

MTR Corporation Limited

Northern Link

Plant Preservation and Transplantation Proposal

(Batch 2 – Proposed Wetland Compensation Area)

March 2026

Verified by:

Joyce Wong 

Position:

Independent Environmental Checker

Date:

24 March 2026

MTR Corporation Limited

Northern Link

Plant Preservation and Transplantation Proposal

(Batch 2 – Proposed Wetland Compensation Area)

March 2026

Certified by:	Kenneth Chow	<i>Kenneth Chow</i>
Position:	Environmental Team Leader	
Date:	24 March 2026	



Plant Preservation and Transplantation Proposal

(Batch 2 of 2 – Proposed Wetland Compensation Area (WCA))

Report No.: 1637-B-WCA-GCL-660-000001

Prepared by: Ida Yu
Qualified Ecologist

Checked by: David Stanton
Executive Director, Ecology and Biodiversity

Approved by: F.C. Tsang
Environmental Team Leader

Revision History

Revision	Date	Description
A	14 January 2026	First Issue
B	2 March 2026	Second Issue
C	20 March 2026	Third Issue

Contents

1	INTRODUCTION.....	4
1.1	BACKGROUND.....	4
1.2	PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSAL.....	5
2	ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY.....	5
2.1	SURVEY AREA	5
2.2	SURVEY METHODOLOGY	5
2.3	ASSESSMENT APPROACH	6
3	SURVEY FINDINGS.....	6
4	STRATEGY APPROACH FOR THE PLANT SPECIES OF CONSERVATION IMPORTANCE	7
4.1	PREPARATION BEFORE TRANSPLANTATION.....	8
4.2	PREPARATION OF ROOT BALL.....	8
4.3	ESTABLISHMENT OF A TEMPORARY NURSERY SITE	9
4.4	PREPARATION OF RECIPIENT SITE FOR FINAL TRANSPLANTATION.....	9
4.5	TRANSPLANTATION TO FINAL RECIPIENT SITE	10
5	POST-TRANSPLANTATION MONITORING AND MAINTENANCE.....	11
5.1	WATERING.....	11
5.2	MULCHING.....	11
5.3	PRUNING, WEEDING, AND PEST CONTROL	12
5.4	FERTILISATION.....	12
5.5	COMPENSATION.....	12
6	MONITORING	12
7	REPORTING.....	13
8	IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME	13
9	CONCLUSION	15
10	REFERENCES.....	16

LIST OF FIGURES

Drawing No. 1637/B/WCA/GCL/C24/007	Site Location
Drawing No. 1637/B/WCA/GCL/C24/008	Locations of <i>Aquilaria sinensis</i> Seedlings within Wetland Compensatory Area
Drawing No. 1637/B/WCA/GCL/C24/009	Potential Recipient Site For Final Transplantation of <i>Aquilaria sinensis</i> Seedlings



LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A Detailed Vegetation Survey Findings within WCA

Appendix B Photos of *Aquilaria sinensis* Seedlings

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1 *Aquilaria sinensis* seedlings within WCA recorded during the survey and their recommended measures

Table 2 Summary of Implementation Schedule



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The Northern Link (NOL) is one of the seven railway schemes recommended to be taken under the Railway Development Strategy 2014 (“RDS-2014”). The Project will be a heavy underground railway line with a route length of about 10.7km between Kam Sheung Road (KSR) Station on the Tuen Ma Line (TML) and Kwu Tung (KTU) Station on the Lok Ma Chau Spur Line (LMCSL) of East Rail Line (EAL). The Project connects the EAL and the TML, forming a railway loop in the Northern New Territories. Passengers will be able to interchange at KSR Station on TML and KTU Station on EAL. The Project will also serve the transportation needs to the potential New Development Areas (NDAs) in the Northern New Territories and enhance cross-boundary movement.

The NOL runs underground in tunnel between KSR(NOL) and KTU(NOL). Stations with three proposed intermediate stations at Au Tau (AUT), Ngau Tam Mei (NTM) and San Tin (SAT) to support the unleashing of the development potential along its alignment. An at-grade depot is proposed at NTM area, and also there would be other aboveground structures including station entrances and ancillary buildings (ABs), i.e. ventilation shafts/ventilation buildings (VBs), Emergency Access Points (EAPs) and Emergency Egress Points (EEPs), as well as enabling works to the south of KSR(NOL) Station, for potential southern extension, to the north of SAT Station for potential bifurcation to Lok Ma Chau Loop and Huanggang Port, and to the east of KTU(NOL) Station for potential eastern extension to Ping Che areas.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report (Register No.: AEIAR-259/2024) for the Project was approved on 9 February 2024 under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO). Subsequent to the approval of the EIA Report, an Environmental Permit (EP) was issued on 9 February 2024 (EP No.: EP-638/2024) for the construction and operation of the Project.

Pursuant to Conditions 2.18 and 2.19 of the EP No: EP-638/2024, the Permit Holder shall, no later than 1 month before the commencement of site clearance works of the corresponding parts of the Project, deposit with the Director of Environmental Protection (hereinafter referred to as “the Director”) a Plant Preservation and Transplantation Proposal (PPTP). The PPTP shall (i) report the detailed vegetation survey methodology and results (including the updated condition, number, locations, species and habitat types of potentially affected individuals of flora species of conservation importance within the works area); and (ii) propose preservation, transplantation and/or compensation plan for each affected individual of flora species of conservation importance (including methodology, suitable recipient site and implementation, monitoring and maintenance programme).

The PPTP submitted under Condition 2.18 shall include an implementation schedule in table form to clearly list out the mitigation measures to be implemented, and the implementation party, location, timing, and environmental performance required for implementation of the mitigation measures. The PPTP shall be prepared by the qualified



ecologist(s)/botanist(s) as appointed under Condition 2.5, certified by the Environmental Team Leader (ETL) and verified by the Independent Environmental Checker (IEC).

According to Section 10.9.5.10 and Appendix 15.1 of the approved EIA Report, a total of two floral species of conservation importance (i.e. a cluster of *Perscaria orientalis* and a seedling of *Aquilaria sinensis*) were identified in Sha Po/ Au Tau (SPAUT) area), and *in situ* preservation and transplantation to nearby suitable recipient site is recommended. A detailed vegetation survey should be undertaken in the identified affected area (i.e. SPAUT area) to update their latest condition, and determine the appropriate protection/transplantation methodology. Since the construction of the Project would be undertaken in stages, the PPTP(s) under EP Conditions 2.18 and 2.19 would be prepared in 2 batches and deposited to the Director no later than 1 month before the commencement of site clearance works of the corresponding parts of the Project. PPTP (Batch 1 of 2) for Shui Mei Road Ancillary Building (SMA) covering the works site of SMA was submitted and approved by Environmental Protection Department (EPD) on 25 July 2025.

1.2 Purpose of the Proposal

This PPTP (Batch 2 of 2) has been prepared to describe the current condition, number and location of the flora species of conservation importance specifically within the WCA; and propose preservation, transplantation and/or compensation plan for each affected individual of flora species of conservation importance (including methodology, suitable receptor site and implementation, monitoring and maintenance programme).

2 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

2.1 Survey Area

The survey conducted during the survey period included works site boundary of the proposed WCA (**Drawing No. 1637/B/WCA/GCL/C24/007**).

