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Annual Review FY23

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CHAIRMAN & CEO MESSAGE

The global COVID-19 emergency officially came to an end in May 2023, and the world began its journey of recovery. What better time to reflect on the interrelationship between nature and humanity? It is time for everyone, including Hongkongers, to rethink our connections with nature and formulate sustainable, long-term solutions that address pressing environmental issues and strive for a better future.

At WWF-Hong Kong, we are proud of the role we play in leading society towards these goals through our numerous educational programmes and engagement initiatives. This year, we continued this work, while also breaking some new ground.

2023 marked the 40th anniversary of WWF-Hong Kong's management of Mai Po Nature Reserve. We are thrilled that this important milestone was marked by the completion of the Mai Po Infrastructure Upgrade Project - a longrunning effort to transform the Reserve into a world-class "nature classroom", focusing on wetland training, research, environmental education programmes, and community awareness activities. By renewing our capacity to deliver these services for the future, we further strengthen our commitment to wetland conservation and the preservation of local biodiversity.

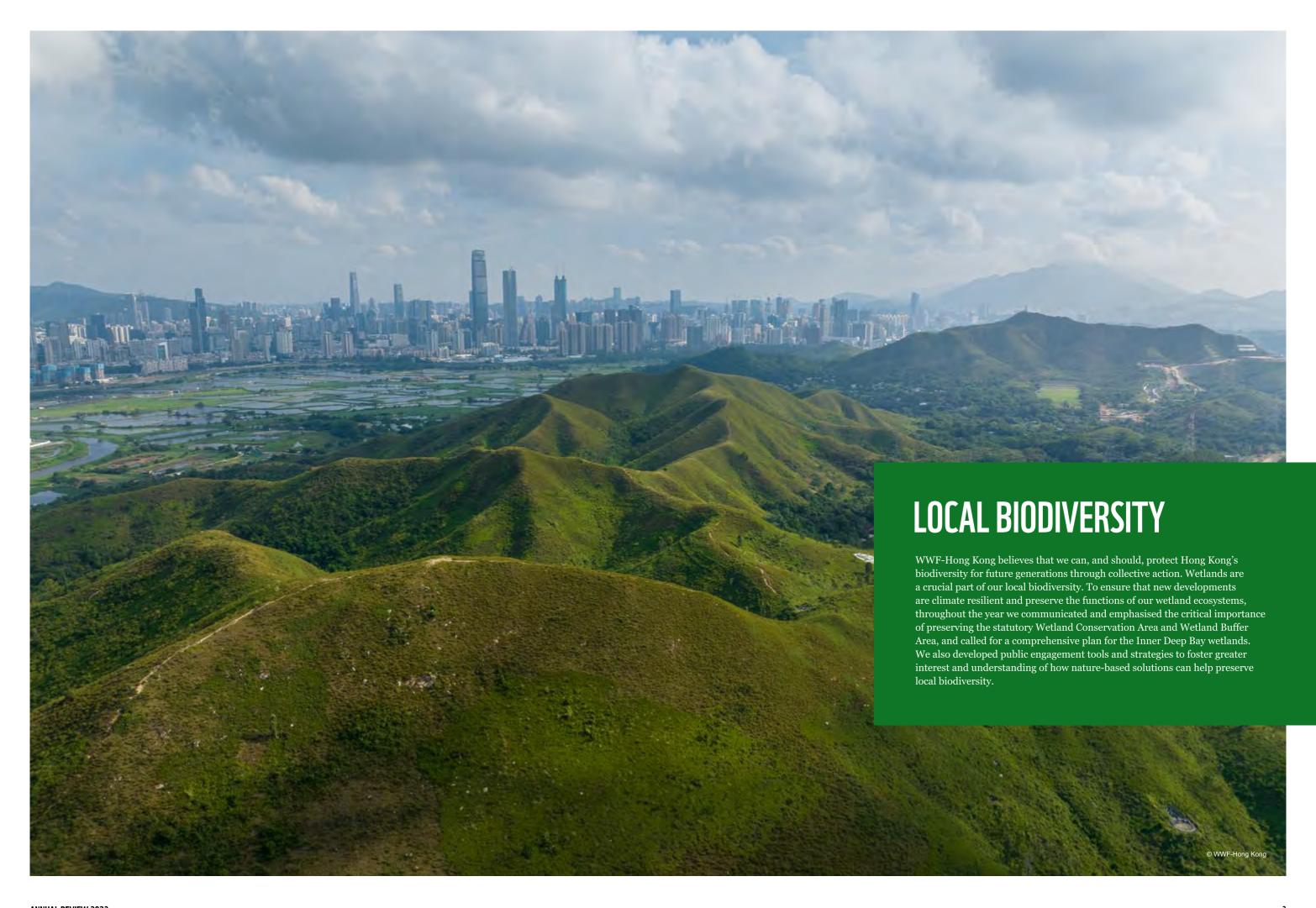
In the marine realm, this year we launched the pioneering "Reviving our Corals" initiative in collaboration with the Coral Academy at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Aligned with WWF's global marine conservation efforts, "Reviving our Corals" focuses on coral rescue and restoration, supporting academic research and development, awareness raising, and policy advocacy. Its goal is to improve the coral coverage and diversity of the Tolo Harbour and Channel, create a successful demonstration for the restoration of deteriorated marine habitats and inspire more passionate individuals to join us in marine conservation.

Moving forward, WWF-Hong Kong will continue our work to drive positive environmental change. We seek to engage all sectors of society, including businesses, government, community leaders, and individuals, to ensure that nature thrives alongside us, and to create a sustainable future for generations to come.

DANIEL R BRADSHAW CHAIRMAN. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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NICOLE WONG CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.





WETLAND CITY

TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE NORTHERN METROPOLIS: DEMONSTRATING NATURE-POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT

Announced in 2021, the Hong Kong government's Northern Metropolis Development Strategy (NM) aims to address the city's housing shortage and stimulate economic growth in the northern New Territories. This massive plan will drastically transform 300 square kilometres of land, around one-third of Hong Kong's unprotected rural landscape, including the internationally-important Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay wetlands.

WWF is urging the government to preserve the statutory Wetland Conservation Area and Wetland Buffer Area around Mai Po Nature Reserve in its development plan, and recommend adopting a holistic management plan for the Deep Bay wetlands, based on the concept of "Gei Wai for the South, Fishponds for the North". This involves restoring fishponds southwest of Mai Po into functioning gei wai, while retaining those fishponds to the northeast for commercial fish farming. We also advocate prioritise implementing nature-based solutions in the NM, integrating wetland preservation and restoration with green infrastructure, with the ultimate goal to establish the NM as a Ramsar-accredited "Wetland City".

WWF also suggests using modern technology for the effective management of the expanded wetland protectionarea system, drawing on the success of our Smart Wetlands pilot project in Mai Po. The NM's planning principles emphasise eco-recreation and tourism; it is vital that all tourism programmes and infrastructures are compatible with ecologically-sensitive habitats — like those for the locally-threatened Eurasian otter — and rural landscapes. Engaging ecological experts and local communities throughout the conceptualisation, planning and implementation phases of this mega project is key.





NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

HARNESSING NATURE'S POWER: EXPLORING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS IN HONG KONG

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) are gaining traction across the world for their ability to address societal challenges simultaneously by leveraging the power of natural systems. This year, WWF-Hong Kong noted a growing interest in NbS across the city, including the business sector and among public utilities, environmental consultants, government officials, and LegCo members.

To address knowledge gaps and concerns regarding implementing NbS, WWF-Hong Kong is developing an NbS information booklet to raise local awareness about NbS and explore its potential applications in Hong Kong and even for the Greater Bay Area. The booklet features vivid case studies showcasing existing and potential NbS interventions; examples include the conservation and active management of the Mai Po wetland, and our effort on enhancing Marine Protected Areas through coral restoration.

The booklet also provides recommendations for mainstreaming and implementing NbS strategies in Hong Kong. When launched, the NbS booklet aims to help bridge knowledge gaps, address stakeholders' concerns and foster a better understanding of the potential for NbS to provide environmental, climate, social and economic benefits for Hong Kong. WWF-Hong Kong will also calculate the effectiveness of 3 retrofit NbS interventions using assessment tool of the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions.



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MAI PO & WETLANDS





WWF organised the Wetland Management Training Course in the brand new Mai Po Peter Scott Visitor Centre for 14 participants from Malaysia

CONSERVING CRITICAL FLYWAYS

Established in 2005, the Asian Waterbird Conservation Fund has provided financial support to 51 projects that work to strengthen biodiversity and ecosystem services at significant sites for migratory waterbirds along the EAAF and the Central Asian Flyway, including eight ongoing initiatives. The Fund approved three new projects this year.

The Shorebirds Peninsular Malaysia Project focuses on conserving an unprotected wetland at the coast of Penang, Malaysia that is home to the only mangrove forest in good condition left in the state. It is also an important stopover site on the EAAF.

The project aims to protect this wetland by nominating it as an EAAF Partnership Flyway Network Site and gathering support by engaging stakeholders and raising awareness through community-based ecotourism and study visits.

The second project, in Aceh Province, Indonesia, tackles migratory bird hunting in Banda Aceh. The project team is mapping hunting activities, monitoring migratory waterbirds, raising awareness, and building capacity for local women to improve the quality of habitats.

The third project, also in Aceh Province, aims to conserve migratory shorebirds at the province's only Spoon-billed sandpiper site. The team monitors population trends, studies foraging ecology and organises conservation talks and educational activities during school visits.

In May 2023, representatives from WWF-Hong Kong visited the three project sites and supported waterbird surveys alongside project teams. They also gave a presentation at a local university, explaining the Hong Kong-Indonesia migratory waterbird connection to over 350 lecturers and students, and providing satellite tracking evidence.

WETLAND INCUBATOR PROJECT

Supported by The Hongkong Bank Foundation, our Wetland Incubator project continued to devise multi-pronged conservation solutions during its second year.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

In addition to the project's ongoing shorebird satellite tracking work:

- One of the Migratory Bird Education Team is creating an interactive story and games to educate young audiences on wetlands' significance for migratory birds. Final production stage is underway.
- Starting in September 2022, the Water Caltrops Fostering Programme engaged HSBC volunteers and students from three secondary schools in an experimental project to restore habitat suitable for migratory birds such as Pheasant-tailed jacana at Mai Po.



Students transferring growing water caltrops plants from their school to Mai Po Nature Reserve

MAMMALS

Our teams addressed the lack of information and public knowledge on the near-threatened Eurasian otter population in Deep Bay. Key initiatives included:

- Conducting a joint study on Hong Kong otter ecology in collaboration with Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden, and successfully captured rare footages of otter raising their young in Mai Po, reflecting the importance of Mai Po Wetland as an otter breeding ground in Hong Kong.
- Starting the second phase of the Otter Citizen Scientists programme, with previous participants serving as group leaders and sharing their knowledge and experience to the new recruits.
- A three-day "Where's Otter? Come Join World Otter Day!" exhibition, held at the Central Market in May 2023, attracting around 6,000 visitors.
- The Otter Spraint Floating Platform programme, which engaged students in designing and building platforms to enhance our systematic otter sign survey.





MAI PO & WETLANDS



FUTURE-PROOFING WETLAND STEWARDSHIP

The "Walk and Pitch" competition encouraged participants to develop solutions to turn fishpond operations into profitable businesses while preserving their role as wildlife habitats and climate mitigation buffers. The winning proposal by Team Edge Effect suggested reprofiling fishpond edges for educational and community activities, ecological corridors and devised a self-sustaining economic system. They received a kick-starter fund to implement their plan.

CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION

Students designed and constructed a floating breeding platform in Mai Po for Black-winged stilts that keeps the nests safe from floods and rainstorms. Guided by teachers, the students managed data collection and prototype production. The platform is currently undergoing field tests.



SMART WETLANDS

WWF-Hong Kong has been continuously exploring innovative approaches to enhance and revitalise wetland management. In late 2022, we launched our "Smart Wetlands" initiative, aiming to identify Information & Technology (I&T) solutions that will enhance and revitalise wetland management in the years to come. Under the initiative, a two-year project namely "Smart Wetland – Where Traditional Management Meets Innovation and Technology" has started and is funded through the Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme, managed by the Environment and Ecology Bureau. We deployed I&T devices like water level sensors and HD cameras in Mai Po. These devices provide accurate, near real-time data to monitor Mai Po's conditions, producing data that allows us to make timely responses, implement effective wetland management and recovery work and overcome traditional restrictions like time, weather and distance; ultimately helping us revitalise wetland habitats and ensure their long-term conservation.



Mai Po was affected by Super Typhoon Saola in September 2023, leading to the closure of the Reserve for safety reasons. However, WWF staff could still monitor Mai Po using I&T devices through phones and computers. We were able to monitor birds, conduct surveillance and water level management, and plan ahead for recovery work.



THE MAI PO JOCKEY CLUB INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE PROJECT

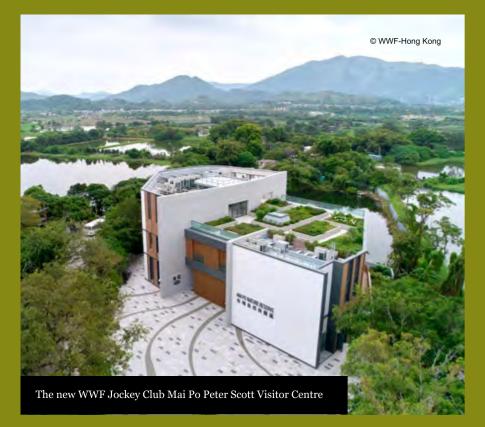


Completed in 2023, this large-scale upgrade project was funded by a HK\$347 million grant from the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust. This grant made it possible to comprehensively upgrade facilities at Mai Po Nature Reserve needed by students, teachers and others interested in wetland research and training. The refreshed facilities will welcome some 24,000 students and public visitors annually, and be used by guided groups, local visitors and tourists.

