

**Advisory Council on the Environment  
Nature Conservation Subcommittee**

**New Nature Conservation Policy -  
Pilot Conservation Management Agreement Proposals**

**Purpose**

Pursuant to the announcement of the New Nature Conservation Policy in November 2004, four applications have been received under the Pilot Scheme for Management Agreement to enhance the ecological values of the 12 priority conservation sites. This paper invites Members' views on the four applications.

**Background**

2. The Government announced a new nature conservation policy in November 2004 to better achieve the nature conservation objectives, in particular to enhance the conservation of ecologically important sites which are in private ownership. Under the new policy, 12 priority sites have been identified for enhanced protection and the Administration undertook to implement a Pilot Scheme for management agreements as one of the measures to enhance the ecological value of these sites. Under this Pilot Scheme, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) may apply for funding from the Government for entering into management agreements with the landowners. The NGOs will provide the landowners with financial incentives in exchange for management rights over their land and their co-operation in enhancing conservation of the sites concerned. The Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) Committee has approved an allocation of \$5 million for the implementation of the Pilot Scheme. The Guide to Application is attached at **Annex A**.

3. Upon closing of the six-month application period on 31 May 2005, four applications were received involving land located at Ramsar Site, Deep Bay Wetland outside Ramsar site, Fung Yuen and Long Valley. Summary of the applications is at **Annex B**.

## **Recommendations**

4. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department and the Environmental Protection Department have examined these applications in accordance with the following evaluation criteria –

- (a) the benefits that the proposed project will bring to the efforts in enhancing the conservation of the site concerned and in better achieving the nature conservation objective;
- (b) the sustainability of the proposed project including its resources implications, participation of the landowner and local community, the nature and enforceability of the management agreement;
- (c) whether the proposed budget is reasonable and realistic, and whether the project is cost effective; and
- (d) the technical and project management capability, and track record of the applicant. In this regard, NGOs may seek assistance or support from other relevant professional bodies where necessary.

Our assessments on these application are set out in **Annex C**. In general, we consider that all four applications will be beneficial to the ecological environment of the concerned sites and are worth supporting.

## **Advice Sought**

5. Subject to members' comments, the proposals will be submitted to the Advisory Council on the Environment and ECF Committee for endorsement.

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department  
Environmental Protection Department  
August 2005

**GUIDE TO APPLICATION**

**PILOT CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT PROJECTS**

**FUNDED BY**

**ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION FUND**

Please send your application to –

Environment Branch  
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau  
10/F Citibank Tower, 3 Garden Road  
Central, Hong Kong

or

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department  
5/F Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices  
303 Cheung Sha Wan Road, Kowloon

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Environment, Transport and Works Bureau (ETWB) has announced a new nature conservation policy to better achieve the nature conservation objectives, especially enhancing conservation of ecologically important sites which are in private ownership. Under the new policy, a pilot scheme will be implemented for the new conservation measure, viz. management agreements with landowners, for enhanced conservation of the priority sites listed in *Appendix I*. The Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) Committee<sup>1</sup> has approved an allocation of \$5 million for this cause.

### **1.1 Purpose of this Guide**

This Guide provides guidance on application for funding management agreement projects under the pilot scheme, and describes the basic requirements and responsibilities for recipient organisations. Upon approval of funds by the ECF Committee, recipient organisations will sign an agreement with the Government undertaking to observe the conditions of using the allocated grant and the approved budget.

### **1.2 Nature of Projects**

Pilot conservation management agreement projects must contribute to enhancing the conservation of the sites concerned through management agreements between non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and landowners. Under these agreements, NGOs may provide landowners with financial incentives in exchange for management rights over their land or their cooperation in enhancing conservation of the sites concerned.

### **1.3 Administration**

Applications will be administered by ETWB and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD).

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<sup>1</sup> A statutory body, which comprises mainly non-officials, was set up in 1994 under the Environment and Conservation Fund Ordinance to advise the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works on the use of the Fund. Under the Ordinance, the Secretary is the trustee responsible for the administration of the Fund.

