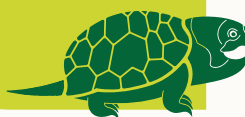




KADOORIE FARM AND BOTANIC GARDEN

ANNUAL REPORT
2024-2025





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MISSION AND VISION

MISSION

To harmonise our relationship with the environment.

VISION

A world in which people live sustainably with respect for each other and nature.

VALUES

SUSTAINABLE LIVING

Appreciating the impact of our actions with regard to current and future generations. Having awareness of our connection with the environment. Valuing simple and responsible lifestyles.

JUSTICE

Being fair and accountable. Valuing socially equitable systems that protect the health of the planet, the people and their way of life. Protect future generations.

LOVE

Having self-awareness and understanding of the inter-relationship of all things. Having compassion and respect for all life. Recognising that outer discord is a reflection of inner discord. Striving for inner silence.

PARTICIPATION

Engaging mentally, physically, emotionally and spiritually; fostering respect for different viewpoints, openness, dialogue and teamwork.

PROFESSIONALISM

Being a role model of caring, integrity, commitment, professional standards and best practices for partners, organisations, individuals and communities.

LEARNING

Being adaptive and flexible to changing circumstances. Having a holistic outlook. Being practical, objective, creative and insightful.

HAPPINESS

Appreciating that our happiness lies in creating and sharing happiness with others.

ABOUT US

As an organisation, Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden (KFBG) raises awareness, undertakes rigorous science-based species conservation and ecosystem restoration, and offers new ways of thinking and low-carbon living to respond to the world's environmental problems, all while being linked to the resources and lifestyle of Hong Kong. Our work brings hope and improvement, by focusing on nature conservation, sustainable living and holistic education that reconnect people with nature. By working together with the public, government, academia, NGOs and businesses, we help to protect our common future.

KFBG is situated in the rural New Territories on the northern slopes of Tai Mo Shan, Hong Kong's highest mountain, where two steep spurs enclose its deep-set valley. Within KFBG, there are streams, woodlands, orchards, vegetable gardens, walking trails, separate exhibits focusing on live animals, flora and art, sustainable agriculture demonstration plots, a wild animal rescue centre, a native tree nursery, conservation and education facilities, and magical, misty fern gardens. A special department at KFBG is the Green Hub, which is located in the renovated Old Tai Po Police Station – a Grade 1 listed historic building dating back to 1899 – where we run community programmes to demonstrate how we can live sustainably, while at the same time respecting nature and each other. In addition, in the summer of 2024, we opened the Kadoorie Centre Food Hub, for residential retreats and innovative cooking. More about our third site in the chapter on Sustainable Living (page 56).

In the post-war years, Hong Kong was flooded with destitute immigrants, with many having traditional knowledge of crop production and livestock farming but without stock; others had land but no experience. In short, they required support to rebuild their lives. In response to these pressing human needs, Lawrence and Horace Kadoorie established the Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Association (KAAA), which became a key partner of the Hong Kong government in devising and implementing a plan to help Hong Kong feed itself, and in 1956, the association set up an experimental farm. The Kadoorie brothers, part of a well-established business family,

saw wealth as a sacred trust to benefit others. Through such aid, thousands of people received agricultural training: pigs, chickens and ducks were bred and given to farmers, or sold to them on credit as micro-loans and numerous wells, irrigation channels, roads, footpaths, bridges, pigsties and farmhouses were built.

As Hong Kong's economy grew and times changed, KFBG's purpose also adapted. On 20 January 1995, the Legislative Council of Hong Kong passed an Ordinance (KFBG Chapter 1156) incorporating KFBG as a non-profit corporation and designated as a conservation and education centre with a new mission. It is a unique, public-private partnership that, while a public organisation, is privately funded by the Kadoorie Foundation. These funds are supplemented by visitor admission fees, donations from the public and corporations, and occasional project-related government grants that enable us to extend our work.

KFBG's three core programmes, focused on nature conservation, holistic education and sustainable living, are constantly evolving as they strive to harmonise humanity's relationship with nature. In addition to the many on-site courses, workshops and special events we run, we implement projects throughout Hong Kong, Greater Bay Area and other parts of the Indo-Burma region to better protect and restore biodiversity.





FOREWORD

Frequently, I am asked about KFBG's vision for the next three to five years, a valid question which I have been asking myself since I joined the organisation nearly four years ago. KFBG's mission is to harmonise our relationship with the environment and its vision is a world where people live sustainably with respect for each other and nature. Building on these guiding principles, our responsibility is how to operationalise the vision and how to put our mission into practice.

The Covid pandemic brought both stagnation and change to Hong Kong society and to KFBG and this required a revitalization of our organization. Over the past years, we have substantially invested in our three sites to strengthen the foundation of our nature conservation work. KFBG's 148 hectares have been transformed into one of the most biodiverse areas of Hong Kong. The site is not only home to our Wild Animal Rescue Centre and Native Tree Nursery but also provides facilities where we host training, workshops, seminars and retreats, as well as education programmes for more than 40,000 children annually. Our aim is for everyone who visits KFBG to experience nature and learn about the importance of sustainable lifestyles. This year, we completed our new staff office and educational centre, the Jockey Club Nature Conservation Centre, we renovated the KFBG Green Hub and opened the Food Hub at the Kadoorie Centre. From these three sites, we practice our mission and vision.

Scientific study and research are the foundations of our nature conservation work and we are proud to have contributed or published over a dozen scientific papers this year. Our scientific research has to be used in practice and we reviewed and updated our selection criteria to ensure that our projects in Hong Kong and Mainland China not only follow the highest scientific standards, but also that the outcomes can be applied in nature conservation.

KFBG actively participates in the Hong Kong Government's five-year Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, we also provide the government with ecological advice for the Northern Metropolis and we continue to play a role as an ecological watchdog for Hong Kong's nature. KFBG offers corporations tree planting programmes, including provision of appropriate native species of trees and education on the importance of ecosystem preservation. And we initiated a grand programme to deploy our tree planting activities and model beyond our own site, to continue and expand habitat restoration, ensuring that Hong Kong retains and even increases its biodiversity.

This would not be possible without the dedicated hard work and efforts of our staff who love their work, as well as our friends, members, funders, teachers, visitors, and other stakeholders who continue to support us. To all of you I say a most sincere "thank you"!

This Annual Report highlights achievements from 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025, which sees the Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden commemorate its 69th year, and once again, it tells the story of our Love for Nature.

Wander Meijer
Executive Director



Kadoorie Farm
and Botanic
Garden
(Moon Gate)



The KFBG
Green Hub
(Aerial View)



The Food Hub
at Kadoorie
Centre
(Entrance)

THE THREE SITES OF KADOORIE FARM AND BOTANIC GARDEN

KFBG is a 'site-based' organisation, meaning that the location, surroundings, environment, nature, animals, plants, soil, structures, and heritage are all integral parts of our identity and mission.

KADOORIE FARM AND BOTANIC GARDEN

The largest and most well-known site is the historic Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden, established in 1956. Originally an experimental farm for agricultural aid, it was repurposed into a nature reserve and botanic garden in 1995. Today, it spans 148 hectares and is renowned as Hong Kong's nature treasure trove. KFBG offers a sanctuary for wildlife, has an extensive plant collection, and educational programmes to the community focusing on, and encouraging, conservation and sustainable living.

KFBG GREEN HUB

In 2011, KFBG was granted permission by the government to revitalise the Old Tai Po Police Station. The Station dates back to 1899, making it the oldest permanent building in the Northern Territories from the British colonial era. This site was transformed into KFBG Green Hub, as a centre for sustainable living. KFBG Green Hub is an oasis of tranquillity and nature amidst the bustling city, providing an opportunity and inspiration for citizens to live more harmoniously with nature. It offers heritage tours, workshops, courses and activities, focused on integrated conservation, permaculture design, sustainability, low carbon living and eco-friendly practices.

THE FOOD HUB AT HKU KADOORIE CENTRE

The idea for the Food Hub arose as part of KFBG's Kadoorie Earth Programme, conceived during the Covid pandemic. Work began in 2022, following a vigorous planning process to guide the interior fit-out, renovation and refurbishment works. The project was rated Platinum in the latest standards of Building Environmental Assessment Method (BEAM) Plus. Other initiatives KFBG worked on was to improve the universal design and wildlife friendliness of the building. Along with that, the food and educational experience at the Food Hub is to inspire people to live sustainably with respect for each other and nature. The Food Hub softly opened in the summer of 2024, and was officially inaugurated in May 2025.

NATURE CONSERVATION



©KFBG/ KCC

Red-billed
Leiothrix

NATURE CONSERVATION FLORA CONSERVATION PROGRAMMES

A COORDINATED APPROACH TO PLANT CONSERVATION

Healthy, functioning ecosystems are a pre-requisite for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as well as for the equitable sharing of benefits derived from it. These objectives are at the heart of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), an international treaty for the protection of nature, and they go hand-in-hand with measures to avert climate breakdown. Plants, of course, are fundamental for ecosystem health as the basis for practically all life on Earth, and so the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC), a policy roadmap that specifically addresses threats to plants, was launched in 2002, ten years after the CBD itself. It has since been renewed on two occasions: firstly in 2010 to unify its goals with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets for halting species loss by 2020, and then in 2024 to buttress the mission of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) to “put nature on a path to recovery for the benefit of people and planet” by 2030. In its latest iteration, the GSPC comprises 41 voluntary actions for plant conservation that complement the KMGBF targets towards a world living in harmony with nature by 2050.



Polygala fallax

The new GSPC Actions expand on its 2010–2020 targets, which set out to ensure that plant diversity is understood and documented, urgently and effectively conserved, sustainably and equitably used, and mainstreamed through education, whilst building capacity for lasting impact. As the only organisations to bring together expertise in horticulture, science and public engagement, botanic gardens are at the forefront of efforts to achieve these goals—and the breadth and depth of KFBG’s flora conservation programmes are ideally positioned to contribute.

For example, Action 2 highlights the need for “effective restoration of degraded ecosystems” through the prevention or mitigation of degradation drivers, the use of genetically appropriate material of native species, and the enhancement of soils, soil biota, pollinators and seed dispersers, including species of conservation concern. KFBG’s long-standing commitment to restore tropical montane forest across its upper slopes delivers on these aspirations by combining research with active forest management. Over the past 12 months, we planted out and cared for thousands of genetically diverse individuals of rare native species, and in June 2024 we became a hub for The Global Biodiversity Standard (TGBS), the world’s most scientifically rigorous site-based certification scheme for the protection and restoration of biodiversity. A total of 14 staff became certified TGBS Assessors, qualifying them to evaluate third-party sites, and in March 2024, we published a key paper (Zhang et al. 2025. *Journal of Forestry Research* 36: 56) identifying the major environmental factors and management interventions that influence success during the early stages of forest restoration in Hong Kong, with soil nutrient status and the use of tree guards found to be critical.



Tai Po Kau handbook
launch event



Tai Po Kau
Forest
Dynamics Plot
handbook

MAINSTREAMING PLANT AWARENESS

Our dedication to understanding long-term processes important for ecological resilience was also evidenced through the publication of a handbook detailing species composition and community structure at Tai Po Kau, Hong Kong’s largest and oldest patch of lowland secondary forest. This monumental synthesis of over ten years of field and herbarium-based research stemmed from a collaboration between KFBG and The University of Hong Kong that commenced in 2012 with the establishment of a 20-hectare permanent ‘forest dynamics plot’, within which every tree with a girth of 1 cm or larger was tagged, mapped, identified and measured. This generated a three-dimensional picture of how over 81,000 individuals of 172 plant species co-exist and influence community assembly over time. The insights gained reveal that historic landscape degradation leaves an enduring legacy: whereas a narrow subset of prolific, fast-growing species have come to dominate the forest over the past 70 years, many rare, slower growing species remain infrequent, unable to expand beyond the microsites to which they have been confined, presumably due to a mixture of ecological and genetic barriers. This means that, left to their own devices, degraded tropical forests in this region may struggle to recuperate the species diversity, structure and function typical of old-growth forests, suffering instead from arrested succession and necessitating active restoration for recovery.

To celebrate its publication, a book launch was held at the KFBG’s Art House in June 2024. Guest of Honour Nan Zhaoxu, a celebrity nature writer based in Shenzhen, gave a rousing illustrated talk on the need to protect, restore and embrace nature in the Greater Bay Area. He emphasised the positive mental and societal impacts that doing so can have on city dwellers. Spreading the message, lead author and KFBG Ecologist, Huiling Zhu, attended the Chinese Forest Biodiversity Network’s 20th Anniversary Conference held at Changbaishan, Jilin, the same month. This project, as well as the book, aligns with several of the GSPC’s actions that encourage data generation and the mainstreaming of botany.

HERBARIA AS REPOSITORIES OF PLANT KNOWLEDGE

Remarkably, during fieldwork for compilation of the book, Senior Ecologist, Jinlong Zhang, realised that a Spindle Tree (*Euonymus* species), common in the Tai Po Kau plot, is new to science. Specimens have been deposited in KFBG’s herbarium and research is ongoing to formally characterise it.

Our herbarium grew through the addition of over 300 specimens over the year, contributing to fuller knowledge of Hong Kong’s rich, but fragile, flora. Of particular note, the wild mint relative *Mosla cavaleriei* was collected in the northeast New Territories in October 2024, confirming the natural occurrence in Hong Kong of a species previously known only from parts of southern China and Vietnam. We also documented the colonisation and rapid spread of the non-native and invasive Bearded Begonia (*Begonia hirtella*) and Carolina Fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*), both species having recently been introduced from the Neotropics, probably via the ornamental plant trade. In April 2024, KFBG and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) exchanged dozens of plant specimens to enrich each other’s collection, and our herbarium was upgraded with the installation of a new scanner, allowing us to

digitise our specimens for improved access online. Building knowledge and raising awareness of biodiversity, ecosystems and natural history collections in these ways support GSPC Action 21, which focuses on the enhancement of plant information systems.



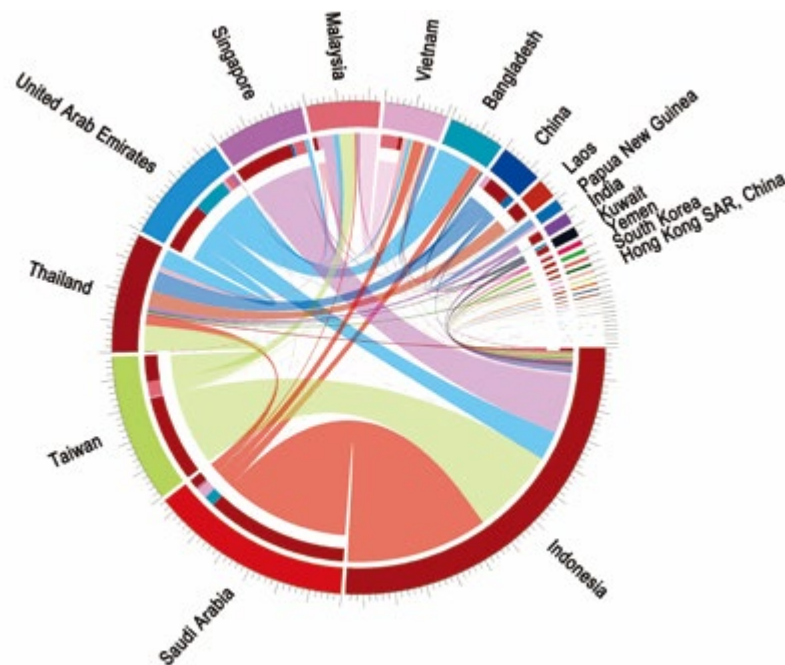
MAKING THE MOST OF PLANT GENETIC DIVERSITY

Eight of the 41 Actions explicitly mention plant genetic diversity in the context of conservation, making use of appropriate material for restoration and climate adaptation, and sustainably managing plants for food, agriculture and forestry. Knowledge of this sort was generated in our Conservation Genetics Laboratory, where over 8,000 DNA samples were analysed through the year, spanning both plants and animals. The resulting data allowed us to measure genetic variability in rare trees, vines and orchids, as well as in otters, and to assign species identities to processed biological products and customs confiscations.

Senior Conservation Geneticist, Huarong Zhang, and colleagues began testing the utility of 'next-generation sequencing' (NGS) for the analysis of Traditional Chinese Medicines (TCM) containing threatened plants. Using this technique, it is possible to determine the species and genetic makeup of wild orchids used in products commonly sold in Hong Kong's TCM stores. New, high resolution DNA sequencing technology was also trialled to expand our capacity for conservation genomics, the study of entire genomes. With a grant from Org.one, we sequenced three critically endangered plants—the Vaccinium Date Plum (*Diospyros vaccinioides*), Iatric Bay (*Sinopora hongkongensis*) and Yellow Fairy Orchid (*Habenaria leptoloba*)—in a significant step forward for the data-driven conservation of native species in the region.



