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Hong Kong Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan Implementation

PURPOSE

This paper briefs Members on the overall implementation and major achievements of the Hong Kong Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) 2016-21, as well as the latest global development on biodiversity conservation, namely the key decisions adopted by the Fifteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

BACKGROUND

2. The CBD aims to promote the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. Parties to the CBD¹ shall, in accordance with its particular conditions and capabilities, develop national strategies, plans or programmes to implement the CBD. The Mainland China has been a Party to the CBD since 1993, and the Central People's Government extended the CBD to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in 2011.

3. Hong Kong has been taking forward its city-level BSAP² since 2016, for supporting our country in implementing the CBD, and enhancing the city's biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. Most of the actions in the first five-year term of the BSAP (i.e. BSAP 2016-21) have been completed, with some ongoing and long-term actions still being carried out.

4. The recent COP15 held under the presidency of China had adopted a new strategic framework for the implementation of the CBD, in December 2022. Parties to the CBD will make reference to the new framework in updating their national BSAPs³ by the next Conference of the Parties to be held in late 2024.

¹ Parties to the CBD currently consist of 196 countries that have ratified the CBD.

² Subnational BSAPs are increasingly developed at the city level by local authorities, in line with the national targets and circumstances. Most underline vertical integration of strategic planning and implementation, coordination and collaboration between various levels of authority.

³ National BSAPs reflect countries' overarching visions and lay out broad policies that ensure alignment

5. Building upon the achievements and experience gained from the implementation of the first BSAP, the Government is kicking start a review of the BSAP, referencing to the latest global and national developments, according to the local conditions and capabilities.

OVERALL IMPLEMENTATION AND MAJOR DELIVERABLES OF BSAP 2016-21

6. Since the launch of the BSAP on 21 December 2016, all relevant Government bureaux and departments have been taking forward specific actions of the BSAP under their respective purviews, coordinated by an Inter-departmental Working Group on BSAP⁴ (IWGB). The Government has also been engaging relevant stakeholders in the society in the implementation, in particular in enhancing conservation measures and mainstreaming of biodiversity. Progress of the implementation has been reported to the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE) regularly. Progress reports and supplementary information on major deliverables have been made available on the BSAP website⁵.

7. Through concerted efforts by stakeholders and the Government together, the implementation of the first BSAP of Hong Kong is coming to fruition. By May 2023, 56 out of the 67 specific actions (i.e. about 84%) in the BSAP 2016-21 have been completed, with the rest either being long-term in nature or on-going. The major deliverables of the BSAP under four action areas, include enlarging protected areas and targeting conservation initiatives at priority habitats and species; enhancing institutional setup to pursue new conservation measures, channelling funding to support projects and studies, as well as building capacities of stakeholders through broad-based engagement and knowledge sharing. The ensuing paragraphs provide an overview of key achievements under the four action areas of BSAP 2016-21. Detailed descriptions of achievements for each specific action are listed at **Annex 1**.

Area 1 – Enhancing Conservation Measures

8. The emphasis of this action area is to improve the management of existing protected areas and designate new ones to maintain healthy ecosystems and ecosystem services. Three new Marine Parks, namely The Brothers Marine Park, Southwest Marine Park, and South Lantau Marine Park, with a total sea area of about 3,687 hectares, have been designated to better conserve Chinese White

with international commitments, while retaining the flexibility to recast global frameworks to better fit their national priorities and relevance.

⁴ IWGB, chaired by the Secretary for Environment and Ecology, oversees the coordination of the implementation of the BSAP and mainstreaming of biodiversity within the Government. Its membership comprises the Environment and Ecology Bureau, the Education Bureau, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Civil Engineering and Development Department, Drainage Services Department, Environmental Protection Department, Leisure and Cultural Services Department, Planning Department and Water Supplies Department.

⁵ https://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/conservation/Con_hkbsap/bsap_implementation/bsap_implementation.html

Dolphins and Finless Porpoises and their habitats. Efforts have also been made to enhance the fisheries resources in these marine parks. For strengthening protection of the breeding Green Turtles, the Sham Wan Restricted Area and its restricted period has been expanded and extended. Meanwhile, the Long Valley Nature Park, which is established for conserving and enhancing ecologically-important wetland habitats, is on track to be open to the public in 2024.

9. The conservation and revitalisation of rural areas is also among the top priorities in the pursuit of enhanced conservation and sustainable development. The Government has executed a non-*in-situ* land exchange in Sha Lo Tung, to promote long-term conservation and management of the ecologically significant habitats at the site. The Government had also established the Countryside Conservation Office to coordinate countryside revitalisation and conservation efforts for enhancing sustainable development of remote countryside. Since 2019, a total of about \$200 million under Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme (CCFS) have been allocated to support stakeholders including NGOs, academics and the local communities, in enhancing the ecological values of over 600 hectares of terrestrial habitats, revitalising the architectural environments of villages and conserving cultural as well as heritage resources in remote countryside.

10. With regard to the protection of species of conservation concern, the Government has successfully phased out local ivory trade, and has undertaken law amendment to increase maximum penalties for deterring smuggling and illegal trade of endangered species. To step up conservation of threatened species, the Government had formulated Species Action Plans for Incense Tree and Chinese Pangolin and is implementing them together with experts and NGOs; assessment has also been undertaken with local experts to assess the conservation statuses of various taxa groups, for guiding prioritisation of efforts for future conservation actions and research.

Area 2 – Mainstreaming Biodiversity

11. Biodiversity mainstreaming underpins proactive and meaningful contribution across the society to achieve long-term biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. At the front of city planning and development, the Government has encouraged its bureaux and departments as well as stakeholders in the development sector to integrate biodiversity considerations into their policies, plans, and projects; for instance, the sustainability assessment process integral to formulation of major policies and plans was enhanced, by updating the Computer-aided Sustainability Evaluation Tool with revised biodiversity parameters; considerations on biodiversity were also illustrated and strengthened where appropriate in the relevant chapter in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines, and in the territorial spatial development strategy under the Hong Kong 2030+ study.

12. Promoting urban forestry and blue-green infrastructure is an essential part of mainstreaming. A series of measures have gained significant traction in the society. For instance, revitalisation of drainage channels and water bodies using

eco-friendly designs, use of native plant species where appropriate in urban green works projects, and formulation of a blueprint to promote sustainable development of the agriculture and fisheries industries have been adopted increasingly by the government departments and bureaux. It is also encouraging to see the private sector shares the vision on biodiversity conservation. The Hong Kong Green Building Council has launched the latest BEAM Plus New Buildings manual (i.e. BEAM Plus New Buildings V2.0) to provide impetus and guidance for architects to adopt designs and measures to enhance biodiversity in building projects.

Area 3 – Improving Our Knowledge

13. The Government recognises that improving knowledge leads to better decisions and more effective communication with stakeholders. The Government has commissioned consultancy studies to update territory-wide terrestrial habitat map, and compile information on ecosystem services provided by local natural habitats, to provide updated baseline information on Hong Kong's habitats. To engage experts and scholars in filling the important knowledge gaps of local biodiversity, the Government had commissioned studies on biodiversity-related priority topics. The Government has also mobilised relevant funding sources, such as the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) and Lantau Conservation Fund, to support the academia to carry out research studies related to biodiversity conservation. A total amount of about \$155 million has been granted from 2016 to 2022 on such research projects.

14. To facilitate consolidation and dissemination of local ecological information, the first phase of the Hong Kong Biodiversity Information Hub (HKBIH) has been rolled out through concerted efforts between the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), experts and collaborators from tertiary institutes. The HKBIH hosts a wealth of information of over 5,500 species and it is currently the largest open-access repository of the city's biodiversity information and it receives an average of over 6,500 visits to its webpages per day. The second phase, covering a Biodiversity Geographic Information System, is under construction and is targeted to be launched in 2024.

Area 4 – Promoting Community Involvement

15. Raising awareness and enhancing opportunities for the public to understand biodiversity is another mainstay of nature conservation. The Government has organised a series of annual biodiversity festivals during the first phase of BSAP and established an online platform for biodiversity education on the HKBIH, through which over 30 local NGOs have been engaged to organise over a hundred activities and events each year to promote biodiversity conservation to the public. ECF's Environmental Education and Community Action Projects scheme and the Subventions for Biodiversity Education had provided funding support of about \$51 million from 2016 to 2022 to NGOs for organising activities related to biodiversity education and sustainable consumption of biological resources. With a view to effectively getting messages across to the younger generation, the

Government has also used various social media platforms to promote local biodiversity, and incorporated the concept of biodiversity into the school curriculum, and supported teachers by providing relevant teaching materials and capacity-building events.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

COP15 Decisions

16. Under the theme “Ecological Civilisation: Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth”, COP15 commenced under the presidency of China and attended by some 16,000 participants. It was the most significant conference on biodiversity in a decade, as Parties to the CBD adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF⁶) therein and affirmed it to be the strategic plan for implementation of the CBD for the period 2022-2030.

17. The GBF comprises 23 global targets to be achieved by 2030, which allows for the recovery of natural ecosystems in the following 20 years with net improvements by 2050, to achieve the CBD’s vision of “living in harmony with nature by 2050”. The global targets are organised under three categories: *Reducing Threats to Biodiversity*, *Meeting People’s Needs through Sustainable Use and Benefit-Sharing*, and *Tools and Solutions for Implementation and Mainstreaming*. A table at **Annex 2** shows the gist of the 23 global targets.

18. The GBF targets are global in nature and aim to guide and promote, at all levels, the revision, development, updating and implementation of policies, goals, targets and national BSAPs, in accordance with national circumstances, priorities and capabilities. We will keep in view the forthcoming update of the national BSAP⁷, for formulating the update of Hong Kong’s BSAP to support our country in implementing the CBD as a Party.