## 2. GUIDE TO APPLICATION

### 2.1 Who may apply?

Registered local non-profit making organisations (e.g. universities, community bodies, green groups) or groups formed under a registered non-profit making organisations in Hong Kong are eligible to apply.

### 2.2 What are the funding limits?

There are no funding limits. Funds may be granted for full or partial support of projects.

### 2.3 What is the duration of each project?

Each pilot conservation management agreement project should last for at least 12 months and not more than 24 months.

### 2.4 How to apply?

Applicants have to fill in an application form attached to this Guide, which can be obtained from –

- ETWB  
10/F Citibank Tower, 3 Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong  
Tel: 2136 3320; Fax: 2136 3321  
ETWB website (for soft copy) : <http://www.etwb.gov.hk>
- AFCD  
5/F Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices  
303 Cheung Sha Wan Road, Kowloon  
Tel: 2150 6919; Fax: 2314 2802  
AFCD website (for soft copy) : <http://www.afcd.gov.hk>
- ECF Committee Secretariat  
10/F Citibank Tower, 3 Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong  
Tel.: 2136 3340; Fax: 2136 3400  
ECF Committee website (for soft copy) : <http://www.info.gov.hk/etwb-e/link/ecf.htm>
- All District Offices

The person-in-charge of the proposed projects should be the head or deputy head of the applicant organisation. Completed application form should be signed by the person-in-charge and returned to ETWB during the period **from 1 December 2004 to 31 May 2005**.

### 2.5 What are the vetting procedures?

All applications received will first be vetted by ETWB and AFCD in consultation with other relevant government departments and the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE) or its subcommittee where appropriate. The recommendations will then be submitted to the ECF Committee for endorsement. Information of the approved projects will be uploaded onto the websites of ETWB, AFCD and the ECF Committee.

## **2.6 What are the vetting criteria?**

The following broad criteria will be used in assessing the merits of individual applications –

- (1) the benefits that a proposed project will bring to the efforts in enhancing the conservation of the site concerned, better achieving the nature conservation objectives, and evaluating the effectiveness of this new conservation measure;
- (2) the sustainability of a proposed project including its resource implications, participation of the landowner(s) and local community, nature and enforceability of the management agreement concerned;
- (3) the technical and project management capability of the applicant organisation, as well as its track record, including the effectiveness of past projects, and its ability to comply with funding conditions;
- (4) whether the proposed project's schedule of implementation is well-planned and practicable, and the duration is reasonable;
- (5) whether the proposed budget is reasonable and realistic, and whether the project is cost-effective, with full justification for every expenditure item;
- (6) whether the proposed project has alternative sources of funding, and whether it would be more appropriate for the proposed project to be funded by other sources; and
- (7) if recurrent expenditure is incurred, whether the proposed project has potential to become self-sufficient after a certain period of time.

## **2.7 Avoidance of Conflict of Interests**

To avoid conflict of interest, members of ACE (or its subcommittee) and the ECF Committee who are directly or indirectly related to an application will be required to declare interest and refrain from taking part in the discussion of that application by leaving the venue where the deliberation takes place. This will apply to members who are part of the project team and/or members who belong to the same organisation.

## **2.8 When will I know the result?**

Applicant organisations will be informed of the outcome within six months after closing of the application period.

## **2.9 Can I withdraw my application?**

The applicant organisation can write to ETWB/AFCD to withdraw an application at any time before an agreement is signed with the Government.

### **3. BUDGET GUIDELINES**

The application should be accompanied by a detailed budget for the project. Each income and expenditure item should be reasonable, realistic and clearly broken down. All expenditure items must be incurred between the commencement and completion dates of the project. For items which “will not normally be supported”/“may only be supported with full justification”/“only supported on a case-by-case basis”, please provide detailed justifications in the form of an attachment to this application.

