

Luk Keng Marsh

1. General Information

1.1. Location and boundaries

The site is situated in the Northeast New Territories and includes mainly the marsh and the channel connecting the marsh with Starling Inlet, and the *Fung Shui* wood.

1.2. Site description

1.1.1. Land status / tenure

- Government land = 9.5 ha
- Private land = 27.6 ha

1.1.2. Existing land use

The site was formerly agricultural land and fish ponds. Most of these are however abandoned and not actively managed for agricultural purposes. Part of the site has been developed into a village.

1.1.3. Existing statutory plan coverage

The majority of the site is zoned “Conservation Area” (CA) on Outline Zoning Plan S/NE-LK/11. This zoning is intended to protect and retain the existing natural landscape, ecological or topographical features of the area for conservation, educational and research purposes and to separate sensitive natural environment such as Pat Sin Leng Country Park from development. The CA zone covers the Luk Keng marsh which has a rich diversity of wetland flora and fauna.

2. Evaluation

Assessment Criteria (Weighting)	Comments	Score	Weighted score
1. Naturalness (15%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of the site has been developed into a village. The marsh area, which was utilised for agriculture in the past, is now left abandoned. Thus the site is considered semi-natural. 	2	0.30
2. Habitat diversity (15%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The site comprises three major habitat types, namely mangrove stand, brackish / freshwater wetland, and the <i>Fung Shui</i> wood near Luk Keng Chan Uk. 	2	0.30
3. Non-recreatability (10%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Luk Keng marsh is an important freshwater / brackish wetland with a diversity and transition of ecological conditions from tidal mangrove through areas of intermediate salinity to freshwater wetland. The Luk Keng marsh is considered the best representative of this kind of habitat and thus considered difficult to be recreated. 	2	0.20
4. Species diversity & richness (30%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports high diversity of dragonfly – 58 species (52%) and moderate diversity (20% < diversity ≤ 50%) of butterflies – 64 species (27%) 	3	0.90
5. Species rarity / endemism (30%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports an endemic dragonfly species – <i>Macromidia ellenae</i> 	2	0.60
		Total:	2.30