2.2 Survey Methodology

During the EIA Study, a seedling of *Aquilaria sinensis* was recorded in the Village/Orchard habitat within the WCA. The detailed vegetation survey aimed to confirm the location of this species and to provide updated inventory of flora species present within the WCA.

A detailed vegetation survey was conducted within works site boundary of the WCA (**Drawing No. 1637-B/WCA/GCL/C24/007**) in October 2025 to verify the findings of the EIA study and to identify any potentially affected plant species of conservation importance (i.e. *Aquilaria sinensis* in the WCA), ascertain their presence, update their physical conditions and determine the abundance and locations of the species. A walkthrough survey was conducted; all floral species observed during the survey were identified to species level, with their relative abundance recorded.



Nomenclature and conservation status of plant species followed Corlett et al. (2000), AFCD (2003, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012), and Qin et al. (2017).

2.3 Assessment Approach

The general approach for mitigating impacts to species of conservation importance as recommended in Annex 16 of the EIAO-TM is, in order of priority: avoidance, minimisation and compensation.

In-situ preservation should be the priority to prevent the direct loss of flora species of conservation importance.

If *in-situ* preservation is not feasible, transplantation should be considered to reduce the unavoidable direct impact on the plant specimens.

In cases where transplantation is not practicable, such as steep slopes, poor plant health, or unfavourable form or structural condition, compensatory planting for potentially affected plant species of conservation importance should be recommended.

3 SURVEY FINDINGS

Currently, the proposed WCA is mainly composed of existing fishponds, marsh/ reed and village/orchard, and very small areas of tidal meander. A small patch of Marsh/Reed habitat is occupied with banana tree *Musa x paradisiaca* on its fringes and bounded by a mixture of mangrove associate *Acanthus ilicifolius*, herb *Lygodium japonicum*, grass *Panicum maximum* while aquatic area is grown with herb *Cyperus malaccensis* var. *brevifolius*.

The bunds around Pond are occupied by a high density of cultivated fruit trees, *Artocarpus heterophyllus* and *Dimocarpus longan*, *Mangifera indica* and *Musa x paradisiaca*. Apart from the fruit trees, the canopy also consists of *Leucaena leucocephala* and *Melia azedarach* trees. Ornamental plants such as *Dracaena sanderiana*, *Sansevieria trifasciata* and *Tradescantia spathacea* were recorded in low abundance.

The complete list of flora species recorded during the detailed vegetation survey is provided in **Appendix A**.

A total of three *Aquilaria sinensis* seedlings were recorded on the pond bund (i.e. regarded as "Village/ Orchard" next to the existing fishponds during the survey. Apart from the seedling (i.e. "AS-02" in **Table 1**) recorded in the approved EIA study, two additional seedlings of this species (i.e. "AS-01" and "AS-03" in **Table 1**) were recorded during the detailed vegetation survey. They were found near the seedling at previously recorded location in approved EIA Report. All seedlings are in general good health conditions. Details of these seedlings and the recommended measures are presented



in **Table 1**. Recorded locations and photos are presented in **Drawing No. 1637/B/WCA/GCL/C24/008** and **Appendix B**, respectively.

Table 1 *Aquilaria sinensis* seedlings within WCA recorded during the survey and their recommended measures

Plant No.	Overall Height (mm)	Diameter at stem base (mm) ^{1,2}	Crown Spread (mm)	Form (Good, Fair, Poor)	Health (Good, Fair, Poor)	Amenity Value (Low, Medium, High)	Recommended Measure
<i>Aquilaria sinensis</i> (AS-01)	600	100	300	Fair	Good	Low	Transplant due to direct conflict to the future wetland reprofiling
<i>Aquilaria sinensis</i> (AS-02)	1,000	180	400	Fair	Good	Low	Transplant due to direct conflict to the future wetland reprofiling
<i>Aquilaria sinensis</i> (AS-03)	2,300	350	900	Fair	Good	Medium	Transplant due to direct conflict to the future wetland reprofiling

Notes:

- For seedlings, diameter at stem base was measured instead of diameter at breast height due to their young ages and small sizes.
- Early access will be arranged to reassess the latest condition of the seedlings and their size.

4 STRATEGY APPROACH FOR THE PLANT SPECIES OF CONSERVATION IMPORTANCE

The three *Aquilaria sinensis* seedlings proposed for transplantation are located on existing pond bund vegetated with fruit trees which are proposed to be felled. This pond bund is proposed to be removed in order to create the Enhancement Pond. Given the constraints of the available land to create all required habitat types (Enhancement Pond, Marsh/Reed, grassy bund) under the EIA requirements, it is not feasible to retain these three seedlings *in situ* (i.e. retain the concerned pond bund that is proposed to be removed for creating the large Enhancement Pond) since this will inevitably reduce the Enhancement Pond area and shift the pond eastward. However, this approach may lead to the potential non-compliance to the EIA requirements in meeting the required habitat areas in the wetland. It is also not quite feasible to retain all three seedlings *in situ* during the wetland construction given that they are standing among fruit trees that have to be felled, and removal of other taller fruit trees and their underground roots, which are very close to these three seedlings, could inevitably damage them during the tree removal works. In addition, the three seedlings are located at the main path for construction machinery to access the whole WCA during the construction, making it more difficult to retain them *in-situ*. The enhancement and habitat modification works will unavoidably impact the three *A. sinensis* seedlings, necessitating their transplantation.

Since reprofiling works have to be carried out in all habitat types within the WCA in order to create the compensatory wetland for meeting all design and management requirements stipulated in the approved EIA Report, all three *Aquilaria sinensis*



seedlings will be transplanted in pots and maintained at a temporary nursery site nearby the WCA throughout the construction of the WCA. The potted seedlings will then be transplanted to the final recipient site where it is ready. The subsequent sections detail the approach of the transplantation procedure.

4.1 Preparation before Transplantation

Before carrying out the transplantation works, a qualified Ecologist/Botanist with at least 7 years of relevant experience in transplantation and botanical survey and assessment shall be employed to determine the extent of the area around which each seedling will be later removed through digging or excavation, and to supervise the transplantation process ensuring proper care to *A. sinensis* seedlings throughout the whole process.

The transplantation work shall be carried out by a Landscape Contractor with demonstrated experience in transplanting floral species of conservation importance or equivalent; the whole procedure shall be supervised by the qualified Ecologist/Botanist.

4.2 Preparation of Root ball

Root ball will be used in the preparation of the seedlings for transplantation. Lifting or removing plant specimens without first preparing a root ball will leave much of the root system in the soil, which may cause dieback. As a result, the transplanted plants will be unable to recuperate and will eventually die.

Prior to digging the seedlings, these must be watered to slightly moisten the soil. With the use of appropriate and sterilised hand tools (such as a small trowel), plant specimens will be carefully dug around the edges.

The qualified Ecologist/Botanist will determine the diameter of the root balls on-site for preparing the transplant. Wherever possible, the root ball will be prepared with sufficient root ball depth of about 300mm deep. However, the actual root ball dimensions and practicality of root ball preparation should be adjusted in accordance with the actual site condition to be determined by the qualified Ecologist/Botanist.

Once the root ball has been prepared and dug to the desired depth, it should be shaped with sharp spade or knife or similar sharp tool to prevent it from breaking. To limit the number of split and torn roots, all cut roots must be thoroughly clipped back to healthy tissues. Root ends must be trimmed to induce a flush of new fibrous roots, allowing individuals to recover more quickly from injuries.

