

# Hong Kong Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

2035



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**Environment and  
Ecology Bureau**

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

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# Foreword

**H**ong Kong is characterised by the striking interplay between its world-class urban infrastructure and its rich, accessible tapestry of natural landscapes housing great biodiversity. Building on this distinctive heritage, we sustain a strong commitment to biodiversity conservation and sustainable development, supported by a comprehensive network of protected areas and a robust legal framework aligned with international best practices.

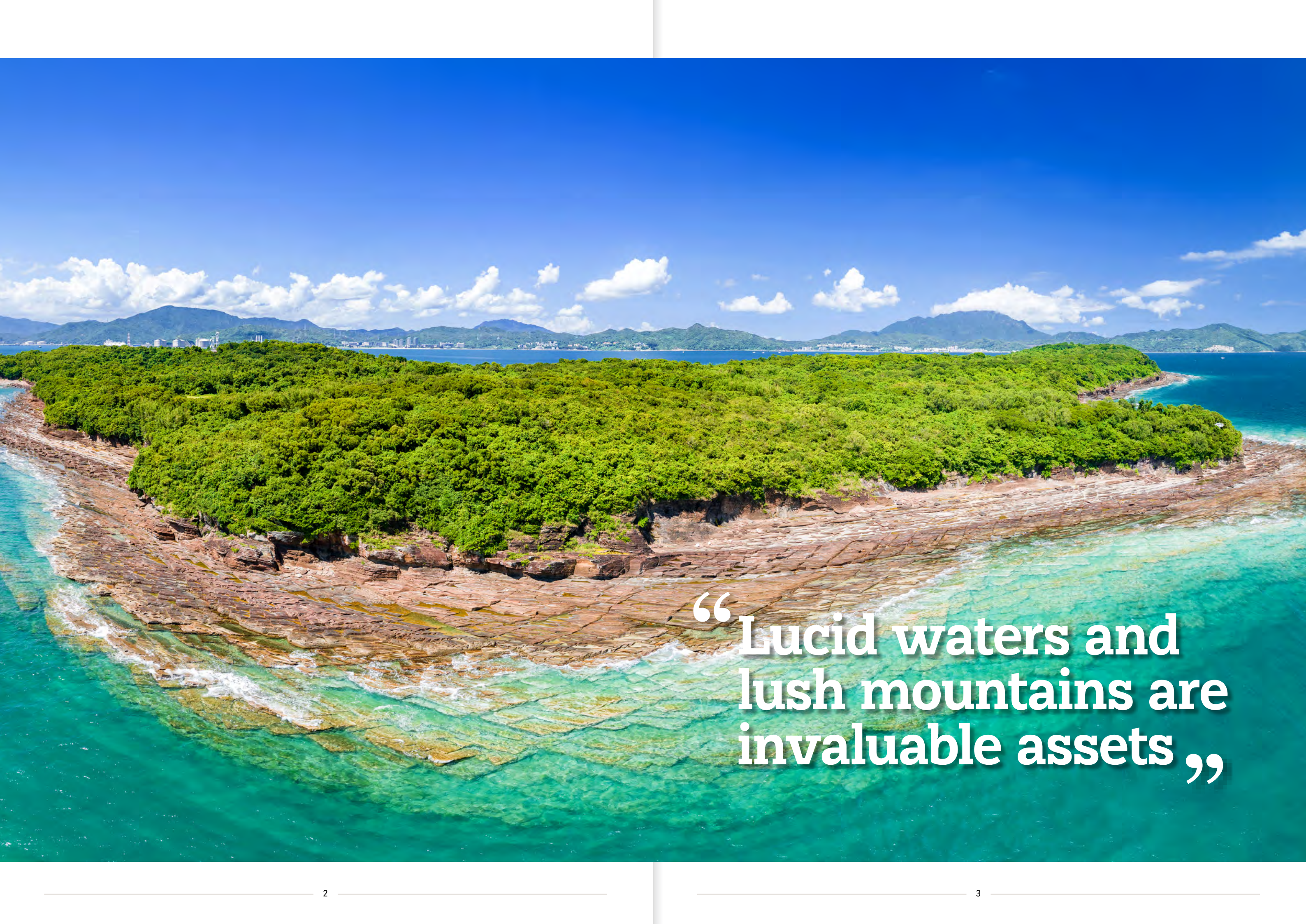
President Xi Jinping has underscored that “lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets”. This important guiding principle, reaffirmed at the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, also identified “Chinese modernisation as the modernisation of harmony between humanity and nature”. These strategic aspirations have charted the course for national development—embracing high-quality development and ecological civilisation as the foundation for enduring prosperity.

In alignment with our country’s vision and in recognition of our city’s irreplaceable biodiversity, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government launched the first phase of the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) in 2016. Working in partnership with local academics, professionals and stakeholders, the Government has made substantial achievements, including the establishment of new marine and terrestrial protected areas, the restoration of degraded habitats, and the progressive integration of biodiversity considerations into sectoral decision-making processes. Initiatives ranging from eco-friendly blue-green infrastructure to school and business-led habitat restoration projects as well as butterfly gardens within shopping malls, all exemplify how conservation efforts have taken root across our community. We extend our thanks to the many partners who have fostered cross-sector collaboration and encouraged youth and public engagement.

Looking forward, we are resolute in building upon these solid foundations laid by the first phase. With our city’s distinct advantages and the unwavering support of our motherland, we are well-positioned to turn challenges into drivers of progress. Through collective efforts, we strive to make Hong Kong a model of a vibrant, liveable and sustainable international metropolis.

**Tse Chin-wan**  
Secretary for Environment and Ecology





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



# Summary of Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

2035


## Vision

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

30  
Priority  
Actions

## 4 Strategic Areas


**Area 1**  
**NATURE CONSERVATION**  
To consistently implement nature conservation measures for ensuring the preservation of healthy ecosystems



**Area 2**  
**DEEPENING MAINSTREAMING**  
To further promote biodiversity friendly practices across all sectors of the society, thereby building a city that thrives in harmony with nature



**Area 3**  
**CAPACITY BUILDING**  
To strengthen individual and collective capacities, empowering everyone to actively contribute



**Area 4**  
**COLLABORATIVE PARTNERING**  
To foster a culture of collaboration and foster cross-regional cooperation, allowing extension of the benefits of nature to a broader community



## 10 Overall Targets

By 2035, Hong Kong is a sustainable and liveable place where humanity and nature coexist in harmony, as reflected by the achievement of the following Overall Targets:

1

Refined policies, regulations, institutional frameworks and technological innovations for biodiversity conservation

2

An expanded network of effectively managed protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures

3

Enhanced and widely mobilised societal efforts in habitat restoration

4

Strengthened protection of endangered species against poaching and trafficking

5

Effectively managed risks or impacts posed by invasive alien species

6

Further consolidate Hong Kong's position as an international green and sustainable finance hub

7

Reduced pollution to aquatic environments, enhanced waste recycling rates, and advanced to the implementation of a circular economy

8

Widely adopted nature-based solutions and upgraded urban blue-green spaces

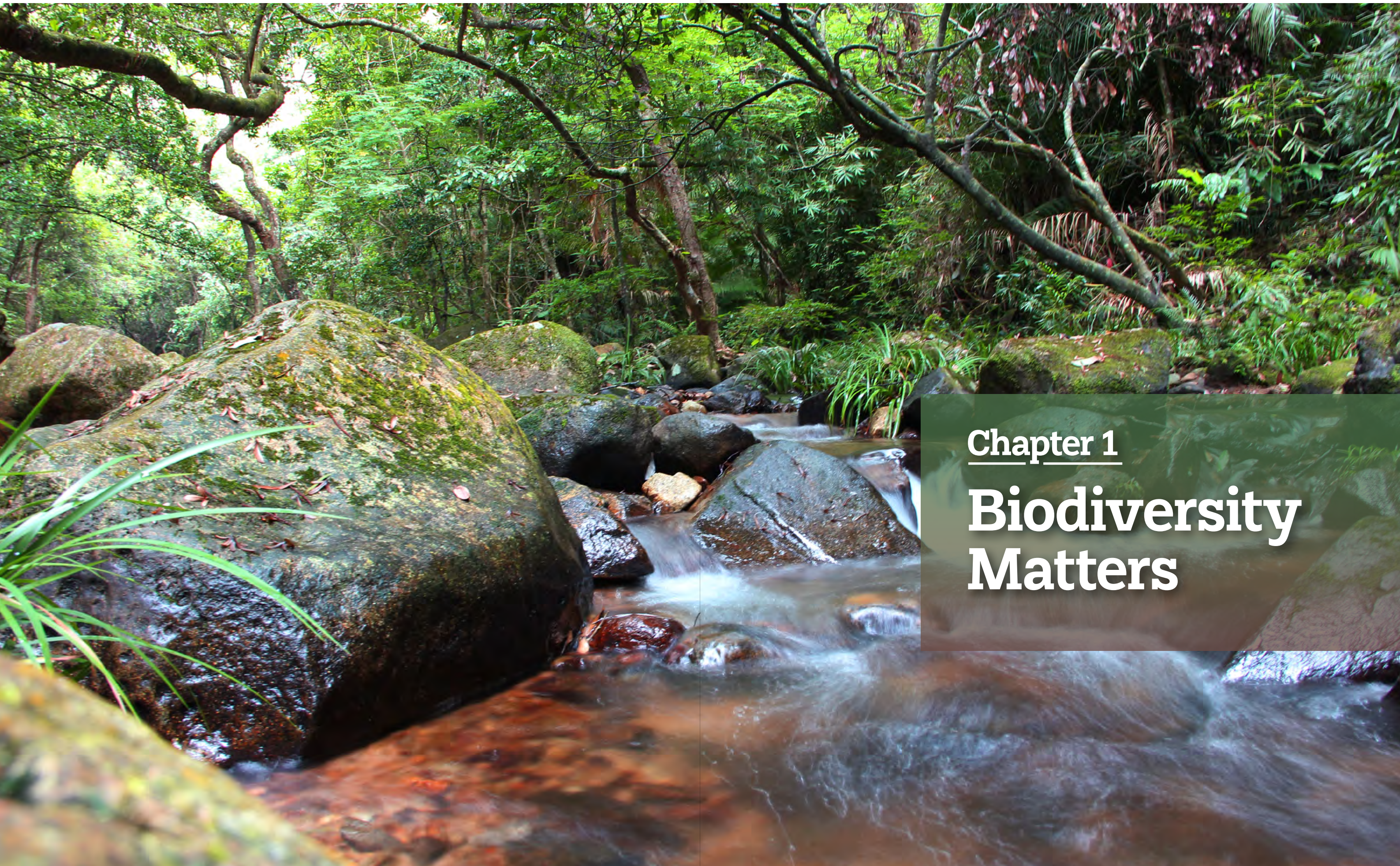
9

Enhanced public knowledge on biodiversity, raised awareness and boosted community participation

10

Launched a series of biodiversity-positive joint initiatives, demonstrating a more cohesive and effective collaboration across jurisdictions and stakeholders





## Chapter 1

# Biodiversity Matters





## 1.1 Importance of Biodiversity and Our Natural Heritage

Biodiversity is often understood as the sheer variety of life on Earth, but its true significance lies in the intricate web of relationships that construct healthy and functioning ecosystems. It is this complex system of interactions between species and their habitats, rather than just the number of species, that underpins the stability and resilience of our planet.

The importance of this ecological vitality extends to human civilisation and our collective future. Biodiversity is fundamentally interlinked with climate regulation, as forests, oceans and wetlands act as massive carbon sinks, mitigating the impacts of global warming. It is also the bedrock of countless cultures and traditions around the world, providing spiritual enrichment and shaping identities. By preserving biodiversity, we are safeguarding a precious natural heritage, and fulfilling our responsibility to pass it on to future generations.

For a bustling metropolis like Hong Kong, biodiversity is not a distant concept, but a critical component in building a liveable and resilient city. The green and blue spaces woven into the urban fabric, from country parks to coastal waters, deliver substantial benefits to our citizens, known as “ecosystem services”. Nature in the city offers residents crucial recreational and educational opportunities, improves air and water quality, and helps moderate the urban heat island effect. Undeniably, biodiversity is inextricably linked to the well-being, prosperity and quality of life of the community.

A region's biodiversity is deeply shaped by its physical surroundings. Located at the tropical zone's northern boundary, Hong Kong exhibits a subtropical climate marked by distinct seasonal variations. The period from April through September brings hot, humid conditions with frequent rainfall, while October through March is cooler and drier. The landscape is predominantly mountainous and rugged, featuring an extensively indented shoreline and more than 200 offshore islands. Although Hong Kong functions as a thriving international financial hub and one of the world's most

densely populated urban areas, the natural terrain here comprises roughly 60% of its total land area of 1,114 km<sup>2</sup>, reaching well beyond its iconic high-rises. The city's natural environments are formed by two primary rock formations, granitic and volcanic, which produce varied soil compositions throughout its mountains and lowlands. In the surrounding marine area of approximately 1,640 km<sup>2</sup>, ocean currents combined with outflow from the Pearl River establish an east-to-west gradient in environmental conditions, transitioning from clearer oceanic waters in the east to more turbid estuarine waters in the west.

This distinctive combination of climatic, geographic, and geological factors has endowed Hong Kong with an exceptional diversity of terrestrial and marine habitats to sustain abundant native plant and animal species, including many species of high conservation value, such as the Three-banded Box Turtle (Golden Coin Turtle), Chinese Pangolin and Incense Tree. Although Hong Kong's marine area accounts for less than 0.1% of China's total marine area, it has recorded approximately 6,000 marine species, which is about a quarter of the total recorded in the entire country. These include numerous species of conservation concern, such as the Chinese White Dolphins, Finless Porpoises, horseshoe crabs and stony corals. The number of bird species recorded exceeds 580, accounting for about one-third of the national total. We also have over 80 species of stony corals, which is more than the total number found in the entire Caribbean Sea. It is truly remarkable that Hong Kong as one of the planet's most urbanised and densely populated locations, and yet it possesses extraordinarily rich biodiversity.

Hong Kong has designated 25 country parks and 22 special areas, covering over 40% of our total land area. Around 5% of our marine waters are protected by eight Marine Parks and a Marine Reserve. Hong Kong is also home to a Ramsar Site and the Hong Kong United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Global Geopark. The Mai Po Inner Deep Bay



Ramsar Site in Hong Kong is centrally located on the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF), the busiest migratory bird route in the world. Every year, it attracts about 60,000 waterbirds of more than 70 species to winter here, with many species of conservation importance, including Black-faced Spoonbill, Saunders's Gull and Nordmann's Greenshank. The Early Cretaceous rhyolitic columnar

rock formations within the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark were selected in 2022 as one of the First 100 International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) Geological Heritage Sites. Furthermore, discovery of dinosaur fossils was confirmed for the first time on Port Island, which is within the Geopark's boundaries, in 2024.



## 1.2 Hong Kong’s City-level BSAP and Biodiversity Policy and Regulatory Framework

The Government promulgated the New Nature Conservation Policy (NNCP) in 2004 to regulate, protect and manage natural resources that are important for the conservation of biodiversity of Hong Kong in a sustainable manner. Under the NNCP, 12 Priority Sites for Enhanced Conservation were identified, and two incentive schemes, namely the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and Management Agreement (MA) schemes, were introduced to enhance the conservation of these ecologically important sites, in particular those land under private ownership.

A suite of ordinances that have evolved over the century provide the solid legal basis for conservation efforts to protect species, habitats and ecosystems.

The Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208) provides for the designation, control and management of Country

Parks and Special Areas. These protected areas serve as crucial refuges for local wildlife. In the marine realm, the Marine Parks Ordinance (Cap. 476) provides for the designation and management of Marine Parks and Marine Reserves to protect marine ecosystems and species. Destructive activities including trawling and unauthorised fishing are also prohibited under the Fisheries Protection Ordinance (Cap. 171). In addition, to bring the fishing industry to a sustainable path, Cap. 171 has been amended to enhance the control of fishing effort in Hong Kong waters and protect important fish spawning and nursery grounds (e.g. setting up a registration system for local fishing vessels, limiting new entrants and maintaining an appropriate level of fishing effort, restricting fishing activities of local non-fishing vessels, prohibiting fishing activities of non-local fishing vessels, and designation of fisheries protection areas).







Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site

The Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) is the primary legislation for implementing the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in Hong Kong. It regulates the import, export, and possession of endangered species. The Forests and Countryside Ordinance (Cap. 96) provides for the protection of forests and plants on government land. For wild fauna, the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170) protects local wild animals, and prohibits hunting, wilful disturbance, and the possession or trade of protected wild species. In addition, three ecologically important habitats were designated as Restricted Areas

under Cap. 170 to restrict human access and minimise disturbance to their sensitive wildlife.

