

**Evaluation of Applications for
Pilot Nature Conservation Management Agreement Projects**

Our views on the four applications received are set out below -

I. A Pilot Scheme of Management Agreement on the Private Land with High Conservation Value at Fung Yuen Valley Site of Special Scientific Interest in Tai Po, Hong Kong (submitted by Tai Po Environmental Association (TPEA))

| Evaluation Criteria | Comments |
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| Benefits that will bring to the efforts in enhancing the conservation of the site concerned and in better achieving the nature conservation objective | <p>The project will benefit the conservation of Fung Yung by –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• reducing and minimizing the incidence of any irregularity and environmentally incompatible behavior on the private land;• enhancing and maintaining the habitat quality of private land as an important site to butterflies;• enhancing and maintaining the diversity of butterfly species; and• providing a refuge area for foraging, inhabiting and breeding butterflies. <p>It will also promote the new nature conservation policy and the importance of conservation to local community and the general public.</p> |
| Sustainability including its resources implications, participation of the landowner and local community, the nature and enforceability of the management agreement | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The pilot scheme will provide TPEA with seed money to initiate management agreements with landowners at Fung Yuen, encourage public participation, and promote the project. In the long run, TPEA plans to operate and maintain the site with income from fund raising programmes, sponsorships, conservation education programmes and product sales, etc. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TPEA has already secured the in-principle agreement of landowners to sign management agreements with the Association. |
| Whether the budget is reasonable and realistic, and whether the project is cost effective | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project will involve the management of about 174,000 square feet (16,165 m²) of private land at Fung Yuen. • The budget seems reasonable and the exact amount of funding to be approved will be decided by the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) Committee. |
| Technical and project management capability, and track record of the applicant. NGOs may seek assistance or support from other relevant professional bodies where necessary | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TPEA is experienced in implementing environmental projects, including projects funded by the Environmental Campaign Committee and ECF. • The project will be supported by the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden, Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, Green Power. |

II. Birds and Humans in Harmony – A Sustainable Management Scheme in Long Valley (submitted by the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (HKBWS))

| Criteria | Comments |
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| Benefits that will bring to the efforts in enhancing the conservation of the site concerned and in better achieving the nature conservation objective | <p>The project will benefit the conservation of Long Valley by –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrating that specific management practices on conventional farming operations will be beneficial to wildlife through a partnership programme with the local farming community; • providing baseline information for the enhancement and creation of different habitats in Long Valley that are favourable to the targeted species; • helping the local farming community to realize that a win-win situation for human |

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| | <p>and birds is possible; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increasing public understanding of the importance of conserving Long Valley. |
| <p>Sustainability including its resources implications, participation of the landowner and local community, the nature and enforceability of the management agreement</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project will focus on the management of several different habitats, including active wet agricultural lands, fallow wet agricultural land and fallow dry agriculture land. Experience from this project will help to determine which management scheme is most effective and appropriate to bird conservation in Long Valley. • HKBWS has already gained support from local farmers, landowners and indigenous leaders. • Income to be generated from organizing eco-tours will be used to extend the coverage of farming area of the project. |
| <p>Whether the budget is reasonable and realistic, and whether the project is cost effective</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project will involve the management of about 250,000 square feet (23,226 m²) of land in Long Valley. • The budget seems reasonable and the exact amount of funding to be approved will be decided by the ECF Committee. |
| <p>Technical and project management capability, and track record of the applicant. NGOs may seek assistance or support from other relevant professional bodies where necessary</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HKBWS has a lot of experience on birds in Hong Kong and implementing environmental projects, including projects funded by AFCD and ECF. • The project will be supported by the New Territories Conservation Association, Conservancy Association, and Produce Green Foundation. |

III. Sustainable Habitat Management in Long Valley (submitted by the Conservancy Association (CA))

| Evaluation criteria | Comments |
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| Benefits that will bring to the efforts in enhancing the conservation of the site concerned and in better achieving the nature conservation objective | <p>The project will benefit the conservation of Long Valley by –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preventing further deterioration of the freshwater habitats through management agreements; • enhancing habitat diversity by sustaining wet agriculture and modifying conventional farming practices; • identifying food webs in the wetland habitats so as to improve the habitat management measures for nature conservation; • identifying potential threats to the sustainability of the major habitats and formulate a sustainable habitat management strategy through a study of the financial situations and farming practices; and • engaging local farmers and landowners into dialogues on the potential for long-term cooperation for management over their lands to achieve sustainable agriculture and nature conservation in Long Valley. |
| Sustainability including its resources implications, participation of the landowner and local community, the nature and enforceability of the management agreement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project will develop a sustainable habitat management strategy for Long Valley. • CA will also promote eco-tourism to enrich the economy of Long Valley. Income to be generated from organizing eco-tours will be used to extend the coverage of farming area of the project. |
| Whether the budget is reasonable and realistic, and whether the project is cost effective | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project will involve the management of about 212,000 square feet (19,695 m²) of land in Long Valley. • The budget seems reasonable and the exact |

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| | amount of funding to be approved will be decided by the ECF Committee. |
| Technical and project management capability, and track record of the applicant. NGOs may seek assistance or support from other relevant professional bodies where necessary | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CA is one of the major NGOs in Hong Kong. It has extensive experience in nature conservation and in implementing environmental projects, including projects funded by AFCD and ECF. • The project will be supported by the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, New Territories Conservation Association, Produces Green Foundation and Hong Kong Organic Resources Centre. |

IV. Pilot project to implement the “Adopt Green Fish Farm” Scheme (submitted by the World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong (WWF Hong Kong))

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| Benefits that will bring to the efforts in enhancing the conservation of the site concerned and in better achieving the nature conservation objective | <p>The project will benefit the conservation of the Ramsar site and wetlands outside Ramsar site by –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • engaging the public to be actively involved in management and conservation of the concerned site; • providing financial encouragement to the pond-fish farmers to continue the traditional management of their ponds; • maintaining the socio-economic, ecological, landscape, cultural and education values of the Deep Bay fishponds through the management agreement ; and • enhancing the public and pond-fish farming community’s understanding of the |

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| | <p>importance of the Ramsar Site and the Deep Bay fishponds</p> |
| <p>Sustainability including its resources implications, participation of the landowner and local community, the nature and enforceability of the management agreement</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is estimated that the scheme will be financial sustainable if sufficient “foster parents” to support 100 hectares of fishponds could be identified. • The project will be a joint effort between the Hong Kong New Territories Fish Culture Association and WWF Hong Kong. The former will act as an intermediary between WWF Hong Kong and the Deep Bay fishpond operators, and provide support to the pilot agri- environmental management agreement. |
| <p>Whether the budget is reasonable and realistic, and whether the project is cost effective</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project will involve the management of up to 100 hectares of private land at the Ramsar site and wetlands outside Ramsar site. • The budget seems reasonable and the exact amount of funding to be approved will be decided by the ECF Committee. |
| <p>Technical and project management capability, and track record of the applicant. NGOs may seek assistance or support from other relevant professional bodies where necessary</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WWF Hong Kong is one of the major NGOs in Hong Kong. It has extensive experience in wetland conservation and managing the Mai Po Nature Reserve for many years, and in implementing environmental projects, including projects funded by AFCD and ECF. • It also maintains close relation with fish farmers’ associations and fishpond operators. |