Once the root ball is undercut and prepared, the seedlings shall then be lifted carefully and immediately placed in a pot and will be transported to the temporary nursery site. It is necessary to immediately place the seedlings in the pot following the collection to minimise transplantation shock. The pot must be larger than the root ball, and with drain holes.



All equipment (such as sharp spade and knife) used should be sterilised before and after preparing each root ball of individual seedling. This is to minimise any contamination of the soil mass and roots and spread of disease from one root ball to another through the pruning equipment. The equipment should be sterilised with diluted bleach solution and rinsed thoroughly afterwards.

4.3 Establishment of a Temporary Nursery Site

To prevent the seedlings from any damage and disturbance from wetland enhancement works within WCA throughout the construction period, a temporary nursery site within works area W2, which will be temporarily acquired by the Project Proponent during the construction phase of the WCA, will be designated to hold these seedlings until works within WCA are completed.

For practical and cost-effective approach, and to minimise the disturbance during transport, the actual temporary nursery site within works area W2, adjacent to the WCA, will be subject to the actual site condition by the time of transplantation.

Considering that works area W2 will provide access to WCA and will be subject to foot traffic for works and access of construction equipment, it is recommended to establish a protection zone in a form of solid and rigid fencing around the potted seedlings as a designated area to be protected from construction activities.

An aggregate protection zone will be established which should extend slightly beyond the perimeter of outermost canopy of the seedlings. A temporary, robust fencing must be erected around the established protection zone to prevent equipment and materials from entering the area, which can compact soil and damage the seedlings. The protection zone should be maintained clear from any construction material, waste and excess soil that may cause damage to the plant specimen. No digging, trenching, compaction, or other soil disturbance should be allowed within the protection zone.

Maintenance of the transplanted seedlings in the temporary nursery site during the construction of the WCA is detailed in **Section 5**. Monitoring of the transplanted seedlings is detailed in **Section 6**.

4.4 Preparation of Recipient Site for Final Transplantation

Transplantation of all *Aquilaria sinensis* seedlings to the final recipient site will be tentatively conducted before the completion of the WCA construction (potentially conducted after the installation of the permanent boundary fence nearby the recipient site to avoid disturbance to the seedlings). The potential recipient site within the WCA is presented in **Drawing No. 1637/B/WCA/GCL/C24/009**. This recipient site is located on the reprofiled and hydroseeded pond bund of around 3.5m in width and at area away from the disturbance from Chi Ho Road. The recipient site will be finalised at the area not in direct conflict with the foundation of the boundary fence and away from the major maintenance access track for potential maintenance machinery in the future.



Prior to final transplantation, the actual location(s) of recipient site within the WCA will be confirmed by the qualified Ecologist/Botanist (e.g. selection of the most suitable recipient location, checking and confirmation of no presence of other plant species of conservation importance), and prepared to facilitate the immediate planting of the seedlings after they are removed from the pots.

Minimal site clearance and preparation will be undertaken before final transplantation of the species to the recipient site. Any large stones or rubbish and all deleterious materials found should be removed.

Planting hole will be excavated on-site. Actual dimensions will be advised by the qualified Ecologist/Botanist; ideally planting holes must provide adequate growth space for the future seedling growth. Compacted soil surrounding the hole should be loosened with a spade to facilitate air penetration.

4.5 Transplantation to Final Recipient Site

The transplantation works are preferably carried out in the morning or on a cloudy day to avoid subjecting the *Aquilaria sinensis* seedlings to direct sunlight on later time of the day. A thorough watering one day before or in the morning of final transplanting must be carried out to enable easy removal of root ball from the pot and reduce damage to the roots. If the roots are tightly wound, the tips must be gently teased out, or a few shallow cuts must be made to encourage outward growth. Once the root ball is removed from the pots, it shall be immediately burlapped with damp hessian to keep it moist and minimise soil break-up during transplantation.

Removing the seedlings from the pots and replanting of the plant specimens into the recipient site should be conducted over as short a time as practically possible to minimise duration of exposure and subsequent mortality due to transplantation shock or disease.

As much as feasible, seedlings should be transplanted with their root mass and soil intact. Immediate transplanting can maximise the percentage of root systems preserved in the root ball and minimise potential harm to the root systems.

Each seedling should be appropriately positioned in the designated planting hole and should be planted with their root collars at or slightly above the soil level. The roots should be positioned vertically and fully extended within the hole. The hole should be gently backfilled with the excavated, loose soil. The soil surrounding the seedling should be compacted using a shallow depression to retain moisture. Mulch, such as shed leaves, should be placed around the seedling. All transplanted seedlings should be thoroughly watered to eliminate air pockets in the soil.

In order to protect the transplanted seedlings from direct sunlight exposure, shading nets should be established to provide a semi-shady environment for the transplanted seedlings at least for the first three months. Duration of the provision of shading nets should be adjusted during the post-transplantation monitoring and maintenance period.



5 POST-TRANSPLANTATION MONITORING AND MAINTENANCE

Post-transplantation monitoring and maintenance are crucial for maintaining the seedlings health and survival while being kept in temporary nursery site throughout the construction period, and during the 12-month post-transplantation period after the final transplantation to the recipient site.

The health condition, survival and growth performance shall be monitored by the qualified Ecologist/Botanist throughout the post-transplanting maintenance and monitoring period.

The following monitoring and maintenance requirements apply on the transplanted seedlings during the maintenance in the temporary nursery site throughout the construction period, and 12-month post-transplantation period after the final transplantation to the recipient site.

5.1 Watering

Transplanted seedlings should be watered daily by the Contractor for at least in the first week after transplantation. The frequency of watering will be gradually reduced to 2-3 times per week. Watering frequency during the wet season will be modified based on weather conditions and instructions from the qualified Ecologist/Botanist.

Fresh water should be used for watering. The watering should be carried out in such a manner that compaction, washout of soil and loosening of plants will not arise. Direct watering onto the leaves and soaking the specimens by excessive watering should be avoided.

Dust suppression measures must also be implemented to minimise the potential adverse dust impacts to transplanted seedlings. Excessive dust covering the leaves can affect the health of adjacent vegetation and may lead to a reduction in their photosynthetic rates, abrasion and blocking of stomata. In the event of visible accumulation of dust on these seedlings, it is recommended that spraying be conducted to remove the accumulated dust.

5.2 Mulching

Mulches aid in conserving moisture, regulating soil temperature, improving soil health and fertility, preventing erosion and suppressing weed growth around transplanted seedlings.

Organic mulches (e.g. wood chips and bark, compost straw, leaves, and dried grass clippings) shall be placed on the soil surface over the plant root system. However, excessive piling of mulch ("Mulch Volcanoes") against the bases of transplanted seedlings must be avoided as this may also retain moisture, encourage decay, and attract rodents.



5.3 Pruning, Weeding, and Pest Control

Pruning may be carried out, if necessary, after transplantation to remove any broken or insect/fungal infected stems of the transplanted seedlings. Regular weeding and pest control should also be implemented during the post-transplantation maintenance period. Weeding, pest control and fertilisation will be carried out by the Contractor with the advice of the qualified Ecologist/Botanist.

Any unwanted weeds (such as *Mikania micrantha*) found in the recipient site or within the pots at the temporary nursery site should be removed by the Contractor once identified or when instructed by the qualified Ecologist/Botanist. Manual weeding should be conducted to prevent accidental damage to the transplanted seedlings. All weeds and rubbish resulting from the weeding operation shall be appropriately disposed of by the Contractor.