Several other ordinances complement natural conservation. The Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Cap. 499) requires that all designated projects assess and mitigate their potential environmental impacts, including those on ecosystems and biodiversity. The Town Planning Ordinance (Cap. 131) contributes to conservation by zoning land for specific uses, including conservation-related zonings such as Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Conservation Area and Coastal Protection Area.



Long Valley Nature Park

China became a Party to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 1993 and extended the CBD's application to the HKSAR in 2011. As part of China and a highly developed international city, Hong Kong has been leveraging its unique status and strengths to participate in global environmental initiatives and contribute to the implementation of the CBD in our country. The Government is committed to enhancing biodiversity conservation for our future generations, supporting the sustainable development of Hong

Kong, and contributing to national and global efforts on biodiversity conservation. Having duly considered the extensive feedback gathered through consultations with the general public and stakeholders from academia, professional bodies, the rural sector and private organisations, and taking into account local actual conditions, the Government promulgated a city-level Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) on 21 December 2016.

### Vision

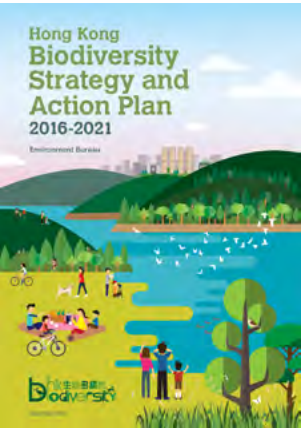
The rich biodiversity of Hong Kong is valued, conserved, restored, sustainably managed and wisely used, thereby maintaining essential ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy and liveable place and delivering benefits for all people.

### 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.

To take forward a total of 67 specific actions falling under four strategic areas, namely "Enhancing Conservation Measures", "Mainstreaming Biodiversity", "Improving Our Knowledge" and "Promoting Community Involvement", in the first phase of BSAP, the Government set up in 2016 a dedicated inter-departmental working group to coordinate and monitor the implementation of actions among relevant bureaus/departments. The Government has also actively invited stakeholders to participate in their implementation, particularly in measures aimed at strengthening biodiversity conservation

and mainstreaming biodiversity. Furthermore, the Government has regularly sought advice from the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE) and reported to it the implementation progress. Thanks to the collaborative efforts of stakeholders and the Government, the first phase of the BSAP has yielded fruitful results. A number of major achievements are provided below.





# Implemented numerous conservation measures

Hong Kong continues to advance its nature conservation objectives by expanding terrestrial and marine protected areas, as well as strengthening measures and management of existing protected areas. These connected protected areas further enhance Hong Kong’s ecosystem protection and conserve the biodiversity *in situ*.



The conservation of ecologically important habitats beyond the protected network has been one of the priority work of Hong Kong. Since 2018, the Countryside Conservation Office has coordinated initiatives to strengthen nature conservation and revitalisation of remote countryside areas. Through the Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme (CCFS), the Government

has supported Management Agreement (MA) projects between non-profit organisations and landowners, with a view to carrying out conservation work on private land. These efforts are complemented by diverse and innovative research projects seeking to conserve both natural ecosystems and cultural heritage.



Lai Chi Wo

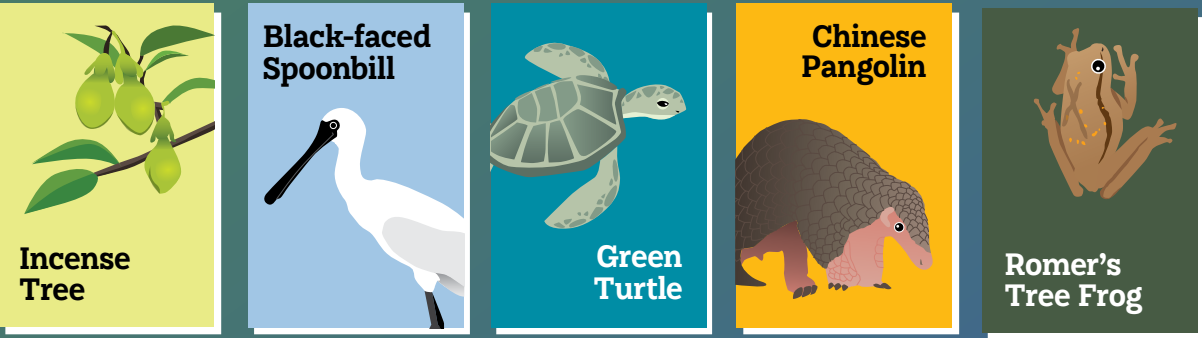


Fish ponds in Deep Bay area

To strengthen species conservation, Hong Kong has taken decisive actions to conserve species and genetic diversity. Local ivory trade has been fully banned, compounded with strengthened legislation that imposes heavier penalties to combat smuggling and the illegal trade of endangered species. Species action plans have been formulated for priority species, such as Incense Tree, Chinese Pangolin, Black-faced Spoonbill, Romer's

Tree Frog, etc. The Government has formulated and actively implementing Species Action Plan (SAP), and in close collaboration with experts, academic institutions, and community partners during the process. In addition, the conservation efforts are complemented by other ongoing measures, including law enforcement, long-term surveys and monitoring, and species recovery programmes, and control of invasive alien species.

## Species Action Plans

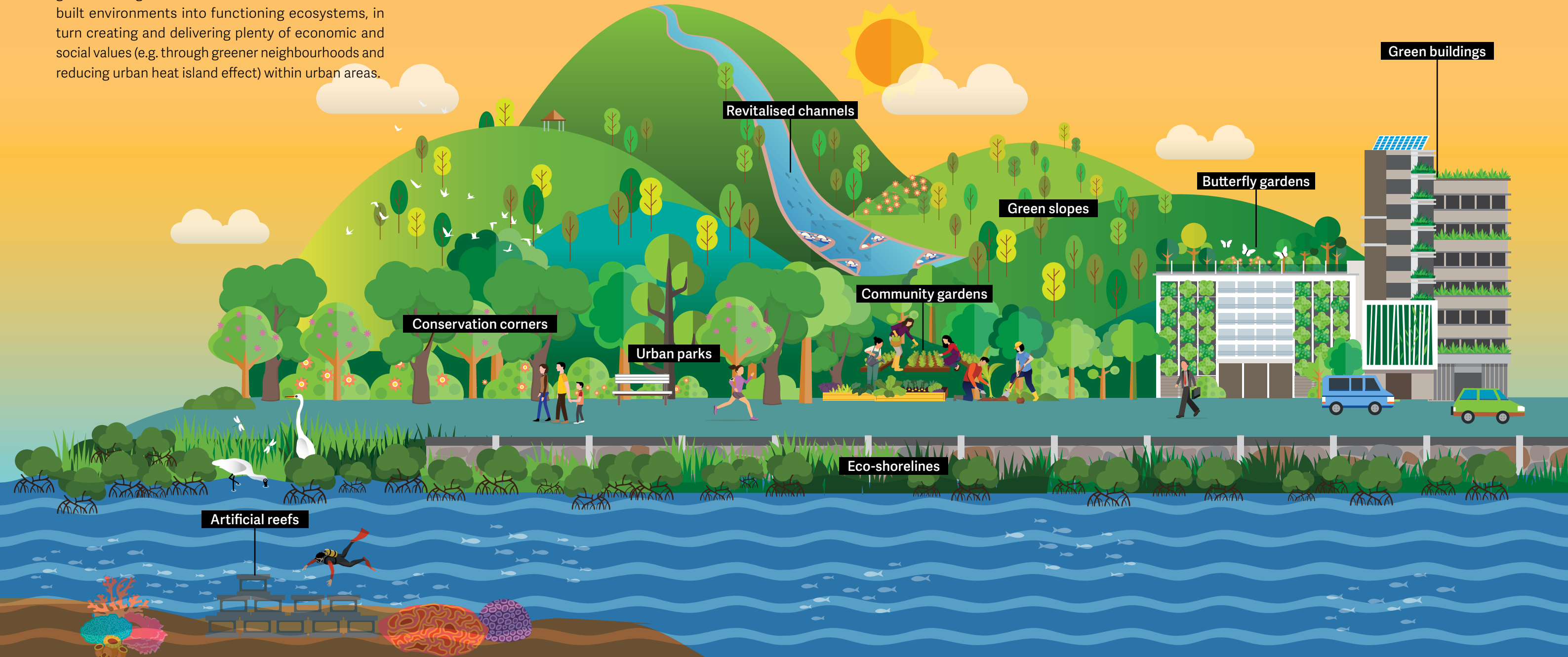
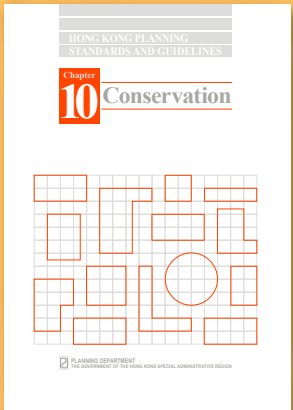




# Biodiversity has become mainstream across society

Biodiversity considerations have gained traction and taken root across Government and sectoral decision-making. The Government’s growing adoption of blue-green infrastructure, together with the promotion of urban forestry and greening with native species, is weaving biodiversity into the fabric of the city. These initiatives transform urban neighbourhoods into living habitats, placing nature at the backbone of urban resilience and a more liveable city. Blue-green infrastructures, such as revitalised drainage channels, green buildings and eco-shorelines, have transformed built environments into functioning ecosystems, in turn creating and delivering plenty of economic and social values (e.g. through greener neighbourhoods and reducing urban heat island effect) within urban areas.

City-wide plans and sectoral guidelines have also provided clear direction for industries to integrate sustainable and biodiversity elements into their practices. In addition, the private sector has made notable progress in embedding biodiversity into projects and sustainability frameworks. Initiatives such as habitat creation, tree planting, urban butterfly gardens, and community gardens are contributing substantially to urban biodiversity and community well-being.





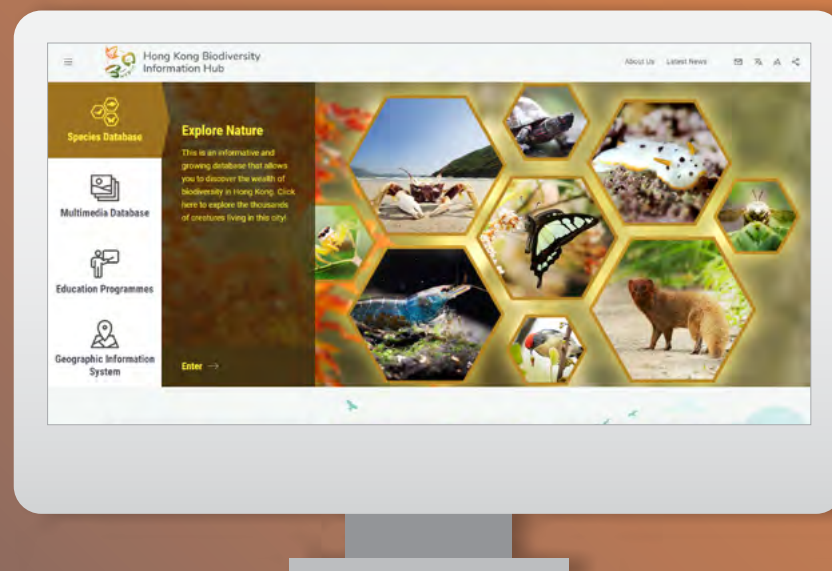
## Improved biodiversity knowledge and information sharing

Hong Kong has been directing resources to advance local biodiversity knowledge for informed conservation decisions and effective communication with the community. The Government has initiated territory-wide studies with funding schemes from the city targeting to support local researches, including the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) and Lantau Conservation Fund (LCF). These studies are closing critical information gaps and yielding new discoveries, including insects, bivalves, crabs, sea slugs, hard corals, jellyfish and spiders.

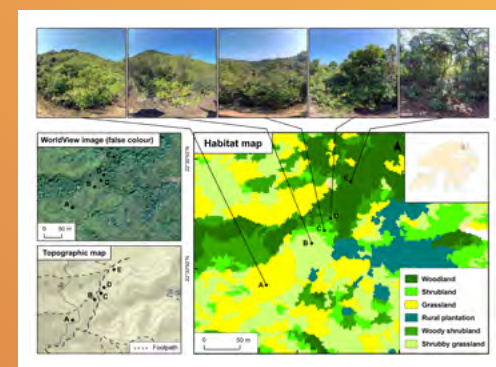


Benthic habitat mapping in Tung Ping Chau Marine Park

Studies supported by various funding schemes and the operation of new information infrastructures, such as the Hong Kong Environmental Database (HKED) and Hong Kong Biodiversity Information Hub (HKBIH), have spawned a knowledge economy around conservation science, and enabled researchers and stakeholders to incorporate ecological considerations earlier into their project design, reducing environmental conflicts and delays.



Territory-wide terrestrial habitat mapping of Hong Kong



- ★ Currently **the city's largest** open biodiversity database
- ★ Presents **over a million** species occurrence records in the Biodiversity Geographical Information System
- ★ Hosts detailed information of **>5 500** local species
- ★ Receives on average **>30 000** visits monthly

## More active engagement of the community

The term biodiversity has become familiar to many in Hong Kong. While science guides actions, it is the awareness and a sense of connectedness with nature that sustain conservation momentum. Over the years, NGOs, academics, community partners, and the Government have partnered closely to broaden opportunities for people to explore our biodiversity and nature. Initiatives included social media outreach, biodiversity festivals and exhibitions, guided tours,

volunteering and ambassador schemes, citizen science programmes, and hundreds of education events annually. To nurture a conservation-literate citizenry, especially among younger generations, biodiversity has been integrated into school curricula, supported by diverse teaching sources and capacity-building events for teachers, inspiring long-term stewardship and a culture of respect and responsibility toward our nature.







## Chapter 2

# Global and National Latest Initiatives



2.1 Update to Global Biodiversity Framework

In December 2022, the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the CBD presided over by China adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). The KMGBF sets the goal of halting global biodiversity loss by 2030 and achieving harmony between humans and nature by 2050. It includes 23

action-oriented global targets, known as the “Kunming-Montreal 2030 Targets”, that can be grouped into three categories: reducing threats to biodiversity, meeting people’s needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing, and providing tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming.



Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

The CBD is a worldwide treaty for conserving biodiversity, ensuring the sustainable use of its components, and promoting the equitable sharing of benefits from genetic resources. The 196 Parties to the CBD are obligated to develop national BSAPs tailored to their specific conditions and capabilities to meet their international commitments.



Kunming-Montreal  
GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

Reducing threats to biodiversity		Meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing		Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming	
1	Plan and Manage all Areas to Reduce Biodiversity Loss	9	Manage Wild Species Sustainably to Benefit People	14	Integrate Biodiversity in Decision-Making at Every Level
2	Restore 30% of all Degraded Ecosystems	10	Enhance Biodiversity and Sustainability in Agriculture, Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Forestry	15	Businesses Assess, Disclose and Reduce Biodiversity-Related Risks and Negative Impacts
3	Conserve 30% of Land, Waters and Seas	11	Restore, Maintain and Enhance Nature's Contributions to People	16	Enable Sustainable Consumption Choices to Reduce Waste and Over-consumption
4	Halt Species Extinction, Protect Genetic Diversity, and Manage Human-Wildlife Conflicts	12	Enhance Green Spaces and Urban Planning for Human Well-Being and Biodiversity	17	Strengthen Biosafety and Distribute the Benefits of Biotechnology
5	Ensure Sustainable, Safe and Legal Harvesting and Trade of Wild Species	13	Increase the Sharing of Benefits From Genetic Resources, Digital Sequence Information and Traditional Knowledge	18	Reduce Harmful Incentives by at Least \$500 Billion per Year, and Scale Up Positive Incentives for Biodiversity
6	Reduce the Introduction of Invasive Alien Species by 50% and Minimise Their Impact			19	Mobilise \$200 Billion per Year for Biodiversity from all Sources, Including \$30 Billion through International Finance
7	Reduce Pollution to Levels That Are Not Harmful to Biodiversity			20	Strengthen Capacity-Building, Technology Transfer, and Scientific and Technical Cooperation for Biodiversity
8	Minimise the Impacts of Climate Change on Biodiversity and Build Resilience			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



The KMGBF builds on the previous Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its “Aichi Biodiversity Targets”<sup>1</sup> set under the CBD. Serving as a landmark roadmap, it calls for action from all sectors of the society and requires Parties to the CBD to develop national targets aligned with it. It covers a wide range of topics, including species conservation, habitat restoration, pollution and waste reduction, green finance, biodiversity risk disclosure and sustainable consumption. It also covers

relatively new concepts (e.g. other effective area-based conservation measure (OECM) and nature-based solutions (NbS)). In response to the KMGBF, Parties to the CBD are gradually updating their NBSAPs to articulate their respective contributions. While the KMGBF sets global goals, it allows for implementation that is tailored to each country's specific circumstances, priorities and socio-economic conditions.

Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measure (OECM)

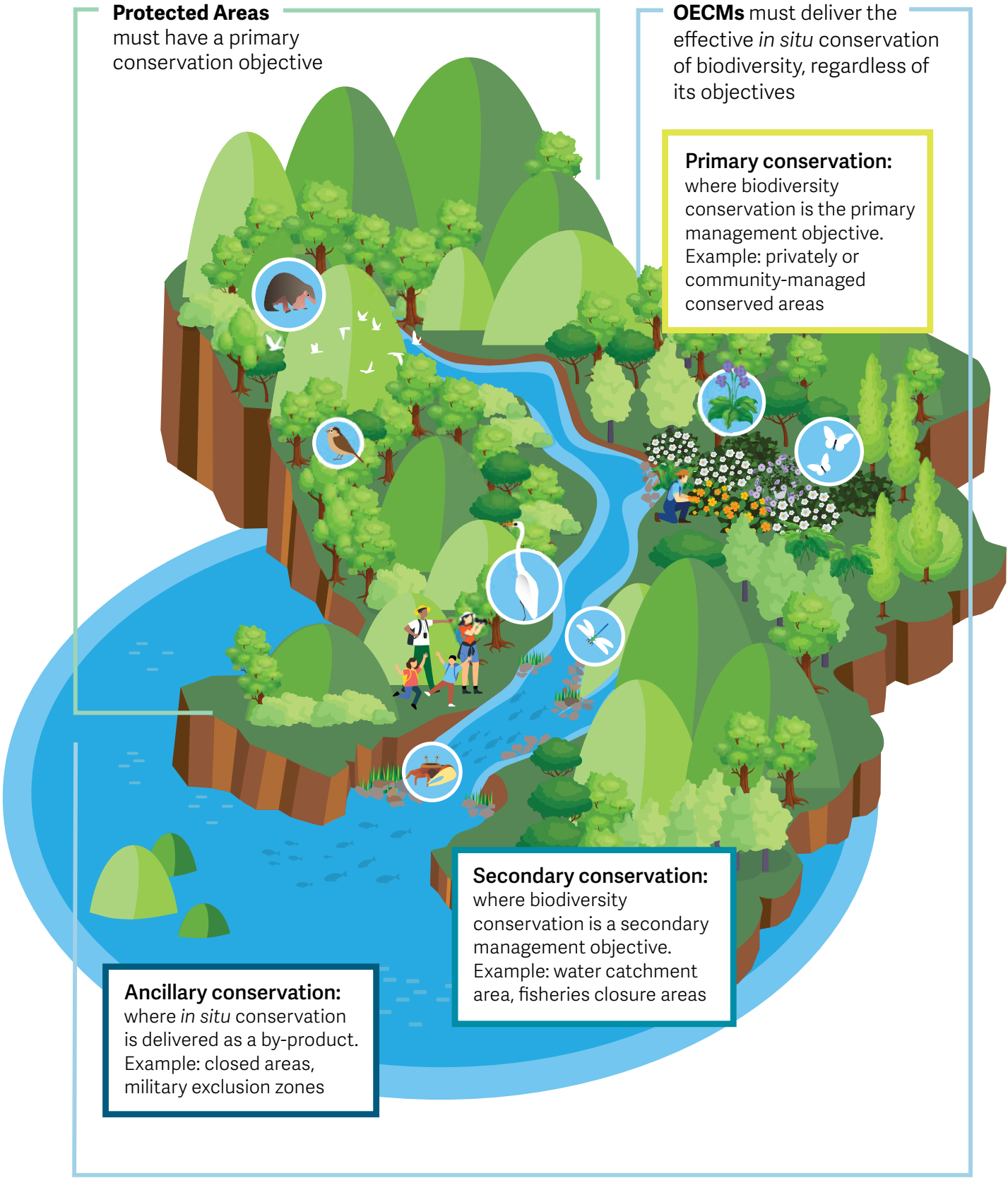
Many places outside protected areas are recognised to play an important role in in situ biodiversity conservation. These areas, collectively termed as OECMs, may or may not have conservation as their primary objectives, but deliver effective and positive conservation outcomes

beyond protected areas systems. They offer an approach to achieve large-scale conservation targets, increase protection of important biodiversity areas, enhance ecological connectivity, and protect important ecosystem services.



1. At the COP10 to the CBD held in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan, in October 2010, the “Aichi Biodiversity Targets” were adopted. This was the world's first 10-year framework for biodiversity conservation. It is divided into 5 strategic goals and 20 targets, calling on all countries to take effective and urgent actions to halt biodiversity loss.

Two approaches of area-based conservation measures





Nature-based Solutions (NbS)

NbS are actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified ecosystems that effectively and adaptively address societal challenges, benefiting both biodiversity and human well-being. Using the power of nature and functioning ecosystems, NbS provide ecosystem services and co-benefits to society and the environment.

NbS have potential to address local and global societal challenges



Biodiversity loss



Environmental degradation



Climate change mitigation and adaptation



Disaster risk reduction



Economic and social development



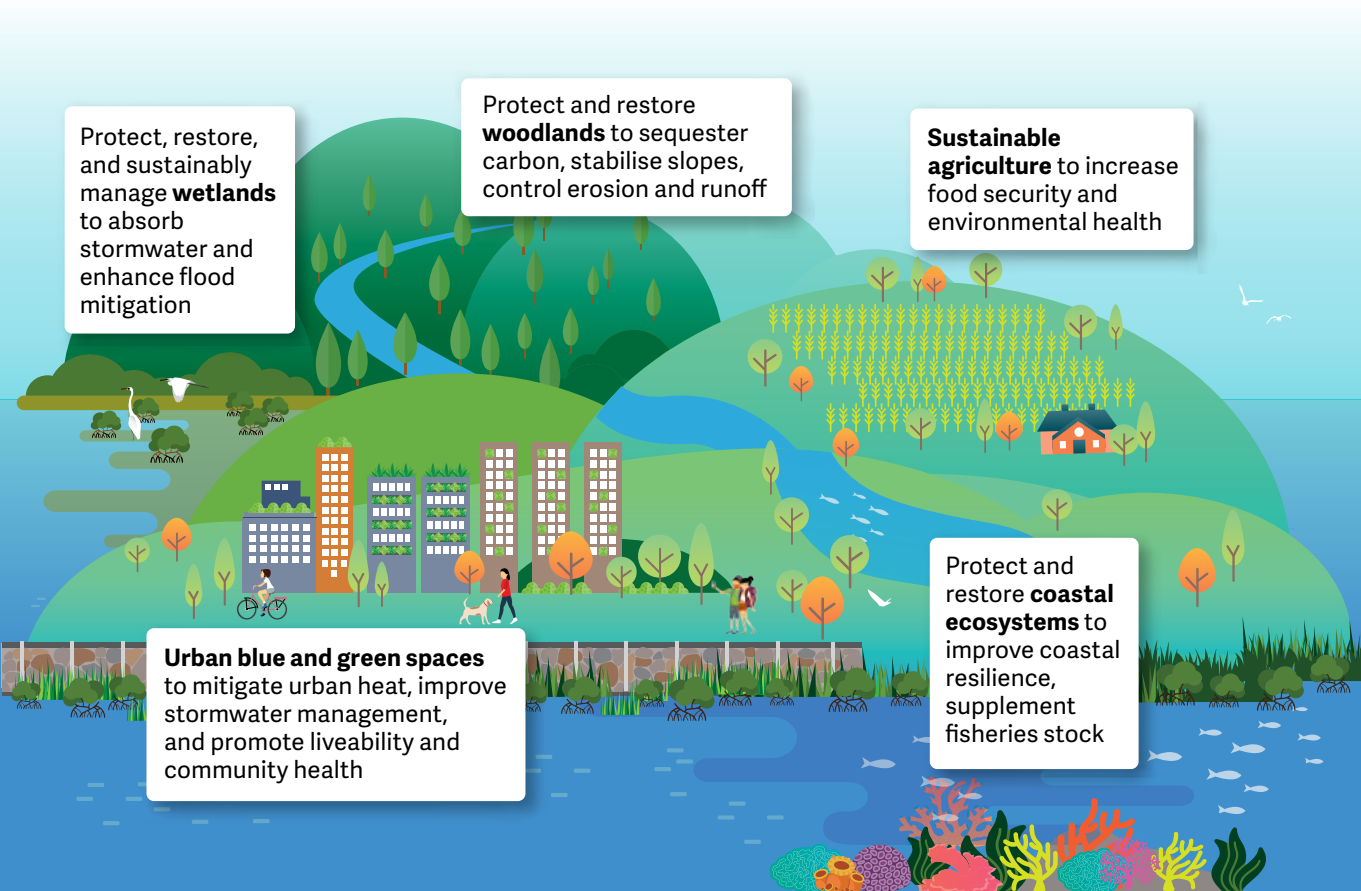
Human health



Food security



Water security



2.2 China National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2023-2030) (China NBSAP)

As the Presidency of COP15, China was among the first countries to update its national BSAP. In January 2024, with the State Council's endorsement, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE) released the China National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2023-2030) (China NBSAP). By 2030, the China NBSAP aims to substantially improve the country's biodiversity policies, regulations, and monitoring systems. These efforts will be further enhanced by 2035, with the ultimate goal of creating a “Beautiful China” where humanity and nature coexist in harmony by 2050. China NBSAP outlines 27 priority actions, addressing four priority areas of mainstreaming biodiversity, addressing threats of biodiversity loss, enabling sustainable use of biodiversity and benefit-sharing, and modernising biodiversity governance capacity. The China NBSAP also provides guidance for local governments in strengthening their biodiversity conservation efforts.

China NBSAP's 27 Priority Actions

① Biodiversity Mainstreaming	② Addressing Threats of Biodiversity Loss	③ Sustainable Use and Benefit-sharing	④ Modernisation of Biodiversity Governance Capabilities
1 Biodiversity policy and regulatory framework	7 Protection of ecologically important sites	15 Sustainable use of germplasm resources	21 Biodiversity surveys and monitoring
2 Biodiversity governance system and mechanism	8 Ecosystem restoration	16 Sustainable practices in agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry and fishery	22 Biodiversity assessments
3 Biodiversity planning framework	9 <i>In situ</i> biodiversity conservation	17 Value realisation of ecological products	23 Biodiversity law enforcement supervision
4 Biodiversity publicity and education	10 <i>Ex situ</i> biodiversity conservation	18 Urban biodiversity	24 Smart management of biodiversity
5 Business and biodiversity	11 Sustainable management of wildlife	19 Acquisition and benefit sharing of genetic resources	25 Scientific research and training for talented individuals
6 Whole-society initiatives for biodiversity conservation	12 Biosafety management	20 Protection and inheritance of traditional knowledge	26 Diversified investment and financing mechanisms
	13 Improvement of environmental quality		27 International compliance and cooperation
	14 Holistic strategies to tackle biodiversity and climate change issues		

The China NBSAP identifies the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao area as one of the key strategic regions for enhanced biodiversity conservation, guiding and promoting regional collaboration and improving conservation mechanisms within the area.

Through updating Hong Kong’s BSAP, we seek to enhance the diversity, stability, and sustainability of our city’s valuable ecosystems, thereby promoting biodiversity conservation and sustainable development, and supporting the latest global and national biodiversity conservation initiatives.





## Chapter 3

# Turning the Page



### 3.1 A Strong Foundation for Conservation and Sustainable Development

The initial phase of the BSAP has successfully established a robust foundation for conservation in Hong Kong through a multi-pronged approach, and yielded substantial outcomes. Over the past decade, the Government spared no effort in safeguarding nature in Hong Kong, as evident in making long-term commitments of establishing new statutory protected areas on land and at sea, and strengthening law and order in combating wildlife crimes and illegal fishing activities. Another pivotal achievement was the mainstreaming of biodiversity into urban planning and development. By integrating improved blue-green infrastructures, built environments including those in busy city centres have gradually been transformed into functioning ecosystems that supports species and natural processes, and deliver economic and social values. The first phase of BSAP implementation also saw a marked increase in community engagement. Societal investment in biodiversity education has not only strengthened civic identity around Hong Kong’s natural heritage but has also cultivated a more conservation-literate generation. This has fostered a crucial paradigm shift to viewing working with nature as a strategic imperative. This perspective is essential for addressing urban challenges, enhancing competitive advantage in a resource-constrained world, and ensuring Hong Kong’s long-term prosperity.



Hong Kong Wetland Park



Kam Tin River

### 3.2 New Opportunities and Emerging Challenges

Look ahead, the World Economic Forum's 2025 Global Risks Perception Survey identified “biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse” as the second most significant global risk for the next decade. It is a sentiment that resonates across the world. Beyond risks specifically related to biodiversity and ecosystems, Hong Kong, like other densely-populated metropolises worldwide, is coping with a set of pressing global challenges expected to persist in the coming decade. These include: rising temperatures and more frequent extreme weather events amid climate change; ongoing urbanisation that will continue to drive demand for infrastructure, demographic shifts brought about by an aging population and changing labour force dynamics, and the mounting pressures posed by the rapid intensification of emerging technologies and digital integration.

Opportunities come with challenges. There is a growing international consensus towards integrating biodiversity into urban planning and development. The trend is to move beyond reliance on grey infrastructure alone, because working with nature delivers tangible solutions. For example, urban forests and wetlands reduce heat island effects, dampen traffic noise, alleviate air pollution and provide essential mental health benefits to populations experiencing high stress levels. Cities that invest in green corridors, wetland restoration and urban biodiversity conservation create more liveable environments for retaining talents, lower operational costs through natural cooling and flood protection, and unlock innovation and job opportunities in the growing green economy. For instance, Hong Kong's Country Parks provide invaluable ecosystem services not only through





water purification, carbon sequestration and recreational value that supports tourism, but also immense support to public wellbeing throughout the year.

More opportunities for Hong Kong are emerging as our country takes decisive strides to champion global biodiversity governance. In the top-level strategic blueprint for national development adopted in October 2025, the Recommendations of the Communist Party of China Central Committee for Formulating the 15th Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development (the 15th Five-Year Plan), China has set out major objectives of achieving significant progress in high-quality development, and making new strides in advancing

the Beautiful China Initiative. Specifically, the 15th Five-Year Plan calls for accelerating green transition across all areas of economic and social development, reinforcing ecological security shields and strengthening green development drivers. Hong Kong has rich and diverse sub-tropical biodiversity in a highly efficient and urbanised landscape, having an extensive international network and multicultural fluency, and the status of a global hub for talent and finance. All these advantages put Hong Kong in a favourable position for pursuing distinctive actions to integrate into and facilitate national development, and support radiating of China's vision for ecological civilisation to the global community.

### 3.3 Continuing Our Work by Leveraging Hong Kong's Unique Advantages

Building on the solid foundation of the first phase of the BSAP, the next phase of our work will focus on leveraging Hong Kong's unique strengths to explore new frontiers and address new challenges. As Hong Kong continues to accelerate its sustainable development and strengthen its role as a global hub for talent, innovation, finance and trade, we have a unique advantage to integrate biodiversity conservation more deeply into our city's sustainable growth agenda. The confluence of diverse talent in our city can foster cross-disciplinary innovation and advance our knowledge and practices in biodiversity conservation. The experience gained from developing and managing urban blue and green spaces can support technological transformation and open new avenues for collaboration across sectors.

