

Rural Sustainability Programme in Lai Chi Wo, Hong Kong

CHICK, Hiu Lai Katie

The Policy for Sustainability Lab (PSL), Faculty of Social Sciences, the University of Hong Kong

Katie joined PSL as Project Manager for Rural Sustainability programmes since Apr 2014. Her expertise covers both nature and cultural conservation. She obtained her Mphil. And Msc degrees in Forest Ecology and Architectural Conservation at the University of Hong Kong. Before joining the university, she worked at local environmental NGOs for almost ten years.

ktchick@hku.hk



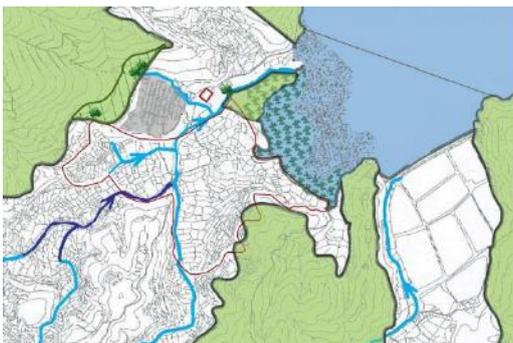
Geographic and demographic information



Country	Hong Kong, China
Province	New Territories
District	North District
Size of geographical area	136.7km ²
Number of indirect beneficiaries	315 270persons (Men :147494 persons) (Women: 167776 persons)
Dominant ethnicity	Hong Kong Cantonese



Size of project area	5 km ²
Number of direct beneficiaries	About 1200 persons (no figure of sex distribution)
Geographic coordinates (longitude and latitude)	22.5304° N, 114.2588° E
Dominant ethnicity	Hong Kong Hakka



- Legend**
- Plover Clove Country Park*
 - Lai Chi Wo Special Area*
 - Double Haven Marine Park*
 - Mudflat
 - Lai Chi Wo Hakka Village
 - Mangrove
 - Site of Special Scientific Interest #
 - Site of Archaeological Interest #
 - Hip Tin Temple & Hok Shan Monastery Grade III Historic Buildings #
 - Existing streams
 - Ecologically Important Stream #
 - Old and Valuable Trees #

Detailed map of Lai Chi Wo

Ecosystem Types

X	Forest		Grassland	X	Agricultural	X	In-land water
X	Coastal		Dryland	X	Mountain		Urban/peri-urban

Important species in the site

English common name (Local name)	Scientific name	Description
Chinese bullfrog	<i>Hoplobatrachus chinensis</i>	China Class II National Protection species, associated with traditional paddy farming practice
Paddy rice	<i>Oryza sativa</i>	Traditional crop, providing seasonal wetland habitat for freshwater species
Heritiera & White flower derris	<i>Heritiera littoralis</i> & <i>Derris trifoliata</i>	Largest colony present in Hong Kong which is traditionally maintained by the villagers. Major ecotourism spot .
Incense tree	<i>Aquilaria sinensis</i>	Common species found in the site. The species is under threat of illegal logging for agarwood production. Agroforestry trial is carried out to promote conservation and wise use.



Chinese bullfrog



White flower derris

General introduction

Lai Chi Wo is a historic farming valley located within the UNESCO Global Geopark of Hong Kong, China. The agricultural landscape is the result of more than 300 years of interaction between a traditional Hakka settlement and its natural environment, which reflects the ancient Chinese Fung Shui philosophy. The site is also an important ecological hotspot where the diverse and unique habitats house numerous concerned species and individuals. Unfortunately, villagers began to leave and move out to urban areas or European countries for a better living in 1950s. Desertion of the village led to a loss in traditional culture and biodiversity due to a lack of active management. In the late 70s, a substantial part of the surrounding woodland was designated as part of the Plover Cove Country Park. While the designation has provided a statutory protection of the area with high ecological value, it further isolated the village and made it inaccessible by vehicles.

An multi-year action project has been launched since 2013 which seeks to replenish and revitalize the disappearing cultural and natural capital of this once-deserted village. The project adopts a collaborative model to engage local community, academics, NGOs, government and business sector to work on an array of activities, ranging from agricultural rehabilitation and community revitalization, to cultural reinvention, community building, rural research and education, and biodiversity conservation.



Probably the most intact “Seabed-Mangrove-Forest Ecosystem” in China can be found in Lai Chi Wo © Kin-Ming Lau.



Original villagers, new settlers and volunteers from the city are being engaged in the paddy field rehabilitation © Hon-Lung Li..

Contribution to Aichi Biodiversity Targets' Strategic Goal D

	Breakdown Target	How did you measure the outcome?	Result
Strategic Goal D	TARGET 14 Ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded ...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area of the restored habitats and diversity. • Change of species richness and abundance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 ha of agricultural wetlands and open farmlands are restored for crop production, biodiversity conservation and education purposes. • Abundance of concerned amphibian species, Chinese bullfrog is enhanced as the agricultural rehabilitation creates and diversifies micro-habitats.
	... taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of stakeholders being involved in the process. • Income and benefits brought to the local community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous community is engaged and empowered in nature and cultural conservation. Over 50% of indigenous community and landowners is involved. • The projects bring visitors and new income sources for local community are created. All current residents of the village are benefited.
	TARGET 15 Ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks have been enhanced through conservation and restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any application of mitigation measures against climate change and its impact • Impacts on ecosystem services such as flooding prevention and irrigation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agroforestry practice is adopted to enhance the agro-ecosystem resilience. On-going monitoring is carried out to document its impact. • Renewal energy and Biochar have been adopted to enhance the carbon sequestration of the farming practice. • Flooding incidents have been intensified in the recent year. Adaptation strategies have been developed to enhance the ecosystem and also the community resilience to the intensified flooding problem.
	At least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems are restored, contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation, and to combating desertification		
TARGET 16	The Nagoya Protocol is in force		
	The Nagoya Protocol is operational, consistent with national legislation		

Relations to other Aichi Biodiversity Target & SDGs

Please indicate the Aichi Biodiversity Targets other than the targets your working group focuses and SDGs that your activities contribute to if any. Use “●” and “■” to indicate the “direct” or “indirect” contributions to the targets.

CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets (<https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>)

Strategic Goal A				Strategic Goal B					
●						●			
Strategic Goal C			Strategic Goal D			Strategic Goal E			
●		●	●	●			■		

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>)

	●	●	■		■	■	■	
	●	●	●		●		●	

Any difficulties you found during your assessment

Social, ecological and economic conditions are intertwined and it is difficult to select suitable indicators and measurement methods for assessment. For example, there are many different resilience measurement methods available and some indicators need substantial input to collect enough data for assessment. Sometimes it is not easy for local projects to secure resources for assessment.

Key messages for the CBD in planning for the post-2020 Targets

The role of different players (e.g. government, universities, NGOs, corporate; local and international parties) in the pursuit of the CBD objectives are dynamic and continuously changing. Collaboration among different players, sectors and disciplines for conservation and sustainability becomes more challenging. Practical partnership frameworks and financial models to sustain the conservation and sustainability initiatives are always in demand. CBD should also take a stronger lead to encourage both governments and also other funding sources to invest both regional and local level projects.

The mechanism and framework that would allow area-based/project-based success to inform the strategies and policies at the wider national and regional level should be also shared and facilitated.