

LANTAU DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Progress on Lantau Conservation

PURPOSE

This paper aims to report to the Lantau Development Advisory Committee (LanDAC) on the progress of the conservation work in Lantau.

BACKGROUND

2. The Government promulgated the Sustainable Lantau Blueprint (Blueprint) in June 2017, with “Development in the North; Conservation for the South” adopted as its overarching principle. The major economic and housing developments are planned in North Lantau and the East Lantau Metropolis (ELM), while Northeast Lantau will be developed into a node for leisure, entertainment and tourism. The predominant part of Lantau, in particular South Lantau, will be for conservation, leisure, cultural and eco-tourism purposes. To actively plan and implement the development and conservation initiatives in Lantau, the Government set up the Sustainable Lantau Office on 1 December 2017.

PROGRESS OF CONSERVATION WORK

3. The predominant part of Lantau will be preserved for nature conservation. Major development will be avoided at sites of high conservation value and their surrounding areas wherever possible. On the premises of not affecting the sites of high conservation value, we will take forward various initiatives for sustainable recreation and green tourism.

4. Upon being briefed on the proposals recommended in the Blueprint, the Task Force on Lantau Conservation (the Task Force) gave views and suggestions, including stepping up actions against fly tipping and land filling by construction waste in rural areas, reinforcing coastal and marine protection, conserving geological and landscape diversity in Lantau, promoting green transport; and mitigating the environmental impacts associated with provision of mountain bike trails and planting of flowers/trees for appreciation purpose. The Task Force compiled a “Long List of Major Conservation-related Items” with a total of 87 items, and subsequently shortlisted 11 “First Batch Discussion Items”. The details are set out in **Appendix 1**.

(Translated Version)

5. On the “First Batch Discussion Items” related to conservation, we proposed a series of priority actions, including conducting the “Ecological Study for Pui O, Shui Hau, Tai O and Neighbouring Areas”, collating data to set up a database “Snapshot” for capturing the current conditions of Lantau, conducting expert group discussions on respective specific topics, as well as exploring the use of funding resources to promote conservation work, etc. The progress of the conservation work is as follows:

Ecological Study

6. We commenced the “Ecological Study for Pui O, Shui Hau, Tai O and Neighbouring Areas” in December 2017 for completion in 21 months. The study will, in addition to exploring feasible conservation options for Pui O, Shui Hau and Tai O, collect ecological data for setting up the “Snapshot”.

7. We launched a 12-month ecological survey in March 2018 after taking into account the comments of the green groups and expert group.

Expert Groups

8. To take forward conservation initiatives in Lantau, we will set up expert groups on various specific topics. Through discussion and consolidation of experts’ views, we will explore practicable and feasible options on the specific topics with a view to achieving concrete results. We set up the “Expert Group on Ecological Conservation of Pui O, Shui Hau and Tai O” in February 2018, and its membership list is at **Appendix 2**.

9. Depending on the needs and progress of the conservation work, we will set up expert groups on the other specific topics (such as green transport) so as to explore practicable and feasible conservation options.

Environment and Conservation Fund

10. To support and implement the vision of “balancing development and conservation on Lantau” embraced under the Blueprint, a special theme on “Nature Conservation in South Lantau” was created for the Environmental Education and Community Action (EE&CA) Projects under the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) in 2017/18 to support non-profit making organisations to take forward community engagement and education activities on nature conservation in South Lantau. A total of nine projects on nature conservation in South Lantau have been approved under the EE&CA Projects funding scheme with a total grant of around \$9 million. The list of the approved projects is at **Appendix 3**. We hope that implementation of the projects concerned in Lantau can promote nature conservation to the general public and raise their awareness on environmental protection, with a view to achieving the objective of conserving South Lantau and promoting sustainable development of Lantau.

(Translated Version)

11. In 2018-19, the ECF has also earmarked \$10 million to support the EE&CA Projects on conservation in South Lantau. Invitation of applications is tentatively scheduled for the third quarter of 2018. In addition, we will explore funding resources to implement the other nature conservation projects in Lantau apart from the environmental education projects.

Sustainable Leisure and Recreational Facilities

12. We strive to take forward sustainable development of recreation and leisure facilities in less sensitive areas, while conserving South Lantau. We commenced the mountain bike trail network works in South Lantau and landscape improvement works in Ngong Ping. For better enjoyment of the natural resources in Lantau by the public and visitors, we are preparing to take forward the other projects, such as upgrading the hiking trail facilities in Lantau and the existing volley ball court at Silvermine Bay Beach in Mui Wo.

13. Have regard to the resources and manpower available, we will implement progressively the other sustainable leisure and recreation proposals as set out in the Blueprint, including provision of camping grounds, promotion of historical and cultural resources, etc.

Promoting Community Engagement

14. Apart from encouraging non-profit making organisations' participation in conservation projects by leveraging the funding resources, we strive to promote conservation in Lantau through community activities. We co-organised an event "Ngong Ping Charity Walk 2018" with the Hong Kong Youth Hostels Association on 14 January 2018 to promote the message of conservation in Lantau. As a supporting organisation of the event, we introduced interactive games along the route to enhance participants' understanding on the valuable natural resources in Lantau and the concept of "sustainable Lantau development" while they were participating in the walk. Besides, we are implementing the "Students Education Programme", under which students can learn the importance of sustainable development in Lantau through visits to the locations with ecological, historical and cultural heritage features in Lantau.

15. We are planning to organise a series of events on conservation of coastal areas in Lantau with tertiary education institute in the third quarter of 2018 to raise public awareness on the ecological significance of coastal habitats in Lantau. The events will include guided tours, workshops and roving exhibitions. We will continue to explore opportunities in collaborating with the other organisations (such as green groups and non-profit making organisations) to organise events on conservation of coastal areas in Lantau and other types of activities, thereby promoting the community engagement on Lantau conservation and shaping a sustainable Lantau together with the community.

