



26<sup>th</sup> Oct 2017

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By Fax and Email

Dear Sir or Madam,

**Re: 2017 data recorded at periphery of Tai Lam Country Park near Route 3 Toll Plaza**

Green Power has been carrying out the Butterfly Surveyor Programme since 2008. 11 local butterfly hotspots have been included in this programme, including Mui Wo, San Tau, Wu Kau Tang, Lam Tsuen, Yuen Tun Ha-Ta Tit Yan, Yung Shue O-Sham Chung, Pak Sha O-Lai Chi Chong, Luk Keng-Kuk Po, Sha Tau Kok, Lok Ma Chau-Long Valley-Ho Sheung Heung, Tai Lam Country Park. Please refer to the appendix which is the survey record for your reference.

The 2017-2018 survey was launched in June 2017, with more than 250 qualified butterfly surveyors participated. Until October 2017, a total of 172 butterfly species have been recorded in those butterfly hotspots. Among the 11 butterfly hotspots, Tai Lam Country Park (Kam Tin area), Sha Tau Kok and San Tau are ranked highest in terms of the number of butterfly species being found. From June to October 2017, 127, 112 and 99 species of butterflies were recorded in those three places respectively.

The record of rare butterfly species is one of the important parameters to assess the ecological value of a habitat. In 2017, our butterfly surveyors recorded fewer rare butterfly species in many butterfly hotspots. For instance, from June to October 2017, 10 rare butterfly species (those considered "Very Rare" and "Rare" by AFCD) were recorded in Luk Keng, which is fewer than an average of 15 species in the past few years. The average number of rare butterfly species encountered in past records of Pak Sha O-Lai Chi Chong was around 18. Similarly, from June to October 2017, only 8 rare butterfly species were recorded. The survey results may be related to ecological degradation of certain butterfly hotspots. Therefore, we would like to urge the Government to take prompt and effective actions. Development Permission Area Plans should be gazetted for butterfly hotspots with no statutory plans. For butterfly hotspots with statutory plans, their land use should also be strictly enforced against any unauthorized development.

Since 2017, Tai Lam Country Park has been covered by our Butterfly Surveyor Programme. 127 butterfly species have been recorded in a 10km butterfly survey route from Ho Pui to Ma On Kong Warden Post. With such findings, this area should be recognized as one of the butterfly

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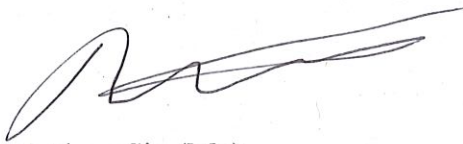
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Kong Warden Post. With such findings, this area should be recognized as one of the butterfly hotspots in the west of New Territories. The Government raised the possibility of using country park lands with low ecological value for housing. In May 2017, this area in Tai Lam Country Park was even selected as one of the two pilot sites for further study. According to our survey findings, this area is of high butterfly biodiversity rather than low ecological value as defined by the Government. Green Power advises the Government to abandon its development plan in Tai Lam Country Park, while it has yet to kickstart the feasibility study in the area. The Kam Tin area adjoining Tai Lam Country Park has ample brown fields with incompatible developments that deteriorate the environment and ecology. When Government's "Task Force on Land Supply" is about to discuss future land supply strategy, Green Power gravely urges the task force to include the brown fields in this area.

Should you have any questions arising from this matter, please feel free to contact me at 3961 0202 or via email [matthews@greenpower.org.hk](mailto:matthews@greenpower.org.hk).

Yours sincerely,



Matthew Sin (Mr.)  
Senior Environmental Affairs Manager

Attachment

List of "Very Rare", "Rare" and "Unclassified" butterflies found in 11 butterfly hotspots (2008-2017)