#### **3.1 Manpower**

- 3.1.1 The recipient organisation is expected to have the ability to supervise and the expertise to undertake the proposed project. Hence, no funding will be granted for employment of additional supervisory/administrative staff, hire of professional advisors or training course for staff of the recipient organisation for undertaking the project.
- 3.1.2 Funding for project coordinators or their assistants (full/part-time) may be considered on a case-by-case basis but the monthly salary should not exceed HK\$25,000. The total amount for covering the cost of project coordinators/research assistants should not exceed 25% of the total approved amount or the total actual expenditure, whichever is the less.
- 3.1.3 Direct labour cost (for hiring of full/part-time workers) involved in conducting nature conservation or related activities on the site concerned may be supported. The actual amount to be granted will depend on the modus operandi of the project.

#### **3.2 Equipment and Capital Items**

Funding for equipment/capital items may be granted if the equipment/capital item is essential for implementation of the project; and that the recipient organisation will bear all subsequent recurrent costs, including maintenance costs, of the equipment/capital items.

#### **3.3 Rental Payment and Renovation Fee**

- 3.3.1 Funding for renting land and premises necessary for the implementation of the project (e.g. land for implementing nature conservation or related activities or premises for establishment of a site office to conduct the activities) may be considered. The actual amount will depend on the size and location of the selected land/venue. This does not apply to land/premises under the possession of the recipient organisation, its office bearers or persons associated with the recipient organisation.
- 3.3.2 One-off payment for basic renovation of premises necessary for the implementation of the project will be considered, subject to a ceiling of HK\$20,000.

### 3.4 Other sponsorships

Applicants are encouraged to seek sponsorships from other sources to fund part of the projects applying for ECF. However, applicants should clearly indicate in their submission details (including the source, amount, and income to be generated) regarding sponsorships outside ECF. Applicants' intention to seek other sponsorships should be stated if details are not available when their applications are submitted.

### 3.5 Others

- 3.5.1 All essential elements of an application will be considered in an integral manner. For projects involving production of publication, the recipient organisation should include details of publication arrangements in the application together with its budget for overall assessment.
- 3.5.2 All applications are considered on their individual merits. For projects involving recurrent expenditures, the recipient organisation has to demonstrate that such expenses will be of a specified finite duration or that the project is able to become self-financing after a certain period of time.
- 3.5.3 Funding for public education activities in connection with the project, hire of transport, light meals for unpaid voluntary workers and premium for public liability insurance will be allowed. The level of funding for such expenses are set out in *Appendix 2*.
- 3.5.4 Funding for general administrative costs incurred by the recipient organisation in undertaking the project will not normally be given. Under exceptional circumstances and if the recipient organisation can fully justify to the satisfaction of the relevant vetting authorities including ETWB and AFCD, funding may be granted. But under no circumstances will such funding granted be in excess of 20% of the total approved grant or the total actual expenditure, whichever is the less.
- 3.5.5 Requests for funding for contingency items will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- 3.5.6 Funding will not be granted to the recipient organisation for renting or purchasing materials already in the organisation's stock.
- 3.5.7 Funding for payments to individuals as a reward for their participation in the activities organised under a project will not be given.

## **4 CONDITIONS FOR THE USE AND ALLOCATION OF FUND**

### **4.1 Contractual Requirements**

For each project for which funds have been approved, the recipient organisation has to sign an agreement with the Government and comply with all the terms of the agreement.

### **4.2 Use of Funds**

4.2.1 The allocated funds shall not be used as payments to individual members of the public as a financial reward for their participation in the activities associated with the project.

4.2.2 The proposed project must accrue benefits to the district/local community as a whole, and not just an individual, a single private organisation or a consortium of private companies.