During regular maintenance and monitoring, the qualified Ecologist/Botanist and the Contractor should check for insect attacks and fungal infestations. As far as possible, the use of pesticides for pest control should be avoided. Minor infestations discovered on transplanted specimens should be removed manually or with soapy water.

5.4 Fertilisation

The need of fertilisation will be determined by the qualified Ecologist/Botanist in view of the latest growth performance of the transplanted specimens. Advice from the qualified Ecologist/Botanist should be sought in choosing the fertiliser.

5.5 Compensation

The compensatory planting of new individual(s) of the same number and species will be undertaken to compensate for the transplanted seedlings that does not survive at the temporary nursery site (W2) or after the transplantation at the final recipient site during the 12-month post-transplantation period. The same monitoring and maintenance procedures listed in **Section 5.1-5.4** above will be undertaken for a 12-month period.

6 MONITORING

The qualified Ecologist/Botanist will be responsible to conduct regular monitoring and provide advice on maintaining the transplanted seedlings.

During the construction phase, while the seedlings are kept in the temporary nursery site, monitoring shall be done weekly until the construction works are completed.

During the 12-month post-transplantation period after final transplantation to the recipient site, the monitoring will be conducted weekly in the first 3 months and monthly in the remaining months.



The monitoring parameters include health condition, survival and growth performance of each of the transplanted seedlings. Photographic records will be undertaken for each monitoring event.

Monitoring results from each monitoring event will be reported to the Project Proponent on a monthly basis supplemented in monthly monitoring reports throughout the post-transplantation maintenance and monitoring period. These reports will be separately submitted to EPD upon request.

7 Reporting

A detailed transplantation report showing the transplantation procedures will be submitted after the completion of transplantation works. Throughout the post-transplantation maintenance and monitoring period, a monthly post-transplantation report will be prepared by the Qualified Ecologist to summarise the inspection findings of the transplanted *Aquilaria sinensis* seedlings, including the details of the transplantation works such as but not limited to an updated description of the physical environment of the receptor site, number and health condition of the transplanted seedlings, as well as photographs showing the condition of these seedlings. A final monitoring report summarising the monitoring results throughout the post-transplantation maintenance and monitoring period will be prepared to evaluate the success of the transplanted works at the final recipient sites. All transplantation report, monthly post-transplantation reports and final monitoring report will be submitted to the Project Proponent, and these reports will be deposited to EPD and AFCD.

8 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME

Before site clearance and commencement of construction works of the WCA, the three *Aquilaria sinensis* seedlings must be transplanted to the temporary nursery site in the works area W2, tentatively in April/May 2026, with regular maintenance and monitoring throughout the construction period and until the final recipient site is ready for transplantation, tentatively in Q4 2026.

A 12-month post-transplantation period will be given to the transplanted seedlings in the final recipient site. Regular maintenance and monitoring will likewise be conducted throughout the 12-month post-transplantation period.

The summary of the Implementation Schedule is shown in **Table 2**.

Table 2 Summary of Implementation Schedule

Implementation Detail	Implementation Party ¹	Location of the measures	Frequency and Duration	Environmental Performance Requirements
Pre-transplantation Works				
Establishment of a Temporary Nursery Site with Protection Zone	Contractor supervised by qualified Ecologist/Botanist and employed by MTR	Within W2	Before commencement of enhancement works within WCA	Latest recommended horticultural practices from Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section (GLTM), Development Bureau



Implementation Detail	Implementation Party ¹	Location of the measures	Frequency and Duration	Environmental Performance Requirements
				(DevB); the transplanted seedlings are maintained according to Section 4.3 of this PPTP
Preparation of Recipient Site	Landscape Contractor (employed by Contractor) supervised by qualified Ecologist/Botanist; all parties should be employed by MTR/ Contractor/ consultant of MTR	Potential recipient site within the WCA	Before commencement of final transplantation works to the recipient site	Latest recommended horticultural practices from GLTM; the transplanted seedlings are maintained according to Sections 4.4 – 4.5 of this PPTP
Transplantation to Temporary Nursery Site and Final Recipient Site				
Transplantation works (including root ball preparation and transport of seedlings)	Landscape Contractor (employed by Contractor) supervised by qualified Ecologist/Botanist; all parties should be employed by MTR/ Contractor/ consultant of MTR	Temporary nursery site and final recipient site of transplanted <i>Aquilaria sinensis</i> seedlings	To temporary nursery site - Before site clearance and commencement of construction works of WCA To final recipient site - after completion of WCA	Latest recommended horticultural practices from GLTM; DEVB 4/2020; the transplanted seedlings are maintained according to Section 4 of this PPTP
Post-transplantation Maintenance Works at Temporary Nursery Site and Final Recipient Site				
Watering	Contractor employed by MTR	Transplanted <i>Aquilaria sinensis</i> seedlings in temporary nursery site and in final recipient site	Daily – first week after transplantation (apply to temporary nursery site and final recipient site). The frequency will be gradually reduced to 2-3 times per week during the period transplanted in temporary nursery site and the 12-month post-transplantation period in final recipient site. Watering frequency during the wet season will be modified based on weather conditions and instructions from the qualified Ecologist/Botanist.	Latest recommended horticultural practices from GLTM; the transplanted seedlings are maintained according to Section 5.1 of this PPTP
Mulching	Contractor employed by MTR	Transplanted <i>Aquilaria sinensis</i> seedlings in temporary nursery site and in final recipient site	As advised by qualified Ecologist/Botanist during the period transplanted in temporary nursery site and the 12-month post-transplantation period in final recipient site	Latest recommended horticultural practices from GLTM; the transplanted seedlings are maintained according to Section 5.2 of this PPTP
Pruning	Contractor supervised by qualified	Transplanted <i>Aquilaria sinensis</i>	As advised by qualified	Latest recommended horticultural practices



Implementation Detail	Implementation Party ¹	Location of the measures	Frequency and Duration	Environmental Performance Requirements
	Ecologist/Botanist and employed by MTR	seedlings in temporary nursery site and in final recipient site	Ecologist/Botanist during the period transplanted in temporary nursery site and the 12-month post-transplantation period in final recipient site	from GLTM; the transplanted seedlings are maintained according to Section 5.3 of this PPTP
Weeding	Contractor employed by MTR	Transplanted <i>Aquilaria sinensis</i> seedlings in temporary nursery site and in final recipient site	Monthly or as advised by qualified Ecologist/Botanist during the period transplanted in temporary nursery site and the 12-month post-transplantation period in final recipient site	Latest recommended horticultural practices from GLTM; the transplanted seedlings are maintained according to Section 5.3 of this PPTP
Pest Control	Contractor employed by MTR	Transplanted <i>Aquilaria sinensis</i> seedlings in temporary nursery site and in final recipient site	As advised by qualified Ecologist/Botanist during the period transplanted in temporary nursery site and the 12-month post-transplantation period in final recipient site	Latest recommended horticultural practices from GLTM; the transplanted seedlings are maintained according to Section 5.3 of this PPTP
Fertilisation	Contractor employed by MTR	Transplanted <i>Aquilaria sinensis</i> seedlings in temporary nursery site and in final recipient site	As advised by qualified Ecologist/Botanist throughout post-transplantation period	Latest recommended horticultural practices from GLTM; the transplanted seedlings are maintained according to Section 5.4 of this PPTP
Monitoring				
Monitoring of survival and growth of transplanted seedlings in temporary nursery site	Qualified Ecologist/Botanist employed by MTR/ Contractor/ Consultant of MTR	Transplanted <i>Aquilaria sinensis</i> seedlings in temporary nursery site	Weekly during the period transplanted in temporary nursery site until the final recipient site is ready for final transplantation	The transplanted seedlings are monitored according to Section 6 of this PPTP
Monitoring of survival and growth of transplanted seedlings after final transplantation to recipient site	Qualified Ecologist/Botanist by MTR/ Contractor/ Consultant of MTR	Transplanted <i>Aquilaria sinensis</i> seedlings within recipient site	Weekly in the first 3 months Monthly in the remaining 9-month during post-transplantation period	The transplanted seedlings are monitored according to Section 6 of this PPTP

Notes:

1. The management organisation for the implementation of the above mitigation measures shall be submitted to EPD no later than 1 month before commencement of construction of the WCA. Should there is any change to the management organisation, the updated management organisation shall be submitted to EPD no later than 1 month before the implementation of any such change.

