

Updates to Hong Kong Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan Public Consultation Document

MAY 2025



Environment and Ecology Bureau

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
of the People's Republic of China



**Agriculture, Fisheries and
Conservation Department**



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Foreword

Natural ecosystems and biodiversity are deeply intertwined with human well-being, making their conservation vital for achieving sustainable development. Therefore, countries around the world are gradually integrating biodiversity protection into their long-term development strategies. In addition, President Xi Jinping has repeatedly emphasised the need to firmly establish and act on the important concept of “lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets”. At the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, he also highlighted that “Chinese modernisation is the modernisation of harmony between humanity and nature”. Only by focusing on high-quality development and the construction of ecological civilisation can we build a solid foundation for sustainable development and create a bright future. Concurrently, the newly adopted global biodiversity framework under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity in 2022 also guides countries to implement a series of global goals based on their national circumstances, priorities and socio-economic conditions, and to work together to achieve the vision of harmonious coexistence between humans and nature.

Despite being a highly densely populated cosmopolitan city, Hong Kong supports remarkable biodiversity. We are committed to biodiversity conservation, striving to strike a balance between economic growth and nature conservation to achieve sustainable development. Through implementation of the Hong Kong Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP), we strive to raise public awareness of biodiversity’s importance and foster active cross-sector collaboration and innovation. By harnessing collective expertise and creativity, we seek to develop holistic solutions that promote economic prosperity, ecological balance, and human well-being, with a view to supporting the sustainable and high-quality development of our society.

Thanks to the concerted efforts of the academics, professionals and stakeholders, the first phase of the BSAP has yielded remarkable achievements. We are grateful for various parties in delivering the initiatives in the BSAP, enhancing cross-sector co-operation and promoting active participation of youth groups and the general public. We will continue to strive to reinforce deep involvement of stakeholders from different sectors in the next phase of the BSAP.

This document sets out four proposed major strategic areas for the next phase of the BSAP as well as suggestions on the specific actions to be considered in the next decade and beyond, with a view to further reinforcing biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in Hong Kong, and supporting new global and national initiatives. We look forward to receiving your valuable views and suggestions.

In the spirit of collaboration and unity, we can make Hong Kong a vibrant, liveable and charming city in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA), while at the same time contributing our strength to our country’s vision of ecological civilisation, as well as the global efforts in biodiversity conservation.

Executive Summary

The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) aims to conserve biological diversity, promote the sustainable use of its components, and ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources. Since 1993, China has been a Party to the CBD, coverage of which was extended to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in 2011.

In 2022, the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the CBD, under the presidency of China, adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), which sets out two overarching goals (i.e. halting global biodiversity loss by 2030, and achieving harmony between humans and nature by 2050) and 23 action-oriented “Kunming-Montreal 2030 Targets”. The KMGBF guides countries in achieving these global targets based on their national circumstances, priorities and socio-economic conditions, collectively working towards the vision of harmonious coexistence between humans and nature.

As a Party to the CBD, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE) of China released China National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan (2023-2030) (NBSAP) in January 2024, outlining 27 Priority Actions and 75 Priority Projects across four priority areas: mainstreaming biodiversity, addressing threats of biodiversity loss, sustainable use and benefit-sharing of biodiversity, and modernisation of biodiversity governance capacities.

The Government has been committed to conserving Hong Kong’s natural ecosystems, safeguarding biodiversity and achieving sustainable development. Since 2016, Hong Kong has implemented the first phase of its BSAP, covering 67 specific actions across four strategic areas. Most of the actions have been successfully implemented and yielded fruitful outcomes, including but not limited to:

- Designated four new Marine Parks and a new Country Park;
- Strengthened the legal framework and deterrent measures against illegal wildlife trade;
- Embedded biodiversity considerations into existing structures, processes and systems, such as adopting eco-friendly designs in drainage channels, shorelines, and other blue-green infrastructure development projects;
- Formulated the Blueprint for Sustainable Development of Agriculture and Fisheries;
- Established the Hong Kong Biodiversity Information Hub (HKBIH), which hosts a wealth of information on over 5 500 species, providing a one-stop platform for local biodiversity information;
- Hosted the biodiversity festivals to promote Hong Kong’s rich biodiversity, raise public awareness and encourage community participation in conservation efforts; and
- Set up the Countryside Conservation Office to coordinate rural conservation and revitalisation initiatives.

In response to the KMGBF successfully led by our country as the COP15 presidency, the NBSAP, and referencing practices from overseas and Mainland provinces and cities, the Government is preparing to update the city-level BSAP of Hong Kong, with a view to formulating practical strategies and actions that leverage Hong Kong's strengths to enhance the diversity, stability and sustainability of our precious ecosystems, foster harmony between humans and nature, and align with national conservation strategies.

The Government has preliminarily identified four strategic areas and corresponding measures for updating the BSAP, including:

1. Strengthening nature conservation, such as implementing effective area-based conservation measures, restoring and revitalising habitats, and undertaking targeted actions to protect species of conservation concern etc.;
2. Deepening biodiversity mainstreaming, such as mobilising resources to support sustainable use and conservation of natural resources, encouraging sectors to capitalize on biodiversity-related opportunities, and promoting community stewardship of nature etc.;
3. Advancing capacity building, such as driving innovation and high-quality research, facilitating knowledge transfer and nurturing talents etc.; and
4. Fostering cross-sector and regional collaboration on biodiversity conservation, such as partnering with cross-boundary and international stakeholders on joint operations, cooperative wetland and ecological corridor management, knowledge exchange and interdisciplinary cooperation etc.

The Government is now inviting the public to give views on the strategic areas and priority actions for the next phase of the BSAP, targeting to complete the update by 2025. We welcome and appreciate your valuable feedback and suggestions.



**“Lucid waters and lush mountains
are invaluable assets”**



1

Background

Biodiversity is not only fundamental to the health of our planet but also intricately linked to the well-being, prosperity and quality of life within our community.

CHAPTER 1: Background

1.1 IMPORTANCE OF BIODIVERSITY

Biodiversity refers to the variety of life forms on Earth, encompassing all living organisms and the ecosystems they inhabit. This diversity is essential, as it underpins all life on earth, allowing them to adapt to environmental changes and perform critical roles within their ecosystems, and ensuring stability and resilience of the systems. Beyond its ecological significance, biodiversity provides profound benefits to humanity. Our city, for instance, reaps a wide range of these benefits, known as

“ecosystem services.” These include essential resources like food from local farms and fisheries, climate regulation from forests, and cultural benefits such as aesthetic inspiration, spiritual connection, recreational spaces, and educational and research opportunities. In essence, biodiversity is not only fundamental to the health of our planet but also intricately linked to the well-being, prosperity and quality of life within our community.

What is biodiversity?

Biodiversity is typically examined at three interconnected levels: genetic, species and ecosystem diversity. Genetic diversity refers to the variation in hereditary materials within and among individuals of a species. Species diversity encompasses the variety of organisms within a specific habitat or region. Ecosystem diversity, on the other hand, refers to the variety of ecosystems formed through the interactions between communities of organisms and their physical environments. Forests, grasslands, mudflats, even urban blue-green areas, together with their associated organisms, are examples of ecosystems.



1.2 OVERVIEW OF HONG KONG'S BIODIVERSITY

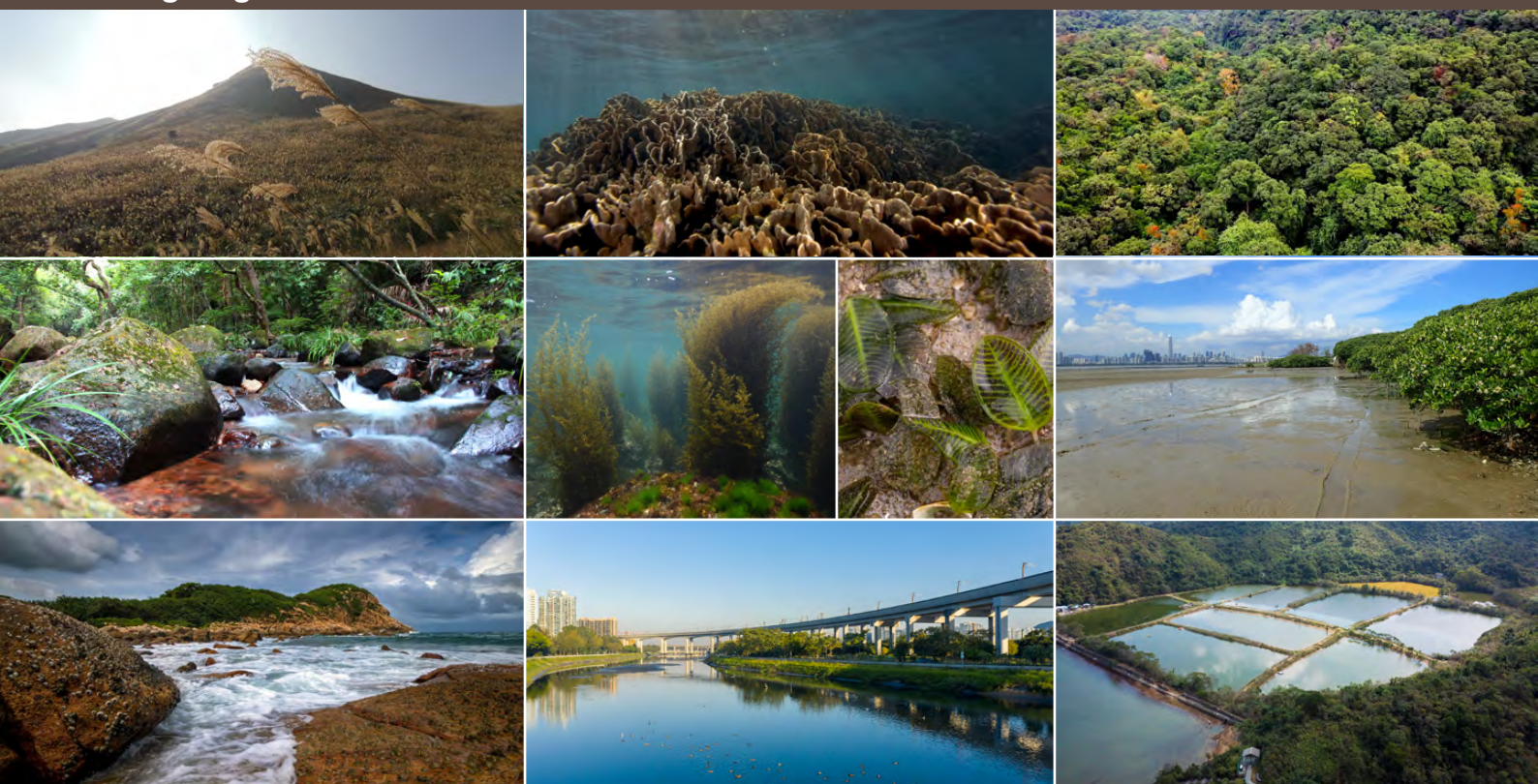
The biodiversity of a region is profoundly influenced by its physical environment. Situated at the northern edge of the tropics, Hong Kong is characterised by a subtropical climate with distinct seasonal patterns. From April to September, the city experiences hot, humid and rainy weather, while October to March brings cooler, drier conditions. The city's terrain is predominantly hilly and rugged, featuring a highly indented coastline and over 200 offshore islands. While Hong Kong stands as a bustling international financial centre and one of the most densely populated cities in the world, many are not aware that natural terrain actually makes up approximately 60% of the city's 1 114 km² land area, extending far beyond its skyscrapers. Natural landscapes of the city are shaped by two dominant rock types, granitic and volcanic, which create diverse soil textures across peaks and valleys. In its surrounding waters, which span about 1 640 km², oceanic currents and the discharge from the Pearl River create an east-west gradient in physical conditions. This ranges from clearer, oceanic waters in the east to more turbid, estuarine waters in the west.

