



MEDIA FACTSHEET A

NParks as Central Managing Agency for Pulau Ubin

In 2014, the government announced plans to better protect and restore Pulau Ubin's nature and heritage spaces. Known as The Ubin Project, it sought ideas from members of the public on how the island's rustic charm, natural environment, biodiversity and heritage can continue to be enjoyed by Singaporeans for generations to come.

To drive The Ubin Project, the Friends of Ubin Network (FUN) was formed in 2014. FUN members come from a wide spectrum of the community, including nature enthusiasts, architects, historians, students, bloggers, Pulau Ubin residents, educators, and representatives of heritage and recreation groups. FUN members have developed a code of conduct for environmentally and socially responsible behaviour on Pulau Ubin known as the "Ubin Way". The code of conduct was inspired by the kampong spirit that Pulau Ubin residents embody and is centred on the innate motivation to care for the environment.

One of the ideas that FUN has raised is to appoint one central agency to holistically address the concerns on the island, such as coastal erosion, biodiversity conservation, waste dumping and ageing infrastructure. This idea stemmed from the fact that there were 12 agencies with technical and land ownership responsibilities on the island. With so many agencies involved, there were coordination challenges in dealing with issues.

After discussions with stakeholders, the Ministry of National Development had concluded that the idea is feasible. As such, NParks has been appointed as the central managing agency for Pulau Ubin. NParks is well positioned to take on this role given that it has been managing some sections of the island since 1997, and has had decades of conservation and greenery expertise all over Singapore. Designating NParks as the central managing agency of Pulau Ubin will allow NParks to have a greater overview of the island, and to better manage it in line with The Ubin Project's vision. NParks will also manage neighbouring island Pulau Sekudu for a more holistic management plan.

Under the previous model, NParks managed greenery and recreational amenities within public access areas on the island, including those at Chek Jawa Wetlands, Jelutong Campsite and Ketam Mountain Bike Park. Other agencies carried out their respective functions on the island.

With the new management model, some of the functions that are currently undertaken by other agencies on Pulau Ubin will be handed over to NParks, such as the management of Temporary Occupation Licenses, the drainage and maintenance of installations like shelters and bridges.

Some functions will remain under the respective agencies due to their expertise and statutory authority, such as the management of stray animals, aquaculture farms,



and specialised campsites at the Outward Bound Singapore and National Police Cadet Corps Campsite.

To ease into the role as central managing agency, the handing over will be split into phases and is expected to be completed by mid-2017. When the hand over is completed, NParks will be managing 1,029 ha of land. Before the handover, NParks was managing 650 ha.