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香港觀鳥會  
THE  
HONG  
KONG  
BIRD  
WATCHING  
SOCIETY  
Since 1957 成立

By email only

30 April 2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

### Comments on the proposed Lantau Development Concept Plan

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (HKBWS) objects to the proposed development plan for Lantau as it is a development-orientated “concept plan” which fails to provide adequate protection and conservation to important sites and habitats on the island, but instead provides a menu of developments that would cause direct harm to the biodiversity of Lantau. The failures of the plan are directly attributable to the fundamentally flawed process under which the HKSAR Administration appointed no-one with recognized expertise on the ecological value of Lantau.

Lantau has rich ecological resources, natural landscapes and cultural heritage due to its unique geographical location and physical features. However, due to loopholes in existing legislation (i.e. lack of Development Permission Area Plan), many important sites on Lantau (e.g. the water buffalo fields in Pui O) are already being degraded by current development pressures, and the proposed development plan would further add more pressures to the environment. Our comments and recommendations on the Lantau “concept plan” are detailed in the sections below.

#### **1. Lantau is of high ecological value and conservation importance**

Lantau is the largest island in Hong Kong. Situated at the mouth of Pearl River and having two of the three highest peaks in Hong Kong, the island has a wide range of nature habitats. In the sea, there are brackish and marine environments. Along the coast, there are seagrass beds, mudflats, mangroves, salt marshes, rocky shores, beaches and estuaries. Further inland, there are natural streams, freshwater



marshes, grassland, shrubland, woodlands, rocky cliffs and mountain peaks. All these habitats has nurtured an exceptionally rich biodiversity on Lantau. Various types of bird species are recorded, including woodland dependent species, open country species, montane grassland specialists, water birds, wetland dependent birds and raptors. As an outlying island located at the southwest corner of Hong Kong, migratory birds are also frequently found. Many bird species of conservation concern were recorded, for example the globally near threatened Grey-tailed Tattler (*Tringa brevipes*), the globally near threatened Chinese Grassbird (*Graminicola striatus*), the nationally rare Bonelli's Eagle (*Aquila fasciata*), the nationally Class II protected White-bellied Sea Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*), Brown Fish Owl (*Ketupa zeylonensis*) of regional concern and Asian Paradise-Flycatcher (*Terpsiphone paradisi*) of local concern<sup>1,2,3</sup>.

According to our breeding bird survey, the Mui Wo, Pui O and Shap Long area has the highest breeding bird species abundance on Lantau with a total of 56 species<sup>4</sup>. Other breeding bird hotspots on Lantau include Tung Chung valley and bay, Wong Lung Hang, Ngong Ping, Tai O, Yi O, Shui Hau, Cheung Sha and Discovery Bay. This indicates these areas have the preferred habitats for resident species and breeding summer visitors, and thus should be adequately protected.

A comprehensive biodiversity report was recently published by Philip Yip and Clive Noffke which documents the flora and fauna of Lantau, and is a valuable reference material for the ecology of Lantau<sup>5</sup>. Given its unique physical settings and the rich biodiversity it bears, we consider that Lantau is certainly a jewel of Hong Kong.

## 2. Current threats to Lantau's biodiversity

The Outline Zoning Plan (OZP) of South Lantau Coast was gazetted back in 1980, before the amendment of the Town Planning Ordinance in 1991 which was for the designation of Development Permission Area (DPA) plans and to allow the Planning Department to have enforcement power against unauthorized developments in the

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<sup>1</sup> Fellowes, J.R., Lau, M.W.N., Dudgeon, D., Reels, G.T., Ades, G.W.J., Carey, G.J., Chan, B.P.L., Kendrick, R.C., Lee, K.S., Leven, M.R., Wilson, K.D.P. and Yu, Y.T. (2002). Wild animals to watch: Terrestrial and freshwater fauna of conservation concern in Hong Kong. *Memoirs of the Hong Kong Natural History Society* No. 25, 123-160.

<sup>2</sup> List of Wild Animals under State Protection (promulgated by State Forestry Administration and Ministry of Agriculture on 14 January, 1989).

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

<sup>4</sup> Carey, G.J., Chalmers, M.L., Diskin, D.A., Kennerley, P.R., Leader, P.J., Leven, M.R., Lewthwaite, R.W., Melville, D.S., Turnbull, M. and Young, L. (2001). *The Avifauna of Hong Kong*. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society.

