New Application

<table>
<tr><td>Project Number</td><td>01/2013</td></tr>
<tr><td>Project Title</td><td>Assessment of the ecological role of birds in Hong Kong's secondary forests</td></tr>
<tr><td>Principal Investigator (PI)</td><td>Mr. Lau Wai Man, Chairman of The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society</td></tr>
<tr><td>Project summary</td><td>The purpose of the project is to assess the bird-dispersed seed-rain in Hong Kong's secondary forests throughout a year, in order to investigate the role of avifauna on ecological succession. By conducting a bird-ringing scheme and collection of bird faecal samples in selected secondary forests in Hong Kong, the project aims to-

• elucidate the seasonality of fruit preference of forest bird species in Hong Kong;
• quantify the seed dispersal ability of different bird groups;
• identify the plant species that are dispersed by birds and assess the germination rate of seeds collected from the fecal samples;
• understand the activity patterns of the forest-inhabiting bird species and
• identify plant species that are suitable for being used in future plantation.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Research Theme</td><td>Ecological and geo conservation</td></tr>
<tr><td>Project Duration</td><td>20 months</td></tr>
<tr><td>Proposed Budget</td><td>The total budget is $487,000, comprising the following items:

<table>
<tr><th>Item</th><th>Amount Requested ($)</th></tr>
<tr><td>Administrative and overhead cost</td><td>18,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>Equipment
- include bird ringing equipment (e.g. mist nets, metal bird rings, balances, pillars, bags, poles, strings, hammers, saw) and pots, vials, electronic balance, forceps and soil for seed germination experiment</td><td>41,750</td></tr>
<tr><td>Travelling during 14 survey months (total 36 and 4 additional surveys)
@ $400/survey × 40 surveys</td><td>16,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>Others
- General expenses (including stationary, film development, photocopying and printing, cartridge and toner)
- Report printing, delivery of report and CD Rom (@ $35 x 50)
- Insurance (@$5,000)
- Auditing fee (@$5,000)</td><td>15,250</td></tr>
</table>
</td></tr>
</table>

	(Cont'd) **Item**	**Amount Requested ($)**
	Manpower <u>Field Survey and bird ringing</u> - 1 Project researcher (including 36 surveys and 4 additional surveys for emergency purpose) @ $1,100 × 40	44,000
	- 2 Senior project researchers (including 36 surveys and 4 additional surveys for emergency purpose) @ $2,200 × 80	176,000
	<u>Seed germination experiment</u> - 1 Senior project researcher (including faecal samples sorting and analysis, plant identification, seed germination experiment and seed bank management for 36 and 4 additional surveys) @ $2,200 × 40	88,000
	<u>Staff cost</u> - Project manager @ $2,200 per man-day × 20 days	44,000
	- Part-time project researcher (preparing data analysis and writing of interim, technical and completion reports) @ $1,100 per man-day × 40 days	44,000
	Total	**487,000**
Assessments/Remarks	See <u>Appendix</u>. Members are invited to advise whether the application for ECF should be supported and if supported, the exact amount of fund to be granted.	

Secretariat, ECF Research Projects Vetting Subcommittee
February 2014