The unique interplay of climate, geography and geology has endowed Hong Kong with a remarkable variety of terrestrial and marine habitats, supporting a wealth of native flora and fauna, including a number of endemic species. Despite its

small size and status as one of the world's most urbanised and densely populated cities, Hong Kong boasts an astonishingly rich biodiversity. This compact territory is home to over 3 300 species of vascular plants, over 50 terrestrial mammals, over 130 dragonfly species and over 240 butterfly species. Remarkably, while Hong Kong's waters constitute less than 0.1% of the total marine area of our country, they support around 6 000 marine species, accounting for a quarter of all recorded marine species in the country. These include over 1 000 marine fish species and more than 80 hard coral species, the latter surpasses the hard coral diversity in the Caribbean Sea. The territory covers less than 1% of Guangdong Province's area yet is home to more than one-third of the amphibian species recorded in the region. Hong Kong has over 580 bird species, exceeding one-third of the country's total. Beyond sheer numbers, Hong Kong shelters ecologically unique species like the Golden Birdwing, Chinese Pangolin, Chinese Grassbird, Red Azalea and Incense Tree. These extraordinary ecosystems represent irreplaceable natural heritage demanding our conservation commitment.

Currently, approximately 40% of Hong Kong's land is designated as Country Parks and Special Areas, while around 8 517 hectares of marine waters are protected as Marine Parks and Marine Reserve. The city's conservation network also includes an

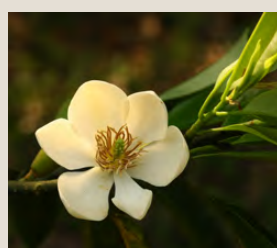
Hong Kong's habitats are diverse



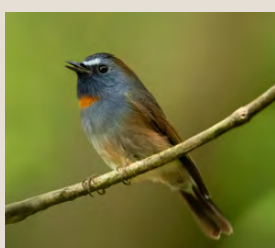
internationally important wetland recognised under the Ramsar Convention and the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark. A significant paleontological breakthrough occurred last year when dinosaur fossils were first confirmed on Port Island within the Geopark. This landmark discovery has provided ground-breaking evidence for Hong Kong's paleoecological research. Furthermore, destructive fishing practices such as

trawling and the use of snake cages have been prohibited in Hong Kong waters under existing legislation. Each year, over 10 million visitors explore and enjoy a range of outdoor activities in our Country Parks, which underscores the importance of these natural spaces in fostering a deep appreciation for the environment and enhancing the quality of life for residents.

Hong Kong is rich in species diversity



Vascular plants
3 300+



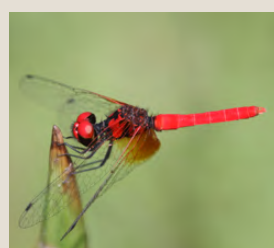
Birds
580+



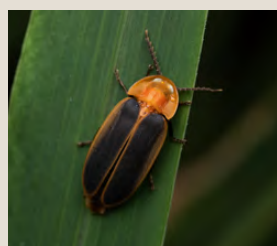
Terrestrial mammals
55



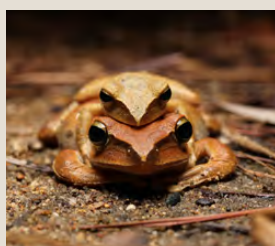
Butterflies
240+



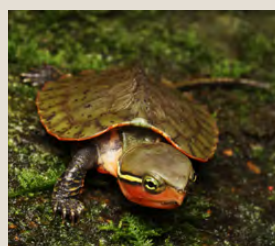
Dragonflies
133



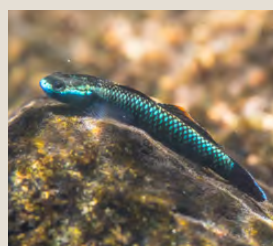
Beetles
1 000+



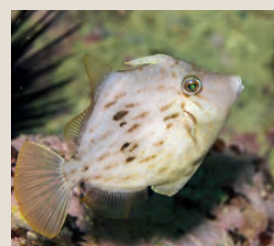
Amphibians
25



Reptiles
90



Freshwater fishes
200



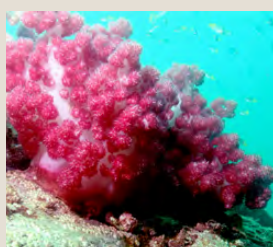
Marine fishes
1 000+



Marine mammals
2



Hard corals
84



Soft corals
67

1.3 FORMULATION OF BSAP

The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is an international convention seeking to conserve biodiversity, promote the sustainable use of its components, and encourage fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources. Under the CBD, a signatory Party is obliged to fulfil its international responsibilities and missions in the

field of biodiversity conservation by formulating its policies, such as biodiversity strategies and action plans, integrating with its individual conditions and capabilities. The Parties to the CBD also recognise that for some developing countries, socio-economic development and poverty eradication are top priorities, and thus do not mandate equal contributions from

all nations. China has been a Party to the CBD since 1993, and extended the coverage of the CBD to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in 2011.

As part of China and at the same time a highly developed international city, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region has been leveraging its unique identity and strengths to participate in global environmental initiatives and contribute to the implementation of the CBD in our country. Despite itself not being a Party to the CBD, the Government commenced preparatory work for formulating a city-level BSAP in 2013, aiming at stepping up biodiversity conservation for our future generations and supporting sustainable development of Hong Kong while contributing to the national BSAP of our country and the global efforts on biodiversity conservation.

During the formulation of Hong Kong's first BSAP, the Government had duly analysed and considered the wide range of feedback gathered in consultation exercises from the general public and stakeholders coming from the academia, professional bodies, the rural sector and private organisations. After making reference to the successful experiences of other cities and having regard to the actual local conditions, the BSAP was formally announced on 21 December 2016, with the following vision and mission:

Vision:

