

KADOORIE FARM AND BOTANIC GARDEN

ANNUAL REPORT
2025 - 2026

70TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION



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MISSION AND VISION

Mission

To harmonise our relationship with the environment.

Vision

A world in which people live sustainably with respect for each other and nature.

Values

Sustainable Living

Appreciating the impact of our actions with regard to current and future generations. Having awareness of our connection with the environment. Valuing simple and responsible lifestyles.

Justice

Being fair and accountable. Valuing socially equitable systems that protect the health of the planet, the people and their way of life. Protecting future generations.

Love

Having self-awareness and understanding of the inter-relationship of all things. Having compassion and respect for all life. Recognising that outer discord is a reflection of inner discord. Striving for inner silence.

Participation

Engaging mentally, physically, emotionally and spiritually; fostering respect for different viewpoints, openness, dialogue and teamwork.

Professionalism

Being a role model of caring, integrity, commitment, professional standards and best practices for partners, organisations, individuals and communities.

Learning

Being adaptive and flexible to changing circumstances. Having a holistic outlook. Being practical, objective, creative and insightful.

Happiness

Appreciating that our happiness lies in creating and sharing happiness with others.



ABOUT US - OUR TEAM

Board Members

ANDREW MCAULAY
Chairperson

ANDREW BRANDLER

CHRISTINE CHAU

DANIEL R. BRADSHAW

DEBORAH MCAULAY

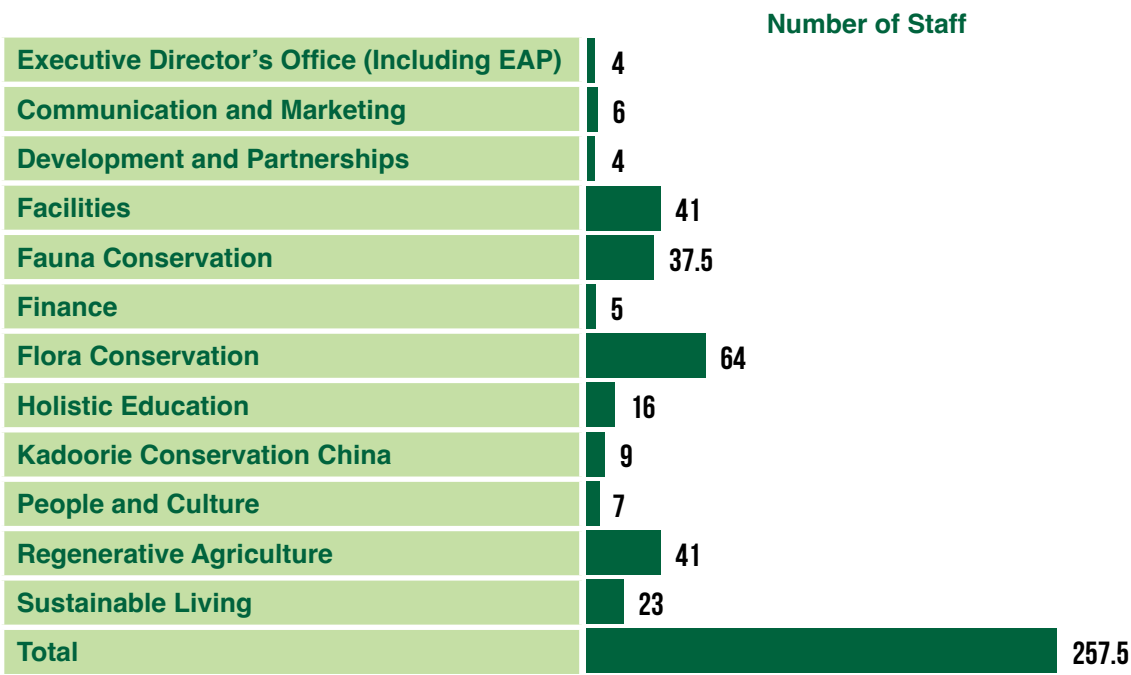
RUY BARRETTO, S.C.

WAI CHI HO

Management Team

WANDER MEIJER	Executive Director
VANESSA SO	Communication and Marketing
STEVEN CHOW	Facilities Management
DR GARY ADES	Fauna Conservation
DIANA TAI	Finance
DR STEPHAN GALE	Flora Conservation
JOSEPHINE WOO	Holistic Education
YANG JIANHUAN	Kadoorie Conservation China
IRIS PANG	People and Culture
KAREN KWOK & YIP TSZ LAM	Regenerative Agriculture
IDY WONG	Sustainable Living

Number of Permanent Staff as of 31 March 2026



THE THREE SITES OF KFBG

KFBG is a 'site-based' organisation, meaning that the location, surroundings, environment, nature, animals, plants, soil, structures, and heritage are all integral parts of our identity and mission.

I Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden

The largest and most well-known site is the historic Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden, established in 1956. Originally an experimental farm for agricultural aid, it was repurposed into a nature reserve and botanic garden in 1995. Today, it spans 148 hectares and is renowned as Hong Kong's nature treasure trove. KFBG offers a sanctuary for wildlife, maintains an extensive plant collection, and provides educational programmes that encourage conservation and sustainable living.



I KFBG Green Hub

In 2011, KFBG was granted permission by the government to revitalise the Old Tai Po Police Station. The Station dates back to 1899, making it the oldest permanent building in the New Territories from the British colonial era. This site was transformed into KFBG Green Hub in 2015, as a centre for sustainable living. KFBG Green Hub is an oasis of tranquillity and nature amidst the bustling city, providing an opportunity and inspiration for citizens to live more harmoniously with nature. It offers heritage tours, workshops, courses and activities, focused on integrated conservation, permaculture design, sustainability, low carbon living and eco-friendly practices.



I The Food Hub at HKU Kadoorie Centre

The idea for the Food Hub arose as part of KFBG's Kadoorie Earth Programme, conceived during the pandemic. Work began in 2022, following a vigorous planning process to guide the green interior fit-out, renovation and refurbishment works, and it was inaugurated in 2025. The project was rated Platinum in the latest standards of Building Environmental Assessment Method (BEAM) Plus. Other initiatives KFBG worked on were to improve the universal design and wildlife friendliness of the building. Together, the food and educational experiences at the Food Hub aim to inspire people to live sustainably with respect for each other and nature.



FOREWORD

This is a year of celebration. Our story began with the founding of the Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Association (KAAA) in 1951. When Hong Kong was still largely rural, the KAAA established its experimental farm site in 1956 to support migrants, primarily farmers, by sharing husbandry skills, providing crop seeds and offering micro-loans. For over 40 years, the KAAA 'helped 300,000 people to help themselves'. By the 1990s, with agricultural activities greatly reduced, the KAAA evolved into Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden (KFBG).

In the years since, we have embraced a new mission guided by three key intertwined goals: Nature Conservation, Holistic Education and Sustainable Living. Our 148-hectare site is now managed as a protected area for its rich and unique biodiversity. We also operate a Wild Animal Rescue Centre, conduct forest restoration and promote regenerative agriculture and holistic education. In the past year, we received 3,548 wild animals at our rescue centre, planted 5,600 native trees (including some very rare species), educated more than 40,000 students and welcomed over 80,000 visitors.

Over the past seventy years, Hong Kong itself has evolved from a rural, farming society of 2.6 million inhabitants with an estimated GDP per capita of US\$300, to a major international financial centre with 7.5 million people and a nominal GDP per capita for 2026 projected to be US\$59,640.

Yet, as our city has grown and evolved, our relationship with nature remains critical. In 2021, the government unveiled its Northern Metropolis Development Strategy, a sprawling 30,000-hectare integrated living and economic region in Hong Kong's Northern New Territories. Envisioned as an international innovation and technology hub, integrated with Shenzhen and the Greater Bay Area, it will eventually house 2.5 million residents and provide 650,000 jobs. KFBG is located at the

heart of the Northern Metropolis and, as such, we serve in an advisory role to the government, helping to shape the ecological and communal dimensions of the plans.

Today, only 2,500 farmers remain in Hong Kong, most of them are part-timers, with farmland occupying less than 0.6% of the territory. In spite of this, farmland remains profoundly important, supporting several objectives: green open spaces, community activities, recreation, food education, wildlife habitats, carbon sinks, alternative employment opportunities and more. We believe that this must be woven into the fabric of the Northern Metropolis and propose a Greenway Network to guide this approach. We see this serving as a blueprint for the future, combining agricultural, natural, and cultural heritage, while strengthening ecological resilience alongside economic development. Agriculture continues to play an important role for the future of Hong Kong, as well as for nature conservation, education, and sustainable living.

What we have done over the past seven decades – and what we are committed to continuing – would not be possible without the dedication and efforts of our staff who are passionate about their work, as well as our friends, members, funders, teachers, visitors and other stakeholders who continue to trust and support us. To each of you I say a most sincere 'thank you'!

This Annual Report highlights our achievements from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, a year in which we commemorate our 70th anniversary. As this is a milestone year, the report is more elaborate than usual, reflecting not only the year under review, but also telling the longer story of our Love for Nature.

WANDER MEIJER
Executive Director

KFBG'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY



From Roots to Renewal: 70 Years of Growth and Transformation

In 2026, we celebrate 70 years of evolving with Hong Kong—rooted on the mountain Kwun Yum Shan and connected to the wider territory.

Founded in 1951, the Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Association (KAAA) formally established our experimental farm site in 1956 with the purpose of helping people help themselves. Its early work supported rural farming communities through practical assistance and knowledge-sharing.

Over time, that mission has grown into a broader commitment: to foster harmony with the environment and to honour the living relationships that sustain people, places and nature.

This anniversary year is an invitation to look back with gratitude and to move forward with courage. Guided by the theme “Awakening of Memory,” we opened our doors—both on-site and online—to encourage people to rediscover the organisation’s history and reflect on their own connections with land, water and all living beings.

Awakening Memory, Loving the Land: Anniversary Highlights

The main celebrations took place in March 2026. Throughout the month, trustees, board members, staff, volunteers, long-term beneficiaries and members of the public joined in a series of retreats, workshops, public talks and outreach sessions.

As part of this journey were four internationally respected teachers and practitioners: Satish Kumar, Jhon Kwano, Colin Campbell and Claire Elouard. Their presence offered different pathways into the same core point: finding our place in a web of life, while living with greater responsibility and love.



KFBG staff joined Dr. Gary Ades, elder Colin Campbell to meet our “Animal Ambassadors”



Indigenous elder Jhon Kwano playing music alongside Dr. Gary Ades during a staff activity



Satish Kumar speaking to participants during the 70th-anniversary celebrations

Satish Kumar led the *Radical Love: Connecting Heart, Hands and Head — A Residential Retreat*, inviting participants to explore environmental responsibility as a daily practice rather than an abstract ideal. Through simple, grounded reflections, he reminded us that how we walk, eat, speak and make choices are all part of caring for the Earth. A public film screening and dialogue extended this experience, allowing more people to encounter his message of hope, simplicity and compassion.

Indigenous elder Jhon Kwano travelled from the highlands of New Guinea to share his wisdom rooted in song, movement and community. Through *The Power of Ritual: Breath & Steam — Immersive Experience* and *The Power of Ritual: Nature Vigil — Immersive Experience*, co-facilitated with Andrew McAulay and Colin Campbell, participants entered into a different rhythm of experience, one that invited stillness, courage and trust. In his participatory workshops and school outreach sessions, Jhon used story, voice and gesture to open a doorway for people of all ages.

Colin Campbell helped hold these spaces with care. His facilitation offered structure where needed and openness where possible, giving participants room to discover their own insights. He also introduced new programmes, like the *Awakening of Memory — Traditional Southern African Steam Ritual Experience* and *Awakening of Memory — Writing with the Ancestors and Nature Experience*, alongside sessions for NGOs and public audiences, allowing diverse community groups to engage in practices that combined reflection, nature immersion and, at the same time, be gently challenged.

Complementing these experiences, Claire Elouard led the *Loving the Land — Honouring the Trees at KFBG Workshop* and *Loving the Land — Grounding and Connecting with the Heart Workshop*. Through guided activities, participants cultivated attentive presence, self-awareness and empathy, strengthening their connection with trees, the present moment and their emotional well-being.

Awakening of Memory — A Day with Four Elders, facilitated by Andrew McAulay, offered a rare opportunity for participants to interact with Satish, Jhon, Colin and Claire, sharing meals, walking in nature, listening to stories and sitting in silence together. The day culminated in a collective dialogue on “Awakening of Memory,” where the four elders reflected on what it means to remember our relationship with the Earth and to act from that remembrance. This special day was a reminder that wisdom can be both soft and strong, and that community can grow from listening, as much as from speaking.



Claire Elouard facilitating the *Loving the land - Honouring the trees at KFBG workshop*



The KFBG 70th Anniversary: A Journey of Awakening and Discovery exhibition at the Plaza features eight thematic panels and interactive activities

Flower plaques crafted by Master Choi Wing-kei for KFBG's 70th anniversary



Across the site, the anniversary took other visible forms. At the main entrance, traditional flower plaques, an enduring symbol of rural celebration in Hong Kong, stood as colourful guardians of the festivities, echoing blessings, community ties and shared joy. At the Plaza, the exhibition “KFBG 70th Anniversary: A Journey of Awakening and Discovery” guided visitors through key moments of our evolution. Through thematic panels, interactive elements and volunteer-led tours, visitors could trace how an agricultural aid initiative became a leading centre for conservation, education and community engagement.

A JOURNEY OF AWAKENING AND DISCOVERY

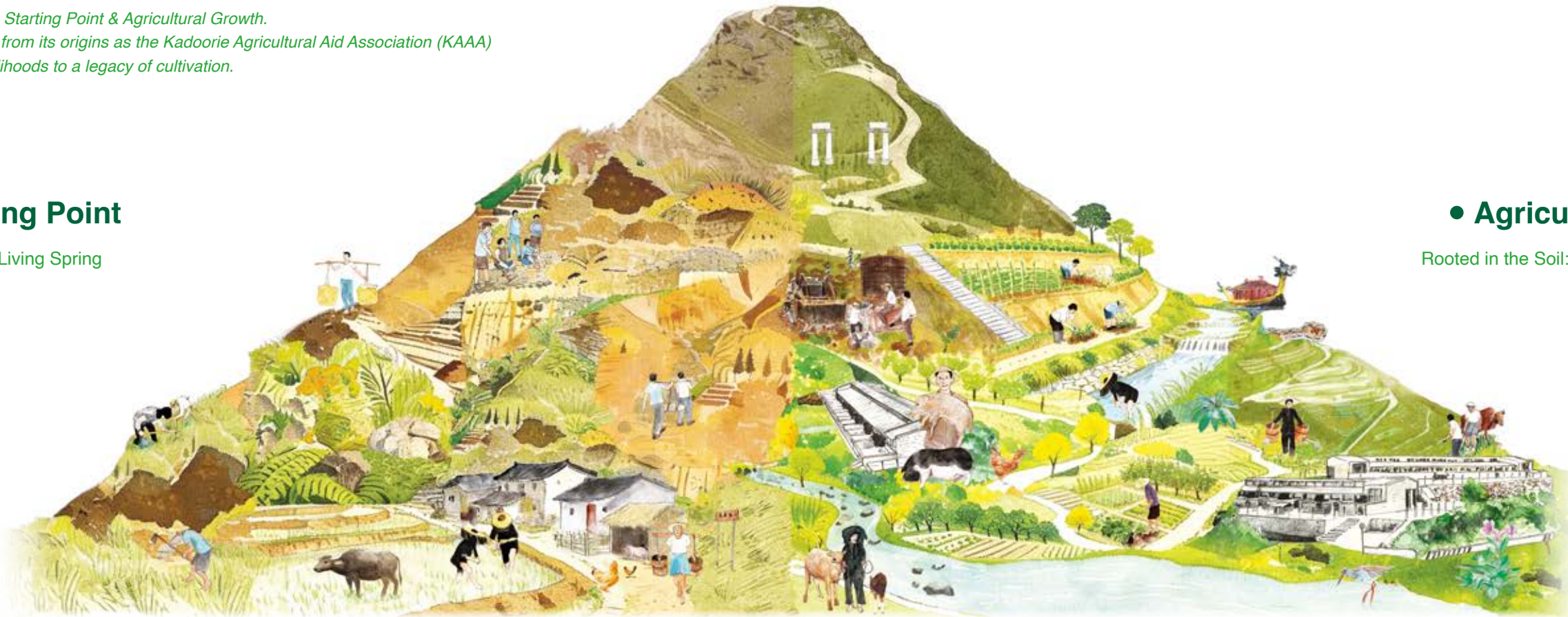
The 1950s–1970s: The Starting Point & Agricultural Growth.

KFBG's transformation from its origins as the Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Association (KAAA) supporting farming livelihoods to a legacy of cultivation.

1950s

• The Starting Point

Wilderness and the Living Spring



1970s

• Agricultural Growth

Rooted in the Soil: A Legacy of Cultivation

The 1990s–Present: Transformation & Today's Landscape.

KFBG's evolution from sustaining livelihoods to safeguarding biodiversity and fostering harmony between people and nature.

1990s

• Transformation

From Sustaining Livelihoods to Safeguarding Life



• Today's Landscape

Harmonising Our Relationship with Nature



Scan to continue the journey online and discover the fuller story of KFBG

The “Loving the Land” online talk series extended the anniversary spirit, offering a platform to reflect on ecological stewardship and the cultural and spiritual ties between people and place. Featured sessions included *The Role of Botanic Gardens in Modern Times – A dialogue between two sites of hope* by the Director of Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richard Deverell and our Executive Director, Wander Meijer. The dialogue explored how botanic gardens can be centres of hope and resilience in an era of climate and biodiversity crises; *Hong Kong Orchids: Elegance, Endangerment and Endurance* by Stephan Gale, which revealed the fragile beauty and determination of local orchids and the ongoing work to protect them; and *How Agriculture and Ecological Integrity Can Coexist* by Tsz Lam Yip and Jianhuan Yang, which shared practical insights into regenerative agriculture and caring for farmland as living ecosystems. Together, these talks wove science, story and reflection into an accessible series that extended our educational reach and deepened public understanding of what it means to love the land.

Amid all these programmes, one celebration remained close to home. On 24 March, colleagues from across all our departments gathered for a staff day that honoured the people who have shared the work for decades. The day began with a warm welcome from Andrew McAulay, followed by a cake-cutting ceremony and a joyful movement session led by Jhon Kwano. After a vegan lunch at the Plaza, the afternoon’s “70th Anniversary Special Edition” workshops, co-created by Kadoorie Earth Programme (KEP) teachers and staff from different teams, sparked cross-departmental learning and collaboration. More than a party, it was a reminder that our strength lies in the relationship that form the foundation of the care, creativity and commitment of our people.

KFBG board members, trustees, distinguished guests, and staff gather at the Plaza for a group photograph during Staff Day



Looking beyond this anniversary, our path remains rooted in the integration of conservation, education and community engagement. The past 70 years have shown that change begins with small, steady steps taken together, with farmers and families, with students and teachers, with local partners and international friends. As we look towards the next 70 years, the invitation is simple yet profound: to keep awakening memory, to keep loving the land, and to keep walking towards a future where humans and nature can live together in greater harmony.

Satish Kumar and KFBG's staff taking part in a collaborative culinary activity



Jhon Kwano leading a joyful dancing session on the steps during Staff Day

The Jockey Club Nature Conservation Centre: A Branch for the Future

The opening of the Jockey Club Nature Conservation Centre (JCNCC) on 21 January 2026 marked a significant milestone in our 70th anniversary year, linking seven decades of conservation work with a renewed commitment to the future.

Made possible through the generous support of The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust and The Kadoorie Foundation, the JCNCC provides much-needed working space for over 100 staff, together with enhanced facilities for visitors to learn, reflect and participate. This investment supports the continued growth of our conservation efforts, learning and outreach programmes, enabling deeper and broader impact in the years ahead. With programmes projected to reach more than 42,000 people annually, including children and people with disabilities, the JCNCC will create more opportunities for individuals and groups to connect with nature and to explore more sustainable ways of living.



