

10.5 Mitigation Measures

10.5.1 Aquatic Ecology

10.5.1.1 Measures for preventing deterioration of water quality during the construction phase have been detailed in Section 4 of this report. Water quality will be acceptable with those mitigation measures in place, so no specific mitigation measures for water quality is proposed in this chapter. The direct losses of sea beds and seawalls required no mitigation measures.

10.5.2 Terrestrial Ecology

10.5.2.1 Since the impacts to the terrestrial fauna were considered minor, no mitigation measures are required. Since the impacts to the avifauna roosting and foraging in the coastal habitats were considered minor, no mitigation measures are required.

10.6 Residual Impacts

10.6.1 Aquatic Ecology

10.6.1.1 The residual impacts as a result of construction and operation of the Southeast Kowloon New Development project include:

- Permanent loss of 127 ha of low ecological value seabed in Kai Tak Approach Channel and Kowloon Bay. This impact is to be considered as minor since the lost seabed was basically abiotic.
- Net permanent loss of 3.6 km of low ecological value artificial vertical seawall. Due to the low ecological value of the present seawall and a partial offset of the loss by a gain of rubble-mounted seawall of greater ecological value, the impact is considered as minor.

10.6.1.2 No residual impacts upon the black corals, soft corals, gorgonians and sea pens in Green Island, Pak Kok and south Tsing Yi, nor on the Indo-Pacific Hump-Backed Dolphin in South Lantau waters, would be expected.

10.6.1.3 Overall potential residual impacts on aquatic ecology would therefore be within acceptable levels. There would be no insurmountable ecological impacts to the environment due to the SEKD development.

10.6.2 Terrestrial Ecology

10.6.2.1 Residual impacts include net loss of grassland habitats. Some of the short grass areas lost to the SEKD will be replaced by new habitats in the large metropolitan park included in the SEKD. The total area of the open spaces in SEKD will be about 127 ha, including the 24 ha Metropolitan Park. It is expected that most of the fauna recorded during the field surveys will be able to inhabit the re-developed area. Residual impacts to the fauna were therefore considered minor. With proper designs (e.g., large vegetation cover, inclusion of native plant species bearing berries) and elements (e.g., lakes, nest boxes), the park can provide more diverse habitats for many bird species than those lost to the SEKD.