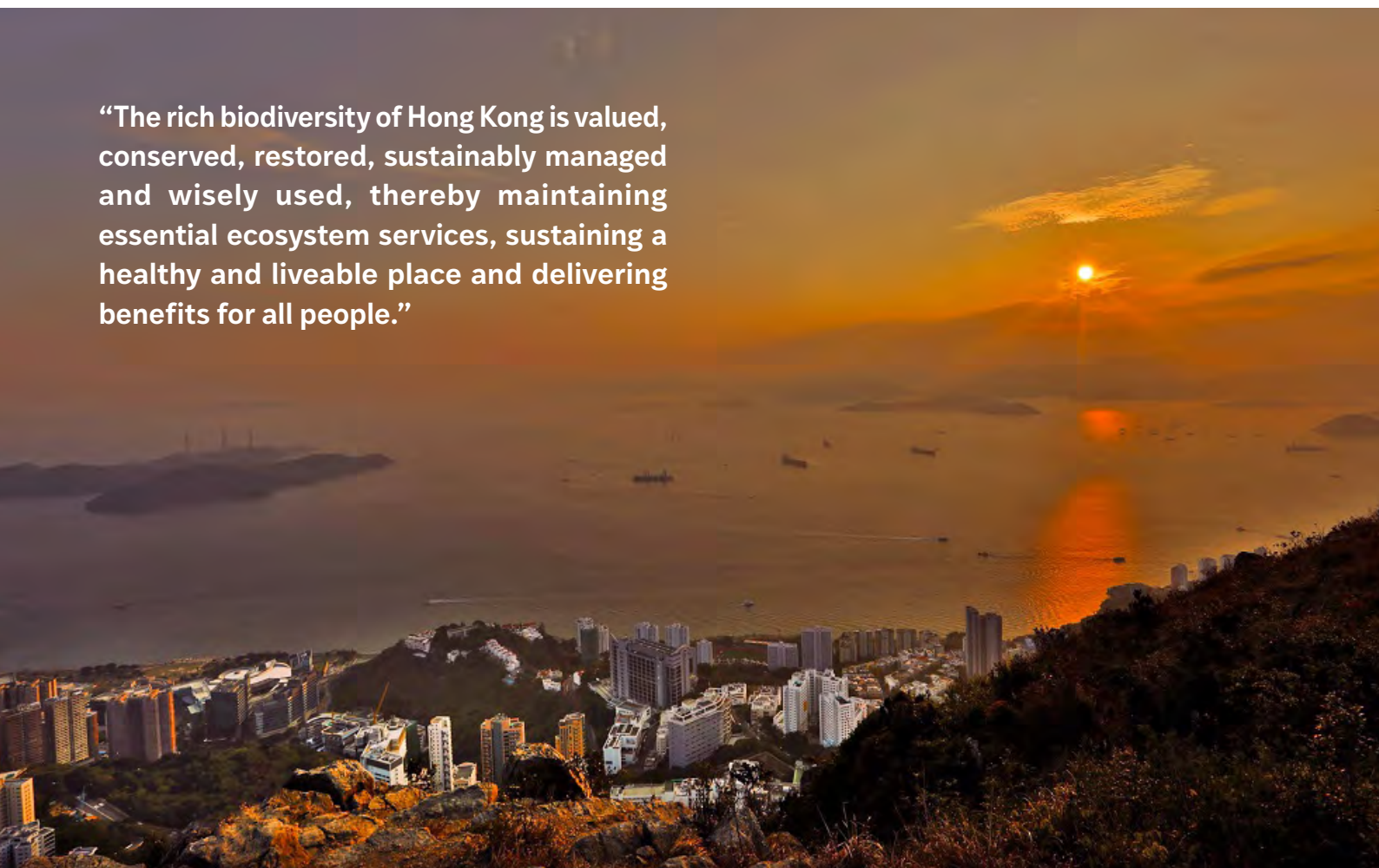
“The rich biodiversity of Hong Kong is valued, conserved, restored, sustainably managed and wisely used, thereby maintaining essential ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy and liveable place and delivering benefits for all people.”

Mission:

“Our mission is to value, conserve and restore the rich biodiversity of Hong Kong, to ensure that it is sustainably managed and wisely used, and to promote the mainstreaming of biodiversity issues and values across all sectors of the society, with social and economic aspects duly considered and balanced, so that ecosystems are resilient and continue to provide essential services, and the precious environment that supports and enriches the life of Hong Kong people is passed on to future generations.”

The first phase of the BSAP outlined 67 targeted actions across four strategic areas, with tiered completion targets: short-, medium- and long-term. The short- and medium-term actions were targeted to be completed within 2 years and 5 years respectively, while the long-term actions were anticipated to take at least 5 years.

“The rich biodiversity of Hong Kong is valued, conserved, restored, sustainably managed and wisely used, thereby maintaining essential ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy and liveable place and delivering benefits for all people.”



1.4 CURRENT PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Since the launch of the BSAP in 2016, the dedicated Inter-departmental Working Group on BSAP (IWGB) established by the Government has been effectively coordinating all relevant government bureaux and departments in taking forward specific actions of the BSAP. At the same time, the Government has proactively engaged relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the BSAP, in particular in enhancing biodiversity conservation measures and promoting the mainstreaming of biodiversity. In addition, the Government has also regularly reported the implementation progress of the BSAP to the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE) and seek its feedbacks.

Thanks to concerted efforts by the stakeholders and the Government in implementing the BSAP, fruitful outcomes have been achieved under each of the following four strategic areas of the BSAP:

1.4.1 Implemented numerous conservation measures

The Hong Kong society had demonstrated its long-term commitment to conservation of key ecosystems and species, through setting up additional terrestrial and marine protected areas and enhancing legal framework and deterrents against illegal wildlife trade. On ecosystem protection, since the launch of the BSAP, the Government has designated four new Marine Parks,

namely The Brothers Marine Park, Southwest Lantau Marine Park, South Lantau Marine Park and the largest— North Lantau Marine Park, covering an approximate additional 6 087 hectares of sea area, for better protection of Chinese White Dolphins and Finless Porpoises, as well as their habitats. Additionally, the Government has designated the 25th Country Park, the Robin's Nest Country Park. Spanning approximately 530 hectares, this new Country Park features undulating hills and a labyrinth of natural streams, creating diverse ecosystems that sustain a wealth of flora and fauna, including numerous species of high conservation value.

On the other hand, the Government has further established the Long Valley Nature Park, to achieve the goal of “harmonising ecological conservation with agricultural activities” by proactively restoring abandoned farmlands and parts of dry fields into various wetland habitats, including wet farmlands, water flea pond, shallow ponds and marshes, and constructing irrigation channels to nurture a wide range of wildlife and facilitate eco-friendly farming practices. To strengthen the protection of the breeding ground of Green Turtles, the Government has expanded the Sham Wan Restricted Area and extended the restricted period.

The Government has also established the Countryside Conservation Office to explicitly coordinate countryside conservation and revitalisation work. This includes implementing



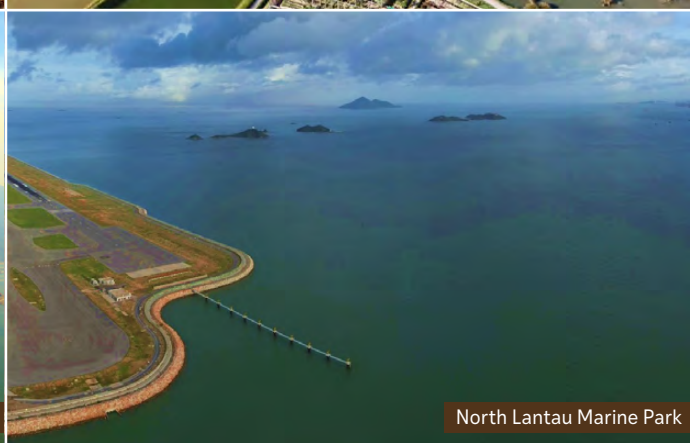
Robin's Nest Country Park



Long Valley Nature Park



The Brothers Marine Park

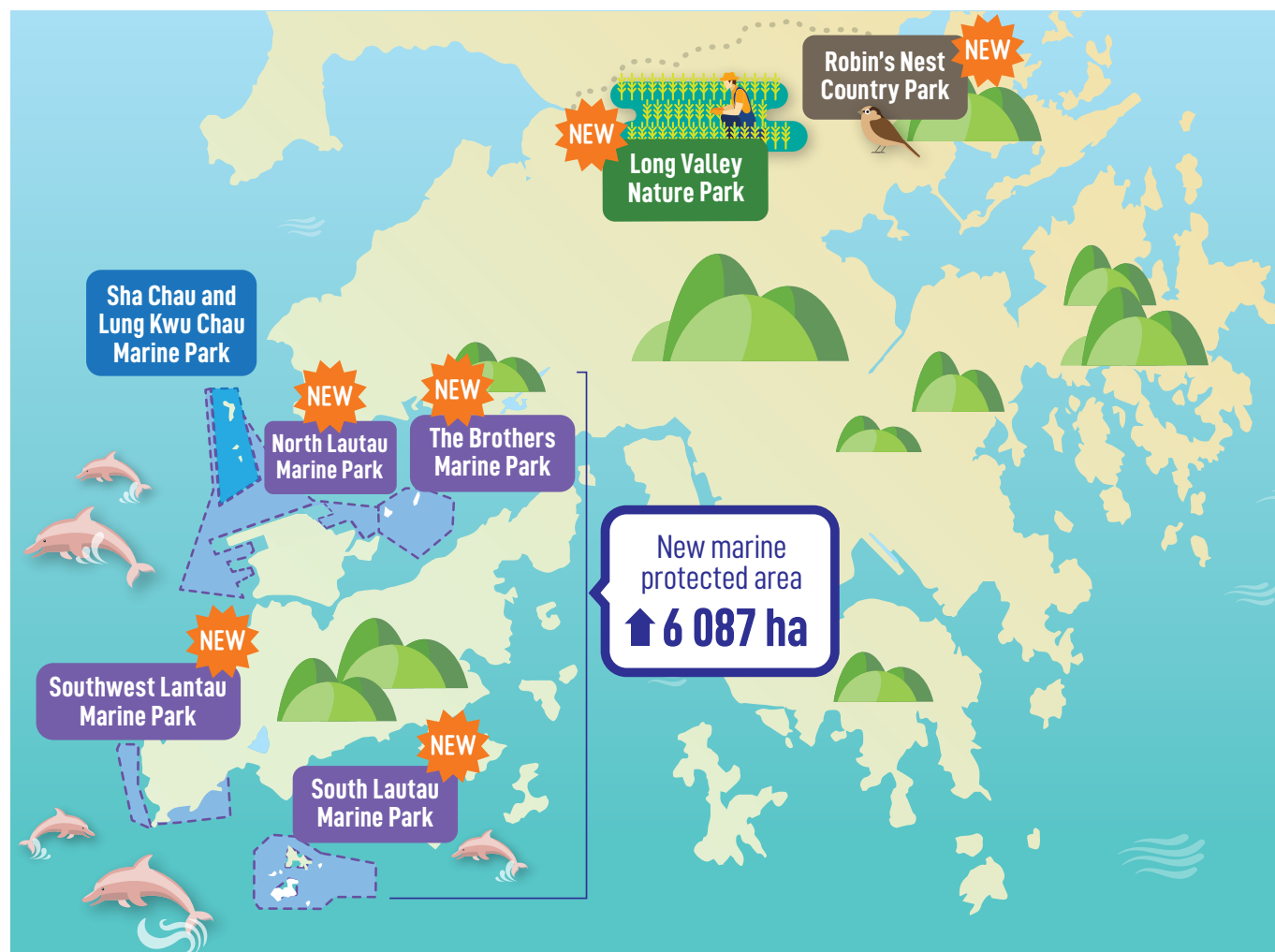


North Lantau Marine Park

diverse and innovative projects through the Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme, carrying out small-scale rural improvement works, and formulating licensing requirements and guidelines for rural hostels and restaurants. These initiatives aim to protect natural ecosystems and cultural

heritage, fostering cultural preservation, nature conservation and urban-rural symbiosis.

