



BY EMAIL ONLY

8th July, 2019

Mr. FONG Hok Shing, Michael, JP
Head of Sustainable Lantau Office, CEDD
(Email: michaelfong@cedd.gov.hk)

Dear Mr. Fong,

**Green Power's
Lantau Dragonfly and Butterfly Survey Summary (2008-2018)**

Background

1. Lantau harbors various pristine natural habitats, including terrestrial and freshwater systems that are still highly intact. Unfortunately, the Government launched *Lantau Development Public Engagement-Space for All* in January 2016, the subsequent *Sustainable Lantau Blueprint* in June 2017 and the recent *Lantau Tomorrow Vision* proposed in *2018 Policy Address*. Large-scale, drastic and irreversible changes to Lantau are anticipated, which would bring about adverse impacts to the ecology and landscape of the environment on the Island which are still relatively pristine.
2. As such, Green Power, a local charitable green group, has been conducting butterfly and dragonfly surveys on Lantau as these two taxa are important bioindicators of terrestrial and freshwater habitats respectively and their occurrence reflect the health of these ecosystems.
3. As literature and records regarding ecological resources on Lantau are still scarce, our survey results become an integral part of reliable ecological baseline data essential for effective assessment of environmental and ecological impacts that Lantau receives.
4. Green Power initiated butterfly surveys in San Tau in 2008 and in Mui Wo in 2014, and has been conducting annual survey at these two sites ever since. In 2012, we started a study on dragonflies of Tung Chung River, and have continued to conduct more detailed baseline surveys on this taxa group at multiple sites in North and South Lantau. A total of 176 species of butterflies, representing more than 65% of the local butterfly fauna, and at least 67 species of dragonflies, totaling more than 53% of all dragonflies in Hong Kong, have been recorded on Lantau in our surveys. These include the locally uncommon dragonfly *Orthetrum poecilops poecilops*, which is a mangrove specialist listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List due to threats of global habitat destruction. For site-specific records and species status please refer to the attached species list.

Urge for Protection of Biodiversity on Lantau

5. The high diversities of butterflies and dragonflies recorded suggest good conditions and diversity of terrestrial and freshwater habitats at the study sites. Although most hilly areas higher than 100m are within country parks and protected from major development and destruction, coastal lowland habitats are polluted by neighboring villages, encroached by unauthorized development and vulnerable to expansion of new towns and traffic flow associated to proposed infrastructures.
6. In light of the value and vulnerability of the natural habitats on Lantau, it is of vital importance that the government seriously considers the environmental and ecological impacts of the concurrent large scale development plans on Lantau and its nearby waters, and works cautiously according to the first city-level Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) formulated in 2016. Despite the fact that the Administration commissioned a consultancy study in April 2018, namely *Ecological Study for Pui O, Shui Hau and Tai O and Neighbouring Areas-Feasibility Study*, only three sites are included and some important sites such as Tung Chung River and Mui Wo are omitted in the detailed study. Green Power sincerely recommends the Administration to adopt our survey results so as to protect the habitats on Lantau in a holistic manner, that all terrestrial and freshwater elements (in particular river courses, estuaries and other components within river basins) are included.

Thank you very much for your kind attention. I look forward to your effective actions to preserve Lantau's nature legacy.

Yours sincerely,



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