<sup>5</sup> [https://issuu.com/conservation\\_lantau/docs/lantau-hong\\_kong\\_s\\_jewel\\_publish](https://issuu.com/conservation_lantau/docs/lantau-hong_kong_s_jewel_publish)

DPA. However, a DPA plan cannot be gazetted after an OZP has been in place in the area. As a result, the Planning Department cannot carry out enforcement actions when there are unauthorized activities in South Lantau. For example, land filling and dumping in Pui O wetlands were seen but nothing can be done by the Planning Department to stop the destruction of these valuable wetland habitats. With such loopholes in the Town Planning Ordinance, Lantau is already threatened and degraded by the current development pressure. We are highly concerned the proposed Lantau development would add yet more pressure to the natural environment of Lantau and actively accelerate the destruction of existing and recognized habitats of high ecological value.

### **3. Lantau Development Advisory Committee (LanDAC) is of low credibility**

There were no ecological experts in the first term membership of LanDAC, such that they were excluded from the discussion and drafting of the proposed development concept plan. During the two years of discussion between 2014 and 2016, environmental NGOs were also not identified as key stakeholders and were not invited to offer views on the plan.

Furthermore, according to the terms of reference of LanDAC, the committee was set-up to *“advise the government on 1) the social and economic development opportunities on Lantau to capitalise on its advantages as the confluence of major transport infrastructure linking Hong Kong, Macao and the western Pearl River Delta, so as to meet the long-term development needs of Hong Kong; and 2) the policies, measures and specific proposals conducive to the sustainable development and conservation of Lantau”*<sup>6</sup>. This has already assumed that there is a need for social and economic development on Lantau, without investigating either the actual need for more development or population increase on Lantau and its surrounding islands or the carrying capacity this area might sustainably support. The committee also failed to propose any conservation measures. This is hardly surprising as it excluded ecological experts and environmental NGOs. There is no evidence in the Plan that LanDAC has made any effort to meet term of reference (2), and given its composition it was never in a position to do so.

We consider that the LanDAC is a pro-development advisory body, which drafted a development-orientated plan and misled the public into a one-sided discussion. The LanDAC should be dismissed, the current Lantau development plan should be

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<sup>6</sup> Terms of Reference for LanDAC <  
[https://www.devb.gov.hk/en/boards\\_and\\_committees/landac/terms\\_of\\_reference/index.html](https://www.devb.gov.hk/en/boards_and_committees/landac/terms_of_reference/index.html)>

abandoned, and there should be a more transparent system for public participation when drafting the development plan of Lantau.

#### **4. “Conservation” is an empty slogan**

##### ***4.1 No conservation measures proposed***

“Balancing development and conservation” was repeatedly mentioned in the consultation digest, yet, no solid and specific conservation policies, measures or actions were proposed. Even “Country Parks” and “Marine Parks” were discussed under the category of “Better Utilization of Natural Resources”, in terms of increasing their potential for recreation and tourism development<sup>7</sup>, which will cause negative rather than positive impacts to the sites identified. All protected areas mentioned were existing Country and Marine Parks, or proposed Marine Parks which are compensation/mitigation measures for various development projects in North Lantau (e.g. Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, Third Airport Runway). No new protected areas were proposed.

##### ***4.2 Ignorance of nature conservation on Lantau***

In the focus group meeting for green groups held on 8 April 2016, the LanDAC and the Planning Department responded several times that they have considered nature conservation when drafting the concept plan; therefore, they would apply the principle of “development in the north and conservation in the south”, which means to concentrate development in North Lantau and no massive development in South Lantau. We do not agree with this broad-brush approach nor can we find evidence of nature conservation being considered. Even in North Lantau, there are important habitats and areas which are of high ecological and conservation value (e.g. Tai Ho). Such a general statement misleads the public and give false hope to landowners that they can develop the land. The ecological hotspots on Lantau should be clearly identified and protected before developments on the island are planned.

During the meeting, we were also surprised that the LanDAC, the Development Bureau and the Planning Department do not know where the ecological hotspots on Lantau are and how to conserve them. We consider it is dangerous and unwise to launch a development plan without knowing the ecological and cultural characteristics of the place that will be developed. We are concerned the current development plan would only bring irreversible loss of natural habitats and biodiversity on Lantau.