The Mai Po Nature Reserve Infrastructure Upgrade Project encompassed four independent upgrade elements:

- Rebuilding the WWF Jockey Club Mai Po Peter Scott Visitor Centre
- Renovating the Education Centre
- Creating a new barrier-free wooden footpath called the "Jockey Club Nature Trail"
- Constructing two new Tower hides and renovating the existing Tower hides

MAI PO & WETLANDS



WWF JOCKEY CLUB MAI PO PETER SCOTT VISITOR CENTRE

The Visitor Centre, situated in a village outside the Reserve, welcomes students, teachers, public visitors, families, and community groups, as well as dedicated researchers and birdwatchers. The Centre provides visitor and training facilities that enable different learning, research and training activities. The Centre will unite people from Hong Kong and across the region in tackling conservation issues relating to the Deep Bay wetlands and the EAAF.



The two-storey Visitor Centre incorporates sustainable elements, with bamboo and FSC certified wood as primary interior materials



The nine twin-bed guest rooms are named after species found in Mai Po. Visitors can stay and immerse themselves in the Reserve's ecology



The Centre's three training rooms provide space for conservation training and seminars



The Panda Shop offers sustainable products and nature books

EDUCATION CENTRE

The Education Centre features a new interactive exhibition, "Unseen Horizons", showcasing unseen aspects of the Mai Po wetlands. Public and conservation professionals can use its training rooms for learning and training activities. The Centre is also designed with various sustainable features, including water-efficient fixtures, natural lighting and sun screening.



© WWF-Hông Kang

JOCKEY CLUB NATURE TRAIL

This new upgraded wooden footpath is made from FSC-certified wood with a safety lip for wheelchairs. This provides universal access to the nearby birdwatching hides, and viewing spots and student-class nooks. The 1km boardwalk also has six education areas with education panels and directional signages.

Construction took place outside of bird migration season. The footpath was built above the existing concrete path without altering it, creating zero concrete waste. There is also a minimum 6cm gap between the concrete path and the new boardwalk, creating a passageway for invertebrates and small mammals. Off-site fabrication and construction methods also avoided any on-site concrete mixing.

BIRD HIDES

The two new tower hides offer disturbance-free opportunities to observe globally-endangered migratory birds. The Jockey Club Kingfisher Tower Hide, located in the north-eastern part of the Reserve, provides an unobstructed view of the diverse bird life and newly-enhanced pond features. It is primarily for public visitors and school groups.

The Jockey Club Osprey Tower Hide, situated in the southern part of the Reserve, is designed for researchers and experienced birdwatchers. It offers access to freshwater habitats, making it ideal for bird photography and waterbird counting. The tower hides also prioritise natural ventilation, using fan cooling powered by solar energy.

Construction work adhered to the Mai Po Habitat Management Plan, minimising disruption during bird migration season and reducing noise and air pollution through off-site fabrication.







NURTURING OUR UNDERWATER TREASURES

REVIVING OUR CORALS: CORAL CONSERVATION AND ADVOCACY INITIATIVES

This year, our marine biodiversity work advocated for an effective MPA network and lobbied for a more comprehensive marine policy by conducting scalable habitat restoration work. Focusing on two of our suggested MPA sites — the Tolo Harbour and Channel and Shui Hau — this work demonstrated how nature-based solutions and community involvement can create positive environmental and social impacts.

Most significantly, WWF-Hong Kong joined forces with the Coral Academy at The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), launching "Reviving Our Corals", a three-year partnership to revive corals in Hong Kong waters. The project takes a science-based approach, using locally-made materials and employing Nature-based Solutions to rescue and restore corals, supporting academic research and development, raise awareness, and advocate for policy changes. These expanded coral conservation efforts will improve coral coverage and diversity in the area.

Reviving Our Corals will showcase coral conservation and restoration techniques to nurture coral fragments and juveniles, establish coral nursery aquaria for conservation and education and conduct coral monitoring and educational programmes. These will include workshops and eco-tours at our Hoi Ha Marine Life Centre, where visitors can observe rescued coral fragments and learn about the significance of coral conservation. We also plan to create opportunities for the public to participate in coral nurturing activities, which in turn will create further coral restoration opportunities. Currently, people can support the initiative by becoming Coral Protectors through one-off or regular monthly donations to aid our coral restoration efforts and other marine conservation work.





"SEA FOR FUTURE III"

This year, the Sea for Future project series continued – a long-running successful partnership between WWF-Hong Kong and The Swire Group Charitable Trust. The project's newest iteration, Sea for Future III - Riding the Wave, follows Sea for Future II's unprecedented success in identifying sensitive areas and conducting research to build public support for MPAs. Supported by The Swire Group Charitable Trust's TrustTomorrow initiative, Sea for Future III will revitalise marine ecosystems through nature-based solutions like coral and seagrass restoration. The project team will also conduct ocean accounting, advocate for strategic marine spatial planning and promote good ocean governance, alongside raising public awareness and engagement activities.

One aspect of Sea for Future III is a pioneering study that aims to mainstream knowledge of marine spatial planning in Hong Kong and facilitate a marine planning approach that aligns with China's marine conservation policy. A regional trial study on ocean accounting will also be developed with partners in the Greater Bay Area. This will help us obtain a picture of the true value of marine biodiversity, resources and ecosystem services, with the aim of informing proper ocean decision making.



CONNECTING SHUI HAU: ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY IN MARINE CONSERVATION

Since 2018, we have actively engaged in comprehensive conservation initiatives in Shui Hau. Following our successful "ECF-Sustainable Shui Hau" and "Shoring up Shui Hau" initiatives, we launched the "Connecting Shui Hau" project with the support of the Sustainable Lantau Office, Civil Engineering and Development Department this year, focusing on community engagement and MPA advocacy work. We actively communicated with the local community, achieved significant outcomes through various activities, gathered opinions, and built relationships.

CO-VISIONING WORKSHOPS AND COMMUNITY ART CO-CREATION

Co-visioning workshops with local villagers aimed to strengthen their connection with nature around their living space. These workshops helped consolidate viewpoints on environmental management, biodiversity, visitor management, community relationships, and cultural sustainability in Shui Hau. We also collaborated on a mural to capture forementioned outcomes, featuring iconic wildlife species and the community's collective memories – sparking further community interest and participation.



FIELDS TRIPS TO SHOWCASE SUCCESSFUL CONSERVATION MEASURES

We organised field trips for Shui Hau villagers to Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park and Mai Po Nature Reserve, showcasing successful conservation projects and enriching their understanding of marine protected area management, visitor centre operations and the mechanics of collaboration between the government, locals and NGOs.



Villagers on a field trip to Hoi Ha Visitor Centre and Hoi Ha Marine Life Centre

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT DAYS

This activity promoted the Code of Conduct for clam digging and the use of clam gauges. Eight public awareness days were organised during the year, targeting walk-up visitors to the sandflat. We set up kiosks for visitors to promote responsible visiting behaviour and deliver conservation messages.



on proper visiting codes



PROTECTING CHINESE WHITE DOLPHINS THROUGH DOLPHIN-FRIENDLY VESSEL MEASURES

As a thriving coastal city and global financial hub, Hong Kong has a large volume of marine traffic. Hong Kong waters are also home to around 6,000 marine species, including Chinese white dolphins and finless porpoises which are negatively impacted by intense, loud, fast-moving marine vessels.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, fast ferries ceased running for a period of time. WWF-Hong Kong studies conducted before and during this period revealed dramatic increases in Chinese white dolphin occurrences and more diverse dolphin behaviours when these ferries were not running. Based on these findings, we predicted that the resumption of cross-border marine traffic may cause renewed threats to Chinese white dolphins and cetaceans in local waters.