Regarding species conservation, the Government has fully banned local ivory trade and imposed heavier penalties to



combat smuggling and illegal trading of endangered species. The Government has also developed Species Action Plans for a number of threatened species such as Incense Tree, Chinese Pangolin, Romer's Tree Frog, Green Turtle and Black-faced Spoonbill and implemented them in collaboration with experts and voluntary groups. Encouragingly, effective habitat restoration and conservation efforts have led to a notable increase in sightings of the critically endangered Yellow-breasted Bunting in Long Valley in recent years. Research also indicates that since Hong Kong implemented its trawl ban, marine benthic biodiversity has significantly improved, with populations of some species groups rebounding by several fold.



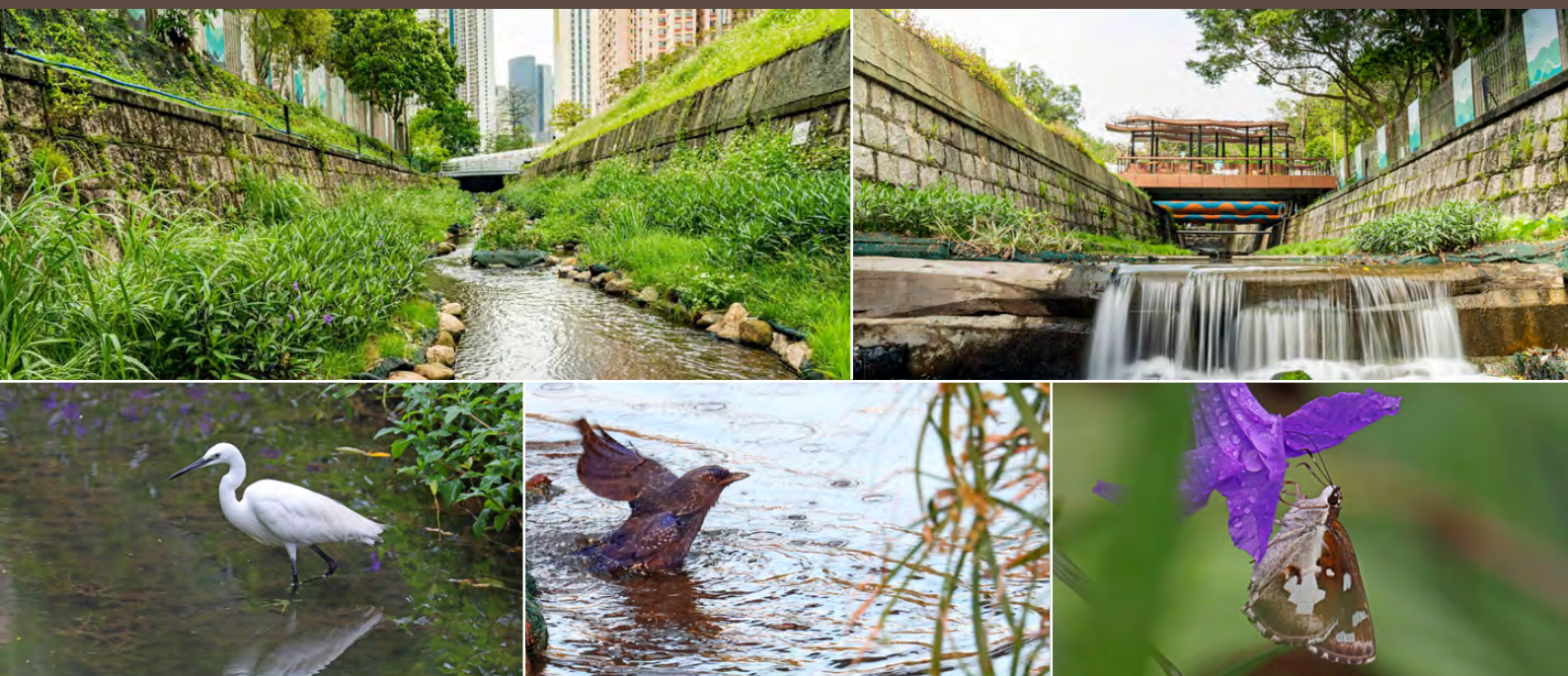
The number of critically endangered Yellow-breasted Buntings recorded in Long Valley has increased by approximately two times over the past three to four years following the implementation of habitat restoration and conservation measures in the area.

1.4.2 Biodiversity has become mainstream

Since the implementation of first phase of the BSAP, various sectors of the society have exhibited a greater awareness on biodiversity and a greater inclination to incorporate the relevant initiatives into their professional considerations. Mainstreaming biodiversity is a long-term and complex endeavour that requires sustained and coordinated efforts across multiple fronts to achieve meaningful and lasting impact. It is not about establishing separate processes and systems, but rather about embedding biodiversity considerations into existing structures, processes and systems. This approach ensures that biodiversity becomes a core element of decision-

making rather than an afterthought. In the area of urban planning and development, the Government has, through its bureaux and departments, taken corresponding actions to proactively encourage stakeholders in the development sector to incorporate biodiversity considerations into their daily work. Remarkable progress has been made in this regard. For instance, eco-friendly designs have been adopted in drainage channels, shorelines and other blue-green infrastructure development projects, and priority has been given to the planting of native plant species in urban greeneries. Not only are these measures conducive to the building of an ecological environment, but they also provide the wildlife with more suitable habitats.

The revitalised Jordan Valley nullah provides foraging and nesting grounds for a diverse array of birds and insects



In addition, the Government has formulated the Blueprint for Sustainable Development of Agriculture and Fisheries to provide the direction of sustainable development of the relevant industries, while the Hong Kong Green Building Council has timely updated its “BEAM Plus New Buildings” Manual to step up promotion of enhancing biodiversity elements in building designs, with a view to facilitating integration of buildings with nature.

It is also encouraging to see private companies further enhance their environmental, social and governance (ESG) framework by incorporating nature conservation considerations and taking a host of substantive actions, including coral restoration, tree planting and afforestation, as well as setting up butterfly gardens and community gardening spaces at shopping centres, with a view to enhancing urban biodiversity and making contribution to the thriving development of urban ecology.



1.4.3 Relevant knowledge improved

The Government has been substantially investing in improving and opening up biodiversity knowledge products, and supporting researchers to research for new knowledge or prototype ideas conducive to conservation of local biodiversity. Knowledge is essential for informed decision-making. It enables us to make timely, well-considered choices and ensures that resources are allocated efficiently to achieve desired outcomes. By grounding decisions in accurate information and insights, we can substantially elevate the effectiveness and drive meaningful progress towards our goals. To this end, the Government has initiated several key projects, such as the updating of the territory-wide terrestrial habitat map for Hong Kong, and the compilation of baseline information on the ecosystem services provided by local natural habitats. Targeting the major and unknown knowledge areas of local biodiversity, the Government has funded specialised studies on priority topics, and supported

academic research on biodiversity conservation through various funding schemes, including the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) and Lantau Conservation Fund. Government-funded ecological surveys have identified numerous species new to science or newly recorded in Hong Kong, including insects, bivalves, crabs, sea slugs, hard corals, jellyfish and spiders.

To facilitate public access to information on local species, the Government has developed the HKBIH to consolidate and disseminate local ecological information. Through cross-sectoral collaboration, the online platform provides one-stop information on local biodiversity. With contributions from local academic institutions and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), the HKBIH is now the city's largest open biodiversity database, hosting a wealth of information of over 5 500 species and attracting more than 10 000 visits each month.



1.4.4 More active engagement of the community

The Government has dedicated efforts to raise awareness and enlarge community involvement in biodiversity conservation, through enhancing publicity on biodiversity and native wildlife, allocated funding to support community actions, and making available new education resources. Recognising the value of biodiversity fosters the motivation needed to conserve it, and actions taken by one person can inspire others to follow suit, creating a ripple effect of positive change. Therefore, another pillar of nature conservation is raising the public awareness by providing more opportunities for the public to understand biodiversity, and cultivate long-term, collaborative community engagement in biodiversity conservation. In view of this, the Government organised annual biodiversity festivals to promote to the public the city's rich biodiversity. Additionally, the HKBIH provides an online educational platform, through which over a hundred biodiversity activities for members of the public were organised in collaboration with over 30 local NGOs

every year. The Environmental Education and Community Action Projects¹ under the ECF and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)'s Subventions for Biodiversity Education² also provided different channels of financial support for NGOs in organising educational activities. To build up a more effective connection with the young people, the Government promoted local biodiversity through social media platforms, incorporated the concept of biodiversity into school curricula, and provided relevant teaching materials and held capacity building events for teachers.



The AFCD, in collaboration with dozens of partner organisations, has hosted a number of biodiversity festivals featuring diverse activities to enhance public awareness and appreciation of Hong Kong's rich biodiversity.

1. Since late 2024, the ECF's "Environmental Education and Community Action Projects" scheme has been renamed as the "Publicity and Education Projects" scheme.
2. The AFCD launched the Subventions for Biodiversity Education from 2016 to 2022.

2

New Global and National Initiatives

To achieve harmonious coexistence
between humans and nature by 2050.



