



BY EMAIL ONLY

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6 August 2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

Dear Sir / Madam,

Re: Butterfly biodiversity in South Lantau

“Butterfly Surveyor” is a citizen science program initiated by Green Power in 2008. As in 2019, 12 local butterfly hotspots are covered by this programme, including Mui Wo, Tong Fuk and Shui Hau in South Lantau. Every year, our butterfly surveyors identify and record butterfly species along designated routes in different butterfly hotspots.

From April to June 2019, four surveys were carried out in Tong Fuk and Shui Hau. A total of 74 butterfly species were recorded, including five “Very Rare” and four “Rare” butterfly species. Besides, 2 newly-immigrated species yet to have any status of rarity have also been found (refer to table attached below). Among the five “Very Rare” butterflies, Common Yeoman (*Cirrochroa tyche*) was found around a piece of mixed shrubland in Tong Fuk. According to Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, there were only two local encounters of Common Yeoman before 2005. In addition, Brown Awl (*Badamia exclamationis*) which has a very limited local distribution was also found in Tong Fuk. These findings indicate that Tong Fuk and Shui Hau own a very high and irreplaceable butterfly biodiversity, and must be further protected against all kinds of development.

A press conference was held in July 2019 to announce the results of our butterfly survey, including data collected at Mui Wo, Tong Fuk and Shui Hau. In addition, our concern with the perpetual protection of Lantau’s butterfly hotspots was fully expressed during the press conference. Most of the renowned butterfly hotspots in South Lantau, including Mui Wo, Pui O, Cheung Sha, Tong Fuk and Shui Hau, are located outside country parks. None of them are protected by the Country Parks Ordinance. Most of them are not covered by any enforceable statutory plans. Owing to the Government’s proposed development plan in “Lantau Tomorrow Vision”, some artificial islands to be reclaimed will be connected to Lantau by multiple transport networks. If these transport networks make their way to South Lantau, development in South Lantau must be accelerated, and pose new threats to the rural setting of its butterfly biodiversity hotspots. Therefore, we strongly urge the authority to avoid any negative impacts of “Lantau Tomorrow Vision” on the ecology of South Lantau, in particular its rich butterfly resources which are unique to Hong Kong. We appreciate if our findings may be retained by your department/ secretariat as a reference for your consideration of future planning and conservation for South 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

Matthew Sin (Mr.)
Senior Environmental Affairs Manager, Green Power

cc. Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation