(Translated Version)

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Lantau Development Advisory Committee Planning and Conservation Sub-committee Paper No. 4/2014

Lantau Development Advisory Committee Planning and Conservation Sub-committee

Overview of Conservation in Lantau and Proposed Directions

1 Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this Paper is to provide an overview of the present situation of the key ecology, cultural heritage and landscape aspects of Lantau as background information for reference by the Planning and Conservation Sub-committee when formulating the conservation strategy and making recommendations on the directions of conservation work.

2 Nature Conservation

2.1 Lantau Island is an important source of ecological and landscape resources in Hong Kong. It supports a rich diversity of flora and fauna. About 180 species of butterflies, more than 60 species of dragonflies, 40 species of reptiles and nearly 20 species of mammals etc. are found on the Island. Many ecologically important sites including montane forest, natural woodland, uncontaminated streams, and coastal waters have been identified. These sites have great conservation value.

2.2 Terrestrial Ecology (Plan 1)

(a) Country Parks and Special Areas

(i) **Country Parks**

2.2.1 Country parks and special areas designated under the Country Parks Ordinance would provide statutory protection against incompatible developments. At present, about 70% of Lantau Island is within the country

parks and has high ecological, conservation and landscape values. There are 3 country parks on Lantau Island, namely the Lantau North and Lantau South Country Parks and Lantau North (Extension) Country Park; and two special areas within the country parks - Lantau Peak and Sunset Peak where their natural woodland is protected. The country parks on Lantau cover its major mountain ranges and hillsides, and the coastlines at Chi Ma Wan, Shui Hau and southwestern Lantau, where many different habitats such as pristine ravines, grassland, shrub lands and mature woodland are accommodated. Apart from controlling development within the Country Parks, the Administration also uses other suitable management measures including the prevention of fire and management of forestry and vegetation to enhance habitats and biodiversity. According to Section 4 of the "Country Parks Ordinance", the Administration should provide facilities and services for the public enjoyment of country parks and special areas for the purposes of recreation and tourism.

(ii) Country Park "enclaves"

In the 2010-11 Policy Address, the Government was committed to including the 54 "enclaves" not yet covered by the then statutory plans into the country parks, or determining their proper uses through statutory planning to meet conservation and social development needs. Among those enclaves, 10 were located in Lantau Island. Subsequently, Luk Wu, Ngau Kwo Tin, Tai Ho and Yi O have been covered by statutory plans. The remaining enclaves in Lantau are Tsin Yu Wan, Tei Tong Tsai, Yi Tung Shan, Man Cheung Po, a site near Nam Shan and a site near Peaked Hill.

(b) Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

2.2.3 The planning intention of "Sites of Special Scientific Interest" ("SSSI") is to conserve and protect features with specific scientific interest such as rare or special species of flora and fauna and their habitats, corals, woodland, marshes or sites of geological, ecological or botanical/ biological interest. The purpose of designating such sites is to stop the public from undertaking certain activities or development within the sites. There are 8 SSSIs on Lantau Island. Except the San Tau Beach SSSI, other SSSIs in Lantau are entirely or largely within country parks or statutory plans. Their locations and importance are as follows:

Location	Importance	Protection
	_	Mechanism
Sunset Peak	There are forest flora species at this site including Amentotaxus argotaenia, Exbucklandia tonkinensis, Manglietia fordiana and Fraxinus formosana.	Country Park
Man Cheung Po	There are rare flora species in this forest canyon such as <i>Ternstroemia microphylla</i> , and there are also special flora found at Ng Yuen, Lung Tsai.	Mainly in Country Park (the remaining small portion comprises government land and private structures)
Lantau Peak	There are unique tree species at the site including Exbucklandia tonkinensis, Manglietia fordiana, Illicium and Magnolia etc.	Country Park
Pok To Yan and Por Kai Shan	These two adjacent sites support undisturbed montane scrub forest with extremely high botanical value. Rare flora species are found there.	Country Park
San Tau Beach	The unique environment of this site supports the healthy growth of seagrass and the seagrass bed provides good habitat for the marine invertebrate.	Government land/ Water bodies
San Chau	This site supports the greatest cluster of <i>Rhododendron championiae</i> in Hong Kong.	Mainly in Country Park/ small portion on government land
Ngong Ping	The streamcourses and woodland in Ngong Ping are the important habitats for the Romer's tree frogs.	Statutory Plan
Tai Ho Stream	Tai Ho Stream supports a great variety of freshwater fishes and brackish-water fishes and is the only site where the <i>Plecoglossus altivelis</i> are found. There are mangroves and seagrass bed near its estuary. Horseshoe crabs which are of important conservation value are also found at its mud beach.	Statutory Plan

(c) Conservation Area

2.2.4 The planning intention of the "Conservation Area" ("CA") zone is to conserve and protect the existing natural landscape, ecosystem or topographical features for conservation, education and research purposes, and to separate the sensitive natural environment such as country parks from adverse impacts by undesirable development. Areas with ecological and landscape values, including the woodland and streamcourses of Ngong Ping, the upland at the northwest of Discovery Bay, and the reedbed and mangrove replanting areas at Tai O, are zoned as "CA" on the statutory plans. Furthermore, the Luk Keng headland and the site at the southeast of Tung Chung adjacent to the country park are designated as conservation area.

(d) Coastal Protection Area

2.2.5 The planning intention of the "Coastal Protection Area" ("CPA") zone aims to conserve, protect and retain the natural coastlines and the sensitive coastal natural environment, including interesting geological features, physical landform or area of high landscape, scenic or ecological value, with a minimum built development within the zone. Pui O, Cheung Sha and Tong Fuk in the south coast of Lantau, and the narrow strip of coastline of north Tai O and the mangrove area and rocky shores of Discovery Bay are zoned as "CPA" zone under the statutory plans.

(e) Ecologically Important Streams

2.2.6 Except the above-mentioned Tai Ho Stream and the streamcourses at Ngong Ping which are designated as "SSSI", there are ecologically important streams in Tung Chung (Mok Ka and Shek Mun Kap), Wong Lung Hang, , Sham Wat, Tong Fuk and Pui O. Tung Chung (Mok Ka and Shek Mun Kap) and Tai Ho Stream support a great variety of fresh water fishes and about half of the fresh water fish species of Hong Kong are found in these two locations including the species which are first found in Hong Kong. Parts of these streams are covered by the country parks and statutory plans.

(f) Other Sites of Ecological Value

2.2.7 Other sites of ecological value are as follows:

Location	Species
Pau Tau Kwu near Penny's Bay and	White-bellied Sea Eagle
Shek Kwu Chau near Lantau Island	

Sunshine Island, Shek Kwu Chau	Bogadek's Burrowing Lizard
and Hei Ling Chau near Lantau	
Island,	
Shek Pik	Acrossocheilus beijiangensis,
	Amolops ricketti and Lagerstroemia
	fordii
Fan Lau	Lithocarpus konishii
Tei Tong Tsai	Amolops ricketti

2.3 Marine Ecology

(a) Chinese White Dolphins around the Waters of West Lantau and North Lantau

- 2.3.1 West Lantau and North Lantau are the most important zones for the Chinese White Dolphins. Up to 2013, waters with the highest sighting and density of Chinese White Dolphins include West Lantau, Northwest Lantau, Northwest Lantau and Southwest Lantau. The most important activity areas for the Chinese White Dolphins include the waters from Tai O Peninsula at the west coast of Lantau Island to the waters around Fan Lau, Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park and the waters around The Brothers Islands including the south of The Brothers Islands.
- 2.3.2 The coastal area of West Lantau is often frequented by dolphins (the density is higher than that in North Lantau and the Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park area). During the period from 2002 to 2008, West Lantau was an important breeding ground for the Chinese White Dolphins in Hong Kong.
- 2.3.3 In order to protect the habitat for the Chinese White Dolphins and other marine creatures, the following marine parks in the vicinity of Lantau Island are designated or proposed:

(i) Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park

2.3.4 The Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau area was designated as a marine park on 22 November 1996 and its waters cover a sea area of about 1 200 hectares. Water from the Pearl River has diluted the salt content of the waters around Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park but at the same time brought with it abundant organic nutrients facilitating the growth of a rich biodiversity of flora and fauna in the area and providing important breeding grounds for the marine fishes and shellfish. There are rich fishery resources

around Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park, and it is an important habitat for the Chinese White Dolphins.

(ii) South West Lantau Marine Park and Soko Islands Marine Park

2.3.5 In September 2014, the Government announced the plan for the proposed South West Lantau Marine Park and Soko Islands Marine Park which cover a sea area of 660 hectares and 1 270 hectares respectively. The zone is one of the main habitats for the Chinese White Dolphins and the finless porpoise. Its designation as a marine park area would facilitate the conservation of the nearby marine environment in the long run. The Government will launch another round of public engagement in 2015 and take other necessary steps and seek to complete the statutory procedure for the designation by early 2017.

