

Approved Pilot Conservation Management Agreement Project

Project Proponent	Conservancy Association (CA)
Project Title	Sustainable Habitat Management in Long Valley
Site involved	Long Valley
Description	CA will cooperate with local farmers to manage their farmlands through Habitat Deterioration Prevention Agreement or Habitat Diversity Enhancement Agreement. Active conservation works will be carried out to enhance the heterogeneity within the habitat of abandoned agricultural lands. Food web study will be conducted to provide important ecological information of Long Valley.
Duration	1 November 2005 – 31 March 2008
Approved Amount	\$1,308,299.75
Short Summary of the Findings / Outcomes of the Project	<p><u>Habitat Management</u></p> <p>We have reached a total of 32 agreements to manage 608,960 sq ft of farming area in Long Valley. The diversified habitats of Long Valley under the project have shown effects on local biodiversity. Habitat monitoring reveals that farmland abandonment, aging population of farming activity and development are the major threats of wetland habitats for Long Valley.</p> <p><u>Biodiversity Monitoring</u></p> <p>Biodiversity monitoring results demonstrate the enhanced biodiversity in Long Valley after implementation of habitat management measures particularly at previous abandoned farmlands, especially for the enhancement of number and species of birds. Many previously unrecorded amphibians, mammals and reptiles species were suggested by the farmers.</p> <p>Study of “Elucidation of Food Webs in Wetland Habitats with Long Valley, Hong Kong” shows that the most abundant macroinvertebrates in Long Valley are Oligochaete and Chironominae with two snail species <i>Physa acuta</i> and <i>Pomaceae canaliculata</i>, and conventionally cultivated wet agricultural land has the lowest diversity and abundance of</p>

birds. The study suggests future management measures should aim at increasing the abundance of Oligochaete worms and Chironominae in the wetland and control the human disturbances.

Other studies suggest the need of a more comprehensive Apple Snails control and measures to assist the further development of sustainable agricultural in Long Valley.

Public Involvements

Several conservation activities, trainings and workshops for stakeholders and public were held to promote Long Valley conservation. Promotion activities for Long Valley organic produces (transitional) were organized under the project, Publics can support Long Valley conservation and agriculture by purchasing the organic produces.