### **4.3 Disbursement and Reimbursement of Funds**

4.3.1 Disbursement of approved allocation will take into account the estimated cash flow of the project. The recipient organisation will receive between 25-50% of the grant upon approval depending on the nature of the project. The recipient organisation may submit a proposed plan for payment to ETWB/AFCD for consideration. Interim payment may be released to the recipient organisation subject to endorsement of the proposed payment plan and progress report, but the last 10% will normally be released only after completion of the project, subject to submission of a statement of accounts and a completion report to the satisfaction of ETWB/AFCD.

4.3.2 All revenue/income received/derived from the project (including sales of output, fees generated from activities conducted and interest income generated from cash in hand for the project), irrespective of whether it has been declared in the application, must be defrayed against the actual expenditure before calculating the amount to be reimbursed as the final payment; or ploughed back into the project account as set out in the agreement signed between the Government and the recipient organisation.

4.3.3 Amount to be reimbursed for individual items of the budget will not exceed the approved amount for that item. However, ETWB/AFCD may increase the approved amount of an individual item by up to 20% provided that the total amount to be paid will not exceed the approved total.

4.3.4 The grant could be reduced on a pro-rata basis in the following circumstances –

- the scope and/or activities of the project have been changed;
- the actual area of the site conserved under the management agreement is less than originally proposed;
- the actual frequency of activities conducted (e.g. field visits) is less than originally proposed;
- the number of participants is less than originally proposed and the grant allocated is decided according to the number of participants;
- the number of publication (e.g. leaflets) is less than originally proposed; or

- the duration of the project has been reduced.

4.3.5 Any item not on the approved list of budget items will not be reimbursed.

4.3.6 Any unspent balance of the grant shall be returned to ECF within two months after completion of the project.

4.3.7 Income derived from the project after the project period, including sales of output, should be returned to ECF for offsetting part or whole of the funded amount.

#### **4.4 Project Interest**

4.4.1 The ECF grant shall be paid into a risk-free interest-bearing account opened with a licensed bank.

4.4.2 Interest incomes generated from the ECF grant and other receipts for a project have to be defrayed against the actual expenditure before calculating the amount to be reimbursed as the final payment, if any.

4.4.3 The recipient organisation may be required to compensate the Government for loss of interest income if the ECF grant is not properly handled. Where necessary, the Government will initiate legal action for suitable remedies.

#### **4.5 Progress and Completion Reports**

4.5.1 The recipient organisation has to submit a progress report with information on the financial position of its project once every three months to ETWB/AFCD. Except for the first disbursement, all disbursements will be subject to satisfactory progress of the project. ETWB/AFCD may carry out visits or surprise checks to examine the progress of the project.

4.5.2 Within two months after completion of the project or before the date specified in the agreement, the recipient organisation has to submit a completion report to ETWB/AFCD. If an extension of the submission deadline is required, prior approval should be obtained from ETWB/AFCD. ETWB/AFCD will assess the success or effectiveness of the project by comparing the project results against its original objectives and targets as set out in the application.

4.5.3 All progress and completion reports should be signed off by the person-in-charge of the project and submitted in such format as prescribed in the Progress/Completion Report Form.

4.5.4 Unsatisfactory performance will affect the organisation's future chance of getting funding. The organisation's management will be informed.

#### **4.6 Statement of accounts**

4.6.1 Within two months after completion of the project or before the date specified in the agreement, the recipient organisation has to submit a complete statement of

accounts, attached to the completion report, to ETWB/AFCD. If an extension of the submission deadline is required, prior approval should be obtained from ETWB/AFCD.

- 4.6.2 For any project receiving a grant under HK\$150,000, the grant received must be shown in a complete statement of accounts, together with the original copy of invoices and receipts. Auditing will not be required, but ETWB/AFCD reserves the right to check all financial records kept by the recipient organisation relating to use of the grant.
- 4.6.3 For any project receiving a grant of HK\$150,000 or more, the statement of accounts attached to the completion report must be an audited statement of account prepared by an auditing firm, providing assurance that the audited accounts properly presented the financial position of the project and that the conditions of the grant were met.
- 4.6.4 For any project lasting more than 18 months, the recipient organisation has to submit statement of accounts to ETWB/AFCD once every 12 months and within two months after completion of the project.
- 4.6.5 For universities, a statement of accounts certified by the finance office of the institution will be acceptable, regardless of the amount of the grant involved in a project.

