Controlling officer: the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation will account for expenditure under this Head.

Estimate 2013–14	\$1,579.2m
Establishment ceiling 2013–14 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 2 032 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2013 rising by two posts to 2 034 posts as at 31 March 2014	\$558.6m
In addition, there will be an estimated eight directorate posts as at 31 March 2013 and as at 31 March 2014.	
Commitment balance	\$770.0m

Controlling Officer's Report

Programmes

Programme (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets	This programme contributes to Policy Area 2: Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety (Secretary for Food and Health).
Programme (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks	This programme contributes to Policy Area 5: Travel and Tourism (Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development) and Policy Area 23: Environmental Protection, Conservation, Power and Sustainable Development (Secretary for the Environment).
Programme (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services	This programme contributes to Policy Area 2: Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety (Secretary for Food and Health), Policy Area 22: Buildings, Lands, Planning, Heritage Conservation, Greening and Landscape (Secretary for Development) and Policy Area 32: Environmental Hygiene (Secretary for Food and Health).

Detail

Programme (1): Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

2013–14 (Estimate)	2012–13 (Revised)	2012–13 (Original)	2011–12 (Actual)	
753.4 (-37.7%)	1,209.9 (-14.8%)	1,420.4	200.0	Financial provision (\$m)
(or -47.0% on				

⁽or -47.0% on 2012–13 Original)

Aim

2 The aim is to facilitate agricultural and fisheries production and improve productivity.

Brief Description

- 3 The Department's work in pursuit of its aim involves:
- the provision of infrastructural support, technical assistance and advice, credit facilities and vocational training to local farmers and fishermen;
- the conduct of adaptive and technical studies and introduction of modern technology and practices to local farmers and fishermen to facilitate their efficient production and improve the quality of their products;
- the planning and implementation of effective management activities and services for promoting sustainable development of the agriculture and fisheries industries;
- the provision of administrative and technical support to the operation of the Vegetable Marketing Organization and the Fish Marketing Organization; and
- the management of government fresh food wholesale markets.

4 The key performance measures in respect of agriculture, fisheries and fresh food wholesale markets are:

Targets

	Targets	2011 (Actual)	2012 (Actual)	2013 (Plan)
Agriculture accredited vegetable farms (total no.)# (total hectares)β	305 3 000	296 2 760	299 2 760	305 3 000
Fisheries accredited fish farms (total no.)Ω	112	105	107	112

The target has been revised from 300 to 305 with effect from 2013.

 β The target has been revised from 2 760 to 3 000 with effect from 2013.

 Ω The target has been revised from 110 to 112 with effect from 2013.

Indicators

	2011 (Actual)	2012 (Actual)	2013 (Estimate)
Agriculture	()	()	()
composite productivity index (100 in 1985)	148	157	157
production	-		_
vegetables (tonnes)	16 300	16 300	16 300
(\$m)	83.0	87.0	87.0
livestock (tonnes)	18 200	19 500	19 500
(\$m)	490.0	500.0	500.0
(\$m) throughput at Vegetable Marketing Organization market			
(tonnes)	153 274	146 450	148 000
(tonnes) (\$m)	937.4	1,004.9	967.1
new loans	<i>JJ</i> /. 4	1,004.9	J 07.1
(no.)	75	78	78
(\$m)	6.7	7.0	7.0
Fisheries	0.7	7.0	7.0
production			
capture (tonnes)	171 000	155 230	155 230
(\$m)	2,358.0	2,316.0	2,316.0
culture (tonnes)	3 560	3 697	3 697
(\$m)	155.0	181.0	181.0
throughput at Fish Marketing Organization markets			
(tonnes)	43 600	42 800	42 800
(\$m)	1,975.2	2,271.6	2,271.6
new loans			
(no.)	671	355	390
(\$m)	74.6	65.9	190.0
Government fresh food wholesale markets			
annual throughput (tonnes)	500 000	510 000	510 000
rental market stall space occupied (%)	90.2	90.7	90.7
area of wholesale markets managed (m ²)	295 645	295 645	295 645
requests for assistance handled (no.)	14 848	23 086	16 000
inspections conducted daily (no.)	201	200	210
recovery of rentable revenue in Cheung Sha Wan			
Wholesale Food Market and Western Wholesale	01.7	001	00 0
Food Market (%)	91.7	92.1	92.0