CHAPTER 2:

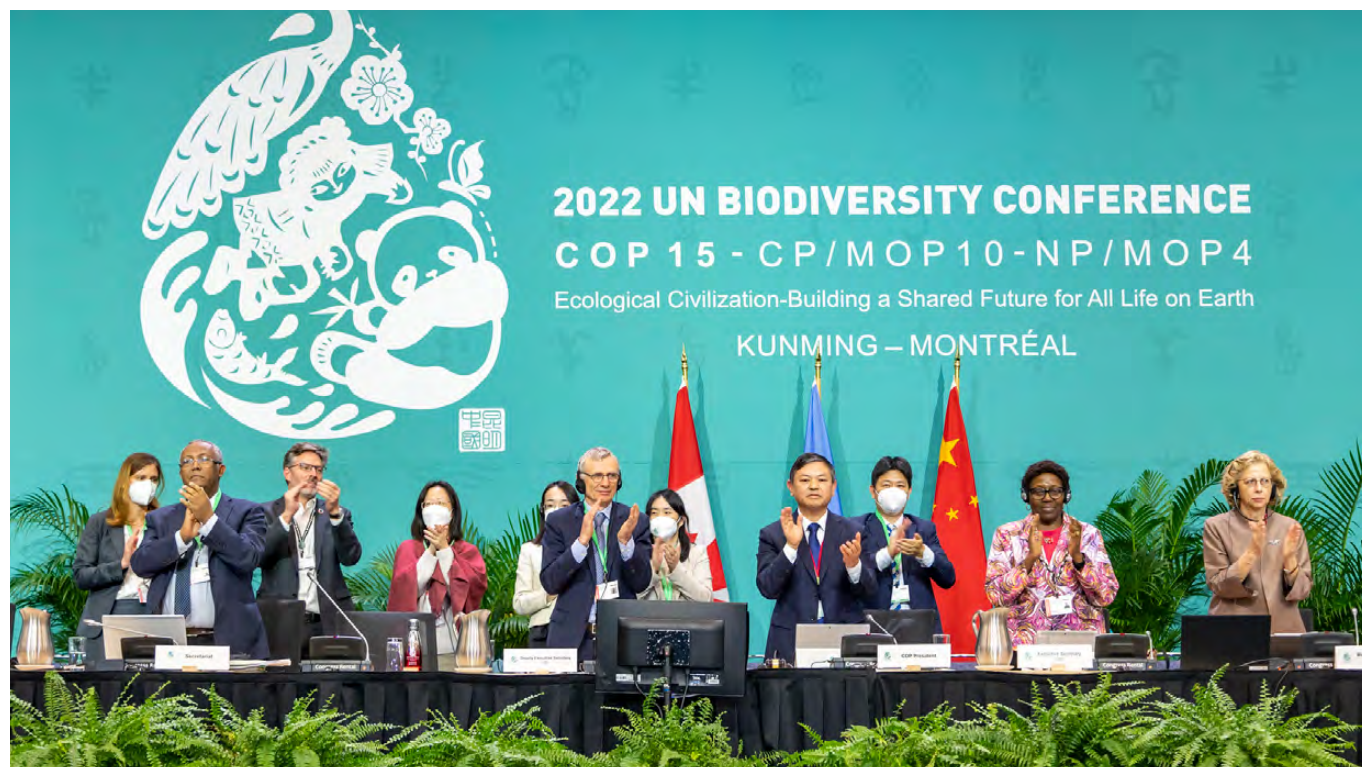
New Global and National Initiatives

2.1 Kunming–Montreal GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

The COP15 to the CBD held in December 2022 under the presidency of China adopted a new strategic global framework on biodiversity, the KMGBF. The KMGBF sets two overarching goals: firstly, to halt the trend of global biodiversity loss by 2030, and secondly, to achieve harmonious coexistence between humans and nature by 2050. It comprises 23 action-oriented global targets, also known as the “Kunming-Montreal 2030 Targets”, which are grouped under three categories: reducing threats to biodiversity (Targets 1-8), meeting people’s needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing (Targets 9-13), and tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming (Targets 14-23). As a key document in international biodiversity governance, the KMGBF establishes global targets that address fundamental human needs while clearly stating that each Party should implement measures in line with its national circumstances, priorities and socio-economic conditions.

This approach ensures the effective realisation of sustainable development principles centred on harmonious coexistence between humans and nature.

The KMGBF marks a historic milestone in biodiversity conservation. It covers a wide spectrum of topics (e.g. protected areas, species conservation, climate change, pollution/waste reduction, green finance, biodiversity risk disclosure, sustainable consumption and blue-green space) and relatively new concepts (e.g. other effective area-based conservation measure (OECM³) and nature-based solution (NbS⁴)). It goes beyond just government commitments for building a nature-based world but calls for action from every sector of society. Everyone, from organisation and business to individual, has an important role to play in this collective endeavour.



3. Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures: “Geographically defined areas distinct from traditional protected areas but managed in ways that yield positive, sustained, and long-term outcomes for biodiversity conservation, including associated ecosystem functions, services, and, when applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio-economic, and other locally significant values.” (CBD Secretariat)
4. Nature-based Solutions: “Actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems, which address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services and resilience and biodiversity benefits including on mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction.” (CBD Secretariat)



Kunming-Montreal GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

Reducing threats to biodiversity

1		Plan and Manage all Areas To Reduce Biodiversity Loss
2		Restore 30% of all Degraded Ecosystems
3		Conserve 30% of Land, Waters and Seas
4		Halt Species Extinction, Protect Genetic Diversity, and Manage Human-Wildlife Conflicts
5		Ensure Sustainable, Safe and Legal Harvesting and Trade of Wild Species
6		Reduce the Introduction of Invasive Alien Species by 50% and Minimize Their Impact
7		Reduce Pollution to Levels That Are Not Harmful to Biodiversity
8		Minimize the Impacts of Climate Change on Biodiversity and Build Resilience

Meeting people's needs

through sustainable use and benefit-sharing

9		Manage Wild Species Sustainably To Benefit People
10		Enhance Biodiversity and Sustainability in Agriculture, Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Forestry
11		Restore, Maintain and Enhance Nature's Contributions to People
12		Enhance Green Spaces and Urban Planning for Human Well-Being and Biodiversity
13		Increase the Sharing of Benefits From Genetic Resources, Digital Sequence Information and Traditional Knowledge

Tools and solutions

for implementation and mainstreaming

14		Integrate Biodiversity in Decision-Making at Every Level
15		Enable Business to Assess, Disclose and Reduce Biodiversity-Related Risks and Negative Impacts
16		Enable Sustainable Consumption Choices To Reduce Waste and Over-consumption
17		Strengthen Biosafety and Distribute the Benefits of Biotechnology
18		Reduce Harmful Incentives by at Least \$500 Billion per Year, and Scale Up Positive Incentives for Biodiversity
19		Mobilise \$200 Billion per Year for Biodiversity From all Sources, Including \$30 Billion Through International Finance
20		Strengthen Capacity-Building, Technology Transfer, and Scientific and Technical Cooperation for Biodiversity
21		Ensure That Knowledge Is Available and Accessible To Guide Biodiversity Action
22		Ensure Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice and Information Related to Biodiversity for all
23		Ensure Gender Equality and a Gender-Responsive Approach for Biodiversity Action

2.2 CHINA NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN (2023-2030)

In response to the KMGBF, Parties to the CBD are gradually updating their national BSAPs to state their respective contributions to achieving the 23 global targets set by the KMGBF. Being the presidency of COP15, China was among the first to complete and publish the updated national BSAP. With the endorsement of the State Council, the MEE promulgated the NBSAP on 18 January 2024, setting out short-, medium- and long-term overall goals for 2030, 2035 and 2050 respectively. To

achieve these goals, the NBSAP delineates 27 Priority Actions, covering a total of 75 Priority Projects under the following four priority areas: mainstreaming biodiversity, addressing threats of biodiversity loss, sustainable use and benefit-sharing of biodiversity, and modernisation of biodiversity governance capacities. The NBSAP provides guidance for local governments in strengthening their biodiversity conservation work.



It is worth noting that the NBSAP identifies the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao area as one of the key strategic regions for enhanced biodiversity conservation. Two associated Priority Projects have been established to guide government units in these regions to develop mechanisms for strengthening biodiversity conservation, with a particular focus on fostering regional collaboration. Currently, the Hong Kong Government is actively working with relevant departments in Guangdong Province and Shenzhen, to advance cross-boundary conservation efforts for wetlands, ecological corridors and marine life. Key initiatives include jointly promoting the protection and sustainable development of the Shenzhen Bay (Deep Bay) wetlands, conserving its wetland ecosystems and key species; establishing ecological corridor that

connects Hong Kong and Shenzhen, i.e the “Wutong Mountain (Shenzhen)-Robin’s Nest (Hong Kong) Ecological Corridor” to enhance habitat connectivity; and discussing the establishment of a Guangdong-Hong Kong Chinese White Dolphin marine protected areas network platform. Additionally, Hong Kong and Shenzhen have formed the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Joint Working Group on Environmental Protection to strengthen cooperation on various projects, including air and water quality improvement, as well as cross-boundary new energy transportation. Looking ahead, Hong Kong will further strengthen collaborative ties with neighbouring cities and press ahead with nature conservation, decarbonisation and green transformation, as well as actively contribute to relevant initiatives targeted at cities in the NBSAP.

Two Priority Projects that are directly related to the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao area in the NBSAP

Development of collaborative mechanisms for biodiversity conservation and governance in key strategic areas

Major relevant departments work together to advance biodiversity conservation efforts in the key strategic areas (Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, Yangtze and Yellow River and Yellow River basins, Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao area, Yangtze River Delta and Qinghai-Tibet Plateau etc.) of the country; this includes formulating work plans or programmes, strengthening communication and coordination, improving working mechanisms, and researching and identifying major regional policies, systems and work directions for biodiversity conservation in these key strategic areas.