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<sup>7</sup> P.12 and 13 of the consultation digest

### ***4.3 Proposed developments do not protect or conserve the local ecological and cultural characteristics of Lantau***

In its first term works report, LanDAC mentioned that four Short-term Topical Strategic Studies were conducted by the consultant for the Lantau development, including the Preliminary Feasibility Study on the Cable Car System from Ngong Ping to Tai O, the Spa and Resort Development at Cheung Sha and Sokos Islands, and the Study on Recreation and Tourism Development Strategy for Lantau<sup>8</sup>. We consider that all these proposals or ideas<sup>9</sup> would negatively impact the ecological and cultural value of the area, and hence should not be promoted. Below are a few examples to illustrate.

#### **4.3.1 Tai O**

Tai O is already packed with visitors during weekends and public holidays. The daily lives of locals, the tranquil atmosphere of the village and the surrounding environment have been adversely affected by the influx of visitors. Tai O may have already reached its carrying capacity, we consider that it is unnecessary to have a cable car system from Ngong Ping to Tai O to make the village of stilt houses even more crowded with visitors.

Tai O has a variety of wetlands, including mangroves, fishponds and marshes, which are important habitats for water birds, wetland-dependent bird species and migratory birds. These wetlands should be adequately protected from development. A study on the carrying capacity of Tai O should also be conducted to determine how many visitor the village could receive without causing irreversible impacts on the environment.

#### **4.3.2 Sokos Island**

Sokos Islands was proposed to be designated as a Marine Park by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in September 2014<sup>10</sup>. The islands are also breeding site for the White-bellied Sea Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*), which is listed as a Class II protected species in China<sup>2</sup>. We consider that it is inappropriate to promote spa and resort development on such an ecologically sensitive area as it increases the disturbance both on land and in sea (i.e. increase in human disturbance to the nesting area, increase in marine traffic caused by the connecting ferries, and potential water pollution from the development).

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<sup>8</sup> P.4 of the First Term Work Report of LanDAC

<sup>9</sup> P.15 and 16 of the consultation digest

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201409/01/P201409010318.htm>

#### 4.3.3 Sunset Peak

Sunset Peak is within the Lantau North Country Park. The upper grassland areas (above 300 metres) are important habitat for montane specialists including the Chinese Grassbird (*Graminicola striatus*), which is a globally near threatened species with recent records restricted to Hong Kong and South China<sup>11,12</sup>. Building stargazing and camping facilities at the mountain peak would lead to habitat destruction and increase in human disturbance, thus threatening the survival and breeding of the Chinese Grassbird and other species utilizing the same habitat. We consider that active management of habitat is required to avoid woodland habitat overtaking grassland habitat by natural succession.

#### 4.3.4 Tai Ho

Tai Ho River is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and an Ecologically Important Stream (EIS) recognized by AFCD. The mangroves, seagrass beds and estuaries are breeding and nursery habitats for horseshoe crab; while the woodlands and streams are foraging and roosting ground for Brown Fish Owl (*Ketupa zeylonensis*), which is of regional concern<sup>1</sup>. In the development plan, a creative ecotourism hotspot, such as an Iconic Botanic Garden, is proposed at Tai Ho. We consider that the botanic garden would not help to promote and educate the public about the valuable ecological features present in Tai Ho. If the “iconic botanic garden” means something like Singapore’s “Gardens by the Bay”, it should then be built in developed or urban areas in Hong Kong, not in such an ecologically sensitive area.

#### 4.3.5 Shui Hau

The ecological value of Shui Hau is well recognized as it was proposed to be a SSSI by AFCD. The mangroves, mudflats and marshes are breeding and nursery grounds for horseshoe crab. There is a high faunal diversity, especially in the intertidal area. It is also an amphibian and reptile hotspot. However, clam digging activities at Shui Hau is already damaging the ecology in the area. The proposed animal farm at Shui Hau would further increase the human disturbance and add pollution load in the area, adversely affecting the species inhabiting the area. Mudflats and streams at Shui Hau should be protected, where clam digging and other human activities are restricted. Shui Hau should be designated as a SSSI according to the proposal of AFCD. Education programmes or tours can be arranged to allow the public know more about wildlife (e.g. characteristics of intertidal flora and fauna) and learn to appreciate the nature.

