

**Biodiversity Strategy
and Action Plan (BSAP)
for Hong Kong**

Public Consultation Report

December 2016

Environment Bureau

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

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CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

Background

- 1.1 The Convention on Biological Diversity, an intergovernmental treaty aiming to conserve biodiversity, utilise its components sustainably, and ensure fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources, was extended to Hong Kong in 2011. While Hong Kong is not a Party to the Convention *per se*, in response to the Convention we are formulating a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) for Hong Kong, taking into account local needs and priorities, to better conserve the local biodiversity. The Government aims to contribute to the achievement of global efforts and China's national BSAP according to the conditions and capabilities of Hong Kong. Since 2013, the Government has initiated various stakeholder engagements and conducted numerous public awareness programmes, including the first Hong Kong Biodiversity Festival in 2015 involving 20 partner organisations, to take forward the development of the first BSAP for Hong Kong. A Steering Committee, three working groups and twelve focus groups were also formed to advise on the preparation of the BSAP.
- 1.2 Taking into account local circumstances, views collected during the various stakeholder engagements and suggestions from relevant Government bureaux and departments, the Government has proposed the following four areas of action for enhancing biodiversity conservation and supporting sustainable development in Hong Kong:
- (a) conservation: continue to implement and enhance existing conservation measures;
 - (b) mainstreaming: incorporate biodiversity considerations into planning and decision-making to achieve sustainable development;
 - (c) knowledge: conduct biodiversity surveys and studies to fill knowledge gaps; and
 - (d) community involvement: promote public awareness and knowledge of biodiversity among stakeholders and the public.

Public Consultation

- 1.3 The public consultation for the BSAP was carried out from 8 January to 7 April 2016. A public consultation document was uploaded onto the webpages of the Environment Bureau and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department. Publicity materials including leaflets were distributed at various locations (e.g. district offices and country park visitor centres) and in consultation sessions.
- 1.4 During the three-month consultation period, we attended over 20 briefing sessions and meetings to seek the views of major stakeholders including the Legislative Council, district councils, business sector, environmental groups, professional bodies, academics, agricultural and fisheries sectors, local communities as well as the general public (**Annex A**).
- 1.5 By the end of the consultation period, we received 2 444 written submissions, including over 2 200 submissions based on templates prepared by environmental groups. The written submissions were made by individuals or organisations representing various interests of the society, including academics, agricultural and fisheries sectors, business sector, environmental groups, local communities, political parties and professional bodies, as well as individuals who had not indicated their affiliations (**Annex B**).
- 1.6 A summary of the views received, particularly those relevant to the four action areas proposed and the content of the BSAP document, is provided in Chapter Two. Other views are listed in **Annex C**. Views received from the submissions based on standard templates provided by environmental groups were categorised as views of the environmental groups, considering their similarity.

CHAPTER 2 SUMMARY OF PUBLIC VIEWS

Question 1) How important do you think biodiversity is, in comparison with other concerns facing our society?

- 2.1 In the consultation document, we invited views on the importance of biodiversity in comparison to other concerns our society has been facing. The importance of biodiversity to our daily lives was widely acknowledged. The majority of the submissions agreed that the rich biodiversity in Hong Kong should be treasured, and considered biodiversity to be an integral part of daily lives. Some were aware of the wide array of goods and services provided by biodiversity that supported human well-being, and considered maintaining a rich biodiversity to be essential to the survival of humanity. The public also treasured green spaces provided by the natural environment.
- 2.2 There was widespread support for the implementation of the BSAP, which was mainly attributed to the benefits that a BSAP could bring in enhancing our biodiversity, mainstreaming biodiversity across the society, and engaging different sectors in dialogue and action, hence enabling the community to adopt a long-term common goal for biodiversity conservation. On the other hand, we had also received views from the local rural communities who were concerned about the implications of the BSAP on landowners' rights.

Question 2) How should we balance the needs of people (for example, adequate housing, job opportunities or food) with the needs of the ecosystem?

- 2.3 Many written submissions, especially those based on the standard templates provided by environmental groups, expressed concern about the prevailing challenges on our biodiversity, such as incompatible land uses on private land, degradation of natural habitats and controversial development projects, etc. Most of the other stakeholder groups consulted, as well as many other written submissions, supported development in a sustainable manner. These preferences and concerns revealed the need to strike a balance between attending to the environment, the society and the economy in future endeavours, so as to pursue sustainable development, and address the needs of current and future generations. It was also considered that the Government played a crucial role in promoting and balancing these needs.

- 2.4 There were divergent views regarding development in rural areas. While environmental groups and some members of the public requested a review to tighten existing policies on rural development, the local rural communities strongly opposed to such initiatives and opined that landowners' rights and villagers' traditional way of living should be respected in the implementation of any conservation initiatives.

Action Area 1 - Conservation

*Question 3) In relation to proposed Action Area 1 (Conservation):
Conservation measures in Hong Kong have yielded some positive results. With regard to our programme so far launched, what do you think are its strengths? How could it be improved?*

- 2.5 It was generally agreed that conservation should be an important area of action in the first BSAP. We had received a lot of proposals and comments on specific measures on enhancing biodiversity conservation. Most of these were related to the conservation of protected areas, ecologically important habitats (especially those on private land), marine biodiversity, priority species, as well as the enrichment of biodiversity in urban areas.

Conservation of protected areas and ecologically important habitats

- 2.6 A lot of comments about protected areas were raised at consultation meetings and received in the form of written submissions. The majority considered that the current protected areas¹ should be maintained and enhanced, and, where possible, extended to cover other ecologically important habitats, such as country park enclaves of high ecological value, natural rivers/streams, lowland freshwater wetlands and *fung shui* woods, to enhance their ecological connectivity to the current protected areas. It was also proposed that habitat conservation plans should be implemented to enhance conservation and management of ecologically important sites. The Heung Yee Kuk (HYK) and local rural communities, on the other hand, strongly opposed further extension of the existing protected areas. They considered this proposal to be limiting the development potential of rural areas.

¹ Protected areas include country parks, special areas, marine parks, marine reserve, restricted areas, the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site and Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

- 2.7 Environmental groups and some academics urged the Government to enhance protection of the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site and other Deep Bay wetlands by formulating a holistic plan, and set up an advisory committee to oversee its implementation. Some environmental groups also proposed the establishment of a statutory wetland trust for enabling integrated management of all wetlands in Hong Kong, including the Ramsar Site, other Deep Bay wetlands and freshwater wetlands.

Conservation of ecologically important sites on private land

- 2.8 Many submissions, particularly those from environmental groups and some individuals, expressed concern about the recent cases of eco-vandalism on private land, and requested the Government to enhance the protection of ecologically important habitats under private ownership by strengthening enforcement, and to enable effective enforcement and impose heavier penalties to offenders through legislative amendments. Environmental groups, political parties, as well as HYK and local rural communities suggested establishing an independent trust and / or a conservation easement² to achieve better conservation of ecologically important sites under private ownership and compensate the affected land landowners. Mechanisms to facilitate non-*in-situ* transfer of development rights as well as other proactive measures (e.g. land resumption and land exchange) were also proposed.
- 2.9 In view of the effectiveness of existing Management Agreement (MA) projects, environmental groups and some members of advisory bodies supported the continuation of MA scheme to engage land owners in conserving private land with high ecological value.

Enhancing protection of marine biodiversity

- 2.10 Environmental groups, some marine experts and academics, and many template submissions requested the setting up of an effective Marine Protected Area (MPA) system covering at least 10% of Hong Kong waters. There was also a suggestion on the designation of fisheries protection areas to protect

² A conservation easement is a restriction placed on a piece of property to protect its associated resources. The easement is either voluntarily donated or sold by the landowner and constitutes a legally binding agreement that limits certain types of uses or prevents development from taking place on the land in perpetuity while the land remains in private hands.

important spawning and nursery grounds. Management measures, including banning commercial fishing, setting up complete no-take zones, enhancing patrol and enforcement against illegal activities, were also proposed for the MPAs.

- 2.11 The fisheries sector, on the other hand, was concerned about the implications of the BSAP, claiming that the designation of more marine parks and fisheries protection areas as well as further control of fishing efforts could affect fisheries development in the long term. They urged the Government to consider the interest of the fisheries sector when formulating new conservation measures (through, for example, providing appropriate compensation) and to strike a balance between conservation and sustainable fisheries development.