Processing orchid TCM samples in the lab



Circular graph representing the global agarwood trade network

Conservation Geneticists, Benny Lai and Feng Yang, published a global study of agarwood trade (Lai et al. 2025. *Global Ecology & Conservation* 59: e03560) following an investigation of customs records and the conservation status of over 100 species belonging to Thymelaeaceae, the botanical family that contains the Hong Kong Incense Tree (*Aquilaria sinensis*). Their findings revealed that multiple species not currently protected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) are threatened by the incense tree/ agarwood trade. To maximise conservation of the wild genetic diversity in local species, we collected seeds at priority sites identified in a previous study and conducted experiments in our nurseries to assess natural variations in germination and early growth.

Animal samples processed in the lab supported the work of our Fauna Conservation colleagues with decision-making for two seized Chinese Crocodile Lizards, several injured birds and one critically endangered Siamese Crocodile (*Crocodylus siamensis*). In addition, Dr. Jessica Quinlan, an expert in forensic analysis of fisheries from Florida International University, visited us for three weeks in February and March 2024 to analyse trade in endangered shark fins sourced from retail outlets in Hong Kong, assessing in particular how the COVID pandemic affected supply and demand.

LINKING LIVING COLLECTIONS WITH SPECIES RECOVERY

Applied carefully, horticulture can bridge vulnerable plant populations with recovery in the wild through ex situ cultivation and reintroduction. This approach is promoted in GSPC Actions 4, 8 and 10. Over the past year, scores of rare species were successfully propagated and cared for in our nurseries, including Green's Chestnut (*Castanopsis kawakamii*), Spitting Tree (*Anneslea fragrans*) and the newly discovered Java Gomphostemma (*Gomphostemma lucidum*), Lofty Fig (*Ficus altissima*) and Taiwan Fish Wood (*Crateva cf. formosensis*). Cuttings of Chinese Spirea (*Spiraea chinensis*), a beautiful shrub with only one very small known population in Hong Kong, were established in our mist house, and a trip to Crescent Island yielded precious acorns of the extremely rare South China Cork Oak (*Quercus variabilis*).



Daniel Hang

During the survey work, Assistant Curator, Daniel Hang, discovered *Strobilanthes chinensis*, a pretty understory shrub with yellow flowers in the Bear's Breeches family (*Acanthaceae*) that had never previously been recorded in Hong Kong—another important addition to the flora of the territory. Every effort is being made to secure this material in cultivation.



Yellow flowers of *Strobilanthes chinensis*

Orchids have long been a flagship for applied plant conservation at KFBG. Having established many South Chinese species in cultivation since the 1970s, our living collections today represent an invaluable assurance against extinction in the wild. During 2024, more than 50 species were hand-pollinated and almost 100 seed pods were harvested for micropropagation. Through meticulous lab culture, close to 10,000 seedlings representing 74 species were raised, de-flasked and hardened. Important examples included Leung's Caterpillar Orchid (*Cheirostylis jamesleungii*), Wallich's Phaius (*Phaius wallichii*) and the Angelfish Orchid (*Dendrobium aduncum*). The latter is only known from three remaining wild plants in Hong Kong. Hope was also sparked with the propagation of the Hyacinth Orchid (*Bletilla striata*), a species believed extinct in the wild here.



Candy Ip and Chow Pak Tai (Mei Chun) in the orchid lab

Perhaps most significantly, Head of Flora Conservation Stephan Gale, Horticultural Manager Craig Williams and Nursery Foreman Candy Ip Tsz Yu teamed up with AFCD Conservation Officers in June 2024 to reintroduce plants of the critically endangered Long-eared Dog Orchid (*Bulbophyllum bicolor*) into a secret location in a Hong Kong Country Park. This was the outcome of over a decade of dedicated research at KFBG to understand the ecology, genetics and horticultural needs of this local icon for plant conservation and is the first time that integrated conservation research of this nature has led to the reintroduction of a plant in Hong Kong.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP FOR PLANTS

Our plant ecologists helped shape public discourse on the importance of plant conservation through 2024, both here in Hong Kong and internationally. As the government of Hong Kong SAR announced a new phase in its Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) to run from 2025–2035, several Flora Conservation staff joined working groups on restoration and rewilding, wildlife trade, Red Listing and alien invasive species to guide the Steering Committee's official response. This process is itself borne of the CBD, it is aligned with the KMGBF and Hong Kong's policy will dovetail with China's national BSAP—the GSPC should thus be manifest in the actions that follow.

Wildlife trade is addressed in GSPC Complementary Action 5 and was a recurrent theme through the year. In September 2024, Stephan Gale gave an online talk entitled 'Tackling Wild Plant Trade in Hong Kong and South China' for a webinar hosted by Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) at the launch of its Technical Review, *The Importance of Botanic Gardens in Tackling the Illegal Plant Trade*. The report features a case study on confronting wild orchid trade in Hong Kong and South China using market surveys and DNA forensics contributed by Huarong, Feng Yang and Stephan. In December 2024, Huarong introduced KFBG's genetic work on tackling trade in a range of wildlife products



Mang presenting at 8th Global Botanic Garden Congress in Singapore

to Ivonne Higuero, Secretary-General of CITES, at a workshop for 'Advancing Partnerships and Private Sector Responses to Counter Wildlife Trafficking' organised by WWF-HK.

At the 8th Global Botanic Gardens Congress in Singapore in August 2024, Fernanda Cardoso led a workshop on the merits of TGBS for enhancing biodiversity in forest restoration and Mang Lung Cheuk presented findings from a study of canopy enhancement using diverse native tree seedlings to overcome arrested succession in Hong Kong's secondary forests.



Stephan (second left) at International Climate and Biodiversity Conference



Birdwings & Butterflies programme

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Flora Conservation staff conducted media interviews with various broadcasters and news outlets including RTHK, the *Hong Kong Economic Journal*, *China Science Daily* and Agence France-Presse. Topics ranged from the Hong Kong Incense Tree and the value of herbarium specimens for inferring plant species dynamics, to nature-based solutions and the ecological implications and management of invasive plants.

Meanwhile, our monthly Plant Encounters programme attracted growing numbers of the public keen to observe plants up close and learn about their ecology with one of our botanists or horticulturalists. Monthly themes included winter fruits, KFBG's Native Plant Nurseries and the science underpinning plant conservation in 25 sessions. Our schools programme, Birthworts & Birdwings, co-created with the Holistic Education Department, also took off in style, with up to 300 pupils at five primary and secondary schools trying their hand at growing cuttings of the Indian Birthwort (*Aristolochia tagala*), host plant of the Common and Golden Birdwing butterflies. Successful cultivation in school yards will support all three protected species across the territory.

Commencing in February 2025, we launched a collaboration with the Hong Kong International Photo Festival in a project that explores ways in which plants have traditionally been used by people living in Chuen Lung, a historic village at the foot of Tai Mo Shan. The collaboration is centred around Koon Man Space, a rural revitalisation initiative that has transformed an abandoned school into a community events venue. Led by Education Officer, Fiona Lo, the project involved villager interviews, workshops and plant surveys to document ethnobotany, supporting GSPC Actions 6, 14, 21 and 22.

In another creative cross-over, City University PhD candidate, Cheng Yang, launched *Listen with Incense*, an exhibition exploring the sensory ecology of the Hong Kong Incense Tree in the Art House in the spring. Cheng developed a novel way of expressing Incense Tree genetic fingerprints that had been generated in our Conservation Genetics Lab using sound. Her exhibition attracted over 1,700 visitors.



A Plant Encounters session



Fiona gives a talk at Koon Man Space

NATURE CONSERVATION FAUNA CONSERVATION PROGRAMMES

AGEING ANIMAL COLLECTION

It has been another busy year for the Wild Animal Rescue Centre (WARC), projects and animal exhibits teams. One challenge all teams have had to face is the reality of ageing animals. For rescue work, this might mean wild animals that are not coping well in their habitats, due to age related disabilities and for the captive exhibits, ageing animals start to show signs of age-related health issues and need to be removed from exhibition. This can be quite sad as many of the exhibit animals provide immense joy to visitors, while they also convey our conservation messages for many years.

With the above in mind one of the main issues in our work nowadays, a key theme of this year is the ageing of animals and the responsibilities associated with this phenomenon.

Every captive animal collection faces the need to have a succession plan which prepares the organisation for changes that will have to take place. KFBG has an option under its collection plan than provides an opportunity to keep some rescued animals that are found to be disabled or are imprinted to humans for education purposes.

This strategy, which is linked to our conservation mission, means that we cannot always determine which animal might become a future exhibit and be cared for by the Animal Programmes and Exhibits (APE) team. Every potential exhibit goes through a careful selection process, with endorsement being required by the department head.

Over successive years, we have seen some notable exhibits come and go. These have included, Marmosets, Monitor Lizards and Barking Deer, all of which have fulfilled an important ambassadorial and education role for the organisation. However, in the end, they succumb to old age or complications related to age, before being humanely euthanised or passing away naturally.

Mammals and birds have relatively shorter lives compared to turtles and tortoises. Giant Pond Turtles can live for 60 years, and we have 74 in the collection. In contrast, a Black Kite may live 10 to 13 years, while a Fruit Bat can survive between 18 to 20 years in captivity.

KFBG has a remarkably good record of animal longevity, with several of our captive animals holding world records for longest lived species recorded on the Global Species 360 Database. This is an international animal data system used by most well-established zoos and animal centres. KFBG has been placing animal and veterinary records in this database for over 20 years.

Koko, the Asian Koel reached the venerable age of 32 years and 11 months under the care of KFBG, a longevity record for the international database.

Koko, the Asian Koel, lived to the ripe old age of 32 years



SURVIVORS

RELEASED AND REHOMED OVER THE PAST YEAR

The table below reflects the changes that have occurred from 1994 to 31 March 2025, which saw the centre cross the milestone of 70,000 rescued animals. During the period, we have been able to release or rehome 55% of the wild animals received. Most of those that are rehomed are non-native species that are either pets, or endangered animals that are placed in overseas conservation programmes.

Most of the animals that do not survive to be released or rehomed succumb to their injuries and sickness or are dead on arrival. Approximately 12% of the animals that do survive

remain in care at the Rescue Centre or enter the animal exhibits. The animals that do not make it, about 33% have normally arrived in serious condition, many having suffered from impact trauma, either through collisions with vehicles or buildings. Others might have been attacked by predators or become trapped in thoughtlessly dumped fishing nets and human refuge, while others are still young and have been displaced from nests or separated from their parents. A small number die in transit or require immediate medical intervention to prevent any further suffering; others perish days after being received, despite the appropriate care.

TOTAL RESCUE BREAKDOWN BETWEEN 1994 AND 31 MARCH 2025

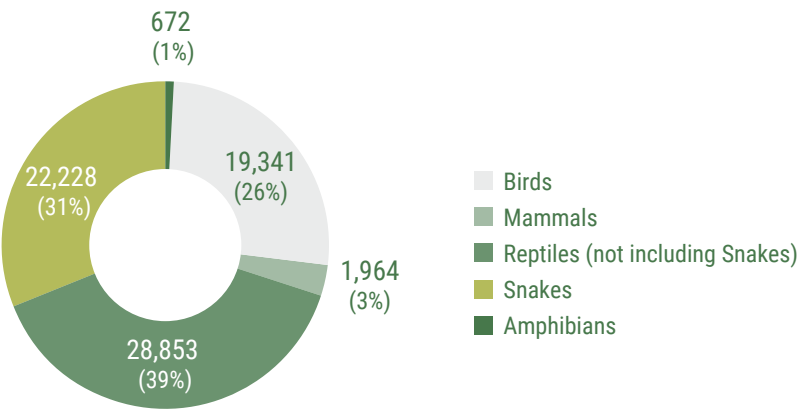
30 YEARS > 73,000 ANIMALS

Taxonomic groups	Received (% taxa received)	Released (% of total received)	Rehomed (% of total received)
Birds	19,341 (26%)	7,195 (37%)	81 (0.4%)
Mammals	1,964 (3%)	643 (32%)	90 (5%)
Reptiles	28,853 (39%)	1,363 (5%)	10,341 (36%)
Stray Snakes	22,228 (31%)	19,775 (89%)	556 (3%)
Amphibians	672 (1%)	29 (4%)	9 (1%)
Grand Total	73,058 (100%)	29,005 (40%)	11,077 (15%)

Total number of animals received, released or rehomed through the rescue programme from 1994 to 31 March 2025

All the animals that have been received are separated into different taxa, to illustrate their numbers and groups.

73,058 ANIMALS RECEIVED BY THE RESCUE CENTRE
BETWEEN 1994 AND 31 MARCH 2025



RESCUE RESULTS: 1 APRIL 2024 – 31 MARCH 2025

The table shows the total number of animals by taxa received by the Rescue Centre

3,329 ANIMALS RECEIVED

Taxonomic groups	In Care 1 April 2024	Received (Taxa Comparison %)	Released	Rehomed (External)	In Care 31 March 2025
Birds	140	2,145 (64%)	775	0	143
Mammals	13	223 (7%)	85	0	4
Reptiles	697	125 (3.8%)	5	20	396
Stray Snakes	0	828 (25%)	687	51	0
Amphibians	0	8 (0.2%)	0	0	0
Grand Total	850	3,329 (100%)	1,552	71	543

A Ball Python investigates the new wall enrichment feature provided at the Sun Garden



Emerald Monitor Lizard moved into a new exhibit at the Reptile House



New natural looking enclosure for juvenile Golden Coin Turtles. The exhibit has been set up at the Reptile House to raise awareness about this critically endangered species



A majestic Crested Serpent Eagle receives veterinary care at the Rescue Centre on 4 October 2024



A new infant Macaque, Sofia, from the AFCD, joins the Monkey Haven troupe and was introduced to new friends, Sita and Mounq Mounq on 7 September 2024



A five-year old Golden Coin Turtle from our breeding programme, shortly after being introduced to the new enclosure

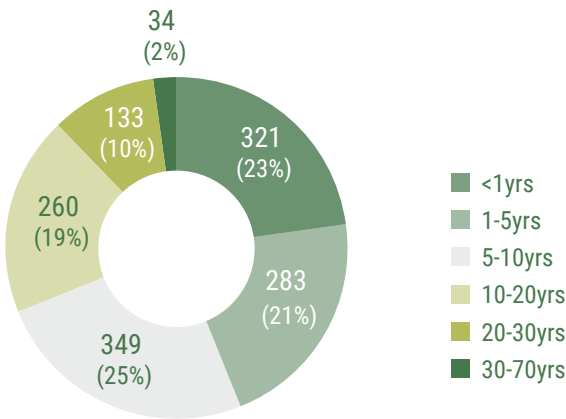


Yeung Yeung, our female Chinese Alligator together with a male from Ocean Park, as part of a breeding attempt. Despite the male being placed with Yeung Yeung for the second year, there was again no successful breeding

AGE DISTRIBUTION









THE 1,380 ANIMALS HELD AT KFBG IN MARCH 2025

ANIMALS AGE DISTRIBUTION OF 1,380 ANIMALS HELD AT KFBG



The oldest animal currently held at KFBG is a Golden Coin Turtle aged more than 66 years old. Reportedly purchased by a member of the public in 1959 to celebrate their child's birth, it was donated to KFBG in 2017. Normally we do not accept pets, but we were able to determine that this turtle had originated from the wild and could therefore enter our breeding programme for native species.

Other species held by our Animal Programmes and Exhibits section which are older than 30 years include:

 Blue & Yellow Macaw 36 years average captive lifespan of between 30 and 50 years	 Blue Fronted Amazon 35 years average captive lifespan of between 40 and 60 years	 Caribbean Flamingos 42 years captive lifespan of less than 50 years	 Yellow Pond Turtle 35 years captive lifespan of less than 20 years
 Giant Asian Pond turtles 34 years average captive lifespan of less than 30 years	 Southeast Asian Box turtles 33 years average captive lifespan of between 25 and 40 years	 Spectacled Caimen 33 years captive lifespan of between 20 and 25 years	 Asian Brown Tortoise 32 years captive lifespan of less than 20 years but are known to live up to 150 years in the wild

Animal enrichment (activities and stimuli provided to animals) is a major concern for animals in captivity, and our team makes sure that the different species have enclosure set ups that mimic their natural habitats, while also providing ways to keep the animals active, as they exercise and search for their food.

ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE ENFORCEMENT

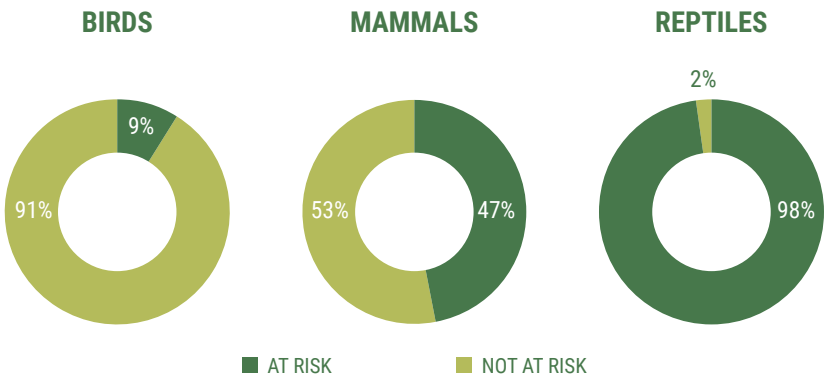
The trade in exotic wild species is a major concern in Hong Kong, and trade appears to be on the increase for some animal species. This has been a clear trend over the last three years for reptiles, with increasing numbers and wide global origin. This trade is one of the greatest threats to biodiversity worldwide, and some of the cases received at KFBG during the last year can be seen in the table below.

The species primarily represent animals seized by Customs and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) while being smuggled into the territory and are classified by the Hong Kong authorities as Endangered Species Protection (ESP) cases. We hold on to these animals on behalf of the authorities during legal investigations and judicial actions.

SIGNIFICANT ESP CASES RECEIVED: 1 APRIL 2024 – 31 MARCH 2025

Species	Headcount	Conservation Status	Reason
Radiated Tortoise	49	Critically Endangered	Seizure at HK Int. airport of 63 Turtles from Malaysia
Malaysian Painted River Turtle	14	Critically Endangered	Seizure at HK Int. airport of 63 Turtles from Malaysia
Big-Headed Turtle	11	Critically Endangered	Seizure at the border with Zhuhai. Some turtles poached in HK
Chinese Soft-shelled Turtle	5	Vulnerable	Seizure at the border
Chinese Crocodile Lizard	2	Endangered	Confiscated from a Pet Expo due to lack of legal possession license

CONSERVATION STATUS OF ANIMALS HELD AT KFBG MARCH 2025



Animals classified 'at-risk' are those listed in the Threatened Categories of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, where those on the red list are considered vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered, signifying the levels of extinction risk. The largest at-risk group held at KFBG are exotic reptiles, primarily freshwater turtles and tortoises, confiscated by the Hong Kong authorities before they head for the lucrative pet trade.



A Black Kite, fitted with a wing tag to increase its chances of a post release sighting. By March 2025, 21 birds had been tagged, and 14 reports of sightings were received. This project will continue and will use citizen science to measure post release survival



A Black-Faced Spoonbill arrives at the Rescue Centre with suspected botulism. Blood samples were submitted to the AFCD's new Avian Botulism Testing Programme. This year the vet and rehabilitation team managed to save three Spoonbills and see them released to join the wild population



One of our last remaining Dog-Faced Fruit Bats is provided a health check. These bats have been a valuable exhibit for well over a decade and are now succumbing to old age



We sadly lost our Marmosets, Mia and Carlos, in October 2024, due to chronic health issues



An endangered Oriental Stork was rescued from the Ng Tung River near Yuen Long. It was found with a serious foot infection and unfortunately, its condition deteriorated despite treatment. The same bird (with numbered leg tag) had been rescued a month earlier by the Shenzhen Rescue Centre, so vets were able to share health related information



Members of the rescue team prepare to pack several Arakan Forest Turtles (seized by the authorities) that originate from western Myanmar. They were transferred to Turtle Island Centre, Austria in December 2024. The rehomed turtles enter a conservation breeding programme for endangered species

NATURE CONSERVATION KADOORIE CONSERVATION CHINA

The intricate wetlands of Qi'ao Island, Zhuhai City, serve as a vital habitat for various species of conservation importance, including the Eurasian Otter in the Pearl River Estuary. Since 2023, KCC has been collaborating with local authorities and communities to promote wetland and otter conservation on the island.



Kadoorie Conservation China (KCC) actively engages in ecosystem and biodiversity conservation across South China. By focusing on conserving neglected endangered species, supporting reserve management through capacity building, and implementing community-based educational initiatives, KCC is committed to safeguarding ecologically sensitive areas and reducing biodiversity loss in the region.

OTTER CONSERVATION IN SOUTH CHINA

KCC continues to work closely with various partners to conserve the regionally endangered Eurasian Otter (*Lutra lutra*), an apex predator which plays vital role in maintaining the ecological balance of wetland ecosystems. In Hong Kong, signs of otters were rediscovered in San Tin, Lok Ma Chau, and the Ng Tung River— areas that had received relatively few otter occurrence records, indicating the ongoing usage of these habitats by otters. These findings highlight the ecological value of these areas, and the need to incorporate otter habitat protection into the planning of the Northern Metropolis.

In northern Lantau waters, the discovery of an otter scat was reported in the IUCN/SSC *Otter Specialist Group* Bulletin in December 2024. Around the same time, the team captured the first photographic evidence of Eurasian Otters in the Hong Kong Wetland Park. These discoveries drew substantial media attention, further raising public awareness on otter conservation.

In Macau, with support from the Department of Gardens and Green Areas of Macau, KCC used camera traps to obtain photos and footage of otters, confirming their continuous occurrence in this most populous city in the Greater Bay Area.



This Eurasian Otter captured by a trail camera at Cotai, Macau appeared to be strong and healthy

KCC has made significant progress in supporting otter conservation in Guangdong. Through assessments of potential otter habitats, and collaboration with local stakeholders, we have identified several important areas which show encouraging signs of otter presence. These include Shenzhen, Huizhou, and the Qi'ao and Gaolan Islands of Zhuhai.

With support from the Hainan forestry authorities, KCC initiated an island-wide otter habitat research and assessment. Some important and suitable otter habitats were identified. The existence of Asian Small-Clawed Otters (*Aonyx cinereus*) in Sanya was confirmed, marking a new distribution record for this globally endangered species on Hainan Island.

CAO-VIT GIBBON CONSERVATION

In collaboration with the Guangxi Bangliang Gibbon National Nature Reserve (BLNNR), KCC continued to implement community-engaged strategies to conserve the critically endangered Cao-Vit Gibbon (*Nomascus nasutus*). Building on the results of last year's community surveys and habitat assessments, KCC introduced sustainable livelihood initiatives aimed at reducing human impact on gibbon habitats. One key effort involved promoting captive goat rearing among local communities, accompanied by training on nutritional supplements and forage processing, which has significantly reduced grazing pressure within the reserve. Additionally, learning trips to advanced goat breeding facilities have been organised for goat herders, while community birdwatching and eco-tourism have been introduced as alternative livelihood options. A pilot birdwatching station has also been established to support these initiatives.

Furthermore, in collaboration with Guangxi Biodiversity Research and Conservation Association, KCC organised a five-day gibbon education camp for 30 Zhuang minority children along with a school-based gibbon talk and funfair that reached 150 students in communities near the reserve. Together, we developed a gibbon-themed picture book inspired by stories from local children, which will be printed and donated to participating children and nearby schools. To further raise awareness of the Cao-Vit Gibbon conservation, KCC created two murals at a management station of the BLNNR, which beautified the area.



With support from KCC, villagers start experimenting with captive goat rearing practices, to reduce damage to the restoration of the gibbon forest from previous free-ranging practices



Children sharing the gibbon stories they had created, which became part of a shadow play performed on the final night of the camp, attended by over 100 villagers



The gibbon-themed mural on the outer wall of the management station in the reserve beautifies the village and enhances villagers' pride in sharing their area with gibbons

BIG-HEADED TURTLE CONSERVATION

To further strengthen the protection of the critically endangered Big-Headed Turtle (*Platysternon megacephalum*) in Hong Kong and wider Southern China, KCC launched a new conservation project aimed at monitoring the wild populations and promoting freshwater turtle conservation. The project involved micro-chipping wild individuals and

identifying poaching activities. This not only enhances the protection of the species, but also enables conducting a basic ecological study, collectively contributing to the conservation of this charismatic species at high risk of extinction.



A hatchling of the critically endangered Big-Headed Turtle

INVASIVE BLUE-CRESTED LIZARD STUDY

Since its first discovery in the early 2000s, the exotic Blue-Crested Lizard (*Calotes mystaceus*) has established breeding colonies in various districts throughout Hong Kong. KCC's study revealed that this invasive species was introduced to the territory through horticultural imports and we were able to identify the original source and potential loophole. The relevant information was published and shared with authorities, urging prompt action to manage this overlooked invasive species, and to prevent the further and future introduction of exotic species.



Striking blue colouration of a male Blue-Crested Lizard during breeding season

EXCHANGE VISIT BY NATIONAL FORESTRY AND GRASSLAND ADMINISTRATION (NFGA)

In November, KFBG hosted a delegation from the NFGA, including representatives from the National Park Planning Office. Led by the Director-General of the Planning Department, the five-day visit provided opportunities for exchanges with various departments across the organisation, allowing the delegation to gain a deeper understanding of KFBG's mission, programmes, and operational approaches. During their stay, the delegation also engaged in the sharing session with Dr. Jane Goodall, who stayed at KFBG that week.



KCC staff, our ED Wander Meijer and the NFGA delegation at the welcome session

SHARING OUR EXPERTISE

The KCC team has made significant contributions in building capacity among our collaborative partners and other interested institutions. Over the past year, we successfully completed 11 training sessions on scientific research, surveys and monitoring techniques, and wildlife conservation. These sessions were attended by participants representing organisations from the Greater Bay Area, Guangxi, and Hainan provinces. Notably, the team was invited by the Sustainable Lantau Office of the Civil

Engineering and Development Department, to conduct a training session regarding otter conservation and survey techniques for their staff.

KCC staff Yang Jianhuan and Philip Lo contributed to *The State of Hong Kong Biodiversity 2025*, a report published by WWF-HK in March 2025. As the core working group members, they supported the development of this important conservation reference, which assesses the status of selected terrestrial and freshwater species in Hong Kong.

We also presented our conservation work at various professional forums and workshops. Philip Lo presented KCC's work at the Cao-Vit Gibbon conservation project in Guangxi, as part of the Second Meeting of Partners of the Global Gibbon Network.

We further expanded our conservation efforts to enhance urban biodiversity, through a one year baseline survey commissioned by Swire Properties Ltd, at three of their sites in Hong Kong. This was to assess and document biodiversity in their urban greeneries, and provide relevant recommendations for enhancements.



Following the exciting discovery of otters in northern Lantau waters by KCC, the Sustainable Lantau Office invited us to deliver a training session on otters and survey techniques for their conservation team

PUBLIC OUTREACH

KCC successfully held the Third Countryside Eco-festival at KFBG in March 2025. Under the theme 'Hong Kong Biodiversity Stories' the event was to raise public awareness of local biodiversity and conservation challenges, particularly regarding exotic invasive species. The Eco-festival featured a nature market with nine workshops, eight public talks and 18 guided tours. There were nearly 2,000 visitors over two days, with support from different KFBG departments and eight external environmental organisations and research institutions.



Yang Jianhuan of KCC spoke about exotic reptiles and conservation challenges



KCC volunteers shared information about the Blue-Crested Lizard, explaining its origin and introduction pathway in Hong Kong

To celebrate International Gibbon Day, KCC organised, on 19 – 20 October 2024, a public outreach event at Qingxiushan Park in the Nanning city of Guangxi. Supported by five external environmental organisations, the event raised public awareness about gibbon conservation and the threats these primates face. Activities included public talks, screening of documentaries, interactive game booths, and educational displays. These engaging experiences helped visitors to learn more about gibbons and their conservation needs, and discover practical ways to contribute to their protection.



To celebrate the International Gibbon Day, KCC organised the 'Gibbon Bond' event, which attracted more than 2,000 visitors over the weekend, fostering public engagement with conservation efforts

KCC continues its collaboration with the Guangdong Zhuhai Qi'ao-Dan'gan Island Provincial Level Nature Reserve to conserve otters on Qi'ao Island, one of the last remaining otter habitats in the Pearl River Delta. In June 2024, a 120-meter mural, illustrating wetland biodiversity and otters, was created by the team with the help of local volunteers. A second otter-themed mural was completed in August 2024 in Qi'ao Village. In October 2024, two display boards were installed in the village museum to further raise awareness. Additionally, the team was invited by the Nature Reserve to host educational booths in November 2024. These initiatives collectively aim to enhance public engagement in protecting the wetland ecosystem and endangered species.



An otter-themed mural created by KCC in Qi'ao Village with a quote from Chinese classics, highlighting the connection between otters and Chinese culture, reflecting how otters once lived closely alongside people throughout history

Over the past year, KFBG's nature conservation efforts have been actively shared through WeChat and Weibo, our main social media platforms in the Mainland, which reached 673,808 readers through 122 posts. To further engage the public, a range of conservation themed souvenirs were created, including otter-themed leaflets, stickers, hooks, and bags and gibbon-themed towels, cups, recycle bags, notebooks and T-shirts. All these souvenirs were distributed in local communities, and to the wider public through a series of outreach activities. Additionally, stickers were designed for this year's countryside Eco-festival to promote native species protection and raise awareness about the threat of invasive species.

NEW DISCOVERY

In April 2024, Philip Lo of KCC and Professor Hsu Yu Feng of the National Taiwan Normal University discovered a new butterfly subspecies, *Ravenna nivea ngiunmoiae*, from the montane region of Hainan Island. This discovery, supported by both morphological traits and molecular phylogenetic analysis, not only highlighted the area's exceptional biodiversity, but also shed light on the biogeography of Hainan's montane ecosystems.



Ravenna nivea ngiunmoiae — a recently discovered butterfly subspecies from Hainan Island, by KCC and collaborators



The illustration of one of the Clouded Leopards being hunted in the border area in 1948

KCC's study revealed that the Common Wolf Snake (*Lycodon capucinus*), long considered native to Hong Kong, was actually an introduced species first recorded in the 1880s. Its adaptability and dispersal ability made it widespread in Hong Kong, and we continue to monitor its impact on local fauna.

KCC reported on the historical presence of Clouded Leopards (*Neofelis nebulosa*) in Hong Kong through an archival literature review. The team identified two 'Small Tigers' documented in 1948 media as clouded leopards, which were hunted in the border area in Sha Tau Kok-Lin Ma Hang border region. This marks the first scientific documentation of the historical distribution of this large felid species in Hong Kong.



- KCC project sites
- 1. Hainan Eld's Deer Conservation
- 2. Raptor Monitoring & Capacity Building of Panjia NR, Hainan
- 3. Farmland Bird Survey in Northern New Territories, Hong Kong
- 4. Invasive Exotic Blue-Crested Lizard Monitoring in Hong Kong
- 5. Big-Headed Turtle in Hong Kong
- 6. Guangdong Qi'ao-Dan'gan NR Biodiversity Conservation
- 7. Otter Conservation in the Greater Bay Area and Hainan
- 8. Guangxi Cao-Vit Gibbon Conservation

★ Beijing Representative Office

NATURE CONSERVATION

KFBG WATCHDOG: PROTECTING LOCAL ECOLOGY

The Ecological Advisory Programme (EAP) actively monitors ecologically sensitive areas as well as areas of the natural countryside affected by development proposals. It plays a direct role in helping to protect these wilderness areas by carrying out field surveys/ site inspections, documenting and sharing ecological information, participating in meetings/ forums, submitting letters of concern and lodging objections. It also acts upon reports of possible harmful environmental damage caused by activities such as illegal dumping, disturbance to sensitive areas and improper land use. In addition, the EAP monitors planning applications, land use zoning proposals, Environmental Impact Assessments and development proposals, to ensure that Hong Kong's sensitive wildlife habitats and species are well-protected from development pressures.



Sandy Ridge Wetland Mosaic

From April 2024 to March 2025, the EAP sent nearly 300 submissions, commenting on planning applications that would affect either farmlands or natural environments. We also provided written comments on three project profiles, one direct application for environmental permit and two environmental impact assessments. Furthermore, we participated in public consultation exercises regarding several large-scale projects/ policy plans of the government, including the New Territories North New Town and Ma Tso Lung development proposal, the Agricultural Priority Area policy, the Ngau Tam Mei development proposal, the South Lantau Eco-recreation Corridor and the Lau Fau Shan development proposal.

Numerous site visits were conducted to investigate ecological destruction cases, to gather information for submissions, as well as for general, or routine, checking of sites of conservation importance. Suspected unauthorised ecological destruction cases at many sites were reported to the relevant authorities. We also attended meetings with various government departments and environmental non-

governmental organisations (ENGs) regarding high-profile conservation issues and policies. Highlights of our work are described below.

Recent estimates suggest that around 150 Eurasian Otters still inhabit Kinmen Island (located to the east of Xiamen in Fujian), a remarkably high density. As a result, the species receives special conservation focus there, with numerous protection measures in place. To understand these efforts, EAP visited Kinmen with support from the Kinmen Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation Association (KWRCA). During a four-day trip, guided by Dr. Yuan of KWRCA, several sites were explored. Various otter signs – spraints, footprints, and even a live sighting – were observed, many directly linked to the implemented measures. The Eurasian Otter is a conservation priority in Hong Kong's wetlands and the Greater Bay Area. The insights we obtained from Kinmen have shifted our perspective on otter protection (i.e., this species can move persistently on dry land) and corridor design in Hong Kong. These findings have been shared with relevant decision-makers through several presentations.