Development of action plans for biodiversity conservation in key strategic areas

In alignment with national strategies, to develop specific and action-oriented regional biodiversity conservation plans for the key strategic areas (Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, Yangtze and Yellow River and Yellow River basins, Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao area, Yangtze River Delta and Qinghai-Tibet Plateau etc.); identify guiding principles, working guidelines, overall objectives and key tasks for enhancing biodiversity conservation; strengthen regional coordinated actions; and widely augment the level of biodiversity conservation in these areas.

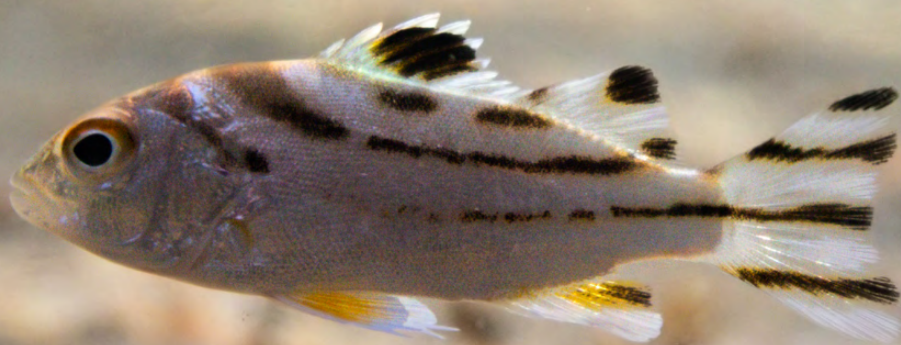


Hong Kong is collaborating with neighbouring Mainland cities to monitor and protect threatened species, such as the Black-faced Spoonbill and the Chinese White Dolphin.

3

Challenges and Opportunities

Hong Kong's uniqueness lies in the blend of urban development and natural landscapes.



CHAPTER 3:

Challenges and Opportunities

3.1 CHALLENGES FACING HONG KONG

Hong Kong's high population density and limited land resources bring challenges to balancing urban development and preservation of blue-green spaces and conservation areas. Climate change also poses potential threats to ecosystems, which may impact biodiversity and the stability of the natural environment. Additionally, the constraints of public finance present potential challenges in implementing biodiversity measures. With this background, we will exercise greater prudence in resource allocation to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of each initiative. We will pursue the

formulation development of sound effective policies, supports the diversified funding sources for biodiversity projects, raise public awareness, and strengthen cross-sectoral and regional collaboration. Furthermore, we will continue to encourage input and participation from all sectors of the society, integrating biodiversity considerations into planning and decision-making processes across different domains. Only by doing so can we maintain essential ecosystem services within our city despite resource limitations, benefiting both our citizens and wildlife.



3.2 HONG KONG'S POSITIONING

Recognising the varying resource conditions and circumstances among nations, both the CBD and KMGBF fully respect Parties' decision to formulate and update their national biodiversity strategies and action plans in accordance with their respective national circumstances, priorities and socio-economic conditions. However, unlike the formulation of national BSAPs, cities worldwide and those in the Mainland China, when developing their city-level BSAPs in the spirit of the CBD, do not directly and fully align the BSAPs with the KMGBF or its global targets designed for collaboration among nations. The mainstream approach for preparing the city-level BSAP is to actively align local plans with national strategies, with a view to ensuring that city-level initiatives can support

the implementation of national biodiversity plans. This, in turn, ensures cities to contribute to the KMGBF in a consistent manner with their local and national contexts and priorities.

In light of this, with limited resources, Hong Kong shall make reference to the guidance in the NBSAP, strategically allocate resources and prioritise efforts to take forward relevant work in the next phase of the BSAP. This approach will ensure Hong Kong's biodiversity actions suit local needs, and be able to contribute to the broader national and global targets. We will continue to implement the BSAP, safeguarding natural ecosystems while fostering city development, jointly advancing sustainable development objectives, and realising the vision of harmonious coexistence between humans and nature.

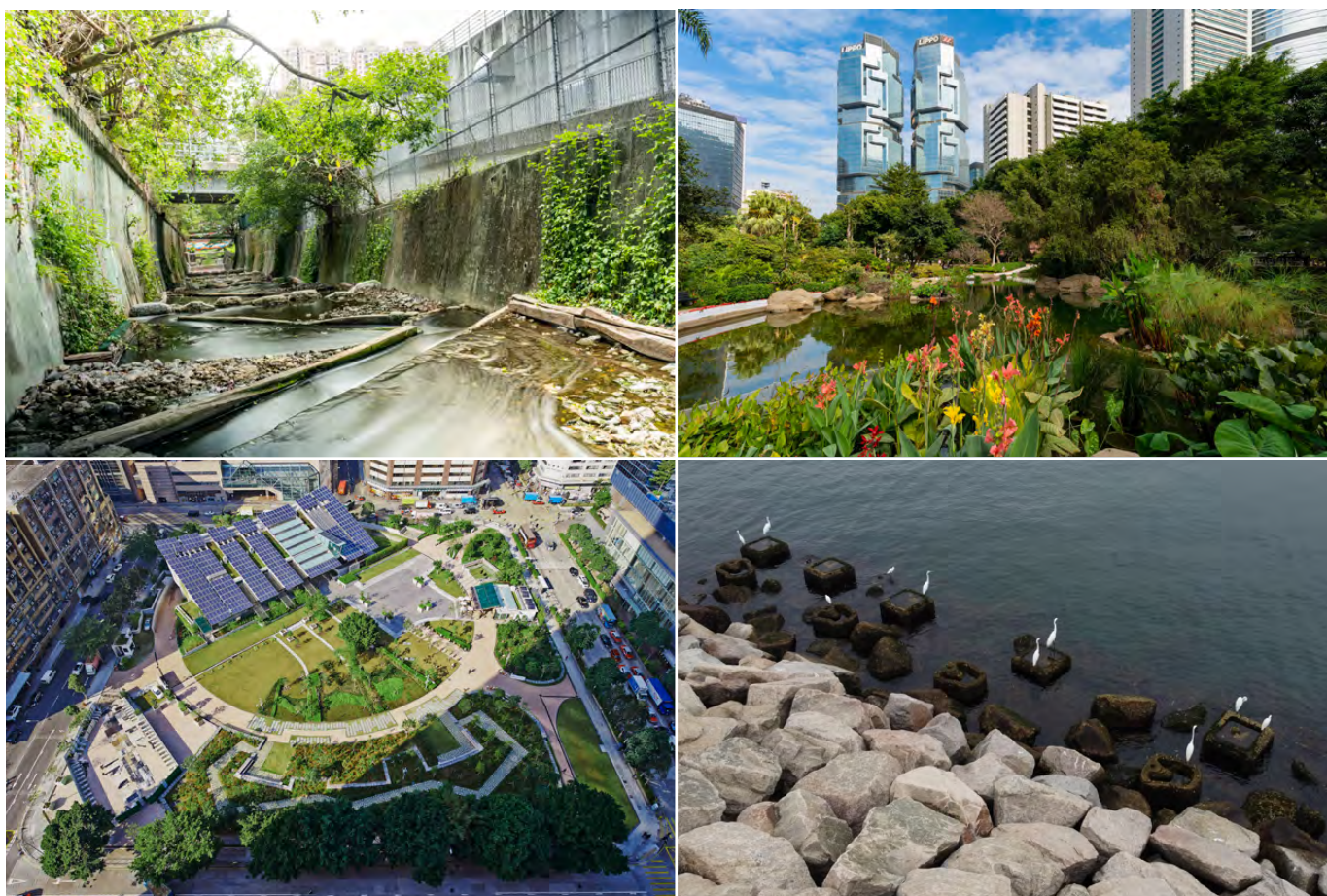
3.3 HONG KONG'S STRENGTHS

Hong Kong possesses a distinctive combination of strengths that solidify its role as a globally connected hub, seamlessly integrated into the dynamics of globalisation while also earning international acclaim for its nature conservation initiatives. Below is an overview of Hong Kong's distinctive advantages, which position itself to make meaningful contributions in support of the NBSAP and to further amplify its impact on global biodiversity conservation efforts.

3.3.1 Sustainable development

Hong Kong's uniqueness lies in the blend of urban development and natural landscapes. With a well-established network of protected areas and a robust legal framework aligned with international standards, Hong Kong ensures sustainable use of land and marine resources while mitigating environmental

impacts. The Government has also implemented comprehensive strategies outlined in key policy documents, such as the Hong Kong Climate Action Plan 2050, Clean Air Plan for Hong Kong 2035, Waste Blueprint for Hong Kong 2035 and Blueprint for the Sustainable Development of Agriculture and Fisheries, to enhance the city's environmental conditions, liveability and climate resilience. In terms of the scale of statutory protected areas and the rigor of environmental protection and conservation measures, Hong Kong surpasses most highly developed coastal cities worldwide. By integrating nature into its urban fabric and aligning with global sustainability frameworks, Hong Kong can demonstrate how economic vitality and environmental resilience can coexist, inspiring other cities to join our quest to contribute to a more sustainable future.



3.3.2 Sustainable trade of wildlife

As a global hub for international trade and with its strategic geographical location near the Mainland China, Hong Kong has a unique opportunity to contribute to the sustainable trade of wild species. Under the BSAP, Hong Kong had fully phased out local ivory trade and amended the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) to increase the maximum penalties, with a view to curbing smuggling and illegal trade of endangered species. By leveraging our regulatory strengths, Hong Kong can continue to play an important role in safeguarding biodiversity locally, regionally and globally.