GBA Initiatives

19. Notably, the theme of COP15 i.e. “Ecological Civilisation: Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth” (「生態文明：共建地球生命共同體」), and CBD’s vision for 2050, “living in harmony with nature”(「與自然和諧相處」), were echoed prominently in the plans of the Greater Bay Area (GBA) on sustainable development and ecological civilisation, including the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (《粵港澳大灣區發展規劃綱要》) (Outline Development Plan), demonstrating dedication of the GBA towards realising ecological civilisation and contributing to achieving the GBF. In particular, the Outline Development Plan aspires that by 2035, “the levels of conservation and efficient use of resources should be significantly improved, the

⁶ Full text of GBF is available at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-04-en.pdf>

⁷ China’s national BSAP is anticipated to be released before the next Conference of the Parties scheduled the last quarter of 2024.

ecological environment should be effectively protected, and an international first-class bay area for living, working and travelling should be fully developed”.

20. In line with the GBA initiatives, the Government has been increasing exchange and cooperation in various areas with our counterparts in Macao and Guangdong to achieve ecological civilisation in the region. These include, but is not limited to, establishing ecological corridors, building wetland networks, combating against smuggling of endangered species, controlling wastes and pollutants, and conserving ecologically important marine species.

WAY FORWARD

21. In reviewing the BSAP, Hong Kong may play to its strengths and contribute to achieving relevant global and regional goals. The next phase BSAP will seek to make reference to global biodiversity conservation targets and sustainability goals, as well as objectives of relevant national and regional planning documents, such as the forthcoming updated national BSAP of the Mainland China and key GBA initiatives.

22. Tentatively, the next phase BSAP may focus on four strategic areas, namely *enhancing biodiversity conservation, building capacities, partnering with neighbouring cities and mainstreaming biodiversity*.

23. The implementation period of the updated BSAP is proposed to be longer than that of the previous phase, such as covering ten years, as an adequate timeframe will be conducive to high-impact actions that may require a longer time to take shape. Incorporation of appropriate task-oriented and quantitative progress measures to indicate extents of achievement of actions where applicable, as well as new avenues to disseminate achievements, will be explored

24. The IWGB is proposed to continue coordinating BSAP implementation within the Government, reviewing progress for adaptive management, and serving as a platform for mainstreaming biodiversity and building capacities. The Government will continue to engage relevant parties, including the relevant advisory and statutory boards, including but not limited to the ACE, etc, on the implementation of the BSAP, to gauge views on the overall implementation and on specific issues where necessary.

25. The Government will continue to adopt a collaborative approach by drawing on the expertise and knowledge of stakeholders to inform the review of the BSAP, through stakeholder consultations covering relevant advisory bodies of the Government, representatives of relevant sectoral groups, the academia and NGOs. Meanwhile, the Environment and Ecology Bureau and the AFCD will continue to keep abreast of the latest developments in biodiversity-related initiatives nationally and regionally. Considering the above preparation work, the updated BSAP is tentatively targeted to be promulgated in around 2025.

ADVICE SOUGHT

26. Members are invited to note the implementation of the BSAP 2016-21 and the key outcomes of COP15, and provide advice on the review of the BSAP.

**Environment and Ecology Bureau
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
August 2023**

**Implementation of Specific Actions under Hong Kong Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2021 (BSAP)
Update for Advisory Council on the Environment**

Action	Specific Action [#]	Status	B/Ds	Expected Deliverables	Summary of Implementation (as at mid 2023)
1 - Maintain and enhance the management of protected areas	a) Prepare and implement biodiversity management plans, outlining the approach to biodiversity conservation in country parks, special areas, marine parks and marine reserve. Timeframe: M/L	Completed	AFCD	1(a)(i) Adoption of a biodiversity management plan for proposed Robin's Nest Country Park (RNCP) by 2019.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2017 AFCD commissioned a consultancy study on the planning, design and consultation of the proposed RNCP. The consultant has completed a baseline review, the stakeholder engagement and consultation exercises. Taking into account stakeholders' comments, the biodiversity management plan for the proposed RNCP has been finalised. The adoption of the management plan would be subject to the statutory designation of the proposed RNCP which is expected to be completed by Q1 2024. Being the 25th country Park in Hong Kong, the RNCP is expected to be opened in the first half of 2024.
	1(a)(ii) Enhanced fisheries management measures within marine parks, to better achieve the conservation objectives while promoting sustainable fisheries by 2019.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Marine Parks and Marine Reserves (Amendment) Regulation 2019 for implementation of the new fisheries management strategy in marine parks came into effect on 1 April 2020. There was a transitional period of two years for the affected existing fishing permit holders to adapt to the new strategy. No commercial fishing is allowed in the four specified marine parks (i.e. Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park, Yan Chau Tong Marine Park, Tung Ping Chau Marine Park, and Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park) starting from 1 April 2022. 	
	b) Carry out the Plantation Enrichment Programme (PEP) to enhance the biodiversity of plantations in country parks. Timeframe: O	Completed	AFCD	1(b)(i) PEP conducted in 50 ha of plantations in country parks in 2016-21.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During 2016-2023, PEP work was carried out in 87.5 ha of plantations in country parks with the participation of eight non-governmental organisations (NGOs) despite the disruptions caused by the COVID. Searching for additional sites for PEP work for 2023/24 is in progress.
	c) Review the management plan for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) to enhance the conservation and monitoring work carried out. Timeframe: S	Completed	AFCD	1(c)(i) Monitoring and Management Plan (MMP) of SSSI reviewed by 2018.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD had reviewed the scientific interest of all SSSIs making reference to updated biodiversity data. The SSSI MMP had been reviewed and finalised in 2020.
	d) Review the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site Management Plan (RSMP). Timeframe: M	Ongoing	AFCD	1(d)(i) Existing RSMP reviewed and updated RSMP implemented by 2021.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD has reviewed the existing RSMP and is now further updating it to take into account the latest developments, including the Management Agreement Scheme and the Northern Metropolis Development Strategy. Considering the latest development of the Deep Bay area and the need to consult various stakeholders, and owing to the disruptions caused by the COVID, the updated RSMP will be issued in 2023.
	e) Enhance habitat management work in the Mai Po Nature Reserve (MPNR). Timeframe: O	Completed	AFCD	1(e)(i) Improved habitat management in accordance with the management objectives specified in the RSMP. Habitat enhancement work carried out in gei wais, mudflats and other wetland habitats.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD has issued service contracts to the World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong for 2022/23 to enhance the habitat of the MPNR, including desilting of ponds and gei wais, vegetation management on mudflat and gei wais, as well as removal of invasive alien species. The major capital works for 2022/23 had been completed.
f) Review and enhance the ecological monitoring and habitat management plan of the Hong Kong Wetland Park (HKWP). Timeframe: S	Completed	AFCD	1(f)(i) Ecological monitoring and habitat management plan of the HKWP reviewed and updated plan implemented by 2018.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2017 AFCD commissioned a consultancy study to review the ecological monitoring and habitat management plan of the HKWP. The report was presented to the Nature Conservation Sub-committee of the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE-NCSC) in October 2020. The habitat management plan of the HKWP had been revised for adaptive management and updated on the HKWP's website. 	
2 - Conserve ecologically important habitats outside the existing protected areas	a) Designate new marine parks in the waters near The Brothers, Southwest Lantau, South Lantau and North Lantau. Timeframe: S	Completed	EEB*, AFCD	2(a)(i) Designation of The Brothers Marine Park (BMP) in December 2016.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The BMP was designated on 30 December 2016 as the fifth marine park in Hong Kong.
				2(a)(ii) Designation of a new marine park at Southwest Lantau (SWLMP) by 2018.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SWLMP was designated on 1 April 2020 as the sixth marine park in Hong Kong.

Action	Specific Action [#]	Status	B/Ds	Expected Deliverables	Summary of Implementation (as at mid 2023)
				2(a)(iii) Designation of a new marine park at South Lantau Marine Park (SLMP) by 2022.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SLMP was designated on 30 June 2022 as the seventh marine park in Hong Kong.
				2(a)(iv) Designation of the North Lantau Marine Park (NLMP) by 2024.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The designation procedures for the proposed NLMP have been kick-started, aiming to designate the marine park to tie in with the commencement of operation of the Three Runway System in 2024. The draft map was gazetted in early March 2023 for public inspection for 60 days with no objection received. We are following up as scheduled.
	b) Designate new country park at Robin's Nest, and extend country parks to cover country park enclaves at appropriate locations. Timeframe: M/L	Ongoing	EEB*, AFCD	2(b)(i) Designation of RNCP by end of 2020. ^{##}	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD has completed a consultancy study on the planning, design and consultation of the proposed RNCP. The consultancy study has recommended an overall management and operation plan for the proposed RNCP in consultation with stakeholders. AFCD commenced the statutory procedure for designation of the proposed RNCP in November 2022. The draft map of the proposed RNCP was gazetted for public inspection from December 2022 to January 2023. The draft map with a schedule of objections and Authority's representations had been submitted to seek Chief Executive-in-Council's approval in accordance with the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208). The new country park is expected to be designated by Q1 2024.
				2(b)(ii) Assessment of remaining enclaves and designate suitable enclaves as country parks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The assessment on the suitability of the remaining enclaves for incorporation into country parks is in progress, with priority given to the Yi Tung Shan enclave on Lantau Island. On 17 March 2020, the Country Parks Committee supported the updated assessment and the proposal to incorporate the Yi Tung Shan enclave into Lantau South Country Park. The implementation plan for enclaves assessment and incorporation was formulated and will be kept under review.
	c) Develop a nature park at Long Valley for supporting conservation and agriculture in this ecologically important area. Timeframe: M	Completed	CEDD	2(c)(i) Commencement of Long Valley Nature Park (LVNP) construction by 2020. Establishment of LVNP by CEDD and management by AFCD by 2023.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The construction of the LVNP commenced in December 2019 for target completion by end 2023.
	d) Continue to implement the Management Agreement and Public-Private Partnership schemes to actively conserve ecologically important sites under private ownership, including the 12 priority sites, country park enclaves and private land in country parks through collaboration with NGOs and rural communities. Timeframe: O	Completed	EEB*, DEVB, AFCD	2(d)(i) Enhanced conservation of at least six sites of high ecological value. 2(d)(ii) Long-term conservation of areas with high ecological value at Sha Lo Tung (SLT).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management Agreement (MA) projects are being implemented at eight sites, viz. Fung Yuen, Ho Sheung Heung, Ramsar Site and Deep Bay Wetland outside Ramsar Site, Sai Wan, Lai Chi Wo, Sha Lo Tung, Mui Tsz Lam and Kop Tong. In June 2017, the Chief Executive-in-Council gave in-principle agreement to the non-in-situ land exchange for the designated private land with high ecological importance at SLT by granting the Shuen Wan Restored Landfill in Tai Po for the long-term conservation of SLT. In February 2021, the Chief Executive-in-Council granted approval to the Government to proceed with the proposed non-in-situ land exchange. The land exchange was completed in July 2022. Long-term conservation programmes will be carried out on over 50 ha of Government land in collaboration with relevant stakeholders. The Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme (CCFS) approved the renewal application of the existing MA project at SLT by Green Power. The new MA project commenced in April 2022 and will run till March 2024. Habitat management and monitoring as well as initiatives in collaboration with villagers in SLT will continue.
	e) Explore innovative methods to enhance, support and promote the conservation of rural areas with high ecological value. Timeframe: O	Completed	EEB*, AFCD	2(e)(i) Revitalisation projects implemented at Lai Chi Wo.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Privately funded projects (by Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust and HSBC) obtained the guesthouse license for a group of village houses to develop a Hakka life experiential learning programme with visitor accommodation in August 2022, and continued to promote the sustainable development of Lai Chi Wo and nearby areas through social innovation and cross-sector cooperation. An MA project is being implemented to engage the local farming community to rehabilitate the farmlands and enhance the ecological value at Lai Chi Wo (see also Specific Action 2d).
			EEB*	2(e)(ii) Countryside revitalisation and ecological conservation projects at key remote countryside areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Countryside Conservation Office (CCO) was established in July 2018 to coordinate conservation projects that promote sustainable development of remote countryside. The Advisory Committee on Countryside Conservation was established in July 2019 to advise on the priorities for the conservation and revitalisation works proposals to be carried out by CCO; and to advise on the policy and matters relating to the overall administration, operation and funding approach of the Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme (CCFS). The CCFS was launched in October 2019. Up to May 2023, 43 projects were approved, involving a total amount of about \$209 million.