#### **4.7 Intellectual Property Rights Arising from Projects and the Use of Project Results**

- 4.7.1 Unless negotiated and agreed otherwise with ETWB/AFCD, the recipient organisation will solely own all intellectual property arising from the project.
- 4.7.2 The recipient organisation is required to grant unconditionally and irrevocably to the Government the right to publish results, findings and any other information provided in the application, progress report(s), completion report and other publications or publicity materials.

#### **4.8 Publicity of Project Events and Results**

- 4.8.1 The recipient organisation should, as far as practicable, publicise the project results or any events related to the project through publications, seminars, workshops, conferences and exhibitions etc.. It should also provide information about the events to ETWB/AFCD.
- 4.8.2 The recipient organisation should notify ETWB/AFCD of the project results before publicising them. Copies of publications or publicity materials produced under the project must be made available to ETWB/AFCD within one month after completion of the project.
- 4.8.3 Project findings will be uploaded on the websites of ETWB, AFCD and the ECF Committee for public access.

#### **4.9 Procurement of Equipment and Capital Items**

4.9.1 The recipient organisation should exercise utmost prudence in procuring equipment, goods or services for the project and must adhere to the following procedures unless ETWB/AFCD agrees otherwise –

- for every procurement the aggregate value of which is more than HK\$5,000 but less than HK\$10,000, quotations from at least two suppliers should be obtained. The recipient organisation should select the supplier that has submitted the lowest bid. If the lowest bid is not selected, full justifications must be given and prior agreement must be obtained from ETWB/AFCD;
- for every procurement the aggregate value of which is HK\$10,000 or more, but less than HK\$500,000, quotations from at least three suppliers should be obtained. The recipient organisation should select the supplier that has submitted the lowest bid. If the lowest bid is not selected, full justifications must be given and prior agreement must be obtained from ETWB/AFCD; and
- for every procurement the aggregate value of which is HK\$500,000 or more, open tendering should be used.

4.9.2 In the case of universities, they may adhere to their established/current standard procurement procedures.

4.9.3 In case the recipient organisation intends to procure equipment or capital items from one company/organisation/individual, it has to provide details, justifications and its relationship with the company/organisation/individual in the application form for not following the open procurement process in paragraph 4.9.1 above. If the application is approved, subsequent approval from ETWB/AFCD will not be required.

4.9.4 All quotations and tendering documents should be kept for inspection by ETWB/AFCD.

#### **4.10 Title of Equipment and Capital Items**

The title of equipment/capital items acquired for implementation of the funded project will remain with the Government. The recipient organisation should surrender to ETWB/AFCD the equipment/capital items upon completion of the project.

#### **4.11 Acknowledgement of Support and Disclaimer**

4.11.1 The source of funding (the name and logo of ECF) must be acknowledged in all publicity materials relating to the project.

4.11.2 The logo of ECF may be used and printed onto various categories of publicity materials with a view to promulgating the contribution of the funds. Examples of publicity materials include publicity leaflets/posters/banners; reports and publications of project outcome; and advertisements on paper and electronic media.

4.11.3 Use of the name and logo of ECF or ETWB/AFCD for other purposes is subject to the prior approval of ETWB/AFCD in consultation with the ECF Committee.

4.11.4 In no circumstances shall the name and logo of ECF or ETWB/AFCD be used for publicity for commercial interest or other purposes which may damage the image and/or cause any liability to ECF.