(From left to right) The Honourable Sir Michael Kadoorie; Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Chan Kwok-ki; Deputy Chairman of The Hong Kong Jockey Club, Mr Lester Huang; and Chairman of KFBG, Mr Andrew McAulay unveil the commemorative plaque for the JCNCC



Releasing spotted doves rehabilitated at KFBG's Wild Animal Rescue Centre helped to commemorate the JCNCC opening

The opening ceremony was attended by numerous distinguished guests. Their presence reflected the importance of long-term partnerships in protecting Hong Kong's biodiversity, while affirming KFBG's role in advancing the city's conservation agenda. Looking ahead, the new Centre helps carry this work forward through closer collaboration, improved facilities, and richer public engagement.



Group photo of guests and KFBG staff at the opening ceremony

CONTRIBUTION TO NATURE, PEOPLE AND HONG KONG

We contribute to Hong Kong through an integrated approach linking ecological restoration, species conservation, education, sustainable living and community support. Together, these interconnected strands support biodiversity, deepen public understanding and build resilience in times of need. The highlights below offer a snapshot of our impact this year; fuller stories follow in later chapters.

Ecological Restoration

KFBG's forest restoration programme received Premium-Tier Certification from The Global Biodiversity Standard, with an overall score of 9.3 out of 10 — the highest worldwide so far. This recognises the programme's scientific rigour and holistic ecological outcomes.

IN 2025 ALONE:

A TOTAL OF **2,664** SEEDLINGS FROM
216 NATIVE SPECIES WERE PLANTED AT OUR RESTORATION SITES



KFBG's TGBS Premium-Certified forest restoration site

Wildlife Conservation

Through rescue, rehabilitation and field conservation work, KFBG provided care for wild animals in need while building knowledge to support species protection in Hong Kong.

3,548 ANIMALS RECEIVED



The first Great Knot WARC has received in 32 years

Otter Research and Wetland Protection

A two-year Greater Bay Area otter survey and citizen science work helped identify new localities and strengthen evidence-based wetland protection.

2 NEW OTTER LOCALITIES IDENTIFIED IN HONG KONG



Conducting fieldwork on the rugged rocky shore in the Greater Bay Area

Education and Stewardship

New nature-based education initiatives fostered deeper connections with the environment by engaging students and teachers in immersive, long-term outdoor learning journeys.

15 PARTNER SCHOOLS ENGAGED IN LONG-TERM LEARNING JOURNEYS



Empowering the next generation to learn, grow, and connect with nature

Community Resilience

Following the Wang Fuk Court fire, KFBG responded with emergency shelter, meals, supplies, financial assistance and psychosocial support.

SUPPORT ACROSS **2** TEMPORARY SHELTERS



Green Hub hosted weekly wellness activities to create a space for the community to heal

Regenerative Agriculture

The first Professional Agricultural Management Course equipped aspiring farmers with hands-on training in permaculture and regenerative farming.

20 PARTICIPANTS COMPLETED

100 HOURS OF TRAINING



Applying agricultural knowledge into practice in the Professional Agricultural Management Course

Impact Beyond Our Site

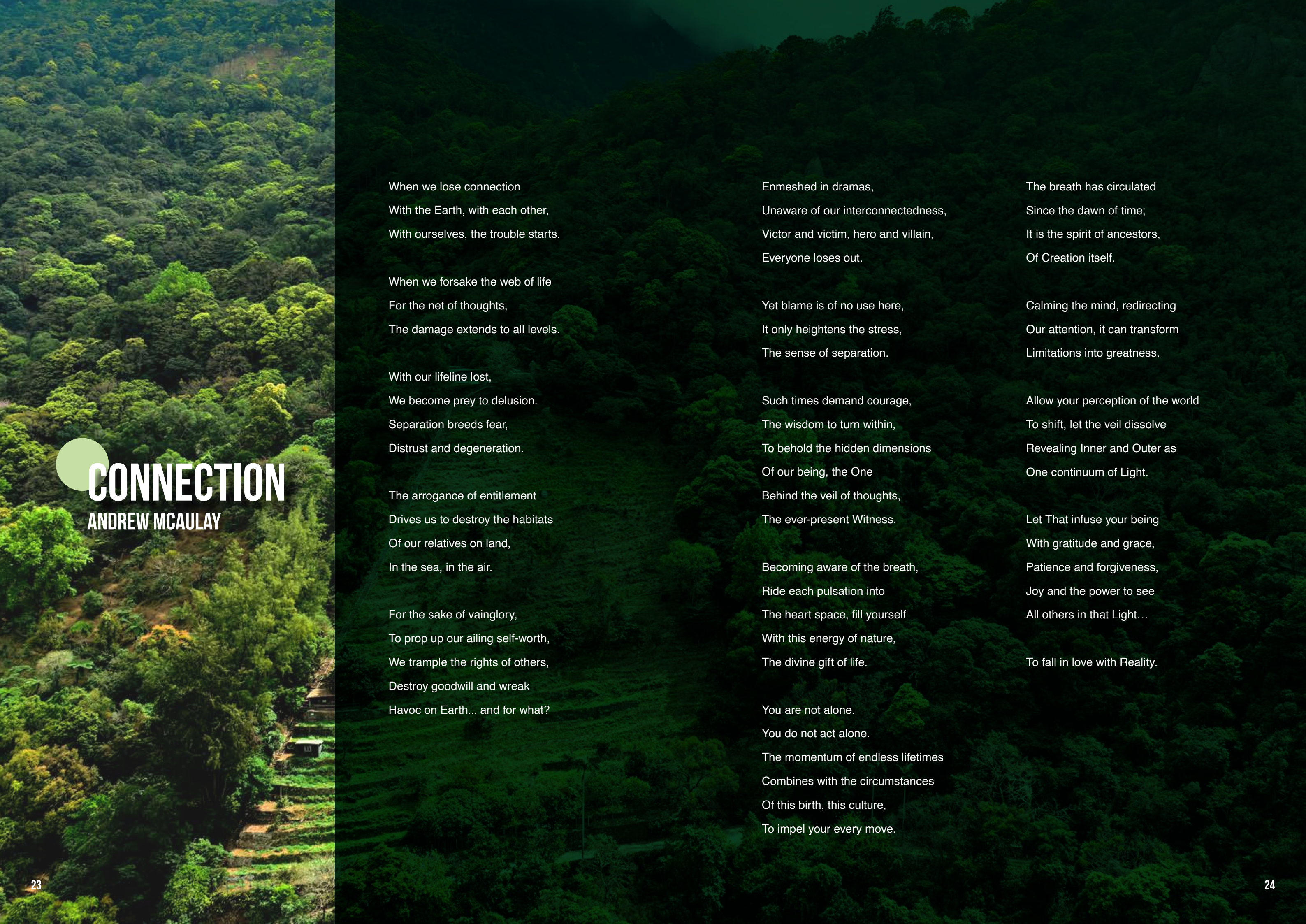
KFBG contributed field knowledge and technical expertise through advisory bodies, scientific networks and cross-sector collaboration in Hong Kong and beyond.

Engagement across government committees, IUCN specialist groups and NGO platforms

FURTHER READING

- Chapter 3
Conservation and Advocacy
- Chapter 5
Regenerative Agriculture
- Chapter 6
Holistic Education
- Chapter 7
Sustainable Living in Practice

- Chapter 8
Connecting with Community
- Appendix 1
Committee Overview List
- Appendix 2
Scientific Papers Produced



CONNECTION

ANDREW MCAULAY

When we lose connection
With the Earth, with each other,
With ourselves, the trouble starts.

When we forsake the web of life
For the net of thoughts,
The damage extends to all levels.

With our lifeline lost,
We become prey to delusion.
Separation breeds fear,
Distrust and degeneration.

The arrogance of entitlement
Drives us to destroy the habitats
Of our relatives on land,
In the sea, in the air.

For the sake of vainglory,
To prop up our ailing self-worth,
We trample the rights of others,
Destroy goodwill and wreak
Havoc on Earth... and for what?

Enmeshed in dramas,
Unaware of our interconnectedness,
Victor and victim, hero and villain,
Everyone loses out.

Yet blame is of no use here,
It only heightens the stress,
The sense of separation.

Such times demand courage,
The wisdom to turn within,
To behold the hidden dimensions
Of our being, the One
Behind the veil of thoughts,
The ever-present Witness.

Becoming aware of the breath,
Ride each pulsation into
The heart space, fill yourself
With this energy of nature,
The divine gift of life.

You are not alone.
You do not act alone.
The momentum of endless lifetimes
Combines with the circumstances
Of this birth, this culture,
To impel your every move.

The breath has circulated
Since the dawn of time;
It is the spirit of ancestors,
Of Creation itself.

Calming the mind, redirecting
Our attention, it can transform
Limitations into greatness.

Allow your perception of the world
To shift, let the veil dissolve
Revealing Inner and Outer as
One continuum of Light.

Let That infuse your being
With gratitude and grace,
Patience and forgiveness,
Joy and the power to see
All others in that Light...

To fall in love with Reality.

CONSERVATION AND ADVOCACY



Through our conservation programmes, we protect, conserve and restore species and habitats across Hong Kong and the wider region, from forests and wetlands to rivers and agricultural landscapes. Staff combine long-term ecological monitoring, habitat restoration and wildlife rescue with research that deepens our understanding of the pressures on local biodiversity.

Advocacy grows naturally from this work. Drawing on field data and collaborative projects, we engage with government agencies, planners, NGOs and community groups to promote policies and practices that are sensitive to ecological realities. This includes contributing expert input on land-use planning, wetland and forest protection, and the design of nature-positive infrastructure that can coexist more harmoniously with wildlife. At the same time, our teams share stories, findings and good practice through talks, publications, media outreach and capacity-building workshops, helping to build broader understanding and professional skills in conservation and animal care.

Community engagement is woven through these efforts. Public programmes, citizen science initiatives and partnerships with schools and local organisations invite people of all ages to take part in observing, caring for and speaking up for nature. By creating opportunities for direct experience, whether through monitoring species, restoring habitats or learning how to respond to wildlife in urban settings, we encourage participants to see themselves as active stewards of the living world around them.

The subsections in this chapter show in greater detail the work that we do, illustrating how evidence, empathy and collaboration can be brought together to safeguard species, influence policy and inspire communities, contributing to a more resilient and life-affirming future for Hong Kong and the wider region.

World-class forest restoration programme

Hong Kong’s primary natural forests were lost centuries ago due to environmental degradation. Where tall, diverse subtropical forests once stood, the region is now dominated by anthropogenic shrubland, grassland and low-diversity secondary forests, resulting from the historic expansion of agriculture and plantation forestry, together with ongoing hill fires and urban development.

Recognising the need to address these, we commenced trials of a small selection of native tree species almost 30 years ago to see which could most readily withstand the harsh conditions prevalent in the fire-damaged grassland at the top of the site. Despite setbacks and in the absence of any textbook guidelines on how this might be achieved, this fundamental research established first principles for overcoming barriers to forest recovery. Since the early 2010s, it has grown into a science-driven programme that now involves planting thousands of seedlings belonging to hundreds of native species every year. In the past five years, emphasis has been placed on understanding ecological processes to enhance ecosystem health. Today, our restoration programme demonstrates that investing in nature-based solutions can be a cost-effective strategy to mitigate escalating environmental risks.

In 2025, our forest restoration efforts continued at scale, supported by the planting of a diverse range of native species across the site. We first primed the land by removing exotic and invasive species, enhanced soils and opened the canopy of the existing low-diversity secondary forest to

create ecological space. In parallel, horticulturalists and other colleagues monitored and cared for seedlings planted in previous cycles and enriched the emerging young forest to incorporate species with specific needs (such as epiphytes, understorey shrubs and later successional trees). This approach is grounded in scientific knowledge of the flora of Hong Kong and is made possible by our seed collection and *ex situ* cultivation programmes.

Achieving Premium-Tier under The Global Biodiversity Standard Certification is a heartening affirmation of many years of learning about land and ecology and striving for the best outcomes for biodiversity and ecological function. Throughout 2025, we published numerous scientific papers reflecting a growing evidence base for this work (see *Appendix 2*). A foundational study (Zhang et al. 2025. *Journal of Forestry Research* 36: 56) found that the key determinants of seedling performance vary by species and shift over the course of early establishment, emphasising the importance of both spatial and temporal scales in the restoration process, and highlighting the utility of tree guards for improving survivorship and growth.

To better understand biomass accumulation in diverse native trees, our team along with many volunteers spearheaded a large-scale census of close to 4,000 seedlings planted at different time points within our forest restoration site over the past 13 years. By measuring the height and girth of each tree, and by plotting their location in detailed maps, we are able to generate a three-dimensional picture of how our new native forest is performing over time, enabling us to quantify growth rates and carbon sequestration potential.

Restoration Site in 2004



Restoration Site in 2015



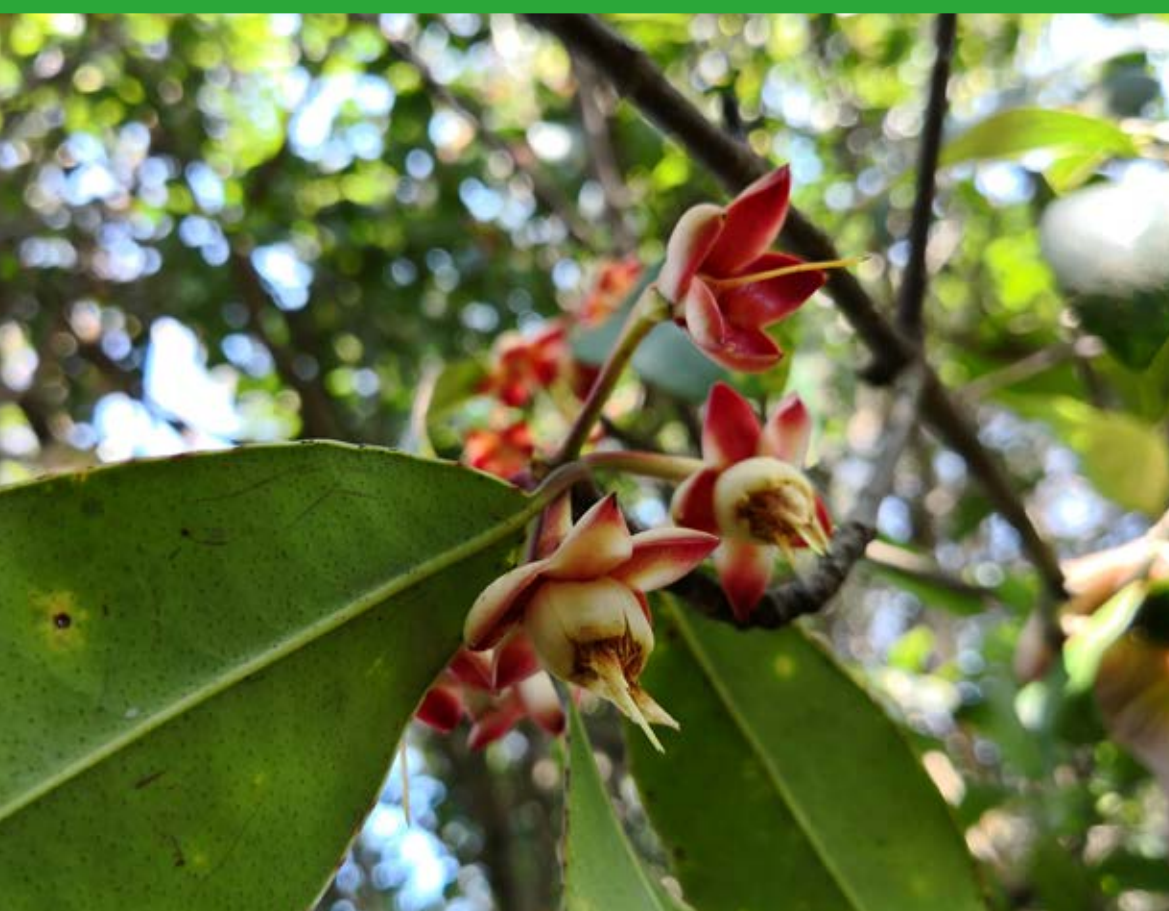
Restoration Site in 2025



Seeds being collected for Native Tree Nursery



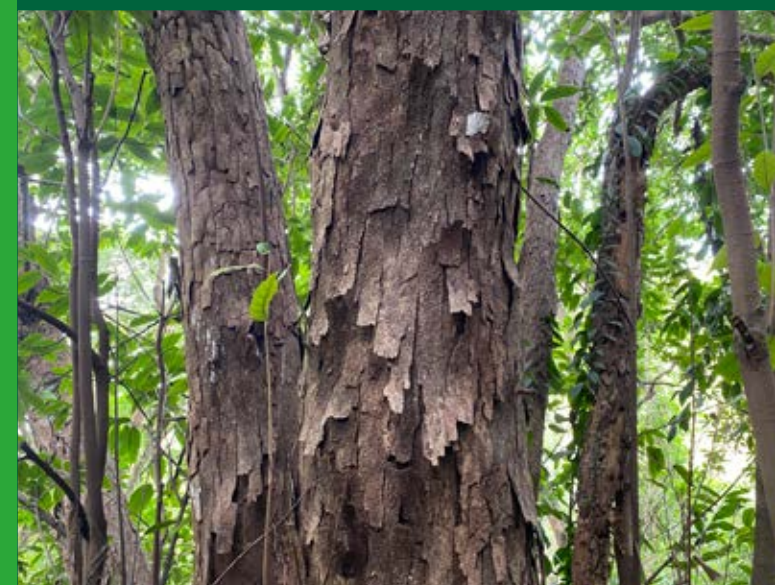
Volunteer assists with tree census



For the first time, a handful of individuals of Hainan Anneslea (Anneslea fragrans) were planted



Planting male and female Hairy-leaved Holly (Ilex dasyphylla) seedlings in close proximity to ensure seed set



The shaggy bark of Green's Chestnut (Castanopsis kawakamii)



Several seedlings of Ford's Fan Palm (Licuala fordiana) were planted into maturing restored forest



Tree climber hand-pollinating a *Fragrant Magnolia* (*Magnolia odora*)



Purple Dragonfly Orchid (*Nervilia plicata*) was identified as a priority for local conservation

Prioritising Hong Kong's threatened plants for conservation

In February 2026, KFBG was granted a special permit by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) to conduct hand-pollination and air-layering of Hong Kong's two remaining *Fragrant Magnolia* (*Magnolia odora*) trees, which are located too far apart in different Country Parks to cross-pollinate naturally. We accessed the trees' crowns to monitor the onset of female and male flowering phases, enabling pollen transfer as the trees came into bloom. We await the result of this union, but successful fruit formation will be a major breakthrough for the conservation of this magnificent but highly threatened tree.

Meanwhile, our orchid experts reached a milestone as they followed through on recommendations laid out in our 2020 Species Action Plan for the critically endangered Long-eared Dog Orchid (*Bulbophyllum bicolor*). With the assistance of the AFCD, we reintroduced 200 seedlings, raised from local provenance seed in our micropropagation facility, across five undisclosed locations. This effort increased the number of genetically distinct individuals present in the wild in Hong Kong more than tenfold. Monitoring will continue for the coming years to examine whether this population augmentation can overcome the barriers to reproduction the species has faced. The orchid team is now expanding its focus, and through the year seeds from more than 85 species were germinated and almost 8,000 plantlets were hardened in our nurseries.

We mounted many orchids and epiphytic ferns raised in our nurseries on carefully chosen trunks and branches in the Walter Kerr Garden, high up and out of reach of potential poachers. Elsewhere, more than 130 individuals of 40 native herbs, shrubs and trees were planted in the Butterfly Garden, including the extremely rare Chinese *Spiraea* (*Spiraea chinensis*), which

Chinese *Gmelina* (*Gmelina chinensis*), a protected species, planted in the Butterfly Garden



produces elegant clusters of white flowers that are an excellent nectar source for local butterflies. Across the Lower Hillside, including the new landscape around the JCNCC, more than 250 species were planted out, including the very rare Willow Plum (*Flacourtia rukam*), grown from seed sourced from a newly discovered location, and the protected Chinese *Gmelina* (*Gmelina chinensis*) and Ford's crepe Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia fordii*).