Action	Specific Action [#]	Status	B/Ds	Expected Deliverables	Summary of Implementation (as at mid 2023)
			DEVB, CEDD, EPD	2(e)(iii) Rural conservation pilot projects to be implemented in areas such as Tai O, Shui Hau and Pui O, to underpin the sustainable development and conservation of Lantau.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The consultancy study titled “Ecological Study for Pui O, Shui Hau, Tai O and Neighbouring Areas – Feasibility Study” (the Study) was completed in October 2021. CEDD has been implementing some of the recommended conservation measures, such as launching the Lantau Conservation Fund (LCF) to encourage NGOs to carry out conservation and related projects in the priority sites. Furthermore, CEDD commissioned a consultancy study in November 2021 to further study the other long-term conservation measures recommended under the Study. The LCF was set up in 2020 to implement conservation and related projects in rural Lantau. A total of 13 projects have been approved in the second round of application, involving a total amount of around \$33 million. Together with the first round of application, a total of 31 projects of around \$88 million have been approved. A total of 41 valid applications have been received in the third round of application. The applications are being processed and the results will be announced in the early fourth quarter of 2023 tentatively. Besides, a total of 9 minor local improvement projects (with funding of about \$69 million) to be carried out by Government departments in support of conservation initiatives on Lantau Island were approved between 2020 and 2022.
3 - Enhance conservation of natural streams	a) Conduct ecological surveys and compile ecological database on natural streams, especially Ecologically Important Streams (EIS). Timeframe: M	Ongoing	AFCD	3(a)(i) List of EIS updated by 2019.^	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD has conducted field verification for 49 sites of EIS since May 2018. The List of EIS is expected to be updated by late 2023.
	b) Improve practices in minor maintenance and hygiene works in natural streams and catchwaters, with a view to minimising ecological impacts arising from these works. Timeframe: S/M	Completed	WSD, AFCD	3(b)(i) Pilot projects on adopting ecologically friendly design for catchwaters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WSD, in collaboration with a green group, conducted a trial to discharge part of the yield at catchwaters at Tung Chung Au to support their “In-To Tung Chung River” study. The study showed that water abstraction had brought benefits to freshwater habitats downstream. In support of AFCD, the consultancy study on the baseline ecology of irrigation reservoirs was completed whereas the pilot ecological floating platforms at Hung Shui Hang Irrigation Reservoir have been maintained for enhancing the ecological value of the reservoir and the biodiversity in the surroundings.
			DSD	3(b)(ii) Planting at selected engineered river channels and water bodies to re-introduce riparian and in-stream habitats with a view to increasing spatial heterogeneity and species richness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring for trial eco-enhancement works is underway at the channel sections of rivers at Man Uk Bin and Kau Lung Hang. Initial observations for the ongoing trials at the above two rivers have shown signs of improvements in biodiversity. Construction for site trial of a 90m biodiversity enhancement works at Ho Pui river under “Eco-hydraulics Study on Green Channel - Stage 3” commenced in December 2020 for completion in late 2023. Plants propagated in R&D Siu Ho Wan Nursery were outplanted to Jordan Valley Channel in January and March 2022 and Ho Pui River in November 2022 to ensure sufficient riparian plants could be supplied for revitalisation. Plants studied in R&D Siu Ho Wan Nursery were outplanted in Man Uk Bin, Kau Lung Hang and Tai Tong Wu as outplanting trial to further study their growth performance in natural habitats.
		DSD	3(b)(iii) Adopting green channels design principles in appropriate drainage projects to promote connectivity for freshwater life within the drainage basin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DSD has been adopting sustainable drainage management principles, including the incorporation of environmentally friendly features into drainage projects promoting the conservation of biodiversity in drainage basins. DSD has actively promoted public awareness of sustainable drainage management principles by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> updating of the “EcoDMS” website for introducing ecological and water quality conditions of selected river sections. The revamped “EcoDMS” website rolled out in August 2022; and preparation of a new DSD webpage about R&D Siu Ho Wan Nursery, including the study, facilities and equipment and planting information. 	

Action	Specific Action [#]	Status	B/Ds	Expected Deliverables	Summary of Implementation (as at mid 2023)
				3(b)(iv) Reviewing current guidelines, and seeking improvements and refining techniques in enhancing biodiversity in river channels and water bodies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R&D studies on wet floodplain technique, floating planters/platforms, channel side planting, flow deflectors, habitat enhancement for macro-invertebrates, propagation of native plants and eco-landscape design are being conducted with a view to developing further techniques and design criteria suitable for the local context to promote ecosystem services and biodiversity in river channels. R&D studies were conducted on general landscape design approaches, including maintaining available green space, designing plant matrix and heterogeneous space, and the use of hard landscape to enhance the biodiversity value of DSD facilities. A recommended list of plants with characteristics for attracting wildlife was prepared. Site trials for the general landscape design approaches, including a 12-month post-project monitoring and data analysis, were completed in August 2020. R&D studies on growth characteristic and propagation efficiency of potential native plant species to be used in river sites were commissioned in December 2020. Information collected helps identify species for conducting further trials on mass production and planting in projects. Review on the practice note on “Environmental and Ecological Considerations for River Channel Design” was completed. The new practice note “Guidelines on Design for Revitalisation of River Channel” was issued in December 2021. New practice notes for guidelines on bioretention system and water harvesting were issued in December 2022.
			FEHD, AFCD	3(b)(v) Guidelines for best practices in malaria prevention and control programmes on natural streams prepared by 2018.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD and FEHD had incorporated conservation principles into FEHD’s technical circular on malaria control work in streams in 2020.
	c) Control discharge of effluents from unsewered areas and its adverse impacts on streams. Timeframe: L	Completed	EPD	3(c)(i) Provision of sewerage system to unsewered village areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sewerage construction works for 100% of the targeted unsewered villages/areas have been completed to date. In 2022, EPD obtained funding to provide village sewerage for four villages in North District, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Chung, all of which have commenced construction works. In addition, EPD plans to seek funding from the Legislative Council (LegCo) to initiate two projects to provide village sewerage to eight villages in North District, and trunk sewers in Sai Kung for supporting future village sewerage projects in that District.
4 - Maintain habitat connectivity for wildlife	a) Enhance habitat connectivity and establish ecological corridors across the boundary. Timeframe: O	Completed	EEB**, AFCD	4(a)(i) Enhanced function of the ecological corridor between Shenzhen and Hong Kong through the protection and management of Robin’s Nest as country park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD had an online meeting with the Planning and Natural Resources Bureau of Shenzhen (SZPNRB) in August 2022 to discuss the long-term cooperation for the ecological corridor between Wutong Mountain Scenic Area and the proposed RNCP. To enhance the ecological corridor function of the proposed RNCP, AFCD has continued to carry out biodiversity surveys, planting of Rhododendron species and removal of harmful plants at the fringe of the proposed country park. AFCD visited Shenzhen in June 2023 to discuss the collaborations on ecological corridor and detailed cooperation plan is expected to be available by end of 2023. In view of the COVID-19 situation, the dialogue on enhancing the conservation management of the Deep Bay wetlands was conducted remotely. A framework arrangement was jointly prepared and signed by AFCD and SZPNR in January 2023 for the establishment of sister wetlands between the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site and the Guangdong Neilingding Futian National Nature Reserve.
	b) Review and update guidelines on design of wildlife crossings. Timeframe: S	Completed	AFCD	4(b)(i) Guidelines on design of wildlife crossings updated by 2018.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD had reviewed international practices in wildlife crossings and uploaded the updated guidelines onto AFCD website in early 2019.