## **4.12 Suspension/Termination of Funding Granted**

4.12.1 ETWB/AFCD may suspend/terminate funding granted to a project under the following circumstances –

- if the project does not commence within six months after approval of the grant and no reasonable explanation has been given;
- ETWB/AFCD considers that the project has not progressed satisfactorily and no reasonable explanation has been given;
- the team leader leaves the recipient organisation prior to completion of the project and there is no one available who has been involved in the project and considered suitable by ETWB/AFCD to take over the role of team leader; or
- if the recipient organisation fails to comply with the funding conditions as set out in this Guide and/or the approval letter and no reasonable explanation has been given.

4.12.2 In each of the above cases of suspension/termination of funding granted, ETWB/AFCD shall give one month notice to the recipient organisation, stating the reasons for the suspension/termination. In cases of suspension, the recipient organisation should demonstrate that measures have been taken to rectify the problems and change the unsatisfactory situation before ETWB/AFCD will lift the suspension. In cases of termination, the balance of the grant or any funding given in advance shall be returned to ECF. ETWB/AFCD will, in consultation with the ECF Committee, consider possible redeployment of the equipment acquired for the project.

4.12.3 Any suspension or termination of a project will affect the organisation's chance of getting financial support from ECF or similar funding in future. The organisation's management will be informed.

4.12.4 The ECF grant shall be entitled to be refunded by the recipient organisation of part or all of a grant which was used other than in accordance with the terms of the approved project.

4.12.5 Any major changes to the project must be approved by ETWB/AFCD in consultation with the ECF Committee. Such major changes include –

- revision to the budget;
- change of the team leader;
- transfer of the project to another organisation; or
- deferral of the submission of progress/completion reports/statement of accounts.

- 4.12.6 ETWB/AFCD may suspend/terminate funding granted to the project if the project is being carried out under any of the above circumstances without prior approval.
- 4.12.7 Any proposed minor changes to a project should be submitted to ETWB/AFCD for approval.

#### **4.13 Others**

- 4.13.1 The Government and ECF Committee shall bear no responsibility, financial or otherwise, for expenditure or other liabilities arising from the projects.
- 4.13.2 The Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works may at any time, if she considers fit, amend or add to the above conditions, without prior notice to recipient organisations.

**List of Sites for Implementation of  
Pilot Management Agreement Projects**

**Sites**

Ramsar Site

Sha Lo Tung

Tai Ho

Fung Yuen

Luk Keng Marsh

Mui Tsz Lam and Mau Ping

Wu Kau Tang

Long Valley and Ho Sheung Heung

Deep Bay Wetland outside Ramsar Site

Cheung Sheung

Yung Shue O

Sham Chung

**Level of Funding Granted for Expenses and Staff for  
Pilot Conservation Management Agreement Projects**

<b>Items</b>	<b>Level of funding granted</b>
1. Publicity	Maximum: 10% of the total budget
2. Opening/closing ceremony – including set up and decoration, backdrop, rental payment of venue and PA system	Maximum: HK\$10,000 per project
3. Invitation cards	Unit Price: HK\$4 Maximum: HK\$2,000
4. Hire of speakers	HK\$500 per speaker
5. Refreshment	HK\$6 per head Maximum: HK\$6,000 per project
6. Meal allowance for volunteers	For half-day activities – Maximum: HK\$34 per day  For full day activities – Maximum: HK\$48 per day
7. Insurance for third party liabilities	HK\$1,500 per activity
8. Hiring of coach	HK\$1,200 per coach
9. Souvenir (for volunteers)	Unit price:HK\$3 Maximum: HK\$600 per day of collection
10. Exhibition panels	Unit price: HK\$1,000 Maximum: HK\$8,000
11. Educational Materials	Maximum: HK\$1,000
12. Stationery	Maximum: HK\$500
13. Films and film development	Maximum: HK\$1,000
14. Video tapes	Maximum: HK\$500
15. Admission fee for environmental visits and other activities	Maximum: HK\$100 per head