After a joint investigation with us, the Drainage Services Department (DSD) constructed a fish ladder at Pak Ngan Heung, Mui Wo, Lantau, in early 2024. The EAP conducted a site visit and concluded that the structure would perform well during the wet season when water levels are high, but in the dry season, the ladder's effectiveness might diminish. The seasonal nature of water levels in Hong Kong's streams presents a constant design challenge. Instream structures that are effective elsewhere, often require modification for local conditions. The EAP made multiple visits to collect essential data and worked closely with the DSD team to refine the design. After several modifications, the issue now appears to be provisionally resolved, with fish observed to be successfully swimming through the fish ladder. The EAP will maintain ongoing monitoring and continue collaborating with the DSD to assess whether any further adjustments might be needed.



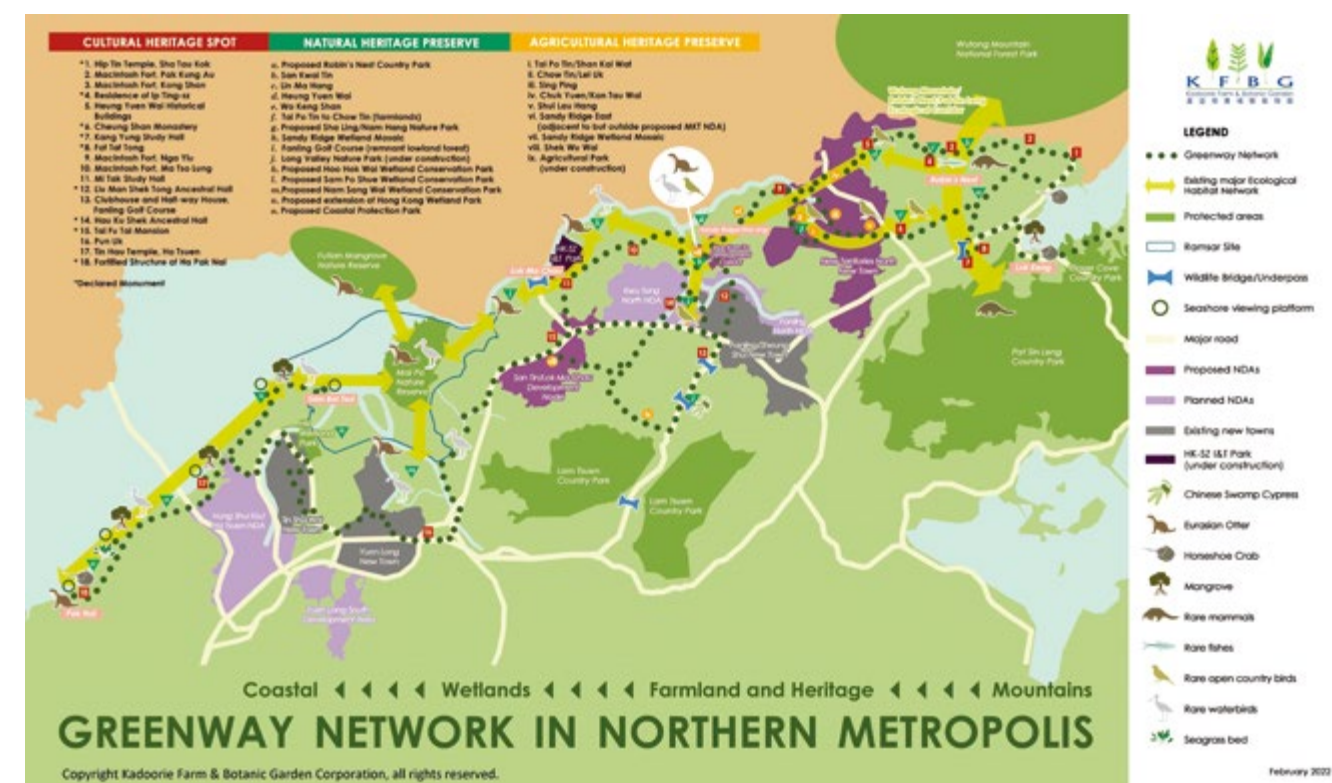
Eurasian Otter observed during the Kinmen trip



Fish ladder at Pak Ngan Heung

In January 2025, the government launched a public consultation on the New Territories North new town and Ma Tso Lung development proposal. Both areas lie within the Northern Metropolis (NM) and were highlighted in the Northern Metropolis Development Strategy (NMDS). In our submissions to the NMDS, we consistently emphasise the ecological importance of some key sites within the NM. The current proposal did not designate two areas – the Sandy Ridge Wetland Mosaic and the Ma Tso Lung Stream system – for development. Instead, the plan proposed designating the wetland mosaic as a green area and preserving the stream system as a 'Green and Natural Spine' (open space). The proposal also included greenways and related initiatives, some of which closely align with the Greenway Network advocated by KFBG. As the lead ENGO promoting the protection of these two areas and the concept of a Greenway Network, we believe that KFBG's continued advocacy has clearly helped shape the current proposal.

The EAP will continue working closely with relevant authorities to help strengthen the proposal.



The Greenway Network proposed by KFBG

HOLISTIC ESTATE MANAGEMENT

WHAT MAKES A GARDEN A *BOTANIC* GARDEN?

A garden might embody something quite different to different people—and the plants it contains, as well as the way in which they are grown and displayed, will vary widely as a result. But what defines a *botanic* garden? Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), an umbrella that represents over 1,000 botanical organisations worldwide, defines a botanic garden as an institution holding a documented collection of living plants for the purposes of scientific research, conservation, display and education. Not to trivialise their many roles and guises or downplay their value simply as beautiful green spaces, this definition succinctly unites what is at the heart of any botanic garden anywhere in the world: a curated collection of plants underpinned by data detailing each one's origin, identity, requirements, status, uses and so on. It is this knowledge that allows a collection to be appropriately cared for and made use of for the benefit of nature and people. This definition is central to BGCI's goal of preventing plant extinctions and creating a more sustainable planet.

Globally, there are an estimated 3,500 botanic gardens and arboreta (botanical gardens devoted to trees) which annually attract one billion visitors and collectively conserve more than one-third of the planet's approximately 400,000 documented

plant species. With >20% of the world's plant diversity at risk of extinction, the living collections housed in these institutions represent a vital *ex situ* repository and an invaluable source of material for ecological restoration.

However, a recent analysis (Cano et al. 2025; *Nature Ecology & Evolution* 9: 214–224) of over two million records spanning a century of collections management in 50 botanic gardens reveals that, overall, the capacity for these institutes to expand and diversify their collections has reached saturation. In addition, accessions are increasingly derived from plants of cultivated or purely horticultural origin, which are then repeatedly shared among gardens. This means that the genetic base of the plants in collections becomes progressively narrower and further removed from the natural variation contained in wild populations. For many ecological reasons, this is problematic when it comes to selecting material for species rescue or ecosystem recovery. Even more worryingly, there is evidence of a growing mismatch between rare and threatened species in the wild and the focus of most botanical collections, which tend to comprise comparatively widespread and abundant taxa. Limited resources and restrictive bureaucracy explain most of these shortcomings.

VIEW OF OUR HERBS, SHRUBS AND CLIMBERS NURSERY



PRIORITISING THREATENED, NATIVE SPECIES

The 50 botanic gardens whose data were used for that analysis are mostly larger, older institutions predominantly located in the global north; none were from tropical Africa or Asia. It is possible that younger, regional gardens with a focus on their local flora could be doing better at growing, propagating and reintroducing native plants of high conservation value. Data from KFBG's plant management software certainly suggests we are bucking these trends. Of our collection of >20,000 currently accessioned plants, 83% are of wild origin, and each year our collection becomes more diverse and more representative of Hong Kong's native flora: in the 10 years since 2015, the species diversity of our collection increased by almost 240% and it now features 1,646 of Hong Kong's approximately 2,300 native plant species. On average, each native species is represented by 30 individuals, and every year our field teams widen the genetic diversity of the species we grow by collecting more seeds from different mother



plants. Importantly, we are also sampling more of Hong Kong's rarer plants, with the diversity of threatened species conserved in our nurseries, gardens and forests increasing by 59% from 2015 to 2025.



Luk and Amy planting in the Butterfly Garden



Craig with a Leichhardt Tree sapling (*Nauclea officinalis*)

ENRICHING THE ECOLOGICAL VALUE OF KFBG

These strides forward for local plant conservation are in large part due to our dedicated team of botanists, nursery technicians, horticulturalists and one plant records officer. Over the past year, they collected over 70,000 seeds and propagules, raised thousands of seedlings and cuttings in our nurseries and accessioned them in our database. The resulting collection is used to enhance the ecology of our site. More than 200 species were added to the Lower Hillside landscape over the year, including numerous noteworthy trees, such as the endangered Leichhardt Tree (*Nauclea officinalis*), Green's Chestnut (*Castanopsis kawakamii*) and Governor's Plum (*Flacourtia rukam*). Other highlights included, Professor Hu's Bamboo (*Oligostachyum shiuyingianum*), Ford's Fan Palm (*Licuala fordiana*), the Halberd Fern (*Hemigramma decurrens*) and many orchids.

Areas receiving special attention for rejuvenation of their structure and composition included the Butterfly Path and Butterfly Garden. At the former, over 250 native herb, shrub and tree species were planted into the landscape and jute matting was deployed to help control weeds. Natural populations of the rare Umbrella Swallowwort (*Cynanchum corymbosum*) were preserved or carefully transplanted where necessary, and Common Tiger and Dark Blue Tiger butterflies were observed laying eggs on the vine. Among the native species newly added to the Butterfly Garden following removal of exotic weeds, Asiatic Butterfly-bush (*Buddleja asiatica*), Cape Jasmine (*Gardenia jasminoides*) and Cat's Tail Bean (*Uraria crinita*) are now providing food and nectar for native caterpillars and butterflies. The presence of these plants and animals greatly enhances the conservation value of our gardens.

RESTORING DIVERSE, NATIVE FOREST COMMUNITIES

Meanwhile, major components of the year's CLP-sponsored forest restoration project were executed across our upper slopes. Starting in April 2024, mechanical weeding of dense, scrubby vegetation commenced, and thereafter, tree works were conducted to create space within the self-generated, low-diversity, secondary woodland for a wide selection of seedlings of diverse growth forms. By late June 2024, more than 475 over-abundant pioneer trees (*primarily Machilus chekiangensis*, *M. pauhoi* and *Mallotus paniculatus*) had been thinned out, and a further 145 more ecologically significant trees (including *Melicope pteleofoia*, *Sapindus mukorossi*, *Acronychia pedunculata*, *Diospyros morrisiana*) had been structurally pruned.

From July to October 2024, more than 4,000 tree and shrub seedlings representing almost 200 native species—all of them tagged and measured in the nursery beforehand—were then planted into an area of just under one ha. The selection included numerous rare species, such as the Hairy Chestnut (*Castanopsis concinna*), Pithraj Tree (*Aphanamixis polystachya*) and Tea-oil Camellia (*Camellia oleifera*). Also planted was a customised mix of 129 rare species—including Hong Kong Azalea (*Rhododendron hongkongense*), Crapnell's Camellia (*Camellia crapnelliana*), Island Mahonia (*Berberis oiwakensis*) and Evergreen Ailanthus (*Ailanthus fordii*)—carefully chosen to suit an unusual patch of scree with deep pockets of rich organic soils. Long-term monitoring and research of the recovering forest is helping pinpoint key interventions for successful ecological restoration and quantify their downstream impacts for biodiversity and ecosystem function. Weeding and after-care is ongoing, and in early 2025, our researchers initiated a year-long process to record the growth of several thousand seedlings planted in stages over the past 12 years to allow us to assess performance, ecological interactions and biomass accumulation in relation to a variety of environmental and management factors.



Volunteers measuring tree seedlings as part of a tree census

COMBATting INVASIVE SPECIES

The management of invasive plants is an ongoing battle. A coordinated two month weeding campaign to keep the pernicious alien invasive Mile-a-Minute (*Mikania micrantha*) in check was completed in December 2024. Our 'Mikania Management Plan' adopts an integrated approach that not only relies on weeding, but also site management and replanting with native species to try and ensure that Mikania cannot stage a comeback once eventually removed. Engineered slopes are among the most challenging environments in which to control this and other invasive species, as they are difficult to access and prevailing site conditions favour their spread. But through this annual exercise and ongoing after-care, there are signs that our efforts are paying off: slowly but surely, Mikania is visibly declining in parts of our site.

Across our hillside, war was waged against a battery of other weeds, including Walking Iris (*Neomarica northiana*) and Wedelia (*Wedelia trilobata*). In addition to routine staff deployment, contractors were brought in to tackle several large individuals of *Bougainvillea spectabilis* plus *Philodendron* and *Billbergia* species that had entirely smothered mature native trees around Fern Walk and Orchid Haven. By relieving the canopy of their dense, tangled stems, we are creating space for native species and allowing more light to reach ground level, kick-starting species turn-over. Several corporate weeding activities were also organised, giving participants the opportunity to experience the thrill of working with nature to restore ecological balance. Dozens of bags of Walking Iris were carted away, and diverse native species were planted in its place, facilitating the return of functioning, vibrant communities.



Paul and Josephine planting a rare Hong Kong Dogwood (*Cornus hongkongensis*) at the Butterfly Path

TURNING WASTE INTO WEALTH

Our Arboricultural and Silvicultural Tree Teams were kept busy dealing with trees that pose a fall risk and seeking ways to improve forest health. A large Norfolk Island Pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*) that had been struck by lightning was removed in September 2024, one of 226 dead, hazardous or diseased trees that required taking down to maintain site safety. Arboricultural contractors were brought in to handle a further 31 larger trees that had to be removed by crane. Wherever a tree is removed, we always replant with a carefully selected native seedling to enrich the ecology of the area. Exciting additions included the beautiful Hong Kong Dogwood (*Cornus hongkongensis*), the elegant Many-flowered Garcinia (*Garcinia multiflora*) and the eye-catching Ford's Crepe Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia fordii*). A further 348 trees were pruned to improve form and condition, and tree risk assessments were conducted for 2,558 potentially hazardous trees. Ground works for habitat rejuvenation continued at various locations to boost forest health, ensure the strong performance of seedlings and prepare the soil for planting.

Recycling woody debris generated from these operations is central to our holistic approach. Logs were fed into our biochar machine, which was operated 25 times through the year, resulting in the production of 44 tonnes of biochar. The manufacturer of our machine, Earth Systems, undertook maintenance to keep it in good working order, and in February 2024 they helped coordinate an annual stack emissions test as part of ongoing licensing regulations. Our machine successfully passed. Waste wood stacked in lay-bys on the Upper Hillside was shredded to produce in excess of 8 tonnes of wood chip, which we apply as mulch to improve the structure and enrich the organic content of eroded slope soils where the restoration of natural capital is underway.



David in the Biochar Team offloads another batch



The Arboricultural Tree Team at work



The Silvicultural Tree Team at work

ENHANCING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE



COMPLETION OF THE JOCKEY CLUB NATURE CONSERVATION CENTRE (JCNCC)

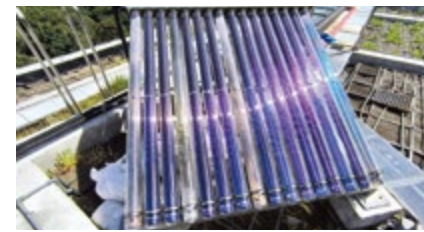
To replace the old Conservation Building, office for most departments for many decades, the new multifunctional centre, JCNCC was completed in January 2025. This Centre serves as a base for environmental conservation, sustainable living, and nature education programmes, and features a modern, efficient design that is environmentally and nature-friendly. The facility includes meeting booths and conference rooms equipped with sophisticated equipment, ensuring that staff can work happily and efficiently. Its environmentally-friendly design incorporates a green rooftop, skylights, and a photovoltaic and solar heating system. Additionally, the nature-friendly gabion wall provides habitats for small animals and insects, along with bird and bat boxes. This design not only enhances the comfort of the work environment but also demonstrates a strong and practical commitment to environmental responsibility.



Modern conference rooms



Bird and bat-friendly boxes



Photovoltaic on the rooftop



Skylight



Gabion wall for small animals and insects

THE FOOD HUB AT KADOORIE CENTRE

To vividly demonstrate best practices for advancing city sustainability, the old staff canteen at the HKU Kadoorie Centre was renovated into the Kadoorie Centre Food Hub, a sustainable canteen that operates as an integral part of the KFBG Green Hub's Eat Well Canteen and Eat Well Café in KFBG. Achieving a Platinum rating under BEAM Plus Interiors, the Food Hub meets rigorous environmental criteria, serving not only as a benchmark for sustainable construction practices, but also aligning with KFBG's values and mission.



