

19th Jan 2016

Mr. Michael WONG, J.P.,
Chairman,
Town Planning Board
15/F North Point Government Offices,
333 Java Road, North Point, Hong Kong
(E-mail: tpbpd@pland.gov.hk)

By Fax and Email

Dear Mr. WONG,

Re: Supplementary ecological information at local butterfly hotspots

Since 2008, Green Power has launched the Butterfly Surveyor Programme, of which nature enthusiasts are trained and equipped with butterfly ecological survey skills. Every year, new butterfly surveyors will be recruited and invited to visit different butterfly hotspots in the territory. Till 2015, 10 local butterfly hotspots have been surveyed through the programme, namely Mui Wo, San Tau, Wu Kau Tang, Lam Tsuen, Yuen Tun Ha, Yung Shue O-Sham Chung, Pak Sha O and Lai Chi Chong, Luk Keng, Sha Tau Kok, Lok Ma Chau-Long Valley-Ho Sheung Heung.

In 2015, around 20 butterfly surveyors conducted butterfly ecological surveys along a designated route in each butterfly hotspot. Until September 2015, 162 butterfly species have been recorded at 10 butterfly hotspots. Among them many are categorized as Very Rare and Rare species, such as Dark Brown Ace (*Halpe porus*) and Common Leopard (*Phalanta phalantha*). The number of butterfly species recorded in each butterfly hotspot in 2015 is shown in the table below. In addition, a list of Very Rare and Rare butterfly species being recorded at various hotspots is also attached for your reference. As a well-known bio-indicator, butterflies can always reflect the ecological integrity of an environment they inhabit. We appreciate if our findings may be retained by your department and they may facilitate your nature conservation works in future.

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Among the 10 butterfly hotspots under our monitoring, Sha Tau Kok, Lok Ma Chau–Long Valley– Ho Sheung Heung recorded the most rare butterfly species. 9 Rare and 6 to 7 Very Rare butterflies were recorded in both places respectively. In addition, a number of important findings were made at Sha Tau Kok. The first discovery of the European Beak (*Libythea celtis*) in Hong Kong happened at Sheung Tam Shui Hang, a village in Sha Tau Kok. We also discovered the Hooked Oak Blue (*Arhopala paramuta*), which was the first record in more than 30 years, at Sheung Tam Shui Hang. In September 2015, our butterfly surveyors also found a very rare butterfly, Malayan (*Megisba malaya*) in Sha Tau Kok, which has a very restricted distribution on Cheung Chau, at Deep Water Bay and a few locations on Lantau Island.

We are greatly concerned that both Sha Tau Kok and Lok Ma Chau were former Frontier Closed Areas. Yet, both places have been facing huge pressures for development since their opening in 2012 and 2013 respectively. Former Sha Tau Kok Frontier Closed Area has only been opened for three years. Housing estates formed by village houses, outdoor carparks, recreational farms and war game ground rapidly established in the area. Although there were less changes to Lok Ma Chau after its opening when compared to Sha Tau Kok, proposed development plans at Lok Ma Chau Loop is still threatening the conservation values of the area. Undoubtedly, any strategic development at Lok Ma Chau Loop will stimulate developments of different scale in the vicinity.

According to the Sha Tau Kok Outline Zoning Plan, large areas around the existing villages are designated as “V”zone. In fact, these areas are important feeding and breeding habitats for countless butterflies. If natural habitats were eventually replaced by village type development in the “V”zone, butterflies will be eradicated perpetually and the situation cannot reverse. In this connection, we appeal Town Planning Board to review the status of butterfly ecology of Sha Tau Kok and enhance the protection of the entire area in the context of land use planning. In addition to review the size and boundary of existing “V”zone, the area between the villages and fung shui woodland should be well preserved as a buffer zone to mitigate the human impacts on the fung shui woodland. Similarly, we also hope Town Planning Board may review the conservation status of Lok Ma Chau regularly, and closely monitor the development trend of the whole area.

