East New Territories Landfill Extension (NENTX)
11th Post-Transplantation Monitoring Report (16 June 2023)

I refer to Conditions 2.7 and 2.9 under Environmental Permit No. EP-292/2007 and Conditions 2.5 and 2.7 of Further Environmental Permit No. FEP-01/292/2007, regarding the submission of Post-Transplantation Monitoring Report. I hereby verify the captioned "11th Post-Transplantation Monitoring Report (16 June 2023)" dated 23 June 2023.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at 2859 5409.

Yours faithfully
MEINHARDT INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT LTD



Claudine Lee
Independent Environmental Checker

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Ref: P521530-0000-REV-NN-0060

By Email

06 July 2023

Meinhardt Infrastructure & Environment Ltd.
10/F Genesis
33-35 Wong Chuk Hand Road
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Attn: Ms. Claudine Lee,

Dear Claudine,

Re: Contract No. EP/SP/77/15
Northeast New Territories Landfill Extension
Submission of 11th Post-Transplantation Monitoring Report (16 June 2023)

In accordance with the requirement specified in Conditions 2.7 and 2.9 of Environmental Permit No. EP-292/2007 and Conditions 2.5 and 2.7 of Further Environmental Permit No. FEP-01/292/2007, we are pleased to submit the certified "11th Post-Transplantation Monitoring Report (16 June 2023)" dated on 23 June 2023 for your verification.

Should you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned or our Mr. Keith Chau on 3664 6788.

Yours faithfully,
For and on behalf of
Aurecon Hong Kong Limited

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Fredrick Leong".

Fredrick Leong
Environmental Team Leader

Encl.

1. 11th Post-Transplantation Monitoring Report (16 June 2023)

cc.

1. IEC - Ms. Claudine Lee (By email: claudinelee@meinhardt.com.hk)
2. IEC Representative – Ms. Echo Hung (By email: echohung@meinhardt.com.hk)

Document Control

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Client Contact	Mr. William Wan
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Project

- 1.1.1 The North East New Territories Landfill Extension (the NENTX Project) is a designated project. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report was approved (AEIAR-111/2007) with conditions on 20 September 2007 and the Environmental Permit (EP) EP-292/2007 (the "EP") was issued on 26 November 2007. Moreover, a Further Environmental Permit FEP-01/292/2007 (the "FEP") was also issued under the EIA Ordinance on 28 April 2022.
- 1.1.2 The transplantation works were conducted in fulfilment of Conditions 2.7 and 2.9 of the EP and Conditions 2.5 and 2.7 of the FEP and in accordance with the approved Transplantation Proposal for Plant Species of Conservation Importance (Rev.1) (NENTX-FUG-RP-E-EM-002-I02) (the "approved Proposal"). The Transplantation Report (NENTX-AURE-RP-ZZ-E-007-I-I01) was prepared by a qualified ecologist certified by the Environmental Team (ET) Leader and Independent Environmental Checker (IEC) in accordance with Condition 2.7 of the EP and Condition 2.5 of the FEP.
- 1.1.3 The Transplantation Report details the methodology of the transplantation activities. The actual transplantation works for the plant species of conservation importance was described along with the post-transplantation maintenance. The post-transplantation monitoring and audit and the implementation programme was also detailed. The vegetation survey which investigated the plant species of conservation importance before the transplantation work was detailed in the approved Transplantation Proposal.
- 1.1.4 Before the transplantation activities, a detailed vegetation survey was conducted by direct observation to record the plant species of conservation importance present in NENTX. A total of four floral species of conservation importance were identified within the Project Site, namely Incense Tree *Aquilaria sinensis*, Endospermum *Endospermum chinense*, Lamb of Tartary *Cibotium barometz* and Bottlebrush Orchid *Goodyera procera*. Individuals that were directly impacted by the proposed construction of NENTX Landfill had been selected for transplantation. More details to be found in the approved Transplantation Proposal.
- 1.1.5 Based on the findings of the detailed vegetation survey and verification survey, three plant species of conservation importance were considered suitable for transplantation, i.e., two nos. of Incense Tree saplings, one cluster of Lamb of Tartary, and 19 clusters of Bottlebrush Orchid. The transplantation works was carried out by a landscape contractor and supervised by a qualified ecologist. The qualified ecologist has at least five years of relevant experience in transplantation and/or vegetation survey and assessment and is also an ISA Certified Arborist.

- 1.1.6 The three plant species of conservation importance were transplanted to suitable receptor sites. To further safeguard these species, the selected receptor sites were within or adjacent to the facilities managed by the Contractor. Moreover, the similarity in site conditions between the collection site and receptor site and the accessibility of the receptor for future maintenance and monitoring were also considered in the selection. More details to be found in the Transplantation Report.
- 1.1.7 All the transplanted individuals will be maintained by the Contractor for 12 months (establishment period) after planting to the receptor sites in accordance with Section 4 of the approved Proposal. Moreover, their survival and growth will be monitored by a qualified ecologist or botanist of Fugro in accordance with Section 5 of the approved Proposal.

