

## Environmental Research, Technology Demonstration and Conference Project

<b>ECF Project:</b>	ECF 2022-104
<b>Project Title:</b>	Environment and Conservation Fund - Connecting the dots: a standardized and quality-assured marine biodiversity database for Hong Kong
<b>Principal Investigator:</b>	Professor Williams Gray, School of Biological Sciences, The University of Hong Kong
<b>Total Approved Grant:</b>	\$1,021,000
<b>Duration:</b>	1/8/2023 to 31/7/2025
<b>Project Status/Remarks:</b>	On-going
<b>Project Scope:</b>	<p>Southeast Asia lies within the world's hotspot for marine biodiversity, and yet the knowledge of the species in Hong Kong is sparse and fragmented across different research groups. While it is known that there is a rich marine biodiversity this information is difficult to access and held in small, specialised archives. To address this knowledge gap this project will collate past and current data sets, joining them together to create a quality-assured and globally standardised format which can be used for future collation and assessment of Hong Kong's marine biodiversity. This database will include a diverse variety of information, from species names (linked to the World Registry of Marine Species); locations; references cited; pictures and links to DNA Barcodes etc to provide a holistic source of information which can be accessed at different levels of priority; including members of the general public, schools, NGOs, government departments and scientific experts. As such this project will contribute to various levels of Hong Kong society, as well as the HKSAR Government's Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan (BSAP) and developing Hong Kong Biodiversity Information Hub (BIH).</p>
<b>Summary of the Findings/ Outcomes:</b>	To be available upon completion of the project