(iii) The Brothers Islands Marine Park

2.3.6 The waters around The Brothers Islands is one of the areas that are mostly frequented by the Chinese White Dolphins. It is stated in the Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") report in respect of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) works that during the construction and operation of the HZMB Hong Kong Boundary Crossing, the water quality and marine habitat may be affected, and the loss of Chinese White Dolphins' habitats would be caused. As the waters around The Brothers Islands is the core activity area of the Chinese White Dolphins, there is a plan of the Government to designate the area as a marine park to strengthen conservation of the Chinese White Dolphins and to effectively mitigate the impact on their habitat caused by the construction works.

(iv) <u>A Marine Park in the vicinity of the Hong Kong International</u> <u>Airport Three-Runway System</u>

2.3.7 In the EIA report on the expansion of the Three-Runway System ("3RS") of the Hong Kong International Airport ("HKIA"), it was proposed that a new marine park would be designated to compensate for the impacts generated from the construction of the 3RS on the Chinese White Dolphins and to promote the habitats for the Chinese White Dolphins. The proposed marine park would cover a sea area of about 2 400 hectares. This new marine park would link up the existing Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park, the proposed Brothers Islands Marine Park and the marine exclusion zone of HKIA Three-Runway System, covering a total projected sea area of about

5 200 hectares, which would be very instrumental in conserving Chinese White Dolphins in the long run.

(b) Other Sites of Ecological Importance

2.3.8 Other sites of ecological importance are as follows:

Location	Species
East Lantau - Chi Ma Wan	Mangroves and stony corals
South Lantau - Shui Hau, Pui O and	Horseshoe crabs and
Tong Fuk Miu Wan	mangroves
West Lantau – Tai O Peninsula, Yi O	Chinese White Dolphins,
and Fan Lau	horseshoe crabs, mangroves
	and seagrass bed
North Lantau – Siu Ho Wan, Tai Ho	Chinese White Dolphins,
Wan, Tung Chung Wan, San Tau, Sham	horseshoe crabs, mangroves
Wat, Sunny Bay and Ma Wan	and seagrass bed
Waters around Cheung Chau and Hei	Finless porpoises and stony
Ling Chau	corals

(i) Fish Culture Zone

2.3.9 The Cheung Sha Wan fish culture zone is at the waters around Chi Ma Wan.

3 Cultural Heritage

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 Lantau is the biggest island of Hong Kong. It is located at the southwest of Hong Kong and the Pearl River Estuary and is separated from Zhuhai and Macao by the sea. In history, it has other names such as Da Xi Shan, Da Yu Shan, Lan Tou Island etc. As early as the Stone Age, there were inhabitants along the coast of Lantau and according to the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO), there are about 50 sites of archaeological interest¹ in Lantau (Plan 2).
- 3.1.2 Archaeologists find that there are lime kilns of the Tang Dynasty in Tai Long, Yi Long, Tong Fuk, Pui O, San Shek Wan, Sha Lo Wan etc. It is believed that many inhabitants along the coast then depended on repairing vessels with lime for their living and the lime kiln industry played a significant role. In the Song Dynasty, Lantau became an important salt-

Source: Antiquities and Monuments Office: http://amo.gov.hk/form/list_arcgaeolog_site_chi.pdf

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making area² and places for salt-making were found in Tai O, Mui Wo, south Lantau etc. Later the salt-making industry in Mui Wo and south Lantau gradually faded out and only that in Tai O remained³. In the Qing and Ming Dynasties, Japanese pirates were rampant in the area and defence forts were built along the coast. During the Second Sino-Japanese War, guerillas gathered in Lantau against the Japanese army. During the tide of history, Lantau has played an indispensable role and is of significant historical cultural value.

3.1.3 With the passage of time, Lantau has emerged to become an important transport and tourist node. With the completion of the major infrastructural developments now underway or under planning including the HZMB and the Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link, Tung Chung New Town Extension, the proposed third runway of the HKIA etc., the role of Lantau would be further strengthened. Lantau would command a strategic position in the long term development of Hong Kong.

3.2 Heritage and Monuments

3.2.1 Because of the established history of Lantau, there is a wealth of monuments and built heritage on the island. Now there are five declared monuments on the island including the Rock Carving at Shek Pik; Stone Circle at Fan Lau; Fan Lau Fort; Tung Chung Fort and Tung Chung Battery⁴ (Plan 3). AMO declared these sites monuments with a view to protecting and preventing any damage and alterations done to them by other people.