1.2 Purpose of this Document

- 1.2.1 This 11th Post-transplantation Monitoring Report (the "Report") was prepared to present the survival and growth of plant species of conservation importance after transplantation works. Moreover, key maintenance activities conducted this reporting month and recommendations on post-transplantation maintenance are presented in this Report.
- 1.2.2 The post-transplantation monitoring and audit of the transplanted plant species of conservation importance was carried out in accordance with Section 5 of the approved Transplantation Proposal.

1.3 Structure of this Document

Succeeding this introductory section, the remainder of this Report is presented as follows:

- Section 2 details the monitoring results, including the key maintenance activities conducted this reporting month;
- Section 3 presents the succeeding post-transplantation monitoring schedule; and
- Section 4 summarizes the findings of the post-transplantation monitoring and way forward.

2. MONITORING RESULTS

Following the transplantation works on 10 November 2022, the 11th post-transplantation monitoring and audit was carried out on 16 June 2023 to check the condition of the transplanted plant individuals.

2.1 Condition of the Transplanted Individuals

- 2.1.1 The majority of the transplanted individuals of the 19 clusters of Bottlebrush Orchid *Goodyera procera* were in fair to good condition with only minor health issues observed in some individuals, i.e., slightly chlorotic leaves and presences of holes in the leaves. However, three individuals (GP05, GP11, GP19) were dead and two (GP03, GP18) were missing in the current monitoring period. This could be due to disturbance from wild animals or the heavy rainfall.
- 2.1.2 The Lamb of Tartary *Cibotium barometz* is in good condition. The new foliage is now very established and have been growing steadily.
- 2.1.3 The two saplings of the Incense Tree *Aquilaria sinensis* both demonstrated poor health conditions with die back and fallen leaves.
- 2.1.4 Albeit strict compliance of the transplantation works and post-transplantation maintenance to the approved Transplantation Proposal, transplanted individuals would require time to adapt and establish in the new environment/substrate of the receptor site. Hence, signs of leaf discoloration and/or wilting, dehydration, and even die-off are expected. Thus, succeeding post-transplantation maintenance and monitoring and audit are crucial to assess the progress of recovery and establishment of transplanted individuals in the receptor site.
- 2.1.5 The dead or missing individuals of Bottlebrush Orchid *Goodyera procera* could have been a result of wild animal disturbance or heavy rainfall.
- 2.1.6 The numbers, measurements, and health conditions of the transplanted plant species of conservation importance during the current monitoring period are shown in **Appendix A**.
- 2.1.7 The photographic records of the transplanted plant species of conservation importance during the current monitoring period are shown in **Appendix B**.

2.2 Key Maintenance Activities Conducted in The Reporting Month

- 2.2.1 The key maintenance activities carried out for the current reporting month are the following:
- Watering frequency of the two Incense Tree saplings was 2-3 times per week. The watering dates were 15 May, 17 May, 19 May, 22 May, 26 May, 29 May, 2 June, 5 June, 9 June, 12 June, 16 June.
 - The watering frequency of the cluster of Lamb of Tartary was 2 times a week. The watering dates 15 May, 19 May, 22 May, 26 May, 29 May, 2 June, 5 June, 9 June, 12 June, 16 June.

- Once a week watering of Bottlebrush Orchid. The watering dates were 15 May, 22 May, 29 May, 5 June, 12 June.
- Manual removal of weeds when observed during watering activities; and
- Checking of insect attacks and/or fungal infestation during watering activities.
- Pruning of wilted foliage of the cluster of Lamb of Tartary.
- Reinforcing fence of the two Incense Tree saplings.

2.3 Recommendation on Post-Transplantation Maintenance

Immediately after the monitoring and audit activity, the following post-transplantation maintenance was discussed with the Contractor for their prompt implementation:

- The watering frequency for the two saplings of Incense Tree should be maintained at 2-3 times a week. Improve/place organic mulch around the two saplings of Incense Tree to retain soil moisture, protect damaged roots against extreme temperatures, and improve soil quality.
- The watering frequency of the cluster of Lamb of Tartary should be maintained at twice a week. Wilted leaves and stems should be pruned away.
- The watering frequency for all 19 clusters of Bottlebrush Orchid should remain the same. During watering activities, the surrounding dead branches and dry leaves should be removed to ensure no plants are damaged by them.
- Weed around the two Incense Tree saplings should be removed.
- The clusters of Bottlebrush Orchid *Goodyera procera* should be reinforced to prevent them from being washed away by heavy rain.

