



Hong Kong Green Strategy Alliance

香港綠色策略聯盟

Unit G, 7/F, Century Centre, No. 33-35 Au Pui Wan Street, Fotan, Shatin, N.T., Hong Kong.

5 April 2016

Biodiversity Conservation Division
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
6th Floor, Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices,
303 Cheung Sha Wan Road,
Kowloon, Hong Kong

Email: bsap@afcd.gov.hk

Dear Sir/Madam,

Response to the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

Hong Kong Green Strategy Alliance (HKGSA) is a non-profit making organization founded in 2012 by a group of professionals and stakeholders who are visionary and wish to undertake the responsibility on the issues of environmental protection and sustainable development. Through active participation, discussions and exchange of views in green issues, projects and technologies etc., HKGSA would offer our professional opinions and solutions to tackle green issues in Hong Kong and neighbouring region.

HKGSA would like to submit views related to the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. Please find enclosed our submission in Appendix for your perusal.

Should you have any queries, please feel free to contact me at 9032 3816 (drwklo@gmail.com) or our Honorary Secretary Ir Kenny Wong at 2788 5647 / 9482 3227 (irkennywong@gmail.com).

Yours sincerely,

Ir Dr. Hon LO Wai Kwok, SBS, JP
Chairman, Hong Kong Green Strategy Alliance
Encl.

Response to the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

1. Nature conservation to ensure biodiversity on levels of genetic, species and ecology is one of the crucial elements of sustainable development. Hence it should be considered holistically amongst all other concerns facing our society. Decisions made by the Administration and the society must be based on due deliberation on the possible impacts and the potential mitigation measures on biodiversity.
2. As always, HKGSA strongly believe that Hong Kong should follow the path of sustainable development which is built on three contributing factors which are the environmental improvement, economic growth and meeting social needs. No single aspect should dictate the decision without considering the other needs. Having that said, we also consider that appropriate mitigation measures should be taken to minimize the possible impacts on any of the sustainable development contributing factors.
3. We generally agree with the proposed actions as indicated on the first Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan (BSAP) with priority focus on the areas of conservation, mainstreaming, knowledge and community involvement.
4. On conservation, the proposed possible actions to maintain existing protection areas and the planning of new country/marine parks, fisheries protection areas are good measures leading to nature conservation. However, up to now the conservation plans for the 12 priority sites for enhanced conservation identified in the New Nature Conservation Policy in 2004 still have not been put in place and none of the public-private partnership schemes are arranged. The Administration should take proactive measures to review the situation and to identify improvement measures to ensure the New Nature Conservation Policy able to produce the effects that it is originally planned 12 years ago. In addition, there are also many public outcry over the inappropriate development in private land such as tipping of construction waste in rural areas. The Administration should adopt a multi-department approach to put a halt to this kind of inappropriate development.
5. The intention of mainstreaming to incorporate biodiversity consideration into planning and decision-making across the society, both in public and private

sectors, to achieve sustainable development are considered by HKGSA to be essential. We agree with the possible actions listed in the consultation document. In addition, we opine that the Administration should conduct regularly review of the various environmental quality objectives which form the skeletal framework to protect and conserve the environment. Toward this end, we appreciate the Administration's action to complete the review and formulation of the new air quality objectives several years ago. However, the equally important water quality objectives for the protection of aquatic life have not been reviewed and updated. The Administration should take immediate action to examine the adequacy of the water quality objectives in protecting the marine life to ensure marine biodiversity.

6. We agree with the possible actions proposed for increasing understanding of the status of local biodiversity. However, we consider that an action plan that clearly spelled out the specific areas to be investigated in the next 5 years should be properly formulated so that appropriate resources will be allocated to complete the tasks.

7. Only through the involvement of the whole community can we ensure the local biodiversity can be protected and enhanced. All the proposed actions stated in the consultation documents such as biodiversity education network, museum exhibition, agriculture and fisheries support, school programmes and business and professional sectors support are needed . In addition, awareness programmes utilizing mass media and internet to educate the general public should also be developed to gain their support to biodiversity conservation.