

Tai Ho

1. General Information

1.1. Location and boundaries

Tai Ho is situated in the northern part of Lantau Island.

1.2. Site description

Like many of the coastal areas of Hong Kong, the coastal area in Tai Ho is characterised by a narrow shallow flat plain which rises sharply to Sunset Peak. The upland areas are largely composed of shrubland and grassland, in addition to riparian woodland, streams and seasonal marshes. The main Tai Ho Stream and its tributaries run from upland all the way to the lowland estuary where mangrove and mudflat are found.

1.2.1. Land status / tenure

- Government land = 220.0 ha
- Private land = 35.5 ha

1.2.2. Existing land use

The major land use in the area is agriculture. There are also a few villages there.

1.2.3. Existing statutory plan coverage

There is no statutory plan covering the Tai Ho area. The Tai Ho stream, including part of the bay area, was listed as a “Site of Special Scientific Interest” on 5 May 1999.

2. Evaluation

Assessment Criteria (Weighting)	Comments	Score	Weighted score
1. Naturalness (15%)	● The site consists of a natural stream with several tributaries running from upland to the lowland estuary.	3	0.45
2. Habitat diversity (15%)	● The site comprises four major habitat types, namely natural stream, mangrove stand / mudflat, agricultural land and woodland.	3	0.45
3. Non-recreatability (10%)	● It is a medium-sized natural stream running from upland to estuary without any fragmentation. The stream is impossible to be recreated.	3	0.30
4. Species diversity & richness (30%)	● Moderate diversity (20% < diversity ≤50%) of freshwater fish (53 species, 32%) and amphibians (10 species, 43%).	2	0.60
5. Species rarity / endemism (30%)	● Supports the endemic Romer's Tree Frog <i>Philautus romeri</i> .	2	0.60
		Total:	2.40