3. POST-TRANSPLANTATION MONITORING SCHEDULE

- 3.1.1 As per Section 10.3 and Table 10.1 of the EM&A Manual, the survival and growth of the transplanted species will be monitored by a qualified ecologist or botanist at least twice a month during the first three months after transplantation and once a month in the following nine months.
- 3.1.2 As the monitoring had been conducted twice a month in December, January, and February, the forthcoming monitoring and audit activities will be conducted monthly until October 2023.
- 3.1.3 The need for any further monitoring will be reviewed and determined according to the monitoring results of the 12-month monitoring.

4. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

- 4.1.1 The health of the transplanted individuals of Bottlebrush Orchid were mostly in fair to good condition, but five individuals were dead or missing. The death and missing of individuals could be caused by wild animal disturbance and heavy rainfall. The two individuals of Incense Tree saplings were both in poor health condition. The individuals had dieback and fallen leaves. This could be due to transplantation shock brought about by the changes in the environment and the individual has not acclimated to these changes yet. Lastly, the transplanted cluster of Lamb of Tartary is now in good health condition. The new foliage is growing steadily and are becoming more established. As aforementioned, it takes time for newly transplanted plants to grow accustomed to the new environment of the recipient site. Therefore, signs of leaf discoloration and/or wilting, dehydration, and even die-off are expected.
- 4.1.2 It is recommended to pay additional attention to the health conditions of the Bottlebrush Orchid and the Incense Tree saplings. Moreover, should there be drastic change in the health conditions of these individuals observed during post-transplantation maintenance activities, the Contractor is advised to immediately advise the ecologist to discuss possible remedial actions.

Appendix A

Conditions of Transplanted Plant
Species of Conservation
Importance

16/6/2023

Post-Transplantation Monitoring
Conditions of Transplanted Plants at Receptor Sites

Date of Submission: _____

P. of _____

Surveyor: _____

Date of Monitoring and Maintenance	Receptor Site	No.	Species	Plant Size Measurements			Amenity Value (High/ Medium/ Low)	Form (Good/ Fair/ Poor)	Health Condition (Good/ Fair/ Poor)	Structural Condition (Good/ Fair/ Poor)	Recommendation on Post-Transplantation Maintenance	Key Maintenance Activities Conducted	Remark
				DBH (mm)	Crown Spread (m)	Height (m) cm							
16/6/2023	A	A602	A. sinensis			115			poor				no foliage
16/6/2023	A	A603	A. sinensis			175			poor				no foliage
16/6/2023	B	B601	G. brachymeris			55			good				growing fast
16/6/2023	B	GP01	G. procera			15			good				
16/6/2023	B	GP02	G. procera			13			good				
16/6/2023	B	GP03	G. procera			—			—				missing
16/6/2023	B	GP04	G. procera			14			good				
16/6/2023	B	GP05	G. procera			—			dead				dead
16/6/2023	B	GP06	G. procera			22			fair				chlorotic leaf
16/6/2023	B	GP07	G. procera			12			fair				chlorotic leaf
16/6/2023	B	GP08	G. procera			14			good				
16/6/2023	B	GP09	G. procera			16			good				
16/6/2023	B	GP10	G. procera			20			fair				chlorotic leaf
16/6/2023	B	GP11	G. procera			—			dead				dead
16/6/2023	B	GP12	G. procera			10			fair				partially wilted leaf
16/6/2023	B	GP13	G. procera			7			fair				chlorotic leaf
16/6/2023	B	GP14	G. procera			7			fair				chlorotic leaf
16/6/2023	B	GP15	G. procera			17			fair				hole in leaf
16/6/2023	B	GP16	G. procera			13			good				
16/6/2023	B	GP17	G. procera			13			fair				chlorotic leaf
16/6/2023	B	GP18	G. procera			—			—				missing
16/6/2023	B	GP19	G. procera			—			dead				dead

Note:

- Measurements of spread and DBH are not applicable for undersized tree, shrubs, herbs and ferns.

Appendix B

Photographic Records of Transplanted Plant Species

B.1 Incense Tree *Aquilaria sinensis*



Photo B.1.1 : General view of the transplanted individual AS-03.



Photo B.1.2 : Stem condition of the transplanted individual AS-03.



Photo B.1.3 : General view of the transplanted individual AS-02.



Photo B.1.4 : Stem condition of the transplanted individual AS-02.

B.2 Lamb of Tartary *Cibotium barometz*



Photo B.2.1. : General view of the transplanted individual CB-01.



Photo B.2.2. : New foliage of the transplanted individual CB-01.



Photo B.2.3. : Leaf condition of the new foliage.



Photo B.2.4. : Leaf condition of the new foliage.

B.3 Bottlebrush Orchid *Goodyera procera*



Photo B.3.1: Individual GP-01.



Photo B.3.2: Individual GP-01.