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Should you have any inquiries or need any further information, please contact me at 3961 0202 or via email matthews@greenpower.org.hk.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Sin (Mr.)
Senior Environmental Affairs Manager

Attachment

- List of very rare and rare butterflies found in 10 butterfly hotspots by Green Power Butterfly Surveyors in 2015

cc. Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

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Very Rare and Rare Butterflies found in 10 Butterfly Hotspots by Green Power (2015)

Site	Rare Species	Very Rare Species	Unrated Species
San Tau	Common Rose (<i>Pachliopta aristolochiae</i>) Peacock Royal (<i>Tajuria cippus</i>) (Quantity : 2)	Metallic Cerulean (<i>Jamides alecto</i>) Tiny Grass Blue (<i>Zizula hylax</i>) (Quantity : 2)	
Luk Keng	Tailed Sulphur (<i>Dercas verhuelli</i>) Swallowtail (<i>Papilio xuthus</i>) White-banded Flat (<i>Gerosis phisara</i>) Jhora Scrub Hopper (<i>Aeromachus jhora</i>) Peacock Royal (<i>Tajuria cippus</i>) (Quantity : 5)	Sullied Sailer (<i>Sullied Sailer</i>) Pigmy Scrub Hopper (<i>Aeromachus pygmaeus</i>) Shiny-spotted Bob (<i>Isoteinon lamprospilus</i>) Yellow Band Dart (<i>Potanthus pava</i>) Forest Quaker (<i>Pithecops corvus</i>) (Quantity : 5)	<i>Euthalia niepelti</i> (Quantity : 1)
Wu Kau Tang	Tailed Sulphur (<i>Dercas verhuelli</i>) Small Grass Yellow (<i>Eurema brigitta</i>) Swallowtail (<i>Papilio xuthus</i>) Common Rose (<i>Pachliopta aristolochiae</i>) Jhora Scrub Hopper (<i>Aeromachus jhora</i>) Grass Demon (<i>Udaspes folus</i>) Powdered Oak Blue (<i>Arhopala bazalus</i>) (Quantity : 7)	Sullied Sailer (<i>Sullied Sailer</i>) Common Awl (<i>Hasora badra</i>) Pigmy Scrub Hopper (<i>Aeromachus pygmaeus</i>) Yellow Band Dart (<i>Potanthus pava</i>) Forest Quaker (<i>Pithecops corvus</i>) (Quantity : 5)	Angled Red Forester (<i>Lethe chandica</i>) <i>Euthalia niepelti</i> (Quantity : 2)

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Site	Rare Species	Very Rare Species	Unrated Species
Lam Tsuen (She Shan & Ng Tung Chai)	Common Rose (<i>Pachliopta aristolochiae</i>) Grass Demon (<i>Udaspes folus</i>) (Quantity : 2)	Yellow Band Dart (<i>Potanthus pava</i>) Metallic Cerulean (<i>Jamides alecto</i>) (Quantity : 2)	
Yuen Tun Ha	Tailed Sulphur (<i>Dercas verhuelli</i>) Orange Punch (<i>Dodona egeon</i>) Grass Demon (<i>Udaspes folus</i>) Lesser Band Dart (<i>Potanthus trachala</i>) Pale Palm Dart (<i>Telicota colon</i>) Lesser Forest Blue (<i>Taraka hamada</i>) Cornelian (<i>Deudorix epijarbas</i>) Common Cerulean (<i>Jamides celeno</i>) (Quantity : 8)	Sullied Sailer (<i>Neptis soma</i>) Small yellow sailor (<i>Neptis miah</i>) Dark Brown Ace (<i>Halpe porus</i>) Yellow Band Dart (<i>Potanthus pava</i>) Burmese Bush Blue (<i>Arhopala birmana</i>) Metallic Cerulean (<i>Jamides alecto</i>) Forget-me-not (<i>Catochrysops strabo</i>) (Quantity : 7)	