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2013–14

- **5** During 2013–14, the Department will give emphasis to:
- taking follow-up actions on the implementation of the legislation to ban trawling and better regulate fishing activities in Hong Kong waters, and continuing to implement other recommendations of the Committee on Sustainable Fisheries, with the aim of conserving and restoring marine resources;
- assisting farmers to capture high-value market niches by providing technical advice on organic cultivation and intensive greenhouse production;

- setting up the sustainable fisheries development fund to assist fishermen to adopt a sustainable and high value-added operation mode and subsidise relevant programmes and research so as to enhance the overall competitiveness of the industry;
- assisting fishermen to switch to sustainable fisheries operations and fish farmers to develop sustainable aquaculture through technical support services and credit facilities, including offering free training on sustainable fisheries operations and implementing a pilot fish hatchery scheme; and
- promoting good aquaculture practices and stepping up monitoring of aquaculture environment and fish health management.

Programme (2): Nature Conservation and Country Parks

	2011–12 (Actual)	2012–13 (Original)	2012–13 (Revised)	2013–14 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	506.8	531.0	531.2 (—)	552.1 (+3.9%)

⁽or +4.0% on 2012–13 Original)

Aim

6 The aim is to conserve flora, fauna and natural habitats; to designate and manage country parks, special areas, marine parks and marine reserves; and to control international trade in endangered species of animals and plants in Hong Kong.

Brief Description

- 7 The Department's work in pursuit of its aim involves:
- the management and protection of country parks, special areas, marine parks and marine reserves under the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208) and the Marine Parks Ordinance (Cap. 476) for the purpose of nature conservation, recreation, nature based tourism and education;
- the enhancement of biodiversity and promotion of compatible use of country and marine parks;
- the identification of sites of high scientific value for listing as Sites of Special Scientific Interest;
- the provision of nature conservation advice on development proposals, planning studies and environmental impact assessments;
- the monitoring and auditing of ecological mitigation measures for development projects approved under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Cap. 499);
- the promotion of public awareness of nature conservation and enforcement of nature conservation legislation;
- the licensing control of international trade in endangered species and curbing of illegal trade in endangered species in Hong Kong;
- the conservation and management of the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar site;
- the management of the Hong Kong Wetland Park; and
- the management and operation of the Hong Kong Global Geopark of China.
- 8 The key performance measures in respect of nature conservation and country parks are:

Targets

	Target	2011 (Actual)	2012 (Actual)	2013 (Plan)
country parks and special areas managed (hectares)§ marine parks and marine reserves	44 276	44 239	44 239	44 276
managed (hectares)@	2 430	2 430	2 430	2 430
no. of Sites of Special Scientific Interest listed^	67	67	67	67
issue of certificates in respect of endangered species (working days)	2	2	2	2

§ The target has been revised from 44 239 to 44 276 with effect from 2013. The increase is due to the proposed incorporation of the country park enclaves of Tai Long Sai Wan, Kam Shan and Yuen Tun into the Sai Kung East Country Park, the Kam Shan Country Park and the Tai Lam Country Park respectively.

- @ The target has been revised from 2 788 to 2 430 hectares with effect from 2013 due to the change in the proposed designation of five marine parks in north-eastern region in the Geopark areas.
- ^ The target has been revised from 68 to 67 with effect from 2013 due to the change in the proposed designation of a Site of Special Scientific Interest in Shui Hau Wan.

Indicators

	2011 (Actual)	2012 (Actual)	2013 (Estimate)
seedlings producedseedlings planted	$710\ 000$ $740\ 000$	$700\ 000$ $723\ 000$	680 000 700 000
ecological impact assessment applications and studies handled	167	163	160
participants in educational activities visitors to country parks (million)	334 400 13.4	280 000 12 9	280 000 13.0
hill fires attended to	42	15	25 26 000
endangered species inspections	27 763	23 909 31 899	32 000
endangered species prosecutions	11/	135	120

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2013–14

- 9 During 2013–14, the Department will give emphasis to:
- the enhancement of biodiversity in country parks and special areas;
- the implementation of a territory-wide survey programme to collect information required for maintaining and updating an ecological database;
- the promotion of public education and publicity on nature conservation and compatible use of country parks and marine parks;
- overseeing the implementation of management agreement projects for nature conservation;
- strengthening publicity and education of the Hong Kong Global Geopark of China for the promotion of geo-conservation;
- the inclusion of selected country park enclaves into country parks;
- the preparation of the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan under the Convention on Biological Diversity; and
- taking forward the proposal to ban commercial fishing in marine parks in consultation with stakeholders.