In total, our field teams collected seeds and cuttings of more than 500 native species, including several rare and threatened trees. These included the Hairy Chestnut (*Castanopsis concinna*), a large oak with edible chestnut-like nuts that was extensively logged in the past for its excellent timber and is now a 'Class II' protected species in China, and Pointed-leaf Privet (*Ligustrum punctifolium*), a shrub that was first discovered in Hong Kong and is still not recorded anywhere else in China. We also secured propagules of the ancient relict conifer Fortune's Keteleeria (*Keteleeria fortunei*), Maud's Magnolia (*Magnolia maudiae*), Champion's Azalea (*Rhododendron championiae*) and the endemic Hong Kong Hornbeam (*Carpinus insularis*).

Documenting diversity through herbarium science

Field surveys took our botanists to remote corners of Hong Kong in search of rarities, resulting in the collection of more than 300 specimens for our herbarium. Locations included Tung Ping Chau, Po Toi, Double Island, Lantau Peak and Sai Kung. Work continues towards a comprehensive update to the *Checklist of Plants of KFBG*, first published in 2004. More than 40,000 photos have been taken to document plants across our site. Species are being formally identified from the georeferenced photos and specimens, leading to the synthesis of an occurrence database, which will underpin the new checklist. During the course of these surveys, the small herbaceous Javan Speedwell (*Veronica javanica*) was discovered growing on-site, the first time this species has been recorded in Hong Kong. The new database and checklist will be ready by the end of 2026.



Berries of Pointed-leaf Privet (*Ligustrum punctifolium*)



Chinese *Spiraea* (*Spiraea chinensis*), a very rare species, in bloom in the Butterfly Garden

FAUNA CONSERVATION

Ensuring Hong Kong's Wildlife Thrive

We work to reduce extinction risk for endangered species, mitigate the impacts of human activity on nature, and conserve and enhance wild habitats, while also providing meaningful nature education opportunities. Through this combined approach, our aim is to ensure that Hong Kong's biodiversity thrives and can be enjoyed by future generations. Our wildlife rescue work provides both professional care for injured local wild animals as well as supporting the authorities with wildlife trade enforcement actions.

Wild Animal Rescue: Meeting Demand with Specialist Care

From April 2025 to March 2026, the WARC received 2,830 animals, plus 718 stray snakes from human conflict mitigation cases, making a total of 3,548 animals. This clearly reflects both the importance of and demand for, emergency wildlife care.

The spring and summer were particularly busy, with more than 1,480 admissions recorded in the four months between April and July 2025, including 1,191 juvenile birds during the peak breeding season. Later in the year, rescue work continued with significant admissions of birds, mammals and reptiles, as well as confiscated and stray exotic animals requiring specialist assessment, quarantine, treatment and placement locally or overseas.

Some cases during the year reflected both the diversity of animals admitted and the depth of care our team can provide. These included the successful treatment and release of an endangered Black-faced Spoonbill after supportive care and satellite tagging, the rehabilitation and release of an endangered Great Knot, the fostering and release of a nestling Francolin, and the soft release of several Chinese Noctule Bats, some of which returned to a feeding station prepared by rescue staff. Other cases were a reminder of the challenges of rescue work, especially where animals arrived with cruelty-related injuries, severe trauma, or conditions that left them unreleasable



Successful release of the endangered Great Knot



Feeding milk to an unweaned Chinese Noctule Bat

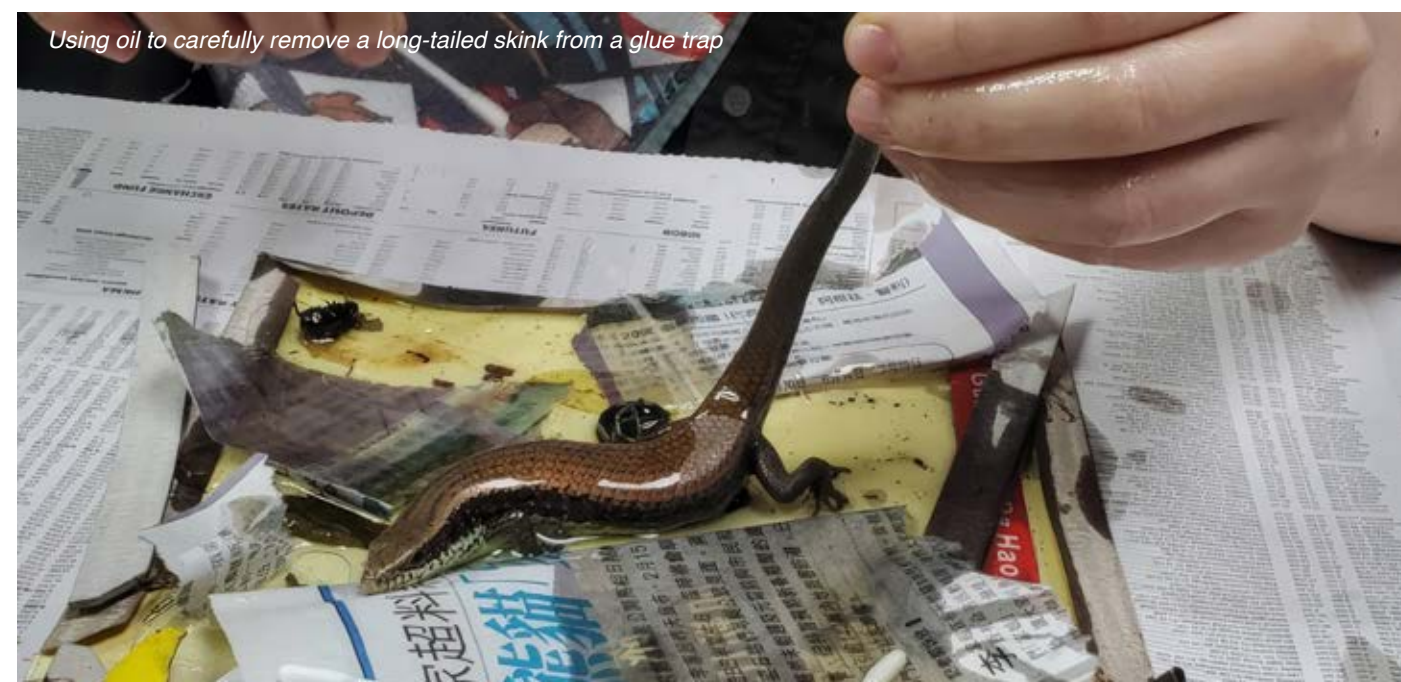
because of long-term impairment or imprinting. We were also able to rehome stray and confiscated wildlife to partner institutions for adoption, conservation breeding and education.

This period also saw 175 animals admitted after being caught in glue traps, most of them birds, from small Eurasian Tree Sparrows to large Eurasian Eagle Owls. Seven reptiles were also rescued, including common geckos and skinks. Of these animals, 77 have since been released, while five remain under rehabilitation. Alongside rescue and treatment, we published six social media posts to raise public awareness of the harm caused by glue traps, and continued to highlight this issue through media interviews and public education.

Species Conservation in Action

For the critically endangered Golden Coin Turtle, we made progress in planning for its future conservation, including support for a release programme aimed at returning the species to the wild.

Territory-wide, species-focused conservation also continued through the Romer's Tree Frog project, which saw a successful season. Significant numbers of adult frogs were recorded calling at conservation sites during the wetter months, and some of the earliest signs of activity were noted in December 2025 as the 2026 breeding season approached.



Using oil to carefully remove a long-tailed skink from a glue trap



Romer's Tree Frog documented in a frog survey

Habitat Loss, Human-wildlife Conflict and Practical Mitigation

The urbanisation of Hong Kong continues to present challenges to local biodiversity, but also provides opportunities for improvement and innovation to move the territory's relationship with wildlife towards one of greater harmony. With a population of over 7.5 million people, and a built environment of more than 50,000 buildings, 2,500 km of roads and 250 km of above-ground rail tracks, Hong Kong's development continues at an intense pace. At only 1,100 km², Hong Kong is a relatively small space, and the pace of human development is placing increasing pressure on the city's green spaces. Urbanisation and sprawl continue to reduce and fragment wild habitats, removing wildlife homes and often directly harming individual animals. The growth of road and rail systems, together with industrial and residential expansion, is shrinking and fragmenting the spaces in which wildlife can thrive. Infrastructure designed primarily for human purposes rarely considers its impacts on nature. We are working to help counter this through multiple aspects of our work.

Helping to test and improve animal-friendly devices *in situ* became a valuable thirteen-month consultancy action. Commencing in December 2025, the CEDD project involved monitoring wildlife escape devices installed in deep catchwater channels on Lantau, where animals such as barking deer, porcupines and snakes can become trapped. The aim is to establish effective escape options for the widest possible range of potentially trapped animals. The purpose of the project is to increase the effectiveness of these escape devices, helping to save wild animals while also reducing the barrier that such channels can present to the movement of larger wildlife. When successful, this model can be replicated elsewhere, both within and beyond country parks where similar challenges are encountered.

The hand-raised Chinese Francolin before release



KFBG staff and the ICAT Conference attendees

Knowledge Exchange, Professional Outreach and Regional Collaboration

In March 2026, we deepened our commitment to collaborative conservation by sharing our expertise at the first International Conference on Integrated Conservation of Asian Turtles (ICAT) in Hong Kong. During the event, we shared challenges faced during our long-term work with the Golden Coin Turtle. To strengthen regional research and rescue efforts, we co-hosted a specialised session with Ocean Park veterinarians on best practices for both collecting data from wild turtles and for handling confiscated turtles. Bringing this knowledge to life, we welcomed 60 participants to tour our captive breeding and rescue operations. Sharing our work with global experts that drives the collaboration needed to save Asia's threatened turtles and support regional biodiversity protection.



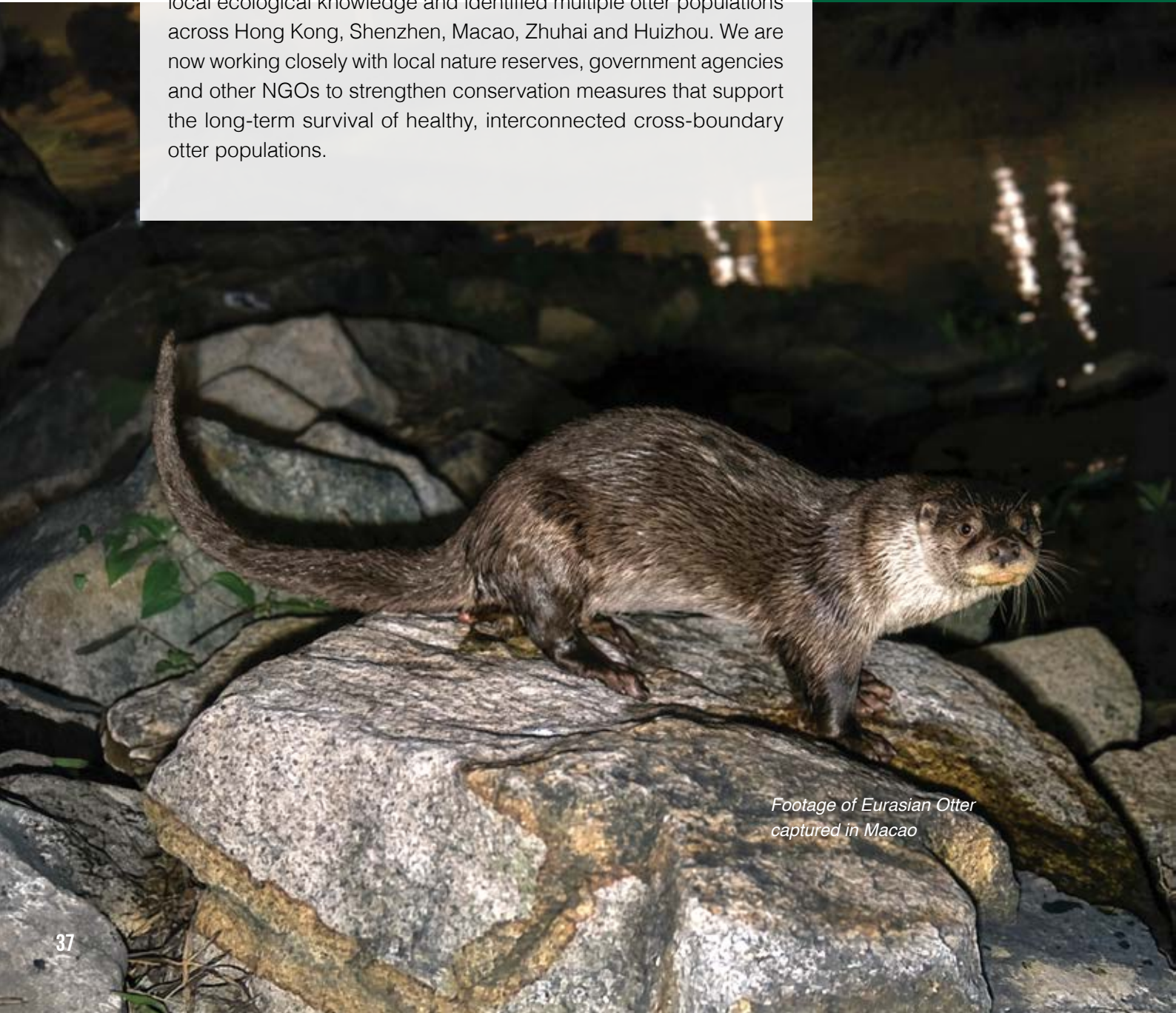
Sharing turtle conservation work and the exchange of expertise with ICAT attendees

Mainstreaming Otter Conservation in Hong Kong and Beyond

Otters are top predators that help to support ecosystem balance and act as flagship species of both terrestrial and aquatic habitats. China is home to three otter species, which all have suffered dramatic declines due to historical hunting, pollution and habitat loss. The Eurasian Otter (*Lutra lutra*) is now regarded as nationally endangered and at high risk of local extinction in Hong Kong, according to the latest assessments, and it is considered the rarest and most threatened terrestrial mammal in Hong Kong and the wider Greater Bay Area.

Our completed two-year otter survey in the Greater Bay Area with the Mangrove Foundation (MCF), covering over 170 km of transects and interviewing over 700 local community members, established an ecological baseline and assessed critical habitats and threats.

This first-of-its-kind study combined field surveys, DNA analysis and local ecological knowledge and identified multiple otter populations across Hong Kong, Shenzhen, Macao, Zhuhai and Huizhou. We are now working closely with local nature reserves, government agencies and other NGOs to strengthen conservation measures that support the long-term survival of healthy, interconnected cross-boundary otter populations.



Footage of Eurasian Otter captured in Macao

Project 'O'

香港考「獺」計劃

21

Citizen Scientists
公民科學家

63

Transect Surveys
樣線調查

~1000

Working Hours
工作時數

~70,000

Processed Camera Trap Footages
處理了的紅外相機影像

Project 'O' citizen science programme

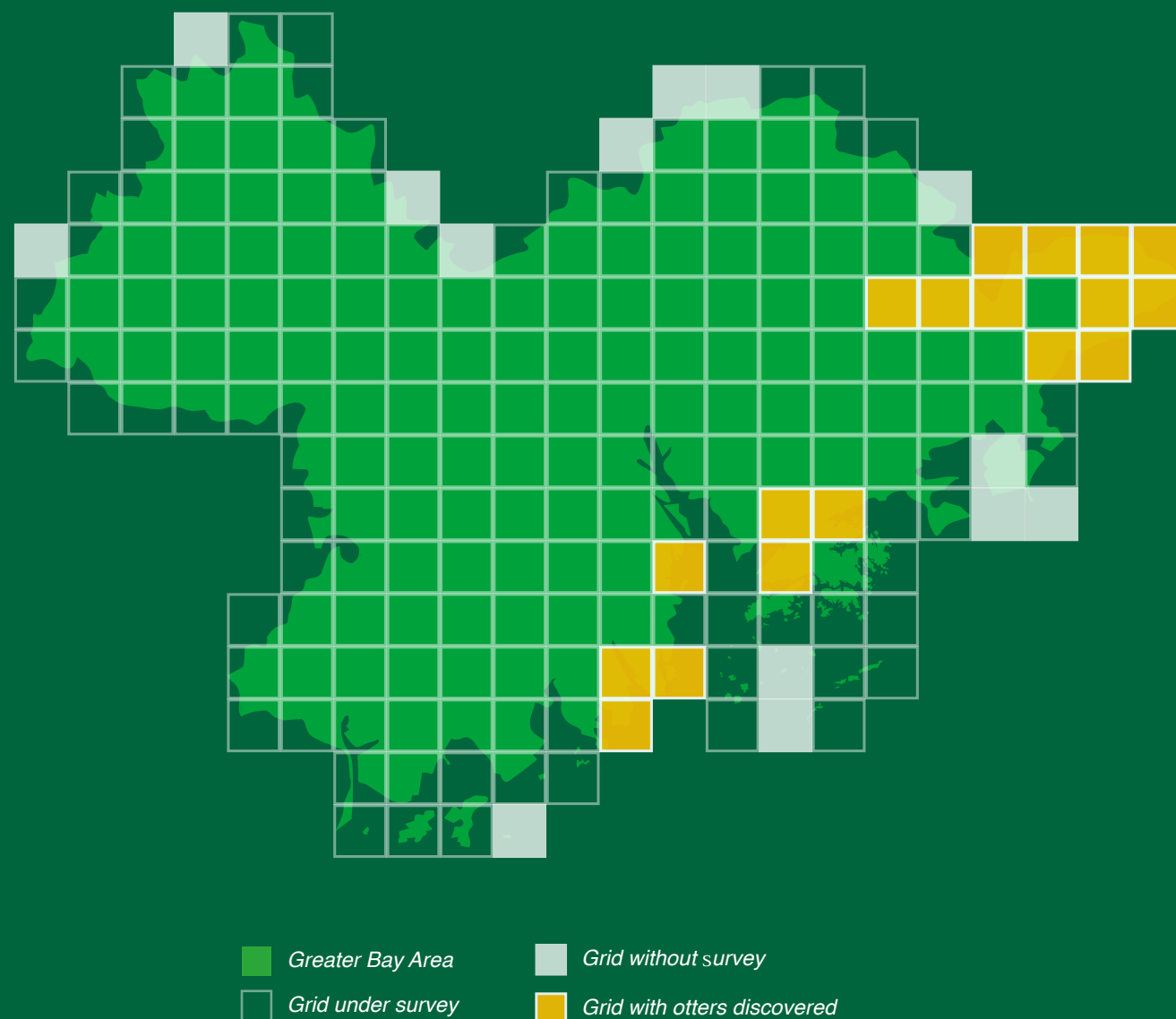
KEY NUMBERS

1 ST	COMPREHENSIVE OTTER SURVEY IN THE GREATER BAY AREA	PARTNER ORGANISATIONS :	9
	PROTECTED AREA WARDENS AND STAFF TRAINED:	50	
	SCHOOL TEACHERS TRAINED ON OTTER CONSERVATION:	240	
	OUTREACH EVENTS HELD:	10	
	PARTICIPANTS ENGAGED:	>6,500	

37

38

Greater Bay Area Otter Survey Coverage and Discovered Sites



Next steps

1. Building on recent evidence of otter presence in the waters around Lantau, we have secured funding from the Lantau Conservation Fund to lead a 30-month otter survey on the island.
2. Collective action is essential. We are working with a range of partners and preparing further collaboration and knowledge sharing across the region.
3. We aim to foster human–otter coexistence across the Greater Bay Area by integrating otter-friendly features into urban planning and helping citizens reconnect with local biodiversity.

From Roots to Shoots: Cultivating Gibbon Conservation Through Plants and Play

We signed a cooperation framework agreement with the Wildlife Conservation Association of Guangxi Province, strengthening our nearly 30-year partnership since 1998 and reaffirming our shared mission to save one of the world's rarest primates, the Cao-vit Gibbon (*Nomascus nasutus*).