Action	Specific Action [#]	Status	B/Ds	Expected Deliverables	Summary of Implementation (as at mid 2023)
5 - Step up enforcement against wildlife crime	a) Maintain high vigilance and enhance enforcement against illegal poaching or collection of local species and raise public awareness. Timeframe: O	Completed	AFCD, HKPF, C&ED	5(a)(i) Inter-departmental and cross-border cooperation, monitoring, education and community involvement to be continued.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD has arranged regular patrol and trap search operations, including joint operations with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and HKPF, to combat illegal poaching of local wild animals. For enhancing enforcement against illegal harvesting of Incense Trees, AFCD has set up a task force to conduct targeted patrol since 2017. Frontline staff of HKPF and C&ED have been trained to identify agarwood and detect illegal activities, and joint operations have been conducted with HKPF at black spots. Arrangement was also made with the Mainland authority to facilitate cross-boundary knowledge/intelligence exchange on agarwood-related issues. Publicity and education programmes on the protection of Incense Tree were conducted, including the Botany STEAM programme organised by the Shiu-Ying Hu Herbarium of the Chinese University of Hong Kong for primary schools and the donation of Incense Tree seedlings to the Urban Renewal Authority for planting in public open spaces.
	b) Establish an inter-departmental task force on wildlife crime, to strengthen collaboration and intelligence exchange. Timeframe: O	Completed	AFCD, EEB*, HKPF, C&ED	5(b)(i) Regular meetings between the enforcement agencies and green groups. Joint enforcement operations organised according to the trend of wildlife crime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established in 2016, the inter-departmental Wildlife Crime Task Force conducts regular meetings to discuss the enforcement matters related to wildlife crime. AFCD has been working closely with C&ED and HKPF. Joint enforcement actions are conducted from time to time. In one of the joint operations with HKPF, the premises of a suspected turtle poacher-cum-seller was raided and 31 specimens of endangered turtles were seized.
	c) Strengthen enforcement and legislative measures to combat illegal trade in ivory. Timeframe: O/M/L	Completed	EEB*, AFCD	5(c)(i) Local trade in ivory (except antique ivory) phased out by end of 2021. Introduction of indictable offences under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) by 2018. Increased maximum penalty by 2018.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 was enacted by the LegCo on 31 January 2018. Step 1 of the ivory phase-out plan and the increased penalty commenced on 1 May 2018. Indictable offences under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) were introduced on the same day. Step 2 of the plan to ban import and re-export of pre-Convention ivory commenced on 1 August 2018, and Step 3 to ban local trade in ivory commenced on 31 December 2021.
6 - Implement conservation action plans for priority species	a) Establish a standardised mechanism for formulating species action plans (SAPs). Timeframe: S	Completed	AFCD	6(a)(i) Guidelines for formulation of SAP produced by mid-2018.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The technical guidelines on the standardised formulation mechanism and format of SAPs was published and uploaded onto AFCD website in March 2018.
	b) Formulate action plans for species that require immediate conservation actions. Timeframe: S/M	Ongoing	AFCD	6(b)(i) Chinese Pangolin SAP formulated and implemented by 2018.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2018, AFCD reviewed existing data obtained from camera trap surveys and other sources, and identified information gaps for the drafting of the SAP. An advisory group involving external experts was formed in 2018 to advise on the drafting of the SAP and held meetings in 2018 and 2019. After consulting key stakeholders, the SAP was finalised for implementation and published onto AFCD website in December 2019. Actions under the SAP include filling knowledge and data gaps, developing a dedicated rescue, rehabilitation, release and post-release monitoring protocol, identifying and managing areas with high threat of feral dogs, building capacity and raising public awareness.
				6(b)(ii) Incense Tree SAP formulated and implemented by 2018.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After consulting HKPF, C&ED and relevant NGOs, AFCD published and uploaded the SAP onto AFCD website in June 2018. AFCD is implementing the SAP. Major actions include risk-based patrols, monitoring using infrared camera traps, engaging quarantine detector dogs to detect smuggled agarwood, protecting large specimens using metallic tree guards and mesh fences, restoring damaged populations and establishing new populations, and providing funding support for relevant research studies and education programmes.
			6(b)(iii) Big-headed Turtle SAP formulated and implemented by 2020. ^^	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD commissioned a pilot study to monitor trapping activity in key turtle sites using surveillance cameras in 2017. AFCD has commissioned a camera surveillance and trap search study from late 2019 to mid-2024 to facilitate the preparation of the SAP. AFCD is preparing the SAP for expert group's comments by the end of Q3 2023 with a view to incorporating the latest findings of the camera trap study. The SAP is expected to be finalised by the end of 2023. 	

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				6(b)(iv) Finless Porpoise SAP formulated and implemented by end of 2018. ^^	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A one-year study on Passive Acoustic Monitoring (PAM) to look into the usage and diel pattern of Finless Porpoise was completed in 2022. A further PAM study has been commissioned to obtain continuous acoustic data in 2023 and to examine the inter-relationship between the visual and acoustic surveys to help ascertain the spatiotemporal trend of porpoise usage of Hong Kong waters. AFCD is preparing the SAP for stakeholders' comments with a view to incorporating the findings of the PAM study. The SAP is expected to be finalised by the end of 2023.
				6(b)(v) Horseshoe Crab SAP formulated and implemented by 2019. ^^	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A one-year study on field trial of horseshoe crab monitoring in Hong Kong using traditional field survey and environmental DNA techniques was completed in 2019. Another one-year study to continue the monitoring was completed in 2020. Juveniles were recorded at all hotspot sites including Ha Pak Nai, Pak Nai, Luk Keng, Sha Tau Kok, San Tau, Tung Chung Bay, Hau Hok Wan, Shui Hau Wan, and Yi O. A study to survey human exploitation of adult horseshoe crabs and raise public awareness through education and promotion campaigns was completed in 2021. The results revealed that human exploitation of adult horseshoe crabs was small-scale in Hong Kong. Fishermen did not target to harvest the animal and most of them were willing to release the by-caught horseshoe crabs. In view of the new data, AFCD will review the previous results of the List of Threatened Species Assessment on two local species and prepare the SAP afterwards. The SAP is expected to be finalised by 2024.
				6(b)(vi) Coral SAP formulated and implemented by 2019. ^^	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A consultancy study on species diversity, coverage and distribution of corals was completed in 2020, and the SAP is expected to be finalised by 2023. AFCD completed another coral restoration study using 3D-printed reef tiles to restore bio-eroded brain corals in Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park and reported the findings to the Marine Parks Committee (MPC) in December 2020. A poster introducing the study was displayed at Hoi Ha Visitor Centre.
	c) Review and strengthen existing species action plans. Timeframe: M	Ongoing	AFCD	6(c)(i) Chinese White Dolphin SAP updated by 2020. ^^	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A one-year study on PAM to look into the usage and diel pattern of Chinese White Dolphin was completed in 2022. The results revealed relatively drastic inter-annual variation in dolphin usage. A further PAM study has been commissioned to obtain continuous acoustic data in 2023 to help ascertain the spatiotemporal trend of dolphin usage of Hong Kong waters. The SAP is being reviewed and is expected to be finalised by the end of 2023.
				6(c)(ii) Romer's Tree Frog SAP updated by end of 2019. ^^	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD reviewed the previous SAP and prepared the first draft of the revised SAP in 2019. The SAP was updated in Q1 2022, after consulting stakeholders, reviewing recent information and data, and taking into account the assessment result of the List of Threatened Species on Romer's Tree Frog. Actions under the SAP include habitat and species protection, research and monitoring as well as public awareness. AFCD published and uploaded the SAP onto AFCD website in May 2023.
				6(c)(iii) Three-banded Box Turtle SAP updated by 2020. ^^	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2017, AFCD completed a study to elucidate the genetic affinity of the Three-banded Box Turtles under the captive breeding programme. In 2017, AFCD completed a consultancy survey in key turtle sites to assess the intensity of trapping activity. AFCD has commissioned a camera surveillance and trap search study from late-2019 to mid-2024 to facilitate the preparation of the SAP. AFCD is preparing the updated SAP for expert group's comment by the end of Q3 2023 with a view to incorporating the latest findings of the camera trap study. The SAP is expected to be finalised by the end of 2023.
				6(c)(iv) Black-faced Spoonbill SAP updated by 2021. ^^	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The consultancy studies on the habitat use and diet composition of Black-faced Spoonbill which commenced in 2018 were completed. AFCD has reviewed the existing SAP and is preparing the first draft of the revised SAP. The SAP is expected to be finalised by the end of 2023.
				6(c)(v) Green Turtle SAP updated by 2019. ^^	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2017, AFCD completed a survey of ghost nets and removed these nets in the bay area of Sham Wan, deployed a remote monitoring system to enhance surveillance, and commissioned dive surveys in the bay to monitor turtle occurrence and habitat conditions. The legislative amendments for the expansion of Sham Wan Restricted Area and extension of restricted period to enhance the protection of Green Turtle were completed and took effect on 1 April 2021. Post-extension actions have been taken and the SAP is expected to be updated by end of 2023.

