



9th Dec 2016

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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: Data of Green Power's recent Butterfly Ecological Survey

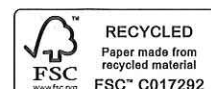
Green Power has been carrying out the Butterfly Surveyor Programme since 2008. Till now

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ten local butterfly hotspots have 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.

The 2016-2017 survey was launched in June 2016, with more than 200 qualified butterfly surveyors participated. Until October 2016, a total of 170 butterfly species have been recorded in those butterfly hotspots. Among the ten butterfly hotspots, Yuen Tun Ha-Ta Tit Yan, Sha Tau Kok and Luk Keng are ranked highest in terms of the number of butterfly species being found. From June to October 2016, 132, 117 and 114 species of butterflies were recorded in those three places respectively.

In addition to the numbers of butterfly species, the record of rare butterfly species is also an important parameter to indicate the ecological value of a habitat. This year, Green Power's butterfly surveyors recorded more rare butterfly species in most of the butterfly hotspots compared to our findings in 2015. For instance, from June to October 2016, 10 "Very Rare" and 18 "Rare" butterfly species were recorded in Yuen Tun Ha-Ta Tit Yan. Comparatively, only 8 "Very Rare" and 12 "Rare" butterfly species were spotted at the same locations in 2015. This represents an increment of 40 percent in the number of "Very Rare" and "Rare" butterfly species. Besides, *Euthalia niepelti* was recorded at four locations covered by our programme, including Wu Kau Tang, Lam Tsuen, Luk Keng-Kuk Po and Sha Tau Kok. A Silver Forget-me-not (*Catochrysops panormus*) was also spotted in Luk Keng-Kuk Po in October 2016. Both butterfly species have only scarce records and limited distribution. *Euthalia niepelti* was first recorded in Hong Kong in 2011. Its status of rarity has not been classified yet. On the contrary, the first record of Silver Forget-me-not was documented in Hong Kong in 1960's. Until now there are only few formal records of this species, limited to few places such as Hong Kong South, Fung Yuen, Sha Lo Wan and San Shek Wan. This might be its first confirmed documentation in Luk Keng.

Obviously, the survey results have proven the rich butterfly biodiversity at all butterfly hotspots covered by this programme. Unfortunately, none of these butterfly hotspots is located in country parks and hence protected by the Country Parks Ordinance. Many of them are country enclaves, such as San Tau, Wu Kau Tang, Yuen Tun Ha-Ta Tit Yan, Yung Shue O-Sham Chung, Pak Sha O-Lai Chi Chong, Luk Keng-Kuk Po. Among these enclaves, San Tau, Lai Chi Chong are

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still lacking protection by any statutory plans. We urge for immediate actions taken by the Administration. Development Permission Area Plans should be gazetted for butterfly hotspots with no statutory plans. For butterfly hotspots with statutory plans, their land use should also be monitored and regulated carefully to conserve these butterfly hotspots in the long run. An appendix which is the survey record has been attached to this letter. We appreciate if our findings may be retained and filed by your department/ secretariat as a reference of ecological baseline data for future planning for these areas, especially the New Territories North and Lantau.

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.

Yours sincerely,



Matthew Sin (Mr.)
Senior Environmental Affairs Manager

Attachment

List of "Very Rare", "Rare" and "Unclassified" butterflies found in 10 butterfly hotspots (2008-2016)

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