

**Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme
Nature Conservation Management Agreement Projects**

Project Number	EP86/27/24/8-6
Project Proponent	Centre for Civil Society and Governance of The University of Hong Kong
Project Title	Forest Village: Mui Tsz Lam and Kop Tong Sustainable Village Programme (2021-2024) (Previously known as “Sustainable Villages for All - Community-based Conservation Management of Forest Village Ecosystem in Mui Tsz Lam and Kop Tong”)
Target Site	Mui Tsz Lam and Kop Tong
Project Description*	<p>The 300+ years old villages Mui Tsz Lam and Kop Tong are two upland Hakka villages located in the northeastern part of the New Territories. As villages moved out, these once vibrant farming communities harmoniously fused with nature have gradually been losing their vibrancy over the past decades. Biodiversity and associated ecosystem services and values in the area have and will continue to deplete if timely active management is not put in place.</p> <p>This project, built upon the principle of environmental stewardship, aims to conserve, revitalise and enhance the natural, cultural and landscape values of Mui Tsz Lam and Kop Tong. The villages will be revived as “Forest Village”, a common term that describes settlements with forest as the dominant and provisioning habitat, through restoration of farmlands, enhancement of habitats, and adaptive repurposing of village assets. A collaborative and participatory approach will be employed to engage stakeholders—villagers, members of nonprofits, scientists, architects, artists and interested citizens—in an array of conservation activities through which they will acquire knowledge, skills, and commitment to take up the role of the guardians of the forest villages.</p> <p>This will be a first-of-its-kind project in Hong Kong that focuses on upland forest conserving both natural and cultural landscapes as an integrated and holistic living heritage.</p>
Project Period	1 February 2021 – 31 January 2024
Grant Approved	\$14,990,600

*The project description is provided by the project proponent.