(a) Rock Carving at Shek Pik

3.2.2 It is believed that the site where the Rock Carving at Shek Pik, Lantau Island is located was, in the past, the waterfront. However, as a result of a change in the coastline, it has become an inlet 300m from the coastline. The design shows geometric patterns composed of spiral squares and circles which closely resemble those on Bronze Age artefacts. It is thus quite safe to deduce that they were carved by early inhabitants of this area in the Bronze Age some 3,000 years ago.

² Source: "Hong Kong-Relics and Legends of the Outlying Islands" (《香港-離島區風物志》), 2007, Islands District Council

³ Source: "Lantau" (《大嶼山》), LUI Lit (呂烈), 2006, Joint Publishing (H.K.) Company

Source: Antiquities and Monuments Office: http://amo.gov.hk/b5/monuments island.php

(b) Stone Circle at Fan Lau

3.2.3 This oval-shaped enclosure is 2.7 m long and 1.7m wide. It is a megalithic structure of a type which became common during the late Neolithic (i.e. New Stone Age) and early Bronze Age. Similar structures are found in China and there is no reason why a stone circle should not occur in Hong Kong which is rich in Neolithic and Bronze Age artefacts. The purpose of the circle is not known, but possibly ritualistic.

(c) Fan Lau Fort

3.2.4 Fan Lau Fort is located at the south-western tip of Lantau, overlooking a sea passage leading into the Pearl River Estuary. It is called the Lantau Fort, Peaked Hill Fort or Shi Sun Fort in the literature of Qing. It is estimated that the fort was built in the 56th Year of Kangxi (1717) and measures 46m by 21m and its walls are built of semi-dressed stone and green bricks. It was believed that the fort was once occupied by pirates. However, after the surrender of pirates to the Qing government in 1810, the fort would have been retaken by government troops. It was probably abandoned around 1898 after the lease of the New Territories to Britain.

(d) Tung Chung Fort

3.2.5 Tung Chung Fort, referred to in the Qing Dynasty as the Tung Chung Suocheng (Tung Chung Battalion), was the naval headquarters of the Right Battalion of Dapeng. The carved granite slab above the entrance gives the date of the Fort as the 12th year of Daoguang (1832). In 1898 when the New Territories was leased to Britain, the Fort was evacuated by the Qing authorities, then occupied, first as a police station, and then by Wa Ying College, the Rural Committee Office and the Public Primary School of Tung Chung.

(e) Tung Chung Battery

3.2.6 In 1980, the remains of a battery were discovered on a hill slope facing the sea near Tung Chung Pier. The ruin is an L-shaped wall with a platform at the corner, probably for gun emplacements. According to the Guangdong Annals, two military forts were built in the 22nd year of Jiaqing reign (1817) at the hill foot of the 'Rocky Lion Hill' at Tung Chung, Lantau Island. As mentioned in the Guangdong Annals, there is little doubt that this ruin is one of the two forts built there.

3.2.7 In addition, there are 47 graded and proposed historical buildings in Lantau (Plan 3) including Yeung Hau Temple (Grade 1 historical building) in Po Chue Tam, Tai O and other renowned Grade 2 and Grade 3 historical buildings such as Po Lin Shut main building, Luk Wu Ching Ser, Yuen's Mansion in Mui Wo, Hau Wong Temple in Tung Chung, Kwan Tei Temple in Tai O, the Old Tai Po Police Station which was converted into a heritage hotel etc. These historical buildings mainly cluster in Tung Chung, Tai O, Mui Wo, Luk Wu, Keung Shan etc. all of which bear historical witness to the local cultural activities.

3.3 Major Cultural Custom

3.3.1 The cultural custom of Lantau is closely related to its established history. As Tai O and Mui Wo were the main settlement areas in the past, cultural custom of these two places is relatively rich. Other recognized villages are mainly scattered along the coast and many remote villages still retain their traditional village ambience. In addition, the greenery and tranquility of the upland in northwest Lantau i.e. the Luk Wu and Keung Shan areas render it particular suitable for meditation. As such, there are many monasteries, nunneries and temples amongst the hills and the Catholic priests also set up the Trappist Monastery³ near Mui Wo nurturing a strong religious atmosphere in Lantau.