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7 - Improve management of invasive alien species	a) Build up capacity for the management of invasive alien species. Timeframe: M	Completed	AFCD	7(a)(i) An inventory of alien species prepared by 2020. High-risk invasive alien species identified, with management measures formulated and implemented, by 2021.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A working inventory has been prepared to provide information on alien herpetofauna and freshwater species recorded locally. In November 2018, AFCD commissioned a consultancy study that reviewed international practices for managing invasive alien species and formulated a risk assessment protocol for prioritising management efforts. The risk assessment conducted on alien herpetofauna found that none was of high risk, while four species were of moderate risk. Study findings were presented at the meetings of LegCo Panel and ACE-NCSC in 2020, while the study reports and the full risk assessment protocol were uploaded onto AFCD website in 2021. Risk assessment on other prioritised taxa is underway using the protocol developed.
	b) Enhance the monitoring, management and control plans for target invasive alien species. Timeframe: O	Completed	AFCD	7(b)(i) Effective control of Sonneratia in Inner Deep Bay by 2021. 7(b)(ii) Enhanced control of Mikania.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective control of Sonneratia in Inner Deep Bay has been implemented annually and in 2022, 8 650 Sonneratia trees were removed from Inner Deep Bay. AFCD updated the “Nature Conservation Practice Note - Clearing Mikania” to provide general technical guidance to relevant Government departments, landscape contractors, and interested parties on the clearance of Mikania in 2020. AFCD took stock of the current programme of Mikania removal to maintain/enhance the ecological value of SSSIs, and would continue to review the need to extend Mikania control work through adaptive management.
	c) Conduct education programmes to raise awareness and to discourage release of alien species to the wild. Timeframe: O	Completed	AFCD	7(c)(i) Publicity materials on mercy release produced and distributed, and education programmes including seminars organised.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since 2017, AFCD has produced posters about mercy release for distribution to relevant organisations and display at various locations (e.g. Government venues, wet markets and ferry piers). AFCD has also been disseminating messages to discourage mercy release through advertisements on outdoor media, relevant publications, social media, mini-movies and public seminars in recent years.
8 - Control the environmental release of genetically modified organisms	a) Continue to control the environmental release of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), monitor the development of related technology and expand screening programme. Timeframe: O	Completed	AFCD	8(a)(i) Implementation of control measures on GMOs in accordance with requirements of Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD is conducting inspections at border control points, undertaking market surveys on the prevalence of GMOs in local markets and farms and distributing leaflets to educate and remind stakeholders about requirements under the Genetically Modified Organism (Control of Release) Ordinance (Cap. 607). AFCD is keeping in view the developments of GMOs through review of international practices and dialogues with relevant sectors.
9 - Incorporate biodiversity considerations in planning and development process	a) Update the Sustainability Assessment system, to better integrate biodiversity considerations in major policies and plans of the Government. Timeframe: S	Completed	EEB*, AFCD	9(a)(i) Computer-aided Sustainability Evaluation Tool (CASET) updated to incorporate the revised biodiversity parameters by 2018.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The updated CASET with revised biodiversity parameters incorporated was launched in December 2018.
	b) Integrate biodiversity considerations in the territorial development strategy. Timeframe: O	Completed	PlanD, AFCD	9(b)(i) Biodiversity considerations taken into account in relevant study tasks of Hong Kong 2030+, and reflected in the finalised territorial spatial development strategy. Finalised territorial spatial development strategy under Hong Kong 2030+ to guide the future planning, land and infrastructure development and the shaping of the built and natural environment of Hong Kong beyond 2030.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity considerations have been strengthened where appropriate in the finalised territorial spatial development strategy and the finalised report of Hong Kong 2030+ was promulgated in October 2021.
	c) Update and amend Chapter 10 of the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (HKPSG) by incorporating relevant guidelines on biodiversity considerations. Timeframe: M	Completed	PlanD, AFCD	9(c)(i) Chapter 10 of HKPSG amended by mid-2019.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PlanD and AFCD completed the incorporation of relevant guidelines on biodiversity considerations into Chapter 10 – Conservation in December 2019. The revised Chapter 10 was promulgated in March 2020.

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	d) Enhance the practices in addressing ecological impacts of projects through environmental impact assessment (EIA) process. Timeframe: O	Completed	EPD, AFCD	9(d)(i) Review of the international practices on incorporating biodiversity considerations in the planning and development process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPD has amended the Technical Memorandum on EIA Process (EIAO-TM) in 2023 as part of the EIAO review exercise. The revised Annex 16 of the EIAO TM defines clearly the methods and scope of ecological baseline surveys for an EIA study to establish the ecological profile of the study area. EPD has compiled a checklist to facilitate EIA practitioners in preparing, reporting and reviewing ecological impact assessment chapters of EIA reports. The checklist was uploaded onto the EIA Ordinance website for public use.
10 - Promote biodiversity in urban environment	a) Formulate an urban forestry strategy that contributes to a sustainable urban landscape and promote the appreciation of urban biodiversity. Timeframe: S	Completed	Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section (GLTMS)	10(a)(i) Urban Forestry Advisory Panel (UFAP) set up in January 2017. Urban Forestry Management Strategy formulated by 2018. Qualifications Framework Specification of Competency Standards (SCS) on urban arboriculture, horticulture and landscape works developed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UFAP was set up in January 2017 and has been in operation. As reported at the LegCo Panel on Development Meeting on 27 February 2018, the Government adopts a five-pronged strategy that includes undertaking the annual Tree Risk Assessment and Management as part of the precautionary measures before the wet season, implementing a dedicated regime for high-risk trees, promoting proper tree care on private properties, building capacity in the workforce and stepping up community education and involvement. The SCS for the arboriculture and horticulture industry was launched on 9 December 2019.
	b) Promote diversification of our soft landscapes and optimise use of native species for enriching urban biodiversity. Timeframe: M	Completed	GLTMS	10(b)(i) Soft landscape specifications standardised between Hong Kong and Guangzhou. Availability of native seed stock improved. Government workflows and contracts reviewed to set baseline standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects (HKILA) commissioned a consultant to study the Standardisation of Soft Landscape Planting Materials Specification for Guangdong Province and Hong Kong in November 2018. The study was completed and the final document was released in May 2021. GLTMS released the Street Tree Selection Guide (STSG) in December 2018 to promote vegetation diversity and the use of native tree species. GLTMS liaised with AFCD to jointly promote the use of native tree species by supplying native tree stocks produced from AFCD's nursery for departments' uses. The review of Government contracts and workflows was completed. Final recommendations and guidelines were issued to departments in November 2021.
	c) Promote the concept of Place Ecology in urban landscape designs. Timeframe: M	Completed	GLTMS	10(c)(i) Concept of Place Ecology promoted through a series of public seminars and talks organised/attended by GLTMS. Promotion of place-based approach with vegetation diversity with complementary species mix as a key component.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GLTMS organised a series of seminars to introduce the contribution of urban landscape to augmenting liveability and improving resilience. DEVB implemented a trial scheme to transform an existing traffic island at Wylie Road into a rain garden, and handed over the planting to the maintenance department in February 2019. GLTMS released the STSG in December 2018 for the reference of concerned departments and landscape practitioners. Promotion activities including advertorials at local newspapers, TV and radio interviews, and sharing sessions for Government departments, landscape architecture professionals and landscape practitioners were carried out from December 2018 to January 2019.
	d) Promote knowledge building and sharing among the public and private sectors in the latest landscape concepts, designs and technologies that contribute to a sustainable urban ecosystem. Timeframe: M/L	Completed	GLTMS, Works departments	10(d)(i) A series of outreach events organised by GLTMS and collaborating organisations. A holistic EDB Quality Framework System on building capacity and proper arboricultural practices developed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GLTMS has organised a series of seminars, talks and exhibitions to raise public awareness on urban forestry, through collaborations with universities, professionals, overseas experts and other relevant departments. The SCS for the arboriculture and horticulture industry was launched on 9 December 2019 to uplift the quality of practitioners and the professional standing of the industry. GLTMS held the Hong Kong 2020 and 2022 International Urban Forestry Conference in January 2020 and March 2022 respectively, inviting renowned local, mainland and overseas experts to share their insights and latest research findings on topics on urban forestry, city greening, landscape design for health and well-being and tree care.
			AFCD	10(d)(ii) The BEAM Plus New Buildings Manual updated to incorporate incentives to promote biodiversity in building projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD worked with the Hong Kong Green Building Council to incorporate biodiversity considerations in building projects in the revision of the BEAM Plus New Buildings manual. Launched in September 2019, the BEAM Plus New Buildings V2.0 includes credit points to provide incentives for promoting ecologically responsible designs and measures to protect natural habitats and enhance biodiversity.

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	e) Explore opportunities to enhance the value of urban parks for biodiversity conservation and education. Timeframe: M	Completed	LCSD	10(e)(i) Further enhancement of the existing conservation corners to maintain a natural habitat and environment for attracting wildlife. Signage and educational boards displayed at the conservation corners for educational purposes. The existing educational programmes enriched to launch guided visit programmes to the conservation corners for the public and local schools to raise the public's awareness of wildlife conservation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LCSD organised the Horticultural Education Exhibition 2022 on 12 and 13 November 2022 at the Green Education and Resource Centre. With a theme of "Full of a Light Floral Fragrance" (滿園淡香), the exhibition aimed at introducing fragrant plants and raising public interest in horticulture and greening. Apart from the display of exhibition panels, DIY workshops, planting activities and guided tours, a speaker of AFCD was invited to deliver a thematic talk themed on "Conservation of Incense Tree" (保育香港的土沉香) to the public. The event was well received with some 1 800 visitors. LCSD organised the Zoological Education Exhibition 2022 on 17 and 18 December 2022 at the Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens. With "What Lively Birds They Are" (開心快活鳥) as the theme, the exhibition aimed at introducing various types of wild birds in Hong Kong. Members of the public could also enjoy the fun of hearing the birds' chirping sounds through the specially designed digital panel. In addition to the display of exhibition panels, guided tours, park orienteering, stall games, DIY workshops, etc., speakers from AFCD and Hong Kong Bird Watching Society were invited to deliver thematic talks themed on "Birds in the Wild" (綠野鳥蹤) and "Secret of City Birds" (城鳥大揭秘) respectively to the public. The event was well received with over 3 000 visitors. To maintain the sustainable promotion on biodiversity and conservation of wildlife, LCSD continues to organise similar horticultural and zoological exhibitions in 2023.
	f) Adopt the concept of revitalising water bodies in large-scale drainage improvement works and planning drainage networks for New Development Areas (NDAs). Timeframe: O	Completed	DSD	10(f)(i) Study on revitalisation of water bodies to explore practicable options for applying the blue-green concept in large-scale drainage improvement works and planning drainage networks for new development areas, with an aim to promote greening, biodiversity, beautification and water friendliness in addition to achieving efficient drainage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The study on "Revitalisation of Water Bodies" was completed in September 2020. DSD has established an inventory of water bodies and devised a methodology to evaluate revitalisation potential of river channels. Tai Wai Nullah, Fo Tan Nullah and Jordan Valley Nullah have been identified for revitalisation. Agreement No. CE 7/2019 (DS) – River Revitalisation and Flood Resilience Planning in Yuen Long South – Feasibility Study commenced in November 2019. The study explores revitalisation schemes for three river channels (i.e. Yuen Long (West) Nullah, Tin Tsuen Channel and Yuen Long Nullah) and three watercourses in Yuen Long South Development Area. A study on "Review and Selection of River Sections for Revitalisation" commenced in January 2021 to take forward the concept of "Rivers in the City" and follow up on the recommendations on wider application of river revitalisation in the territory. Middle Tuen Mun River has been identified for revitalisation and the project has been included as Cat C item in the 2022 RAE. Agreement No. CE 24/2021 (EP) – Enhancement of Existing River Sections commenced in November 2021. The study investigates and develops preliminary design for revitalisation of 4 river sections (Lower Lam Tsuen River, Chung Hang Nullah, Lam Tei River and Wong Lung Hang Channel).
				10(f)(ii) Revitalisation of urban nullahs into green river corridors through the urban area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reconstruction and rehabilitation of the upstream and midstream sections of Kai Tak River were completed. The construction works for Revitalisation of Tsui Ping River commenced in July 2020 and are targeted for completion in Q3 2024. The construction works for Revitalisation of Jordan Valley Nullah commenced in March 2020 and were completed in April 2022. Revitalisation of Tai Wai Nullah and Fo Tan Nullah are at design stage. The construction works are scheduled to commence in 2024 for completion in 2029. The improvement of Yuen Long Town Nullah (town centre section) and Yuen Long barrage scheme are at design stage. The construction works are scheduled to commence in 2022, followed by revitalisation works targeted for completion in 2029.
			DSD, CEDD	10(f)(iii) Design of Tung Chung River Park to promote water-friendly culture and to preserve the ecology of the river.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed River Park is divided into the "Revitalisation Zone" and the "Conservation Zone" for the promotion of water-friendly culture and preservation of the ecology of the river respectively. The construction works for the "Revitalisation Zone" commenced in May 2021 and are targeted for completion in 2025. The construction contract for "Conservation Zone" is targeted to commence in Q3 2024 for completion in 2029.
			DSD, CEDD	10(f)(iv) Blue-green infrastructure at Anderson Road Quarry NDA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CEDD's construction works on the flood attenuation lake cum park, underground stormwater tank and drainage system at Anderson Road Quarry NDA were completed in 2021. The landscaping and associated works for the park commenced in July 2021 for the phased completion starting in 2024.