Species conservation

- 2.12 There was general support mainly from the environmental groups and template submissions on the development and implementation of species action plans for priority species of animals and plants. Examples of priority species mentioned included Chinese Pangolin, freshwater turtles, Eurasian Otter, Hong Kong Paradise Fish, Hong Kong Grouper and Chinese Bahaba, etc. It was suggested that the species action plans should be reviewed and updated regularly.
- 2.13 A number of environmental groups, some academics and political parties raised specific concerns about illegal trade in wildlife and illegal harvesting of Incense Trees in Hong Kong. Various enhancement measures had been proposed, such as banning local trade of threatened species or its products, setting up a special unit to strengthen monitoring and enforcement, as well as increasing penalties, etc.

Enriching biodiversity in urban areas

- 2.14 Professional bodies, district councils and the general public had expressed interest and support in the enrichment of biodiversity in urban areas. Initiatives proposed included building green roofs / walls, creating habitats in urban parks for local wildlife, improving urban landscaping, planting of native trees along walkways and encouraging community farming. It was also suggested that the planting of native tree species should be encouraged in both public and

private sectors as far as possible.

- 2.15 In addition to planting of native species, it was proposed that creation of micro-ecosystems in urban areas or installation of bioswales should be considered in the current Greening Master Plans. Some professional bodies supported the creation of “blue-green infrastructures” in new development areas, and expressed that it should be considered in a holistic approach in the urban planning and design stage.

Other conservation measures

- 2.16 Some environmental groups and individuals were concerned about the potential impacts of marine pollution and refuse on marine biodiversity. They suggested the adoption of a long-term strategy on reducing the production of waste from producers to consumers, and stronger enforcement against littering and dumping at sea.
- 2.17 An environmental group and a political party suggested retaining and enhancing connectivity between the protected areas and other conservation zones by developing a territory-wide system of interconnected wildlife corridors, especially along waterways.

Action Area 2 - Mainstreaming

*Question 4) In relation to proposed Action Area 2 (Mainstreaming):
The Government currently tries to incorporate biodiversity considerations into its plans and policies. Under this BSAP, it would try to encourage other sectors to do the same. Which sectors are more ready to do this? Which sectors need the most support in adopting biodiversity considerations in their work?*

- 2.18 Most agreed that mainstreaming was the key to the successful implementation of the BSAP. It was generally agreed that the Government should take the lead in biodiversity mainstreaming. Specifically, some suggested that the relevant bureaux should take up coordinating roles to effectively engage different departments to implement the BSAP, or an inter-departmental task force should be set up to co-ordinate the implementation work.

- 2.19 The business sector expressed preference on greater transparency and certainty in regulations, which would allow them to factor in compliance cost in investment plans and enable planning of long-term investment. Also, there were requests on provision of sector-specific guidelines that could facilitate identification of biodiversity issues of concern in business operations. In addition, they raised concerns about the cost of incorporating biodiversity considerations into operations and the risk implication, which could discourage business. They also highlighted that experience-sharing of successful cases would be useful.
- 2.20 There were also suggestions on facilitating the incorporation of biodiversity into planning and decision-making in the private sector, which included linking biodiversity to economic return (e.g. energy saving), providing incentives such as branding opportunities (e.g. the BEAM Plus certification), and strengthening technical guidelines and requirements, etc.

Review of legislation

- 2.21 A considerable number of submissions, mainly from the environmental groups and academics, suggested that some existing legislation related to biodiversity conservation should be reviewed. However, it was clearly stated in the BSAP consultation document that the Government does not intend to initiate major changes of existing policies and legislation in the first BSAP. Taking into account the circumstances of Hong Kong and the fact that it is a city-level BSAP, our efforts under the BSAP should be focused on enhancing existing strengths, mainstreaming biodiversity, improving knowledge and engaging different sectors.

Action Area 3 - Knowledge

*Question 5) With reference to proposed Action Area 3 (Knowledge):
We have identified various gaps in our knowledge of biodiversity in Hong Kong. We need to fill them to facilitate stakeholders in making informed decisions. In your opinion, which of these gaps should we focus on in the coming five years?*

- 2.22 While the majority of the comments received agreed that increasing biodiversity knowledge would contribute to better decision-making, and help

to guide future development and conservation work, relatively few comments received in the consultation addressed specific areas of knowledge gaps.