16. Project Coordinator	Funding for project coordinators/assistants (full-time or part-time) may be considered on a case-by-case basis but the monthly salary should not exceed HK\$25,000. The total amount for covering the cost of project coordinators/research assistants should not exceed 25% of the total approved amount or the total actual expenditure, whichever the less
Student Research Assistant (undergraduate)	Maximum: HK\$50 per hour
Research Assistant II (Recent first degree graduate with little or no work experience)	Maximum: HK\$14,330 per month
Research Assistant I (First degree graduate with some experience or master degree holder with no working experience)	Maximum: HK\$17,760 per month
Senior Research Assistant (Master degree holder with working experience or above)	Maximum: HK\$28,450 per month
17. Direct labour cost (full-time / part-time workers) involved in conservation management work	HK\$35 per hour for each labour
18. Minor equipment or tools	Maximum: HK\$50,000
19. Basic renovation or premises necessary for the project	One-off payment. Maximum: HK\$20,000
20. Licence Fee	Applicants are requested to comply with regulations of Hong Kong and apply to all authorities concerned for licences to conduct the project.
21. Administrative and overhead cost	Only supported with full justification to the satisfaction of ETWB/AFCD in consultation with the ECF Committee.
22. Miscellaneous and contingency items	Only supported with full justification to the satisfaction of ETWB/AFCD in consultation with the ECF Committee.

Remarks: The level of funding granted may be adjusted by ETWB/AFCD in consultation with the ECF Committee as and when necessary.

**Summary of applications for pilot nature conservation management agreement projects**

<b>Project Title</b>	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	Birds and Humans in Harmony – A Sustainable Management Scheme in Long Valley	Sustainable Habitat Management in Long Valley	Pilot project to implement the “Adopt Green Fish Farm” Scheme
<b>Site involved</b>	Fung Yuen	Long Valley	Long Valley	Ramsar site and Deep Bay Wetland outside Ramsar site
<b>Proponent</b>	Tai Po Environmental Association (TPEA)	Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (HKBWS)	Conservancy Association (CA)	World Wide Fund for Nature, Hong Kong (WWF, HK)
<b>Project description</b>	Lands in Fung Yuen will receive proactive management for butterfly conservation. TPEA will also cooperate with landowners or land operators to apply “Good Practices for Butterfly Conservation” in all private lots in Fung Yuen Valley.	HKBWS will form partnership with farmers to maintain and increase the biodiversity of Long Valley, especially for avifauna. Creation or maintenance of shallow water habitat, wet agricultural land, fallow dry agricultural land as well as farmland margin vegetation	CA will cooperate with local farmers to manage their farmlands through Habitat Deterioration Prevention Agreement or Habitat Diversity Enhancement Agreement. Active conservation works will be carried out to enhance the heterogeneity	WWF, HK will solicit public sponsorship to provide economic incentives to the fish pond operators to maintain the traditional management of the fishponds in an eco-friendly and sustainable manner. With donation, “foster parents”

		will be done.	within the habitat of abandoned agricultural lands. Food web study will be conducted to provide important ecological information of Long Valley.	of fish will be entitled to join activities at the concerned fishponds and help in the management and maintenance work of the ponds.
<b>Key conservation objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To reduce environmentally incompatible behaviour on the private land in Fung Yuen Valley.</li> <li>- To enhance the habitat and butterfly species diversity.</li> <li>- To promote the public's awareness of conservation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To coordinate appropriate farming and conservation activities to maintain and enhance the biodiversity of the habitat.</li> <li>- To improve the sustainability of the agricultural activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To find out viable options for farmers to maintain active agricultural areas, particularly the wet farmlands, in order to enhance the local biodiversity.</li> <li>- To formulate effective agricultural and conservation management strategy for Long Valley.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To maintain the ecological value of fishponds inside and surrounding the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site.</li> <li>- To support a sustainable pond-fish farming community.</li> <li>- To promote greater awareness of the importance of the Deep Bay fishponds.</li> </ul>
<b>Duration of the proposed project</b>	24 months	24 months	24 months	24 months
<b>Amount of fund applied for</b>	\$1,743,630	\$1,365,060	\$1,536,160	\$807,900

