

Environmental Research, Technology Demonstration and Conference Project

ECF Project:	ECF 2021-155
Project Title:	Assessment of the population status of the endangered Hong Kong cascade frog (<i>Amolops hongkongensis</i>)
Principal Investigator:	Dr Sin Yung Wa, Assistant Professor, School of Biological Sciences, The University of Hong Kong
Total Approved Grant:	\$794,080
Duration:	1/7/2022 to 31/12/2024
Project Status/Remarks:	On-going
Project Scope:	<p>Amphibians worldwide are currently undergoing massive scale of population decline or extinction. The Hong Kong cascade frog (<i>Amolops hongkongensis</i>) was first discovered from and primarily found in Hong Kong SAR. It is classified as endangered because its geographical range is very restricted and severely fragmented. <i>Amolops hongkongensis</i> is facing several environmental stressors, including habitat modification, the pathogenic chytrid fungus, microplastic pollutants, and climate change. These increasing threats prompt for a more accurate assessment of its current population status by the IUCN. Although <i>A. hongkongensis</i> is one of the three endangered amphibian species in Hong Kong, detailed information on its population status is largely unknown, except for the basic information on its distribution range. Therefore, in this study, it is proposed to determine the census and effective population size, population structure, genetic diversity, and inbreeding level of <i>A. hongkongensis</i>. This proposed project will provide critical knowledge for conservation planning, as well as an important reference to monitor and assess its temporal population change in the future.</p>
Summary of the Findings/Outcomes:	To be available upon completion of the project