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<sup>11</sup> <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/22715569/0>

<sup>12</sup> [https://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/publications/publications\\_con/files/IssueNo22.pdf](https://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/publications/publications_con/files/IssueNo22.pdf)

## 5. Our recommendations

### 5.1 *Protect unprotected areas*

Areas without statutory protection (e.g. northwest coast of Lantau) should be designated with DPA plans or incorporated into the Country Park system without delay to avoid any undesirable ecological damage caused by the imminent development pressure. DPA plans are also urgently needed for rural areas already covered by OZPs.

Wong Lung Hang should be covered by a DPA first before an OZP so as to give the Planning Department enforcement powers to protect the EIS and mature woodland in the area. Therefore, the extension of Tung Chung Town Centre OZP to Wong Lung Hang should be rejected.

### 5.2 *No development in areas of high ecological value*

All ecologically important sites on Lantau should be adequately protected with active management in place. There should be no development or infrastructure, except for conservation, research and education, in these areas. Buffer areas should be established to avoid development encroaching on these ecologically sensitive areas. “No-go” areas include Country Parks, proposed and existing Marine Parks, proposed and existing SSSIs, natural streams and watercourses with high ecological value, EISs, reservoirs, irrigation reservoirs, water gathering grounds, etc. Key ecological hotspots on Lantau identified by green groups are listed in Appendix 1.

### 5.3 *Highlight the unique and rich cultural and natural heritage of Lantau*

Lantau itself has a rich and unique natural and cultural heritage, which should be properly conserved and are important assets significant to the local community and all Hong Kong people. Apart from the examples aforementioned in the previous section 4.3, here are two more examples where sites of high ecological value should be comprehensively protected and actively managed.

#### 5.3.1 Pui O

Pui O is one of the last remaining buffalo fields in Hong Kong. There are also various types of wetlands in the area, such as mangroves, mudflat, fallow farmlands, streams and estuaries. All these habitats support a high diversity of flora and fauna, and thus should be adequately protected. The HKBWS has recorded over 180 bird species in Pui O, including Brown Fish Owl (*Ketupa zeylonensis*) of regional concern<sup>1</sup>, nationally endangered Malayan Night Heron (*Gorsachius melanolophus*)<sup>13</sup> and the rare Smew

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<sup>13</sup> Zheng, G. M. and Wang, Q. S. (1998). *China Red Data Book of Endangered Animals: Aves*. Beijing. Hong

(*Mergellus albellus*). The area is also a hotspot for amphibians and butterflies.

In the current Lantau development proposal, the recreational and tourism ideas mentioned (including Water Sports Centre, paragliding, Extreme Sports and Aqua Park) have no relationship with this important wetland and these proposed developments may even threaten the wetlands (e.g. site formation). Instead, the wetlands should be protected (e.g. avoid wetland loss caused by land filling and dumping) and part of it can be used for conservation and public education (e.g. birdwatching, the importance of wetland, the role of buffalos in wetland, flora and fauna in wetlands).

### 5.3.2 Mui Wo

According to HKBWS's breeding bird survey, Mui Wo has the highest breeding bird species abundance on Lantau with a total of around 40 species<sup>4</sup>. This is because of the diverse habitats in the area, including a range of wetlands and marshes. It also indicates that many of the resident birds utilize the habitats in Mui Wo. We are concerned the proposed Outdoor Adventure Park and Aqua Park are not compatible with the rural and tranquil setting of Mui Wo, and may lead to loss of natural habitats caused by the proposed development (e.g. increase in human disturbances, land/pond filling, tree felling, etc). If the farmlands, fishponds, and historical buildings are revitalized, we consider that the rich natural and cultural heritage of Mui Wo can naturally attract visitors and help supporting the local economy.