Biodiversity monitoring and information sharing

- 2.23 Some individuals, environmental groups and political parties considered that the on-going territory-wide baseline monitoring should be continued to track and update the status and trends of species and habitats. Some academics further proposed a territory-wide fisheries survey for establishing a marine fish species database for Hong Kong. It was also suggested that the existing monitoring data should be reviewed and consolidated.
- 2.24 Many stakeholders supported the establishment of a centralised information hub for biodiversity. It was opined that the hub should contain information to facilitate communication with the wider public on various topic of biodiversity concern, as well as up-to-date biodiversity data which could contribute to better decision-making and help project proponents to gather better baseline information for carrying out ecological impact assessments. It was also suggested that the Government should collaborate with tertiary institutions, local ecologists and environmental groups to develop the information hub.

Establishing a list of species of conservation concern

- 2.25 The establishment of a list of species of conservation concern for Hong Kong had received widespread support from environmental groups, academics and individuals. It was highlighted that the list would be crucial for guiding conservation actions, updating the current legislation, providing updated information for environmental impact assessments and planning studies, as well as setting priority for conservation action plans.

Filling knowledge gaps

- 2.26 There was a recommendation on the setting up of a scientific advisory body to provide independent expert advice and assist the Government to vet study proposals, to comment on the findings, and to identify additional priority knowledge gaps. A set of criteria was suggested be used to select and prioritise research studies. It was also suggested that the Government should provide the resources and funding required for research related to biodiversity.

2.27 Academics, environmental groups, environmental consultants and professional bodies have proposed a number of research topics, including:

- baseline survey on invasive alien species covering information such as species, population size and distribution.
- studies on the value of ecosystem services to society, and on the contribution of ecosystem services to the sustainability of Hong Kong.
- territory-wide marine biodiversity survey, baseline studies on priority marine species, research on fisheries catch by species, studies on spawning and nursery grounds of important species.
- assessment of marine biodiversity hotspots and long-term biodiversity monitoring of these hotspots.
- development of a standardised classification of habitats to help the monitoring of their status and trends.

Action Area 4 – Community Involvement

*Question 6) With reference to proposed Action Area 4 (Community Involvement):
The Government and non-governmental organisations have taken a number of initiatives to promote biodiversity and nature conservation. In your opinion, which of these have been most successful? Can you suggest how we could improve them? Do you have other ideas?*

2.28 The need to enhance community involvement in the implementation of the BSAP has been raised by various groups and individuals. There was general support for enhancing education on biodiversity as this would facilitate greater buy-in in the society. Experiential learning and citizen science initiatives were suggested, in particular, as priority projects. Environmental groups considered that engaging citizen scientists directly in biodiversity surveys would be very effective in increasing their understanding of biodiversity. There were also suggestions to improve coordination of the biodiversity education programmes offered by different stakeholder groups, and to regularly review the communication and education strategy for evaluating the effectiveness of these programmes.

Biodiversity in school education

- 2.29 It was generally recognised that incorporating biodiversity conservation in the syllabus would be a systematic approach to provide students with basic understanding of biodiversity. Some submissions suggested ways to incorporate biodiversity concepts (e.g. nature conservation, habitat and species conservation) into the curricula of primary and secondary schools.
- 2.30 It was opined that capacity-building for teachers was important and appropriate training support should be provided for teachers. In addition, it was suggested that more field visits could be provided for students to gain hands-on experiences in nature, and strengthen their interests on and passion for nature.

Sustainable use and consumption

- 2.31 Environmental groups considered that the Government should regularly measure and publicise Hong Kong's ecological footprint, and develop a clear road map to reduce it. They suggested that the Government should consider ecological footprint when formulating Hong Kong's strategy for sustainable development.
- 2.32 Environmental groups recommended stopping consumption and trade of unsustainable and illegally-sourced animal and plant products through legislative and administrative measures. Environmental groups suggested promoting sustainable production and consumption through raising awareness on internationally recognised eco-labels and providing credible information on sustainability of food items.