THE PIGSTY AS AN EXPERIMENTAL FIELD

With there being no more Da Hua Bai pigs, the pigsty was completely renovated, both inside and outdoors. Now filled with new children's furniture and equipment, along with

new sand, the entire area has become an experimental playground for them to enjoy the wonders of nature.



OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE ENHANCEMENTS

There was much enhancement of existing facilities in 2024. Repainting and renewal works were undertaken for signage, fences, and buildings, creating a refreshed feel for visitors. Ongoing slope stability and maintenance works are targeted for completion by mid-2026. Additionally, a series of metal

platforms were constructed at the Fragrant Garden to provide a comfortable and user-friendly access and working environment. Improvement works were also carried out on the deteriorated carriageways near the Wildlife Pond, utilising concrete finishes to ensure durability and safety.



Signage at the Lower Hillside



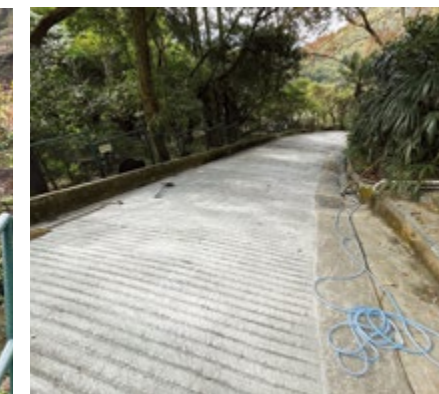
Natural History Building



Orchid Haven fencing



New metal platform at the Fragrant Garden



Concreting works to carriageway near the Wildlife Pond



Maintenance works at Slope 7NW-C/C89

BREATHE FREELY

Andrew McAulay

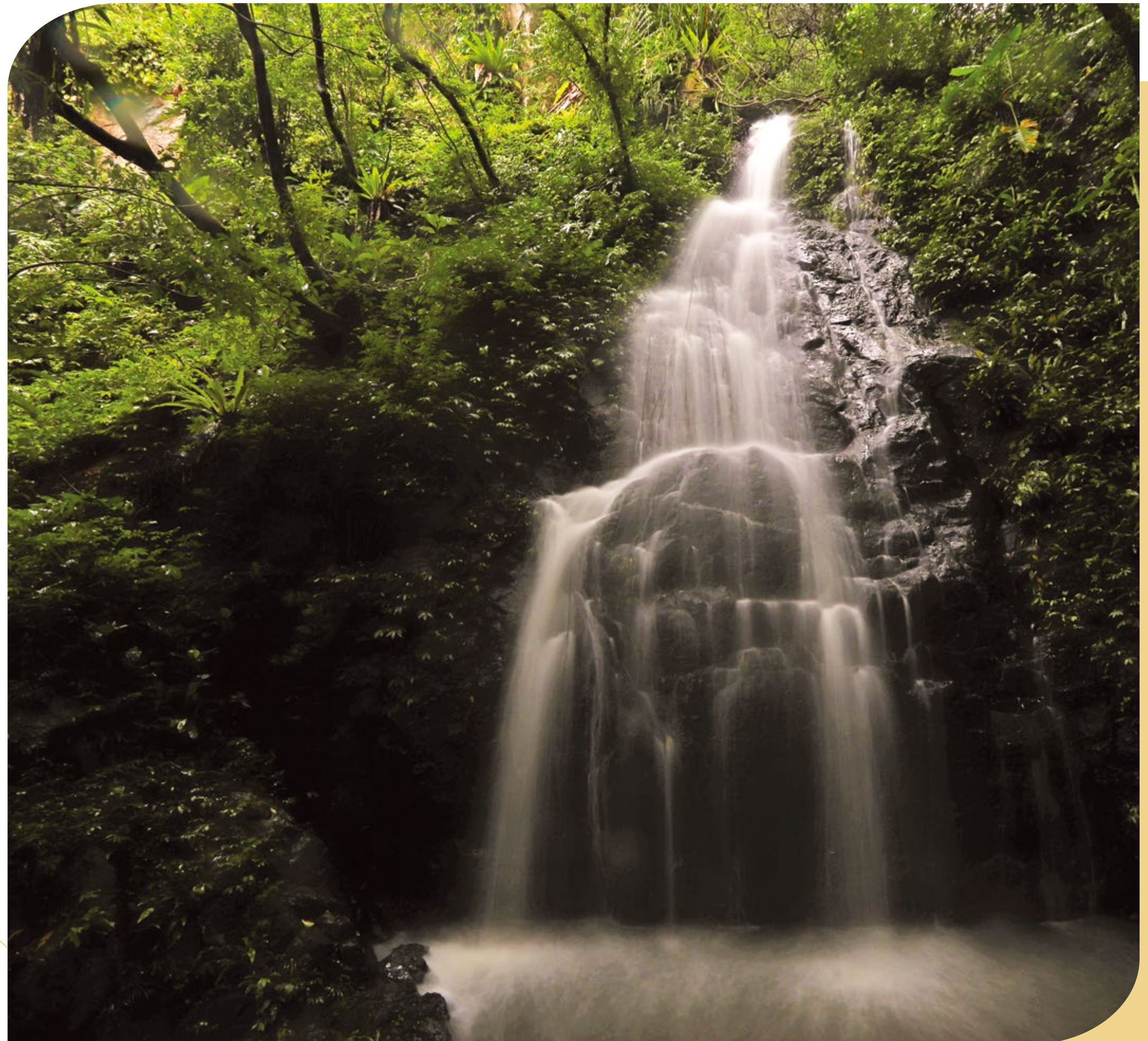
We breathe freely and fully,
Feeling grounded and supported
By the Earth, the energy rising,
Charging the core of our being.

We are moved, breathed,
Embraced by our surroundings,
Knowing only One exists
Behind the veil of the mind.

Life's turmoil dances
On the screen of the mind,
As we shift from actors
To Director, to Love itself.

Inter-seeping, intoxicated
With the secret knowledge
Of what we really are,
We relish each interaction.

Good and bad, right and wrong
Roil in the wake of the One,
Whilst we look forward, gazing
Upon the spoils of eternity.



REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE



©KFBG/ RAD

Tea Garden

REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

With diversified ecologically focused agricultural production as the core principle of RAD, we believe that our agricultural production can serve as a model both for the sector and the public. In line with the natural environment and resources at KFBG, we produced 15 tons of vegetables and 3 tons of fruit in the reporting year. We also had a bountiful harvest of herbs, green tea, scented tea, coffee, eggs and honey. Our products are sold and used for educational activities. We also sell potted plants, fruit seedlings and herbs to local farmers and the public so they may enjoy the planting experience by themselves. Our composting continues to effectively convert organic waste into agricultural fertilizer for use at KFBG. To deal with hot weather we have installed sprinklers and cooling facilities in the chicken houses to improve their living environment.

AGRICULTURAL POLICY

Increasing awareness through public policy is something in which RAD takes an active role. With farmland the main concern for local sustainable agricultural development, from 2023, we have collaborated with a number of local concerned green groups, consisting of the Centre for Urban Innovation (Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies, The Chinese University of Hong Kong), WWF - Hong Kong, The Conservancy Association, The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society and the Liber Research Community, to conduct an eight month farmland survey, which was successfully completed in mid-2024. This survey mainly focused on the government's Northern Metropolitan Development Plan, and analysed the distribution, planting patterns and the level of active use of farmland. Based on the data obtained, we put forward several recommendations on farmland conservation, also suggesting several agricultural priority areas. The final report, entitled, *Farmland Survey – Report on the Northern Metropolitan Development Strategy and Recommendations for Agricultural Priority Areas* was officially launched online in July 2024, and had extensive media

The Regenerative Agriculture Department (RAD) not only maintains agricultural work, it also launches new projects, including a first-time participation in the Hong Kong International Tea Fair 2024, and co-organising seminars focusing on local farmland policies to garner more peer support for the development of local agriculture.

PLATFORMS FOR LOCAL FARM PRODUCE

An important goal of KFBG is supporting local farmers and for the past 18 years, we have been mentoring local farmers to sell their produce. Every Sunday, we hold the Central Farmers' Market at the Star Ferry Pier in Central, which includes eight local organic farmers and four local handicraft producers and social enterprises. We also supported the 'Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) online purchasing scheme' 11 times in the past year, connecting local farmers and customers. Through this point-to-point online shopping service, almost one ton of agricultural products were purchased.

coverage, as did the second enhanced edition, published in February 2025. Following the publication of the survey, KFBG, together with our collaborative partners, held two large-scale public seminars on the related topics. We also invited representatives of environmental groups and scholars to share their experiences and suggestions at a 'Forum on Local Farmland', which was held at the Chinese University of Hong Kong in August 2024.

The Farmland Survey Report on Northern Metropolis Development Strategy and Recommendations for Agricultural Priority Areas was formally launched online and published



In December 2024, the Hong Kong Government published a consultation document on Agriculture Priority Areas, which would have a long policy impact on Hong Kong's agricultural development. To enable both the industry and community to have a more adequate understanding, to provide a platform for discussion, we co-hosted two seminars on the Overview of the Agricultural Priority Areas Policy in February

2025, before the end of the consultation period. Relevant professional groups and industry representatives shared their expertise, and each seminar attracted around 250 and 200 participants respectively. In addition, we held five activities which involved farmland inspection, to enable the public to have a hands on, understanding of farmland issues.



Co-hosting the 'Overview of the Agricultural Priority Areas Policy' seminar with other green groups, February 2025

COURSES AND WORKSHOPS

We continue to offer popular professional courses for beginners and advanced levels. These include the 'Introductory Courses on Sustainable Agriculture for City Farmers' and the 'Planting Vegetables in Synchrony with the Seasons of the Year', the 'Bee Keeping Course', and the 'Hong Kong Agriculture Course', which focuses on local agricultural history and ecological development. Further educational workshops, guided tours and other activities, included:

'HONG KONG COFFEE ENCOUNTERS'

In collaboration with local baristas from Seedtocuphk, participants learnt about planting coffee, while also enjoying a cup.



Enjoying the 'Guava Harvesting Tour', September 2024



Attending a Coffee Workshop



'AUTUMN TEA SHARING WORKSHOP'

With the cooperation and expertise of the Hong Kong Tea Production Institute, participants gained a deeper understanding of our tea gardens, including the different varieties, planting techniques, tea processing, and tasting techniques.

Other seasonal activities included the 'Guava Harvesting Tour', the 'Spring Harvest Fun Day', the 'Chrysanthemum Planting Day', and the 'Fruit Forest Walk'. All these unique activities provided wonderful family days out for parents and children to experience the hard work and efforts of farming.

Our apiary has a history of more than 40 years. Two popular workshops 'Hive Dive – The connection between honeybees and us' and the 'Little Beekeeper', highlighted for both adults and children the first steps in understanding the close relationship between bees and natural ecology.



A first experience harvesting vegetables during the 'Spring Harvest Fun Day', February 2025

BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY



Engaging the public and building strategic partnerships to strengthen the community's understanding of local agriculture is an important part of our mission. Our community outreach included community farming projects with other organisations, like the Society for Community Organization and the Aberdeen Kai-fong Welfare Association, to assist with the 'Ying Wa Street Modular Social Housing Community Garden in Tenacity Residence' project in Cheung Sha Wan and the transitional housing, A Square, in Stanley. In addition, we were invited by the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Lingnan University and CLP Pulse to give public talks and organise visits related to local urban agriculture, ecological farming and regenerative agriculture.

'Community Garden Workshop' at a residence in Ying Wa Street, February 2025

INTERNATIONAL TEA FAIR

KFBG is one of the few organic tea gardens in Hong Kong that still harvests tea, plants tea trees and holds tea production demonstrations. With a long history of tea planting, we made new attempts in promoting tea garden activities and in mid-August 2024, we participated, for the first time, in the three-day Hong Kong International Tea Fair 2024, hosted by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council. During the exhibition, we showcased our work in sustainable

agriculture and local tea promotion, allowing for a rich exchange with other industry experts. Our orchard team cooperated with the team from the Chinese University's 'The Legend of Ngong Ping Highland Tea Project' to rejuvenate about 100 old tea trees in the Ngong Ping Tea Garden. This saw a successful resumption of their tea harvests in the autumn of 2024 and spring of 2025.



Showcasing KFBG's Tea Processing at the International Tea Fair at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, mid-August 2024

HOLISTIC EDUCATION



©Lost Child Project HK
©Benny Luey



HOLISTIC EDUCATION

The Holistic Education Department continued to nurture meaningful connections between people and nature through experiential, interdisciplinary and transformative learning over the past year. Guided by our philosophy of learning through head, hand and heart, we expanded long-term partnerships, enhanced creative collaboration and developed immersive experiences to inspire curiosity, compassion and ecological consciousness across all age groups.

OUR REACH AND IMPACT

Our visitor numbers declined over the past year, following a period of growth from 2021, during which in the pandemic years saw more people staying in Hong Kong, with peak visitor numbers over 2022-2023. The resumption of normal outbound travel in March 2023 may have caused a drop in

visitors to KFBG from the general public, as shown in the table below. Another important factor is the increasing heat and rainfall in the summer months, and nowadays these months attract less visitors compared to earlier years.

Target Audience	2019	2020	2021	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
School Groups	28,296	3,151	671	19,436	46,065	34,558
Commercial Groups	5,453	136	0	2,461	2,407	1,080
NGO Groups	11,563	1,418	3,436	11,051	19,200	20,397
General Public	65,654	42,753	124,916	132,542	77,174	71,270
Total	110,966	47,458	129,023	165,490	144,846	127,305

Note: The figures of the general public for 2023-2024 have been restated, as we now only include in person visitors to our sites, whereas in last year's annual report, we had included on-line participants to talks as well.

To reverse this trend, we have taken several steps to improve our outreach and communication, as well as a renovation and revamp of the programmes in the Green Hub, after it opened its doors 10 years ago. We welcome more visitors, as a visit to the tranquillity of the Green Hub or the beauty of KFBG's nature reserve is often a first step in an increased appreciation for nature. The coming year, leading up to our 70th anniversary will mark an increased promotion of our sites as a day-trip destination.

We are enriching the design of our diverse holistic education initiatives and encompassing both outreach and online formats to more effectively meet the needs of various target groups, from young children to the elderly. At the same time, we are actively engaged in cultivating deeper partnerships with schools to enhance educational experiences through interdisciplinary and immersive learning opportunities. We are also committed to strengthening our ties with the performing arts community, creating more collaborative and engaging experiences for everyone.

SPECIAL VISIT BY JANE GOODALL

Furthering our commitment to environmental discourse, we had the honour of welcoming Dr. Jane Goodall. Her talk, 'Green Alliance: Networking for Nature' was co-organised with the Jane Goodall Institute (Hong Kong), and this event attracted over 100 environmental professionals, educators, students, and members of the public, resulting in engaged discussions on environmental conservation.



BONDING STUDENTS WITH NATURE

To ensure life-long learning and sustained care for the environment through the years, we designed more long-term, immersive programmes for students to connect with nature that touch their head, hands and heart.

SNAKES ALIVE: CURIOSITY AND CREATIVITY

Snakes are a vital, yet a misunderstood and even vilified species. With the launch of 'Snakes Alive – A Year of Celebration', aligned with 2025 as the Year of the Snake, a school programme engaged primary and secondary students across four schools to deepen their understanding of snakes. Through school talks, an on-site visit to KFBG, and a creative patchwork project, using upcycled clothing and natural dyes made from locally grown Chinese Indigo (*Strobilanthes cusia*), students explored the ecological role of snakes in a gentle, interdisciplinary way.

This initiative culminated in a public exhibition, 'Side by Side in Harmony: Snakes, Nature & Us' which was held from January to March 2025. The exhibition celebrated 26 years of KFBG's Wild Snake Rescue Project and was very popular with the public. With an interactive giant Snake and Ladders Game, specimen displays, snake stamp activities, guided tours and natural dye workshops, we received over 120 media features, illustrating the exhibition's reach.



CONNECTING BIODIVERSITY AND CULTURE

The 'Dutchman's Pipe x Golden Birdwing Urban Habitat Creation Project' was launched in partnership with three schools. Students learnt how to grow the Dutchman's Pipe (*Aristolochia tagala*), the exclusive host plant of the Golden Birdwing butterfly, one of only two insect species protected under local legislation. This project offered students hands-on experience in habitat creation, while curriculum-linked learning materials explored the co-evolution between plant and animal, as well as understanding more about endangered species, along with the cultural dimensions of conservation. This programme was a smooth blend between science and the humanities.

PARTNERSHIPS AND EXPERTS

This past year we held the highest number of 'Professional Development Days for teachers' and formalised collaboration with The Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education. This enabled co-developed environmental and holistic education programmes for gifted students, to support their growth through field trips, workshops, and conservation activities.

CONNECTIONS THROUGH ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS

Using the power of art creation and expression to deepen our relationship with nature, is one of our core beliefs. This year's artistic initiatives have engaged visitors in experiences that reveal nature's hidden beauty through performances, residencies, and workshops across our mountain landscape.