### **5.4 "Conservation" should come first**

Any eco-tourism proposed should contribute to conserving the local ecological, cultural and landscape characteristics. Eco-tourism should not be interpreted as "tourism based in nature" only, but it should be supporting conservation, educating the public about the environment, and with sustainable management. The concept proposed by the Government for the management of the Nature Park in Long Valley, and the preliminary management zonation for the River Nature Park in Tung Chung proposed by green groups, can be applied to areas of conservation importance on Lantau where a limited amount of human disturbance for eco-tourism can be tolerated. The conservation concept is to divide the area into three zones: 1) the "core area" is for nature conservation and active habitat management, where no visitors are allowed, 2) the "buffer area" is to protect the core area and low disturbance passive recreational activities can be provided in this area (e.g. guided tours for public education, birdwatching), and 3) "visitor area" is of low ecological value and away from ecological sensitive areas, where minimal-impact facilities for



education can be provided. However, no matter in which zoning, the ultimate guiding principle is “conservation should come first”, to avoid gradual deterioration of the environment.

#### ***5.5 Maintain traffic restriction and develop a comprehensive traffic strategy plan***

The strict traffic restriction of closed roads on Lantau including South Lantau Road has played a critical role in protecting the ecological and recreational value of the South side of Lantau and should be maintained. A comprehensive transport and traffic strategy, including traffic restrictions and permitting system for construction trucks and machinery, should be formulated and should be put in place prior to any proposed developments. This is vital to prevent air pollution, overloading the environmental carrying capacity, uncontrolled dumping, and incompatible development on Lantau.

Any new roads should be well justified, assessed (in the context of environmental impacts and cost effectiveness) and publicly consulted. No new roads should be planned in Country Parks, South Lantau and Tung Chung Bay, and near or in other ecological important sites (i.e. sites stated in, but not limited to, Appendix 1).

#### ***5.6 Strategic impact assessment***

A Strategic Environmental Assessment should be carried out which incorporates the impacts of all current projects, endorsed projects and planned developments on Lantau. All potential cumulative environmental and ecological impacts should be identified and assessed at an early planning stage to avoid adverse impacts on areas and species of conservation importance.

#### ***5.8 Plug loopholes in existing legislation***

Loopholes in existing legislation that hinder effective enforcement and protection of ecologically important sites and habitats should be resolved. This includes, but is not limited to, the formulation of DPA plans for rural areas already covered by OZPs, categorizing land filling as unauthorized development under the Town Planning Ordinance, and deleting the exemption for inert waste under the Waste Disposal Ordinance.

#### ***5.9 Objection to the East Lantau Metropolis***

We object to the proposed East Lantau Metropolis (ELM) development as it involves large scale reclamation which will bring significant direct and irreversible impacts on the marine habitats. No supporting information or statistics was provided to justify

the need for an ELM. We are also concerned about the direct and indirect impacts of the proposed transportation infrastructures (e.g. bridges and tunnels) and associated footprints of works including slope works on various terrestrial and marine habitats and wildlife.

## 6. Final Remarks

The whole approach of seeking opportunities for development without safeguarding the existing and recognized ecological value of Lantau is fundamentally flawed, one-sided and completely unacceptable. The HKBWS considers that the current Lantau development plan should be abandoned. A more transparent system should be put in place and a wider community should be involved in the discussion for a truly sustainable development on Lantau to conserve its valuable ecological and cultural assets for our future generations.

We hope that our comments and recommendations would be taken into consideration during the consultation process. Thank you for your kind attention.

Yours faithfully,



Woo Ming Chuan  
Conservation Officer  
The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society

cc.  
The Conservancy Association  
Designing Hong Kong  
Green Power  
Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden  
WWF – Hong Kong