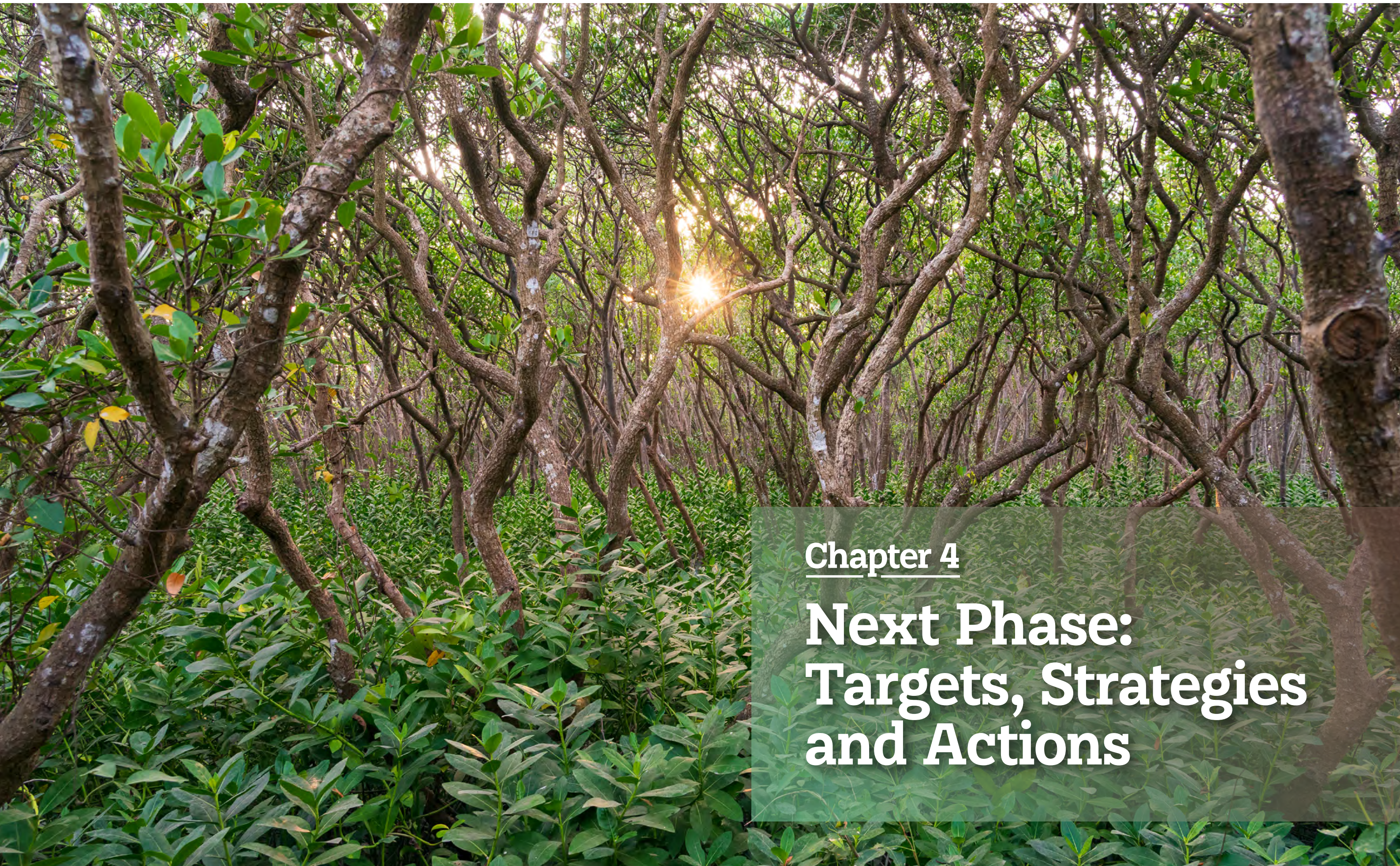
In particular, Hong Kong is well positioned to mobilise green finance and direct investment towards nature-positive projects. The strong commitment to innovation, robust intellectual property protection system, and abundance of highly educated workforce and world-class researchers provides a conducive environment

to develop and deploy cutting-edge green technologies. Furthermore, as a transit and trade hub, Hong Kong is uniquely positioned to champion sustainable use of biological resources, combatting illegal trade of wildlife and safeguarding conservation of species and habitats while facilitating legitimate business.

The global targets in the KMGBF call for global action by 2030, and require each Party to the CBD to formulate and implement their national BSAPs in accordance with their respective circumstances, priorities and socioeconomic conditions. Hong Kong, alongside cities worldwide and in the Chinese Mainland, will align its city-level BSAP with national strategies, to support China's commitments under the CBD and contributions to the global targets in the KMGBF. Our commitment is to implement a BSAP that not only safeguards our natural ecosystems and supports Hong Kong's sustainable development, but also contributes meaningfully to national and global conservation goals, helping to realise the vision of a harmonious coexistence between humanity and nature.







## Chapter 4

# Next Phase: Targets, Strategies and Actions



4.1 Overall Targets

Drawing on lessons from the first phase of the BSAP, the guidance of the China NBSAP, and the approaches of other cities, we have developed a new set of overarching targets for a 10-year implementation period. These goals echo national priorities and local circumstances, and are designed to leverage Hong Kong's unique strengths. They are intended to guide our society's collective efforts to build a more sustainable and liveable Hong Kong, while enhancing Hong Kong's position as a vibrant and charming city within the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA). Through achieving these targets, we will contribute our strengths to our country's vision of ecological civilisation and support global biodiversity conservation efforts.

By 2035, Hong Kong is a sustainable and liveable place where humanity and nature coexist in harmony, as reflected by the achievement of the following Overall Targets:

1

Refined policies, regulations, institutional frameworks and technological innovations for biodiversity conservation

2

An expanded network of effectively managed protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures

3

Enhanced and widely mobilised societal efforts in habitat restoration

4

Strengthened protection of endangered species against poaching and trafficking

5

Effectively managed risks or impacts posed by invasive alien species

6

Further consolidate Hong Kong's position as an international green and sustainable finance hub

7

Reduced pollution to aquatic environments, enhanced waste recycling rates, and advanced to the implementation of a circular economy

8

Widely adopted nature-based solutions and upgraded urban blue-green spaces

9

Enhanced public knowledge on biodiversity, raised awareness and boosted community participation

10

Launched a series of biodiversity-positive joint initiatives, demonstrating a more cohesive and effective collaboration across jurisdictions and stakeholders

4.2 Strategies and Actions

To guide the next phase of the BSAP, four strategic areas have been identified:

Area 1

NATURE CONSERVATION

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



Area 2

DEEPENING MAINSTREAMING

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



Area 3

CAPACITY BUILDING

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



Area 4

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERING

To foster a culture of collaboration and foster cross-regional cooperation, allowing extension of the benefits of nature to a broader community



Building upon the foundation of existing nature conservation policy, the statutory protection of local biodiversity, and the milestones achieved in implementing the first phase of the BSAP, the Government has proposed these four strategic areas as the focus of the BSAP update. We have taken into account post-pandemic global and national developments in biodiversity conservation, the most relevant elements to HKSAR of the China NBSAP, as well as Hong Kong's specific needs and strengths during the updating process. Aiming at collaborations with sub-national counterparts in the GBA and beyond, the next

phase of work will focus on "Collaborative Partnering", to deepen international cooperation, and strengthening collaborative actions in key strategic regions of our country in alignment with the China NBSAP. Together, these four areas form a comprehensive framework to guide the society in achieving the 2035 BSAP goals.

Furthermore, a comprehensive review of over 1,400 written submissions from the public consultation exercise from May to July 2025 revealed strong public support that extends beyond traditional conservation measures. The feedback indicated interest in embracing new concepts,



such as OECM and NbS. It also highlighted enthusiasm for new approaches, including green finance, sustainable ecotourism, a whole-of-society approach to biodiversity stewardship, and creating synergy between biodiversity and climate actions. These public opinions align closely with international trends and national initiatives. In this vein, we identified 30 Actions and 81 Priority Projects under the four strategic areas. They are tailored in the light of Hong Kong's conditions and capabilities, and respond appropriately to the China NBSAP, thereby

contributing to the KMGBF in a way that aligns with both national priorities and local circumstances. Major deliverables and achievements will be featured on the BSAP website to facilitate public understanding of progress made (see Chapter 5). Relevance of the BSAP's actions to international initiatives (e.g. UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)<sup>2</sup> and KMGBF targets) and the Priority Actions of the China NBSAP is illustrated in subsequent sections.



## Area 1: Nature Conservation

This strategic area aims to prevent biodiversity loss and ensure ecological resilience through comprehensive, area-based habitat and species protection, recovery, and restoration. Key actions include enhanced management of protected areas and establishment of wetland conservation systems to provide foundational protection for critical habitats. Complementary measures, including the restoration of degraded ecosystems, the revitalisation of remote countryside, and the conservation of ecologically important sites

under private ownership, extend protection beyond formal protected areas networks. Strengthened species protection mechanisms, coupled with rigorous enforcement against wildlife crime and improved management of invasive alien species, address direct threats to biodiversity. Additionally, reducing pollution and nutrient runoff safeguards aquatic environments from degradation. Collectively, these actions serve to meet the Overall Targets.



2. United Nations Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, which set 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to create a sustainable world. More details available at their official website: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

### Priority Action 1.1 Establish new protected areas and explore application of OECMs

#### Overall Target: 2

**Area-based conservation measures are fundamental and effective in safeguarding biodiversity in the long term.**

Respecting habitat intactness while providing appropriate conservation management enables healthy and functioning ecosystems, which in turn ensures the continuous delivery of ecosystem services benefitting the city. Building upon the robust network of statutorily protected areas established in the past and under the first phase of the BSAP, we will also seek to apply OECMs in the next phase of work. The Chinese Mainland has been proactively leading the application of OECMs and collaborating with international experts to develop

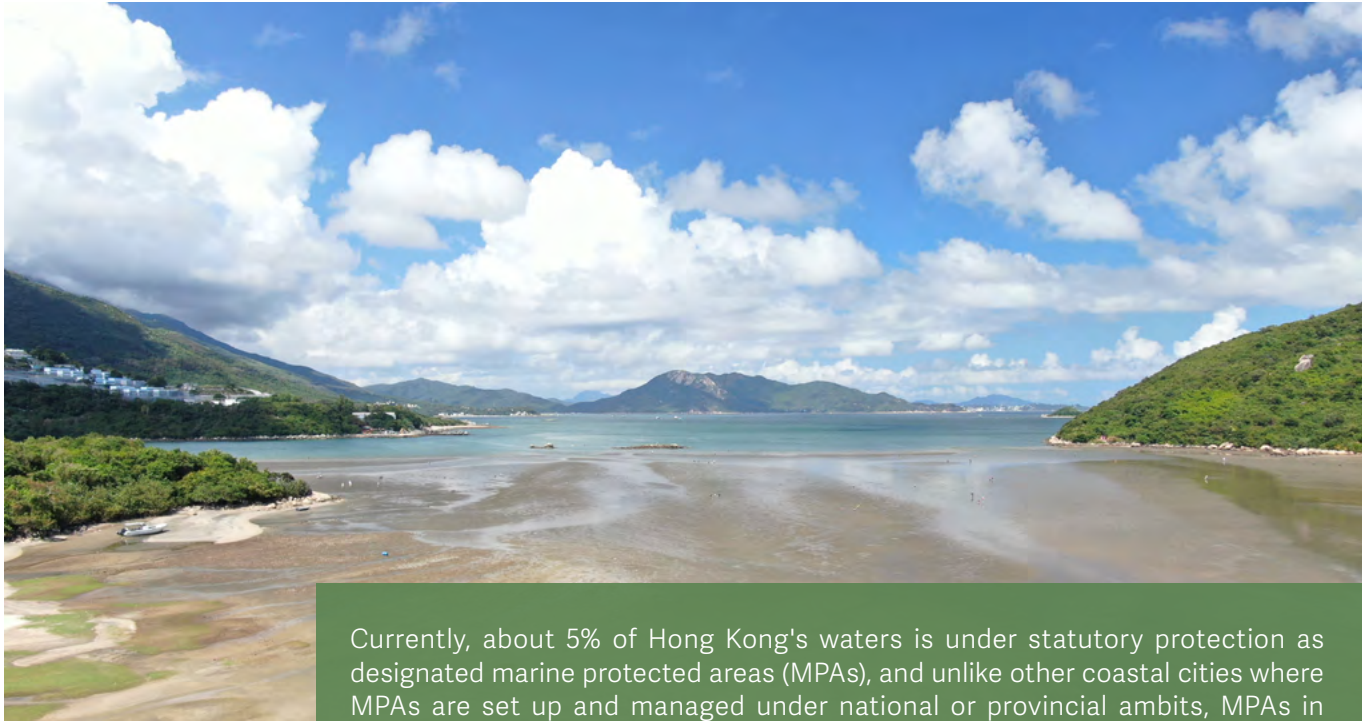
guidelines and identify potential sites. This national effort will offer invaluable guidance for Hong Kong. Hong Kong will explore adoption of various measures including effective and area-based conservation, for supporting national effort in achieving KMGBF Target 3, which is to conserve 30% of land and seas globally by 2030.

#### Relevant national and global initiatives:

China NBSAP's Priority Actions:	7, 9
KMGBF Targets:	1, 3
SDGs:	14, 15

#### Priority Projects:

1. Enhance conservation of relevant habitats at Shui Hau, Sharp Island and Cape D' Aguilar through appropriate area-based conservation measures
2. Identify potential terrestrial and marine OECMs, referencing guidance from CBD and other well-established criteria globally and nationally



Shui Hau

Currently, about 5% of Hong Kong's waters is under statutory protection as designated marine protected areas (MPAs), and unlike other coastal cities where MPAs are set up and managed under national or provincial ambits, MPAs in Hong Kong are designated and wholly managed by the HKSAR Government. The Government also banned trawling and complementarily capped fishing effort in 2012; subsequent research has shown significant improvements in our marine benthic biodiversity, with populations of some species groups rebounding several-fold. The level of commitment by Hong Kong to its MPAs is exemplary among coastal cities, and the deliverables are notable given Hong Kong has long served as a busy regional trade hub, unequivocally demonstrating the Government's steadfast commitment to protecting both terrestrial and marine natural resources.



Priority Action 1.2  
Enhance management of protected areas and habitat connectivity

Overall Targets: 1, 2, 5

Effective management of protected areas requires not only restorative measures but also the enhancement of habitat connectivity.

Even the best-managed protected areas can become an isolated “island” for wildlife if their connections to other natural spaces or key functional habitats outside their boundaries are disrupted. This highlights the critical importance of habitat connectivity. Recognising that Hong Kong's rapid development could cause fragmenting landscapes and isolating animal populations, the establishment and maintenance of wildlife corridors is necessary to allow for genetic exchange, species movement and greater resilience against environmental changes. The enhanced connectivity prevents further biodiversity loss and ensure the long-term ecological health. The first phase of the BSAP has already reviewed and enhanced a number of management plans for our protected areas. It has also established the “Wutong Mountain (Shenzhen)- Robin’s Nest (Hong Kong) Ecological Corridor”, designated a network of Marine

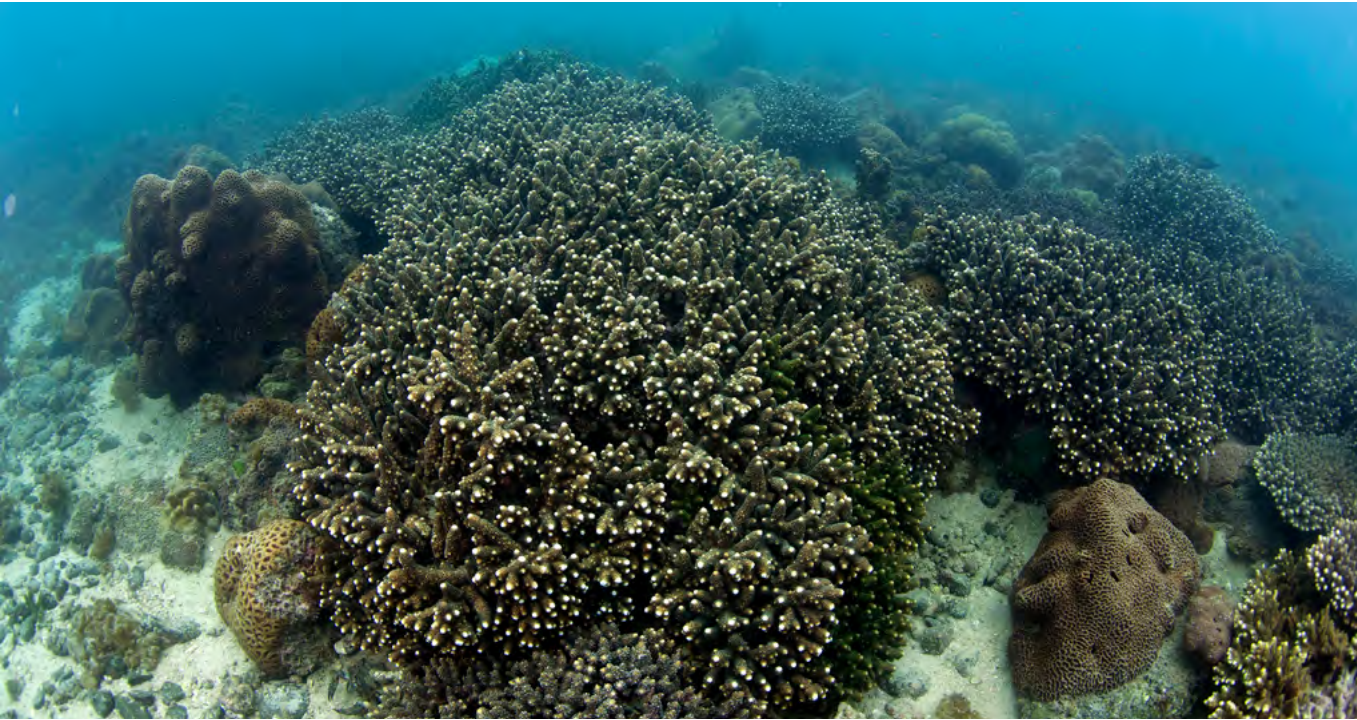
Parks in the western waters, and entered into sister site arrangements with other coastal wetland reserves to strengthen cooperation and improve habitat management for migratory waterbirds. The Guangdong-Hong Kong Chinese White Dolphin Conservation Co-operation Platform has also been established based in the North Lantau Marine Park of Hong Kong and the adjacent Pearl River Estuary Chinese White Dolphin National Nature Reserve in Guangdong Province. We will continue to refine the existing plans and develop management plans for newly established protected areas to improve monitoring, protection and habitat connectivity.