9 CONCLUSION

Based on the detailed vegetation survey conducted in October 2025, three *Aquilaria sinensis* seedlings were recorded within the proposed WCA.



The seedlings will be unavoidably impacted in the site clearance and construction works within the WCA and will require to be transplanted. The seedlings are in general good health condition, making them ideal for transplantation.

The seedlings will be initially transplanted to a temporary nursery site in works area W2 which will hold them throughout the construction period or until the final recipient site is ready for final transplantation.

Transplantation of all *Aquilaria sinensis* seedlings to the final recipient site will be tentatively conducted before the completion of the WCA construction (potentially conducted after the installation of the permanent boundary fence nearby the recipient site to avoid disturbance to the seedlings). The proposed final recipient site is located within the WCA.

To ensure survival of the seedlings, post-transplantation monitoring and maintenance works will be provided during the period transplanted in temporary nursery site and the 12-month post-transplantation period in final recipient site. Growth performance and health conditions of the transplanted seedlings will be monitored by the qualified Ecologist/Botanist during these periods.

10 REFERENCES

Development Bureau. (DEVB) (2020). Technical Circular (Works) No. 4/2020 Tree Preservation. https://www.greening.gov.hk/filemanager/greening/en/content_77/C-2020-04-01.pdf

Accessed on 06 October 2025.

Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section Development Bureau (GLTMSDB). 2014. Guidelines on Tree Transplanting.

https://www.greening.gov.hk/filemanager/content/pdf/tree_care/Guidelines_on_Tree_Transplanting_e.pdf. Accessed on 06 October 2025.

Hong Kong Herbarium. (2012). Check List of Hong Kong Plants 2012. Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Hong Kong Herbarium and South China Botanical Garden. (2007). Flora of Hong Kong. Volume 1. Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Hong Kong Herbarium and South China Botanical Garden. (2008). Flora of Hong Kong. Volume 2. Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Hong Kong Herbarium and South China Botanical Garden. (2009). Flora of Hong Kong. Volume 3. Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, The Government of the

Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Hong Kong Herbarium and South China Botanical Garden. (2011). Flora of Hong Kong. Volume 4. Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Hu, Q.M., Wu, T.L., Xia, N.H., Xing F.W., Lai, C.C.P. and Yip, K.W. (2003). Rare and Precious Plants of Hong Kong. Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Lai, C.C., Yip, Y., Yip, K.L., Ngar, Y.N. and Liu, K.Y. (2008). Field Guide to Trees in Hong Kong's Countryside. Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department. Hong Kong.

Lands Department (LandsD) (2023). LAO PN 6/2023 – Processing of Tree preservation and Removal Proposals for Building Development in Private Projects – Compliance with Tree Preservation Clause under Lease.

Xing, F.W., Ng, S.C. and Chau, L.K.C. (2000). Gymnosperms and Angiosperms of Hong Kong. Memoirs of the Hong Kong Natural History Society 23: 21-136.



Appendix A Detailed Vegetation Survey Findings within WCA

Scientific Name	Chinese Name	Origin ¹	Growth Form ¹	Conservation and Protection Status ¹	Status in HK ¹	Habitat ^{2,3}		
						PD	V/O	MS
<i>Acacia auriculiformis</i>	耳果相思, 耳葉相思	Exotic	Tree	-	Widely cultivated in Hong Kong		*	
<i>Acacia confusa</i>	台灣相思	Exotic	Tree	-	Cultivated or Naturalised		**	
<i>Acanthus ilicifolius</i>	老鼠簕	Native	Shrub	-	Common			**
<i>Achyranthes aspera</i>	土牛膝, 倒扣草	Native	Herb	-	Common	*	**	
<i>Acrostichum aureum</i>	鹵蕨	Native	Herb	-	Restricted	*		*
<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i>	藿香薊, 勝紅薊	Exotic	Herb	-	Cultivated or Naturalised		**	
<i>Albizia lebbek</i>	大葉合歡	Exotic	Tree	-	Cultivated or Naturalised		*	
<i>Alocasia macrorrhizos</i>	海芋	Native	Herb	-	Common		**	
<i>Annona squamosa</i>	番荔枝	Exotic	Tree	-	Cultivated or Naturalised		*	
<i>Aporosa dioica</i>	銀柴, 大沙葉	Native	Tree	-	Common		*	
<i>Aquilaria sinensis</i>	土沉香, 牙香樹, 白木香	Native	Tree	VU (IUCN), VU (TSLCHP), NT (AFCD 2003), V (CPRDB), Cap.586	Common		*	
<i>Artocarpus heterophyllus</i>	菠蘿蜜	Exotic	Tree	-	Cultivated or Naturalised		****	
<i>Asystasia micrantha</i>	小花十萬錯	Exotic	Herb	-	Cultivated or naturalized			
<i>Averrhoa carambola</i>	楊桃	Exotic	Tree	-	Cultivated or Naturalised		*	
<i>Axonopus compressus</i>	地毯草	Exotic	Herb	-	Cultivated or Naturalised		**	
<i>Barleria lupulina</i>	有刺鴨咀花	Exotic	Shrub	-	Cultivated or Naturalised		*	
<i>Bauhinia variegata</i>	宮粉羊蹄甲	Exotic	Tree	-	Cultivated or Naturalised		*	
<i>Bidens alba</i>	白花鬼針草	Exotic	Herb	-	Cultivated or Naturalised		**	
<i>Bischofia polycarpa</i>	重陽木	Exotic	Tree	-	Cultivated or Naturalised		*	
<i>Boehmeria nivea</i> var. <i>tenacissima</i>	青葉芋麻	Native	Herb	-	Restricted		*	
<i>Brachiaria mutica</i>	巴拉草, 爬拉草	Exotic	Herb	-	Cultivated or Naturalised			*
<i>Bridelia tomentosa</i>	土蜜樹, 逼迫仔	Native	Shrub/Tree	-	Common	*	**	
<i>Broussonetia papyrifera</i>	構樹	Native	Tree	-	Common		**	
<i>Capsicum annuum</i>	辣椒, 牛角椒, 長辣椒	Exotic	Herb	-	Cultivated			
<i>Caryota mitis</i>	短穗魚尾葵, 小魚尾葵	Exotic	Shrub	-	Cultivated or Naturalised		*	