(a) Tai O Fishing Village

3.3.2 Tai O is located in west Lantau and the salt-making and fisheries industries were its main economic activities in the past. According to the record, the government placed emphasis on the salt-making industry during the reign of Emperor Qianlong. Embankment walls were built between Lantau and Tai O Island to turn the shallow banks along the coasts of Lantau into salt fields. About two third of the area of Tai O was salt fields and the salt-making industry then flourished. As Tai O is close to the Pearl River Estuary with good waterways for use by vessels as shelters, it also became an excellent location for anchorage, re-provision, and maintenance for fishing vessels. As such, Tai O became the settlement area of fishermen. At its peak, there

were over 500 fishing vessels and more than 30 fisheries merchants in Tai O^5

- 3.3.3 Geographically, in the one-river-two-bank setting of Tai O, the then residents crossed the river by rope ferry. Instead of vehicles, ferries were used by the residents to ply on the waterway. Stilt houses were constructed along the waterway and were linked to each other by timber piles and planks to form walkway. Stilt houses were not only places for residence but also shops of fisheries merchants where they bought the catches from fishermen.⁵ Stilt houses in Tai O could be traced back to as early as the Qing Dynasty with a history of about 300 years³. Because of the characteristics of its waterways and stilt houses, Tai O is renowned as Venice of the Orient. Though the salt-making and fishery industries have faded out, the salted fish and shrimp pastein blocks or bottles are the unique products of Tai O. Tai O today with its unique historical background, has developed into an important tourist attraction in Lantau and at the same time retains the fishing village character in the past.
- 3.3.4 Along with the established history of Tai O there are many historical buildings such as Kwan Tei Temple, Shek Lun Kok, Tin Hau Temple, old Tai O Police Station etc. as well as an abundance of cultural custom and one of the special religious activities is the 'Dragon Boat Water Parade' at the Dragon Boat Festival which has a history of over 100 years. It was included into the National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2011⁶.

(b) Mui Wo

Mui Wo in the ancient time was called 'Mui Wai' (梅蔚). It is surrounded by mountains with flat lowland in the central. The five villages in Mui Wo, i.e. Pak Ngan Heung, Mui Wo Old Village, Tai Tei Tong, Luk Tei Tong and Chung Hau are positioned like a five-petal plum blossom from which the name Mui Wo is derived. Mui Wo is also called Silver Mine Bay where silver mining industry was active in the past. Later because of the low silver content of the mine, silver mining stopped operation in 1896. Now there are

Source: Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department: Special Features of the Fisheries Culture of Tai O Waters (大澳海域的漁業文化特色): http://www.hktraveler.com/HKFish to2013/edu characteristic.htm

Source: Hong Kong Tourism Board , Culture and Heritage : The Dragon Boat Water Parade of Tai O : http://www.discoverhongkong.com/tc/see-do/culture-heritage/living-culture/tai-o-dragon-boat-water-parade.jsp

two remaining silver mine caves, the Silvermine Lower Cave and the Silvermine Upper Cave which are located respectively inside the Silvermine Bay Waterfall Garden and by its side².

3.3.6 Before the completion of the Tsing Ma Bridge, Mui Wo was the main gateway to Lantau. Villages there still maintain their rural character and its major festivals include the Birthday of the Civil and Martial Gods and Hung Shing Yeh. The tourist spots in the area include Silvermine Bay Waterfall, Silvermine Bay Beach and historic buildings such as Yuen's Mansion and the guard house etc. All help attract many tourists to Mui Wo.

(c) Monasteries and Temples

- Another uniqueness of Lantau is its strong religious atmosphere. Ngong 3.3.7 Ping, Luk Wu, Keung Shan, Tei Tong Tsai and Ling Wui Shan (Man Cheung Po) are collectively known as the 'Five Major Buddhist Woodlands' (五大禪林) 7 . Information shows that there are more than 80 temples in Lantau mainly clustering in Ngong Ping, Luk Wu and Keung Shan areas (Plan 4) among which the Po Lin Monastery is the most renowned one. The Po Lin Monastery was first established in the 32nd Year of Emperor Guangxu (1906) of the Qing Dynasty and at first it was known as the 'Big Thatched Hut' and was re-named Po Lin Monastery until 1924. Its Main Shrine Hall of Buddha was built in the 1960s and the meditation abode and zen centre of the main shrine were then built in the 1970s and 1980s. By then the Po Lin Monastery became a big antiquity monastery³. Later the Tian Tan Buddha was opened in 1993 and the Path of Wisdom was completed in 2005 making Ngong Ping an important tourist spot of Hong Kong. The 'Buddha Bathing Festival' ceremony conducted every year by the Po Lin Monastery at the birthday of the Buddha attracts numerous participants.
- 3.3.8 On the other hand, turning away from the bustling Ngong Ping area, there are many meditation abodes and nunneries in Lantau for meditation in the tranquil hills including the long-established Luk Wu Ching Ser. It was built in the 9th Year of Emperor Guangxi (1883) and is the oldest among the 26 Taoist monasteries in Keung Shan. It was originally named 'Shun Yeung

