

CSTB holds interdepartmental meeting in response to the death of animals in HKZBG

â€œIn view of the death of eight animals in Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens (HKZBG) yesterday (October 13), the Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism, Mr Kevin Yeung, convened an urgent interdepartmental meeting today (October 14) to listen to reports on the latest situation by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department as well as the Department of Health, and to discuss the way forward.

The meeting noted that the park staff have immediately stepped up monitoring of the conditions of all animals since yesterday. The movement response and appetite of a White-faced Saki and a De Brazza's Monkey were found unusual and they were removed from the original animal cages for close monitoring. The White-faced Saki has passed away this morning. The Park will continue to observe its status of the remaining De Brazza's Monkey.

The Mammals Section of the HKZBG has been temporarily closed from this morning to facilitate the close monitoring of the conditions of those animals. The disinfection and cleaning of animal cages involved were completed. The health condition of all 80 animals in the HKZBG are normal. For the sake of prudence, staff working there will wear appropriate protective gear and keep a close watch on their health condition. At present, all staff is in healthy condition.

In addition, the meeting discussed the different scenarios of case development and solutions. Relevant government departments will speed up autopsy and toxicological testing by relevant departments, so that the possible causes of the incident could be known as soon as possible.