ÉLAN EARTHEATRE

In December, our collaboration with ÉLAN Earthatre brought to life 'Regain the Lost Wings', an immersive and participatory theatrical experience. This co-creation process engaged 1,856 attendees across our diverse terrains, offering students a unique opportunity to connect with nature through actual theatrical experiences as it guided visitors from the Plaza to Kwun Yum Shan, following an ancient legend of a divine, but injured bird. Participants joined performers in puppet parades and interactive acts, exemplifying our approach to fostering ecological awareness through experiential learning.



To deepen this partnership and our engagement with the performing arts community, key personnel and artists from ÉLAN Earthatre participated in a dedicated training programme focused on our bird conservation work. They also took part in transformative programs, including a resident retreat and Dr. Claire Elouard's special workshop.

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAMME

Since 2004, our Artist-in-Residence Programme has highlighted our connection to nature through artistic expression. This year, Kay Wong's 'Waltz with the Misfits' Art Exhibition served as an extension of our publication, *30 of Hong Kong's Worst Weeds*, inviting over 6,000 visitors to look at weeds from a different perspective. This unique exhibition encouraged deeper thought from the plants' perspective: that they do not choose to be here and often thrive in disturbed environments, highlighting their resilience. The programme promoted dialogue around sustainability whilst making art accessible to diverse audiences.

REGULAR ARTS PROGRAMMES

We've refreshed our regular arts programmes, building on the success of past initiatives and introducing new features, including attracting alternative music lovers to explore music within nature's embrace. This includes new version of our 'Music Journey Evening Concerts', 'The Crafting with Clay, Seeds and Twigs: Earth Art Workshop' and our 'Wood Upcycling Workshops' engaged participants across two programmes, transforming reclaimed wood into beautiful items, including kalimbas. The 'Zentangle in Nature Workshop' blend mindfulness with creativity, and our 'Art Corner' attracted up to 4,000 visitors through accessible walk-in drawing sessions.

Regain The Lost Wings



OTHER PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS

Beyond our thematic engagement programmes, we also held immersive camps, and hosted internship and volunteer opportunities to provide more people with opportunities to connect with nature.

CAMPS AND OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES

Our camps reached hundreds of participants this year, offering immersive and comprehensive nature experiences. The 'In Touch with Nature Camp Series' engaged children aged between six and eight with activities including hiking, recycled wood crafts, and animal encounters, providing a holistic and engaging journey into the natural world.

The 'Art and Music Camp' attracted 120 participants, while the 'Play in the Woods' programme held both half-day sessions and a summer event. We had 52 people join in our new 'Forest Night Shadows' residential camp for night walks and tracking wildlife. We are also developing a nature-based playgroup for toddlers and their parents.

COMMUNITY TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Our commitment to capacity building continued through complementary training programmes, fostering the next generation of educators and community leaders. The 'Summer 2024 Internship Programme' welcomed 16 university students, who, after receiving comprehensive training, were able to design and facilitate their own themed camps. The 'Nature Education Volunteer Training Programme' selected 30 individuals from 104 applicants, who, between February and April 2024, were provided with intensive training in essential skills to support our educational activities. In the last fiscal year, volunteers contributed a total of 3,851 hours, demonstrating the substantial impact of our community engagement initiatives.



TRANSFORMATION JOURNEY

The transformation programmes provide diverse pathways for a deep connection with both nature and self. Through local and international collaborations, we curate experiences that foster mindfulness, ecological consciousness and personal growth.

STRENGTHENING WELL-BEING THROUGH FOREST THERAPY

Our 'Forest Immersion Walk' programme, led by KFBG team members certified by the Association of Nature and Forest Therapy, grew this year. We welcomed 59 people across three evening sessions and had an impressive 814 attend 41 dedicated group sessions. These forest bathing experiences provided opportunities for all the participants to reconnect with the natural world through sensory exploration. What was most interesting, was the growing interest from mental health professionals and well-being practitioners, reflecting the programme's recognised value in supporting holistic health.

LEARNING WITH RENOWNED TEACHERS

We continued our programmes on soil, plants, and animals. We welcomed Jhon Kwano, an elder from the traditional Lani tribe in New Guinea, for a school tour series, where over 260 students from five schools learnt about indigenous wisdom and sustainability.

In March 2025, we hosted our first Men's Retreat, 'THE MEN'S HOUSE: Rediscovering Wholeness', co-facilitated by Jhon Kwano, Andrew McAulay, and Nathan Garrod. This four-day immersive experience brought together 15 men to reconnect with nature through shared stories and practices. Two breathwork ceremonies, guided by Andrew McAulay, provided opportunities for inner exploration.



In September 2024, 28 participants joined 'Breathing with Trees' with Dr. Claire Elouard, who also led 'Connecting with the Energy of Nature', that had 88 people join across four groups. Her tailored workshops promoted well-being, intuitive awareness, and nature's healing power. In March 2025, there were 32 participants eager to learn about indigenous practices from Jhon Kwano's 'Fanning the Fire'. During his visit, he also enriched our programming by sharing traditional wisdom that complemented our holistic approach to nature connection.

We partnered with respected local practitioners to expand transformative offerings, which included the Venerable Chang Lin leading three 'Zen of Photography' sessions, which guided participants in contemplative seeing through the lens of nature. Janet Lau facilitated two 'Yoga Meditation Workshops', where attendees explored embodied awareness in natural settings and Man Tung hosted three 'Little Fish Journey' sessions, engaging participants in mindful interactions with the landscape.

PLANTING SEEDS FOR TRANSFORMATION

The Kadoorie Earth Programme (KEP) engaged 1,682 individuals from over 60 countries through online talks featuring ecological thought leaders such as Colin Campbell, Ailton Krenak, Andy Letcher, Om Sunisa with Chan Shun Hing, and Satish Kumar. These sessions explored themes of indigenous wisdom, animism, ecovillages, and soil stewardship. All were aligned with our guiding theme, "We Are Nature", and a response to the planetary polycrisis through deeper care and connection.

KEP also proudly hosted the Hong Kong premiere of the documentary *Radical Love*, celebrating Satish Kumar's life and legacy of elegant simplicity, love, peace, and activism. Across two screening events, 315 attendees engaged in dialogue with Satish Kumar, which further planted seeds of hope and transformation.

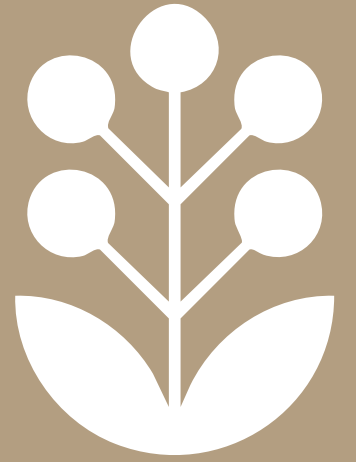
Through every programme, workshop, and partnership, the Holistic Education Department remained steadfast in its commitment to cultivating lifelong learners who care deeply for the Earth. Despite changes in external trends, our efforts this year laid strong



foundations for future growth, strengthening our network of educators, artists, and youth, and broadening the reach of our mission. As we look ahead, we are inspired to continue planting seeds of transformation, fostering a culture of care, and empowering the next generation to walk gently and wisely with nature.



SUSTAINABLE LIVING, KFBG GREEN HUB AND FOOD HUB



KADOORIE  CENTRE • FOOD HUB

©KFBG/SLD

SUSTAINABLE LIVING, KFBG GREEN HUB AND FOOD HUB

KFBG's Sustainable Living Programme actively engages community partners to co-create entry points for people to make choices towards living a sustainable life. Our main strategies to make sustainable living mainstream include raising awareness about sustainable living, creating positive impacts through platforms and spaces, and cultivating resilience.

KFBG GREEN HUB: A COMMUNITY BASE FOR AWARENESS RAISING

In collaboration with the Development Bureau of the Hong Kong government, under the Revitalising Historic Buildings Partnership Scheme, the KFBG Green Hub, in the old Tai Po Police Station, is KFBG's community base to raise awareness. This declared historical monument, adaptive in its usage, inspires visitors by offering a wide range of learning experiences to facilitate the integration of climate solutions into daily life. The following were conducted during the year:

- Engaging over 42,500 people to our educational services to learn about low carbon living.
- Hosting 3,249 people, including those from professional groups and tertiary institutes, to enjoy our interpretative services, which were supported by a team of trained volunteer guides, who were part of the old Tai Po Police Station Heritage Interpreter Scheme.

- Providing online interpretative resources, accessible through mobile devices, to assist over 28,000 visitors who enjoyed the heritage site at their own pace. New educational kits, entitled *Eco Exploration*, were made available for young visitors to use during their sensory active and independent learning at the heritage gardens.
- Enabling 5,286 participants in our workshops, courses and residential camps, which all focussed on sustainable living.
- Organising 45 open-day events, entitled 'Multisensory Experience' on Sundays and public holidays during the dry season, offering a wide range of activities.
- Inviting 38 sustainable producers and pioneers to join our Sunday Co-op Markets and share their sustainable messages through their products and stories to KFBG Green Hub visitors.

With funding and technical support from the Development Bureau, a year-long renovation project to preserve the architecture and visitor facilities at the old Tai Po Police Station was completed in March 2025.

Children played under the sun on 4-11 August during 'Breezy Wanderers Family Workshop'



EATING WELL: A STARTING POINT TO HARMONISE RELATIONSHIPS

Food education remains the most important element of KFBG's sustainable living programme. Our belief is that eating well, with informed dietary choices, paves the way to improved well-being of individuals, the community and the environment. The growing popularity of this understanding is reflected in the record high demand for our Eat Well educational services over the past year.

- We welcomed 5,194 people to our Eat Well cookery classes and workshops, as they learnt how to eat healthily and lightly. This was a 33 % increase in participation compared to the previous year.
- A new Train-the-Trainer Scheme titled 'Sustainable Living Education Ambassador Training Scheme' was organised in May 2024 to consolidate a professional team of Eat Well Tutors to cope with a growing demand for these educational services.
- In addition to the Eat Well Canteen at the KFBG Green Hub and the Eat Well Café at KFBG, the new Food Hub began a trial-run service in June 2024, serving visitors with wholesome meals, with a minimal carbon footprint, supported by local food producers.



KFBG Food Hub was officially opened on 7 May 2025, with Professor Xiaobo Yin of HKU, KFBG's Chairperson Mr Andrew McAulay and Ms Debra Mao.



Special tours at KFBG Green Hub to promote holistic conservation



Promoting sustainable living through an Ayurveda Day celebration at KFBG



'Indigenous Wisdom' event

CO-CREATING AND COLLABORATION

The KFBG Green Hub continues to serve as a platform to support different organisations promoting sustainable living. Some programmes are highlighted below:

MARCH

Following the 'Nature Movement Educator Workshop' organised in collaboration with Moving Playground, a new 'Fun with Nature Children Workshop' had a test run and was later integrated into our regular offerings to schools from September 2024.

MAY

We organised an exchange dinner for the delegation from 'A Gathered Dialogue: Eco-afterlives and Slow Hope', that was hosted by the Faculty of Humanities of the Education University of Hong Kong.

AUGUST

We were delighted to host experimental projects by local artists who, for the first time, had their works organised in gardens and under trees. One of these unique events was 'Listen to Tai Po', a participatory drama presented by the Hong Kong Drama, Theatre and Education Forum to facilitate audiences recalling their collective memories.

OCTOBER

We organised a 'Book Talk x Cooking Demonstration', in October 2024 to promote a plant-based diet and the Chinese food culture by author and founder of The Vibrant Hong Kong Table, Christine Wong.

We also organised an eco-garden walk to support the 'Ayurveda Day Celebration' in collaboration with the Consulate General of India Hong Kong and Macau SARs.

DECEMBER

We hosted the premiere of the documentary, *Radical Love*, with a meet-and-greet with author Satish Kumar.

DECEMBER/ JANUARY

Harp musicians and therapists were engaged to deliver five days of 'Music Therapy in Nature'.

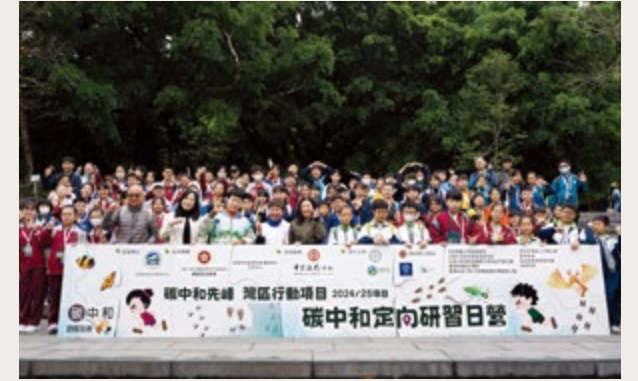
Other programmes held throughout the year included engaging facilitators to deliver 21 sessions of 'Yoga in Nature' to promote wellbeing and harmonise relationships between people and with nature.

The highly popular 'Our Secret Neighbours: Eco Tour for Families' was re-launched with the engagement of young naturalists as tutors. We are grateful to the Zonta Club of the New Territories who sponsored two special workshops for primary students to learn about climate change and carbon footprints.

We continue to play a key role in the Langqing Charity led project, 'Towards Carbon Neutrality', that was endorsed by China's Ministry of Ecology and Environment and Hong Kong's Environment and Ecology Bureau, to mobilise youth participation. We contributed to the training of primary school students as educational ambassadors with a day-camp organised at KFBG, which attracted 150 participants. We also assisted in activities which engaged young people to learn about national strategies for carbon neutrality and present their thoughts for making a difference. Idy Wong was invited to serve as Vice-Chairperson of the project organising committee for another year.

We are grateful to all the organisations which used the KFBG Green Hub facilities for their meetings, special events and retreat camps. Special guests of the year included delegations from Wu Zhi Qiao (Bridge to China) Charitable Foundation, the Education University of Hong Kong, the Zonta Club of the New Territories and the Earthcare Foundation. Special tours were organised for delegations from Shanghai's Bureau for Housing and Urban-Rural Infrastructure, River-Watcher, Hunan Ecological Protection Volunteer Service Federation of China and various local universities and professional groups.

The staff has been exploring a wider application of permaculture design and transition town training programmes jointly with sister organisations and partners to help build capacity in local communities.



140 students participated a 'Towards Carbon Neutrality' Day Camp at KFBG



Idy Wong in RTHK Trash-talk about sustainable living



Volunteer induction days and heritage interpreter training were organised annually at Green Hub

Bird-friendly design at the Food Hub



'Nature Movement Educator Workshop' at Green Hub

Students experienced low carbon lunch at Food Hub



Food Hub Signature Salad made with fresh KFBG produce in season

PIONEERING POSITIVE IMPACTS

In collaboration with the University of Hong Kong (HKU), KFBG implemented renovation works in 2024 to transform the former canteen building at HKU Kadoorie Centre at Shek Kong into the *Food Hub* to promote sustainable living. Adhering to sustainable principles, the project achieved a Platinum Rating under the new BEAM Plus BI V.20 scheme in January 2025. The Food Hub is a milestone of the Kadoorie Earth Programme, as it integrates various strands of KFBG’s nature conservation, sustainable living and holistic education programmes. Following a four-month service test-run, the *Food Hub* officially opened on 7 May 2025. Apart from offering vegan catering services to HKU Kadoorie Centre users, it supports residential retreats and offers regular food education workshops to connect people with self, each other and nature.



KFBG Green Hub project was included in the Shanghai Manual 2024 Annual Report



KFBG Green Hub was recognised with Good Award in Universal Design Award Scheme

The Green Hub project was also shortlisted for inclusion as one of the first two Hong Kong projects in the *Shanghai Manual: A Guide for Sustainable Urban Development in the 21st Century – 2024 Annual Report*. The Manual is an UN-Habitat initiative to showcase globally implemented urban best practices that present actors with innovative solutions to help cities navigate the complex challenges that they face today.

In November 2024, KFBG Green Hub received the Gold Award for the first Universal Design Award Scheme from the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC). The award was received for the new set of assessment tools that determined our operations and services. The Scheme advocates taking into consideration the needs of everyone in facility design and service management. Our recognition with the Gold Award provides the opportunity for our story to be widely shared on the EOC platform.

STATISTICS OF DIRECT PARTICIPATION IN SUSTAINABLE LIVING PROGRAMMES

	2024-25	2023-24
KFBG Green Hub: Total number of visitors	38,547	44,884
KFBG Green Hub: Self-guided visitors	28,867	35,434
KFBG Green Hub: Heritage tour participants	3,249	4,311
Eat Well workshops and cookery courses	5,194	3,897
Sustainable living courses and residential camps (site-based)	5,286	5,864
Overall number of participants	42,596	49,506

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Communication and Partnerships Department (CPAR) continued to elevate KFBG's brand presence through targeted communication initiatives and the cultivation of meaningful partnerships, strengthening KFBG's position in conservation and amplifying its impact within the community.