Relevant national and global initiatives:

China NBSAP's Priority Actions:	7, 8, 9, 21
KMGBF Targets:	1, 2, 3, 6, 11
SDGs:	14, 15

Priority Projects:

1. Develop and refine biodiversity management plans for newly established protected areas to improve monitoring, protection and habitat connectivity (e.g. country and marine parks, Long Valley Nature Park etc.)
2. Regulate visitors in waters of high ecological value, prioritising coral-rich areas and marine mammal habitats



Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site

Priority Action 1.3  
Establish wetland conservation systems

Overall Targets: 2, 8

Establishing a comprehensive “Wetland Conservation System” would provide a more structured and holistic approach to enhancing the services provided by this vital ecosystem.

Wetlands in Hong Kong support a vast array of wildlife, including numerous migratory bird species, many of which are endangered. The Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site, for instance, is recognised as an internationally important wetland, providing critical feeding and resting grounds for migratory birds along the EAAF. In recognition of this, we have reviewed and updated the Ramsar Site's management plan and enhanced habitat management within the Mai Po Nature Reserve during the first phase of the BSAP. Beyond their biodiversity value, wetlands provide essential ecosystem services, including flood regulation, water purification and climate change mitigation. By establishing a

“Wetland Conservation System”, Hong Kong not only safeguards its unique wetland biodiversity but also contribute to broader regional ecological security and climate resilience goals, fostering a more integrated and effective conservation strategy across the GBA.

Relevant national and global initiatives:

China NBSAP's Priority Actions:	7, 8, 9, 14, 16, 20
KMGBF Targets:	1, 3, 10, 11
SDGs:	12, 14, 15

Priority Projects:

1. Develop Sam Po Shue Wetland Conservation Park (WCP) through investigation and design studies to embrace cultural activities that are closely linked to biodiversity, and pursue the establishment of other WCPs in the Northern Metropolis as appropriate, subject to the experience gained from the establishment of Sam Po Shue WCP
2. Develop Coastal Protection Park between Tsim Bei Tsui and Pak Nai to form a more complete coastal habitat system with the nearby wetlands





**Priority Action 1.4**  
**Enhance existing ecosystems and restore degraded habitats or declined biological resources**

**Overall Targets:** 3, 8, 9

**Actively restoring various ecosystems will enable the recovery of the functions and services provided by these ecosystems.**

Nature is not static. Many of our natural areas evolved over time due to climate fluctuations, natural hazards, ecological succession, and human activities etc. Sometimes the evolution could reach a state of an imbalance or degradation. Examples include hillsides torched by fires, marshes turned shrubby, forests taken up by pioneering exotic trees, and fisheries resources depleted by historical overexploitation. These imbalanced or degraded systems are less resilient, support diminished biodiversity and provide fewer benefits to society. While the first phase of the BSAP has laid the groundwork by identifying problems and initiating studies, we aim to move towards proactive and more timely interventions in the future to restore unbalanced and degraded ecosystem.

Relevant national and global initiatives:	
China NBSAP's Priority Actions:	4, 7, 8, 9, 14, 16
KMGBF Targets:	2, 4, 8, 9, 11
SDGs:	12, 13, 14, 15

- Priority Projects:**
1. Support habitat restoration programmes for seagrass beds, coral communities, oyster reefs, forest areas damaged by hill fires, plantation dominated by exotic species, freshwater marshes and other degraded terrestrial and coastal marine habitats
  2. Restore and transform traditional fishponds within Sam Po Shue WCP (and other WCPs in the future) into ecologically enhanced fishponds or *gei wais* to serve the dual functions of wetland conservation and sustainable aquaculture production
  3. Sustain agricultural and fisheries resources by rehabilitating farmland and implementing fisheries enhancement programmes, including deploying artificial reefs and restocking

**Priority Action 1.5**  
**Revitalise remote countryside and conserve ecologically important sites under private ownership**

**Overall Targets:** 3, 5, 8, 9, 10

**Revitalising remote countryside is not only crucial for conserving biodiversity but also for protecting our cultural heritage.**

Many of Hong Kong's most biodiverse and ecologically sensitive areas, including wetlands, are located on private land, often in remote countryside where the natural environment faces persistent pressure from human disturbance or unauthorised development. Countryside conservation and revitalisation efforts, such as various MA scheme projects funded by the CCFS and LCF have yielded significant outcomes during the first phase of the BSAP. The Government also executed an unprecedented non-in-situ land exchange with the landowner of Sha Lo

Tung, to preserve this local sanctuary for dragonflies. Looking forward, the Government will continue to engage landowners and rural communities in revitalising our countryside through MA and PPP schemes. Such efforts will not only achieve ecological conservation and social cohesion but also protect our cultural heritage, fostering cultural preservation, nature conservation and urban-rural symbiosis.

Relevant national and global initiatives:	
China NBSAP's Priority Actions:	4, 7, 8, 9, 12, 16, 20
KMGBF Targets:	1, 2, 6, 10, 11, 22
SDGs:	12, 14, 15, 17

- Priority Projects:**
1. Continue to revitalise and conserve remote countryside through MA and PPP schemes
  2. Enhance, support and promote the revitalisation and conservation of remote countryside through engagement with local communities



Lai Chi Wo



**Priority Action 1.6**  
**Enhance actions in combating illegal harvesting and poaching, and protecting endangered wildlife**

Overall Targets: 1, 4, 10

**Actions for combating against wildlife crime are critically important as it protects biodiversity, preserves endangered species from extinction and upholds international conservation commitments while deterring criminal networks from profiting out of illegal wildlife crimes.**

Under the first phase of the BSAP, the city has implemented a complete ban on the local ivory trade and strengthened the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) by increasing the maximum penalties to combat smuggling and the illegal trade of endangered species. An inter-departmental task force on wildlife crime has also been established to enhance joint enforcement efforts in deterring and combating illegal poaching of local species (e.g. incense trees and freshwater turtles). We will continue to maintain high vigilance and enhance enforcement against illegal poaching, collection, sale and trafficking of local species. The Government will actively support meritorious external proposals that will fundamentally add value to stepping up enforcement against wildlife crime, fostering innovation and collaboration with external stakeholders. By leveraging

its economic influence and regulatory capacity, Hong Kong can lead regional efforts in combating illegal wildlife trafficking while promoting legitimate, sustainable trade that supports both biodiversity conservation and economic development.

**Relevant national and global initiatives:**

China NBSAP's Priority Actions:	1, 11, 23, 27
KMGBF Targets:	4, 5
SDGs:	12, 14, 15, 17

**Priority Projects:**

1. Maintain high vigilance and enhance enforcement against illegal poaching, collection, sale and trafficking of local species (e.g. conduct regular monitoring of potential spots for set-up of trap for illegal hunting, monitor key habitats of freshwater turtles to prevent illegal hunting, and maintain vigilance regarding potential online sales platforms, enforcement against illegal harvesting of incense trees)
2. Amend relevant legislation to enhance the protection of wildlife, and introduce new legislation and measures to protect marine mammals, including non-resident cetaceans occurring in Hong Kong waters)
3. Introduce new legislation to give effect to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' Agreement on Port State Measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in Hong Kong



**Priority Action 1.7**  
**Strengthen species protection, recovery and control measures**

Overall Targets: 1, 3, 4, 9, 10

**A combination of targeted action and management plans is vital to creating harmony between people and wildlife.**

A number of Species Action Plans (SAPs) were developed during the first phase of the BSAP for the enhanced conservation of endangered species (e.g. Incense Tree, Chinese Pangolin, Romer's Tree Frog, Green Turtle, etc.). We will further strengthen conservation and management measures for native fauna and flora. This will include updating existing SAPs and developing new ones for species considered requiring immediate intervention in collaboration with our partners. To address the increasing challenges of human-wildlife conflict, we will enhance Management Action Plans (MAPs) for targeted wildlife in the next phase. Additionally, we will adopt a proactive and innovative approach to species conservation, providing practical support for species recovery, especially in areas where natural habitats are limited or degraded.

**Relevant national and global initiatives:**

China NBSAP's Priority Actions:	1, 2, 4, 9, 10, 11, 14, 21, 23, 24
KMGBF Targets:	4, 5, 9, 20, 21
SDGs:	14, 15

**Priority Projects:**

1. Enhance and implement MAPs for wild pigs and monkeys
2. Continue to enhance conservation and management measures, and collaborate with partners to carry out captive breeding, artificial propagation, and rewilding programmes for the conservation of endangered native fauna and flora under existing and new SAPs







**Priority Action 1.8**  
**Improve management of invasive alien species (IAS) and control of environmental release of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)**

**Overall Targets:** 5, 10

**Improving the management of IAS and the control of environmental release of GMOs marks a critical step towards addressing the threats to genetic diversity of native wildlife.**

As a major trade and transport hub, Hong Kong faces an elevated risk of intrusion of non-native species and GMOs. Under certain circumstances, these organisms may outcompete native flora and fauna, and affect local genetic diversity. The first phase of the BSAP recognised these growing threats of IAS and took actions to improve their management by establishing a risk assessment protocol and enhancing control plans. The GMO (Control of Release) Ordinance (Cap. 607) also gives effect to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the CBD to control the release of living GMOs into Hong Kong’s environment

and their transboundary movement, and provides for related matters. In the next phase, we will focus on prioritising resources for managing IAS that pose the greatest risk. Subsequent steps will include developing technical guidelines to assist the control of high-priority IAS at sites managed for conservation, moving beyond planning and into direct, on-the-ground action.

**Relevant national and global initiatives:**

China NBSAP’s Priority Actions:	1, 12, 21, 27
KMGBF Targets:	4, 6, 17, 20, 21
SDGs:	3, 14, 15

- Priority Projects:**
1. Develop an inventory of high-priority terrestrial IAS and technical guidelines for their removal and implement control measures for high-priority IAS at sites managed for conservation
  2. Enhance regional collaboration on controlling cross-boundary movement of targeted non-native species
  3. Continue to control environmental release of GMOs through surveillance and stakeholder engagement

**Priority Action 1.9**  
**Reduce pollution and excessive nutrient runoff to levels that are not harmful to the aquatic environment**

**Overall Target:** 7

**Building on past and ongoing efforts, future plans will focus on more targeted interventions to reduce specific pollutants in critical aquatic habitats.**

Over recent decades, the Government has made substantial progress in improving water quality by expanding and upgrading sewage collection and treatment facilities (such as the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme), as well as by strictly implementing pollution control measures under the Water Pollution Control Ordinance and the Waste Disposal Ordinance. In addition, the Government is committed to the regular monitoring of water quality and the level of microplastics and other toxic substances in the aquatic environment, and to promoting the safe use of pesticides and herbicides, fully demonstrating the Government’s long-term and holistic vision for protecting and enhancing the health of aquatic ecosystems. The current focus of work is the implementation of precision-oriented strategies to

tackle nutrient runoff from urban areas and agricultural activities, as well as marine plastic debris that may threaten ecologically sensitive zones, such as Tolo Harbour, Mirs Bay and the waters surrounding marine parks. In the next phase of the BSAP, we will not only continue to enhance sewage collection and treatment systems, but also move beyond broad-based pollution control to more targeted intervention measures, aiming to reduce pollutants and nutrient runoff in critical aquatic habitats to harmless levels.

**Relevant national and global initiatives:**

China NBSAP’s Priority Actions:	13
KMGBF Targets:	7
SDGs:	3, 6, 14

- Priority Projects:**
1. Coordinate enhancement of monitoring and removal of marine refuse through the Inter-departmental Working Group on Marine Environmental Management
  2. Proactively remove ghost nets (abandoned fishing nets) at ecologically important sites (e.g. coral habitats and horseshoe crab habitats)
  3. Minimise impacts on public health and biodiversity through safe and proper use of registered pesticides and herbicides in public areas







## Area 2: Deepening Mainstreaming

This strategic area aims to integrate biodiversity conservation into every sector of society, elevating it from a niche concern to a shared responsibility reflected in economic, urban and community practices. As cities often focus on both human population and environmental pressures, deepening biodiversity mainstreaming is fundamental for creating resilient, adaptive urban systems capable of responding to interconnected challenges, from climate adaptation to social cohesion. Recognising that sustainable biodiversity protection requires engagement across government, business and civil society, we will advance this strategy through multifaceted approaches with NGOs, academic institutions, and charitable organisations playing increasingly active roles in driving conservation initiatives. Various sectors may contribute through fostering deeper environmental connection beyond traditional awareness campaigns, encouraging enterprises to disclose biodiversity-related risks and

dependencies, channelling capital towards green technologies and sustainable practices, and providing scientific expertise and community-based solutions. NGOs and charitable organisations serve as critical bridges between communities and conservation efforts, mobilising participation and implementing on-the-ground projects, while academic institutions advance biodiversity knowledge through research and capacity-building programmes. Stakeholders involved in city development can also facilitate widespread adoption of NbS and wildlife-friendly designs in development projects to embed conservation into urban landscapes. Other sectors may contribute to sustainable agriculture and fisheries, ecotourism and cultivating circular economy practices. Together, these actions in turn advance biodiversity policies, establish green finance leadership, enable NbS adoption, upgrade urban blue-green spaces, and boost community participation in conservation efforts.



### Priority Action 2.1 Connect people to nature and improve awareness of nature's contributions to people

Overall Targets: 8, 9

**Most Hong Kong residents live in densely built-up urban areas with easy access to natural environments. Future related measures will focus on immersive experiences to deepen the connection between people and nature.**

People living in Hong Kong has the best of the two worlds, convenience in a highly urbanised environment and proximity to the nature. Hiking trails and country parks are often within walking distance if not within a half-hour trip via public transportation. Biodiversity can be easily seen and touched as a tangible experience rather than an abstract concept. During the first phase of the BSAP, the Government has raised public awareness of the importance of biodiversity conservation through initiatives such as annual biodiversity festivals, funded biodiversity education programmes and the

development of the HKBIH. In the next phase, we will build on this success to organise immersive activities to make people recognise nature's direct contributions to their quality of life to cultivate long term commitment to biodiversity protection.

#### Relevant national and global initiatives:

China NBSAP's Priority Actions:	4, 6
KMGBF Targets:	11, 12
SDGs:	4, 11, 14, 15

#### Priority Projects:

1. Support biodiversity education and community programmes through the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) (Publicity and Education Projects), the LCF (Education and Engagement Projects) and the CCFS (MA/ Research Activities Projects)
2. Establish community gardens to foster public appreciation of nature and promote wildlife gardening (e.g. butterfly gardens, nest boxes) in communities, infrastructures and schools





**Priority Action 2.2**  
**Encourage responsibility and foster active stewardship of nature**

**Overall Target: 9**

**To ensure the sustainability of our natural heritage, it is essential to make ecological conservation and management a shared responsibility across all sectors of the society and every individual.**

By integrating nature-friendly initiatives with “One Health” related programmes, we are committed to cultivating a society that proactively safeguards nature, where everyone recognises their interconnectedness with the natural world, and develops a sense of coexistence not only with the city’s protected areas and wildlife but also with urban blue-green spaces and the biodiversity they support. The “One Health” concept is an idea that human health and animal health are interdependent and bound to the health of the ecosystem in which they exist. This concept enhances collaboration between human, animal and ecosystem health to address related issues, such as food safety and security. When ecological conservation and management becomes a collective responsibility that all sectors of the society and residents are willing to shoulder, it will ultimately ensure

that the city’s vibrant natural heritages can be passed down to future generations.