Scientific Name	Chinese Name	Origin ¹	Growth Form ¹	Conservation and Protection Status ¹	Status in HK ¹	Habitat ^{2,3}		
						PD	V/O	MS
<i>Celtis sinensis</i>	朴樹	Native	Tree	-	Common		**	*
<i>Centotheca lappacea</i>	假淡竹葉	Native	Herb	-	Common		**	
<i>Cinnamomum burmannii</i>	陰香	Native	Tree	-	Common		*	
<i>Citrus reticulata</i>	柑橘	Exotic	Tree	-	Cultivated or Naturalised		*	
<i>Clausena lansium</i>	黃皮	Exotic	Tree	-	Cultivated or Naturalised		**	
<i>Cleistocalyx nervosum</i>	水翁	Native	Tree	-	Common	**	**	
<i>Cocculus orbiculatus</i>	木防己	Native	Vine	-	Common	*	**	
<i>Colocasia esculenta</i>	芋	Exotic	Herb	-	Cultivated or Naturalised		*	
<i>Commelina diffusa</i>	節節草	Native	Herb	-	Common	*		
<i>Crateva unilocularis</i>	樹頭菜	Exotic	Tree	-	Cultivated or Naturalised		*	
<i>Cunninghamia lanceolata</i>	杉木	Exotic	Tree	-	Cultivated or Naturalised		*	
<i>Cyclosorus parasiticus</i>	華南毛蕨	Native	Herb	-	Common		*	
<i>Cyperus malaccensis</i> var. <i>brevifolius</i>	短葉茳芏, 鹹水草	Native	Herb	-	Common	*		**
<i>Cyrtococcum patens</i>	弓果黍	Native	Herb	-	Common	***	****	
<i>Delonix regia</i>	鳳凰木	Exotic	Tree	-	Cultivated or Naturalised		*	
<i>Desmos chinensis</i>	假鷹爪, 酒餅葉	Native	Shrub	-	Common		**	
<i>Dimocarpus longan</i>	龍眼	Exotic	Tree	NT (IUCN), VU (TSLCHP)	Cultivated or Naturalised		***	
<i>Dracaena fragrans</i>	巴西鐵樹	Exotic	Shrub	-	Cultivated or Naturalised		*	
<i>Dracaena sanderiana</i>	辛氏龍樹, 富貴竹	Exotic	Shrub	-	Cultivated or Naturalised	***	***	
<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>	鳳眼藍, 大水萍	Exotic	Herb	-	Cultivated or Naturalised	*		
<i>Elephantopus scaber</i>	地膽草	Native	Herb	-	Common		*	
<i>Epipremnum aureum</i>	綠蘿, 芋葉藤	Exotic	Herb	-	Cultivated or Naturalised		*	
<i>Eranthemum pulchellum</i>	可愛花	Exotic	Shrub	-	Cultivated or Naturalised		*	
<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	赤桉	Exotic	Tree	-	Cultivated			
<i>Ficus hirta</i>	粗葉榕, 牛奶仔	Native	Shrub/Tree	-	Common in Hong Kong		*	
<i>Ficus hispida</i>	對葉榕, 牛乳樹	Native	Shrub/Tree	-	Common		*	
<i>Ficus lyrata</i>	大琴葉榕	Exotic	Tree	-	Cultivated or Naturalised		*	
<i>Ficus microcarpa</i>	榕樹, 細葉榕	Native	Tree	-	Common		*	



Scientific Name	Chinese Name	Origin ¹	Growth Form ¹	Conservation and Protection Status ¹	Status in HK ¹	Habitat ^{2,3}		
						PD	V/O	MS
<i>Ficus pumila</i>	薜荔, 文頭郎	Native	Shrub	-	Common		*	
<i>Ficus subpisocarpa</i>	筆管榕	Native	Tree	-	Common	*	*	
<i>Ficus virens</i>	黃葛樹, 大葉榕	Native	Tree	-	Common		*	
<i>Ficus tinctoria subsp. gibbosa</i>	斜葉榕, 水榕	Native	Tree	-	Restricted		*	
<i>Flueggea virosa</i>	白飯樹, 金柑藤	Native	Shrub	-	Common		*	
<i>Gymnanthemum amygdalinum</i>	南非葉	Exotic	Shrub	-	-		*	
<i>Hedyotis hedyotideae</i>	牛白藤	Native	Shrub	-	Common		*	
<i>Hibiscus tiliaceus</i>	黃槿	Native	Shrub	-	Common			*
<i>Hylocereus undatus</i>	量天尺	Exotic	Herb	-	Cultivated		*	
<i>Hymenocallis littoralis</i>	水鬼蕉, 蜘蛛蘭	Exotic	Herb	-	Cultivated or Naturalised		*	
<i>Ilex asprella</i>	梅葉冬青, 秤星樹	Native	Shrub	-	Common		*	
<i>Ipomoea cairica</i>	五爪金龍	Exotic	Herb	-	Cultivated or Naturalised	**	**	*
<i>Kyllinga polyphylla</i>	水蜈蚣, 香根水蜈蚣	Exotic	Herb	-	Cultivated or Naturalised	*		
<i>Lantana camara</i>	馬纓丹, 如意草	Exotic	Shrub	-	Cultivated or Naturalised		**	
<i>Leucaena leucocephala</i>	銀合歡	Exotic	Shrub/Tree	-	Cultivated or Naturalised	**	***	
<i>Ligustrum sinense</i>	山指甲	Exotic	Shrub/Tree	-	Cultivated or Naturalised		*	
<i>Litchi chinensis</i>	荔枝	Exotic	Tree	EN (TSLCHP)	Cultivated or Naturalised		**	
<i>Litsea glutinosa</i>	潺槁樹	Native	Tree	-	Common		*	
<i>Litsea monopetala</i>	假柿木薑子, 假柿樹	Native	Tree	-	Restricted		*	
<i>Livistona chinensis</i>	蒲葵	Exotic	Tree	-	Cultivated or Naturalised		*	
<i>Ludwigia hyssopifolia</i>	草龍	Native	Herb	-	Restricted	*		
<i>Lygodium japonicum</i>	海金沙	Native	Herb	-	Common		**	**
<i>Macaranga tanarius var. tomentosa</i>	血桐	Native	Tree	-	Common	*	*	*
<i>Mangifera indica</i>	芒果	Exotic	Tree	-	Cultivated or Naturalised	**	**	
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	楝, 苦楝, 森樹	Exotic	Tree	-	Cultivated or Naturalised	**	**	
<i>Merremia hederacea</i>	魚黃草	Native	Herb	-	Restricted		*	
<i>Mikania micrantha</i>	薇甘菊	Exotic	Herb	-	Cultivated or Naturalised	**	**	
<i>Momordica charantia var. abbreviata</i>	短角苦瓜	Exotic	Vine	-	Cultivated or Naturalised		*	
<i>Morus alba</i>	桑	Native	Shrub/Tree	-	Common		*	
<i>Murraya paniculata</i>	九里香	Exotic	Tree	-	Cultivated or Naturalised		*	