## Appendix 1 - Key species/habitats of conservation concern in different areas of Lantau

	Locations	Key species/habitats of conservation concern#
1	Yam O and Sunny Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consisting of various coastal wetlands, including mangroves and mudflats</li> <li>• Two species of pipefish and seagrass recorded</li> </ul>
2	Tai Ho and Pak Mong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consisting of various wetland habitats, including natural streams, mangrove, seagrass bed, freshwater and brackish marshes and estuaries</li> <li>• Streams are habitats for Ayu Sweetfish</li> <li>• Important breeding and nursery grounds for Horseshoe Crab</li> <li>• Woodland and wetland habitats are suitable foraging and roosting grounds for Brown Fish Owl and Romer's Tree Frog</li> <li>• Tai Ho River is recognised as EIS and SSSI</li> </ul>
3	Wong Lung Hang, Pok To Yan and Por Kai Shan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over 200 species of native plants with more than 13 protected plant species recorded, including rare orchids and the globally vulnerable and regionally restricted <i>Rhododendron hongkongensis</i>.</li> <li>• A butterfly hotspot as recognised by AFCD</li> <li>• Presence of an EIS at Wong Lung Hang</li> </ul>
4	Tung Chung Valley and Tung Chung Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tung Chung River is one of the few large streams in Hong Kong remaining largely intact; recognised by AFCD as EIS.</li> <li>• The stream system provides habitats for many rare species such as the South China Cascade Frog and eels.</li> <li>• Wetlands habitats, such as mangroves, mudflats and estuaries, are breeding and nursery grounds for two Horseshoe Crab species</li> <li>• Proposed Marine Protection Area by local scholars.</li> <li>• Fung shui woodland and lowland secondary woodland are habitats for Tokay Gecko and Eurasian Eagle Owl.</li> <li>• Tung Chung Valley is also a butterfly hotspot which nurtures 148 species which comprises about 60% of Hong Kong's total.</li> </ul>
5	Coast of northwest Lantau (including San Tau, Hau Hok Wan, Sha Lo Wan, San Shek Wan and Sham Wat)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal wetlands are breeding and nursery grounds for two Horseshoe Crab species; two species of pipefish and Green Mudskipper are recorded</li> <li>• Proposed Marine Protection Area by local scholars.</li> <li>• Tall shrub and woodlands are habitats for many rare species such as Tokay Gecko and <i>Rhododendron championae</i>.</li> <li>• White-bellied Sea Eagle and Bonelli's Eagle were recorded.</li> <li>• The shrublands and wetlands in Sha Lo Wan is a butterfly hotspot recognised by AFCD; more than 90 butterfly species were recorded, including the very rare Grass Jewel.</li> <li>• There are natural streams in Hau Hok Wan, San Shek Wan, San Tau, Sha Lo Wan, Sham Wat (an EIS); many species of conservation concern recorded, such as the Globally Endangered Japanese Eel.</li> </ul>
6	Tai O	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consisting of various wetland habitats, including natural streams, reedbed, mangrove, freshwater and brackish marshes, mudflats and estuaries.</li> <li>• These wetlands are habitats for Mangrove Water Snake and the globally near threatened Four-spot Midget. They are also feeding grounds for ardeids and wetland-dependent bird species and</li> </ul>

	Locations	Key species/habitats of conservation concern#
		<p>migrants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seagrass was recorded at the salt pan area</li> </ul>
7	Luk Wu and Keung Shan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consisting of mature secondary woodlands and important habitats for various wildlife and flora species.</li> <li>• The stream system is complex and largely natural.</li> <li>• Keung Shan is an amphibian hotspot recognised by AFCD</li> <li>• Odonate and butterfly species of conservation interest recorded include Yellow-spotted Shadowdamsel (dragonfly of Global Concern) and the very rare Common Awl (butterfly).</li> </ul>
8	Yi O, Shui Lo Cho and Man Cheung Po	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A diversity of protected orchids were recorded in the ravine woodland, such as <i>Cryptochilus roseus</i>.</li> <li>• The mature woodlands and wetlands are habitats for Romer's Tree Frog and Eurasian Eagle-Owl.</li> <li>• Wetlands, such as reedbed, freshwater marsh, mangrove, mudflat and estuaries, are habitats for Green Mudskipper, and breeding and nursery grounds for two Horseshoe Crab species.</li> <li>• Highly restricted fish species, Striped Lesser Bream and Rice Fish, are recorded in the lowland streams.</li> </ul>
9	West Lantau Waters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Core habitat for Chinese White Dolphin, but the Tai O to Yi O section is unprotected</li> </ul>
10	Fan Lau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A butterfly hotspot recognised by AFCD</li> <li>• One of the first Danaine butterfly pre-wintering sites recorded</li> <li>• Important to migratory birds</li> </ul>
11	Shui Hau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wetlands, such as mangroves, mudflat and marshes, are breeding and nursery grounds for Horseshoe Crab.</li> <li>• An amphibian hotspot recognised by AFCD</li> <li>• A butterfly hotspot recognised by AFCD. A total of 162 butterfly species was recorded. One of the pre-wintering aggregation sites for Danaine butterflies.</li> <li>• The fung shui woodland is a reptile hotspot.</li> <li>• Was proposed to be an SSSI by AFCD.</li> </ul>
12	San Shek Wan (South Lantau), Cheung Sha and Tong Fuk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tong Fuk has one of the most important <i>fung shui</i> woodlands on Lantau which nurtures restricted and rare plant species.</li> <li>• Amphibian species of conservation concern recorded include Short-legged Toad and Romer's Tree Frog.</li> <li>• Tong Fuk is also a butterfly hotspot recognised by AFCD</li> <li>• The streams at Cheung Sha Sheung Tsuen, Cheung Sha Beach, San Shek Wan (South Lantau), Tong Fuk (an EIS) are largely natural. Fish species of conservation concern were recorded, such as Purple Neon Goby.</li> </ul>
13	Pui O, Shap Long and Chi Ma Wan Peninsular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wetlands in Pui O (include abandoned paddy fields grazed by water buffaloes, mangrove, mudflat and estuary) are an amphibian hotspot recognised by AFCD. Three-striped Grass Frog and Paradise Fish were recorded.</li> <li>• More than 180 bird species were recorded. Species of conservation concern include Brown Fish Owl, Malayan Night Heron and Smew.</li> <li>• Pui O is also a butterfly hotspot recognised by AFCD. More than 90 species of butterflies were recorded including Golden Birdwing and Common Birdwing.</li> </ul>