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11 - Promote sustainable fisheries	a) Designate and manage Fisheries Protection Area(s) (FPAs) to protect important fish spawning and nursery grounds Timeframe: L	Ongoing	EEB [^] , AFCD	11(a)(i) Designation of FPAs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline information on potential FPA site is being collected and analysed continuously to prepare for the FPA designation. Engagement of stakeholders to solicit views on the designation of FPA and potential management measures is underway for the formulation of an FPA proposal.
	b) Continue to conduct fisheries monitoring programme in Hong Kong waters. Timeframe: O	Completed	AFCD	11(b)(i) Assessment of effectiveness of fisheries management measures completed in early 2018.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The study for monitoring the fisheries resources was completed in 2018. The results generally demonstrated signs of recovery of the fisheries resources in Hong Kong.
				11(b)(ii) Study on ichthyoplankton, zooplankton, juvenile fish and crustacean completed in early 2018.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The consultancy study for providing updated information on ichthyoplankton, zooplankton, juvenile fish and crustacean around the potential FPAs was completed in 2018.
				11(b)(iii) Inspection of artificial reefs completed by 2019.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The consultancy study on underwater fisheries survey in artificial reefs (ARs) was completed in 2019. High fish species richness was recorded in the ARs, which mirrored the findings of the AR survey conducted in 2011.
				11(b)(iv) Developing a fisheries monitoring programme in Hong Kong.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The consultancy study for developing options for a fisheries monitoring programme in Hong Kong commenced in August 2019 and has been completed in February 2023.
c) Provide funding support to encourage local fishing community to adopt sustainable fisheries operations. Timeframe: O	Completed	AFCD	11(c)(i) Applications for the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF) processed to provide funding to projects that support the development of sustainable fisheries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund (SFDF) aims to provide financial support to the modernisation and sustainable development of the local fisheries sector. Since its launch in 2014, the SFDF has approved 32 applications involving a total commitment of \$196 million. Applications are being invited on a continuous basis. 	
d) Conduct studies on measures to prevent cormorant predation on commercial pond fish in Deep Bay area. Timeframe: S	Completed	AFCD	11(d)(i) Measures to prevent cormorant predation tested for effectiveness, and promoted to fishpond operators.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two consultancy studies on cormorant predation and the field trial of the recommended cormorant prevention measure were completed in 2017 and 2019, respectively. Fishpond operators were informed of the recommendations of the study, including the recommended wire density as well as factors to be considered by operators (e.g. cost of materials, time of installation, species, size and quantity of fish cultured in pond) when planning the use of preventive measures. 	
12 - Promote sustainable agriculture	a) Promote the modernisation and sustainable development of local agriculture as an integral part of the New Agriculture Policy. Timeframe: O	Completed	EEB [^] , AFCD	12(a)(i) Establishment of an Agricultural Park (Agri-Park).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agricultural Park is being developed in two phases. The first stage of Phase 1 was completed in Q4 2022 while the remaining works will be completed in Q2 2024. The planning and design works for Phase 2 are underway.
			EEB [^] , DEVB, AFCD	12(a)(ii) Study on Agricultural Priority Areas (APAs).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The consultancy study for identifying quality agricultural land for possible designation as APAs commenced in late 2018. The consultant has proposed potential areas in Hong Kong for designation as APAs. They are working on the recommendation for APAs and the implementation mechanism. The study is expected to be completed in 2024.
			AFCD	12(a)(iii) Applications for the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund (SADF) processed to provide funding to projects that support the development of sustainable agriculture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund (SADF) aims to provide financial support to the modernisation and sustainable development of the local agricultural sector. Since its launch in 2016, the SADF has approved 16 applications involving a total commitment of \$159 million. Applications are being invited on a continuous basis.
			AFCD	12(a)(iv) Assistance provided to farmers to raise productivity through modern agro-technologies and environmentally friendly farming practices (including organic farming).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD has continued to conduct farm visits, seminars and workshops to assist farmers in adopting modern agro-technologies (including farm mechanisation and automation) and environmentally friendly farming practices (including organic farming). AFCD has continued to identify potential agro-technology projects for collaboration with local research institutions or agricultural organisations.
13 - Conduct biodiversity survey	a) Enhance territory-wide biodiversity surveys on major groups of terrestrial and freshwater species. Timeframe: O	Completed	AFCD	13(a)(i) Programme of AFCD biodiversity survey reviewed, and survey manual compiled by 2018. Existing species checklist of major taxa groups updated by 2018.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During 2017-2018, AFCD consolidated and reviewed the survey objectives and sampling designs currently adopted in the biodiversity survey programme. Survey protocols were compiled, and species checklists of major taxa groups were updated in early 2019.
	b) Conduct baseline and long-term surveys of priority marine habitats and species.	Ongoing	AFCD	13(b)(i) Long-term coral monitoring plan devised by 2020.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD completed a consultancy study on coral bleaching and bioerosion in Hong Kong. Baseline coral distribution and diversity data at 33 major coral areas in Hong Kong were collected, and long-term coral monitoring plan was devised (see also Specific Action 6b(vi)).

Action	Specific Action [#]	Status	B/Ds	Expected Deliverables	Summary of Implementation (as at mid 2023)
	Timeframe: O			13(b)(ii) Octocorals species list updated by 2019.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD commissioned a study on local octocoral and black coral distribution and diversity at 28 hotspots in Hong Kong. Due to the impact of COVID-19 on the schedule of field surveys, the species list is expected to be updated in 2023.
				13(b)(iii) Reef fish species list updated by 2019.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD completed a consultancy study on reef fish diversity in Hong Kong. The reef fish species list was updated in 2019 upon the completion of the field surveys.
				13(b)(iv) Macroalgae species list updated by 2019.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD completed a study on the diversity and distribution of macroalgae in Hong Kong. The macroalgae species list was updated in 2019 upon the completion of the field surveys.
				13(b)(v) Marine park surveys completed by 2021.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coral surveys at three marine parks were completed in 2016. In 2019, AFCD commissioned a 24-month coral monitoring as part of the long-term monitoring programme for Tung Ping Chau and Hoi Ha Wan Marine Parks. All surveys were completed. The fisheries resources surveys in all existing marine parks and marine reserve and potential marine parks were completed in 2018. Study findings were reported in the MPC meeting in April 2020 and presented in a public seminar in November 2021. A featured story introducing the study was uploaded to AFCD website and a poster was displayed at Hoi Ha Visitor Centre. The juvenile fish surveys at different habitats of marine parks and marine reserve commenced in Q4 2018 were completed. Study findings were reported in the MPC meeting in December 2020 and presented in a public seminar in September 2021. A featured story introducing the study was uploaded to AFCD website and a poster was displayed at Hoi Ha Visitor Centre.
14 - Conduct species assessment	a) Compile a list of threatened species for Hong Kong to guide conservation actions. Timeframe: M/L	Ongoing	AFCD	14(a)(i) List of threatened species drawn up for priority groups by 2021. ^^	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The institutional framework for compiling the Hong Kong List of Threatened Species (LTS) was formulated in 2018, and over 100 experts, including AFCD officers and external experts, were appointed to serve as data compilers, assessors and reviewers for the selected taxa. In May and June 2018 and September 2020, AFCD arranged three training sessions for over 70 personnel involved in the assessment process. All groups in the first batch of assessment, including orchids, amphibians and reptiles, bats, waterbirds, horseshoe crabs and marine mammals, are currently at varying stages of the assessment and review process, and results will be published when finalised.
15 - Collate information on terrestrial and marine habitats	a) Compile relevant information on marine habitats for guiding conservation of marine habitats. Timeframe: M	Completed	AFCD	15(a)(i) Habitat maps of marine ecosystem prepared by 2021. ^^	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD commissioned a consultancy study in Q4 2018 to conduct a habitat mapping study for Tung Ping Chau Marine Park. The study was completed in Q4 2021. The final featured story with habitat map was uploaded to AFCD website for public access in 2022. AFCD commissioned a study in 2020 to conduct a habitat mapping study for no-anchoring areas in Hong Kong and the study is expected to be completed in 2023.
	b) Review and develop a standardised classification of habitat types in Hong Kong, and prepare a Geographic Information System (GIS)-based habitat map. Timeframe: M	Completed	AFCD	15(b)(i) Territorial habitat map of terrestrial ecosystems prepared by 2019. ^^	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In October 2019, AFCD commissioned a consultancy study, namely "Territory-wide Study on Hong Kong's Terrestrial Habitats Using Remote Sensing and GIS". The Study was completed in Q3 2021. The territory-wide terrestrial habitat map was uploaded to the Biodiversity Information Hub.
16 - Improve sharing of knowledge	a) Develop a web-based information hub to provide a one-stop shop for information on local biodiversity. Timeframe: M	Completed	AFCD	16(a)(i) A web-based information hub on biodiversity launched by 2020.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD reviewed relevant local and international examples to explore potential elements for the web-based information hub. A workshop was held in January 2018 to seek various stakeholders' comments and recommendations on the information hub and GIS platform. A consultancy study commenced in early 2019 to explore the software requirements, structure and design for the information hub (Phase 1) and the associated GIS platform (Phase 2) (see 16(b)(i) below) had been completed. The construction of the information hub was completed in March 2022.
	b) Develop a Geographic Information System-based platform to facilitate sharing of data among different groups of users. Timeframe: L	Ongoing	AFCD	16(b)(i) Protocol of data-sharing developed. IT framework and data requirement of the GIS platform developed by 2020. The GIS platform launched by 2024.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2017, AFCD prepared a summary of the major marine and terrestrial biodiversity datasets from a list of potential data providers, and drafted a guide for managing sensitive biodiversity data. A stakeholder workshop was held in January 2018 and a list of local experts who are willing to share biodiversity data has been consolidated. A consultancy study commenced in early 2019 to explore technical options (see also Specific Action 16(a)(i)) had been completed. Data collection and consolidation, and the construction of the GIS platform are underway. The platform is expected to be completed in 2024.