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Site	Rare Species	Very Rare Species	Unrated Species
Sham Chung & Yung Shue O	<p>Small Cabbage White (<i>Peris rapae</i>)</p> <p>Jhora Scrub Hopper (<i>Aeromachus jhora</i>)</p> <p>Great Swift (<i>Pelopidas assamensis</i>)</p> <p>Conjoined Swift (<i>Pelopidas conjunctus</i>)</p> <p>Powdered Oak Blue (<i>Arhopala bazalus</i>)</p> <p>Broad Spark (<i>Sinthusia chandrana</i>)</p> <p>(Quantity : 6)</p>	<p>Brown Onyx (<i>Horaga albimacla</i>)</p> <p>Forget-me-not (<i>Catochrysops strabo</i>)</p> <p>(Quantity : 2)</p>	
Sha Tau Kok	<p>Small Grass Yellow (<i>Eurema brigitta</i>)</p> <p>White-banded Flat (<i>Gerosis phisara</i>)</p> <p>Jhora Scrub Hopper (<i>Aeromachus jhora</i>)</p> <p>Lesser Band Dart (<i>Potanthus trachala</i>)</p> <p>Pale Palm Dart (<i>Telicota colon</i>)</p> <p>Conjoined Swift (<i>Pelopidas conjunctus</i>)</p> <p>Dark Swift (<i>Caltois cahira</i>)</p> <p>Peacock Royal (<i>Tajuria cippus</i>)</p> <p>Cornelian (<i>Deudorix epijarbas</i>)</p> <p>(Quantity : 9)</p>	<p>Small yellow sailor (<i>Neptis miah</i>)</p> <p>Pigmy Scrub Hopper (<i>Aeromachus pygmaeus</i>)</p> <p>Yellow Band Dart (<i>Potanthus pava</i>)</p> <p>Malayan (<i>Megisba malaya</i>)</p> <p>Metallic Cerulean (<i>Jamides alecto</i>)</p> <p>Forget-me-not (<i>Catochrysops strabo</i>)</p> <p>(Quantity : 6)</p>	<p>Common Banded Demon (<i>Notocrypta paralysos</i>)</p> <p>(Quantity : 1)</p>

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Site	Rare Species	Very Rare Species	Unrated Species
Pak Sha O & Lai Chi Chong	White-banded Flat (<i>Gerosis phisara</i>) (Quantity : 1)	Commander (<i>Modusa procris</i>) Dark Blue Tiger (<i>Tirumala septentrionis</i>) (Quantity : 2)	Eastern Pale Clouded Yellow (<i>Colias erate</i>) (Quantity : 1)
Mui Wo	Small Cabbage White (<i>Peris rapae</i>) Jhora Scrub Hopper (<i>Aeromachus jhora</i>) Grass Demon (<i>Udaspes folus</i>) Conjoined Swift (<i>Pelopidas conjunctus</i>) (Quantity : 4)	Metallic Cerulean (<i>Jamides alecto</i>) (Quantity : 1)	Common Banded Demon (<i>Notocrypta paralysos</i>) (Quantity : 1)
Lok Ma Chau- Long Valley- Ho Sheung Heung	Small Cabbage White (<i>Peris rapae</i>) Swallowtail (<i>Papilio xuthus</i>) Common Rose (<i>Pachliopta aristolochiae</i>) Jhora Scrub Hopper (<i>Aeromachus jhora</i>) Grass Demon (<i>Udaspes folus</i>) Oriental Straight Swift (<i>Parnara bada</i>) Dark Swift (<i>Caltoris cahira</i>) Peacock Royal (<i>Tajuria cippus</i>) Common Cerulean (<i>Jamides celeno</i>) (Quantity : 9)	Common Leopard (<i>Phalanta phalantha</i>) Pigmy Scrub Hopper (<i>Aeromachus pygmaeus</i>) Dark Brown Ace (<i>Halpe porus</i>) White Royal (<i>Pratapa deva</i>) Metallic Cerulean (<i>Jamides alecto</i>) Forget-me-not (<i>Catochrysops strabo</i>) Tiny Grass Blue (<i>Zizula hylax</i>) (Quantity : 7)	Eastern Pale Clouded Yellow (<i>Colias erate</i>) (Quantity : 1)

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