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⁷ Source: Geography Department: The University of Hong Kong, Oral History Narration Project-Luk Wu of Lantau (香港大學地理系,□述歷史計劃 — 大嶼山鹿湖): http://www.geog.hku.hk/lukwu/content/鹿湖發展的啟示

Fairy Cave' (純陽仙河) and was founded by a Taoist Priest called LUO Yuan-yi (transliteration). Luk Wu Ching Ser originally was a Taoist meditation centre. It was then handed to Monk Guan Qing by LUO Yuan-yi, the presiding priest of the nunnery and since then Buddhism² was preached there. Because of the beautiful and special construction and design of the nunnery, it was listed as a Grade 2 historical building for preservation after renovation.

(d) <u>Trappist Haven Monastery</u>

3.3.9 Apart from Buddhism elements such as the Po Lin Monastery and Tian Tan Buddha, there are also catholic facilities in Lantau such as the Trappist Haven Monastery which is the only Catholic monastery of the medieval architecture style in Hong Kong⁸ built in 1950s. At that time, a group of Cistercians came to the remote southeast part of Lantau and built the Trappist Haven Monastery in the mountains. Later, they kept the dairy herd and produced the famous 'Trappist Dairy' brand of milk⁹. Now, the milk is not produced in the monastery which still stands on the quiet hill witnessing the diversified religious history of Lantau.

4 Landscape Conservation (Plan 5)

4.1 Lantau Island has very unique landscape features. Dominated by ridges of hill running from southwest to northeast, the island is dissected by a series of valleys and fringed with some narrow coastal uplands and plains. According to "Landscape Value Mapping of Hong Kong", most of Lantau is accorded with high landscape value. The high landscape value areas include country parks, other natural and undeveloped areas and the natural coastline. All of them need preservation and there should be landscape buffers in place. Apart from the natural landscape, there are also areas with unique character and special landscape such as the traditional fishing village in Tai O, Mui Wo rural township, the coastline along Cheung Sha/Pui O and the religious communities in Ngong Ping and Keung Shan etc.

⁹ Source:Trappist Haven Monastery, A 50-year Brief History (滄桑五十年簡史): http://www.catholic.org.tw/trappist/htmls/his.htm

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Source: Ngong Ping 360, Lantau Outdoor Fun: http://www.np360.com.hk/tc/lantau-outdoor-fun/land/trappist- haven-monastery.htm

- 4.2 In addition, there are some buildings and large-scale development, such as the airport, Ngong Ping Cable Car and the HZMB under construction, which are the landmarks of Lantau Island and form part of the urban landscape.
- 4.3 Most of the high landscape value areas are designated as country parks, conservation areas, coastal protection areas and green belts. As stated above, these areas are not suitable for development. For development in these areas, permission of the Country and Marine Parks Authority must be obtained or planning approval be sought from the Town Planning Board.

5 The Way Forward

There is rich natural ecology, historic cultural heritage and beautiful landscape in Lantau and some of the above sites have very high conservation value. It is proposed that conservation measures should aim at ensuring that the sites of high ecological, heritage and landscape values would not be impaired by development, and at the same time strengthening the linkage between point, line and surface in conservation so that the public could enjoy the assets of Lantau. Relevant conservation measures will be considered during the formulation of the conservation strategy.

6 Conclusion

- 6.1 The above proposals generally balance and coordinate the planning and conservation needs of Lantau, preserve the Lantau rural area for natural and cultural conservation, and are compatible with the recreation, tourism and educational uses under the principle of sustainable development.
- 6.2 This paper aims to provide baseline information for the formulation of overall spatial development and conservation strategy for Lantau to the members. Members please note this information and discuss on the proposed directions.

Plan 1: Nature Conservation

Plan 2: Sites of Archaeological Interest in Lantau

Plan 3: Declared Monuments and Historic Buildings in Lantau

Plan 4: Religious Facilities in Lantau

Plan 5: Landscape Conservation

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