Programme (3): Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

	2011–12	2012–13	2012–13	2013–14
	(Actual)	(Original)	(Revised)	(Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	245.0	260.4	266.9 (+2.5%)	273.7 (+2.5%)

⁽or +5.1% on 2012–13 Original)

Aim

10 The aim is to safeguard the welfare of animals, and control the diseases in animals and plants through the enforcement of relevant legislation; protect public health; protect and regulate fisheries; and provide technical services.

Brief Description

11 The Department is responsible for the prevention of the introduction and spread of animal and plant diseases, safeguarding animal welfare, regulation of drug use in livestock farms, provision of services to facilitate export of plants, animals and plant/animal by-products, prevention of rabies, and enforcement of regulations pertaining to animal welfare and import requirements, fisheries protection and marine fish culture. The work involves:

- the provision of quarantine services;
- the inspection of animals and plants imported into Hong Kong;
- the prevention and control of rabies and other zoonotic diseases;
- the testing of animal diseases, including zoonotic diseases, and chemical residues in food animals;
- the inspection of farms where food animals are kept;

- the inspection of premises and establishments where animals are kept for exhibition or trading purposes;
- the inspection of marine fish culture farms;
- the control of destructive fishing practices; and
- the instigation of prosecution against offenders under relevant legislation.
- 12 The technical services provided by the Department include:
- managing agricultural weirs;
- licensing livestock farms;
- licensing marine fish culture farms;
- facilitating export trade in plants, animals and their products;
- safeguarding public health through the control of pesticides and drug use in livestock farms;
- assessing ex-gratia payments to primary producers arising from development projects affecting agriculture and fisheries; and
- regulating credit unions and co-operative societies.

13 The key performance measures in respect of animal, plant and fisheries regulation and technical services are:

Targets

	Target	2011 (Actual)	2012 (Actual)	2013 (Plan)
Animal and plant regulation	-			
prevention				
reported cases of rabies	0	0	0	0
dogs vaccinated in strategic				
Rabies Control Areas (%) ϕ	80	80	80	80
enforcement				
issue of animal health				
certificates (working days)	2	2	2	2
issue of licences/permits				
(working days)	3	3	3	3
issue of sanitary certificates for				
products of animal origin				
(working days)	3	3	3	3
Technical services				
management of agricultural weirs				
weirs to be cleansed	205	209	209	205
plant health certification				
issue of phytosanitary			_	
certificates (working days)	2	2	2	2
control of pesticides				
issue of pesticide			•	•
permits (working days)	2	2	2	2
Renewal of marine fish culture licence	100	100	100	100
in person in 50 minutes (%)	100	100	100	100

 ϕ The World Health Organization recommends a minimum of 70 per cent.

Indicators

	2011	2012	2013
	(Actual)	(Actual)	(Estimate)
Animal and plant regulation			
prevention			
stray animals caught	9 688	8 009	8 000
animals vaccinated and quarantined	63 524	66 245	66 000
enforcement			
licences/permits	8 4 3 4	8 335	8 400
animal and plant health certificates	7 324	7 805	7 900
Technical services			
ex-gratia payment assessment			
area assessed for crop ex-gratia			
payment (hectares)∆	86	92	90

Head 22 — AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

2011 (Actual)	2012 (Actual)	2013 (Estimate)
0	57 597	28 264
0	0	880
23	32	19
4	6	8
_ 100	- • • •	2 070 247
	(Actual) 0 0	(Actual) (Actual) 0 57 597 0 0 23 32 4 6 2 106 2 049

 Δ The figures vary from year to year according to the Government's programme for land clearance and development works.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2013–14

- 14 During 2013–14, the Department will give emphasis to:
- strengthening enforcement of import control of animals;
- monitoring the implementation of the code of practice for pig farming;
- strengthening regulation of pet trading through legislative amendment to the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) Regulations (Cap. 139B); and
- strengthening measures for stray animals management and promotion of animal welfare.