Following our 2006 rediscovery of the species within China – where it had been unseen for half a century – the critically endangered Cao-vit Gibbon remains confined to a single fragile karst forest straddling the China-Vietnam border. Numbering just about 70 individuals globally, including about 30 residing in the Bangliang National Nature Reserve (BNNR), the species is threatened by a severe habitat crisis. To help prevent its disappearance, in 2023, we developed a holistic approach that goes beyond monitoring and field surveys to focus on actively restoring damaged ecosystems and easing human pressure on the land. This year, we initiated a women-led community initiative near BNNR, in which villagers planted 400 native gibbon food trees from six species to help regenerate the gibbon habitat.

Additionally, we are piloting a stall-fed goat farming programme in areas neighbouring the gibbon habitats to alleviate ongoing overgrazing pressure on natural forest regeneration. By providing support for forage fermentation and supplementary feeding techniques, this initiative aims to gradually reduce the free-ranging goat herding inside the forest. Concurrently, we are also exploring the feasibility of birdwatching eco-tourism as a sustainable alternative livelihood for the villagers.

The unique karst forest supporting the critically endangered Cao-vit Gibbon





We partner with local communities to plant native trees in the fragile karst forest and restore gibbon habitats

Alongside our habitat restoration work, we also integrate community outreach and education as foundational pillars of our long-term conservation strategy. To more deeply embed conservation into local culture, we designed a series of gibbon-themed items including calendars, Chinese New Year couplets and door guardians, which were distributed to local households as part of New Year celebrations.

In May, we published a Cao-vit Gibbon conservation storybook, co-created with local children, and organised storytelling sessions at a local school in Renzhuang town to mark the International Day for Biological Diversity. In October, we invited local communities to celebrate International Gibbon Day through the “Gibbon Conservation Cup” Basketball Friendship Tournament, which featured eight men’s and two women’s teams. This two-day outreach event also included educational booths and a documentary screening, attracting over 1,000 children, adults and elders. It successfully built trust with key local stakeholders for future collaborations, while significantly elevating the gibbon’s local profile and our brand recognition.



Gibbon-themed items distributed to local communities to celebrate the Chinese New Year

A Cao-vit Gibbon conservation storybook co-created with local children



KEY NUMBERS

NATIVE FOOD TREES
PLANTED TO RESTORE
CRITICAL GIBBON
HABITAT:

400

PARTICIPANTS IN
THE BASKETBALL
TOURNAMENT:

120

PEOPLE ENGAGED IN
THE EVENT:

~1,000

HOUSEHOLDS
RECEIVED GIBBON-
THEMED ITEMS:

3,500

LOCAL SCHOOLS
RECEIVED THE GIBBON
CONSERVATION
STORYBOOK:

4

STORYBOOKS
DISTRIBUTED TO
SCHOOLS:

>500



© Colorful Nature Films 繽紛自然

Defending the Stronghold: The Urgent Science Racing to Save the Big-headed Turtle

Turtles are among the most endangered groups of vertebrates on Earth. In Hong Kong, native freshwater turtle populations are collapsing under severe pressures from poaching and habitat loss. The Big-headed Turtle (*Platysternon megacephalum*) and Golden Coin Turtle (*Cuora trifasciata*) are of particular concern, both listed as critically endangered on the IUCN Red List.

To help safeguard Big-headed Turtles in Hong Kong and southern China, our researchers monitor wild populations and advocate for stronger freshwater turtle conservation. The project includes microchipping wild individuals to build a comprehensive database and deploying real-time camera traps to detect poaching activities. This not only enhances on-the-ground protection but also generates essential baseline data for ecological study and future research.



Measuring the body
condition of a wild adult
Big-headed Turtle



Deploying a real-time
camera trap to provide
24/7 surveillance
against poachers

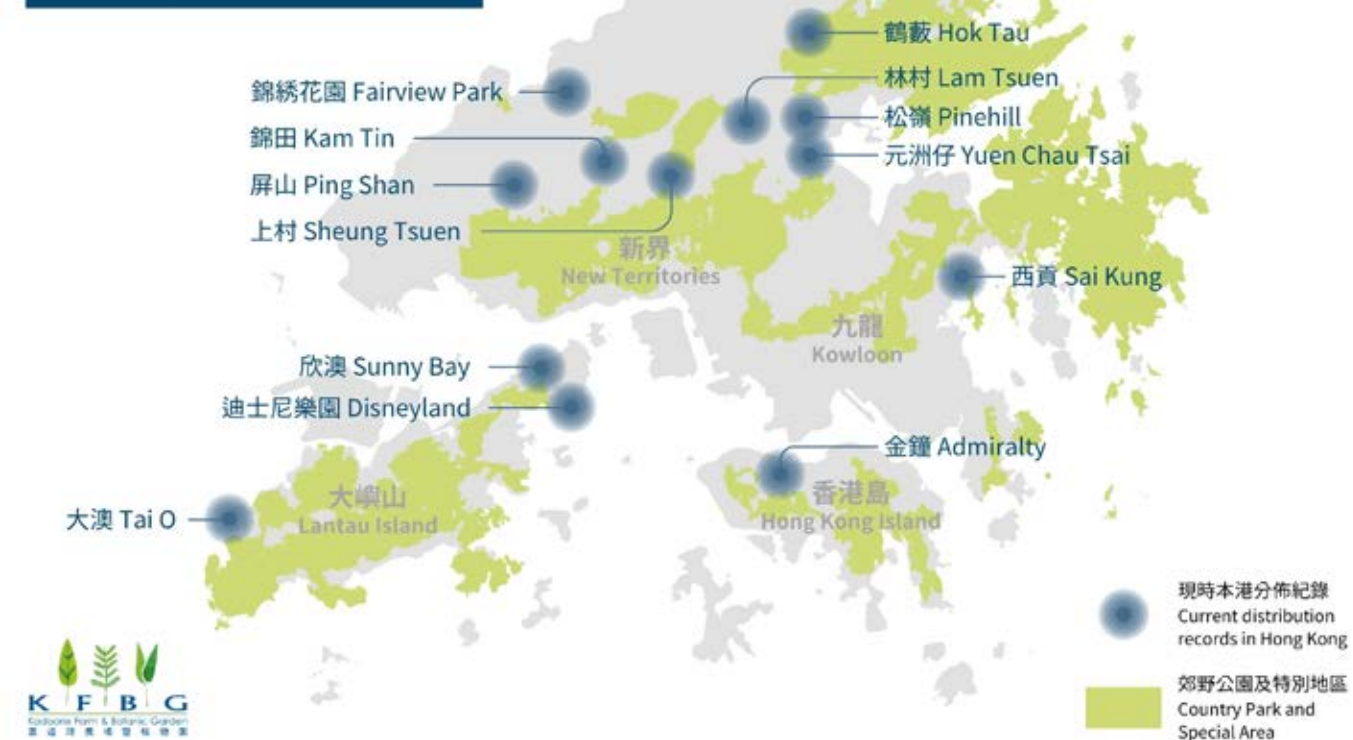
Advocating to Stop the Introduction of Exotic Invasive Species

Following last year's findings regarding the non-native Blue-crested Lizard (*Calotes mystaceus*) in Hong Kong, the team discovered that the lizard has been introduced to numerous locations across the city, with some core populations continuing to expand into neighbouring natural forest areas and threatening native fauna. In response to this urgent situation, we proactively advocated through various channels, including social media posts, media interviews, public talks and outreach activities (for example, the National Ecology Day event and the 22nd Green Carnival).

We also prepared a report summarising the key findings and relevant recommendations and shared it with relevant government departments to urge prompt action to close loopholes in existing quarantine and screening procedures for imported horticultural plants, effectively keeping invasive exotic species out.

*A Blue-crested Lizard preying on a native bird species, Swinhoe's White-eye (*Zosterops simplex*)*

白唇樹蜥分佈地圖 Distribution Map of the Blue-crested Lizard



KEY NUMBERS

MEDIA INTERVIEWS: 8

PEOPLE REACHED IN EDUCATION ACTIVITIES: >1,300

Current distribution of the Blue-crested Lizard in Hong Kong

Introducing visitors to the key features of the Blue-crested Lizard and the threats it poses to the native ecosystem





Farmlands and fishponds in Ngau Tam Mei

Northern Metropolis

Strategic Engagement and Advisory Roles

The EAP supported KFBG's representative on the Environmental Committee (EC) for the San Tin Technopole (STT), and liaised directly with the project team on associated conservation measures. Another of our representatives was invited by the CEDD to sit on the EC for the proposed University Town in NTM, providing an opportunity for the EAP's views to be put forward.

Major Development Proposals and Conservation Initiatives

In the largely rural NTM area, earmarked for development into a University Town, there is an expectation that significant landscape transformation and habitat alteration will occur. Through concerns raised in formal submissions, as well as direct engagement with the government, one of our long-standing advocacy efforts, promoting river revitalisation, has been incorporated into the development plan, representing a positive step forward despite broader environmental concerns.

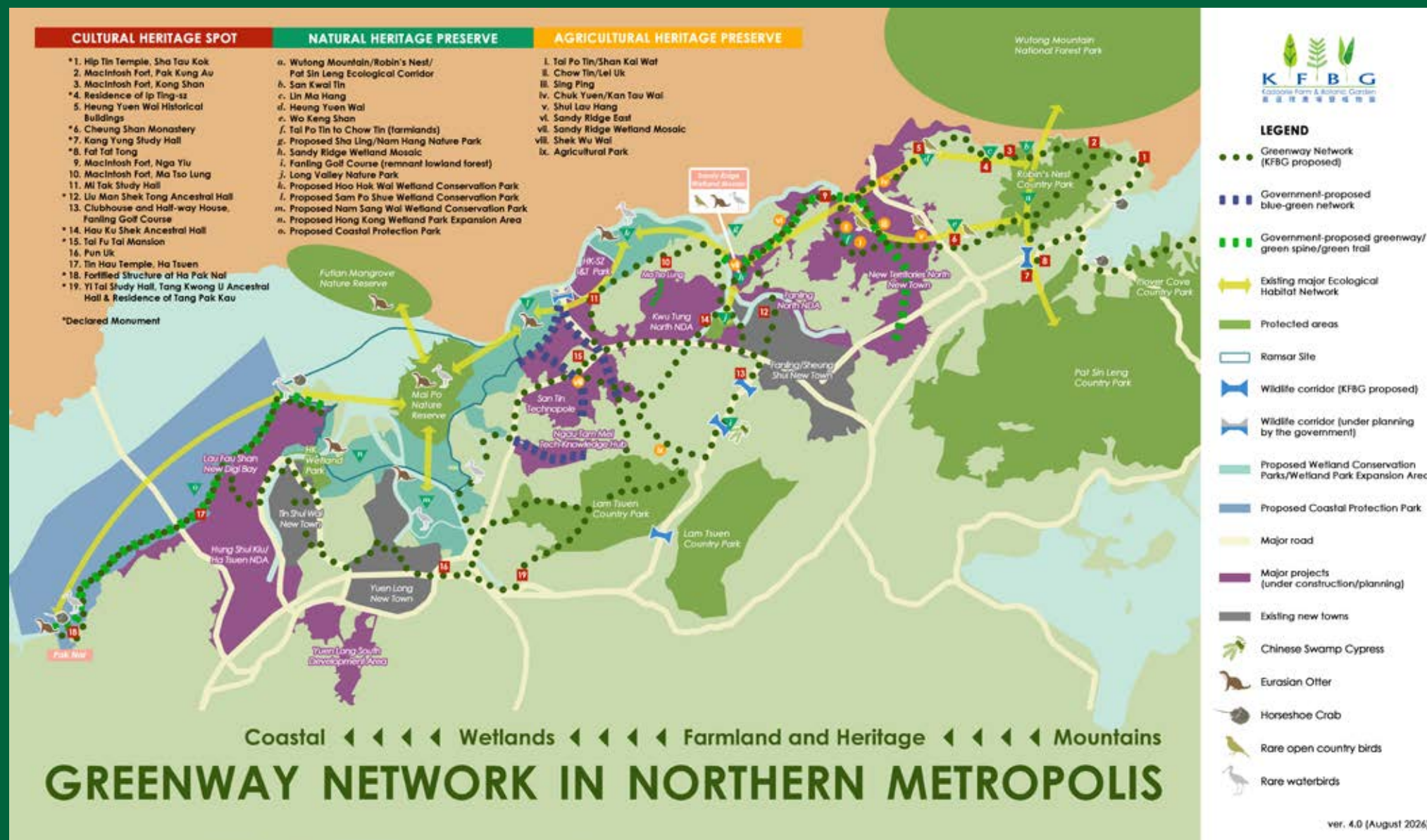
A "New Digi Bay" has been proposed for the Lau Fau Shan, Tsim Bei Tsui, and Pak Nai area, where these predominantly rural coastal sites will undergo large-scale transformation. The Deep Bay coastline is of high ecological importance, supporting waterbirds, horseshoe crabs, seagrass, mangroves and the Eurasian Otter. While the government has also proposed a "Coastal Protection Park" to safeguard sensitive shoreline habitats, the EAP and other ENGOs remain highly vigilant regarding potential cumulative environmental impacts, with engagements and liaising ongoing.

Hong Kong's Environmental Watchdog: Protecting Local Ecology– From Talk to Action

The Ecological Advisory Programme (EAP) submitted over 300 letters commenting on planning applications with potential impacts on farmland resources or natural environments. In addition, written comments were provided on eight Project Profiles, two direct applications for Environmental Permits, and six Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs). We also commented on proposed amendments to two Outline Zoning Plans, attended a Town Planning Board hearing concerning the Ngau Tam Mei (NTM) development, and participated in a number of public consultation exercises related to major government initiatives and policies, such as the Northern Metropolis (NM).



Deep Bay Coastline



KFBG - Proposed Northern Metropolis Greenway Network

NM Greenway Network

We have proposed a NM Greenway Network extending from Robin's Nest to Pak Nai. We are encouraged that major NM initiatives, such as New Territories North (NTN) and Ma Tso Lung (MTL) development, STT, and the NTM University Town, have incorporated similar concepts (e.g. NTN's "Green-River-Valley", MTL's "Green and Natural Spine", blue-green networks in STT and NTM). More recently, the New Digi Bay proposal features a "Green Trail" along Deep Bay with an alignment similar to our proposal. We look forward to working with the government to integrate these initiatives into a territory-wide Greenway Network.

Outside Northern Metropolis

Yam O Bay, once an enclosed bay used for timber storage, was heavily impacted during the North Lantau development in the 1990s. In 2020, a new road was proposed alongside the existing highway, with a possible alignment crossing the remaining part of the bay. During the statutory EIA process, the EAP team, together with several ENGOs, raised concerns about the potential ecological impacts on this sensitive coastal habitat. In early 2026, the government announced a revised road alignment that completely avoids Yam O Bay. We welcomed this outcome as a positive example of how development plans can be adjusted to respect important natural areas when stakeholders work together with care and persistence.

Tung Chung River Park remained a key focus for EAP during the reporting period. Through meetings, site visits and ongoing exchanges, EAP contributed to both structural design and plant species selection, helping to embed ecological consideration into the project. The park has since received recognition, including the Edmund Hambly Award from the Institution of Civil Engineers (UK) for its sustainable, community-oriented design, and we have received a letter of acknowledgement from CEDD for our long-term contribution. This recognition, and the openness of government departments to engage stakeholders, is encouraging, showing how collaborative planning can improve habitat performance, and offering hope that similar partnership approaches can be extended to other major developments in Hong Kong, including those in the NM.



Fishpond Wetland in Sam Po Shue



Yam O Bay

Throughout the year, almost 4,000 DNA samples were analysed by our Conservation Genetics Lab. These included over 2,500 shark fin samples, almost 200 plant samples and several bird samples submitted for analysis by the WARC, including Critically Endangered Yellow-crested Cockatoos (*Cacatua sulphurea*) seized from the bird market. Material of Leopard Cats, Big-headed Turtles and Tokay Geckos helped determine species identity and geographic origin of rescued animals.

Research by our geneticists on the Hong Kong Incense Tree (*Aquilaria sinensis*) identified critical gaps in the management of the global agarwood trade. A study published by Lai et al. (2025. *Global Ecology and Conservation* 59: e03560) urges the implementation of targeted conservation actions to protect endangered agarwood-producing species across tropical Asia that are threatened by unsustainable exploitation. Meanwhile, market surveys were launched to better understand the legality, sustainability and scale of the medicinal orchid trade in Hong Kong and to ascertain which orchids are commonly used in Traditional Chinese Medicine. The objective of this study is to identify where trade management and conservation measures for endangered orchid species in Hong Kong and South China need to be strengthened.

In collaboration with shark experts at Mote Marine Laboratory and Florida International University in USA, our geneticists identified ten CITES-listed species of Wedgefish and Giant Guitarfish on sale in the Hong Kong market. Efforts are ongoing to determine the region of origin of Oceanic Whitetip Sharks (*Carcharhinus longimanus*) traded in Hong Kong with the aim of aiding the conservation of this threatened species. Sadly, this and several other Critically Endangered species, including Scalloped, Smooth and Great Hammerhead Sharks, continue to appear in alarming numbers in Hong Kong markets.

The Fauna team continued to keep illegal wildlife trade high on our agenda. Through the wildlife trade working group, we highlighted key concerns and pushed for stronger attention from local authorities. When live animals were involved, our rescue centre stepped in to provide immediate care and help find suitable long-term placement. Through educational displays, we also sought to raise awareness of this growing conservation issue.

A rising demand for exotic pets in Hong Kong and China remains a concern, reflected in several government seizures during the year. KFBG is regularly asked to provide short-term care for seized animals while legal cases proceed.

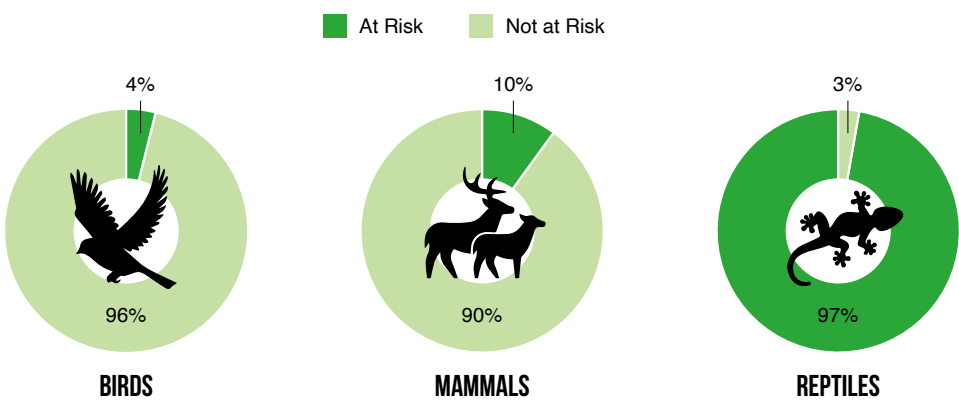
DNA analysis reveals endangered sharks continue to appear in Hong Kong's market



Significant Endangered Species
Protection cases received: 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026

Species	Head count	Conservation Status	Reason
Big-headed Turtle	3	Critically Endangered	Seizure
Yellow-crested Cockatoo	2	Critically Endangered	Seized from local pet market, likely of HK wild origin.
Spotted Turtle	28	Endangered	Seizure
Rhinoceros Iguana	8	Endangered	Seizure
Beaked Cape Tortoise	5	Least Concern (endemic to the Republic of South Africa)	Seizure, smuggled with a shipment of wallets.

