

12th Aug 2016

Mr. Michael WONG, J.P.
Chairman
Town Planning Board
15/F North Point Government Offices,
333 Java Road, North Point, Hong Kong
(E-mail: tpbpd@pland.gov.hk)

Mr. Chan Mo Po, Paul
Secretary for Development
Development Bureau
(E-mail: sdev@devb.gov.hk)

Chairman and members
Lantau Development Advisory Committee
(Email: landac@devb.gov.hk)

By Fax and Email

Dear Sir,

Re: Butterfly biodiversity at certain butterfly hotspots on Lantau

Green Power has been carrying out the Butterfly Surveyor Programme since 2008. Till now 10 local butterfly hotspots has been included in this programme, including Mui Wo, San Tau, Wu Kau Tang, Lam Tsuen, Yuen Tun Ha-Ta Tit Yan, Yung Shue O-Sham Chung, Pak Sha O-Lai Chi Chong, Luk Keng-Kuk Po, Sha Tau Kok, Lok Ma Chau-Long Valley-Ho Sheung Heung. Every year, our butterfly surveyors carry out butterfly counts along designated routes in the locations aforementioned. In addition to investigate butterfly biodiversity, they also monitor and report any changes in habitats.

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In 2016, Green Power expanded the butterfly survey to cover Sha Lo Wan, San Shek Wan and Shum Wat on Lantau. From May to July, three surveys were carried out and a total of 84 butterfly species were recorded, including two very rare and eight rare butterfly species (refer to table attached). Besides, Common Archduke (*Lexias pardalis*) and Common Banded Demon (*Notocrypta paralysos*) were also recorded at these locations. Both butterflies were only found in Hong Kong recently and have not been classified for their rarity.

For Common Archduke, over 20 different individuals were recorded in the same period, with females, males and individuals of different generations. It is very likely that Common Archduke has established a stable population in the woods of Sha Lo Wan, San Shek Wan and Shum Wat. These might be the largest habitats for this species in Hong Kong. Obviously, this discovery further proves that Sha Lo Wan, San Shek Wan and Shum Wat are one of the most essential butterfly hotspots in Lantau.

Sha Lo Wan, San Shek Wan and Shum Wat are all lowland woods with minimal development and hence have their natural ecology well preserved. In addition, their linkage with Lantau North Country Park comprises an integrated highland and lowland woodland habitat which facilitates the inhabitation and migration of butterflies. Unfortunately, Sha Lo Wan, San Shek Wan and the coastal area of Shum Wat are located outside country parks. None of them are protected by the Country Parks Ordinance. We are aware of the government has accelerated the development of Lantau in recent years. Hong Kong - Zhuhai - Macao Bridge Hong Kong Section, Tuen Mun - Chek Lap Kok Link and Tung Chung New Town Extension are all projects in close proximity to Sha Lo Wan, San Shek Wan and Shum Wat. Obviously these projects will boost up development and pose new threats to rural areas nearby.

In addition to Sha Lo Wan, San Shek Wan and the coastal area of Shum Wat, most of the butterfly hotspots in Lantau are located at country park enclaves. Examples include Tong Fuk, Shui Hau, San Tau, Shek Mun Kap, Wong Lung Hang and Pui O. Many of them are still vulnerable to development and vandalism. Currently, they are not covered by any statutory plans. In this connection, we strongly urge for any immediate actions by the Administration, such as to regulate the landuse of these butterfly hotspots by gazetting Development Permission Area Plans. This helps

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prohibiting incompatible developments that will threaten the local ecology. We appreciate if our findings may be retained by your department/ secretariat as a reference for your consideration of future planning for these areas.

Should you have any questions arising from this matter, please feel free to contact me at 3961 0202 or via email matthews@greenpower.org.hk.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely,



Matthew Sin (Mr.)
Senior Environmental Affairs Manager

Attachment

- List of very rare, rare, uncommon and unclassified butterflies found in Sha Lo Wan, San Shek Wan and Shum Wat in 2016

cc. Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

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Table:
Very Rare, Rare, Uncommon and Unclassified Butterflies found in Sha Lo Wan, San Shek Wan and Shum Wat by Green Power (2016)

Rarity	No. of species	Species
Very rare	2	Courtesan (<i>Euripus nyctelius</i>) Southern Chinese Peacock (<i>Papilio dialis</i>)
Rare	8	White Dragontail (<i>Lamproptera curius</i>) Common Albatross (<i>Appias albina</i>) Small Grass Yellow (<i>Eurema brigitta</i>) Small Cabbage White (<i>Peris rapae</i>) Peacock Royal (<i>Tajuria cippus</i>) Grey Scrub Hopper (<i>Aeromachus jhora</i>) Banded Awl (<i>Hasora chromus</i>) Grass Demon (<i>Udaspes folus</i>)
Uncommon	14	Blackvein Sergeant (<i>Athyma ranga</i>) Red Lacewing (<i>Cethosia biblis</i>) Yellow Orange Tip (<i>Ixias pyrene</i>) Plains Cupid (<i>Chilades pandava</i>) Falcate Oak Blue (<i>Mahathala ameria</i>) Quaker (<i>Neopithecops zalmora</i>) Bush Hopper (<i>Ampittia dioscorides</i>) Pale Awlet (<i>Bibasis gomata</i>) Restricted Demon (<i>Notocrypta curvifascia</i>) Bevan's Swift (<i>Pseudoborbo bevani</i>) Dark Edged Snow Flat (<i>Tagiades menaka</i>) Striped Blue Crow (<i>Euploea mulciber</i>) Bamboo Tree Brown (<i>Lethe europa</i>) Dark Evening Brown (<i>Melanitis phedima</i>)
Unclassified	2	Common Archduke (<i>Lexias pardalis</i>) <i>Notocrypta paralysos</i>

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