Programme		2011–12 (Actual) (\$m)	2012–13 (Original) (\$m)	2012–13 (Revised) (\$m)	2013–14 (Estimate) (\$m)
(1) (2)	Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets Nature Conservation and Country	200.0	1,420.4	1,209.9	753.4
(2)	Parks Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services	506.8	531.0	531.2	552.1
		245.0	260.4	266.9	273.7
		951.8	2,211.8	2,008.0 (-9.2%)	1,579.2 (-21.4%)
					(or -28.6% on

ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

2012-13 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Programme (1)

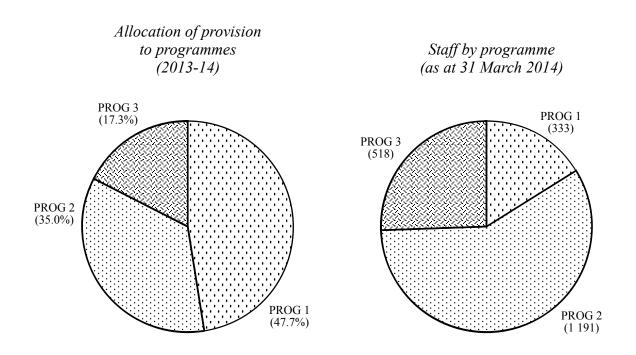
Provision for 2013–14 is \$456.5 million (37.7%) lower than the revised estimate for 2012–13. This is mainly due to reduced cash flow requirement for the one-off assistance package to fishermen affected by the trawl ban. There will be an increase of one post in 2013–14.

Programme (2)

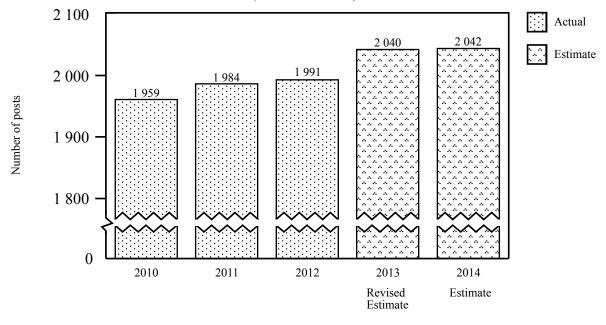
Provision for 2013–14 is 20.9 million (3.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 2012–13. This is mainly due to the full-year provision for vacancies filled in 2012–13. There will be an increase of one post in 2013–14.

Programme (3)

Provision for 2013–14 is \$6.8 million (2.5%) higher than the revised estimate for 2012–13. This is mainly due to the full-year provision for vacancies filled in 2012–13.



Changes in the size of the establishment (as at 31 March)



Year

Head 22—AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

Sub- head (Code)		Actual expenditure 2011–12	Approved estimate 2012–13	Revised estimate 2012–13	Estimate 2013–14
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
	Operating Account				
	Recurrent				
000	Operational expenses	922,418	991,113	992,272	1,034,123
	Total, Recurrent	922,418	991,113	992,272	1,034,123
	Non-Recurrent				
700	General non-recurrent	9,791	1,198,457	986,133	521,842
	Total, Non-Recurrent	9,791	1,198,457	986,133	521,842
	Total, Operating Account	932,209	2,189,570	1,978,405	1,555,965
	Capital Account				
	Plant, Equipment and Works				
600 603	Works Plant, vehicles and equipment	153	1,798 400	1,977 7,912	3,000 4,900
609	Minor irrigation works in the New Territories (block vote)	712	1,153	1,153	980
610	Minor recreational facilities and roadworks in country parks (block vote)	9,019	11,250	11,250	9,104
661	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)	9,721	7,671	7,348	5,290
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works	19,605	22,272	29,640	23,274
	Total, Capital Account	19,605	22,272	29,640	23,274
		19,005	22,212	29,040	23,274
	Total Expenditure	951,814	2,211,842	2,008,045	1,579,239

Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2013–14 for the salaries and expenses of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department is \$1,579,239,000. This represents a decrease of \$428,806,000 against the revised estimate for 2012–13 and an increase of \$627,425,000 over actual expenditure in 2011–12.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$1,034,123,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2013 will be 2 040 permanent posts. It is expected that there will be an increase of two permanent posts in 2013–14. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2013–14, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$558,551,000.