Scientific Name	Chinese Name	Origin ¹	Growth Form ¹	Conservation and Protection Status ¹	Status in HK ¹	Habitat ^{2,3}		
						PD	V/O	MS
<i>Musa x paradisiaca</i>	大蕉, 甘蕉	Exotic	Herb	-	Cultivated or Naturalised	*	**	***
<i>Nephrolepis auriculata</i>	腎蕨	Native	Herb	-	Common		*	
<i>Nerium oleander</i>	夾竹桃	Exotic	Shrub	-	Cultivated or Naturalised		*	
<i>Neyraudia reynaudiana</i>	類蘆, 石珍茅	Native	Herb	-	Common	*		
<i>Oxalis corniculata</i>	酢漿草	Native	Herb	-	Common		*	
<i>Oxalis debilis</i> subsp. <i>corymbosa</i>	紅花酢漿草	Exotic	Herb	-	Cultivated or Naturalised		*	
<i>Pachira aquatica</i>	瓜栗	Exotic	Tree	-	Cultivated or Naturalised		*	
<i>Paederia scandens</i>	雞矢藤	Native	Herb	-	Common		**	
<i>Panicum maximum</i>	大黍	Exotic	Herb	-	Cultivated or Naturalised	**	****	**
<i>Panicum repens</i>	鋪地黍, 枯骨草	Native	Herb	-	Common		*	
<i>Paspalum conjugatum</i>	兩耳草	Native	Herb	-	Common		*	
<i>Passiflora foetida</i>	龍珠果	Exotic	Vine	-	Cultivated or Naturalised		*	
<i>Persicaria chinensis</i>	火炭母	Native	Herb	-	Common		*	
<i>Philodendron erubescens</i>	紅苞喜林芋	Exotic	Herb	-	Cultivated		*	
<i>Philodendron selloum</i>	羽裂蔓綠絨	Exotic	Herb	-	Cultivated			
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	蘆葦	Native	Herb	-	Common	*		
<i>Phyllanthus urinaria</i>	葉下珠, 珍珠草	Native	Herb	-	Common		*	
<i>Podocarpus macrophyllus</i>	羅漢松	Native	Tree	VU (TSLCHP)	Restricted or Cultivated		*	
<i>Praxelis clematidea</i>	假臭草	Exotic	Herb	-	Cultivated or Naturalised		*	
<i>Psychotria asiatica</i>	九節, 山大刀	Native	Tree/Shrub	-	Common		*	
<i>Pteris semipinnata</i>	半邊旗	Native	Herb	-	Common		*	
<i>Rhaphiolepis indica</i>	石斑木, 車輪梅, 春花	Native	Shrub/Tree	-	Common		*	
<i>Rhapis excelsa</i>	棕竹	Native	Shrub	-	Common		*	
<i>Ruellia coerulea</i>	蘭花草	Exotic	Herb	-	Cultivated or Naturalised		*	
<i>Sageretia thea</i>	雀梅藤	Native	Shrub	-	Common		*	
<i>Sansevieria trifasciata</i>	虎尾蘭	Exotic	Herb	-	Cultivated or Naturalised		*	
<i>Sapium sebiferum</i>	烏桕	Native	Tree	-	Common		*	
<i>Saurauia tristylia</i>	水東哥, 米花樹	Native	Shrub/Tree	-	Common		*	
<i>Schefflera arboricola</i>	鵝掌藤	Exotic	Tree/Shrub	-	Cultivated or Naturalised		*	
<i>Schefflera heptaphylla</i>	鵝掌柴, 鴨腳木	Native	Shrub/Tree	-	Common		*	



Scientific Name	Chinese Name	Origin ¹	Growth Form ¹	Conservation and Protection Status ¹	Status in HK ¹	Habitat ^{2,3}		
						PD	V/O	MS
<i>Scoparia dulcis</i>	野甘草	Exotic	Herb/Shrub	-	Cultivated or Naturalised		*	
<i>Senna bicapsularis</i>	雙莢決明	Exotic	Shrub	-	Cultivated or Naturalised		*	
<i>Sida acuta</i>	黃花稔	Native	Herb	-	Common		*	
<i>Sida rhombifolia</i>	白背黃花稔	Native	Shrub	-	Common		*	
<i>Solanum americanum</i>	少花龍葵	Exotic	Herb	-	Cultivated or Naturalised		*	
<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	莕荳菜	Native	Herb	-	Common		*	
<i>Sonneratia caseolaris</i>	海桑	Exotic	Tree	-	Cultivated or Naturalised		*	*
<i>Strophanthus divaricatus</i>	羊角拗	Native	Liana/Shrub	-	Common		**	
<i>Synedrella nodiflora</i>	金腰箭, 苞穀菊	Exotic	Herb	-	Cultivated or Naturalised	*		
<i>Syzygium jambos</i>	蒲桃	Exotic	Tree	-	Cultivated or Naturalised	*	**	
<i>Typha angustifolia</i>	水燭	Exotic	Herb	-	Cultivated or Naturalised	*		
<i>Urena lobata</i>	肖梵天花, 地桃花, 繡頭婆	Native	Shrub	-	Common	*	*	
<i>Vernonia cinerea</i>	夜香牛	Native	Herb	-	Common		*	
<i>Wedelia trilobata</i>	三裂葉蟛蜞菊	Exotic	Herb	-	Cultivated or Naturalised		**	
<i>Zanthoxylum nitidum</i>	兩面針	Native	Shrub	-	Common		*	
Total plant species recorded					128	27	111	12

Notes:

1. Origin and Status refer to:

- AFCD (2003). Conservation Status: LC = Least Concern; NT = Near Threatened; VU = Vulnerable;
- AFCD (2007);
- AFCD (2008);
- AFCD (2009);
- AFCD (2011);
- AFCD (2012);
- Barretto et al. (2011);
- Cap. 96 = Forests and Countryside Ordinance, including the associated Chapter 96A Forestry Regulation;
- Cap. 586 = Protection of Endangered Species of Animal and Plants Ordinance;
- Corlett et al. (2000);
- CPRDB (China Plant Red Data Book). Status is retrieved from AFCD (2003). Status: V = Vulnerable;
- IUCN (2024). Conservation Status: NT = Near Threatened; VU = Vulnerable;
- Qin et al. (2017) (TSLCHP: Threatened Species List of China's Higher Plants). Conservation Status: VU = Vulnerable.

In this study, plant species is regarded as plant species of conservation importance if it is protected under Cap. 96A, Cap. 586, documented as rare/protected species in AFCD (2003), or its wild population (i.e. not cultivated/exotic specimens) has conservation status under international or regional conservation inventory (e.g. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, China Red Data Book, Threatened Species of China's Higher Plants).

2. Habitats: MS = Marsh; PD = Pond; V/O = Village/Orchard

3. Code for abundance:

**** = Common, *** = Frequent, ** = Occasional, * = Scarce

Common – 61 to 100%

Frequent – 41 to 60%

Occasional – 21 to 40%

Scarce – 1 to 20%



Rating referred to National Vegetation Classification: Users' handbook (<https://data.jncc.gov.uk/data/a407ebfc-2859-49cf-9710-1bde9c8e28c7/JNCC-NVC-UsersHandbook-2006.pdf>)

Species considered as of conservation importance in this study are indicated in bold type, cultivated or planted species with conservation status are not included