ENHANCED COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES

KFBG disseminates monthly press releases to the media, and newsletters to members, updating them on the happenings at KFBG with multimedia, images and print information. During the reporting period we generated over 1,400 media stories with an estimated media value of over HK\$67M.*

VIRAL SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS – A HIGHLIGHT

In August 2024, we launched a social media campaign featuring the unexpected appearance of an otter in the Ng Tung River. The story quickly went viral, attracting attention from 12 media outlets eager to report on this rare and exciting sighting. Our Facebook post reached 102,692 people, well above our typical average of 28,000. Instagram engagement also surged, with a reach of 52,668, alongside 5,012 likes.

This campaign put local biodiversity in the spotlight and the subsequent research project not only attracted widespread attention but also deepened public understanding and appreciation of KFBG's conservation mission.

* Media value generated, measured by advertising dollars, refers to the estimated monetary value of media exposure obtained through advertising efforts. It represents the worth or equivalent cost of the media coverage or visibility gained through advertising campaigns. Media value is often calculated by comparing the actual cost of purchasing equivalent advertising space or time with the estimated value of the earned media exposure. This approach helps in evaluating the economic impact and return on investment (ROI) of communications activities, as it provides a tangible measure of the financial value generated through media exposure.

KFBG X HANG SENG BANK NATURE WALK AND TREASURE HUNT 2024



The Starting Ceremony of our annual fundraising event Nature Walk and Treasure Hunt in December 2024

On 6 – 8 December 2024, KFBG held the fourth edition of its annual Nature Walk and Treasure Hunt fundraising event, this year supported by Hang Seng Bank. The event attracted over 2,500 participants, a remarkable increase compared to the 1,000 of the year before. The focus was on increasing engagement with the community and promoting ecological awareness. The Treasure Hunt Challenge (for Schools) on 6 December 2024 attracted seven local primary and secondary schools and featured 25 educational checkpoints across the Lower Hillside.

Educational workshops were available to strengthen participants' connection with nature while advancing KFBG's mission of environmental stewardship. Workshops on fauna, flora, regenerative agriculture and sustainable living to promote ecological awareness, participants could also enjoy free cold drinks or ice cream at the Nature Bazaar, which featured ten local partner organisations.



We had over 700 primary and secondary students register for The School Special: 'Treasure Hunt Challenge'

FUNDRAISING ENDEAVOURS

SUPPORTING MIGRANT DOMESTIC WORKER MENTAL HEALTH

The 'Connection to Nature for Migrant Domestic Workers in Hong Kong' received a grant from the Kadoorie Charitable Foundation. Initiated in December 2023, this programme conducted 48 sessions and engaged 2,242 migrant domestic workers through March 2025. The programme continues to thrive, and we are engaging up to 100 migrant domestic workers every Sunday.

Activities like yoga, Zentangle, and treasure hunts fostered a deeper connection to nature among participants, providing quality rest and recreational opportunities to enhance wellbeing. The entire programme is offered free of charge and includes complimentary transportation from both Hong Kong and Kowloon directly to KFBG and back.



Migrant domestic workers on their Sunday visit to KFBG through our 'Connection to Nature' programme



Migrant domestic workers celebrate together at KFBG during their 'Connection to Nature' programme visit



Migrant domestic workers participating in a yoga session

This project focused on the mental health and wellbeing of migrant domestic workers who face unique challenges in Hong Kong. By offering them the opportunity to connect with nature at KFBG, they were able to find a nurturing environment. Along with the educational and physical activities conducted in a supportive group setting, participants found peace of mind, rejuvenation, and a sense of belonging amidst serene natural surroundings.

Migrant domestic workers enjoy a peaceful Zentangle drawing activity, finding relaxation and mindfulness through creative art

AN EVOLVING ORGANISATION

To address different technological and staffing challenges, the People and Culture (P&C) team proactively enhances capacity building and people development to establish sustainable and suitable best practices.

With the implementation of a digital Human Resources Information System (HRIS) on 1 July 2024, the HR system was revolutionised to streamline attendance, leave management and the payroll, boosting efficiency and reducing administrative burdens. Employees can now access their records via their phones, which promotes transparency and engagement. This digital transformation indicates a significant step towards modernising P&C operations, supporting long-term growth.

With the Staff Canteen coming under the P&C Department in May 2024, employees have become more actively engaged in sustainability. A food waste audit was conducted, leading to significant reductions in waste, and encouraging staff to purchase remaining dishes after the luncheon services had ended. The clear guidelines that were established created a welcoming and sustainable dining area for all staff.

LinkedIn and other talent acquisition platforms were successfully used to attract top tier talents resulting in top quality hires which resulted in cost efficiency as the assistance of external recruitment agents was not required.

The P&C Team reopened the graduate talent promotion with a talk on the mission and culture of KFBG, as well as employment and summer internship opportunities at the Hong Kong Baptist University on 4 February 2025, to attract potential employees.

Dynamic staff learning and development opportunities were conducted, focussing on different skills and knowledges. Staff members participated in the 'Effective Interview Skills Workshops' held on 20 Jan, 6 & 10 Feb 2025 which helped refine competency-based interview approaches and enhance candidates' experiences in the recruitment processes.



Happy toasting at the Annual Spring Dinner 2025



Heartwarming farewell party for Liza, canteen cook retiring from working at KFBG for 20 years

The 'Presentation and Story Telling Workshops' was offered to senior staff, including the Heads of Departments (HoDs) on 25 November 2024 and 18 February 2025. The focus was on how to better craft and deliver compelling presentations effectively in public speeches and for networking activities.

Four cybersecurity seminars were held on 3 and 16 December 2024 and a total of 108 staff members participated. Awareness and preparedness are critical within the organisation, and all attendees were equipped with the practical knowledge to mitigate cyber risks effectively.

The Annual Salary Review underwent streamlining, and relevant data, including incident reports, warnings and leave records, were made available to HoDs for their reference during the recommendation processes to ensure fair and fact-based decisions. In a similar way, short term hiring was also streamlined to include both the hiring departments and the P&C team for efficiency and staffing standards to be met.

The addressing of staff issues took precedence which required individual case management to holistic solution-based handling. One example was the Fauna Conservation Department, which, through a comprehensive shadowing audit, revealed more than 1,149 overtime hours during the peak seasons. What followed was a proposal to



"Safety come first!" Practicing in the regular first-aid certification workshop

introduce a shift system, job description redesign, and team restructuring to alleviate workload in a two-year plan. Two new headcounts were introduced to focus on logistics and administration, freeing up the time for senior staff to engage in other substantive work, like public outreach and retention training, thus enhancing team well-being.

In FY24-25, 57 staff were hired, 48 staff left the organisation, while 11 staff members retired, resulting in a total of 248.5 full time employees at 31 March 2025. A new initiative was launched to honour retiring staff through personalized souvenirs and parties hosted by their departments.

FINANCE



©KFBG/ KCC

Papilio
polytes



FINANCE

The financial performance and position of KFBG has been prepared in a true and fair view in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards (“HKFRSs”) issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (“HKICPA”). In all other respects, the financial information has been properly prepared in compliance with the KFBG governance and internal control to prevent and detect fraud and error and also safeguard the assets of KFBG.

FINANCIAL FIGURES (EXCLUDING DEPRECIATION)

Expenditure (HK\$) (see Breakdown 3)	**Year Ended 31.3.2025 (unaudited)	*Year Ended 31.3.2024 (audited)
Capital	131,590,548	51,692,774
Operating	148,069,665	138,309,504
Total	279,660,213	190,002,278

Income (HK\$)	**Year Ended 31.3.2025 (unaudited)	*Year Ended 31.3.2024 (audited)
The New Kadoorie Foundation	131,000,000	148,942,200
Green Hub	6,803,105	7,814,574
Farm sales income (shop sales, floristic produce, fruits & vegetable, tea and eggs produce)	2,158,748	1,620,030
Government, Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust and other funding (see below breakdown 1 & 2)	87,814,271	14,180,081
Entrance fees and shuttle bus	2,566,000	3,305,783
Workshops, programmes, course income and guided tour fees, etc	5,666,150	3,754,796
Service provision of snake rescue & Golden Coin Turtles programmes, etc	1,447,000	1,489,460
Donations	1,221,000	795,177
Fundraising events	2,453,200	869,000
Others ***	527,000	394,527
Total	241,656,474	183,165,628

Income has increased by HK\$58.4M as compared to year 2024, mainly due to more funding from Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust for the new Jockey Club Nature Conservation Centre (JCNCC).

*From management accounts (expenditure includes expenses accrued and not yet settled).

**From audited accounts (expenditure includes expenses accrued and not yet settled).

*** Including insurance claims HK\$527K.

BREAKDOWN 1 - GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Government Funding	Utilised/will utilise by KFBG to provide:	Year ended 31.3.25	Year ended 31.3.24
HKSAR gov't (AFCD) subvention	Wild Animal Rescue Centre	1,000,000	1,000,000
Development Bureau (The KFBG Green Hub)	Old Tai Po Police Station revitalisation	741,895	721,919
HKSAR gov't (SIE fund)	Forest School programme	7,064	92,476
Total		1,748,959	1,814,395

BREAKDOWN 2 - OTHER FUNDING

Other Funding	Utilised/will utilise by KFBG to provide:	Year ended 31.3.25	Year ended 31.3.24
Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust	Jockey Club Nature Conservation Centre [#]	82,029,474	9,104,422
Knorr-Bremse Global Care Asia Pacific Ltd	Gaoligong Gibbon Summer Camp project	100,000	-
IUCN	Cao-Vit Gibbon Conservation project	31,426	202,689
CLP Holdings Limited	Ecological restoration of tropical forest	1,190,000	1,260,000
Mangrove Foundation	Greater Bay Area otter survey project	57,315	151,477
ZeShan Foundation	-	-	300,000
Kadoorie Charitable Foundation Services Limited	Connection to Nature for Migrant Domestic Workers in Hong Kong project	1,347,097	1,347,098
Ave Fenix China Foundation Limited	Guangxi Gibbon project	1,035,000	0
Ave Fenix China Foundation Limited	Hainan Otters project	275,000	0
Total		86,065,312	12,365,686

[#]Funding support for the new JCNCC

BREAKDOWN 3 - EXPENDITURES (CAPITAL AND OPERATING)

Capital	Year Ended 31.3.2025 (unaudited)	Year Ended 31.3.2024 (audited)
Kadoorie Conservation China	12,642	21,963
General Administration	106,924	563,001
Education	145,495	269,400
Facilities ¹	15,725,385	7,549,037
Fauna Conservation ²	2,370,364	1,687,137
Flora Conservation	3,272,217	6,676,289
Sustainable Living	785,150	6,704,354
Regenerative Agriculture	307,038	730,290
Partnerships	-	197,936
Green Hub	520,000	1,193,975
Lower Hillside upgrade	91,461	1,336,945
Jockey Club Nature Conservation Centre	108,253,872	24,762,447
Total	131,590,548	51,692,774

¹ Resume of the slope maintenance work around \$8M

² Upgrade of reptile sanctuary, large bird quarantine, large hack cage and small bird quarantine area

Operating	Year Ended 31.3.2025 (unaudited)	Year Ended 31.3.2024 (audited)
Kadoorie Conservation China ³	5,899,822	5,384,509
General Administration ⁴	12,792,280	11,367,070
Education	15,656,642	13,056,160
Facilities	25,537,134	27,216,987
Fauna Conservation	18,459,286	17,483,112
Flora Conservation	30,191,730	30,452,520
Sustainable Living ⁵	8,691,513	5,605,709
Regenerative Agriculture	14,620,134	14,175,875
Partnerships ⁶	7,805,124	5,062,182
Green Hub	8,416,000	8,505,380
Total	148,069,665	138,309,504
Grand Total	279,660,213	190,002,278

³ Research projects in China for Otter and Gibbon conservation

⁴ Additional costs arising from the departmental restructuring: 1 full time head count to FIN for Procurements function; 1 full time head count and 4 part time head count to P&C for staff canteen management

⁵ Included the new operations of Food Hub

⁶ Additional costs arising from the departmental restructuring: 1 full time head count and 3 part time head count to CPAR for Farm shop operations

TRANSFORMATION FROM PAPER-BASED TO DIGITAL PAYMENT SYSTEMS IN THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The transition from paper-based to digital payment systems in the finance department represents a significant advancement in efficiency, accuracy, and convenience. Here are the key components of this transition:



1. DIGITAL PAYMENT FOR ALL OPERATIONS EXPENSES AND PAYROLL

The move to digital payments streamlines various financial operations by allowing for quick and secure transactions.



2. HUMAN RESOURCE INFORMATION SYSTEM (HRIS) INTEGRATION

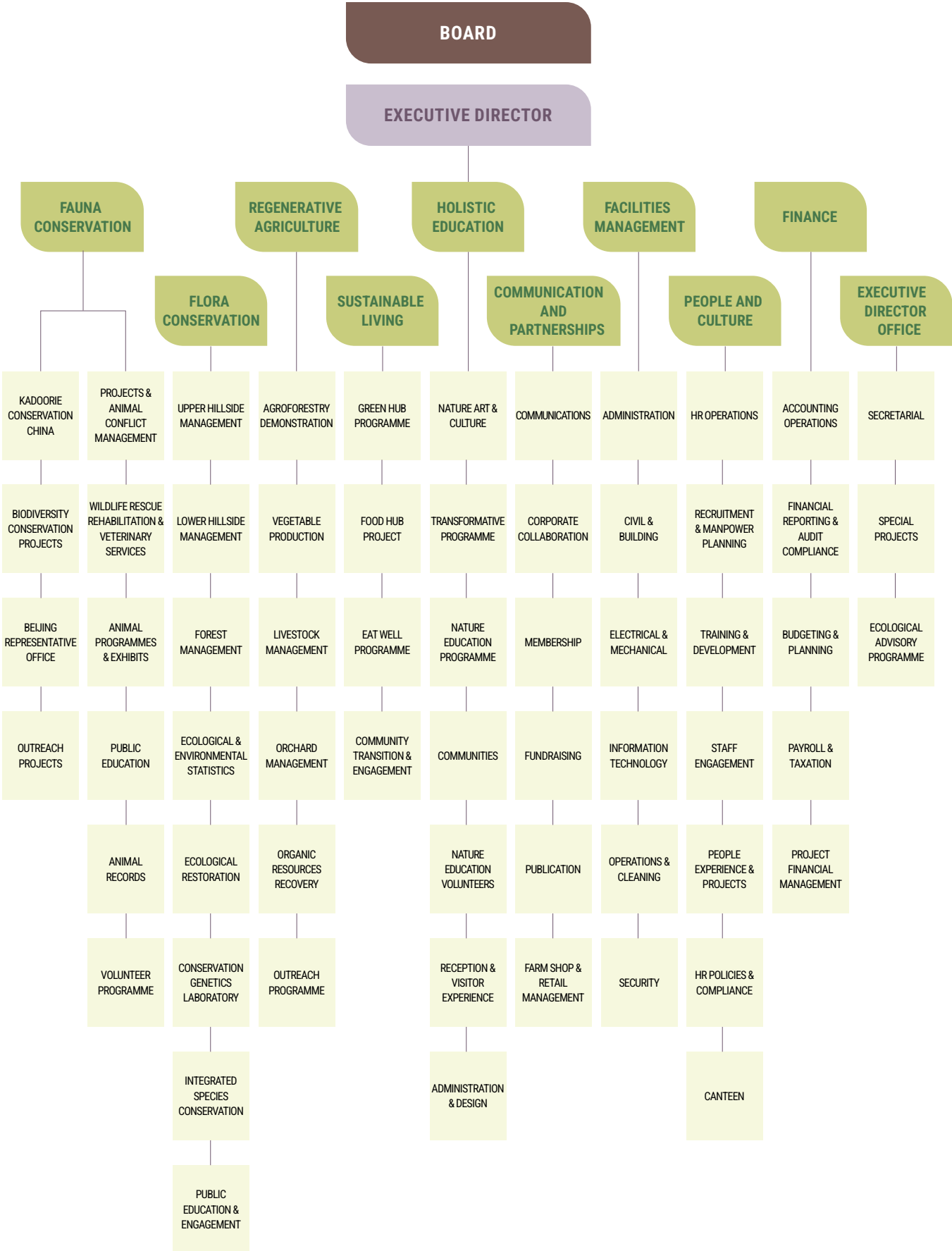
Integrating a Human Resource Information System (HRIS) enhances the management of payroll processing, benefits management, leave management, and tax record management.

This transformation not only modernises financial operations but also supports a more agile and responsive finance department.