3.3.3 Mobilising resources

Nowadays, the mobilisation of public and private resources to support nature conservation and sustainable development initiatives has become a globally emerging focus. As an advanced international financial centre equipped with robust regulatory regime and financial infrastructure, Hong Kong is spearheading the development of green finance. Hong Kong has been committed to promoting climate and sustainability-related disclosures that align with global standards while ensuring consistency and comparability. In December 2024, the Government launched the Roadmap on Sustainability Disclosure in Hong Kong⁵, setting out a clear pathway for publicly accountable entities to adopt the International Financial Reporting Standards - Sustainability Disclosure Standards (ISSB Standards) no later than 2028. This makes Hong Kong one of the first jurisdictions to align local standards with ISSB Standards. Additionally, since 2018, the Government has established the Government Sustainable Bond Programme (formerly known as the Government Green Bond Programme), with the proceeds



used to finance eligible green projects under the Capital Works Reserve Fund. The current Green Bond Framework covers nine eligible categories, including “Climate Change Adaptation” and “Nature Conservation/Biodiversity”. The Government has also launched various funding schemes to facilitate capacity building and strengthen the application of innovative technologies in areas of biodiversity and environmental research, education, monitoring and management. Hong Kong may further leverage its strengths in the international financial arena, to promote mobilisation of resource and capital flows to initiatives on conserving and protecting the environment, with a view to better integrating itself into the overall national development.



5. https://www.fstb.gov.hk/fsb/en/publication/report/docs/FSTB_Roadmap2024_eBooklet_EN.pdf

3.3.4 Global connectivity and collaboration

Hong Kong's access to top-tier international talent, multicultural environment and strong global connections positions itself as an ideal bridge for fostering international cooperation on conservation issues. By engaging with international partners and participating in cross-border initiatives, Hong Kong can amplify its impact and contribute to the worldwide effort to protect key ecosystems and species. A notable example of such partnership is the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2019 between Hong Kong and the Environment Bureau of the Government of Incheon Metropolitan City, establishing the Sister Flyway Network Sites Arrangement between Mai Po Inner Deep Bay in Hong Kong and Songdo Tidal Flat in Incheon pursuant to the Sister Site Program of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP). In January 2023, Hong

Kong also signed a framework arrangement with the Planning and Natural Resources Bureau of Shenzhen Municipality for the conservation of Shenzhen Bay (Deep Bay) wetlands to establish sister wetlands between the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site and the Guangdong Neilingding Futian National Nature Reserve. In May 2023, the Government signed another MoU with the National Parks Board of Singapore, the World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong and the World Wide Fund for Nature Singapore on migratory waterbird conservation to establish the Sister Sites between the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site in Hong Kong and the Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve in Singapore pursuant to the EAAFP. These agreements enhance Hong Kong's collaboration with regional and international partners in migratory waterbird conservation, wetland ecosystem protection and capacity-building efforts.





4

Proposed Updates to BSAP

These measures and actions prioritise Hong Kong's deeper integration into the NBSAP, thereby contributing to the KMGBF in a way that aligns with both national strategies and local circumstances.

CHAPTER 4

Proposed Updates to BSAP

4.1 STRATEGIC AREAS

In view of the latest developments in global and regional conservation initiatives, as well as considering the actual local situation and conditions and the opportunities in the national context, we are updating the BSAP for strengthening our position in biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

We look forward to cooperating with various sectors in the community and contribute to the environmental protection efforts in the GBA area and NBSAP in a boarder sense. To guide the next phase of the BSAP, we have identified four strategic focus areas:



These four areas have taken into account the existing framework of the BSAP and the actual local situation, while incorporating the core elements of the NBSAP that are most relevant to Hong Kong. On the other hand, as an international city within the GBA, we emphasise the area of “Partnership Collaboration” in response to the NBSAP’s guidance for deepening international cooperation and strengthening collaborative actions in key strategic regions of the country. Together, these four strategic areas provide a comprehensive framework to guide collective societal efforts towards achieving the vision and mission of the BSAP. Following this public consultation and after reviewing the feedbacks from various sectors, we will later announce proposed new measures and actions under these four areas in the updated BSAP. These measures and actions prioritise Hong Kong’s deeper integration into the NBSAP, thereby contributing to the KMGBF in a way that aligns with both national strategies

and local circumstances. We believe the updated BSAP should maintain flexibility to allow for adjustments or the inclusion of new measures and actions over time, in response to consistently evolving global and national initiatives, social conditions and economic factors. All recommendations from the society will be carefully considered, and the feasible and appropriate recommendations will be incorporated into the updated BSAP. We have laid down below the objectives and rationales of these four strategic areas, alongside with the elaboration on the possible actions. These examples of actions are intended for facilitating understanding and discussion and do not represent any commitment by the Government to implement all of them. As previously mentioned, it is also anticipated that new initiatives and actions will emerge during the implementation of the BSAP to address the consistently evolving societal challenges and needs.

AREA 1: NATURE CONSERVATION



Aim

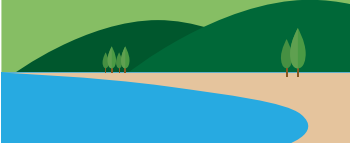
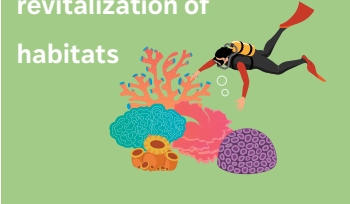
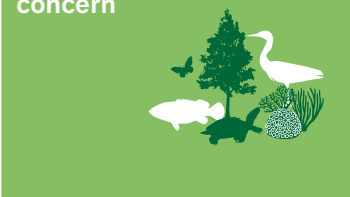
To consistently implement nature conservation measures for ensuring the preservation of healthy ecosystems.

Rationale

Our dedicated efforts during the first phase of the BSAP have delivered significant progress, including the expansion of protected areas and notable advancements in species conservation. However, as we will need to be fully prepared for new environmental challenges of various scales, such as extreme weather, invasive alien species and rapid urban development. To ensure that ecosystems continue to provide the essential services that sustain our thriving city, it is imperative that we maintain and strengthen our conservation efforts. This would allow Hong Kong to contribute to Priority Actions 1-3, 7-13 and 23 of the NBSAP, which focus on the need to reinforce

biodiversity-related policies and governance, as well as enhance the protection of species and habitats. Furthermore, our country has been actively integrating the relatively new concepts and tools from the KMGBF into local practices, such as the adoption of OECM. To echo with this forward-looking approach of our country, Hong Kong will follow closely with the national updates on KMGBF-related guidelines, particularly those pertinent to the GBA cities. Below are some potential actions identified under this strategic area.

Possible Actions

<p>Implement effective area-based conservation measures</p> 	<p>As seen in the designation of protected areas, or banning of bottom trawling, conservation of targeted habitats or sites can bring long-term positive impacts to man and nature. To increase the effectiveness, we may designate more new areas for protection or conservation, such as establishing the Sam Po Shue Wetland Conservation Park and Coastal Protection Park, and designating Fisheries Protection Area; as well as exploring the application of the OECM in Hong Kong referencing the criteria to be developed under the NBSAP.</p>
<p>Carry out restoration, rehabilitation or revitalization of habitats</p> 	<p>Active interventions and management would be required to achieve specific conservation or sustainable use purposes. This can be achieved by, amongst other things, restoring degrading or declining habitats such as coral communities and seagrass beds, as well as planting native trees to rehabilitate badlands and areas damaged by hill fires or to enrich the biodiversity of exotic plantation. Other forms may include revitalization of privately-owned and remote countryside to bring out the many benefits of nature to our economy and society in addition to conserving natural habitats.</p>
<p>Adopt targeted actions to conserve species of concern</p> 	<p>Efforts made in targeted species conservation actions are critical to alleviating natural or anthropogenic pressure on the survival of vulnerable species, and they may give rise to additional merits such as facilitating collaboration and enhancing knowledge. Targeted actions may include strengthening enforcement actions to combat wildlife crimes by leveraging Hong Kong's strategic role as a gateway to the Mainland China; tackling invasive species through multi-pronged manner; or carrying out <i>ex-situ</i> conservation programmes for threatened species, such as freshwater turtles.</p>

AREA 2: DEEPENING MAINSTREAMING



Aim




To further promote biodiversity-friendly practices across all sectors of the society, thereby building a city that thrives in harmony with nature.

Rationale

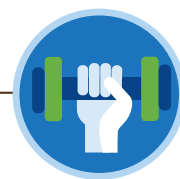
Integrating biodiversity conservation into development and planning across all sectors of the society underpins the long-term success of sustainable development. In the first phase of the BSAP, we made significant strides in mainstreaming biodiversity within the Government, as demonstrated by the use of native plant species in urban greening projects, the incorporation of eco-friendly designs into building blue-green infrastructures, and the adoption of modernised, sustainable farming and aquaculture practices. Building on this progress, the next phase will focus on fostering broader social participation to ensure that biodiversity considerations are continuously leveraged in decision-making processes of various sectors at every stage, from project planning to implementation. We will actively seek new opportunities to introduce relevant concepts, such as NbS,

to different industries, for example, incorporating the “Urban-Rural Symbiosis” planning principle into the Northern Metropolis development. By empowering individuals, businesses, and communities to adopt sustainable actions, we can collectively contribute to the preservation of our natural heritage and create a greener, more resilient urban environment for our future generations. This inclusive approach will also mobilise both public and private resources to support nature conservation, and allow Hong Kong to contribute to Priority Actions 4-6, 14, 16-18 and 26 of the NBSAP, which highlight awareness building, and the promotion of a whole-of-society efforts and resources, in pursuit of the improved liveability, climate resilience and cultivation of a sustainable consumption culture in the society.