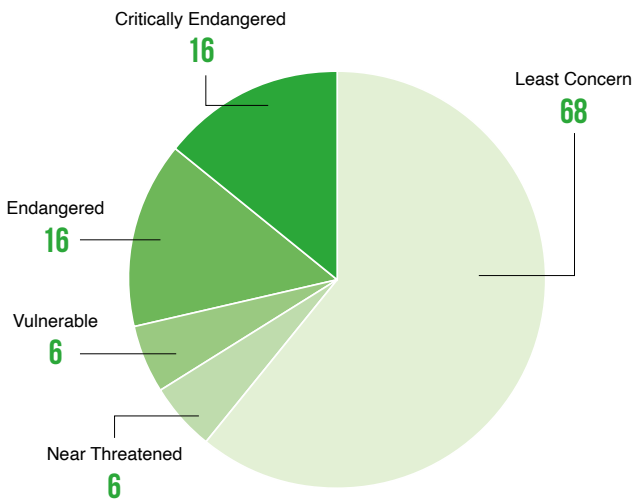
Conservation Status of Wildlife Held at KFBG – March 2026



This indicates the headcount of animals in the Threatened Categories considered near threatened, vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered. The largest at-risk group held at KFBG is exotic reptiles, primarily freshwater turtles and tortoises, confiscated by the Hong Kong authorities while being transported for, or intended for, the lucrative pet trade.

IUCN RED LIST - 112 FAUNA SPECIES HELD

(Out of 127 total species held at WARC)



HOLISTIC ESTATE MANAGEMENT

Our holistic site management is about caring for the estate as a living whole, where buildings, infrastructure, landscapes and daily operations support our wider commitment to nature, sustainability and well-being. We do not see facilities as separate from nature, but as part of the same system. This means ensuring that upgrades, repairs and new projects have minimal environmental impact, while land management encourages ecological recovery, self-sustaining processes and increasing biodiversity. As the ecosystem matures, nature heals and we deepen our understanding of native flora and fauna. During the year, a variety of land management and silvicultural practices were coordinated to enrich the secondary forests on our site.



Tree management

A significant number of the canopy trees at KFBG today are non-natives planted in the 1960s and 1970s when the site was barren, including Formosa Acacia (*Acacia confusa*), Horsetail Tree (*Casuarina equisetifolia*) and Slash Pine (*Pinus elliottii*). Many of these large trees are senescing (deteriorating with age), they suffer from various ailments and have poor form. There are also many self-seeded native trees, but because some species rebound more vigorously after disturbance than others, we find an unnatural over-abundance of a few very competitive species, such as Chekiang Machilus (*Machilus chekiangensis*), Many-nerved Machilus (*M. pauhoi*) and Turn-in-the-Wind (*Mallotus paniculatus*). These features mean that we have to manage our forests judiciously, removing trees that pose safety risks and thinning common species to create space for species turnover.

Arboricultural tree team conducting advanced Tree Risk Assessment



Structural pruning of canopy trees



Acorn of the Chinese Cork Oak (*Quercus variabilis*)

In line with this approach, we continued active forest management throughout the year, including tree risk assessment, selective removal, thinning and pruning to support healthier woodland structure over time.

Where trees were intentionally removed, we replanted with a rich variety of native species from our nurseries, using high-quality seedlings selected to suit each location. This included a number of uncommon species, such as the Chinese Cork Oak (*Quercus variabilis*) and Kwangtung Helicia (*Helicia kwangtungensis*), helping to strengthen both forest resilience and botanical diversity.

Wood recovery and biochar production

None of the wood removed from the forest is wasted. Small to medium-sized branches were shredded to produce tonnes of wood chips, a very useful material that is applied as mulch to enhance soil structure and chemistry where forest restoration is underway. It was also incorporated into a top-dressing for the new planters around the JCNCC and also used as a natural surfacing for trails. Logs and other larger pieces of wood were split and dried for biochar production. Our biochar machine operated through the year, producing more than 50 tonnes of biochar.

Turning the tables on weeds

Mikania is one of our gravest challenges when it comes to invasive species: a rampant herbaceous perennial vine, its common name 'Mile-a-Minute' is a fitting reflection of the rate at which it smothers surrounding vegetation. A rolling Mikania management plan was implemented starting late Summer, prior to the fruiting period when disturbance would only exacerbate the spread of its wind-dispersed seeds. Thorough removal by hand is the best way to ensure it is effectively eliminated, roots and all, because even small leftover fragments can re-establish with a vengeance.

In 2025, we focused on areas in the Lower and Middle Hillside, including the Butterfly Path, the Seed Orchards and Post Office Pillars, where open conditions had fuelled an uptick in its growth. In total, almost 3 hectares were cleared.

Unfortunately, Mikania isn't the only weed that requires continuous monitoring and removal. Our landscaping teams tackled the pernicious Beggar's Ticks (*Bidens alba*), Wedelia (*Sphagneticola trilobata*) and Goatweed (*Ageratum conyzoides*) in planters, beside roads and on engineered slopes. To give guests a taste of these ecological enhancement efforts, a series of volunteer weeding activities were held in the Butterfly Garden in October.



Removing invasive Beggar's Ticks (*Bidens alba*) from an engineered slope

Ecological planting

Weed removal must be followed by replanting with suitable native alternatives to ensure the site does not remain vacant and so invite reinfestation. In cleared areas, we planted Meyen's Clematis (*Clematis meyeniana*), Japanese Glorybower (*Clerodendrum japonicum*) and Lesser Torrenia (*Torrenia concolor*), amongst others – a vibrant mix of shrubs and climbers that provide nectar for butterflies and beautify the landscape. Where replanting could not be immediately scheduled, jute fibre matting was laid down to suppress weeds and aggressive native grasses that would otherwise smother young trees.

With ongoing renovations and landscaping taking place in Orchid Haven, a wealth of fascinating plants were also planted there, including King Snake Creeper (*Passiflora cochinchinensis*), Westland's Birthwort (*Aristolochia westlandii*) and Wallich's Phaius (*Phaius wallichii*), which was first discovered growing wild at KFBG by Gloria Barretto in the 1970s.

Planting of the landscape around the JCNCC began in September 2025 and was completed by January 2026, marking a major milestone following more than six years of planning, preparation and dedicated care. Virtually all of the plants used in the displays had been raised from seeds collected from natural areas across Hong Kong, resulting in a landscape that brings together over 200 native species – almost certainly the most diverse range of native plants curated for any built environment in the territory. Including trees, shrubs, herbs and climbers of a variety of forms, colours, textures and seasonalities, these plants serve both aesthetic and ecological purposes – and they are already beginning to attract butterflies, bees, birds and other wildlife. Many are rare, more than 20 are protected by law, and one, the Hong Kong Hornbeam (*Carpinus insularis*), occurs only in Hong Kong and nowhere else on earth. The displays also demonstrate how urban plantings can harness local diversity and contribute to the native ecosystem.



Planting the landscape around JCNCC



Catkin of the endemic Hong Kong Hornbeam (*Carpinus insularis*)



Vibrant blooms of Japanese Glorybower (*Clerodendrum japonicum*)



Native Shiuying Bamboo (*Oligostachyum shiuyingianum*), named after local botanist Professor Shiu-Ying Hu

KEY FACTS & DATA POINTS

FROM APRIL 2025 TO MARCH 2026

- 3 HECTARES OF LAND CLEARED OF INVASIVE WEEDS
- 7 TONNES OF WOOD CHIP PRODUCED
- 111 TREE SAFETY INSPECTIONS COMPLETED

HUNDREDS OF RARE SPECIES PLANTED

Volunteers removing weeds in the Butterfly Garden



Sustainable transformation of the Food Hub at HKU Kadoorie Centre

A Sustainable Transformation: Food Hub at HKU Kadoorie Centre

To revitalise the ageing canteen block at the University of Hong Kong's Kadoorie Centre that had remained unused for over a decade, the existing structure was adaptively reused and transformed into the Food Hub, reinforcing environmental responsibility. The project achieved a Platinum rating under BEAM Plus Interiors V2.0, integrating sustainable features including 100% LED lighting, energy-efficient systems, water-saving fixtures, responsible waste management, recycled materials, enhanced ventilation, and low-VOC finishes (using materials with lower levels of harmful emissions), all contributing to a healthier indoor environment. This facility now serves as a living demonstration of sustainability. It also received the Merit Award (Maintenance and Rehabilitation Category) at the HKIS Building Surveyor Awards 2025 and was named a Finalist in the Refurbishment / Revitalisation Category of the RICS Hong Kong Awards 2025, establishing a replicable model for sustainable renovation.

Reducing Carbon Emissions Through Fleet Electrification

To reduce our carbon emissions, the operational fleet has been progressively transitioned from fossil fuels to electric vehicles, starting with the first electric car in April 2023. This was followed by the replacement of a diesel truck in July 2025 and a petrol pickup in March 2026, alongside the addition of a new electric van.

Eco-friendly Slope Stabilisation

To mitigate the impact of slope stabilisation works necessitated by typhoon damage and statutory orders from government departments, we maximised tree preservation and minimised adverse effects on tree health. Measures implemented included revising originally proposed soil nail installation locations to preserve existing trees, installing erosion control mats around trees to prevent erosion and sorting stones generated from planter removal for reuse in other works.



Existing tree trunk wrapped with erosion control mat

Enhancing Connectivity at Lower Farm

To improve visitor experience, support environmental education and advance digitalisation and operational efficiency, a comprehensive upgrade of the WiFi network was launched. The upgraded infrastructure now provides reliable, high-bandwidth connectivity for both staff and visitors, enabling seamless access to digital maps, interactive educational content, and real-time updates, while strengthening overall operational efficiency and visitor engagement.

Targeted Infrastructure Upgrades for Habitat, Safety and Visitor Experience

A series of targeted infrastructure upgrades was completed to strengthen safety, animal welfare, and operational efficiency across the site. A shading net was installed in the outdoor play area, with upgraded posts and pulley systems, providing enhanced shade and comfort for users of all ages. The surveillance system was reinforced through new CCTV installations at the Apiary and Convent Garden, linked to the Security Control Room for centralised monitoring.

Cybersecurity was also strengthened through firewall upgrades, enhanced monitoring systems, vulnerability assessments, and staff awareness training.

Drainage works at the Raptor Roost diverted wastewater away from the enclosure and increased pond capacity, improving hygiene and habitat conditions. Selected sections of the existing solar electric fence were reinforced to better prevent monkey intrusion and reduce crop damage.

In addition, the walk-in freezer at WARC was replaced with a new unit providing 33% more storage capacity and improved energy efficiency.



Installation of shading net in the outdoor play area



Reinforcement of the Solar Electric Fence



Upgraded walk-in freezer

REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

We believe that regenerative agriculture is rooted in a simple yet powerful idea: farming should not just produce food, but also restore and enrich the living systems on which we all depend. Rather than relying on extractive practices that deplete soil, water and biodiversity, regenerative approaches seek to build healthy soils, encourage diverse plant and animal life, and close nutrient loops so that waste is transformed into resources. This philosophy guides our work where we develop sustainable agricultural production models that provide a stable supply of quality produce while demonstrating agriculture as an indispensable part of life.

Here we explore the application of these principles through diversified production, composting, demonstration areas, training and community engagement, showing that agriculture can be both productive and healing. By integrating vegetables, herbs, fruit trees, tea, coffee, bees, poultry and organic recycling into one connected system, we care for land, support local farmers and invite the public to see agriculture as a life-giving part of everyday life. Our terraces, gardens and demonstration areas serve as living classrooms, where visitors, practitioners and partners can experience how regenerative agriculture weaves together food, soil, biodiversity and community well-being.



Tea Garden at KFBG – around 1,000 tea trees have been planted at the upper farm area in the past decades



Participants work with native bees for honey production at the Beekeeping Course

■ Sustainable Agricultural Production and Demonstrations

Our regenerative agriculture work shows that farming can do far more than produce food. It can restore soil, recycle resources, support biodiversity and help people reconnect with where food comes from. Our farm functions as a living system, producing vegetables, herbs, fruit, tea, coffee, honey, eggs and compost in ways that nourish both people and the land.

Around 80 varieties of vegetables yielded 17 tonnes, while 60 varieties of herbs and 20 varieties of fruit produced nearly 5 tonnes combined. Much of this fresh produce supplied the Farm Shop, the Eat Well Café, the Eat Well Canteen at the Green Hub and the Food Hub, linking the land directly with the food we share with others.

This wider system includes around 1,000 tea trees, 60 coffee trees, up to 60 beehives and between 1,500 and 2,000 chickens. Together, they produced 32 kg of organic green tea, 30 kg of coffee beans, 182 kg of honey and more than 140,000 eggs during the year. Meanwhile, plant waste and chicken manure were turned into 32 tonnes of compost, returning nutrients to the soil and reducing waste across the estate.

Just as importantly, this work helps people see regenerative agriculture in practice. Our demonstration areas in the Lower Farm, including One Dou Farm, Eco Garden and Fruit Forest, remained open year-round, while courses, workshops, community projects and public talks invited more people to engage with farming, local food and a more resilient agricultural future.



Urban fruit tree planting demonstration at the community garden project



All age groups enjoy harvesting vegetable at Spring Harvest activities

■ Inviting People into Regenerative Agriculture

Public engagement remained central to this work. Through courses, workshops and hands-on experiences, people of different ages and backgrounds were invited to reconnect with farming, food production and the living systems that sustain them. Whether through practical learning on the farm, community-based projects or wider public conversations, we sought to make regenerative agriculture more accessible and relevant to everyday life.

Learning Programmes

Our learning programmes gave people direct ways to engage with regenerative agriculture through both professional training and experiential activities. These included introductory courses in sustainable agriculture, herb planting, beekeeping, coffee and fruit tree cultivation, as well as seasonal experiences such as spring harvest activities, mindfulness tea tasting, local tea harvesting and processing, and farm-based learning for children and adults. Together, these programmes helped participants build practical knowledge while deepening their relationship with nature, food and community.



Participants experience coffee processing work

Collaborative Projects

We also extended this work beyond the farm through collaborative projects with community partners. These included a community garden project at transitional housing in A Square, Stanley, with The Aberdeen Kai-fong Welfare Association, and the “Ying Wa Street Modular Social Housing Community Garden in Tenacity Residence” project in Cheung Sha Wan with The Society for Community Organisation. Through these partnerships, regenerative agriculture became a shared practice that strengthened participation and resilience in urban communities.



Harvesting edible flowers in a Co-learning on Farm Workshop

Public Talks

We contributed to wider public conversations about agriculture in Hong Kong. Tsz Lam Yip was a guest speaker on “Agriculture in Hong Kong” at the 2025 Hong Kong Book Fair. We also shared our work through media interviews with The Collective HK and Hong Kong Inmedia in May and June 2025 on agricultural assistance policy in Hong Kong, and with Ming Pao Daily and Sing Tao Daily in January 2026 on local organic certification, farmer support and the story of Hong Kong tea. Through these conversations, we hope more people can hear the voices of farmers, appreciate the value of local produce and support a more resilient agricultural future.

■ Growing “Farming Hong Kong” Together

With support from the HKEX Foundation through the HKEX Community Partnership Programme 2025, we launched “Farming Hong Kong,” an initiative focused on environmental sustainability and public engagement. Through farmer training, community programmes, public talks, workshops and guided tours, the project invites people to explore how agriculture is connected to daily life and the environment.

■ Professional Training

From September 2025 to February 2026, we held our first comprehensive “Professional Agricultural Management Course,” based on the core concepts of permaculture and regenerative farming and tailored to the current state of local agriculture. Over five months, participants completed 100 hours of hands-on training designed for those aspiring to a career in agriculture. Leveraging our experience in transitioning from traditional to sustainable farming, we aimed to help those interested in local and urban agriculture enhance their farming knowledge and skills, with the goal of equipping graduates with the ability to independently manage and cultivate farmland. The course welcomed 20 participants from a range of backgrounds, all of whom completed the full programme, providing new impetus for the development of local agriculture.



Participants completed 100 hours of study in our Professional Agricultural Management Course

■ Supporting Local Agriculture

Supporting local agriculture means helping farmers stay visible, valued and connected to the community. Through the Central Farmers’ Market, our Community Supported Agriculture scheme and public activities, we continued to strengthen the relationship between local producers and the people they feed.

For more than 18 years, the Central Farmers’ Market has provided a direct sales platform for local growers and makers. Over the past year, it supported 11 local organic farmers, 5 local handicraft producers and social enterprises, with about 17 tonnes of local agricultural produce sold. It also gave people a chance to meet producers face to face and better appreciate the work behind local food.

The Market also became a place for seasonal stories and shared experiences. In July 2025, together with the AFCD, we held a Local Organic Watermelon Festival. In November, “Hong Kong Tea Story” celebrated the value of local tea gardens, while in January 2026, “Knowing More About Invasive Plants”, co-organised with our Flora Conservation Department, invited the public to look more closely at the ecology around them.

Our Community Supported Agriculture online purchasing scheme also continued to bring farmers and consumers closer together. Through 12 rounds of point-to-point delivery, we helped local farmers sell nearly one tonne of agricultural products.

By working with farmers, partners and the wider community, we hope to grow a deeper understanding of local agriculture and stronger support for its future.



The Central Farmers’ Market was held every Sunday at the Star Ferry Pier

HOLISTIC EDUCATION

We believe that holistic education is grounded in meaningful learning which engages nature; we invite visitors, students and volunteers to think carefully about ecological issues, to feel a genuine sense of care and curiosity and to act through direct, hands-on experience.

Here we show how our programmes bring this approach to life. Through animal encounters, night walks, plant-focused outreach, volunteer training, exhibitions and practical workshops, participants learn with their minds, bodies and emotions, connecting scientific understanding with lived experience. In doing so, holistic education becomes a pathway for people of all ages to build deeper relationships with the natural world and to see themselves as active contributors to conservation and community well-being.



HEAD, HEART AND HANDS IN PRACTICE

The Holistic Education Department contributes to our legacy and future by fostering meaningful connections between people and nature through experiential, interdisciplinary, and transformative learning. Grounded in the philosophy of Head, Heart and Hands, we integrate knowledge, emotional engagement, and practical action across all initiatives, while expanding partnerships, enhancing creative collaboration, and developing immersive experiences that inspire curiosity, compassion, and ecological consciousness across diverse audiences.

Throughout the year, our work spanned public programmes, school partnerships, creative initiatives, and community outreach. A year in numbers and key highlights reveal the breadth of our impact: we engaged 44,573 participants across these major strands, establishing a strong foundation of scale before entering specific programme details. This diverse portfolio allowed us to balance a wider audience reach with deep, meaningful engagement.

■ Kadoorie Earth Programme (KEP)

Online Talks

The Kadoorie Earth Programme (KEP) plays a strategic role in expanding our audience reach, particularly through our online dialogue series. These digital platforms extend engagement beyond the physical site, connecting local and international audiences and building a broader base for long-term participation. The KEP online talk series featured prominent international speakers, including Satish Kumar and Andrew McAulay, Cristine Takuá, and Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim, as they focused on an ecological worldview, learning and planetary understanding. By blending physical spaces with virtual engagement, this initiative embodies the Head, Heart and Hands framework by cultivating ecological consciousness and intellectual inquiry.



Guided Forest Therapy session nestled in the forest, offering participants space to restore balance and cultivate a deeper, intentional connection with nature



An experiential session bringing families together by telling the story of Little Fish

Transformative programmes

On-site, our Forest Therapy programmes continue to grow in response to increasing demand for nature-based well-being. These guided experiences offer participants time and space to restore balance and engage more intentionally with the natural environment. Over the year, a total of 40 forest therapy sessions were conducted and participants were drawn from schools, universities, NGOs, parents and the general public.

A poetic picture book, “Little Fish: A Tale of Nature, Growth and Harmony”, written by Andrew McAulay and illustrated by Lucy Hinton was launched. It is inspired by our landscape, weaving together themes of ecology, compassion and inner transformation. Through the journey, as a small fish seeks balance, the book invites the reader to reflect on the relationship of humans and nature. This narrative extends into a range of experiential programmes, which engaged 166 children and parents, through the “Journey Within – Parent & Child Body Movement Workshop”, “Storytelling for Children” sessions held in local libraries in November 2025, and in March 2026, through the “Art Corner: Little Fish Pastel Art”, where families and visitors engage in storytelling, movement, and creative expression to explore connection, empathy, and shared growth.