To investigate further, we commissioned the Hong Kong Public Opinion Research Institute to conduct a survey of proposed options on marine vessel traffic impact mitigation off southern Lantau, examining cross-border travel patterns and public willingness to pay for local cetacean conservation. The results indicated that the public strongly supports implementing dolphin-friendly vessel measures; and desires that the government enact traffic mitigation measures before high-speed ferry operations resume to reduce underwater disturbances and provide better conservation for key dolphin habitats in Hong Kong waters.

The survey also explored the concept of flexibly reducing ferry operations when passenger loads were smaller, for example late at night; and identified potential ways to encourage land-based travel along the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, including optimising ancillary transportation facilities and offering bus ticket discounts or package sales.



The main habitat of the Chinese white dolphins has been shifting to the southern Lantau and overlapping with the major marine traffic routes



SHAPING THE FUTURE OF SEAFOOD: **EMPOWERING BUSINESSES AND THE PUBLIC**

speakers and panelists who provided inspiring visions for the future of sustainable seafood development



WWF-Hong Kong aims to protect marine habitats and species by tackling the unsustainable consumption of ocean resources by providing long-term solutions tailored to different parts of society. One method is advocating market transitions that promote behavioural changes in prioritised industries and sectors.

SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMME

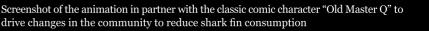
WWF-Hong Kong's Sustainable Seafood Business Membership Programme, enabled by the support from KPMG Foundation, was launched in June 2022. The programme aims to facilitate communication and transparency regarding sustainable seafood within the wholesaling, retailing and F&B industries. In turn, this encourages other businesses along the seafood chain of custody to support the sourcing and consumption of sustainable seafood.

In the first year, 14 founding members and nine members ioined the programme. Members have their menus or catalogues evaluated by WWF-Hong Kong, and are granted the right to use our sustainable seafood badge to highlight the sustainable seafood items they provide and publicise their sustainability efforts. We also held the Sustainable Seafood Business Forum 2023 in June – 24 businesses participated, helping to strengthen synergy among seafood trading, catering and retailing businesses and exchange visions and ways to mainstream sustainable seafood.

With continuous extension of the membership network and participating businesses displaying the programme's seafood badge at the point of sale, we hope that this programme will also help consumers make wise seafood choices. The programme currently covers over 300 points of sale from our current members, including hotels, supermarkets, F&B restaurant chains and frozen food stores, we are working together to make sustainable seafood more accessible and affordable.







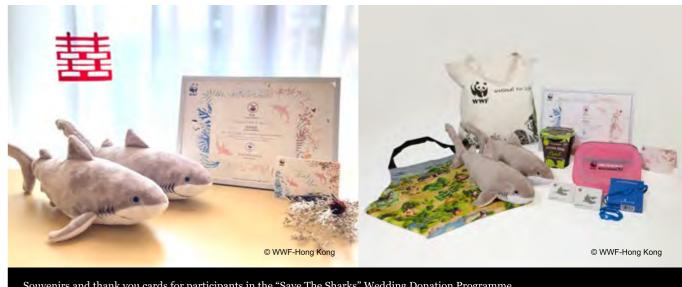


Kev visual for the launch of WWF "Save The Sharks" wedding donation programme

SHARK FIN WEDDING PACKAGE LAUNCH

Habits of choosing shark fin dishes at formal events like wedding banquets of diehard consumers have been a threat to further reduce shark fin consumption in the community. To help drive behavioural change, this year we partnered with the classic comic character "Old Master Q" to produce a short animation that light-heartedly challenged the auspiciousness of shark fin by linking the character of "fin" to "thorn" (which has the same pronunciation in Cantonese). This clever campaign promoted the concept of "no shark fin weddings" and will hopefully empower more people to stop serving and consuming shark fin products.

We also launched a "Save The Sharks" wedding donation programme. When participating engaged couples choose to have a shark-free wedding banquet, they can allocate their gift budget as a donation to WWF, supporting our local and global shark and marine conservation projects. WWF provides newlyweds with wedding gift packages and prepares certificates, heartfelt cards and eco-friendly souvenirs to add extra meaning to their wedding.



Souvenirs and thank you cards for participants in the "Save The Sharks" Wedding Donation Programme



LOOPPLUS AND LCMP

WWF's transformative programmes, LOOPPLUS and the LCMP, provide tools to help businesses measure and disclose key environmental data. They establish emissions reduction targets based on global standards, enhance supply chain transparency and uncover inefficiencies in resource usage, directly contributing to WWF's global goal of halving greenhouse gas emissions from consumption and production. The programmes also align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and foster cross-sector sustainability.

During FY23, eight companies used LOOPPLUS to define workable organisational and operational boundaries and quantify baseline GHG emissions for 16 local and overseas offices, while the LCMP helped 44 manufacturing companies take bold climate mitigation and adaptation action.

In FY23, we also launched a cloud-based blockchain carbon accounting platform in collaboration with InnoBlock Technology Limited. One LOOPPLUS and two LCMP companies are using this enhanced platform to manage their ESG/carbon performance disclosures.

CUMULATIVE LCMP IMPACTS



59 companies in 8 industries
with
LCMP accreditation*

*(2021-2022)



231,432 TONNES of CO₂-eq aggregate drop in carbon emissions. Down 27.5% from business-as-usual



Aggregate reduction of 280,698 tonnes of CO₂-eq compared to base year measurements*



6% annual drop in carbon intensity while simultaneously achieving average business growth of 46%*

"SUSTAINABLE LIVING FOR THE HEALTH OF PEOPLE AND NATURE"

Supported by the Sustainable Development Fund, this twoyear project focuses on promoting sustainable lifestyles, addressing mindset barriers to bridge the "intention-action gap" and encouraging responsible daily low-carbon action. The project engages with the general public, young people and SME (Small and Medium sized Enterprises) owneroperators through collaboration and knowledge sharing.

One initiative engaged 500 local university students, gaining insights into their shopping behaviours and sustainable fashion preferences. Ninety-four percent expressed a willingness to buy or try second-hand clothing to extend its lifespan, while the project's Instagram account gained over 500 new subscribers.

To engage SMEs, we partnered with the Hong Kong Council of Social Service on an ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) programme. An initial survey received over 150 responses about the challenges faced by SMEs in implementing ESG practices. These were then used to design programme activities like a physical workshop on ESG planning which included a "swap-and-match" activity where 40+ participants learned how to extend the life of pre-loved items, demonstrating how SMEs can engage their employees in green action, even with limited financial and manpower resources.

An online workshop on translating ideas into action saw 82 participants learn how SMEs can design and implement their own ESG campaigns using innovative approaches like design thinking. 16 SMEs then confirmed their participation in a sixmonth campaign centred around five sustainable living themes.