Sustainable agriculture and fisheries

- 2.33 Environmental groups and the agriculture and fisheries sector supported the promotion of sustainable agriculture and sustainable fisheries in Hong Kong. Environmental groups suggested that the relationship between biodiversity and agricultural and fisheries activities should be highlighted under the BSAP. The Government was suggested to support sustainable agricultural and fisheries development through protecting and rehabilitating agricultural land, encouraging local farmers to adopt environmentally friendly farming practices, promoting sustainable fishing operations, enforcing fisheries ordinances, designating fisheries protection areas, etc.

Content of the BSAP Document

2.34 It was proposed that the first city-level BSAP document should include the following:

- Baseline assessment and gap analysis: to examine the status and trends of biodiversity and our conservation efforts; and to identify the threats to local biodiversity as well as opportunities.
- Vision and mission: the proposed vision and mission were generally supported.
- Aichi Biodiversity Targets: environmental groups and some academics suggested including specific goals and objectives reflecting the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.
- Action plan: it was suggested that the plan should include the most important and actionable actions. There should also be information on benchmarks, responsible bodies, monitoring requirements, timeframes and budgets.
- Monitoring and review: it was proposed to establish scientifically sound indicators and monitoring plans. Regular review of the BSAP was considered important to its successful implementation.

2.35 To better monitor the implementation of the first BSAP, some proposed to establish an advisory body to be made up of scientists, planners, landscape architects, ecologists and other members of the BSAP focus groups. There was also a suggestion to form an inter-departmental task force to steer and coordinate the implementation of the BSAP within the Government, and to act as a bridge between the Government and environmental groups, in order to enhance communication and synergise resources.

Conclusion

2.36 Comments and feedback were received from a wide range of stakeholders in the public consultation for the first BSAP of Hong Kong. It is clear from the views collected that there was broad-based public support to the implementation of the BSAP, for stepping up conservation efforts and supporting sustainable development in Hong Kong. We are now carefully considering the views received in finalising the BSAP.

Annex A

List of BSAP Public Consultation Activities

(a) Briefing sessions for specific stakeholder groups and public consultation activities

Date (2016)	Activities
30 January	Joint College Environmental Innovation Alliance Annual Conference – Biodiversity Conservation
1 February	Business Environment Council Policy Dialogue Series: Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
2 February	Briefing session for environmental groups
27 February	Public Consultation Session (1)
28 February	Public Consultation Session (2)
3 March	Environmental Protection Department Green Group Liaison Meeting
5 March	Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong and Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architect Symposium: Sustainable Landscape Design and New Town Development
11 March	Briefing session for commercial sector and professional bodies (1)
12 March	Public Consultation Session (3)
14 March	The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers Technical Seminar: Overview of the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
18 March	Briefing session for commercial sector and professional bodies (2)
22 March	Lecture on Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Department of Geography and Resource Management, the Chinese University of Hong Kong
30 March	Briefing session for Heung Yee Kuk and village representatives
1 April	Briefing session for agricultural and fisheries sector
6 April	Liaison meeting with Heung Yee Kuk

(b) Meetings with relevant advisory boards and committees

Date (2016)	Advisory boards and committees
29 January	Town Planning Board
19 February	BSAP Steering Committee
22 February	Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs
23 February	Advisory Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries
11 March	Agriculture, Fisheries, Commerce, Industries, Tourism and Recreation Affairs Committee under Tai Po District Council
14 March	Advisory Council on the Environment
15 March	Food and Environmental Hygiene Committee under Wong Tai Sin District Council
18 March	Environment, Hygiene and District Development Committee under Tuen Mun District Council
22 March	Country and Marine Parks Board
29 March	Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs: meeting with deputations

Statistics of Written Submission

Table 1. Total number of written submissions received by type

Submission Types	Number of Submission(s)	%
Individual submission	126	5.2
Group submission	85	3.5
Template submission#	2 231	91.3
Joint statement (led by environmental group)	1	<0.1
Signature campaign (led by local diving industry)	1	<0.1
Total number of submission =	2 444	100

Remark: verbal comments made in the advisory meetings were not counted.

Submissions based on standard templates provided by environmental groups.