**Relevant national and global initiatives:**

China NBSAP’s Priority Actions:	4, 6, 18, 21
KMGBF Targets:	11, 17
SDGs:	4, 14, 15

**Priority Projects:**

1. Promote awareness and community involvement through citizen science initiatives (e.g. fisheries restocking, Reef Check, BioBlitz, etc.) and volunteer programmes (e.g. Wetland Park Volunteer Scheme, Country Parks Volunteer Scheme, “Repair Our Own Trails” programme, etc.)
2. Promote the “One Health” concept to highlight the interconnection between humans, animals and ecosystems (e.g. implement relevant measures under the Hong Kong Strategy and Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) led by the High Level Steering Committee on AMR; foster interdisciplinary collaboration to develop strategies for zoonotic disease prevention)
3. Promote responsible wildlife appreciation culture and related code of conduct



**Priority Action 2.3**  
**Encourage businesses to disclose biodiversity-related risks, dependencies and opportunities**

**Overall Targets: 1, 6**

**Encouraging enterprises to disclose biodiversity-related risks, dependencies, and opportunities is both an environmental imperative and a responsibility that reflects Hong Kong’s role as an international financial centre.**

Business activities are often dependent on global supply chains, and also local ecosystems. Business may simultaneously utilise or benefit from biodiversity, and be vulnerable to biodiversity degradation. Hong Kong possesses distinct advantages through its robust regulatory framework and sophisticated financial infrastructure. The city has demonstrated leadership in advancing climate and sustainability disclosure aligned with international standards while maintaining consistency and comparability of information. In December 2024, the Government launched the Roadmap on Sustainability Disclosure in Hong Kong, outlining a clear pathway for publicly accountable entities to adopt the International Financial Reporting Standards - Sustainability Disclosure Standards (ISSB Standards) no later than 2028. This positions Hong Kong as one of

the first jurisdictions to align local standards with ISSB Standards. Biodiversity-related risks and dependencies disclosure mechanisms can highlight opportunities for innovation, sustainable business practices, and engagement with emerging markets in NbS and green technologies. By integrating these considerations into corporate reporting frameworks, Hong Kong can strengthen corporate accountability, attract responsible capital, and ensure its business sector advances sustainability objectives.

**Relevant national and global initiatives:**

China NBSAP’s Priority Actions:	1, 5, 27
KMGBF Targets:	14, 15
SDGs:	9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15

**Priority Projects:**

1. Consider possible refinements to the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Reporting Code to include more requirements for biodiversity-related risk disclosure and dependency practices upon publication of relevant standards by the ISSB and adoption in Hong Kong by the local standard setter, taking into consideration issuers’ readiness
2. Promote the voluntary adoption of the TNFD framework in due course to help businesses identify, assess, monitor and report their nature-related dependencies, impacts, risks and opportunities







**Priority Action 2.4**  
**Increase financial flows from pro-innovation funding schemes and diverse financial resources to support nature conservation, green technology and sustainable development**

Overall Targets: 1, 3, 6, 8, 10

Mobilisation of resources from all sources to support nature-related initiatives to catalyse cross-disciplinary cooperation, to ensure long-term conservation and economic resilience.

As a premier global financial hub with robust expertise, a free capital flow, and with strong ties with the Chinese Mainland, Hong Kong is actively channelling diverse capital (from banks, family offices, institutions) into green/sustainable finance through innovative instruments (like green bonds, tokenisation) and strategic initiatives. These are crucial for mitigating climate change impacts, reversing biodiversity loss and fostering a resilient economy. Enhanced funding is particularly important for development in green technologies, stimulating cross-disciplinary or innovative conservation projects to realise in the city, and incentivise businesses to adopt sustainable practices and disclose their environmental dependencies.

Such strategic investment moves beyond project-based funding to systematically embed biodiversity into Hong Kong's financial architecture, ensuring the long-term, large-scale investment required to meet conservation and sustainable development goals.

**Relevant national and global initiatives:**

China NBSAP's Priority Actions:	1, 5, 6, 8, 14, 26, 27
KMGBF Targets:	2, 12, 19
SDGs:	11, 13, 14, 15, 17

**Priority Projects:**

1. Support nature conservation and biodiversity projects through the Government Sustainable Bond Programme
2. Explore the development of an effective mechanism or platform to proactively mobilise private-sector resources from corporations and philanthropic groups, and to strategically channel these contributions, including through public-private matching funding, toward priority nature-positive projects in Hong Kong (e.g. NbS projects, habitat/ecosystem restoration programmes, etc.)
3. Explore expanding the Hong Kong Taxonomy for Sustainable Finance to cover additional environmental objectives beyond climate change

**Priority Action 2.5**  
**Integrate biodiversity and climate resilience considerations into city development policies, standards and decision making**

Overall Targets: 1, 8

Recognising the intrinsic linkages between climate action and biodiversity conservation, we will promote the integration of biodiversity and climate resilience concepts into our urban development policies.

Climate change and biodiversity loss are deeply interconnected crises. Climate impacts may accelerate species extinction and ecosystem degradation, while healthy, biodiverse ecosystems are essential for climate regulation and enhance adaptive capacity. Therefore, integrating biodiversity and climate resilience into Hong Kong's city development policies represents a pivotal initiative in the next phase of the BSAP. While earlier efforts successfully mainstreamed biodiversity into planning standards and advanced urban greening initiatives, we will go further to adopt a

more comprehensive strategy that explicitly recognises biodiversity conservation and climate adaptation as mutually reinforcing imperatives. By addressing both challenges simultaneously through an integrated approach, we unlock significant synergies that amplify conservation outcomes and climate resilience.

**Relevant national and global initiatives:**

China NBSAP's Priority Actions:	1, 14
KMGBF Targets:	1, 8, 11, 12, 14
SDGs:	9, 11, 13, 14, 15

**Priority Projects:**

1. Promote green building and explore incorporation of additional biodiversity elements as well as wildlife-friendly best practices and guidelines (e.g. to minimise bird collisions) into sustainable building standards (e.g. BEAM+ manuals)
2. Explore further integration of biodiversity-relevant content into the Climate Action Plan 2050 during its next review cycle







Eco-shoreline at Tung Chung New Town Extension

**Priority Action 2.6**  
**Encourage broad-based adoption of NbS and wildlife-friendly elements in the city**

**Overall Targets:** 1, 8

**Widespread adoption of NbS and wildlife-friendly designs, especially in large-scale development projects, present solutions and opportunities in the face of increasingly complex societal challenges and enhance the well-being of our citizens.**

Hong Kong like other metropolises, is coping with escalating environmental and social pressures, including intensifying typhoons and extreme rainfall that challenge drainage systems, urban heat islands, highly urbanised environment in densely populated districts, and biodiversity loss that affects ecosystem services. Against this background, the integration of NbS into major developments represents a transformative opportunity to address multiple challenges simultaneously through ecologically intelligent design. For example, for the Ngau Tam Mei New Development Area, a riverside park will be designed with blue-green infrastructure to reduce flood risks and enhance environmental sustainability and drainage channel will be revitalised adopting NbS to promote biodiversity. The first phase of the BSAP established a foundation by integrating biodiversity into urban planning and advancing blue-green infrastructure. In the next phase, we will explicitly champion NbS, particularly in the Northern Metropolis development

to transform large-scale developments into catalysts for urban regeneration. This approach simultaneously advances climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation, public health and social equity, creating resilient, liveable neighbourhoods where nature is woven into the essential infrastructure, delivering environmental, economic and wellness benefits to our citizens.

**Relevant national and global initiatives:**

China NBSAP's Priority Actions:	1, 8, 14, 18
KMGBF Targets:	2, 8, 11, 12, 14, 20
SDGs:	9, 11, 13, 14, 15

**Priority Projects:**

1. Devise relevant guidelines, with cases studies, for supporting broad-based adoption of NbS in large-scale development projects (e.g. Northern Metropolis development)
2. Incorporate NbS elements and "Blue-Green" initiatives into relevant projects (e.g. promote river revitalisation and improvement works)
3. Integrate urban forest network concept in the development projects of Tung Chung East New Town Extension (e.g. pollinator-friendly planting)
4. Prioritise the use of tunnels or viaducts in the design of new road projects, taking into account factors such as technical feasibility and cost effectiveness to minimise impacts to the landscape, including the disruption to the existing wildlife connectivity

**Priority Action 2.7**  
**Facilitate wider recognition and knowledge sharing of good practices supported by multisource funding**

**Overall Targets:** 9, 10

**Showcasing the successes and experiences gained from conservation initiatives inspires action and fosters collaboration among diverse stakeholders.**

Hong Kong has accomplished numerous valuable conservation projects and more are to follow, from habitat restoration to community education. By actively publicising these achievements to connect government bodies, private enterprises, academic institutions and community groups will help scale up the momentum. Leveraging regional and international platforms to

promote Hong Kong's conservation achievements is also effective for fostering cross-sectoral and cross-boundary partnerships.

**Relevant national and global initiatives:**

China NBSAP's Priority Actions:	4, 27
KMGBF Targets:	21
SDGs:	17

**Priority Projects:**

1. Develop an interactive website to disseminate deliverables of the BSAP, including NbS and ESG projects initiated by corporates, institutions and non-governmental entities with merits
2. Utilise internationally recognised online reporting platforms to showcase the implementation of the BSAP



Jordan Valley Channel Revitalisation





**Priority Action 2.8**  
**Promote sustainable and modernised agricultural and fisheries practices**

**Overall Targets:** 1, 7, 8

**Supporting local agriculture and fisheries industries is not only essential for improving the livelihoods of fishermen and farmers but also vital for promoting and conserving our rich cultural heritage.**

Hong Kong's agriculture and fisheries are deeply rooted in local cultural heritage and carry significant historical importance. Though modest in scale, these industries play certain roles in food security, employment creation, and ecological stewardship. Beyond their economic functions, they are intricately linked to Hong Kong's natural ecosystems and serve as vital resources for tourism and environmental education. Recognising that these industries are shared public assets rather than merely private enterprises, the Government has been attaching importance to their sustainable development. In late 2023, the Government promulgated the Blueprint for the Sustainable Development of Agriculture and Fisheries which is developed together with the agriculture and fisheries industries, with aims to create new opportunities, enhance competitiveness, and drive modernisation and sustainable development for the industries, while providing the public with safe and high-

quality local agricultural and fisheries products. The Government will continue to orderly take forward various measures under the blueprint to foster the growth of local agriculture, fisheries, and related industries. In addition to promoting their economic prosperity, these efforts will help preserve Hong Kong's cultural characters and ecological integrity.

**Relevant national and global initiatives:**

China NBSAP's Priority Actions:	1, 13, 16, 17
KMGBF Targets:	5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 16
SDGs:	3, 8, 12, 14, 15

- Priority Projects:**
1. Develop and promote local brands for agricultural and fisheries products
  2. Explore suitable locations in urban areas and new development areas for the establishment of commercially operated and modernised urban farms
  3. Provide suitable land and supporting facilities for long-term development of the fisheries industry and promote modernised and eco-friendly aquaculture practices for the fish ponds within Sam Po Shue WCP
  4. Enhance local oyster farming industry through sustainable and modernised management approaches

**Priority Action 2.9**  
**Promote sustainable consumption and waste reduction / recycling**

**Overall Targets:** 1, 7, 9

**Nurturing a culture of sustainable consumption and raising community awareness about waste reduction and recycling are essential to achieving a circular economy.**

To tackle the challenge of waste management up to 2035, Hong Kong is committed to advancing the Waste Blueprint for Hong Kong 2035 with a vision of “Waste Reduction • Resources Circulation • Zero Landfill”. The Blueprint sets out a long-term target to move away from the reliance on landfills for direct disposal of municipal solid waste (MSW) by around 2035. The Government’s strategy has two main directions. The first is to mobilise the entire community to practise waste reduction and waste separation for recycling in the upstream to reduce the overall waste disposal amount. The second is to proactively drive the development of downstream waste-to-energy (WtE) facilities for sustainable disposal of the remaining MSW. To achieve “zero landfill” in a timely manner and continuously promote waste reduction at source, we will take forward waste reduction and recycling work along four directions – strengthening

public education, enhancing recycling network, strengthening collaboration with industries, and utilising market forces to develop environmental infrastructure, in conjunction with the development of the WtE facilities, Integrated Waste Management Facilities Phase 1 (I · PARK1) and the planned Integrated Waste Management Facilities Phase 2 (I · PARK2), promulgating sustainable development of the environment.

**Relevant national and global initiatives:**

China NBSAP's Priority Actions:	1, 4, 13, 16, 17
KMGBF Targets:	7, 16
SDGs:	3, 4, 6, 12, 14, 15

- Priority Projects:**
1. Strengthen publicity and education on waste reduction and recycling by supporting community environmental education efforts and through various schemes by the Government
  2. Continue to enhance the level of public recycling services, and food waste recycling network
  3. Maintain the green specifications in “food and catering services”, such as sustainable seafood and organic vegetables, in Government’s green procurement list, while exploring ways to enhance its green specifications to promote more sustainable food options







**Priority Action 2.10**  
**Promote sustainable ecotourism**

Overall Targets: 1, 9

**Sustainable ecotourism in Hong Kong offers a vital opportunity to balance conservation and socio-economic development.**

For Hong Kong, a city celebrated for its vibrant urban landscape yet blessed with rich terrestrial and marine biodiversity, sustainable ecotourism offers a pathway to harmonise conservation with socio-economic development. By creating immersive experiences that highlight local ecosystems and biodiversity, ecotourism fosters a deeper understanding and respect for the environment among both tourists and residents. It provides local communities with alternative income streams while encouraging them to engage in conservation efforts. If revenues from ecotourism are partly reinvested into ecosystem protection and community projects, it creates a sustainable cycle where economic benefits support the health of the environment. Moreover, by adopting sustainable

practices, Hong Kong can set a benchmark for green tourism within the GBA, positioning itself as a leader in sustainable tourism development.

**Relevant national and global initiatives:**

China NBSAP's Priority Actions:	1, 17
KMGBF Targets:	1, 10, 11, 12, 14
SDGs:	3, 8, 12, 14, 15

**Priority Projects:**

1. Improve Country Park facilities and develop itineraries under the "Four Peaks" tourism initiative
2. Support projects related to rural revitalisation, cultural activities via various funding schemes, as well as develop leisure farming and fisheries (e.g. through "Agri enJoy" Scheme and "Fish enJoy" Scheme), to enrich visitor experience
3. Facilitate and provide guidance to guesthouse and food business licence applications in countryside areas to support eco-tourism development
4. Conduct assessment of carrying capacity of eco-tourism hotspots



## Area 3: Capacity Building

This strategic area focuses on bolstering Hong Kong's capacity for biodiversity conservation by upgrading institutional, technological and human resources. The goal is to enable every sector of society to contribute meaningfully and collaboratively to biodiversity knowledge building and sharing. We will prioritise sustained investment in scientific and interdisciplinary research projects that seeks to clarify the statuses of

nature, transfer and share knowledge in the society, nurture talents and deepen professional expertise. We will also seek to establish central facilities for biodiversity resources to enable citizens from diverse backgrounds to better understand nature at present, and live up to a world in harmony with nature at present and possible future evolution scenarios to build long term interest in conservation.





Priority Action 3.1  
Improve knowledge on local biodiversity and ecosystems

Overall Target: 9

Persistent efforts in monitoring and assessing local biodiversity are essential for informing effective conservation measures and ensuring the sustainable management of the city’s natural heritage.

A systematic approach to monitoring and assessing local biodiversity and ecosystems is the cornerstone for evidence-based conservation. It establishes critical baselines and tracks changes over time. While current ecological monitoring of key species (e.g. marine mammals) and vital habitats (e.g. coral reefs) provides invaluable data, significant gaps remain. Continuing to develop a List of Threatened Species for major taxonomic groups will allow consolidation of fragmented knowledge and identification of conservation priorities. Furthermore, enhancement of our capacities to conduct environmental-economic assessments of local habitats

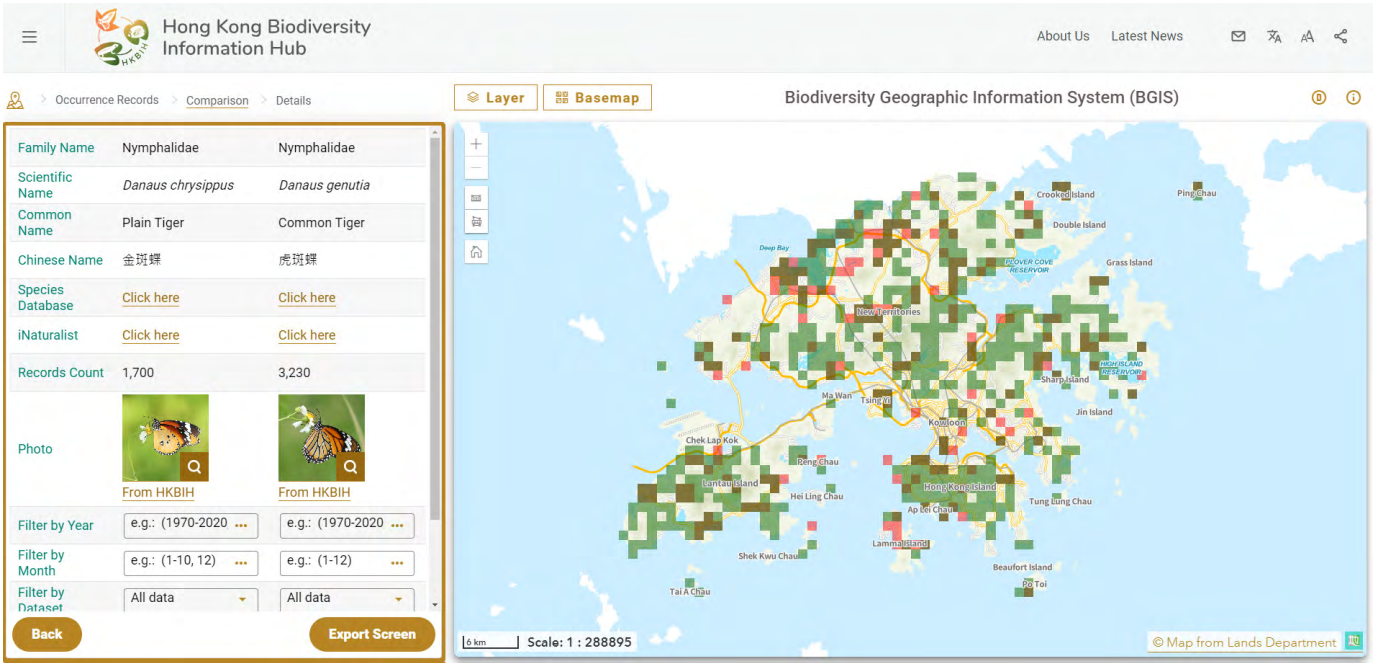
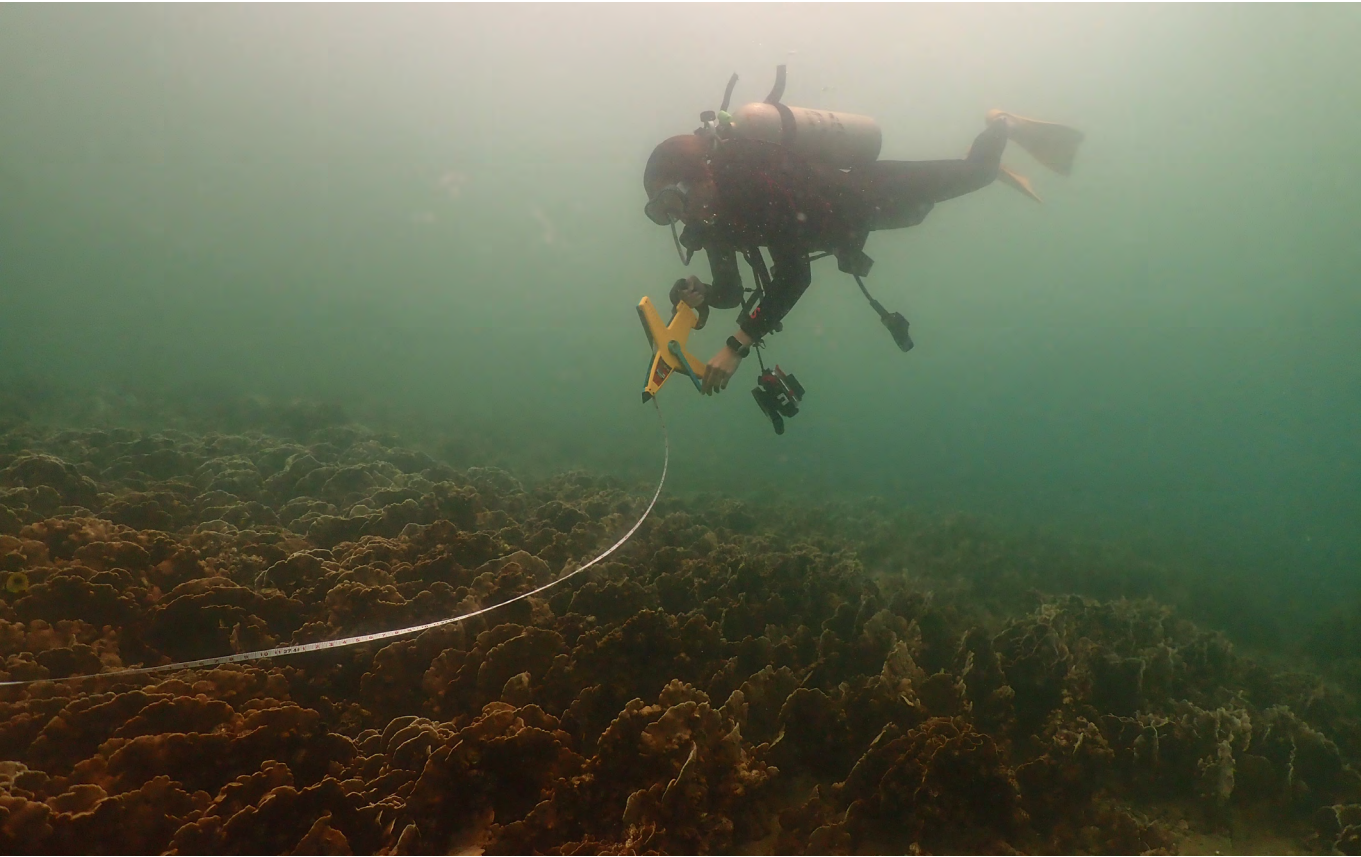
will support more accurate embedment of the values of ecosystem services these habitats provide in various assessments and decisions. As we move into the next phase of the BSAP, we will continue ecological monitoring alongside a series of assessments to evaluate the current status of local biodiversity.

Relevant national and global initiatives:

China NBSAP’s Priority Actions:	17, 18, 21, 22
KMGBF Targets:	21
SDGs:	14, 15

Priority Projects:

1. Conduct territory-wide biodiversity surveys of protected areas, important habitats and major taxonomic groups
2. Conduct case studies on environmental-economic assessments of Hong Kong’s natural and urban blue-green habitats
3. Conduct species assessments and compile a List of Threatened Species for major taxonomic groups



Priority Action 3.2  
Support research and enhance knowledge transfer and access

Overall Targets: 9, 10

Enhancing knowledge and its dissemination and accessibility helps raise public awareness and facilitates evidence-based decision-making for biodiversity conservation.

In the rapidly evolving landscape of big data, information has become a critical asset for guiding efficient resource management and enabling evidence-based decisions to address our city’s multifaceted environmental challenges. During the first phase of the BSAP, data platforms such as the HKBIH and HKED were established to provide stakeholders and the public with easier access to ecological and environmental data. These platforms consolidate extensive information on local species, habitats, and environmental conditions, serving to deepen public education and support environmental assessments. In the next phase, we will further support research that addresses critical knowledge gaps through relevant funding schemes such as CCFS, LCF and ECF, and enhance channels for knowledge transfer

and access. We will also encourage interdisciplinary capacity-building activities, such as organising the annual National Ecology Day events, and supporting professional institutions to hold forums on urban-rural symbiosis. Through a series of capacity-building initiatives and activities, scientific data can be translated into actionable guidelines that are relevant to daily life.

Relevant national and global initiatives:

China NBSAP’s Priority Actions:	21, 22, 24, 25
KMGBF Targets:	20, 21
SDGs:	4, 14, 15

Priority Projects:

1. Provide funding support through relevant funding schemes to fill information gaps and apply new technologies in biodiversity and nature conservation
2. Organise or support interdisciplinary capacity building events on emerging environmental topics to strengthen communication and knowledge/technology exchange
3. Continue to enrich the HKBIH’s databases and disseminate data from Environmental Impact Assessment studies through the HKED



Priority Action 3.3  
Establish and upgrade biodiversity infrastructure and institutions

Overall Target: 9

Hong Kong's long history in conserving and researching our natural heritage underscores the need to set up central repositories and support existing biodiversity facilities, to effectively showcase its biodiversity, support research and innovation, engage the public and facilitate environmental education.

Hong Kong has a long history of solid foundation in natural sciences, supported by dedicated efforts of numerous organisations, scientists, and nature enthusiasts committed to studying and preserving the region's rich biodiversity. With these precious contributions, to effectively showcase the diverse and fascinating species, the first phase of the BSAP successfully established the HKBIH as a crucial data repository. We may, build upon this foundation, explore in the next phase the feasibility of establishing facilities to house specimens collected from various ecosystems,

and include professional curation to ensure the scientific integrity and accessibility of these resources. By integrating both digital and physical infrastructures, Hong Kong can create a comprehensive approach to biodiversity conservation and education. In addition, the new facilities will support research, public education and conservation initiatives that are in alignment with government biodiversity policies.

Relevant national and global initiatives:

China NBSAP's Priority Actions:	4, 10
KMGBF Targets:	20, 21
SDGs:	4, 14, 15

Priority Projects:

1. Organise public education activities and set up an education centre in Shui Hau to raise the public awareness of the importance of coastal conservation and environmental protection
2. Explore the feasibility to set up Hong Kong Museum of Nature
3. Continue to support biodiversity facilities operated by tertiary institutions and other capable organisations



Priority Action 3.4  
Nurture next-generation talents in nature conservation

Overall Targets: 9, 10

To ensure the long-term sustainability of our city's unique biodiversity, a new focus is to build a professional workforce, moving beyond general public education to create a pipeline of skilled practitioners in the field.

While the first phase of the BSAP successfully raised public awareness of and integrated biodiversity into school curricula, it also revealed a gap in the development of a holistic and innovative workforce capable of effectively tackling these complex issues. To address this gap we need to develop training programmes and educational pathways that not only enhance scientific thinking but also equip students with practical skills in areas such as ecological research, habitat restoration, environmental policy, green finance and community engagement. Such training and knowledge acquisition may nurture a passion for nature and build environmental

ethics and a commitment to stewardship that are crucial for future conservation efforts.

Relevant national and global initiatives:

China NBSAP's Priority Actions:	4, 6
KMGBF Targets:	16, 20, 21
SDGs:	4, 12, 13, 14, 15

Priority Projects:

1. Provide training and internship opportunities, and co-organise higher education programmes related to nature conservation, agriculture and fisheries with local tertiary institutions
2. Continue to enhance incorporation of environmental education, biodiversity and field learning in all levels of relevant school curricula and STEAM programmes, especially in the context of sustainable utilisation of resources
3. Support talent development in green and sustainable finance by providing funding through the Pilot Green and Sustainable Finance Capacity Building Support Scheme





Smart hill fire surveillance system at country parks



Smart Wetland

**Priority Action 3.5**  
**Support conservation, monitoring, education and enforcement through technologies and tools**

Overall Targets: 1, 4, 5

Advanced technologies offer substantial potential for strengthening environmental and ecological monitoring capabilities, as well as enhancing detection of illegal wildlife crimes.

The Government has made significant strides in deploying advanced technologies to support conservation efforts, enhance monitoring capabilities, provide educational resources and strengthen enforcement against environmental violations. We will explore further opportunities to integrate innovative technologies into biodiversity conservation management. Examples of such technologies are the Internet of Things (IoT) sensors, for example, can play a transformative role in collecting continuous data across various habitats, providing insights into wildlife patterns, ecosystem health and the impacts of climate change, and the use of artificial

intelligence (AI)-driven analytics for conservation data processing. In addition, interactive digital platforms and mobile applications help dissemination of local biodiversity information and cost-efficiency promotion of conservation behaviours.

**Relevant national and global initiatives:**

China NBSAP's Priority Actions:	12, 14, 21, 22, 25
KMGBF Targets:	4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 20, 21
SDGs:	9, 13, 14, 15

**Priority Projects:**

1. Use of AI and IoT to support the monitoring and operation of Sam Po Shue WCP
2. Use of "Shark Species Rapid DNA Identification" technology that leverages AI to facilitate detection of illegal shark fin trade
3. Explore the application of technologies (e.g. unmanned aircraft, real-time satellite identification system, artificial intelligence, video analytics system and molecular tools) to improve enforcement efficiency and ecological monitoring

**Priority Action 3.6**  
**Adopt modern technologies and tools to foster sustainable agricultural and aquaculture industries**

Overall Targets: 1, 7, 8

Advanced modern technologies and tools will support the sustainable growth of Hong Kong's agricultural and aquaculture sectors, fostering high-quality development and transforming traditional industries through innovation and enhanced resource management.

The Blueprint for the Sustainable Development of Agriculture and Fisheries underscores the Government's commitment to advancing the sustainable growth of both sectors through modern technologies and practices. This includes actively assisting the industries in adopting the use of smart farming technologies, advanced aquaculture systems, and low-carbon production models, as well as strengthening research and capacity building to support sustainable resource management.

The aim is to drive these industries towards high-quality development, generate new business opportunities, and promote the upgrading and transformation of traditional industries.

**Relevant national and global initiatives:**

China NBSAP's Priority Actions:	13, 15, 16, 17, 24, 25
KMGBF Targets:	7, 10, 20, 21
SDGs:	3, 9, 12, 14, 15

**Priority Projects:**

1. Apply modern and environmentally friendly agro-technologies and farming practices (e.g. in Agri-Park)
2. Set up a new fisheries research centre in the Northern Metropolis focused on conducting modernised aquaculture research, carrying out research and development on breeding and larval culturing, promoting fisheries product development, demonstrating industrial practices and technologies, and implementing real-time monitoring



Modern mariculture demonstration farm



Mobile Hydroponic Cultivation System





## Area 4: Collaborative Partnering

This strategic area aims to broaden and strengthen partnerships across regions, industries and communities to strengthen conservation of nature for the benefit of more people. As nature does not recognise administrative boundaries, successful conservation requires concerted efforts. We appeal to stakeholders from diverse backgrounds and jurisdictions for jointly supporting the shared nature through complementary initiatives. Cross-boundary collaborations, such as developing habitat corridors and coordinating enforcement operations for combating illegal activities, better position ourselves to address increasingly

complex threats to nature such as wildlife crime and undesirable habitat alterations along wildlife’s migratory routes. Regional and international collaborations enable Hong Kong to learn from global best practices while contributing to collective environmental solutions. Engagement with the international community facilitates knowledge exchange and expertise sharing. By fostering exchanges with new partners, these actions seek to enhance existing practices and reap new solutions for biodiversity conservation, better bringing out benefits of nature conservation to more people through improved management of ecological resources.



Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site



Looking out to Wutong Mountain in Shenzhen and Robin’s Nest in Hong Kong

### Priority Action 4.1 Strengthen joint effort to conserve wetlands as networks, and support endangered migratory species

Overall Targets: 2, 9, 10

Joint efforts across the region targeting wetland conservation will also support myriads of wildlife depending on wetlands. Migratory species can also benefit from strengthening regional collaboration on management of their stopover sites along their migration routes.

Strengthening regional collaboration is critical for developing both marine and terrestrial transboundary ecological corridors that facilitate the passage of migratory species. A prominent example of such cooperation is the entering into a Cooperative Framework Agreement between the Hong Kong and Shenzhen governments in August 2024 for the Enhancement of Wutong Mountain (Shenzhen) - Robin's Nest (Hong Kong) Ecological Corridor, for cooperatively strengthening the protection of natural habitats with high ecological values at the boundary of these two neighbouring protected areas. Another example is the establishment of the Guangdong-Hong Kong Chinese White Dolphin Conservation Co-operation Platform in November 2025 based in the North Lantau

Marine Park of Hong Kong and the adjacent Pearl River Estuary Chinese White Dolphin National Nature Reserve in Guangdong Province. By further collaborating with regions beyond its borders, Hong Kong can play a pivotal role in bringing out and safeguarding ecological functions of connected or stop-over habitats, and supporting the survival of migratory species in the region.

#### Relevant national and global initiatives:

China NBSAP's Priority Actions:	2, 3, 8, 21, 22, 23
KMGBF Targets:	1, 4, 9, 14, 20, 21
SDGs:	14, 15, 17

#### Priority Projects:

1. Formulate and implement coordinated conservation measures and collaborative programmes with Shenzhen to jointly establish the Wutong Mountain-Robin's Nest Ecological Corridor
2. Strengthen cross-border collaboration for the conservation of the wetland ecosystem and wetland-dependent species (e.g. by facilitating cooperation and knowledge exchange with wetland areas/reserves in the region and along bird migratory flyway)
3. Conduct cooperative surveys / projects and exchange data on various species (e.g. Chinese White Dolphin, Black-faced Spoonbill) with neighbouring cities and region





Priority Action 4.2  
Step up cooperation to combat wildlife crime

Overall Targets: 4, 10

To effectively combat wildlife crime, a complex and borderless challenge that threatens endangered species and ecosystems, it is essential for Hong Kong to enhance cross-boundary cooperation with neighbouring cities through collaborative law enforcement, intelligence sharing and coordinated operations.

Wildlife crime is a complex, persistent, and transnational challenge. It is often perpetrated by sophisticated syndicates that exploit enforcement gaps, posing significant threats to endangered species and ecosystems. To effectively combat it, collaborative law enforcement interventions, intelligence sharing and coordinated operations are essential. Enhanced cooperation between Hong Kong and neighbouring cities can facilitate more effective enforcement actions. By sharing intelligence, resources, and expertise, we

can not only increase the likelihood of successful interventions but also create a unified front against a crime that severely undermines our conservation efforts. By fostering stronger cross-border cooperation, Hong Kong can significantly enhance its effectiveness in combating wildlife crime and mitigate its contribution to this devastating illegal trade.

