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Wetland Management Training Programme

Introduction

Using Mai Po Nature Reserve as a case study, WWF-Hong Kong has trained fellow wetland conservationists from mainland China and elsewhere in Asia about the fundamental concepts of wetland conservation, nature reserve management, and environmental education since 1990. In addition to the many frontline wetland conservationists benefiting from the programme, many former participants are now in very senior government positions influencing the policies of wetland conservation in mainland China. The programme has provided them with an eye-opening opportunity and changed their concepts in wetland conservation; and in return they spread the message of wetland conservation across China.

Purposes

Drawing the experiences and success from previous wetland management training programmes, the purposes of the Programme are:

- To enhance knowledge on the value of wetland ecosystems to human and wildlife;
- To improve participants' skills and techniques with respect to wetland conservation, management practices and environmental education programme;
- To use the Mai Po Nature Reserve and the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site as a case study to demonstrate the practical application of wetland reserve management and environmental education programme;
- To provide an opportunity for participants to exchange their experiences, techniques and knowledge regarding wetland conservation, management, and environmental education programme;
- To offer on-site technical advices for important wetlands.

This programme leverages on WWF-Hong Kong's existing skills and experience to achieve maximum conservation and education goals.

Venue for the Training

Mai Po Nature Reserve, Yuen Long, New Territories, Hong Kong

Target Participants

Management staff of wetland nature reserves/wetland parks, governmental officials in charge of wetland conservation, environmental educators, planners/designers of wetland nature reserves/wetland parks, researchers related to wetland conservation, and other people with job duties related to wetland conservation

Type of Training

Wetland Management Training Course: Duration is generally 8 days. Capacity of each course is approximately 10 participants. The target participants are wetland management staff/officials.

Wetland Management Study Tour: Duration is 2-4 days. Capacity of each tour is approximately 10 participants. The target participants are government officials associated with wetland conservation.

Major Training Contents

According to the backgrounds and job duties of participants, training contents can be tailor-cut to cater for the actual needs of participants. Major contents include:

- Basic Knowledge on Wetlands
- Wetland Management Principles & Methods
- Wetland Research & Monitoring
- Environmental Education for Schools
- Nature Appreciation & Ecotourism
- Wetland Restoration Methods
- Designing of Wetland Reserves & Wetland Parks
- Wetland Management Planning - How to Develop a Management Plan

Training Approaches

The programme is conducted in small groups with substantial interactions including:

- Indoor lectures and Discussions
- Field Studies
- Case Studies and Analysis
- Experience Sharing
- Demonstration of educational activities
- Practices/exercises on Programme Design
- Practices/exercises on Management Plan Development

Technical Supports & Cooperation

Trainers from WWF-Hong Kong can visit the sites managed by the participants to provide on-site technical supports and advices on wetland management such as habitat management, environmental education and ecological monitoring. Possibility of future cooperation can be explored.

Benefits of Joining the Programme

- The participants are able to master the advanced wetland management and environmental education knowledge and skills through the cases of other countries/regions.
- Field studies of protected areas such as country parks, marine parks and Hong Kong Wetland Park enable participants to experience different management strategies, techniques and hardware.
- The participants can start to develop management strategies for their own sites by using their sites for management planning and programme designing practices/exercises under the guidance of trainers.
- An opportunity to establish networks and exchange views with other wetland managers can lay down foundation for future cooperation.

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