(Translated Version)

16. We are planning to revamp the website of the Blueprint¹, set up a Facebook page and utilise the YouTube platform to promote the development and conservation work in Lantau. The content of the Facebook page will be updated on a regular basis for releasing the latest information (such as the latest news, details of consultation activities, newsletters and promotion videos).

CONCLUSION

17. Members are invited to note the progress of the conservation work in Lantau and offer comments.

Civil Engineering and Development Department
June 2018

¹ The website of the Blueprint: <http://www.lantau.gov.hk>

First Batch Discussion Items related to Conservation

Strategies	Measures	
Improving traffic management and developing green transport strategy	1	Consider alternative transport modes / environmental-friendly, smart public transportation for developing low-carbon community in Lantau
	2	Maintain stringent road restriction on Lantau; restrict traffic in South Lantau, Tung Chung Valley and Tung Chung Bay
	3	Green Transport and Traffic Strategy on Lantau
Strengthening nature conservation	4	Designate marine park/ enlarge existing marine park (West Lantau Marine Park, Shui Hau Marine Park, Marine Park and Coastal Park at Pui O, Southwest Lantau Marine Park)
	5	Conserve Shui Hau sandflat habitat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide a marine education centre/ marine species research centre at Shui Hau - Reduce over fishing, control over clam digging, combined with promoting motor-less water recreation, e.g. kite surfing, paddle boards, snorkeling
	6	Conserve areas of ecological values, e.g. wetland, mangrove, mudflat and sandflat in Tai O, Pui O, Shui Hau, Yi O and Mui Wo, establish nature reserve or wetland reserve
Enhancing management measures	7	Set up inventory/database with land status, topography, geology, ecology, nature and cultural data; conduct baseline study to capture the current conditions of Lantau
	8	Resume private land for conservation
	9	Create a conservation fund
	10	Amend Town Planning Ordinance to provide enforceable land use control on non-DPA area
	11	Provide waste management system, e.g. incinerators, sewerage facilities, recycling facilities

**Membership of the Expert Group on
Ecological Conservation of Pui O, Shui Hau and Tai O**

Members

1. Dr CHEUNG Siu-gin
Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry, City University of Hong Kong

2. Dr CHIU Sein-tuck
Special Projects Manager and Head of Ecological Advisory Programme,
Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden Corporation

3. Prof LEE Shing-yip
Professor, School of Life Sciences, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Other Attendees

Representative(s) of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Representative(s) of the Civil Engineering and Development Department
Representative(s) of other bureaux and departments on a need basis

Environmental Education and Community Action Projects - Nature Conservation of South Lantau

List of Approved Projects in 2017/18

Project Number	Recipient Organisation	Project Title	Project Brief	Approved Amount
1797	World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong	ECF - Sustainable Shui Hau	To promote preservation of the high ecological value of Shui Hau and to enrich ecological knowledge of intertidal mudflats of the public through training, surveys, tours and formulation of code of conduct for clam digging.	\$1,594,689.00
1818	Department of Chemistry, City University of Hong Kong	ECF “Shui Hau Magnification”- Upstanding Human Disturbances on Horseshoe Crabs	To enhance public understanding of the ecological value of Shui Hau and impact by human activities and microscopic plastics on the coastal ecology through ambassador trainings, ecological surveys (especially Horseshoe Crabs), field visits, talks, exhibitions and guided tours.	\$753,885.00
1820	Firefly Conservation Foundation Limited	ECF Nature Conservation in South Lantau - Discover South Lantau	To instil ecological and cultural knowledge on South Lantau and ways to conserve the natural resource to the public through guided tours and exhibitions in Chi Ma Wan peninsula.	\$382,090.00

(Translated Version)

Project Number	Recipient Organisation	Project Title	Project Brief	Approved Amount
1829	Environmental Association Limited	ECF - LantAReau	To promote understanding and conservation of South Lantau to the public and people with physical limitations through development of augmented reality app and panorama videos, talks, ambassador trainings, exhibitions, outreach actions and workshops.	\$1,558,025.00
1831	Outdoor Wildlife Learning Hong Kong Limited	ECF Exploring WILD Lantau	To promote understanding and conservation of Lantau to the public through tutor training programme for tertiary students and elders, field trips, sharing sessions, workshops, eco-video competition and virtual tours.	\$1,514,866.00
1848	Ichthyological Society of Hong Kong	ECF The Fish Kaleidoscope - Stream Explorer in Lantau	To promote understanding and conservation of stream ecology and biodiversity of South Lantau through ambassador training, workshops, talks, exhibitions, guided tours and production of teaching materials.	\$425,064.00
1851	OIWA Limited	ECF Education Programme on Nature Conservation	To instil knowledge of conservation of South Lantau to young children, students and their parents through ambassador training, guided tours, publication of picture books, storytelling sessions and workshops.	\$1,298,131.20

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Project Number	Recipient Organisation	Project Title	Project Brief	Approved Amount
1857	Ocean Park Conservation Foundation, Hong Kong	ECF Ecology and Conservation 101: Grooming the Next Great Ecologist	To form partnerships with secondary schools to enhance secondary students' knowledge on the ecology and biodiversity of Lantau through lectures, field trips, workshops and school exhibitions.	\$586,542.00
1860	Land Education Foundation Limited	ECF Mui Wo Farm to Table Agricultural Community Plan	To enhance public's knowledge on farmland and ecology and to promote conservation of local farmland through trainings, workshops, guided tours, preparation of dishes using local agricultural products, farming experiences and establishing network between farmers and dining outlets of Mui Wo.	\$934,215.00