Possible Actions

<p>Mobilise resources to support sustainable use and conservation of natural resources</p> 	<p>Alignment of resource allocation for biodiversity from all sources represented enormous opportunities for both the nature and investors, ensuring that conservation actions are adequately funded, and also helping investors mitigate nature-related risks in future, and tapping into management and innovation opportunities. Possible actions may include encouraging enterprises to take proactive steps in disclosing biodiversity-related risks, dependencies and opportunities in their operations, and supporting relevant projects through various funding schemes.</p>
<p>Encourage various sectors to leverage biodiversity opportunities</p> 	<p>To gain broader support in the society towards conservation milestones, we need to call for practical and clear guidance that would enable various sectors to chart their paths to sustainability. Feasible measures may include formulating guidelines for NbS and promoting their adoption in key projects, such as the development of the Northern Metropolis, or collaboration with practitioners and stakeholders to develop and refine industry-specific codes and guidelines.</p>
<p>Support communities to develop stewardship responsibilities towards nature</p> 	<p>Despite the multitude of emerging demands alongside rapid urban development, embedment of biodiversity as a shared societal priority could unlock other opportunities, such as supporting mental well-being, or inspiring technological innovation. Fostering greater community involvement can be done through initiatives such as citizen science programmes, volunteer schemes and various educational activities; setting up community gardens and urban farms in urban or new development areas where appropriate; and promoting wildlife gardening such as setting up pollinator gardens and nest boxes in communities.</p>

AREA 3: CAPACITY BUILDING



Aim

To strengthen individual and collective capacities, empowering everyone to actively contribute.

Rationale

Knowledge and technical expertise are fundamental to effective decision-making. In the first phase of the BSAP, the Government, along with various funding channels, has supported a series of studies aimed at addressing knowledge gaps in local biodiversity. Additionally, the Government has collaborated with data partners to consolidate available information on biodiversity into the databases of the HKBIH, and engaged local experts to assess species statuses to devise lists of threatened species of various taxonomic groups to guide conservation

actions. In the next phase, we will continue this fundamental work in establishing biodiversity baselines, formulating the lists of threatened species and promoting the development and adoption of smart tools for ecological monitoring and biological resource management. Through these efforts, Hong Kong will be able to contribute to Priority Actions 4, 11-12, 15-17, 20-22 and 24-25 of the NBSAP, which focus on education and research, data collection and assessments, and smart and sustainable management of biological resources.

Possible Actions

<p>Enable innovative and high-quality research</p> 	<p>Technological and scientific advancements are fundamental to enabling data-driven decision-making by relevant stakeholders, and conducive to enhancing effectiveness and impact of nature conservation work, enabling it to be better integrated into the development of the society. To maximise impact, resources and efforts should be strategically directed towards the most pressing research areas, ensuring cost-effectiveness and meaningful progress. In this connection, actions that can be considered may include: promoting the adoption of innovative technologies in biodiversity research, education, monitoring and management; coordinating efforts among tertiary institutions to foster synergy and avoid duplication of efforts; supporting high-priority research projects through various funding schemes to fill critical knowledge gaps.</p>
<p>Promote knowledge transfer and nurture talents</p> 	<p>Capacity enhancement of and provision of knowledge and tools for action to our stakeholders, in particular the next generation are keys to paving the way for future societal continuous advancement in terms of biodiversity conservation. Possible actions include facilitating knowledge transfer and sharing through accessible platforms like HKBIH and other capacity-building initiatives, collaborating with local tertiary institutions to co-develop education programmes focusing on sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and expanding internship opportunities in relevant institutions.</p>
<p>Strengthen institutions to support capacity building</p> 	<p>Although institutions may vary in forms and scales, they are important frameworks of nurturing knowledge and talents, and play persistent roles in supporting innovation and sustaining the momentum for biodiversity conservation and its sustainable development. We may set up a research centre for advancing the modernisation of sustainable aquaculture, and continuing to explore new opportunities for establishing biodiversity centres in Hong Kong.</p>

AREA 4: COLLABORATIVE PARTNERING



Aim

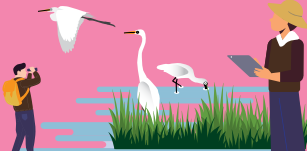


To foster a culture of collaboration, allowing extension of the benefits of nature to a broader community.

Rationale

This strategic area seeks to respond to the NBSAP's emphasis on strengthening international cooperation and fostering collaborative actions in key strategic regions, including the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao area. As highlighted in Section 2.2, the Government has actively promoted exchanges and cooperation within the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao area over the years to advance ecological civilization in the GBA.

Moving forward, we will continue to deepen collaborations with neighbouring cities while leveraging Hong Kong's unique strengths in global connectivity to amplify our impact. These joint efforts will enable Hong Kong to share and gain valuable experiences, enhancing our contribution to the majority, if not all, of the Priority Actions outlined in the NBSAP, and solidifying our regional and international influence in biodiversity conservation.

Possible Actions

<p>Take joint actions with counterparts across the borders and beyond</p> 	<p>Building upon the work done in the first phase of the BSAP, there may be merits for Hong Kong to continue enhancing coordination of conservation efforts for critical habitats, for example those supporting migratory waterbirds in the Deep Bay and marine mammals in the Pearl River Estuary, to create synergy and foster deeper collaborations with partners in the GBA and beyond. Other examples of joint actions may include working with neighbouring cities on managing wetlands and ecological corridors, as well as strengthening cooperation in combating cross-border illegal activities.</p>
<p>Promote exchange of experience and information at various fronts</p> 	<p>The cities in the GBA have similar level of development and face similar challenges. The Government in the region can collaborate in devising various solutions conducive to biodiversity and sustainable development. Promoting exchange of experience may foster broader cooperation among cities in the region, and accelerate testing and adoption of new technologies and practices. Further actions in deepening exchanges and cooperation with respect to sustainable farming and aquaculture practices, as well as intelligence sharing for combating wildlife crime can be explored.</p>
<p>Encourage cross-disciplinary collaborations</p> 	<p>Environmental challenges in a highly developed and open economy are often complex and diverse, seeking solutions often requires multi-disciplinary professional knowledge, and viewpoint from different perspectives. Leveraging Hong Kong's position as an international city and our ample experience in organising international events, we will seek to further foster partnership and networking in the region, in research and capacity building, or through organising and participating in cross-disciplinary platforms, forums and conferences. These activities would be conducive to generating best practices as well as holistic solutions.</p>

4.2 TIMEFRAME

We aim to launch the updated BSAP in 2025, for implementation over the coming 10 years (through 2035), allowing sufficient time to implement actions with wider impacts. In addition, we will take specific short-, medium- and long-term actions. As mentioned above, after conclusion of this consultation, we will promulgate an updated BSAP, with measures and actions making

Hong Kong better incorporate into the NBSAP, and contribute to the KMGBF while suiting the conditions of our country and Hong Kong. We will also conduct a mid-term review to evaluate stringently the progress of all actions and make adjustments as necessary, in order to ensure advancement of the BSAP both in terms of quality and quantity.

4.3 PROGRESS MONITORING MECHANISM

We propose that the IWGB continues to co-ordinate the implementation of the BSAP within the Government. On one hand, the IWGB will make targeted adjustments as necessary according to the implementation progress of the specific actions; on the other hand, as the platform for biodiversity mainstreaming and capacity building, the IWGB will facilitate the more expeditions and comprehensive mainstreaming of ecological conservation concepts and advancement of professional skills within the Government. Moreover, we will

report the implementation progress to the ACE regularly and solicit its views on the overall implementation progress. We will also explore diverse means and communication and publicity channels, such as discussion forums, dedicated websites and social media platforms, to periodically share key achievements made by various sectors in the community and other relevant updates with stakeholders and the general public. This will ensure broad awareness and engagement, fostering a collective effort toward the successful implementation of the BSAP.





5

Invitation for Submissions

By putting our heads together, we can jointly formulate a practical blueprint that guides Hong Kong's sustainable development as a liveable and green city.

CHAPTER 5

Invitation for Submissions

5.1 WE NEED YOUR PARTICIPATION

The BSAP encompasses a wide scope and touching upon various fronts, from every inch of land and sea to every aspect of urban operations, and is thus inherently relevant to every one of us. Whether you are a student, employee or retiree, we welcome your valuable opinions and suggestions on how to further take forward biodiversity conservation in Hong Kong. By putting our heads together, we can jointly formulate a practical blueprint that guides Hong Kong's sustainable development as a liveable and green city.

**Here are some guiding questions for your consideration.
We welcome your valuable opinions and insights.**

1	What is your vision for Hong Kong's nature conservation and biodiversity in the next 10 to 20 years? What concrete steps should we take to realise such vision?
2	Are there any additional challenges or opportunities for Hong Kong's biodiversity conservation that have not been addressed in this document?
3	Other than the actions briefly outlined under the four strategic areas, what other measures should the Government consider to enhance biodiversity conservation and sustainable development?
4	How can we better raise public awareness towards the importance of biodiversity and encourage broader support and participation in conservation efforts?
5	How can we encourage different sectors to play a more active role in supporting biodiversity conservation and sustainable development?
6	What opportunities do you see for integrating NbS into Hong Kong's urban development?
7	Which actions should Hong Kong take as a matter of priority in conserving biodiversity and natural resources? How can we effectively mobilise resources from different sectors to support these actions?
8	How can Hong Kong better address the impacts of climate change on biodiversity, and what measures should be taken to enhance the resilience of our ecosystems?
9	How can Hong Kong strengthen collaboration with other GBA cities and international partners to jointly address shared environmental challenges?
10	What innovative technologies could play a vital role in improving biodiversity monitoring and management in Hong Kong?

5.2 CONFIDENTIALITY

We may, in future discussions or in any subsequent report, refer to and attribute views submitted by all sectors of the community in response to this consultation document and disclose the name of individuals or institutions who have given responses. Nevertheless, you may request that all or part of your views and identity be treated in confidence; otherwise, we will assume that such information is not intended to be confidential.

5.3 SUBMISSIONS

Please make submissions on or before **11 July 2025**
through the following channels:



by email
bsap@afcd.gov.hk



by postal mail to
**Biodiversity Conservation Division,
Agriculture, Fisheries and
Conservation Department**
5th Floor,
Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices,
303 Cheung Sha Wan Road,
Kowloon, Hong Kong



by facsimile to
2314 2802

