

Project 07/2007 – A study of the biodiversity of coral-associated polychaetes in Sharp Island

Project Number	07/2007						
Project Title	A study of the biodiversity of coral-associated polychaetes in Sharp Island						
Principal Investigator (PI)	Dr. Jian-wen GU of the Hong Kong Baptist University						
Project summary	<p>The purposes of this project are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) establish a collection of voucher specimens for coral-associated polychaetes, which can allow retrospective examination; (b) provide detailed text description and line-drawings of the key features to each species; (c) provide a list of polychaetes that are suitable for live display, which can be used to enhance the public appreciation of the beauty and diversity of coral-associated animals; (d) produce an educational leaflet to show the diversity and function of polychaetes in coral ecosystems, and the common species in local waters, and (e) provide information for AFCDD to update the webpages relating to the diversity of coral-associated animals 						
Project Duration	24 months						
Proposed Budget	<p>The total budget is \$471,859, comprising the following items:</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td>1 Research Assistant</td> <td>\$343,920</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Equipment</td> <td>\$9,100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>General Expenses</td> <td>\$118,839</td> </tr> </table>	1 Research Assistant	\$343,920	Equipment	\$9,100	General Expenses	\$118,839
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Assessments/Remarks	<p>The project was originally proposed to be conducted inside Hoi Ha Wan marine park. Upon AFCDD advice, the PI revised the site of the study to Sharp Island.</p> <p>External assessor 1 supports the proposed research. The existing inventory on marine invertebrates, particularly the polychaetes has been outdated for more than 20 years</p>						

	<p>and the database of AFCD with only few species registered from coral habitats does not reflect real situation. The knowledge obtained in this study can be useful information for marine environmental protection, reef check and biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>External assessor 2 recommends the study be funded by a university research grant. While the project has scientific value in polychaetes taxonomic research, establishment of an inventory of species biodiversity is a basic research that is more appropriately funded by the university. AFCD shares assessor 2's view that the study is a bit academic in nature.</p> <p>In response to assessors 2's comments, the PI adds two educational components in the revised proposal: a leaflet for distribution to the public and a graphical key of common species for AFCD website use.</p> <p>As overseas expenses are generally not supported, the proposed sum of \$50,839 for the PI to visit University of Amsterdam should not be supported.</p> <p>Members are invited to advise whether the application for ECF should be supported and if supported, the exact amount of fund to be recommended to the ECF Committee for approval.</p>
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Secretariat, ECF Research Projects Vetting Subcommittee
February 2008