Photo B.3.3: Individual GP-02.



Photo B.3.4: Individual GP-04.

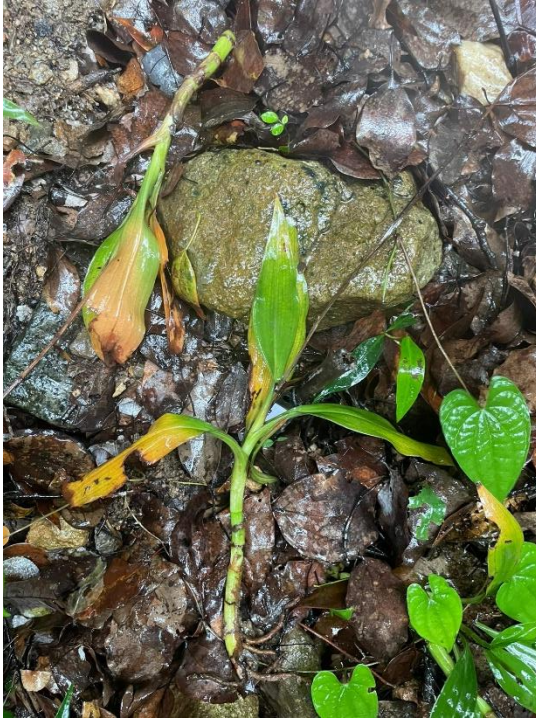


Photo B.3.5: Individual GP-05. Dead.



Photo B.3.6: Individual GP-06. Wilted flower.



Photo B.3.7: Individual GP-07.



Photo B.3.8: Individual GP-08.



Photo B.3.9: Individual GP-09.



Photo B.3.10: Individual GP-10.



Photo B.3.11: Individual GP-11. Dead.

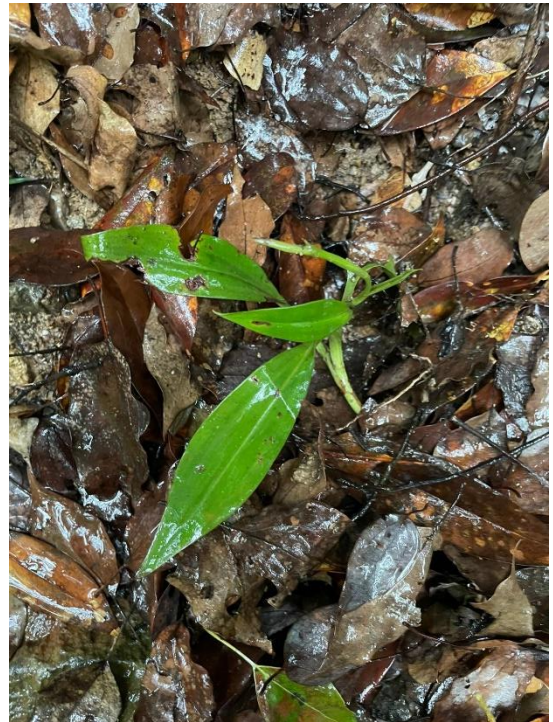


Photo B.3.12: Individual GP-12. Partially wilted leaf.



Photo B.3.13: Individual GP-13.

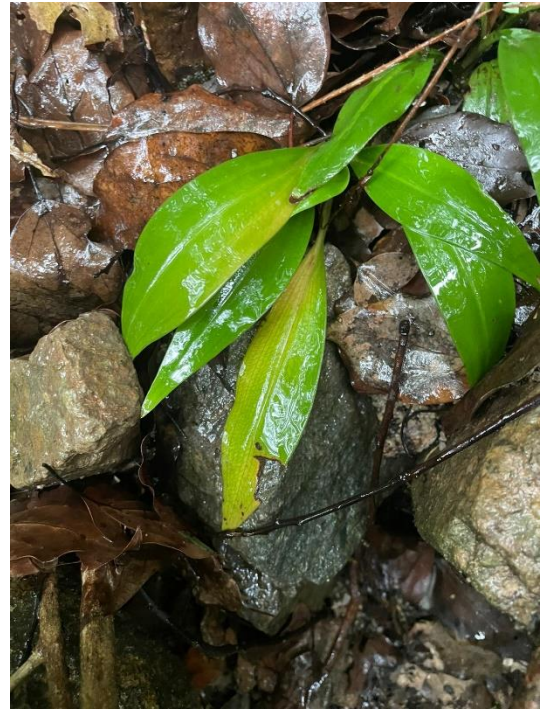


Photo B.3.14: Individual GP-13. Chlorotic leaves.



Photo B.3.15: Individual GP-14.



Photo B.3.16: Individual GP-15.



Photo B.3.17: Individual GP-16.



Photo B.3.18: Individual GP-17.



Photo B.3.19: Individual GP-19. Dead.