	Locations	Key species/habitats of conservation concern#
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are various streams and waterbodies important for freshwater fishes, such as Pui O Stream (an EIS), Shap Long Stream and Shap Long Irrigation Reservoir.</li> </ul>
14	Mui Wo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mui Wo has the highest breeding bird diversity on Lantau.</li> <li>• Wetlands, such as freshwater and brackish marshes, abandoned fish ponds and estuaries, are important habitats for water birds and wetland-dependent bird species.</li> <li>• Wetlands in Mui Wo are also an amphibian hotspot recognised by AFCD. Species recorded include Romer's Tree Frog and Chinese Bull Frog.</li> <li>• More than 80 butterfly species were recorded, including the very rare Rounded Six Line Blue and rare Yellow Pansy.</li> <li>• Diverse bat communities utilising the caves and tunnels. Rare bat species such as the Wrinkle-lipped Free-tailed Bat was recorded.</li> <li>• Fishes of high conservation importance, such as Dark-margined Flagtail, were recorded in the stream network in Mui Wo.</li> </ul>
15	Lantau Peak, Nei Lak Shan, Ngong Ping and Sunset Peak	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consisting of mature woodland, shrubby grassland and grassland habitats.</li> <li>• Upper grassland areas are habitats for montane bird specialists such as Chinese Grassbird and Upland Pipit.</li> <li>• Ngong Ping and Nei Lak Shan are butterfly hotspots (former location recognised by the AFCD). A total of more than 100 butterfly species have been recorded, including the very rare Striped Bush Hopper. Shek Pik is one of the butterfly aggregation sites in Southwest Lantau.</li> <li>• Ngong Ping is recognised as an amphibian hotspot by the AFCD. Species of conservation concern recorded include Romer's Tree Frog and Tokay Gecko.</li> <li>• Natural upland stream sections and seasonal streams are habitats for various protected plant species, amphibian and odonate species, such as Hong Kong Newt and Yellow-spotted Shadowdamsel.</li> </ul>
16	Nim Shue Wan, offshore islands of Lantau and South Lantau Waters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The waters around the Soko Islands, Shui Hau Wan, Shek Kwu Chau and Cheung Chau are core habitat for Finless Porpoise.</li> <li>• The waters off Soko Islands are habitats for both Finless Porpoise and Chinese White Dolphin.</li> <li>• Brown Fish Owl and seagrass are recorded at Nim Shue Wan.</li> <li>• Bogadek's Legless Lizard is recorded on Shek Kwu Chau, Sunshine Island and Hei Ling Chau.</li> <li>• Shek Kwu Chau and Green Island are nesting sites of White-bellied Sea Eagle.</li> </ul>

#Abbreviations used: AFCD - Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department; EIS - Ecologically Important Stream; SSSI - Site of Special Scientific Interests