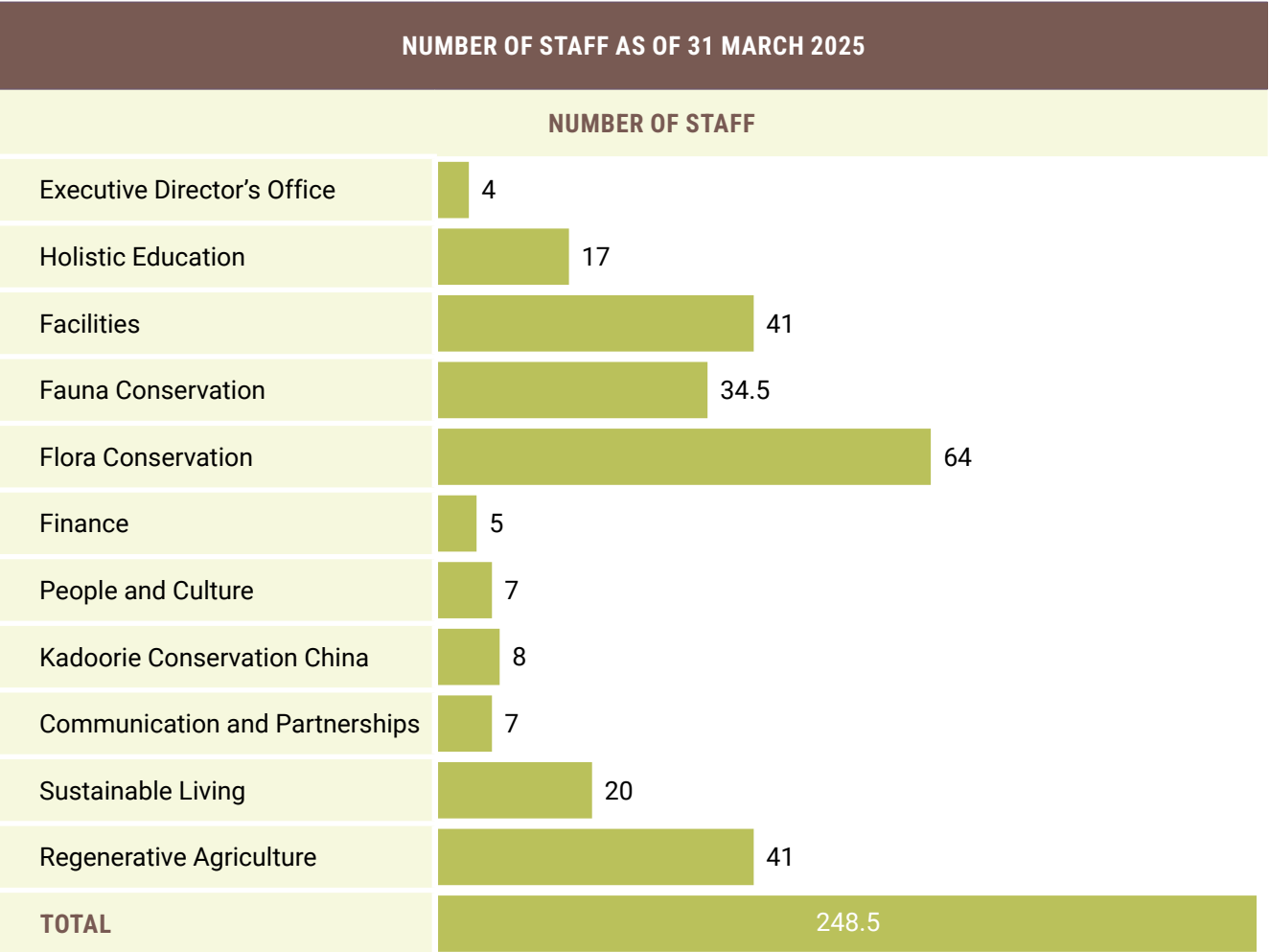
FORWARD-LOOKING DIGITALISATION PROJECT FOR PROCUREMENT FUNCTION

Looking ahead, the finance department plans to implement a comprehensive digital procurement system that will enhance vendor management, streamline purchasing processes, and improve data analytics for better decision-making.

KFBG ORGANISATION CHART 2024-2025



BOARD MEMBERS	MANAGEMENT TEAM
Andrew McAulay <i>Chairperson</i>	Wander Meijer <i>Executive Director</i>
Andrew Brandler Christine Chau Daniel R. Bradshaw Deborah McAulay Ruy Barretto, S.C. Wai Chi Ho	HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS Angela Wong - Communication and Partnerships Steven Chow - Facilities Management Dr Gary Ades - Fauna Conservation Diana Tai - Finance Dr Stephan Gale - Flora Conservation Josephine Woo - Holistic Education Yang Jianhuan - Kadoorie Conservation China Iris Pang - People and Culture Karen Kwok / Yip Tsz Lam - Regenerative Agriculture Idy Wong - Sustainable Living



APPENDIX 1

KFBG ACTIVITIES AIMED AT BUILDING CAPACITY IN COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVING

Title	Number of Participants	Organiser/ Collaborator	Audience	Date	Format
Introductory Courses on Sustainable Agriculture for City Farmers	22	RAD	Public	6 & 20/4/2024	Onsite
Course: Planting vegetables in synchrony with the seasons	17	RAD	Public	4, 11, 18, 25/5/2024	Onsite
Seminar: - Viable urban agriculture in Hong Kong	42	RAD / CLP Pulse	Public	4/5/2024	Onsite & online
Urban Farming in Tenacity Residence	80	RAD / The Society for Community Organization (SoCO)	Public	12, 25/5, 8, 22, 29/6/2024 & 15/2/2025	Onsite
Workshop: 'Coffee Encounter'	51	RAD	Public	25 & 26/5/2024	Onsite
Training Workshop for Community Garden Operators and Volunteers	10	RAD / E-Co Village, Tung Wah Group of Hospitals	Public	1/8/2024	Onsite
Forum: Farmland Survey Report on the Northern Metropolis	250	RAD/CUHK/ Liber Research Community/ WWF/HKBWS	Public	3/8/2024	Onsite
Hong Kong International Tea Fair	300	RAD / HKTDC / HKTPI	Public	15 to 17/8/2024	Onsite
Workshop: 'Ecological Farming at Mui Wo'	17	RAD / Lingnan university	University Students	24 & 31/8/2024	Onsite
Planting Workshop	30	RAD / The Securities and Futures Commission (SFC)	Staff from SFC	27/8/2024	Onsite
Course: Hong Kong agriculture	15	RAD	Public	14 & 15/9/2024	Onsite
Guava Harvesting Tour	20	RAD	Public	14/9/2024	Onsite
Workshop: 'Autumn Tea Sharing'	49	RAD / HKTPI	Public	21, 28/9 & 3/11/2024	Onsite
Talk: Learning through serving	31	RAD / CUHK	University Students	27/9/2024	Onsite
Bee Keeping Course	17	RAD	Public	5 & 6/10/2024	Onsite
Workshop: 'Farm to Table'	44	RAD / The Shed and Yew Chung International School	Student	16 & 17/10/2024	Onsite
Advanced Planting Workshop for Residents' Community Gardens	20	RAD / Aberdeen Kai-fong Welfare Association Ltd	Public	26/10/2024	Onsite
Workshop: 'Herb Experience'	8	RAD	Public	2/11/2024	Onsite

Title	Number of Participants	Organiser/ Collaborator	Audience	Date	Format
Apiary Workshop	15	RAD	Public	16/11/2024	Onsite
Workshop: 'Introduction to Regenerative Agriculture'	9	RAD/ CUHK Department of Geography and Resource Management	University Students	19/11/2024	Onsite
Workshop: 'Introduction to Regenerative Agriculture'	20	RAD/ Redress	Corporate staff	21/11/2024	Onsite
Fruit Forest Walk	56	RAD	Public	28/12/2024 & 19/1/2025	Onsite
Seminar: Overview of the Policy for Agricultural Priority Areas	200	RAD/CUHK/ Liber Research Community/ WWF/HKBWS	Public	8/2/2025	Onsite
Farm Visit: Overview of the Policy for Agricultural Priority Areas	60	RAD/CUHK/ Liber Research Community/ WWF/ HKBWS	Public	9, 15 & 16/2/2025	Onsite
Spring Harvest Fun Day	83	RAD	Public	8, 15/2/2025	Onsite
Workshop: 'Tea Garden Experience'	27	RAD / HKTPI	Students	12/3/2025	Onsite
Introductory Courses on Sustainable Agriculture for City Farmers	17	RAD	Public	22/3/2025	Onsite
Workshop: 'Coffee Encounter'	12	RAD / Shatin IVE	Students	29/3/2025	Onsite
Chrysanthemum Planting Day	31	RAD	Public	29/3/2025	Onsite

A SUMMARY OF KFBG'S MAJOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE

Produce	Kg	Pieces	Tons
Vegetable	15,037		
Fruit	3,225		
Bokashi	80		
Honey	172		
Fish	42		
Chrysanthemum	10		
Tea	29		
Coffee	19		
Roselle	9		
Egg		130,650	
Compost			34

from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

APPENDIX 2

TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS (AUTHOR(S) IN BOLD)

Title	Authors	Journal/ Publication
“A new species of <i>Neohylomys</i> (Eulipotyphla: Galericiidae) from northern Vietnam”	Bannikova, A. A., Lebedev, V. S., Gorchkhanov, D., Li, F. , Dung, D. T., Hai, B. T., ... & Abramov, A. V.	<i>Zootaxa</i> , 5541(3): 294–306.
“Small sharks, big problems: DNA analysis of small fins reveals trade regulation gaps and burgeoning trade in juvenile sharks”	Cardeñosa D, Babcock E.A., Shea S.K., Zhang H. , Feldheim K.A., Gale S.W. , Mills D., Chapman D.D. (2024)	<i>Science Advances</i> 10: eadq6214.
“On the distribution of weasels (Carnivora: Mustelidae: <i>Mustela</i>) in China’s Guangdong Province, with notes on occurrences from Hong Kong”	Chan, B. P. L., Hui, M. K. Y. , Li, F. , Ding, Q., Huang, Q., & Li, C.	<i>Russian Journal of Theriology</i> , 23(2): 212–225
“Molecular phylogenetic analyses reveal multiple long-distance dispersal events and extensive cryptic speciation in <i>Nervilia</i> (Orchidaceae), an isolated basal Epidendroid genus”	Gale, S.W. , Li, J. , Suddee, S., Traiperm, P., Peter, C.I., Buruwate, T., Crain, B.J., McCormick, M.K., Whigham, D.F., Musthofa, A., Gogoi, K., Ito, K., Minamiya, Y., Fukuda, T., Landrein, S. , Yukawa, T. (2025)	<i>Frontiers in Plant Science</i> 15: 1495487.
“The last of their kind: Is the genus <i>Scutigera</i> (Anura: Megophryidae) a relict element of the paleo-Transhimalaya biota?”	Hofmann, S., Podsiadlowski, L., Andermann, T., Matschiner, M., Baniya, C. B., Litvinchuk, S. N., Yang, J. H. , ... & Schmidt, J.	<i>Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution</i> , 201: 108166.
“Exploring Paleogene Tibet’s warm temperate environments through target enrichment and phylogenetic niche modelling of Himalayan spiny frogs (Paini, Dicroglossidae)”	Hofmann, S., Rödder, D., Andermann, T., Matschiner, M., Riedel, J., Baniya, C. B., Yang, J. H. , ... & Podsiadlowski, L.	<i>Molecular Ecology</i> , 33(15): e17446.
“On the identity and typification of <i>Viola tenuis</i> Bentham (Violaceae)”	Huang, Y. S., Gale, S.W. , Zhang, J. , Fan, Q. (2025)	<i>PhytoKeys</i> 252: 197.
“Forgotten but not Gone: Rediscovery of Eurasian Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> in Lantau, Hong Kong”	Hui, M. K. Y. , Leong, A. K. , Zhang, H. , Yang, F. , Yeung, H. Y. , Lo, Y. F. P. , & Yang, J. H.	<i>IUCN Otter Spec. Group Bull.</i> , 41(4): 235–240.
“Local ecological knowledge reveals an undocumented population of Reeves’ butterfly lizard (<i>Leiolepis reevesii</i>) in Zhuhai, China”	Hui, M. K. Y. , Yeung, H. Y. , Leong, A. K. , Lan, Y., Pan, S., Sun, Z., & Yang, J. H.	<i>Pacific Conservation Biology</i> , 30(6): PC24021.
“Deciphering the evolution and biogeography of ant-fens <i>Lecanopteris</i> ss”	Jiang, L.-J., Zhao, J., Wang, J.-G., Landrein, S. , Shi, J.-P., Huang, C.-J., Luo, M., Zhou, X.-M., Niu, H.-B., He, Z.-R. (2024)	<i>Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution</i> 201: 108199.
“Using global trade data to identify priorities for agarwood conservation and trade management”	Lai, K.W. , Zhang, H. , Yang, F. , Gale, S.W. (2025)	<i>Global Ecology and Conservation</i> 59: e03560.
“1092. <i>Begonia hongkongensis</i> FW Xing: Begoniaceae”	Landrein, S. , Li, M.C. , Williams, C. , Gale, S.W. (2024)	<i>Curtis’s Botanical Magazine</i> 41: 69–81.

Title	Authors	Journal/ Publication
“ <i>Thepparatia</i> vines (Hibisceae subtribe Trionum) phylogenomics and evolution”	Landrein, S. , Song, S.J., Zhang, J., Guo, Y.J., Shen, J.Y., Jiang, Q.Y., Low, S.L. (2024)	<i>Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society</i> 205: 391–402.
“A multi-gene phylogeny of the Asian kukri snakes (<i>Oligodon</i> Fitzinger, 1826): Sharpening the blade of the second largest serpent radiation (Reptilia: Squamata: Colubridae)”	Lee, J. L., Yushchenko, P. V., Suwannapoom, C., Pawangkhanant, P., Grismer, L. L., Van Nguyen, T., Yang, J. H. , ... & Poyarkov, N. A.	<i>Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution</i> , 201: 108215
“Aerial litter mimicry: A novel form of floral deception mediated by a monoterpene synthase”	Liu, M.F. , Chen, J., Goodrich, K.R., Chiu, S. K., Pang, C.C., Scharaschkin, T., Saunders, R.M.K. (2025)	<i>Journal of Ecology</i> 113: 302–321.
“Anatomical and ecological characteristics of <i>Apostasia nipponica</i> , a basal-most orchid, in light of high mycobiont dependence”	Umata, H., Gale, S.W. , Takagi, M., Ogura-Tsujita, Y. (2025)	<i>Research Bulletin of Kagoshima University Forests</i> 49: 1–12.
“Discovery of a peculiar insular race of <i>Ravenna nivea</i> (Nire, 1920)(Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae) endemic to Yinggeling Mountain of Hainan, suggesting heterogeneous geological history of mountain formation of the island”	Xue, G., Zeng, T., Lo, Y.F.P. , Wang, Q., Li, M., & Yang, J.	<i>PeerJ</i> , 12: e17172.
“An overlooked invader? Integrative analysis reveals the common wolf snake <i>Lycodon capucinus</i> Boie, 1827 is an introduced species to Hong Kong”	Yang, J. H. , & Yeung, H. Y.	<i>BiolInvasions Records</i> , 13(4): 1067–1079.
“Integrating both restoration and regeneration potentials into real-world forest restoration planning: A case study of Hong Kong”	Zhang, H., Lee, C.K.F., Law, Y.K., Chan, A.H.Y., Zhang, J. , Gale, S.W. , Hughes, A., Ledger, M.J., Wong, M.S., Tai, A.P.K., Wu, J. (2024).	<i>Journal of Environmental Management</i> 369: 122306.
“Tackling wild orchid trade in Hong Kong and South China using market surveys and DNA forensics. P. 23 in: Barstow, M., Dobai, N., Cowell, C., <i>BGCI Technical Review: The importance of botanic gardens in tackling the illegal plant trade</i> ”	Zhang, H. , Yang, F. , Gale, S.W. (2024)	Botanic Gardens Conservation International, Richmond, UK.
“Temporal shifts in the importance of environmental factors and management interventions among species in the early stages of forest restoration”	Zhang, J. , Cardoso, F.C. , Zhu, H. , Cheuk, M.L. , Fischer, G.A., Gale, S.W. (2025)	<i>Journal of Forestry Research</i> 36: 56
“Whole-Genome Analyses Reveal the Distinct Taxonomic Status of the Hainan Population of Endangered <i>Rucervus eldii</i> and Its Conservation Implications”	Zheng, C., Chen, Q., Wong, M. H. G. , Marx, N., Khotpathoom, T., Wang, H., Yang, J. H. , ... & Liu, Y.	<i>Evolutionary Applications</i> , 17(9): e70010.
“ <i>Tai Po Kau Forest</i> GEO Forest Dynamics Plot: Species Composition and Community Structure”	Zhu, H. , Zhang, J. , Hau, B.C.H., Shum, B.T.W., Ma, X.K.K., Lo, J.P.L., Fischer, G.A., Gale, S.W. (2024)	Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden, Hong Kong, China.



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