Walking meditation in nature led by Ven. Ngawang Tenzin, integrating mindfulness and contemplative movement into the natural landscape



Collaborations with local practitioners, including Janet Lau, Tsang Man Tung, Venerable Chang Lin, and Venerable Ngawang Tenzin—further strengthened this work by integrating mindfulness, movement, and contemplative practices into natural settings.

Together, all these programmes, whether online, outreach or place-based, helped create a balanced model that combined a wider audience reach with deeper engagement.

Transforming School Curricula & Engaging Educators

A major milestone this year was the launch of Phase One of the “Nature-based Eco-literate Experiential Education Programme (NEEEP)”, a three-year initiative supported by donations from the Drs Richard Charles and Esther Yewpick Lee Charitable Foundation. The programme embeds experiential learning within formal education, guided by Satish Kumar’s 3H philosophy (Head, Heart, and Hands) as it integrates knowledge, emotional engagement and practical action, in alignment with the Education Bureau’s updated Primary Science Curriculum.

Primary school students participating in the “Birthworts and Birdwings – Urban Habitat Enrichment Project”, measuring plant growth and monitoring local habitat restoration on campus

Two flagship projects demonstrate this approach in practice.

- Six schools explored the relationship between science and cultural heritage through a plant-based dyeing programme entitled, “Encountering Indigo – Exploring the Chemistry and Culture of Natural Dye”.
- The “Birthworts and Birdwings – Urban Habitat Enrichment Project” enabled students to learn about habitat restoration and citizen science. The project continues to expand and was presented to an international audience at the 11th International Congress on Education in Botanic Gardens, reinforcing our leadership in biodiversity education.

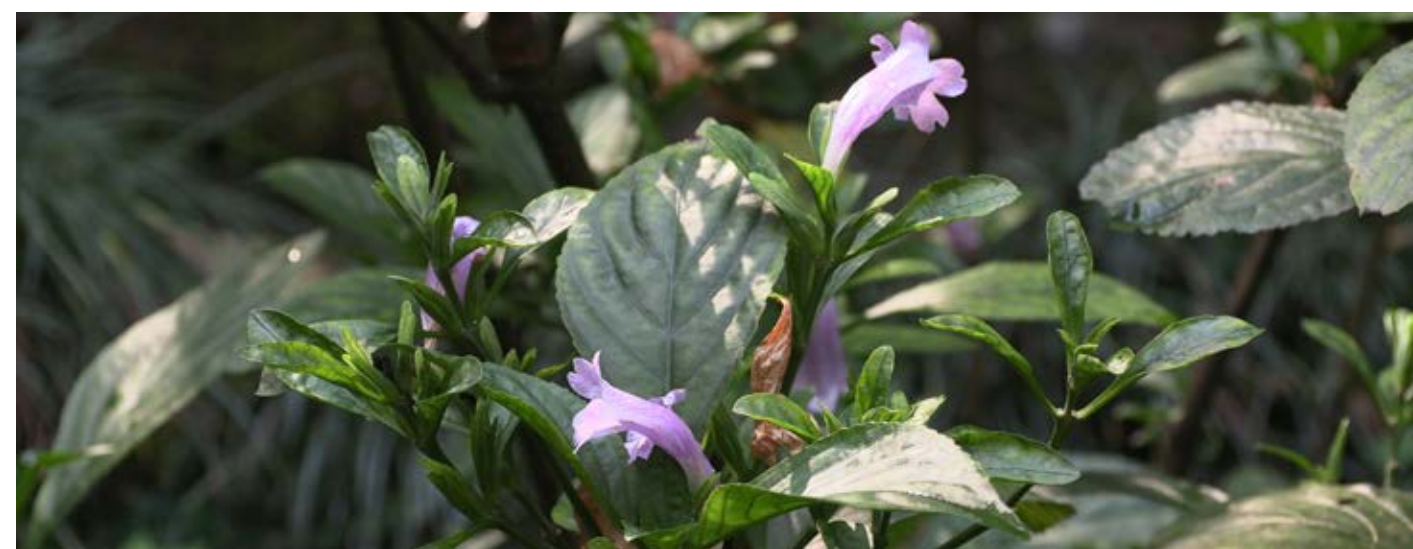


Additionally, on-site teacher open days engaged 45 teachers from 30 institutions in nature-based experiential education, while corporate-supported programmes provided secondary school students with hands-on conservation and habitat restoration experiences.

Collectively, these efforts demonstrated that co-creation with schools, supported by strategic funding, can enable meaningful curriculum integration while building a growing network of educators engaged in experiential learning.



A close-up of winter-blooming Chinese Indigo (Strobilanthes cusia) at KFBG, harvested for the Encountering Indigo school programme



Artistic Expression as an Ecological Gateway

Art plays a vital role in connecting people with nature. By translating scientific knowledge into accessible forms and encouraging people to observe, create and engage their senses, it fosters deeper and more personal relationships with the natural environment.

The refreshed Artist-in-Residence Programme was launched in October 2025, with local artists Li Man Ching and Yeung Wai Kong. Their exhibition, “Impressions, Expressions – feeling & depicting nature”, attracted over 10,500 visitors.

Focusing on seven native plant species, the exhibition translated ecological knowledge into visual and artistic expression while promoting awareness of local biodiversity. Its impact was extended through public masterclasses, educational materials, and a satellite exhibition at the Jockey Club - The Conservancy Association Urban Forestry Green Hub, which brought these narratives to urban audiences. In association with the Exhibition, the Hong Kong Native Plant Photo Contest further broadened participation, attracting over 200 photographers and more than 700 entries.

Hanien Conradie's exhibition, “This Earth. This Water.”, provided a restorative, contemplative space where paintings and installations explored how place, memory, and human–nature relationships intertwine. The exhibition introduced an immersive, material-based dimension through workshops that invited participants to work directly with soil and water. This practice encouraged a more embodied, attentive, and reflective engagement with the landscape, complementing existing approaches to environmental learning.



Resident artists Li Man Ching and Yeung Wai Kong at the launch of their exhibition exploring and depicting Hong Kong's native plant species



Artist-in-residence Hanien Conradie gathering local soil pigments on site to explore an embodied, tactile connection with the land



Apprentices of the programme join a guided KFBG tree tour to study local timber species and sustainable wood sourcing



The Growth Ring: Revitalising Local Wood Craftsmanship

“Growth Ring: Empowering Wood Upcycling through Training and Innovation | Apprenticeship Training Programme 2026” demonstrated how strategic funding can support integrated, hands-on learning. Launched with a grant from the Chan Chong Charitable Foundation, the project combines sustainable resource use with craftsmanship and skills development.

By upcycling felled wood from the estate, participants gained a direct understanding of material lifecycles while developing practical skills. The programme emphasised the value of creating well-crafted, functional, and aesthetically meaningful objects, reinforcing respect for natural materials and the processes behind their transformation.

Following a competitive selection process, 12 apprentices were admitted into a six-month training programme led by master carpenters. The training integrated technical instruction with contextual learning, including wood identification and timber sourcing.



A young participant in the “Wonders in Nature” playgroup experimenting with water flow and bamboo chutes during outdoor sensory play

Nurturing Early Childhood Connections & Lifelong Play

Early engagement with nature is essential for child development and long-term ecological awareness. The Wonders in Nature – Nature-Based Parent & Child Playgroup was introduced to create structured opportunities for toddlers and families to explore natural environments through sensory play, storytelling, and creative activities.

A key feature of the programme is the transformation of the former pigsty into a “nature sensory play”. Designed to encourage tactile exploration, risk-taking, and unstructured interaction, the space enables young children to engage directly with materials such as soil and water, supporting their developmental and learning needs.

Community Outreach & Compassionate Crisis Response

Ultimately, our outreach work extends environmental education into broader community and school contexts, responding to both learning needs and situations of social and emotional distress. More than 7,900 students took part in nature-based learning, complementing formal partnerships under NEEEP.

The “Soil, Seed & Community” Workshop Series enabled the wider community to get involved with hands-on and practical learning experiences.

In response to the Wang Fuk Court fire, the “Nature as Companion: Community Wellbeing Support Programme”, supported by Tai Ping Carpets Limited, offered nature-based restorative experiences for affected residents and frontline workers. Trained facilitators supported programme delivery to ensure appropriate, trauma-informed engagement.

To sustain delivery, the department trained 18 Nature Education Volunteers and mentored 14 university interns, strengthening its capacity to respond to community needs.

Looking ahead, our strategic priorities focus on expanding school engagement, deepening community resilience, and continuing to develop responsive, place-based programmes. By building upon our year of strong participation and diverse initiatives, we remain dedicated to fostering enduring connections between people and nature, ensuring our overarching impact continues to inspire ecological consciousness for years to come.

ETHNOBOTANICAL STORIES OF CHUEN LUNG



Our book, ‘Ethnobotanical Stories of Chuen Lung’

Ethnobotanical Stories of Chuen Lung book launch event at Koon Man Space



Flow with Big Mountain finale exhibition at Koon Man Space, featuring herbarium specimens and other plant-related insights



In January, we concluded a year-long collaboration with the Hong Kong International Photo Festival (HKIPF), working alongside seven other local NGOs, academics and artists to generate a visual archive of life in Chuen Lung, a traditional rural village near Tsuen Wan. Our contribution focused on the ethnobotanical use of plants by villagers over successive generations. A two-month finale exhibition celebrating the output of all eight collaborations was then held at Koon Man Space, a community venue for learning and experimentation managed by HKIPF in the village.

Our research sought to bring to light local and mostly long-forgotten customs surrounding plant use, uncovering previously undocumented practices that once supported healthy, happy and unified communities and which continue to offer insights for a reconnected future.

Our team interviewed six long-term residents of Chuen Lung to elicit oral testimonies, and led a series of plant identification guided tours. Photographs, illustrations and specimens arising from the work were curated for the finale, ‘Flow with Big Mountain’.

In addition to the exhibition, we published a commemorative book entitled ‘Plants, People and Village Life: Ethnobotanical Stories of Chuen Lung’, featuring profiles of ten plant species historically used by villagers, enriched with ecological details and the interviewees’ recollections.

WILDLIFE EDUCATION THROUGH ENCOUNTERS AND TOURS

Animal Encounters and Discovery Tables

The staff of animal programmes and exhibits held 142 Animal Encounter activities to help visitors connect with nature and learn about wildlife conservation, as well as the impact of the illegal wildlife trade. We also hosted a booth at the Scout Association’s Animal Care Exhibition in February, which shared conservation messages and animal stories with approximately 400 kindergarten and primary school scouts.

Night Walk

Fauna staff coordinated 12 Night Walks for different groups, including the public, as well as tertiary students and professionals from the corporate sector between May and November 2025. Attendees learnt about the operations of the rescue centre through wild snake releases and had the opportunity to encounter wild nocturnal animals spotted along the lower area of the gardens.



During a night walk activity, a Lead Guide shares information with attendees about a rescued native snake just before re-release

Outreach Volunteer Training Programme 2025

The Outreach Volunteer recruitment training was conducted in October and November 2025, where participants underwent a comprehensive four-day course covering local biodiversity and fauna operations. Following a final assessment, a total of 18 new volunteers were recruited for our outreach pool. The volunteers provide educational talks and guided visits for the public.



The Discovery Table at the Scout Association’s Animal Care Exhibition

Animal Encounters (Ball Python) with a young visitor



Outreach Volunteers with KFBG trainers

CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH PLANTS THROUGH EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

World DNA Day

To mark World DNA Day on 25 April, the Conservation Genetics Lab team delivered visitor-engagement activities in the Plaza. The exhibit showcased the lab's work on wildlife trade and endangered species protection, featuring hands-on games and conservation stories.

Birthworts and Birdwings

Our schools-focused educational programme “Birthworts and Birdwings – Urban Habitat Enrichment Project” with talks and planting workshops was held in seven schools through the year, along with a dedicated teacher training session on experiential learning, ushering in a second cohort of schools joining this hands-on horticultural programme.

Linked to this initiative, we attended the 11th International Congress on Education in Botanic Gardens in Seoul, South Korea, in June. This event brought together 1,600 experts, officials, educators, researchers and students in related fields from more than 50 countries. We presented a talk on the topic “Birthworts and Birdwings – Urban Habitat Enrichment Project”, highlighting how nature conservation can be integrated into local school curricula through hands-on learning, showcasing the vital role of botanic gardens in nurturing citizen scientists and enhancing biodiversity.



Our staff leading a hands-on horticultural workshop for school children



KFBG's gold medal-winning Chelsea Flower Show display



RHS gold medal award



Public celebrating World DNA Day at KFBG

Chelsea Flower Show

For the first time in our history, we were invited to participate in the Royal Horticultural Society's world-famous Chelsea Flower Show in London, reflecting the global reach and reputation of our orchid conservation programme. Preparations commenced in late 2024, with plants from our nurseries being sent to Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew in April following a lengthy CITES and phytosanitary procedure.

Our display, entitled “Orchid Conservation: From Hong Kong to Australia - The Orchids of Asia & The Pacific”, told the story of orchid fragility and decline in South China, and how science and applied horticulture can aid the recovery of species. With just two days to set up, followed by a week of media interviews, a royal tour, numerous receptions and engagements plus the public event itself, it was a whirlwind experience. However, the effort paid off: we won an RHS gold medal!

BRINGING CONSERVATION STORIES TO LIFE THROUGH ANIMAL DISPLAYS

Herbarium Workshops

From July to October, KFBG led a series of ten workshops entitled “The Art and Science of Documenting Biodiversity: Making Plant Specimens in the KFBG Herbarium”. Participants learned about the value of herbaria for understanding plant diversity as they were introduced to various techniques and underlying principles for preserving plant specimens. They were also given the opportunity to collect, prepare, digitise and frame their very own herbarium specimen.

Plant Encounters

Our monthly Plant Encounters programme continues to attract growing numbers of participants who are interested in observing plants up close and learning about their ecology guided by a professional botanist. Each month we feature a different theme, which in 2025 touched on pollinators, invasive plants, butterfly plants, orchids, genetic diversity, ethnobotany and forest restoration, among others. This year, more than 200 participants attended these sessions.

Impressions, Expressions

An Artist-in-Residence exhibition, “Impressions, Expressions – feeling & depicting nature”, launched in October, showcasing renditions of seven local plant species produced by two artists in Flora Conservation Department, Kelvin Yeung and Jenny Li. The unique art pieces were displayed alongside potted specimens of each species, prepared for display by the Curator and Horticultural Supervisor. (Also see page 75.)



Herbarium Workshop run by Flora Conservation Department



An herbarium specimen made by one of the participants of the herbarium workshops

Exhibition: Fauna Conservation Department & Kadoorie Conservation China Milestones

In celebration of our 70th anniversary, a special exhibition was launched at the Piers Jacobs Wildlife Sanctuary in March 2026. The display offered a comprehensive overview of key milestones and conservation highlights achieved by the Fauna Conservation Department and Kadoorie Conservation China (KCC) between 1994 and 2025.

The exhibition's pop-up photos, illustrations, and graphs showcase the Department's move towards more eye-catching and engaging public educational signage



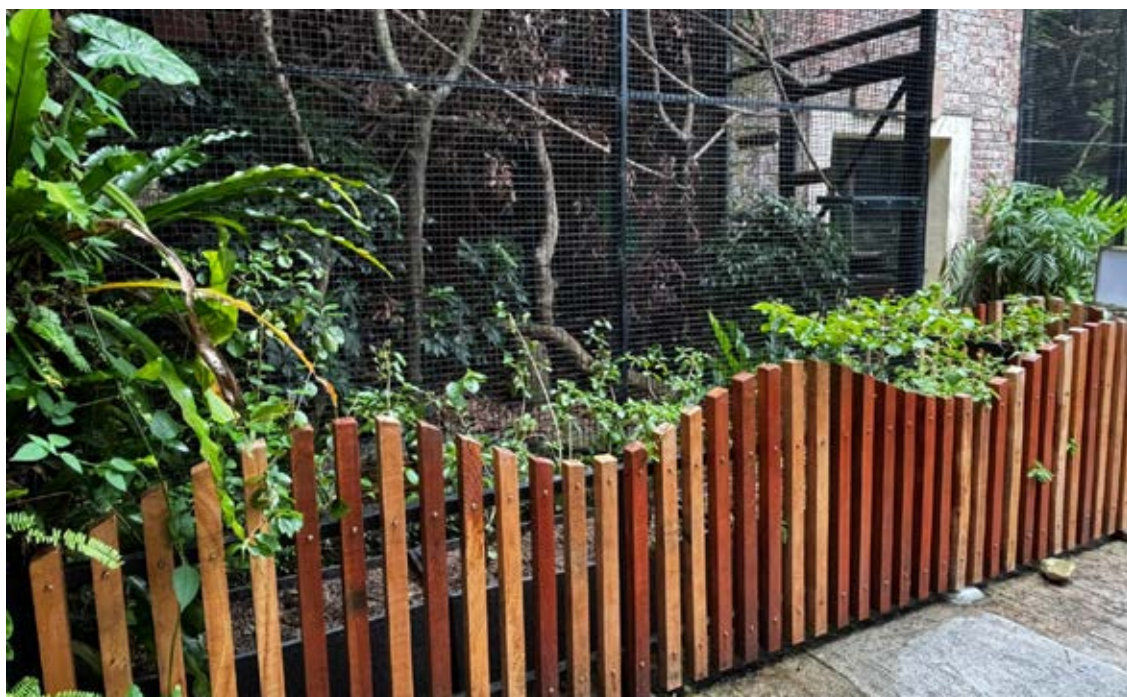
Animal Exhibits and Safety Barriers

Improvements to animal exhibits focused on visitor experience, including the introduction of aesthetically pleasing safety barriers and naturalistic materials that blend more seamlessly into the environment while strengthening the visual quality of the displays.

The safety barrier at Monkey Haven was designed using metal pipes resembling bamboo and complemented by natural planting



Natural upcycled wood from Y-Park used to create a safety barrier in front of the Civet Exhibit



FROM PUBLIC EDUCATION TO FIELD SKILLS: CAMERA TRAP TRAINING WORKSHOP

Infrared camera traps have long been utilised by wildlife researchers as an effective tool to study and monitor elusive mammals and ground-dwelling birds. Building on two decades of experience applying this technology for ecological monitoring across diverse habitats in China, we have developed substantial experience in this field.

To share this knowledge and create a special experience for visitors, we organised a third infrared camera trap workshop. The programme attracted both the general public as well as conservation professionals wishing to learn more about field-based techniques. These popular workshops were greeted positively, resulting in some former participants becoming volunteers to support our faunal monitoring work. These on-site workshops incorporate elements of public education, practical training, awareness raising and contribution to scientific research, creating a meaningful and engaging learning experience.



Participants taking part in the Camera Trap Training Workshop



SUSTAINABLE LIVING IN PRACTICE

At KFBG, the Green Hub, the new Food Hub and our outreach projects, sustainable living is approached as a way of building community resilience to reshape how we care for ourselves, one another and the wider environment through everyday choices and collaborative initiatives that are taken together. Rather than treating sustainability as an abstract concept, we begin with concrete entry points, such as food, energy use and community-supported agriculture (CSA), and explore how these can become pathways for more mindful, low impact living. At the same time, we walk our talk in our programme and service operations to mainstream sustainable practices in project design, catering operation and property management.

Green Hub, transformation from Old Tai Po Police Station to a community base for sustainable living



The chapter shows how our Eat Well food education programme, low carbon living projects, capacity building courses and community cocreation activities help participants connect sustainability with daily life. By combining practical skills, shared experiences and a welcoming space for reflection, “Sustainable Living in Practice” shows how small, grounded changes can contribute to a more resilient and compassionate Hong Kong.

Capacity Building in Sustainable Design

To mark the 10th Anniversary of the Green Hub, we strengthened our community capacity-building efforts. This began with an internationally recognised 72-hour Permaculture Design Certificate (PDC) Course held from June to July, engaging 18 core members of the Green Hub community and partners. With an emphasis on three main ethics: Earth Care, People Care and Fair Share, the programme fostered a paradigm shift on sustainable design and empowered participants with a framework of sustainability design principles and practical experiences.