"ECF: CHOOSE TO REUSE" PROGRAMME

In October 2022, we launched "ECF: Choose to Reuse", a programme aiming to reduce single-use plastic waste from food deliveries and takeaways. Supported by the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF), this is Hong Kong's first-ever closed-loop reusable food packaging programme that encourages reducing waste at source by providing reusable containers to participating restaurants.

Customers order takeaways via foodpanda as usual, choose the "reusable container" option, then return the containers to designated collection points. The containers undergo a thorough cleaning process by foodpanda's cleaning partner, adhering strictly to the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point Programme. This ensures compliance with global hygiene and safety standards. Deposits are retrieved via Octopus card, with customers incentivised through e-vouchers for their next order and credits on the Carbon Wallet app.

As of June 2023, more than 40 restaurants had joined the programme, with 14,550 containers ordered and a 48% return rate. The second phase of the programme started in September 2023 and will continue until August 2024.



The "ECF: Choose to Reuse" kick-off ceremony, October 2022





INVESTING IN A RESILIENT FUTURE VIA THE DUTCH FUND FOR CLIMATE AND DEVELOPMENT

The Dutch Fund for Climate and Development (DFCD) is a consortium of four partners: WWF, FMO (Dutch Entrepreneurial Development Bank), SNV, a global development partner, and Climate Fund Managers (CFM). WWF-Hong Kong's role is to source, incubate and make projects "business-ready". This year, the DFCD focused on two main objectives: taking its existing pipeline of projects to the development stage and funding its work for the next five years.

One notable DFCD-supported project is PT Indobamboo Lestari (PT Bamboo) on the island of Flores, Indonesia, which focuses on sustainable bamboo. This Indonesian firm sources high-quality bamboo from smallholders on sustainably-managed plantations, which is then manufactured into a wide variety of products, from household items to structural materials, creating social and economic benefits for local communities.

In Vietnam, the Integrated Rice and Aquaculture project with Minh Phu has been redesigned and improved, and the pilot extended in the provinces of Ca Mau. Important agreements have been reached, including having ASC certification as a standard practice, along with community engagement, environmental and social risk management, and gender engagement.

Despite political challenges in Pakistan, our Ranipur Biomass project is progressing, with full operational capacity anticipated by early 2024. Meanwhile, we are collaborating with the Sindh Enterprise Development Fund and FMO to secure funding for the AquaHatch initiative's scalability.

The Desolenator project in Cambodia, focusing on solar saltwater desalination and water stewardship, is now at a critical development stage. We are working to secure land for the project and ensure full government commitment. Working with DFCD Impact team, we have designed a Water Stewardship programme that will build a Multi Stakeholder Platform and add sustainability to the catchment area.

Lastly, we are partnering with a local university in Vietnam on the SamSam project, focusing on sustainable ginseng cultivation. Currently, the project is researching cultivation, plant mortality and especially tissue culture.

The DFCD is now preparing for the launch of "DFCD 2.0" in January 2024, which will prioritise climate adaptation and biodiversity enhancement through projects that improve ecosystem health and address key drivers of biodiversity loss. The fund will also emphasise gender equality and social inclusion and promote food and nutrition security.

STRENGTHENING SUSTAINABLE FINANCE IN HONG KONG

During the year, we developed a new strategy for sustainable finance in Hong Kong that is strengthening relationships with the local financial community and establishing industry credibility. We plan to leverage scientific expertise and branding to help the financial sector catalyse a nature-positive future.

We also promoted sustainability in Hong Kong through such initiatives as collaborating with the Hong Kong Green Finance Association on a taxonomy for nature and conservation. We also provided valuable insights on nature, conservation and biodiversity to the HKMA. We then collaborated with the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, contributing to a consultation paper on climate-related disclosures and integrating environmental considerations into financial reporting.











MITIGATING HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICTS

Tigers and elephants help maintain the harmony of the planet's ecosystems in their own unique ways. Both species require extensive areas of land to obtain food and water, and human expansion into these areas creates potential human-wildlife conflicts. WWF-Hong Kong is supporting tiger and elephant conservation initiatives in Bhutan and Myanmar respectively that work to reduce these conflicts while fostering community involvement and long-term conservation.

Since 2015, the number of tigers in Bhutan has increased by 27%, a result which is contributed from our work and the collaborative efforts of the government, neighbourhood partners and communities. WWF-Hong Kong's sponsorship has also helped local initiative, Gewog Tiger Conservation Tshogpa, expand its scope, allowing more communities in or near tiger environments to benefit from the programme's successes and lessons learnt.

Our Myanmar office also collaborates with the local community, forming elephant monitoring teams and holding awareness-raising events to prevent and manage human-elephant conflicts. The information gathered will be used to manage conflicts and assist conservation efforts by giving people advance notice of elephants' presence, movements, and other specific details.

In September 2022, two solar-powered electric fences covering 1,150 acres of farmland were installed in a rural area with a high frequency of human-elephant encounters. This fencing will help reduce both crop damage and potential conflicts between people and elephants.



Government rangers at Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park head office in Bhutan study images of tigers captured by camera traps in the area

RAISING AWARENESS OF EXOTIC PET ISSUES

Since 2021, WWF-Hong Kong and the ADM Capital Foundation have worked together on an exotic pet trade public awareness campaign. Through this partnership, we are advocating that the Hong Kong government change current laws to create a legal, responsible, and sustainable exotic pet trade in the city. In 2022, we commissioned a public survey in which respondents expressed strong concerns – at least 56% thought that keeping exotic pets contributes to the risk of extinction of wild species, and just 12% felt that keeping threatened species as pets was acceptable.



COMBATING WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING IN THE SUPPLY CHAIN

WWF and our partners were busy this year combatting a surge in the online trade of illegal wildlife products. WWF wildlife trafficking specialists and artificial intelligence experts from AI Singapore developed a machine learning-based system deployed through WWF-Singapore's Cyber Spotters Programme that, with the help of citizen scientists, tracks and identifies potential illegal wildlife product listings on online platforms.