4 An analysis of the financial provision under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is as follows:

	2011–12 (Actual) (\$'000)	2012–13 (Original) (\$'000)	2012–13 (Revised) (\$'000)	2013–14 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries	537,530	577,274	580,294	612,503
- Allowances	11,995	12,958	14,445	14,584
- Job-related allowances	6,790	7,519	7,553	8,058
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund				
contribution	2,040	2,425	2,425	2,207
- Civil Service Provident Fund				
contribution	8,343	11,584	11,584	16,957
Departmental Expenses				
- General departmental expenses	349,305	370,644	367,262	371,105
Other Charges				
- Minor conservation projects and studies	5,178	6,470	6,470	6,470
Subventions				
- Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to				
Animals (Hong Kong)	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
- Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia				
and the Pacific	78	80	80	80
- Subventions for conservation and				
management of Ramsar site	159	159	159	159
- Animal welfare organisations	_	1,000	1,000	1,000
5				
	922,418	991,113	992,272	1,034,123

Capital Account

Plant, Equipment and Works

5 Provision of \$980,000 under *Subhead 609 Minor irrigation works in the New Territories (block vote)* is for a programme to provide irrigation works to assist agricultural development in the New Territories up to a limit of \$700,000 for each project. The provision for 2013–14 represents a decrease of \$173,000 (15.0%) against the revised estimate for 2012–13. This is mainly due to decrease in expenditure requirement for projects to be carried out in 2013–14.

6 Provision of \$9,104,000 under *Subhead 610 Minor recreational facilities and roadworks in country parks (block vote)* is for minor works such as fire lookouts, shelters and roads and for building materials for recreational facilities such as barbecue pits, information boards, shelters and outdoor furniture, up to a limit of \$700,000 for each project. The provision for 2013–14 represents a decrease of \$2,146,000 (19.1%) against the revised estimate for 2012–13. This is mainly due to decrease in expenditure requirement for upgrading various facilities in country parks in 2013–14.

7 Provision of \$5,290,000 under *Subhead 661 Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)* represents a decrease of \$2,058,000 (28.0%) against the revised estimate for 2012–13. The decrease is mainly due to decrease in requirement for replacement of plant and equipment in 2013–14.

Commitments

Sub- head (Code)	Item (Code)	Ambit	Approved commitment	Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.2012	Revised estimated expenditure for 2012–13	Balance
			\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Opera	ating A	ccount				
700		General non-recurrent				
	536	Setting up a marine sanctuary in the Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau area	21,000	17,484	500	3,016
	540	Artificial reefs project	80,100	72,820	100	7,180
	807	Additional cleansing of country park facilities and enhancing hygiene of government wholesale food markets	6,000	5,088	357	555
	852	One-off assistance package to trawler vessel owners, local deckhands and fish collector owners affected by the trawl ban and other related	1.72(000	6 750	004.050	725 000
		measures	1,726,800	6,750	984,250	735,800
			1,833,900	102,142	985,207	746,551
Capit	al Acco	punt				
600		Works				
	804	Improvement to the mountain bike trail network in Tai Lam Country Park	5,700	_	1,000	4,700
	877	Reconstruction of a new warehouse at Maintenance Office of Hong Kong Wetland Park	1,000	_	_	1,000
			6,700		1,000	5,700
603		Plant, vehicles and equipment				
	811	Procurement of one patrol vessel	10,000	_		10,000
	828	Procurement of ten boundary light buoys	2,500		_	2,500
	894	Replacement of three sets of seawater pump for the cooling system of cold storage stalls at Cheung Sha Wan Wholesale Food Market	5,220			5 220
		wholesale roou walket				5,220
			17,720			17,720
		Total	1,858,320	102,142	986,207	769,971