Building on this, a series of Transition Town workshops was co-organised with our sister organisation, the Partnership for Community Development, from 20 to 24 August 2025. Transition Town Movement is a social permaculture model which aims to facilitate community-led transition towards a lower carbon emission lifestyle. Led by Mr Shunro Yoshida and Ms Mikae Koyama, the founders of Transition Town Japan, two workshops at Green Hub brought together over 60 community workers from different sectors in August for deep dialogue and collective visioning of a more sustainable Hong Kong.

We expanded our outreach by actively participating in the organising of the Second National Permaculture Convergence in Shenzhen from 17 to 20 October 2025. Through leading a day-course in Hong Kong for convergence participants, as well

Public talk led by permaculturist Rosemary Morrow



Microbe-joy Workshop at the Food Hub guides students to explore their relationship with the environment

as offering presentations and an exhibition during the convergence in Shenzhen, we showcased the Green Hub as a model of social permaculture and deepened connections with the wider permaculture community across the country.

From 21 to 28 October 2025, we hosted a seven-day Permaculture Teacher Training (PTT) Course led by renowned educator Rosemary Morrow and three co-teachers from Australia and Taiwan, with participants from France, Thailand, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Yunnan, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. The programme helped enhance permaculture ethics and participatory learning, with graduates quickly applying their knowledge into action by forming a co-teaching team to organise a PDC in Hong Kong in 2026, for greater collective impact.

In collaboration with The Education University of Hong Kong (EdUHK), SLD hosted a Food Education Teacher Training Workshop in August, which was attended by 22 student teachers. We also supported EdUHK in organising a one-day “Experience Nature and Heritage” workshop on 7 September as part of the “Creaturely Stories: Interspecies and Eco-caring Media Camp Retreat”. The workshop was attended by 27 education scholars and researchers, providing participants with a case study to explore the interconnections between nature, conservation, and environmental education.

Eat Well Programme: Food as the entry point

As we connect sustainability with everyday practices to inspire collective actions that drive meaningful change, our Eat Well programme, which promotes mindful consumption starting from our daily meals, engaged 174 organised groups, with 7,254 participants during the year.

To cultivate healthy habits from a young age, 91% of participants were students. Food education workshops accounted for over 80% of the Green Hub's weekday educational service capacity, demonstrating a strong demand for youth engagement.



Children experiencing our Eat Well Workshop



Tea & Learn staff event at Food Hub

■ Caring for Special Needs

The Green Hub joined the Care Food campaign organised by The Hong Kong Council for Social Service, which aims to make mealtimes more comfortable and dignified for people with dysphagia and other swallowing or chewing difficulties.

Nine of our chefs and sustainable living officers received training in Care Food Standards. Since September, our Eat Well Canteen has joined the Care Food Incubator scheme to promote awareness of the International Dysphagia Diet Standardisation Initiative (IDDSI) framework and delivered two training workshops for caregivers and promoted vegan care food. The Eat Well Canteen has also incorporated care food items into its regular menu.

■ Food Hub

The idea for a Food Hub came as part of the Kadoorie Earth Programme (KEP) during the pandemic when the canteen at HKU Kadoorie Centre had been suspended and needed reinvention. Renovation work began in 2024, following a vigorous project planning process to guide green interior fit-out, renovation and refurbishment works.

Officially opened in 2025, the Food Hub is now fully operational, with capacity to cater for 100 people with plant-based dining experience alongside food-themed educational workshops. It also enriches our KEP and supports the 70th Anniversary by offering participants memorable vegan food experiences. Sustainable management principles were applied to minimise the carbon footprint of all meals that are served at the Food Hub, and maximise the educational, social and environmental benefits. The food and educational experience at the Food Hub crystallises the blessings from organic farmers, fair-traders, our chefs and other staff and the generosity of mother earth. It is a place to inspire people to live sustainably with respect for each other and nature.

From 1st December 2025 to 31st August 2026, the Food Hub played an additional role to host weekly social support events for the affected families of Tai Po Fire jointly with our partner organisations.

■ Community Co-creation

Our Green Hub serves as both an incubator and a collaborative platform, bringing together people from diverse sectors to co-learn and co-create positive change in the face of climate challenges.

Our youth programme highlights include the Carbon Neutrality Pioneer Programme, developed in collaboration with Lang Qing Charity and

Food Workshop on Sustainable Project Design for Bridge to China (Wu Zhi Qiao)



supported by professional groups, institutions and the Environmental Protection Department. The programme aimed to build students' capacity and confidence as future changemakers. As part of the project, we organised a day camp for 80 student pioneers for experiential field learning and active exchange through a dynamic World Café activity. In another collaboration with the Zonta Club of the New Territories, we organised a series of four training workshops for students to serve as Zonta Zero Carbon Pioneers to promote school-based low carbon actions.

The Green Hub's Open Day events, held across 41 Sundays and public holidays between October to May, served as vibrant platforms for communication, collaboration, and public engagement in sustainable living. Alongside a wide range of activities - including unplugged musical performances, participatory drama workshops, vegan cookery demonstrations, nature story-telling, eco-walks, co-operative markets and other hands-on experiences were organised at the historic site to connect visitors with local sustainable producers and foster mutual support. To deepen public understanding of sustainability initiatives, we also enabled 19 producer sharing sessions during co-op market days.

As a living demonstration of sustainable design, the Green Hub actively sought partnerships to promote and mainstream sustainable practices. We supported the Development Bureau and RTHK in the production of *The Pulse of HK Forest* television programme. The Green Hub's tree preservation efforts and educational programmes were featured in the concluding episode, which highlighted public education initiatives and was broadcast in January 2026.



The Green Hub also supported the Commissioner for Heritage's Office (CHO) in promoting heritage conservation through participation in the Heritage Fiesta cum Roving Exhibition held from September to December, as well as in the Hong Kong Tourism Board's (HKTB) promotion of heritage tourism. In addition, the Green Hub's revitalisation story was featured in the Secretary for Development's Blog on 8 June 2025, showcasing its contributions to heritage conservation and adaptive reuse.

The Eat Well Café offers a new menu with a refreshed look and feel for visitors

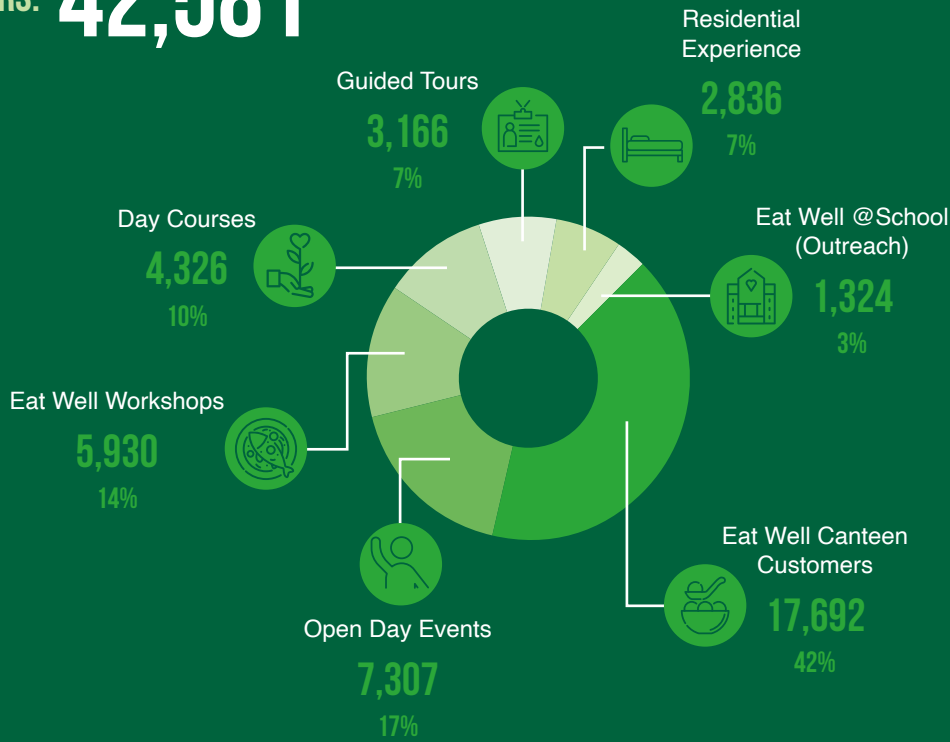
Green Hub's Weekly Open Day events



SUMMARY OF GREEN HUB PARTICIPATION

Green Hub demonstrated a balanced visitor ecosystem in FY2025-26

TOTAL VISITORS: 42,581



CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY



More than 900 students participated the Nature Treasure Hunt

For us, connecting with the community means building real, ongoing relationships between people, place and nature, rather than simply welcoming visitors for a single day out. It is about inviting schools, families, neighbours, corporate groups and partner organisations into a shared journey of learning and care, where everyone has a role to play in looking after Hong Kong's living environment.

At the heart of this work is a belief that conservation becomes stronger when it is rooted in everyday life. By opening up our site, stories and science, we help participants see that bats in an ancestral village house, black kites soaring above the city or rescued wildlife returning to the wild are all part of the same wider picture: how humans and nature coexist. Programmes that blend citizen science, guided visits, interactive games and hands on activities allow people to move from curiosity to understanding, and from understanding to action.

Connecting with the community also means meeting people where they are. We engage with schools and youth groups to nurture ecological literacy from an early age, support local residents and volunteers to care for nearby habitats, and collaborates with corporate partners who wish to ground their sustainability commitments in practical field experiences. At times of crisis, such as major fires or other disruptions, this connection takes on a more immediate form, as we and the Green Hub work alongside partners to provide support, safe spaces and a sense of continuity.

Across these different settings, the aim is the same: to weave nature into the fabric of community life. "Connecting with the Community" shows how stories, data and daily encounters can come together to build trust, shared responsibility and a deeper sense of belonging, so that caring for Hong Kong's habitats and species becomes a collective effort rather than the task of a few specialists.

AN OPEN SANCTUARY FOR MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT

Strengthening Reach through Deeper Engagement

We continue to serve as an open sanctuary for learning, restoration and community connection, welcoming 82,238 on-site visitors from school groups, community organisations and commercial groups, as well as programme participants and walk-in guests. While overall attendance remained close to the previous year's baseline, the visitor profile reflects a shift towards deeper and more intentional engagement. The increase in programme participation signalled a growing public appetite for guided, high-quality nature experiences that integrate ecological understanding with personal well-being.

This momentum was particularly evident during the March 2026 70th Anniversary celebrations, when immersive retreats, workshops, talks, exhibitions, and community gatherings collectively animated the site under the theme of reflection and renewal.

Our core audiences remained steady. School visits held at 22,859, reinforcing our role as a trusted outdoor classroom, while participation from government and NGO groups continued to demonstrate strong institutional partnerships. Commercial self-guided visits increased from 1,080 to 1,352, indicating broader recognition that we are a meaningful destination for group learning and reflection.

Numbers of On-site Visitors:

	2024-25 Total	2025-26 Total
Self-guided - School Groups	23,860	22,859
Self-guided - Commercial Groups	1,080	1,352
Self-guided - GOV / NGO Groups	4,974	4,874
Programme Participants	15,423	16,840
Individuals / Walk-in	39,372	36,313
	84,709	82,238

NATURE TREASURE HUNT 2025

The Nature Treasure Hunt continued to serve as an important platform for public engagement and eco-literacy, connecting participants with Hong Kong's native biodiversity through interactive learning and nature-based experiences. In 2025, under the theme "Wildlife Guardians: Saving Native Species in Hong Kong", the programme combined school outreach, community participation and on-site activities to deepen understanding of local conservation issues and inspire action for nature.

A dual-phase approach helped extend the programme's reach and impact. Ahead of the main event, eco-literacy activities engaged 4,254 students through school-based programmes. The school day of the Nature Treasure Hunt welcomed nine local primary and secondary schools, involving 933 students, while the public day brought together 1,419 participants, including families, community groups and supporters. Altogether, the event engaged 2,352 participants on site, and was sponsored by Hang Seng Bank.

At the site, participants enjoyed a treasure hunt spanning 20 checkpoints, where educational questions and conservation challenges encouraged active discovery and learning. The event was complemented by workshops and guided activities, including plant and animal encounters, apiary experiences and other hands-on educational booths. A particular highlight was the opening of the WARC for guided tours, offering visitors a rare opportunity to gain deeper insight into our wildlife rescue and rehabilitation work. The MyTreelings interactive community game further enriched the experience by encouraging participants to discover native plant species and their ecological relationships in an engaging and accessible way, helping to foster appreciation of biodiversity and more positive conservation attitudes in daily life.



Participants and guests gathered at the starting line to launch the event

LAM TSUEN COMMUNITY BAT PROJECT

*Himalayan Leaf-nosed Bat
at the Bat House*

Lam Tsuen Community Bat Project illustrates how people and wildlife can coexist. The project focuses on protecting a Himalayan Leaf-nosed bat roost in the Lam Tsuen Valley while helping to address potential human-wildlife conflict.

Since 2006, we have been monitoring the bat population through monthly visits to the roost. These visits involve collecting bat guano, counting the number of bats present, and helping to keep the ancestral building in a tidy state. The guano makes excellent fertiliser, which is mixed into a potting compost after collection and sold in the Farm Shop. In 2025-26, 210 kg of guano and substrate was collected.

The population of insect-eating bats appears to be healthy and has grown since the start of the project. Peak counts rose between 83 and 160 (2005–2015) to an average of 203 (2018–2026). Very few bats are observed in winter when they undertake a short local migration during the cooler and drier weather, most likely to a nearby water catchment which offers more humid conditions.

The project has engaged volunteers, students, and villagers, raising awareness of local biodiversity, bat protection, and demonstrating how community action can reduce human-wildlife conflict.

WILDLIFE RESCUE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Wildlife rescue and rehabilitation work also serves as an important bridge between us and the wider community. Throughout the year, we used real rescue stories and frontline experience to engage the public on how to respond appropriately when discovering wild animals in trouble, why animals come into care, and what those cases reveal about the human impact on native species in Hong Kong.

In 2023, the Vet Hospital team launched a project to wing-tag native Black Kites before release. The aim of the project is to fit visual identifiers (wing tags) to Black Kites (*Milvus migrans*) in order to collect rescue/ rehabilitation data (bird survival).



*Kite with tag #69 was spotted post-release
(Credit to Peter Chan)*

*Educational booth at the Scout
Association of Hong Kong
Annual Exhibition*



Every kite admitted to the WARC is carefully assessed before its release, and if it recovers well and reaches full fitness, a visual tag is applied to both wings. The project relies on citizen science, and the collection of citizen reports helps to compile a sightings database. Since the start of the project, the results have been quite notable. The rescue centre has admitted a total of 40 kites, of which 26 were released and 14 were re-sighted. Several kites have been sighted multiple times. One kite, with tag #69, was sighted 626 days post-release, providing an important indication of post-release survival following rehabilitation.

THE MIGRANT DOMESTIC WORKER PROGRAMME

Advancing Scale, Inclusion, and Well-being

The Migrant Domestic Worker (MDW) Programme is a flagship initiative for targeted community engagement, demonstrating how culturally responsive design can deliver measurable mental well-being benefits at scale. Through trusted partnerships with community organisations, the programme has achieved strong reach while maintaining high educational and experiential quality.



Participants display their completed pastel artworks, exploring personal reflection and mental well-being through art



Yoga and mindfulness practice inside the glasshouse and along the outdoor terrace

In 2025–2026, participation grew significantly, doubling from 1,703 to 3,422.

This momentum is reinforced by strong feedback: among 2,389 responses collected since May 2025, 99% of participants reported high satisfaction across well-being indicators.

Programme design has also evolved to offer diverse workshops and entry points for both new and returning participants. While maintaining a strong connection with Tagalog-speaking participants (83%), the programme has expanded its reach to Bahasa Indonesia speakers, now representing 8% of the audience.



Participants from both the Philippines and Indonesia gather outdoors at KFBG on Sundays

FIRE RELIEF WORK FOR TAI PO WANG FUK COURT FIRE-AFFECTED FAMILIES

The entire Hong Kong community was left reeling after the devastating fire at Wang Fuk Court on 25 November 2025, which left nearly 2,000 families homeless overnight. Located just 500 metres from our Green Hub, we responded immediately by opening the guesthouse that evening to provide emergency accommodation for some of the affected families. By 27 November, all available rooms were in use.

With support from the Sir Horace Kadoorie International Hong Kong Foundation Limited, we were able to extend our response through our newly established Food Hub, supporting the University of Hong Kong's Kadoorie Centre to offer additional shelter. A dedicated social support team was established, and collaboration with institutions and community partners was strengthened on a daily basis.

Since November 2025, we have provided temporary accommodation to 91 individuals from 37 families affected by the incident.

As of 31 March 2026, 71 residents from 28 families remained accommodated at Green Hub and the University of Hong Kong's Kadoorie Centre, and the emergency accommodation programme was extended to the end of August 2026 in response to continuing need.

During the reporting period, we delivered more than 70 workshops and activities with community partners for shelter residents and the wider Tai Po community, taking a well-being-centred approach to recovery. We are deeply grateful to The Peninsula Hong Kong, Feeding Hong Kong, Mind HK, the Hong Kong Law Association, A Drop of Life and many other organisations for their support. Together, they provided mental health support, legal guidance, essential resources and well-being programmes, helping residents address immediate needs while strengthening longer-term resilience and community well-being.



KFBG's Food Hub offers daily nutritious meals for affected families



OUR SUPPORT FOR AFFECTED FAMILIES ACROSS THE TWO TEMPORARY SHELTERS HAS FOCUSED ON FOUR CORE AREAS



TEMPORARY
ACCOMMODATION



MEALS AND
ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES



FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE



PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT
AND WELL-BEING



CREATING SHARED VALUE THROUGH CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

Over the past year, we deepened our engagement with corporate partners, NGOs and local organisations through programmes that connected nature conservation, holistic education and sustainable living. We welcomed over 45 groups, attracting more than 950 participants – a 25% increase compared to the previous year.

We also organised a diverse range of activities including Habitat Restoration, volunteering work such as the removal of invasive species, guided tours, and insightful Coffee Encounters. These programmes offered participants valuable hands-on experiences in biodiversity conservation and sustainable practices, while creating opportunities for shared learning and collaboration across sectors.



Introduction of Fern Walk to Knight Frank Petty Limited

Habitat Restoration introduction by Wander Meijer to Sir Elly Kadoorie & Sons Limited



EXPANDING COMMUNITY OUTREACH THROUGH MEDIA AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



Wander Meijer, Executive Director, and Stephan Gale, Head of Flora Conservation, spoke on RTHK's Vibrant Hong Kong

During the year, we strengthened our media outreach and community engagement efforts to deepen public understanding of our work in nature conservation, holistic education and sustainable living. Alongside regular press releases and member newsletters, we placed greater emphasis on proactive media engagement through media day activities and Key Opinion Leaders (KOL) collaborations, helping us reach broader and more diverse audiences.

Our communications highlighted major conservation research and organisational developments, including forest restoration: the achievement of TGBS Premium-Tier Certification; the ecological impacts of the introduced Blue-crested Lizard; the urgent need to address illegal wildlife trade; the opening of the Jockey Club Nature Conservation Centre; and the launch of our 70th anniversary celebrations.

Media visited WARC as part of the press day programme



AN EVOLVING ORGANISATION

Our People & Culture (P&C) Department continues to nurture our people and strengthen the culture that makes KFBG unique. By balancing professional human resources practices, rooted in respect for our history and values, we strive to create a workplace where individuals feel supported, connected and inspired to contribute.

Retirement Party for the "last pig lady", Sutida Ip





Staff Engagement Series – Cook with Nature

As we evolve, attracting the right talent remains essential. This year, we strengthened our recruitment approach through the introduction of a dual-based interview model for senior and key roles. By assessing both professional experience and personal competencies, we aim to ensure that new colleagues not only bring the right expertise, but are able to connect with our mission, values and culture.