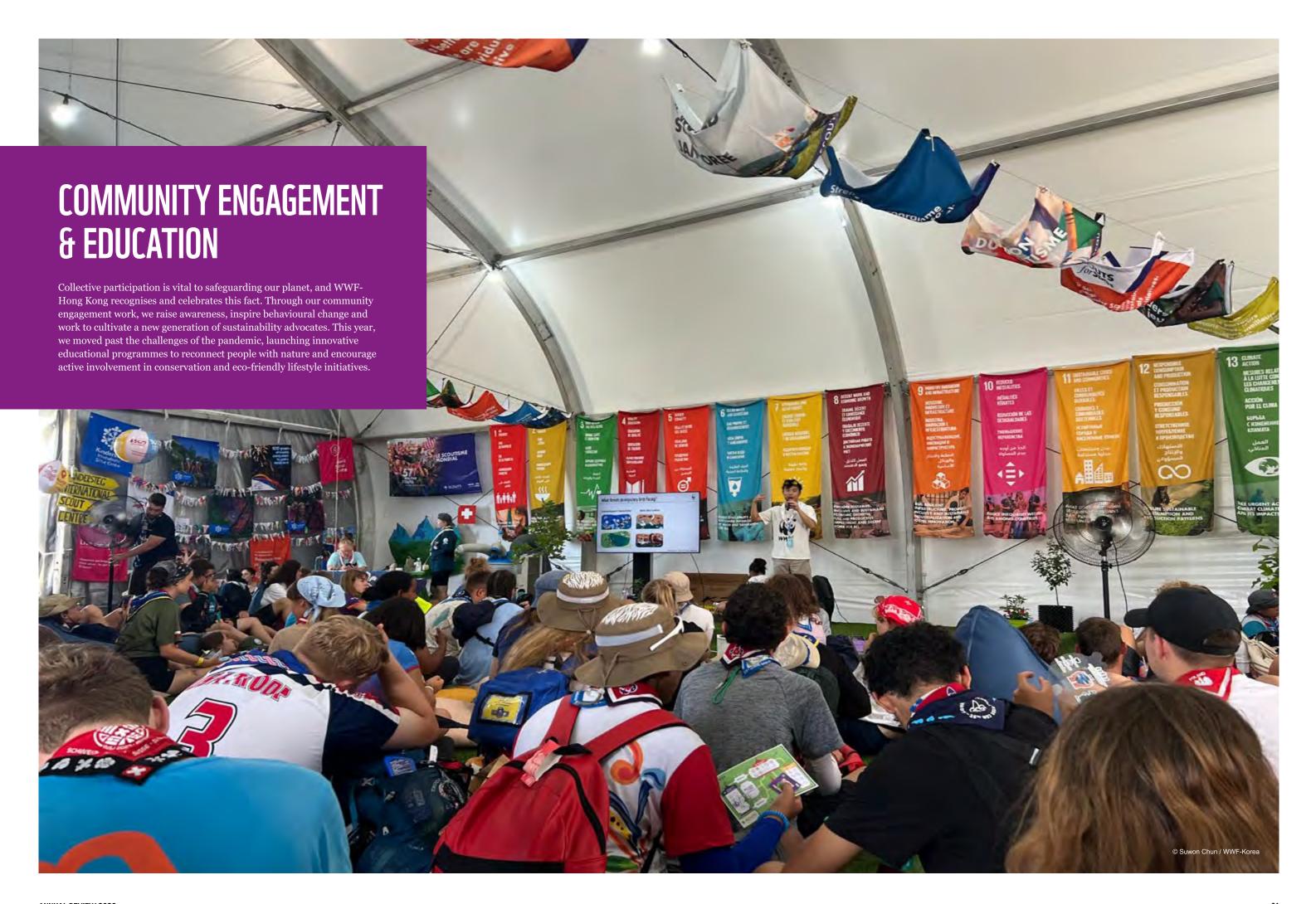
We also partnered with Swire Shipping to address illegal wildlife trade products in the maritime supply chain, launching a global initiative to develop an industry-wide cargo screening solution. With financial support from Swire Shipping and WWF's Innovation Fund, WWF-Hong Kong will pioneer the proof of concept for this technology. Further collaboration with United for Wildlife and TRAFFIC will adopt and test IWT rules and vocabulary in the maritime and technology sectors.

WWF supports the development of the Hong Kong Chapter of United for Wildlife, promoting private sector support and collective action in the transport and financial sectors, to detect illegal wildlife trade, through tools and advanced research.

Meanwhile, training courses conducted by the WWF-Hong Kong led Asia-Pacific Counter-Illegal Wildlife Trade Hub, WWF-Malaysia, and the Wildlife Justice Commission are helping enforcement officers in Sabah, Malaysia fight wildlife cybercrime using advanced investigation techniques.

All these initiatives are showcasing best practices and publicprivate partnership models against wildlife trafficking.







EDUCATION

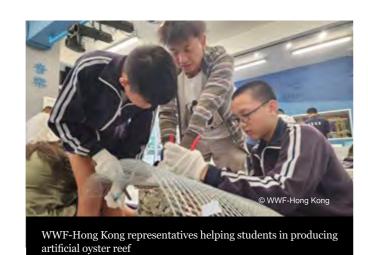


ENHANCED SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIPS

During the 2022/23 academic year, schools resumed face-to-face learning and activities. Likewise, activities restarted at WWF's outdoor learning centres. This synchronicity led to strengthened partnerships with schools, allowing us to actively engage them in our conservation work while fostering student creativity.

These innovative collaborations grew and flourished throughout the year. Three secondary schools in Yuen Long participated in our Wetland Incubator Project's Water Caltrops Fostering Programme. Joining our Conservation team, the schools conducted experimental research and nurtured water caltrops — a plant essential to restoring the habitat of the Pheasant-tailed Jacana in Mai Po Nature Reserve.

We also engaged a secondary school in our Otter Spraint Floating Platform initiative, which saw students apply design thinking to create platforms tailored to otter behaviour. These platforms are enhancing our ongoing otter sign survey in Mai Po. WWF is committed to helping schools integrate environmental sustainability topics into their own school-based activities. This year, we devised a year-round marine conservation STEAM programme with design thinking elements for a secondary school. Students went on nature-based field trips to deepen their understanding of conservation, and designed and produced eco-friendly facilities including artificial oyster reefs and eco tiles. We also supported a primary school's project that focused on protecting endangered animals: our educators developed interactive grade-based activities and organised field trips that enhanced understanding of this important topic in a fun and engaging way.



IMPROVING YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH THROUGH OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

There is increasing evidence of nature's vital role in supporting mental wellbeing. Collaborating with the Mental Health Foundation's "Night to Light" programme, WWF educators led groups of young people in nature exploration, hiking and mindfulness exercises at our outdoor learning centres this year. Introducing participants to the beauty and tranquillity of nature, each activity concluded with a sharing session led by a psychiatrist. This novel collaboration provided interactive and inclusive support to young people by improving their mental health awareness, stability and self-confidence. The mindfulness and mental wellbeing elements were subsequently incorporated in some other WWF school and youth activities.







Representatives from WWF-Hong Kong with their WWF Jamboree teammates

INTERNATIONAL EXPOSURE AND INTERFLOW

As cross-border travel resumed during the year, we arranged overseas study trips for five outstanding teams from the Flow with Nature: Youth Action Project. Made up of secondary students and youths, the teams gained first-hand experience with wetland conservation efforts and interacted with local farmers and conservation experts on visits to Taiwan and Sabah, Malaysia.

Students from two schools also represented Hong Kong at the "Birds and Schools" online international student exchange programme, organised by the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership Secretariat, WWF-Hong Kong and the Incheon Metropolitan City Office of Education. The students shared their experiences of the Water Caltrops Fostering Programme with Korean students, raising awareness about the need to conserve migratory waterbirds and their habitats along the flyway.

We were honoured to have been an organising partner in the 25th World Scout Jamboree in Korea this year, the "world's largest youth camp". In collaboration with WWF-International, WWF-Korea, WWF-Philippines, and WWF-Malaysia, we hosted an education tent at the Ban Ki Moon SDG Village. Together, we encouraged young people to learn about global conservation issues and inspired them to take action within their communities.





