

Environmental Research, Technology Demonstration and Conference Project

ECF Project:	ECF 2022-112
Project Title:	Environment and Conservation Fund - Fish Community Monitoring: Environmental Factors and Marine Protected Area Effectiveness
Principal Investigator:	Dr Schunter Celia Marei, School of Biological Sciences, The University of Hong Kong
Total Approved Grant:	\$1,306,000
Duration:	1/1/2024 to 30/6/2026
Project Status/Remarks:	To be commenced
Project Scope:	Reef fish diversity is key to healthy coral reef ecosystems. With ever-increasing pressures on coral reefs in Hong Kong it is key to develop an optimal monitoring method to understand the diversity of fish species present and be able to monitor changes. The project proposes a systematic comparison of underwater visual surveys and environmental DNA techniques to study Hong Kong's reef fish communities with the aim to develop an optimal method to obtain a comprehensive understanding and monitoring tool for reef fish communities. The project will then apply this monitoring tool to evaluate the effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas in Hong Kong in the conservation of coral reef fish species and their potential spillover effect beneficial to commercial fisheries.
Summary of the Findings/ Outcomes:	To be available upon completion of the project