Action	Specific Action [#]	Status	B/Ds	Expected Deliverables	Summary of Implementation (as at mid 2023)
17 - Identify essential ecosystem services	a) Commission a study on the ecosystem services provided by major habitat types in Hong Kong. Timeframe: M	Completed	AFCD	17(a)(i) Baseline profile of ecosystem services of major habitats in Hong Kong available by 2020.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In March 2020, AFCD commenced a consultancy study to review baseline information on ecosystem services provided by major habitats in Hong Kong. The study was completed in Q4 2022, and the study results were uploaded to the Biodiversity Information Hub.
	a) Encourage research on traditional knowledge relevant to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Timeframe: L	Completed	AFCD	18(a)(i) Studies on relevant topics conducted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research to document and promote traditional knowledge and practices in the sustainable use, preservation, restoration, and management of biological resources and ecosystem services has been listed as one of the priority research topics to be supported under Action 19.
18 - Enhance understanding on traditional knowledge	b) Encourage the wise use of natural resources using traditional knowledge, especially through the MA scheme. Timeframe: O	Completed	AFCD	18(b)(i) MA projects that promote traditional knowledge in conservation of biodiversity continue to be implemented. Education activities that promote traditional knowledge in conservation of biodiversity organised.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several MA projects have adopted traditional wet crop agriculture (e.g. in Long Valley and Lai Chi Wo) and fishpond drain-down practice (e.g. in fish ponds within and outside Ramsar Site), demonstrating the wise use of natural resources in contributing to the conservation of biodiversity in the last few years. After conclusion of the Long Valley MA project due to land resumption starting from late 2019, the eco-agriculture practice continues to take place in the MA project in Ho Sheung Heung. In 2021, a new MA project was launched in Mui Tsz Lam and Kop Tong. The rich Hakka cultural assets therein such as indigenous Hakka history and culture, vernacular architecture, terrace farming landscapes, traditional knowledge and folklore plants are being studied and translated into different public events for public education and appreciation.
	a) Conduct studies that would directly and significantly contribute to the conservation of biodiversity. Timeframe: O	Completed	AFCD	19(a)(i) Studies on priority topics that support the implementation of BSAP commissioned.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In September 2017, ACE-NCSC discussed the approach for providing and coordinating funding to support biodiversity research and studies, and supported the priority research topics proposed. AFCD has commissioned various studies on priority topics including a number of surveys and consultancy studies that support the implementation of BSAP in the last few years such as studies detailed under Specific Actions 6(b), 6(c), 7(a), 13(b), 15(a), 15(b) and 17(a).
19 - Provide funding support to research and studies	b) Encourage research to fill key information gaps on local biodiversity, through funding support by the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF). Timeframe: O	Completed	EEB**, AFCD	19(b)(i) Studies on priority topics that fill key information gaps supported by the ECF. Provide funding support for the most meritorious research projects on the subject selected by the Research Projects Vetting Subcommittee under the ECF.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ECF Environmental Research, Technology Demonstration and Conference projects funding scheme has been providing funding support for, inter alia, conferences and research projects on biodiversity and conservation. Since 2016, 82 applications related to biodiversity and conservation have been approved, involving a total commitment of \$81.7 million.
	c) Support research on sustainable agriculture and fisheries practices and management. Timeframe: O	Completed	AFCD	19(c)(i) Projects that support the development of sustainable fisheries supported by the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to Specific Action 11(c).
				19(c)(ii) Projects that support the development of sustainable agriculture supported by the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to Specific Action 12(a).
20 - Promote biodiversity awareness	a) Review and enhance education activities that promote biodiversity, being conducted by AFCD. Timeframe: M	Completed	AFCD	20(a)(i) Review of HKWP's public awareness promotion and education programmes completed by 2018.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultancy studies on the performance of HKWP's public awareness promotion and education programmes in raising public awareness of wetland conservation were completed in 2018.
	20(a)(ii) Exhibition and education facilities of HKWP revamped by 2021.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The exhibition galleries of HKWP were revamped with interactive exhibits and improvement works to enhance experiential learning experience. The enhancement of education facilities in the Resource Centre and Wetland Discovery Centre was completed in 2018. 	

Action	Specific Action [#]	Status	B/Ds	Expected Deliverables	Summary of Implementation (as at mid 2023)
				20(a)(iii) Education programmes including Inter-school Bird Race and Family Farming Experience Programme organised at HKWP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In view of the situation of COVID-19, the channel of promotion was switched to social media. To celebrate the World Wetlands Day 2022, the HKWP produced a short video and shared it online for people from all nations to appreciate and cherish the beauty of wetlands. In 2022, HKWP organised education and publicity programmes with social distancing and other precautionary measures, including public lectures, nature exploration classes, photography workshop and walk-in reality puzzle games. The 22nd Inter-school Bird Race was also held on 10 December 2022.
				20(a)(iv) Public education programmes on marine biodiversity organised.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD continued to organise a wide range of public education events on marine biodiversity, including exhibitions, seminars, field trips, coastal clean-ups, ambassador programme, student workshop, self-guided tours and competitions. Programmes completed in 2021/22 included “Hong Kong Marine Biodiversity Roving Exhibition”, “Ting Kok Coastal Conservation Plan”, “Protect Hong Kong Marine Environment 4-panel Comic Drawing Competition” and “Hong Kong Underwater Photo and Video Competition”. AFCD launched the “Hong Kong Marine Classroom” website to promote the marine conservation programmes and educational activities of different divisions since 2019.
				20(a)(v) Education programmes including school and public programmes organised in country parks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD regularly organises various biodiversity education programmes in country parks, including school visit programmes, guided tours and teachers’ training tailored for different school levels, as well as public programmes such as nature appreciation interpretations, webinars and roving exhibitions. By May 2023, a total of 226 schools have joined the school visit programmes in the 2022-23 academic years. The Hong Kong Country Park Roving Exhibition was conducted between November 2022 and February 2023. There were over 47 000 participants in six sessions of exhibitions. In October 2020, AFCD commissioned a consultancy study to develop curriculum-oriented outdoor learning programmes in country parks for primary and secondary schools. Four secondary school programmes and three primary school programmes have been rolled out as of May 2023. Five more programmes of different levels will be rolled out by the second half of 2023.
	b) Promote awareness and community involvement through citizen science monitoring programmes. Timeframe: M	Completed	AFCD	20(b)(i) Members of the public engaged to participate in citizen science projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD is co-organising/supporting various citizen science monitoring programmes with NGOs/institutions, viz. Hong Kong Reef Check (Reef Check Foundation), Coral Saver and Ghost Gear Detective (WWF-Hong Kong) and Coral Restoration Workshop (Reef Check Foundation, the University of Hong Kong and WWF-Hong Kong). Volunteers were trained to assist the monitoring of trees and bird nest boxes at HKWP.
	c) Organise annual festivals to provide a platform for engaging partners and relevant stakeholders in promoting biodiversity to the public. Timeframe: O	Completed	AFCD	20(c)(i) Education programmes including guided tours, workshops, and volunteer programmes organised. NGOs engaged as partners in organising events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education programmes, including guided tours, workshops, exhibitions, volunteer programmes etc., have been organised since 2016. NGOs were engaged as partners in organising a wide range of events to promote biodiversity to the public. In 2023, the “Nature in our Neighbourhood” exhibition was held between May and Jun, which had attracted about 13,530 visitors. From 2016 up to 2023, 109 applications were approved under the Subventions for Biodiversity Education with a total approved funding amount of \$8.74 million.
	d) Conduct a survey on knowledge and attitudes towards biodiversity in Hong Kong. Timeframe: S	Completed	AFCD	20(d)(i) Baseline level and change of public knowledge and attitude to biodiversity documented.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD commissioned a study to document the baseline level of the knowledge and attitude of the general public and stakeholder groups (teachers and planning and development professionals) towards biodiversity in Hong Kong, to inform future education programmes and to track the change of attitude and awareness in relation to the implementation of BSAP. Completed in 2018, the survey results were published on AFCD’s website.
	e) Encourage partnership between Government and business sector in biodiversity conservation. Timeframe: M	Completed	AFCD	20(e)(i) Mainstreaming events organised for various sectors including businesses, engineering, agriculture and fisheries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mainstreaming events, including seminar, meeting and conference, were co-organised by AFCD and relevant B/Ds or partners in 2022. Topics covered included BSAP, urban biodiversity, ecosystem services and biodiversity education.
	f) Encourage programmes to promote biodiversity education and community involvement, through funding support by the ECF. Timeframe: O	Completed	EEB**, AFCD	20(f)(i) Provide funding support for the most meritorious biodiversity-related Environmental Education and Community Action (EE&CA) projects selected by the EE&CA Projects Vetting Sub-committee under the ECF.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Biodiversity” has been set as a priority theme for EE&CA project applications since 2016/17. Five biodiversity-related applications were approved with a total funding amount of around \$4 million in 2022/23. The first round of application in 2023/24 is now being invited.