ANNUAL EVENTS

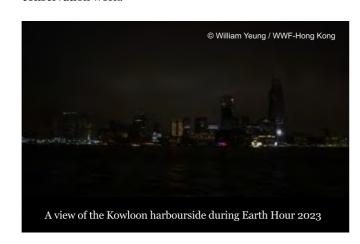
WWF-Hong Kong remained dedicated to preserving habitats and protecting wildlife throughout the year. In August 2022, we organised a "Tigers Protect Habitats" exhibition at Cityplaza, showcasing the results of our 2018-19 Bhutan Tiger Project and raising awareness about these majestic animals. Featuring interactive activities and a VR experience, the exhibition helped participants understand the vital roles tigers play in ecosystems. A limited-edition tiger t-shirt featuring a special painting by event ambassador Stephy Tang was also sold to raise funds for further tiger conservation work in Bhutan.

Earth Hour Hong Kong returned for a 15th consecutive year in 2023, with 3,544 companies, organisations and buildings and 186 schools switching off non-essential lights for one hour at 8:30pm on 25 March. Landmarks and iconic buildings also joined this signature event, supporting the "habits protect habitats" theme dedicated to our irreplaceable wetlands.

We introduced our mascot Lutra to foster greater understanding of the Eurasian otter, an elusive mammal living in Mai Po and the Inner Deep Bay wetlands, and raise awareness about the importance of safeguarding the species and its habitat.

Partnerships with organisations including the MTR Corporation, St. James' Settlement's green social enterprises Green Ladies and Green Little, Food Angel, and the RWA Cycling Foundation amplified our public education efforts and helped us promote sustainable lifestyles.

Our annual Walk for Nature event took place on 5 and 6 November. Themed "Endless Possibilities @ Mai Po", it showcased Mai Po Nature Reserve's wildlife marvels and the role technology plays in wetland research and conservation. Almost 1,100 participants explored the Reserve and engaged in interactive activities. Our annual Flag Day on 24 June also saw 1,500 volunteers sell flags to raise funds for our coral conservation work.





CENTRE-BASED EVENTS

Throughout the year, WWF-Hong Kong's centres bustled with exciting activities and initiatives designed to promote conservation and engage the public. At Mai Po, we launched two new volunteer programmes for our corporate members, allowing them to join forces with our Habitat Management team to monitor trees and conduct regular vegetation control to ensure a safe environment for visitors and maintain the wetland's functionality for wildlife.

At our Hoi Ha Marine Life Centre, we introduced a snorkelling course, where participants explore the wonders of Hoi Ha Wan. This adds depth to our marine life identification class that teaches participants about Hong Kong's common corals, fish and other marine species. Three coral nursery tanks were installed at the research centre in 2023 to support our active participation in coral rescue and restoration efforts. We also continued to develop educational programmes that will allow people to dive deeper into the world of coral conservation and restoration.



Volunteers joined forces to conduct regular vegetation control at Mai Po Nature Reserve

The Winter Orchid Festival, run in collaboration with the Hong Kong Orchid Association at our Island House Conservation Studies Centre, delighted visitors with a spectacular exhibition featuring over 1,000 orchids from hundreds of different species. The festival also included green activities and conservation-themed workshops to promote sustainable living practices. Island House hosted a wide range of workshops and activities throughout the year, including engaging organic farm gardening activities and workshops. These initiatives aimed to provide participants with valuable farming experiences, helping them to learn more about sustainable food practices and foster a deeper understanding of food waste and the importance of cherishing food.

Our Central Sustainability Hub also held several workshops during the year to help people cultivate greener living habits – including a new workshop on crafting aroma soy candles using natural and eco-friendly materials.



Learning in action – participants in our snorkelling and marine life identification course at Hoi Ha Marine Life Centre with their eco-guide

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

As a leading non-profit conservation organization, WWF-Hong Kong commands a high degree of public trust due to our professionalism, integrity and transparency.

WWF-Hong Kong's governing body is the Executive Council. Its members, professionals from conservation, scientific, education and business fields, are strongly committed to nature conservation. They serve on a voluntary basis, providing advice from their professional perspectives, approving strategic direction, conservation programmes and annual budget, and monitoring operations of WWF-Hong Kong.

Members of the Executive Council must be trustee members of WWF-Hong Kong and are elected by other trustee members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Each council member shall hold office until the third AGM next following his or her election when he or she shall retire, but shall be eligible for re-election for one further term of three years. Members may serve a maximum of six years, unless decided otherwise by the Executive Council.

A number of sub-committees, composed of experts in the relevant fields, enhance the breadth and depth of the Executive Council's work. Each sub-committee provides professional advice in areas of conservation, education, development, finance and the management of the Mai Po Nature Reserve.

WWF-Hong Kong understands that voluntary disclosure is essential in establishing public confidence. To ensure that our financial resources are spent appropriately, we are committed to providing clear, accurate and transparent financial information for public scrutiny. Our financial accounts, prepared in accordance with the Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards, are independently audited by Mazars CPA Limited and published yearly in our annual report.

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

(Members as at 30th June 2023)

Chairman

Mr Daniel R. BRADSHAW

Members

Dr Timothy BONEBRAKE

Dr Sylvia CHAN, MH

Ms Irene N.Y. CHU

Professor David DUDGEON

Mr William W. FLANZ

Mr David M.H. FONG, BBS, JP

Mr Alun C. GRASSICK

Mr Christopher HARROCKS

Mr Edward M. HO

Ms Kate HODSON

Mr Philip MOK

Mr Arthur MUI

Ms Katherine NG

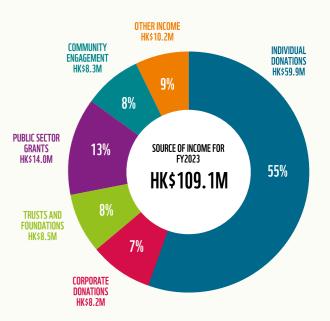
 Mr Douglas C.K. WOO, BBS, JP

FINANCIALS

The following highlights provide an analysis of the Annual Report and Accounts of WWF-Hong Kong for the year ended 30 June 2023. The Annual Report and Accounts have been audited by Mazars CPA Limited and are prepared in accordance with the Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards.

OUR INCOME

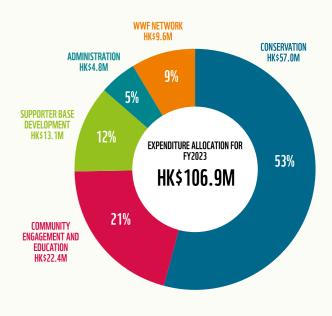
WWF-Hong Kong's income decreased by 2% to HK\$109.1 million in FY23. Individual donations and corporate donations dropped by 8% and 18% respectively which has yet to recover to pre-pandemic levels. Support from individual donations continued to be the largest income source, representing 55% of the total income for FY23. Corporate donations, comprised income from our Corporate Membership Programme, corporate partnership on plastics campaigns, and other corporate donations. There were new projects in FY23 under public sector grants, such as Smart Wetland and Choose to Reuse. Other income mainly represented support for our centre-based activities, school partnerships and contribution from WWF Network for the illegal wildlife trade initiatives.