Table 2. Number of written submissions received by type of stakeholder

Type of Stakeholders	Number of Submission(s)
Academic	8
Advisory body (Consumer Council)	1
Agricultural and fisheries	7
Business	6
Environmental consultant	4
Environmental organisation	42
Heung Yee Kuk and local rural communities	6
Political party	3
Professional body	6
Others	2
Individuals	126
Total* =	211

*Written submissions in the form of joint statements, signature campaigns and submissions based on templates provided by environmental groups were not included.

Table 3. Number of template submissions received by template provider

Environmental Group	Number of Submissions	%
Designing Hong Kong	133	6.0
HKWildlife.net	48	2.2
Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden	11	0.5
Land Justice League	290	13.0
The Conservancy Association	136	6.1
World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong	1 613	72.3

Submissions based on standard templates provided by environmental groups.

Other Public Views Received

Other than the major views summarised in Chapter Two, we also received the following comments/proposals from the written submissions or at the consultation meetings:

- On enhancing the management of the existing protected areas, there were suggestions to:
 - enhance the ecological value of country parks through planting native species; prevent the expansion of invasive species and promote education activities;
 - enhance patrolling in country parks and marine parks, for example by setting up a patrol team to inspect at night and at black spots; and
 - retain ecological corridors between country parks to increase their resilience against climate change.
- Some individuals and environmental groups had identified several sites to be ecologically important, and suggested that they should be protected through laws and statutory zonings. These included wetland areas in southern Lantau, Po Toi Island, Lut Chau, Nam Sang Wai (for the protection of migratory birds), Ha Pak Nai (for the protection of Horseshoe Crab), South Lantau waters (for the protection of Chinese White Dolphin) and marine habitats with coral communities.
- Some individuals and district council members emphasised the need to enhance the control of or enforcement against unauthorised dumping or development at ecologically important sites.
- An individual and some environmental consultants considered that the list of priority sites for enhanced conservation and the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Scheme should be critically reviewed. It was proposed that an inter-departmental task force should be set up to proactively promote and vet applications and facilitate the PPP process.
- There were proposals on enhancing fisheries resources, including implementing a fishing moratorium in Hong Kong waters, banning the use of gill nets in Hong Kong waters, installing more artificial reefs, and restoring degraded marine

ecosystems such as degraded coral communities.

- It was suggested that the Government should consider tightening the regulation on religious release of wild animals and the import of exotic species as food or pets.
- Some measures were proposed to step up protection of endangered species, for example adding more species to the Appendices to the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance, formulating strategies for endangered species that are likely to be smuggled and establishing comprehensive trade records of endangered species in Hong Kong.
- It was suggested that the Government should closely monitor discharges from sewers and septic tanks of village houses to protect aquatic habitats from pollution.
- An environmental group and a political party put forward a proposal for a new ordinance to provide a legal framework for the proper management of valuable trees on government and private lands.
- An academic suggested revitalising local reservoirs into ecological ponds or establishing nature reserves in reservoirs.
- A professional body recommended the Government to prepare a territory-wide biodiversity plan which contains ecological information, habitat maps and conservation strategies for different habitats. The proposed plan would help the planning of protected areas and urban areas.
- Regarding the messages to raise public awareness, some opined that they should be human-oriented, focusing on the inter-connection between biodiversity and daily lives.
- There were suggestions to promote biodiversity conservation through social media (e.g. YouTube channels, Facebook) and television channels (e.g. educational television programming), development of mobile apps (e.g. field guides, mobile games), organisation of public education programmes (e.g. exhibitions, public forums, film shows, workshops, school seminars, field trips etc.), and consolidation and sharing of biodiversity information including

educational materials via a publicly-accessible platform.

- Promotion of eco-tourism was supported.
- An environmental group recommended that the Government should specify that only certified sustainable seafood could be served at official banquets.
- The Government was advised to develop concrete action plans to involve stakeholder such as wholesalers, retailers and consumers in promoting sustainable consumption of biological resources.
- The Government was suggested to consider the feasibility of establishing a natural history museum for raising public awareness on biodiversity. The proposed museum shall act as a central repository of information on the biodiversity of Hong Kong and its neighbouring areas.