At the same time, we continued to connect with the next generation through university career talks. We engaged with The Chinese University of Hong Kong, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and The Education University of Hong Kong, reaching more than 150 students. Through these exchanges, we aim to inspire interest in conservation-related careers and share the meaningful work carried out at KFBG, which nurtures a future talent pipeline.

Additionally, we continued to strengthen the Annual Staff Review (ASR) process to better support fair remuneration decisions. By providing clearer performance insights including, two-year performance appraisal rating, warnings, site accident records and leave records, we helped leaders have more grounded and balanced conversations about their team members' contributions, growth and potential. By connecting these two processes, P&C helped bridge day-to-day people management with longer-term organisational planning, ensuring decisions are informed and aligned.



Honouring Long Service Awards (20 years at KFBG) at the Annual Spring Dinner. Every year, around 5-6 staff receive this award

Staff development remains at the heart of our work. The launch of the Canopy Cultivation Leadership Programme marks an important step in strengthening leadership within the organisation. Designed for 30 team leaders and high-potential talents, the programme provides space for reflection, learning and exchange. It encourages participants to explore leadership grounded in empathy, collaboration and purpose, elements essential to sustain our mission over time. This year we conducted seven training and three guest speaker sharing sessions, reflecting our ongoing commitment to building leadership capacity and organisational resilience.

We also continue to prioritise a supportive and connected workplace. Throughout the year, we organised 18 Lunch and Learn sessions with 733 participations. Staff engagement activities included the Spring Dinner, Staff Canteen Poon Choi Lunch, Connect with Nature Cooking Workshop and the Red Bricks Workshop, all of which created opportunities for staff to learn from others, share experiences and build relationships across teams.



Engagement Survey briefing to our staff, by Wander Meijer

An important milestone initiative was the Employee Engagement Survey conducted in September and October 2025, reflecting the management team's ongoing efforts to make KFBG a better and more purposeful place to work. The survey gave staff across both office and field teams an opportunity to share their views on cross-departmental communication, professional development, workplace environment and overall satisfaction. The results were encouraging: KFBG's overall engagement index has been rising steadily across 2022, 2023 and 2025. The index reflects employees' satisfaction, motivation, and their overall assessment of KFBG's organisational performance.

Moreover, engagement levels among field staff and the management team have increased significantly. In general, employees reported that their immediate supervisors were more supportive and maintained more frequent face-to-face communication with their teams.

In terms of people development and training, employees reported increased opportunities for progression based on their experience and performance compared to the 2022 and 2023 results. To enhance engagement and foster mutual understanding, monthly Lunch and Learn sessions have been organised since 2022. Survey results indicate a significant improvement in cross-departmental understanding.

In early 2026, six staff briefing sessions were held to share key findings and foster open conversations, giving staff the opportunity to reflect, ask questions and share their thoughts. These conversations helped the management team better understand what matters most to our people and offers a guide to improve our workplace.

The 70th Anniversary was a very special occasion for all of us. To begin the year of celebration, the P&C team prepared a commemorative staff gift set as a token of appreciation for the dedication and contributions of all colleagues. Each set was thoughtfully designed in line with our sustainability principles, including a native wildlife animal wooden magnet, a 70th anniversary enamel pin, an eco-friendly bento lunch box and reusable cutlery set featuring the "Little Fish" motif. Staff were also given the option to opt out of receiving the items, encouraging mindful consumption and respecting individual preferences.

Throughout the year, we continued to evolve with steady staff movement. Over the year, 48 new colleagues joined us, while 34 moved on to new paths, and four long-serving staff retired after their dedicated contributions. As of 31 March 2026, we have a staff complement of 257.5 full-time employees.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP



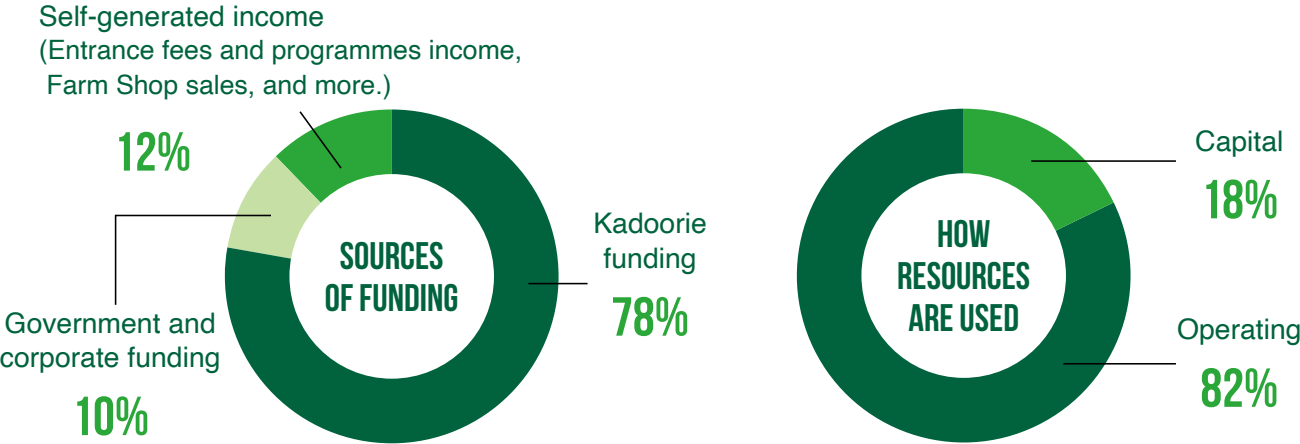
Proper financial management is essential as we care for nature, serve the community and plan for the future. Towards this end, the Finance Department ensures wise and careful stewardship so that resources are used responsibly and transparently. This enables the organisation to continue delivering meaningful long-term impact, not only through its operations, but also for larger strategic priorities.

Through our diligence, we provide a strong foundation for decision-making, and build confidence with donors, partners and colleagues that funds are being managed with care and accountability. This includes ensuring that processes are streamlined and financial information is accessible across the organisation.

Our mission is to support internal coordination and strengthen oversight to enable effective and relevant planning. Looking ahead, we will continue to build on this progress by further digitalising procurement and finance workflows, strengthening management reporting, and supporting governance arrangements that can grow with the organisation. In doing so, our department will remain a key enabler of KFBG's mission, helping to transform financial responsibility into lasting environmental and community value.

The financial performance and position of KFBG have been prepared in a true and fair view in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards (“HKFRSs”) issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (“HKICPA”). In all other respects, the financial information has been properly prepared in compliance with the KFBG governance and internal control to prevent and detect fraud and error and also safeguard the assets of KFBG.

Financial Snapshot 2025-26



Financial Figures (excluding depreciation)

Expenditure (HK\$)	Year Ended 31.3.2026 (unaudited)**	Year Ended 31.3.2025 (audited)*
Capital	24,863,700	18,212,093
Operating	159,581,524	144,859,595
Total	184,445,224	163,071,688
Capital - Jockey Club Nature Conservation Centre	9,480,700	82,981,806

Income (HK\$)	Year Ended 31.3.2026 (unaudited)**	Year Ended 31.3.2025 (audited)*
Total	206,835,359	245,147,679

Income decreased by HK\$38.3M compared to Year 2025, primarily due to the completion of the new Nature Conservation Building and reduced related funding from the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust.
*From management accounts (expenditure includes expenses accrued and not yet settled).
**From audited accounts (expenditure includes expenses accrued and not yet settled).

Income - Government funding

Government Funding	Utilised/ will utilise by KFBG to provide:	Year ended 31.3.2026	Year ended 31.3.2025
HKSAR gov't (AFCD) subvention	Wild Animal Rescue Centre	1,000,000	1,000,000
Development Bureau The KFBG Green Hub	Old Tai Po Police Station revitalisation	65,970	741,895
HKSAR gov't (SIE fund)	Forest School programme		7,064
Lantau Conservation Fund	Lantau Otter Conservation Project	571,052	-
Total		1,637,022	1,748,959

Income - Corporate funding

Other Funding	Utilised/ will utilise by KFBG to provide:	Year ended 31.3.2026	Year ended 31.3.2025
Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust	Funding support for the new JCNCC	8,130,404	82,029,474
Hang Seng Bank Limited	Hang Seng Nature Treasure Hunt	2,000,000	2,000,000
CLP Holdings Limited	Ecological restoration of tropical forest	1,170,000	1,190,000
Sir Horace Kadoorie International Hong Kong Foundation Limited	Connection to Nature for Migrant Domestic Workers in Hong Kong project	1,904,539	1,347,097
Sir Horace Kadoorie International Hong Kong Foundation Limited	Tai Po Fire Emergency Relief Project	3,846,367	-
Tai Ping Carpets Limited	Remedial Support for the Community after the Wang Fuk Court Fire Incident	314,000	-
Innisburg Charitable Foundation	Wild Animal Rescue Centre	400,000	-
Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust	Adoption of Electric Vehicles in Social Services	1,387,700	-
Drs Richard Charles & Esther Yewpick Lee Charitable Foundation	Nature-based Eco-literate Experiential Education Programme	1,374,300	-
HKEX Foundation Limited	HKEX Community Partnership Programme	475,527	-
Ave Fenix China Foundation Limited	Guangxi Gibbon Project		1,035,000
Knorr-Bremse Global Care Asia Pacific Limited	Gaoligong Gibbon Summer Camp project		100,000
IUCN	Cao-vit Gibbon Conservation project		31,426
Mangrove Foundation	Greater Bay Area otter survey project		57,315
Others		288,000	275,000
Total		21,290,837	88,065,312

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Committee Overview List

KFBG staff are members and participants in the following committees

Committee/ Organisation
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) - Animal Welfare Advisory Group - Legal Sub-group Member
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) - Endangered Species Advisory Committee
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) - Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Loan Fund Committee
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) - Wild Pig Management Advisory Group - Member
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) - Wildlife Crime Task Force Member
CEPF / IUCN China - Indo-Burma - National Advisory Committee
Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) - Environmental Committee for Ngau Tam Mei Development
Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) - Environmental Committee for San Tin Technopole
Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) - Working Group for Tung Chung River Park
CPCF - Funding Applications Review - Member
Development Bureau (DEVB) - Community Involvement Committee on Greening
Drainage Services Department (DSD) - Informal Green Groups Liaison Meeting
Environment and Ecology Bureau (EEB) - Restored Landfill Revitalisation Funding Scheme - Steering Committee
Fung Yuen Butterfly Reserve - Butterfly Reserve Management Strategy - Advisory
Global Gibbon Network - Advisory
Hainan Bird Watching Society - Record Committee Chair
Home Affairs Department (HAD) - Informal Green Groups Liaison Meeting
Hong Kong Bird Ringing Committee - Member
Hong Kong Permaculture Institute - Founding Member
Hospital Authority (HA) - HK Poison Control Network - Expert Panel Member
IOSF Asian Otter Conservation Network - East Asia Coordinator
IUCN - Pangolin Specialist Group - Member
IUCN SSC - Small Carnivore Specialist Group - Member
IUCN SSC - Butterfly and Moth Specialist Group - Member
IUCN SSC - China Species Specialist Group - Member
IUCN SSC - Otter Specialist Group - East Asia Continental Coordinator
IUCN SSC - Primate Specialist Group - Member
IUCN SSC - Snake Specialist Group - Member
IUCN SSC - Tortoise & Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group - Advisory
IUCN TSA - Turtle Conservation Fund - Review Panel

Committee/ Organisation
Lang Qing Charity - Towards Carbon Neutrality Campaign for Youths in Greater Bay Area
LSCD - Hong Kong Flower Show
MTR - Informal Green Groups Liaison Meeting
Ocean Park Conservation Foundation - Scientific Advisory Committee - Member
Royal Botanic Gardens Kew - Honorary Research Associate
Royal Entomological Society - Fellow
SPCA - SPCA Cadet Inspector Corps - Honorary Mentor
Wildlife Trade Working Group (WTWG) - Advisory

Appendix 2: Scientific Papers Produced

Title	Authors	Journal/Publication
Open letter: The need for a site-based biodiversity standard measuring and certifying impacts from nature-based projects	Bartholomew, D., Smith, P., de Vitis, M., Gann, G., Mosyftiani, A., ... Chan, T. , ... Cardoso, F. , ... Cheuk, M.L. , ... Gale, S.W. , ... Meijer, W. , ... Carrero, J.Z.	<i>Plants, People, Planet</i> 8 : 1394-1402.
High-performance living plant collections require a globally integrated data ecosystem to meet twenty-first-century challenges	Brockington, S.F., Malcolm, P., Aiello, A.S., Almeida, T.H., Apple, M., ... Gale, S.W. , ... Smith, P.	<i>Nature Plants</i> 12 : 18–25.
CITES compliance gaps: Illegal international trade of fins from Western Pacific–Indian Ocean increasingly sustains pelagic thresher sharks in Major global market	Cardeñosa, D., Babcock, E.A., Quinlan, J., Shea, S.K., Zhang, H. , Feldheim, K.A., Yang, F. , Gale, S.W. , Chapman, D.	<i>Biological Conservation</i> 318 : 111852.
International trade regulations take a limited bite out of the shark fin trade	Cardeñosa, D., Babcock, E.A., Shea, S.K., Zhang, H. , Feldheim, K.A., Yang, F. , Gale, S.W. , Fernando, D., Tanna, A., Warwick, L., Chapman, D.D	<i>Sciences Advances</i> 11 : eadz2821.
Ongoing trade of fins from critically endangered rays (wedgefish and giant guitarfish) despite international regulations and a novel PCR test to detect rays among ‘shark’ fins	Chapman, D.D., Cardeñosa, D., Shea, K.H., Babcock, E.A., Jabado, R.W., Zhang, H. , Gale, S.W. , Feldheim, K.A.	<i>Conservation Genetics</i> 26 : 971–981.
Mixed stock analysis of major markets and trade records reveal illegal trade of oceanic whitetip shark fins from the Atlantic Ocean	Fields, C.Y.A., Cardeñosa, D., Bernard, A., Feldheim, K.A., Gale, S.W. , Papastamatiou, Y.P., Shea, K.H., Shivji, M.S., Zhang, H. , Chapman, D.D.	<i>Conservation Genetics</i> 26 : 943–952.

Title	Authors	Journal/Publication
Wild edible plants selection of Tibetan and Naxi people in Northwest Yunnan, China	Fu, Y., Zhang, J. , Mon, A.M., Shi, Y., Bi, Y., Wang, Y., Panyadee, P., Yang, X., Whitney, C.W.	<i>Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine</i> 21: 74.
Large-scale genomic phylogeography provides insights into evolutionary history and conservation priorities of the white-bellied pangolin (<i>Phataginus tricuspis</i>)	Gu, T.T., Zhai, T.Y., Jiang, Y., Qi, B.T., Yang, F. , Zhang, Z.X., Yu, R., Omotosho, O., Morenikeji, O., Zhang, H. , Hu, J.Y., Yu, L.	<i>Molecular Biology and Evolution</i> 43: msag049.
Past occurrence of mainland clouded leopard in Hong Kong	Hui, M. K. Y., Li, F. & Yang, J. H.	<i>Cat News</i> , 82, 31–32.
Unexpected recent discovery of the endangered Hainan hare <i>Lepus hainanus</i> from northeastern Hainan Island, China	Hui, M. K. Y., Yeung, H. Y. , Rao, X., Guo, N., Yang, J. H. & Li, F.	Mammalia, 90(1), 23–26.
Hong Kong orchids on the EDGE: a phylogenetic framework for conservation planning, trade mitigation and population rescue	Li, J., Zhang, J., Gale, S.W.	<i>Frontiers in Plant Science</i> 17: 1801915.
Postglacial climate and urban fragmentation shape genetic differentiation of <i>Oreocharis guileana</i> , a rare cliff herb endemic to Hong Kong–Shenzhen coastal mountains	Li, W., Luo, J., Jing, H., Yi, X., Zhang, J. , Fan, Q., Gale, S.W. , Chen, S.	<i>Conservation Genetics</i> 27: 95.
More than fruity scents: Pollination biology, scent, and spectral reflectance of Annonaceae species	Liu, M.F. , Chen, J., Pang, C.C., Scharaschkin, T., Saunders, R.M.	<i>Plant Species Biology</i> . 40(5), 403-425.
Fungus-infected <i>Meiogyne</i> flowers offer a brood site for beetle pollinators in a tripartite nursery pollination system	Liu, M.F. , Chen, J., Xue, B., Wang, R., Saunders, R.M.	<i>Annals of Botany</i> . 136(3). 567-582.
Molecular phylogenetics and trait-dependent biogeography offer insights on the dispersal of <i>Meiogyne</i> (Annonaceae) across the Australasia–Pacific region	Liu, M.F. , Munzinger, J., Chalermglin, P., Chen, J., Xue, B., Saunders, R.M.K.	<i>Journal of Systematics and Evolution</i> 64: 313–329.
Two new <i>Meiogyne</i> species from Malesia and new combinations in <i>Meiogyne</i> and <i>Monoon</i> (Annonaceae) in the Asia-Pacific region	Liu, M.F. , Munzinger, J., Chen, J.	<i>PhytoKeys</i> 272: 21.

Title	Authors	Journal/Publication
Plants, People and Village Life: Ethnobotanical Stories of Chuen Lung	Lo, F., Hang, D., Zhang, J., Gale, S.	Hong Kong International Photo Festival (HKIPF) & Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden (KFBG).
The Status of the Eurasian Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) In Central Asia: A Literature Review	Savage, M., Oleynikov, A., Sedash, G. & Li. F.	<i>IUCN Otter Spec. Group Bull.</i> 42(3), 106–119.
Stable isotope analysis successfully identifies wild-caught individuals of threatened Asian freshwater turtles in illegal trade	Sung, Y.K., Liew, J.H., Chan, W.S., Fok, A.W.L., Leung, J., Wong, H.F., Baker, D.M., Bonebreake, T.C., Dingle, C., Dudgeon, D., Karraker, N.E., Lau, A., Colon, V.A., Magouras, I., Ades, G., Crow, P., Rose-Jeffreys, L. , Spencer, R., Fong, J.J.	<i>Global Ecology and Conservation</i> , e03947.
Seizure samples reveal complex evolutionary dynamics among Southeast Asian pangolins	Wong, P.Y.H., Chen, Y., Prigge, T.-L., Zhang, H., Rose-Jeffreys, L., Ades, G. , Duya, M.R.M., Fontanilla, I.K.C., Kanwal, A., Fayeeja, N.I., Ng, L.K.P., Yeung, S., Lam, T.T.Y., Momigliano, P., Bonebrake, T.C.	<i>Heredity</i> 135: 249–258.
Description of a new species of the genus <i>Halpe</i> Moore, 1878 from Hainan, China (Hesperiidae, Hesperinae)	Xue, G. X., Lo, Y. F. P. , Inayoshi, Y., Li, J. L. & Li, M.	<i>Zootaxa</i> , 5750(2), 259–266.
Black-chinned Yuhina <i>Yuhina nigrimenta</i> at Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden	Yang, J. H.	<i>Hong Kong Bird Report</i> 2021, 250–253.
Effect of primate protection on threatened and endemic vertebrates, plants, ecosystem services, and future climate refugia	Yang, Y., Li, C., Fang, Y. H., Ren, G. P., Huang, Z. P., Li, Y. P., Li, F. , ... & Xiao, W.	<i>Conservation Biology</i> , e70019.
Sourcing the geographic origin of the introduced Blue-crested lizard <i>Calotes mystaceus</i> Duméril & Bibron, 1837 (Squamata: Agamidae) in Hong Kong	Yeung, H. Y. & Yang, J. H.	<i>BioInvasions Records</i> , 14(2), 475–485.
Incorporating biodiversity conservation in the restoration of fully functioning subtropical evergreen forest at Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden in Hong Kong: An overview of principles and practices	Zhang, J., Cardoso, F.C.G., Zhu, H., Cheuk, M.L., Gale, S.W.	In M.H. Wong, X.W. Chen, M. Ushio (Eds.), <i>Handbook of sustainable management of biodiversity: Strategies for a thriving planet</i> (1st ed.). CRC Press.



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