**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))

<b>Evaluation Criteria</b>	<b>Comments</b>
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"><li>• reducing and minimizing the incidence of any irregularity and environmentally incompatible behavior on the private land;</li><li>• enhancing and maintaining the habitat quality of private land as an important site to butterflies;</li><li>• enhancing and maintaining the diversity of butterfly species; and</li><li>• providing a refuge area for foraging, inhabiting and breeding butterflies.</li></ul> <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"><li>• 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.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TPEA has already secured the in-principle agreement of landowners to sign management agreements with the Association.</li> </ul>
Whether the budget is reasonable and realistic, and whether the project is cost effective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project will involve the management of about 174,000 square feet (16,165 m<sup>2</sup>) of private land at Fung Yuen.</li> <li>The budget seems reasonable and the exact amount of funding to be approved will be decided by the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) Committee.</li> </ul>
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"> <li>TPEA is experienced in implementing environmental projects, including projects funded by the Environmental Campaign Committee and ECF.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>

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

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Comments</b>
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"> <li>demonstrating that specific management practices on conventional farming operations will be beneficial to wildlife through a partnership programme with the local farming community;</li> <li>providing baseline information for the enhancement and creation of different habitats in Long Valley that are favourable to the targeted species;</li> <li>helping the local farming community to realize that a win-win situation for human</li> </ul>

	<p>and birds is possible; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increasing public understanding of the importance of conserving Long Valley.</li> </ul>
<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"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• HKBWS has already gained support from local farmers, landowners and indigenous leaders.</li> <li>• Income to be generated from organizing eco-tours will be used to extend the coverage of farming area of the project.</li> </ul>
<p>Whether the budget is reasonable and realistic, and whether the project is cost effective</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project will involve the management of about 250,000 square feet (23,226 m<sup>2</sup>) of land in Long Valley.</li> <li>• The budget seems reasonable and the exact amount of funding to be approved will be decided by the ECF Committee.</li> </ul>
<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"> <li>• HKBWS has a lot of experience on birds in Hong Kong and implementing environmental projects, including projects funded by AFCD and ECF.</li> <li>• The project will be supported by the New Territories Conservation Association, Conservancy Association, and Produce Green Foundation.</li> </ul>

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

Evaluation criteria	Comments
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"> <li>• preventing further deterioration of the freshwater habitats through management agreements;</li> <li>• enhancing habitat diversity by sustaining wet agriculture and modifying conventional farming practices;</li> <li>• identifying food webs in the wetland habitats so as to improve the habitat management measures for nature conservation;</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
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"> <li>• The project will develop a sustainable habitat management strategy for Long Valley.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
Whether the budget is reasonable and realistic, and whether the project is cost effective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project will involve the management of about 212,000 square feet (19,695 m<sup>2</sup>) of land in Long Valley.</li> <li>• The budget seems reasonable and the exact</li> </ul>

	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"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>

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

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Comments</b>
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"> <li>• engaging the public to be actively involved in management and conservation of the concerned site;</li> <li>• providing financial encouragement to the pond-fish farmers to continue the traditional management of their ponds;</li> <li>• maintaining the socio-economic, ecological, landscape, cultural and education values of the Deep Bay fishponds through the management agreement ; and</li> <li>• enhancing the public and pond-fish farming community’s understanding of the</li> </ul>

	<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"> <li>• It is estimated that the scheme will be financial sustainable if sufficient “foster parents” to support 100 hectares of fishponds could be identified.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<p>Whether the budget is reasonable and realistic, and whether the project is cost effective</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project will involve the management of up to 100 hectares of private land at the Ramsar site and wetlands outside Ramsar site.</li> <li>• The budget seems reasonable and the exact amount of funding to be approved will be decided by the ECF Committee.</li> </ul>
<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"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• It also maintains close relation with fish farmers’ associations and fishpond operators.</li> </ul>