DELIVERING IMPACT AND RESULTS

Total expenditure for FY23 amounted to HK\$106.9 million. Conservation, and community engagement and education, remained our major investments in FY23, representing 74% of the total expenditure. We continued to strive to achieve strong conservation impact. Our conservation programmes were delivered in areas including Mai Po and wetlands, oceans, wildlife, local biodiversity, sustainable finance, and community engagement & education. We contributed 9% of the total expenditure to the WWF network to deliver global objectives.

WWF-Hong Kong will continue to scale up our efforts in the wetland landscape for a climate adaptation strategy for the Mai Po Ramsar site. The opening of the new WWF Jockey Club Mai Po Peter Scott Visitor Centre at Mai Po Nature Reserve features guest rooms, learning and meeting facilities further enhances our visitors experience.



OUR THANKS

We are grateful for the support from the following companies, organisations and individuals:

Organisation

Adfocate Limited

Aeon Credit Service (Asia) Co Ltd

AIGLE Hong Kong

Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited

BOC Group Life Assurance Company Limited

Cannon Trustees Limited

Carthy Limited

CLP Holdings Limited

Crystal International Group Limited

Deckers Asia Pacific Limited

EcoSmart Energy Holdings Limited

Elite Partners CPA Limited

H&M HENNES & MAURITZ HOLDING ASIA LIMITED

Hayco Group

Henderson Land Group

HKEX Foundation Limited

Hong Kong Housing Society

Hongkong Land (Property Management) Ltd.

Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (Asia) Limited

Invesco Hong Kong Limited

Jebsen Group

KABUSHIKIGAISHA Limited

Kerry Holdings Limited

Mr. Anthony Turner

Mr. Chan Yuk Kwan

Mr. Daniel Bradshaw

Ms. Karen Chan Pak Lai

Mr. Laurent Bertinotti

Miss Margarita Lau

Mr. Chen Nan Lok Philip

Mr. James Arthur Filmer-Wilson

KPMG

Individual

Lee Hysan Foundation

Modern Terminals Limited

MTR Corporation Limited

MUJI (Hong Kong) Company Limited

New World Development Company Limited

Ninety One Hong Kong Limited

Promise (Hong Kong) Co., Limited

SC Johnson Limited

Satami International Limited

Shanghai Commercial Bank Limited

Starbucks Coffee Asia Pacific Limited

Swire Properties Limited

The Adrian Swire Charitable Trust

The Body Shop

The Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd.

The Koo Kou Ming Charitable Foundation

The Mari-Cha Group

Miss Mo Yuen Ling

Mr. Nico Zurcher

Ms. Phyllis Chang

Miss Tang Zixin

Mr. Xu Jian Ken

Mr. Ng Siu Wing Ludwig

Mrs. Susanna So Tam Kit Ying

Mr. Yeh Man Pun Russell

The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation

The Swire Group Charitable Trust

The Tokio Marine and Fire Insurance Co. (HK) Ltd.

ZIM Integrated Shipping Agencies (HK) Limited

We would like to extend our gratitude to the following organisations for joining our centre activities and events.

Aggressive Construction Company Limited

Agnes b. HK Limited

Amazon Web Services Hong Kong

Azeus Systems Limited

Bank Pictet & Cie (Asia) Ltd

BASF East Asia Regional Headquarters Ltd

BNP Paribas Asset Management Asia Ltd.

Boston Scientific Hong Kong Limited

Canon Engineering Hong Kong Co., Limited

Canon Hongkong Company Limited

Carter's Global Sourcing Ltd

Celki VitalAire

China Construction Bank (Asia) Corporation Limited

China Travel Service (Hong Kong) Limited

Chow Tai Fook Jewellery Company Limited

Clothing Industry Training Authority

Crédit Agricole Corporate and Investment Bank

Credit Suisse (Hong Kong) Limited

Edelman Hong Kong

EPAM Systems (Hong Kong) Limited

Euromonitor HK

Expedia Group

Federal Express (Hong Kong) Limited

Kimberly-Clark (Hong Kong) Limited

Guotai Junan International Holdings Limited

Haleon

HandsOn Hong Kong

Hapag-Lloyd (China) Limited

Hong Kong Aero Engine Services Limited

Hong Kong Gold Coast Hotel

John Lewis Hong Kong Limited

JP Morgan

KAO (Hong Kong) Limited

Konica Minolta Business Solutions (HK) Ltd

KPMG

Lee Kum Kee Family Investment Group Ltd

Li & Fung (Trading) Limited

Lidl & Kaufland Asia Pte. Ltd.

Linpo Digicom Ltd.

Mayer Brown

Mizuho Securities Asia Limited

Robeco Hong Kong

Royal Geographical Society (Hong Kong)

Sino Group

Skyrex International Ltd

Swire Resources Ltd.

Teva Pharmaceutical Hong Kong Limited

The Bank of East Asia, Limited

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd.

The Hong Kong Jockey Club

Time Auction Limited

Transamerica Life (Bermuda Ltd)

UBS AG - Hong Kong Branch

United Asia Finance Limited

Wah Kwong Maritime Transport Holdings Limited

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Wellness Compass Hong Kong

Zai Lab (HK) Limited

WWF-HONG KONG CORPORATE MEMBERS 2023

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all of our corporate and individual donors for enabling us to carry out our mission, making our conservation and education goals possible. With generous support from all of you, a small number of whom are recognized here, our endeavours have been such a success as we work to transform Hong Kong into Asia's most sustainable city.

Double Diamond members

Jebsen Group

Kerry Holdings Limited

The Hong Kong Jockey Club

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd.

The Wharf (Holdings) Limited

Diamond members

Hayco Group

The Mari-Cha Group Limited

Gold members

China Everbright Environment Group Limited

Hang Seng Bank

Henderson Land Group

KT Marina

MF Jebsen Group

Promise (Hong Kong) Co., Limited

S.C. Johnson Limited

Shanghai Commercial Bank Limited

Sun Hung Kai Properties Limited

Pearl members

Kowloon Development Company Limited

Polytec Asset Holdings Limited

Simatelex Group

Swire Properties Limited

Silver members

Airport Authority Hong Kong

Arup

Azeus Systems Limited

Canon Hongkong Company Limited

Cathay Pacific Airways Limited

Chevalier Group

China Aircraft Leasing Group Holdings Limited

Chinachem Group

Chun Wo Construction Holdings Company Limited

CLP Power Hong Kong Limited Como Como Serviced Apartment

COSCO SHIPPING International (Hong Kong) Co., Ltd.

Crystal International Group Limited

Elite Partners CPA Limited

E-pac Holdings Company Ltd.

First Shanghai Group

Headwind Industrial (Hong Kong) Limited

HK Electric

Hong Kong Disneyland Resort

KPMG

Li & Fung (Trading) Limited

Lidl & Kaufland Asia Pte. Ltd.

Man Cheong Metals And Building Materials

Company Limited

MBK Partners HK Limited

McDonald's Hong Kong

MCM Fashion Group Limited

Modern Terminals Limited

Moët Hennessy Diageo Hong Kong Limited

MTR Corporation Limited

Olympus Capital Asia / Asia Environmental Partners

Pokfulam Development Co. Ltd.

Publicis Groupe

Shenzhou International Group Holdings Limited

Simmons Bedding & Furniture (HK) Limited

Sino Group

Sony Corporation of Hong Kong Limited

The Bank of East Asia, Limited

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