Appendix B Photos of *Aquilaria sinensis* Seedlings



AS-01



AS-02



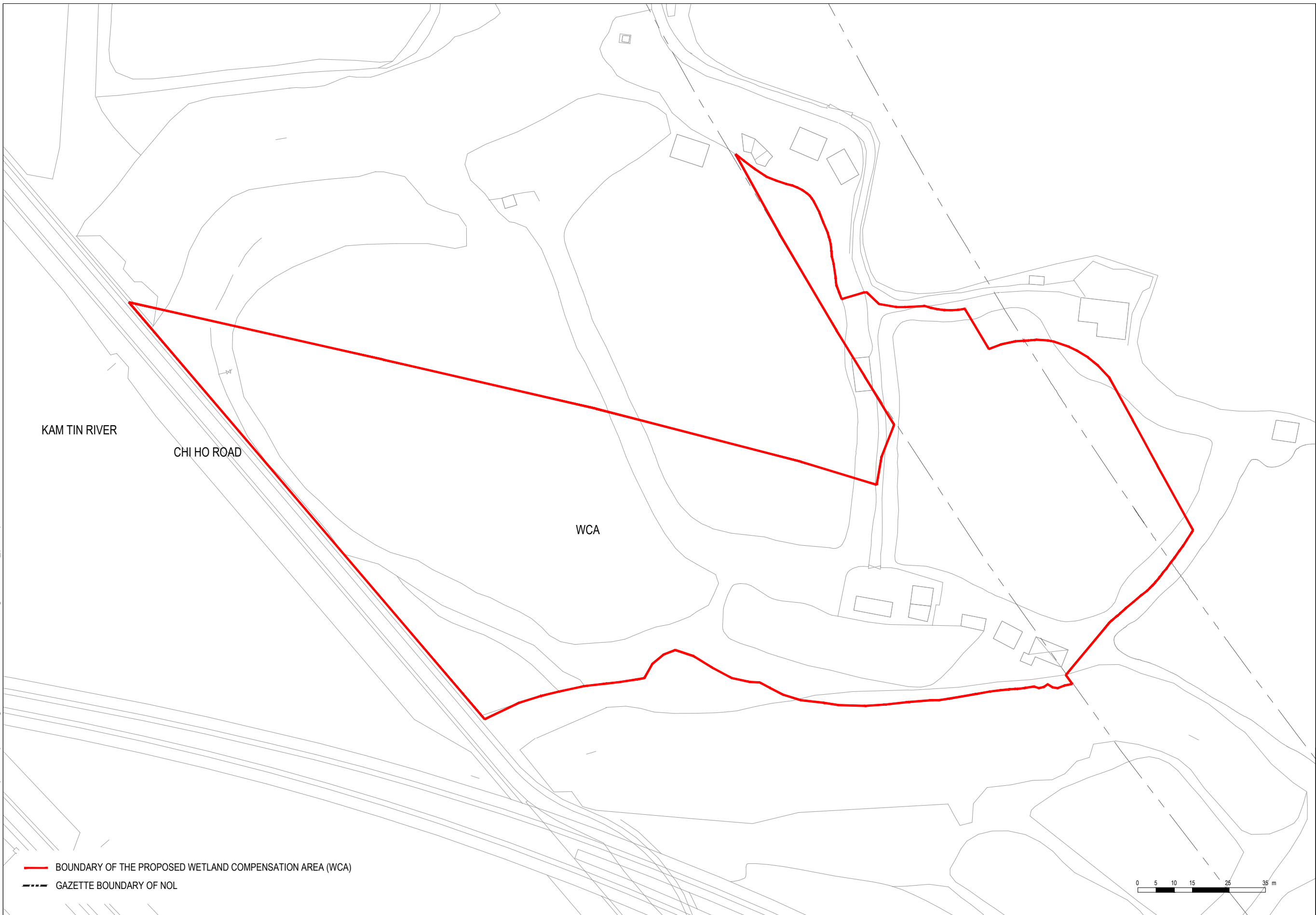
AS-03



Close-up view of the leaves of *Aquilaria sinensis* seedlings

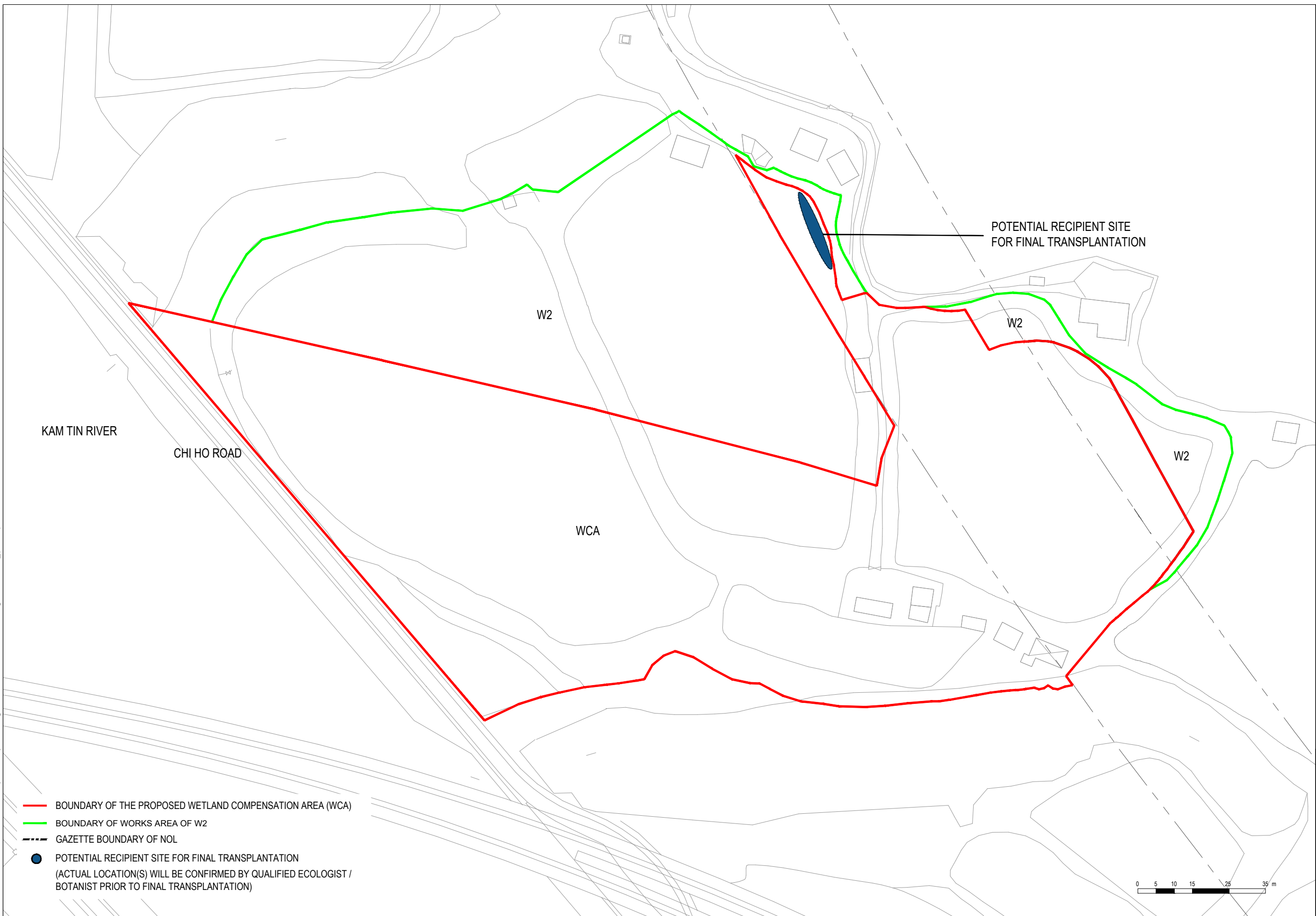


DRAWINGS



--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

[illegible]



--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--