Action	Specific Action [#]	Status	B/Ds	Expected Deliverables	Summary of Implementation (as at mid 2023)
21 - Promote biodiversity in education	a) Incorporate the concept of biodiversity in the school curriculum. Timeframe: M	Completed	AFCD, EDB	21(a)(i) The concept of biodiversity is already included in the school curriculum.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The concept of biodiversity has already been included in the school curriculum, including General Studies (P1-6), Science (S1-3), Citizenship and Social Development (S4-6), Biology (S4-6), Combined Science (S4-6) (Biology part) and Integrated Science (S4-6). The curricula will be kept under review for updating as appropriate.
	b) Engage NGOs to provide capacity building for teachers on biodiversity. Timeframe: L	Completed	AFCD, EDB	21(b)(i) Teachers' seminars/workshops on biodiversity organised.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the first term of the 2022/23 school year, EDB organised 2 professional development programmes (PDPs) related to biodiversity for primary and secondary school teachers, including a seminar on learning and teaching strategies for promotion of green living and green consumption, and a seminar on using mobile learning tool to facilitate students' self-directed learning in Hong Kong Wetland Park. In the second term of the 2022/23 school year, EDB has planned/organised more PDPs related to the theme for school teachers, including a visit to Hong Kong Wetland Park on using mobile learning tool to facilitate students' self-directed learning, a visit to the Sustainability Gallery, a visit to a local organic farm, and a seminar cum visit on marine biodiversity and coral restoration in Hong Kong, a visit to the Controlled Environment Hydroponic Research and Development Centre, and a seminar on learning and teaching strategies in promoting biodiversity conservation.
				21(b)(ii) Five sets of pamphlets and six sets of display panels on biodiversity conservation updated and produced by HKWP by 2019. HKWP website revamped by 2019.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2018, HKWP's education materials, including five sets of pamphlets and six sets of mobile display panels, were updated and produced to support teachers in conducting education activities on biodiversity conservation. In 2018, HKWP's Teachers' Page was revamped to facilitate access to new teaching resources, featuring new teaching resources (e.g. self-visit lesson plan and pictorial guide for interpretation).
21 - Promote biodiversity in education	c) Enhance the resources for early childhood education on nature conservation. Timeframe: S/M	Ongoing	AFCD, EDB	21(c)(i) Learning and Teaching (L&T) packages for kindergarten students' activity-based learning at HKWP and Lions Nature Education Centre (LNEC).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EDB commissioned the project to develop L&T resources for kindergarten education at HKWP and LNEC. The L&T packages (including Teacher Guide, Teacher Supplementary Information Booklet, Student Booklet and Parent Leaflet) were available for download on AFCD and EDB's websites. The educational programmes "Wetland Footprints" in HKWP and "Countryside Adventure" in LNEC were rolled out in the 2018/19 school year.
				21(c)(ii) Kindergarten resource centre set up in LNEC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EDB has commissioned a project to design a kindergarten resource centre to be set up at LNEC in 2018. Demonstration of the initial design of the resource centre, development of L&T package (including Teacher Guide and Parent Leaflet), pilot training sessions for kindergarten teachers and AFCD staff and seminars for parents of kindergarten students were completed. ArchSD would serve as the works agent for the modification works at LNEC and the pre-construction studies has commenced in Q1 2023. Construction works is expected to commence in Q2 2024 and will be completed in 2025-26.
22 - Promote sustainable consumption	a) Conduct public engagement and explore relevant measures on promotion of sustainable consumption of biological resources. Timeframe: O	Completed	EEB*, EDB, EPD	22(a)(i) The Council for Sustainable Development (SDC) has conducted a public engagement on promotion of sustainable consumption of biological resources and would put forward recommendations for the Government's consideration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Sustainable consumption of biological resources" was set as a special theme for the second round of ECF's EE&CA project applications in 2017/18 and a priority area in the 13th round of applications for the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF). Under the SDF, five projects involving a total of \$5.89 million in funding had been carried out. EDB has organised PDPs for teachers on biodiversity related themes promoting eco-labelled food items and green living. In 2019/20, EDB organised a total of 8 PDPs on the themes. In the 2020/21 school year, EDB conducted a seminar on learning and teaching strategies for promotion of green living and waste reduction. In the 2021/22 school year, EDB organised a total of seven PDPs on the themes of biodiversity/environmental sustainability. In the 2022/23 school year, as at May, EDB organised 10 PDPs related to biodiversity for primary and secondary school teachers, including a seminar on environmental conservation and sustainable development and a seminar on learning and teaching strategies for promotion of green living and green consumption. EDB will organise two more PDPs on the themes related to sustainable development, climate change mitigation, and biodiversity conservation for school teachers in June 2023. Under the existing list of 183 items in the Government's Green Procurement list, items derived from biological resources include personal care products originated from palm oil and more paper and wooden products, as well as sustainable food choice for food and catering service.
23 - Enhance facilities for biodiversity education and research	a) Open and maintain a permanent exhibition on biodiversity in the Hong Kong Science Museum. Timeframe: S	Completed	LCSD	23(a)(i) The Biodiversity Gallery in the Hong Kong Science Museum opened in September 2016.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Biodiversity Gallery was opened in 2016, and biodiversity workshops on various topics were hosted by NGOs regularly at the Gallery.

Action	Specific Action [#]	Status	B/Ds	Expected Deliverables	Summary of Implementation (as at mid 2023)
	b) Support the establishment of biodiversity centres. Timeframe: M	Completed	AFCD	23(b)(i) Establishment of biodiversity centres at local tertiary institutions supported.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD is providing support to tertiary institutions for setting up new learning centres that will help promote biodiversity. In 2018 the Learning Centre on Biological Resources and Sustainable Living, Sustainability Gallery, was set up with AFCD's support under the Institute of Bioresource and Agriculture of Hong Kong Baptist University. The ECF supported the Hong Kong Natural History Collection in 2018 and the Hong Kong Biodiversity Museum in 2019 operated by the Lingnan University and the University of Hong Kong respectively for conservation, research and education.
	c) Explore the opportunity for setting up a natural history museum in the long term. Timeframe: L	Ongoing	EEB*, AFCD	23(c)(i) Opportunities for setting up a natural history museum explored.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFCD will continue to liaise with relevant stakeholders on setting up a natural history museum.

Note:

* Item under the purview of Environment Bureau (ENB) before July 2022

** Item under the purview of Environmental Protection Department (EPD) before July 2022

^ Item under the purview of Food and Health Bureau (FHB) before July 2022

^^ These measures primarily concern the updating of management plans for conservation areas or ecologically valuable sites in Hong Kong, as well as the statuses and action plans for endangered species that are often scarce in numbers. They are complicated in nature, and involve extensive liaison and collaboration with various experts and action parties, such as green groups. Also, the measures involve tremendous efforts on consolidation, review and analysis of vast amount of data, conduct of extra field surveys, and incorporation of latest research findings. Coupled with the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, which had adversely affected manpower deployment and preparation and conduct of field work, delay in implementation was caused.

This initiative is subject to legal procedures for the designation of Country Park. The impact of COVID-19 pandemic had adversely affected manpower deployment and the consultation / works schedule, leading to delay in implementation.

#The "Timeframe" of Specific Actions are categorised as follows-

- "O" (Ongoing) - continuation of existing programmes;
- "S" (Short term) - targeted completion within 1-2 years (i.e. by end 2018);
- "M" (Medium term) - targeted completion within 3-5 years (i.e. by end 2021);
- "L" (Long term) - targeted completion beyond 2021

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF): 23 Global Targets

Target No.	Target Description in Simplified Text [#]
Reducing Threats to Biodiversity	
1	Almost no loss of areas of high biodiversity importance
2	30% degraded areas restored
3	30% territory as protected areas or Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs)
4	Halt extinction of threatened species and restore genetic diversity
5	Ensure sustainable use, harvesting, and trade of wild species
6	50% reduction of establishment of invasive alien species
7	Reduce pollution by 50%
8	Minimise impact of climate change on biodiversity
Meeting People's Needs through Sustainable Use and Benefit-Sharing	
9	Sustainable use of wild species for the benefit of indigenous people relying on biodiversity
10	Sustainable agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry
11	Adopt nature-based solutions to enhance ecosystem services
12	Significantly increase quantity and quality of blue-green infrastructures
13	Fair and equitable utilisation of genetic resources and digital sequence information
Tools and Solutions for Implementation and Mainstreaming	
14	Fully integrate biodiversity across whole government and society
15	Enable business to disclose risk and dependencies on biodiversity
16	Encourage sustainable consumption and reduce food waste
17	Biosafety measures on utilising biotechnology
18	Phase out harmful, but scale up positive incentives for biodiversity
19	Increase financial flows from all sources including leveraging private finance
20	Strengthen capacity-building development and technology transfer
21	Promote data and knowledge exchange
22	Ensure participation of women, children, indigenous people in decision-making
23	Ensure women and girls' opportunity and capacity to contribute

[#]Full text of the GBF, including the 23 global targets therein, is available at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-04-en.pdf>