Relevant national and global initiatives:

China NBSAP's Priority Actions:	2, 3, 4, 11, 23
KMGBF Targets:	4, 5, 21
SDGs:	14, 15, 17

Priority Projects:

1. Conduct cross-department operations and cross-border intelligence exchange
2. Organise joint education and publicity activities to deter wildlife crime
3. Strengthen Guangdong-Hong Kong joint enforcement operations and utilise newly developed tools to assist in the interception of vessels engaged in illegal fishing activities

Priority Action 4.3  
Take forward bilateral and multilateral cooperation to deepen exchange of experience and collaboration

Overall Targets: 7, 9, 10

Regional and international collaborations are essential for learning from global best practices to overcome hurdles to local conservation challenges, thereby improving one's sustainable efforts and contributing to collective solutions.

Challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss and transboundary pollution require concerted regional and international efforts. Engaging in bilateral partnerships with other cities or regions and participating in multilateral forums allows Hong Kong to learn from global best practices, share its own expertise, and collectively develop innovative solutions. Such cooperation facilitates the transfer of knowledge and technology, strengthens policy frameworks, and builds collective efforts against common environmental threats, ultimately enhancing Hong Kong's capacity to achieve its sustainability goals and contribute to global environmental governance.

Relevant national and global initiatives:

China NBSAP's Priority Actions:	2, 3, 13, 14, 16, 21, 22, 24, 25
KMGBF Targets:	7, 10, 20, 21
SDGs:	3, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17

Priority Projects:

1. Improve Deep Bay's water quality under the "Deep Bay (Shenzhen Bay) Water Pollution Control Joint Implementation Programme"
2. Strengthen co-operation and technical exchanges between the Chinese Mainland and Hong Kong in respect of modernised aquaculture, product research and development, and supply of fish fry and fish feed
3. Support cross-border research projects on topics related to nature conservation and sustainable development





Priority Action 4.4  
Participate in international organisations / platforms to facilitate exchange

Overall Targets: 6, 10

Engaging with the international community is vital for Hong Kong to enhance its ecological conservation efforts, allowing the city to share its unique experiences while learning from global expertise.

As a global city with significant ecological assets and challenges, Hong Kong is uniquely positioned to serve as a vital connector between the Chinese Mainland and the international community. Engaging global partners allows Hong Kong to share best practices, learn from diverse expertise, and contribute to collective environmental efforts. Examples of the knowledge exchange opportunities include the regular meetings of the Conference of the Parties of CBD, CITES, Convention on Wetlands. The Government from time to time also supports academic experts attending international

workshops. Such engagement enables access to cutting-edge research, fosters collaborations on transboundary issues like migratory species protection, and helps bridge different approaches to environmental governance. This key positioning allows Hong Kong to align its own conservation strategies with national targets and facilitate the flow of knowledge, capital, and technology between the Chinese Mainland and the world.

Relevant national and global initiatives:

China NBSAP's Priority Actions:	25, 27
KMGBF Targets:	20, 21
SDGs:	13, 14, 15, 17

Priority Projects:

1. Organise or participate in relevant international conferences, overseas training and duty visits to foster knowledge exchange and collaborations on nature-related issues
2. Continue to accelerate green banking and green finance via the Alliance for Green Commercial Banks



Priority Action 4.5  
Support cross-border awareness building activities and youth training programmes

Overall Targets: 9, 10

Facilitating cross-border connections and exchanges among youths not only enhances local conservation capacities, but also contributes to inspiring innovations and facilitating better integrated sustainable development across the GBA.

Cross-border awareness-building activities and youth training programs, particularly among GBA cities, can foster regional cooperation in environmental stewardship. These initiatives offer citizens in particular young people valuable opportunities to learn about conservation in practice, and deepen their understanding of national priorities in nature conservation and sustainable development; at the same time they promote cultural understanding and diverse perspectives that would

inspire collaboration. By engaging youth from various cities in addressing shared environmental challenges, these programmes help cultivate a sense of collective responsibility and empower the next generation to take proactive roles in protecting biodiversity and building a beautiful GBA.

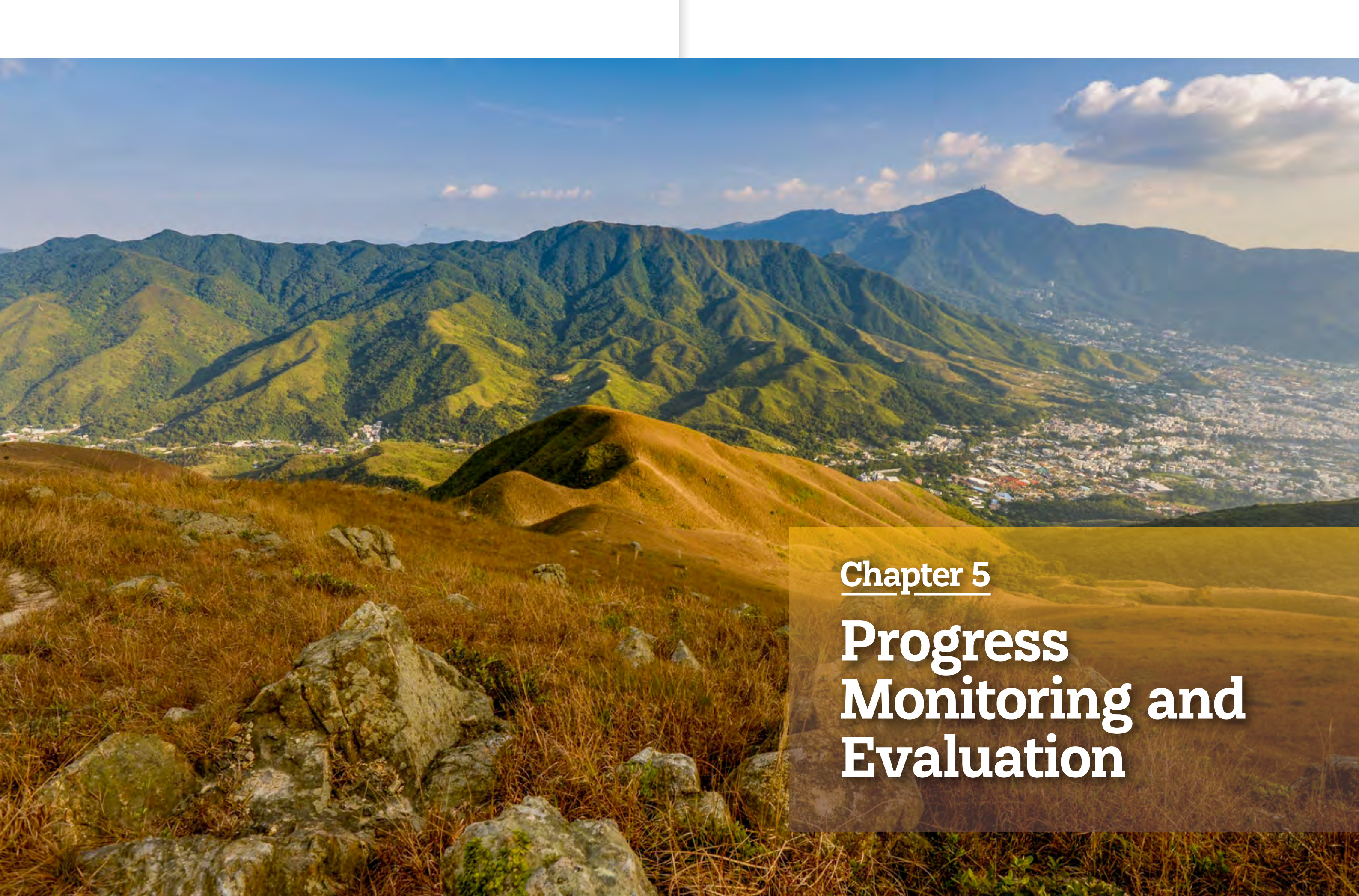
Relevant national and global initiatives:

China NBSAP's Priority Actions:	2, 3, 25
KMGBF Targets:	20, 21
SDGs:	4, 14, 15, 17

Priority Projects:

1. Organise exchange or other training programmes related to nature conservation for youth in collaboration with relevant non-local institutes or agencies
2. Organise publicity events to promote species conservation with neighbouring cities





## Chapter 5

# Progress Monitoring and Evaluation



5.1 Progress Monitoring

Throughout the next 10-year implementation period, the dedicated inter-departmental working group will continue to co-ordinate and monitor the BSAP's progress. It will also serve as a platform to expedite biodiversity mainstreaming and enhance professional capacities across the Government. To ensure transparency and gather expert feedback, we will report our progress to the

ACE annually, and consult ACE's Nature Conservation Subcommittee on specific BSAP projects as needed. A mid-term review will be conducted to evaluate all actions and make necessary adjustments, considering local and other new developments in biodiversity conservation, ensuring the BSAP is relevant and applicable to Hong Kong.

5.2 Evaluation and Impact Communication

To effectively track and communicate our progress toward the Overall Targets, we will adopt a suite of quantitative and semi-quantitative indicators, similar to those used by other cities in the Chinese Mainland. These indicators will measure key metrics including the expansion or maintenance of protected areas/OECMs, blue-green spaces, green coverage, all of which reflect the effectiveness of collective societal efforts. Data for these indicators, supplemented with relevant photos, will be presented through easy-to-understand infographics on the BSAP website to facilitate the communication of outcomes.

In addition, we will explore relevant composite indexes for indicating our city's overall performance in terms of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development (e.g. City Biodiversity Index<sup>3</sup>). Scores of relevant indexes and progress of actions will be consolidated via CBD-recognised online platforms and other publicity channels (e.g. discussion forums and social media platforms) to enhance impact communication. This integrated communications strategy will ensure broad public awareness and participation, fostering collective efforts towards the successful implementation of the BSAP.

Concluding Remarks

Building on the success of its first phase, this updated BSAP reinforces Hong Kong's resolve to safeguard our natural heritage through a broader spectrum of strategies and actions. It serves as a blueprint providing a crucial framework for protecting our rich biodiversity. Ultimately, its success will depend on integrating biodiversity conservation into all sectors and securing

a society-wide commitment. Nevertheless, through collaboration, we believe the next phase of the BSAP will empower new environmental stewards and help Hong Kong flourish as a city where people and nature live in harmony, while making valuable contributions to both national and global biodiversity targets.

3. The City Biodiversity Index (CBI) was introduced by Singapore at COP9 to the CBD in 2008 and was endorsed at COP10 in 2010, with cities encouraged to use it as a tool for evaluating the overall effectiveness of their conservation efforts every three to five years. It consists of 28 indicators across three main categories: "Native Biodiversity", "Ecosystem Services" and "Governance and Management of Biodiversity".

Appendix

Priority Actions		BSAP 2035 Overall Targets	Relevant Local, National and International Targets / Goals			
			China NBSAP's Priority Actions	KMGBF Targets	SDGs	
Area 1: Nature Conservation						
1.1	Establish new protected areas and explore application of OECMs	2	7 9	1 3	14 15	
1.2	Enhance management of protected areas and habitat connectivity	1 2 5	7 8 9 21	1 2 3 6 11	14 15	
1.3	Establish wetland conservation systems	2 8	7 8 9 16 20	1 3 10 11	12 14 15	
1.4	Enhance existing ecosystems and restore degraded habitats or declined biological resources	3 8 9	4 7 8 9 14 16	2 4 8 9 11	12 13 14 15	
1.5	Revitalise remote countryside and conserve ecologically important sites under private ownership	3 5 8 9 10	4 7 8 9 12 16 20	1 2 6 10 11 22	12 14 15 17	
1.6	Enhance actions in combating illegal harvesting and poaching, and protecting endangered wildlife	1 4 10	1 11 23 27	4 5	12 14 15 17	
1.7	Strengthen species protection, recovery and control measures	1 3 4 9 10	1 4 9 10 11 14 21 22 23 24	4 5 9 20 21	14 15	
1.8	Improve management of invasive alien species (IAS) and control of environmental release of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)	5 10	1 12 21 27	4 6 17 20 21	3 14 15	
1.9	Reduce pollution and excessive nutrient runoff to levels that are not harmful to the aquatic environment	7	13	7	3 6 14	
Area 2: Deepening Mainstreaming						
2.1	Connect people to nature and improve awareness of nature’s contributions to people	8 9	4 6	11 12	4 11 14 15	
2.2	Encourage responsibility and foster active stewardship of nature	9	4 6 18 21	11 17	4 14 15	
2.3	Encourage businesses to disclose biodiversity-related risks, dependencies and opportunities	1 6	1 5 27	14 15	9 11 12 13 14 15	
2.4	Increase financial flows from pro-innovation funding schemes and diverse financial resources to support nature conservation, green technology and sustainable development	1 3 6 8 10	1 5 6 8 14 26 27	2 12 19	11 13 14 15 17	
2.5	Integrate biodiversity and climate resilience considerations into city development policies, standards and decision making	1 8	1 14	1 8 11 12 14	9 11 13 14 15	
2.6	Encourage broad-based adoption of NbS and wildlife-friendly elements in the city	1 8	1 8 14 18	2 8 11 12 14 20	9 11 13 14 15	
2.7	Facilitate wider recognition and knowledge sharing of good practices supported by multisource funding	9 10	4 27	21	17	
2.8	Promote sustainable and modernised agricultural and fisheries practices	1 7 8	1 13 16 17	5 7 9 10 11 12 14 16	3 8 12 14 15	



Priority Actions	BSAP 2035 Overall Targets	Relevant Local, National and International Targets / Goals			
		China NBSAP's Priority Actions	KMGBF Targets	SDGs	
Area 2: Deepening Mainstreaming					
2.9 Promote sustainable consumption and waste reduction / recycling	1 7 9	1 4 13 16 17	7 16	3 4 6 12 14 15	
2.10 Promote sustainable ecotourism	1 9	1 17	1 10 11 12 14	3 8 12 14 15	
Area 3: Capacity Building					
3.1 Improve knowledge on local biodiversity and ecosystems	9	17 18 21 22	21	14 15	
3.2 Support research and enhance knowledge transfer and access	9 10	21 22 24 25	20 21	4 14 15	
3.3 Establish and upgrade biodiversity infrastructure and institutions	9	4 10	20 21	4 14 15	
3.4 Nurture next-generation talents in nature conservation	9 10	4 6	16 20 21	4 12 13 14 15	
3.5 Support conservation, monitoring, education and enforcement through technologies and tools	1 4 5	12 14 21 22 25	4 5 6 7 8 17 20 21	9 13 14 15	
3.6 Adopt modern technologies and tools to foster sustainable agricultural and aquaculture industries	1 7 8	13 15 16 17 24 25	7 10 20 21	3 9 12 14 15	
Area 4: Collaborative Partnering					
4.1 Strengthen joint effort to conserve wetlands as networks, and support endangered migratory species	2 9 10	2 3 8 21 22 23	1 4 9 14 20 21	14 15 17	
4.2 Step up cooperation to combat wildlife crime	4 10	2 3 4 11 23	4 5 21	14 15 17	
4.3 Take forward bilateral and multilateral cooperation to deepen exchange of experience and collaboration	7 9 10	2 3 13 14 16 21 22 24 25	7 10 20 21	3 8 11 12 14 15 17	
4.4 Participate in international organisations / platforms to facilitate exchange	6 10	25 27	20 21	13 14 15 17	
4.5 Support cross-border awareness building activities and youth training programmes	9 10	2 3 25	20 21	4 14 15 17	

# List of Abbreviations

ACE	Advisory Council on the Environment
AI	Artificial Intelligence
AMR	Antimicrobial Resistance
BEAM+	Building Environmental Assessment Method Plus
BSAP	Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBI	City Biodiversity Index
CCFS	Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COP	Conference of the Parties
EAAF	East Asian-Australasian Flyway
ECF	Environment and Conservation Fund
ESG	Environmental, Social and Governance
GBA	Greater Bay Area
GMO	Genetically Modified Organisms
HKBIH	Hong Kong Biodiversity Information Hub
HKED	Hong Kong Environmental Database
HKSAR	Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
IAS	Invasive Alien Species
IoT	Internet of Things
ISSB	International Sustainability Standards Board
IUGS	International Union of Geological Sciences
KMGBF	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
LCF	Lantau Conservation Fund
MA	Management Agreement
MAP	Management Action Plan
MEE	Ministry of Ecology and Environment
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSW	Municipal Solid Waste
NbS	Nature-based Solutions
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NNCP	New Nature Conservation Policy
OECM	Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measure
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
SAP	Species Action Plan
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
STEAM	Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics
TNFD	Task Force on Nature-related Financial Disclosures
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
WCP	Wetland Conservation Park
WtE	Waste-to-Energy



