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HONG KONG

35 YEARS
OF CONSERVATION

About Life

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生命之延

Living On the Edge

Hong Kong Ecological Footprint shows no sign of slowing and across the planet, human pressure is causing degradation of natural systems.

ENRICH PEOPLE'S LIVES ENRICH YOUR LIVES

點滴奉獻 豐富人生



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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE



The About Life team discusses with Peter Cornthwaite, CEO WWF-Hong Kong the outcome of the Living Planet Report 2016 and Hong Kong's ecological footprint.

"The results are in and the situation is not encouraging. As I feared there has been a further deterioration in Hong Kong's ecological footprint, that highlights our city's overconsumption of natural resources and if everyone consumed at the rate of Hong Kong, we would need 3.9 planets to support our lifestyle. When will this trend be reversed? We now need a clear action plan to reduce our city's dependence on fossil fuels, wastefulness and start to embrace low carbon living.

© WWF-Hong Kong



WWF-Hong Kong proposes that the city steps up its efforts and looks at the various policies and measures necessary, as outlined in the booklet *Transform Hong Kong into Asia's Most Sustainable City* available on our website at <https://goo.gl/7tuIQs>. In the next Chief Executive's term our community needs to come together to support investment in more technologies that can provide energy efficiency, deal with waste and harness renewable energy, incentivize deployment of PV solar, support zero carbon buildings, with more electric vehicles and charging stations. We need to make our communities realise it's for all of us as individuals to make the difference and start to think more about what we consume and how to live more sustainably, to avoid plastics that end up polluting our oceans and produce less waste. This may cost us all a little more in terms of time and money but it is worth it, as the economic consequence of not doing something will be greater the longer we delay.

Support a change in the way you and your family approach life in our city and join WWF on the upcoming Run for Change 2017 – towards low carbon living to be held on 19 February 2017 at Hong Kong Science Park. Event details at: wwf.org.hk/run

Peter Cornthwaite
Chief Executive Officer
WWF-Hong Kong

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GLOBAL CONSERVATION NEWS



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WWF PRESSES FOR BETTER WORLD HERITAGE SITE PROTECTION

In July, the World Heritage Committee met in Istanbul to discuss some of the world's most important natural places, many of which are under threat from harmful industrial activities. At the meeting, WWF requested specific urgent actions be taken regarding several key natural World Heritage sites. For example, we asked the government of Belize to ban all offshore oil exploration, as a spill anywhere in its waters would threaten the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System World Heritage site and the livelihoods of almost 200,000 people who depend on income generated by the reef's tourism and fishing activities.

The committee requested that Belize extend a buffer zone around the reef, which was a positive development. In Istanbul, WWF also advocated for other threatened World Heritage sites in Poland, Tanzania and Russia, saying that "We have a collective responsibility to protect these places, which are the shared heritage of present and future generations, and sustain the well-being of millions of people".



© Ken Chan / WWF-Hong Kong

COOPERATION IN DNA FORENSICS AGAINST RHINO POACHING



The scale of rhino poaching in South Africa keeps escalating driven by increasing demand from Asia particularly in countries such as Vietnam and China. In June, a scientific workshop on the RhODIS® system was organized in South Africa. RhODIS® (Rhino DNA Indexing System) is an Africa-wide rhino database funded and established by WWF to document the DNA profiles of Rhinocerotidae which have been poached and their horns removed. The system aims at enabling enforcement offices in Asia to trace rhino horn seizures to the poached rhino carcass, building stronger cases to bring transnational criminals to justice.

Law enforcement officers, scientists and environmental offices from more than 15 countries including WWF-Hong Kong's Ken Chan, Research Officer from WWF-Hong Kong attended the workshop. Delegates worked in Kruger National Park to examine and collect evidence from poached rhino carcasses and gained first-hand experience of crime scene management. The Rhinos wildlife forensic protocol in prosecution can effectively shut down transnational criminal syndicates that are supplying the demand from Asian buyers. The techniques of DNA analysis can be applied beyond rhinos to protect other endangered species.

Hong Kong is a major transit and trade hub, but there is a lack of forensic capacity in DNA testing of seized ivory or rhino when dealing with wildlife crime. This enforcement gap needs to be closed by training officers as soon as possible.



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CITIZENS HELP WRITE SNOW LEOPARD SUCCESS STORY

The snow leopard is a beautiful, endangered big cat that lives in mountainous regions of Central and South Asia. Mongolia is home to around 1,000 snow leopards, between 13 and 22% of the estimated global population. However, Mongolian snow leopard numbers have been falling, primarily due to poaching and a reduction in their natural prey due to over-hunting of ibex and marmots.

To help improve the situation, WWF-Mongolia enlisted ordinary people. Nomadic herders were trained in the principles of citizen science and learned to conduct surveys and install automated camera traps on mountainsides. After the cameras revealed that snow leopards were being caught in vicious jaw traps by other nomads in retaliation for livestock raids, WWF staff turned to schoolchildren in one western province, asking them to see how many jaw traps their parents owned. Eventually, the children convinced their parents to turn in hundreds of traps which were then turned into a sculpture. But the children were not content with this victory – they then presented a petition to their provincial governor and eventually the national minister who, in April this year, issued a directive to all Mongolian provinces that these traps must be eliminated – a great success for citizen scientists and snow leopards!



© James Morgan / WWF-US



WISDOM FOR CLIMATE

In Hong Kong, we haven't yet managed to cut down our own carbon emissions. Meanwhile, Bhutan has already committed to a nationwide effort to cutting carbon emissions both in Bhutan and beyond their country. Bhutan has pledged to reforest its land to become a carbon sink in support of the COP21 Paris Agreement. Bhutan has set a world record for the most trees planted – nearly 50,000 in one hour. The country is now absorbing three times more CO2 emissions than its 700,000 population produces. Bhutan is a buddhist country where they measure soft GDP and the GHI, the general happiness index. Bhutan has continually been ranked as the happiest country, and the world's most 'carbon negative' country. It is a wisdom which could be shared across the world. WWF is working on the 'Bhutan for Life' to maintain and manage the country's parks and wildlife corridors in perpetuity.



© Michel Terrelaz / WWF



TOYOTA JOINS FORCES WITH WWF ON FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Tokyo – This July, WWF and Toyota entered into a five-year agreement aiming to support global sustainability. Together, the two organizations will work to promote biodiversity conservation, raise environmental awareness and speed up the move to a zero carbon society. As part of the agreement, Toyota will support the Living Asian Forest Project, a new series of WWF activities which will work to conserve tropical forests and wildlife in priority places in Southeast Asia like Indonesia's Kalimantan and Sumatra, and later expanding to the Greater Mekong region. The project will also focus on increasing the sustainability of natural resources such as wood, palm oil and natural rubber – a key component of car tyres. Toyota will donate USD1 million to the Living Asian Forest Project in 2016 and will continue its support for five years.

"We need more private sector organizations like Toyota to step up and find solutions to these challenges", commented Marco Lambertini, Director General of WWF International. "WWF commends Toyota's vision to help make a safer, healthier and more sustainable world a reality for future generations and our living planet".



To our ancestors, the Earth's resources seemed inexhaustible. Vast forests and deep oceans teemed with life, their timber, game and fish providing all that we needed to live, prosper and spread across this planet. And that we did, all throughout human history and up to the "great acceleration" in human activity and prosperity.

Until one day, suddenly, there weren't quite enough resources to match our ever-growing demand. Human activities had reached the point where we were using more of the Earth's bounty during a year than the planet could replenish.

Even today, in 2016, many of us still fail to grasp the size and scale of human enterprise that has grown exponentially

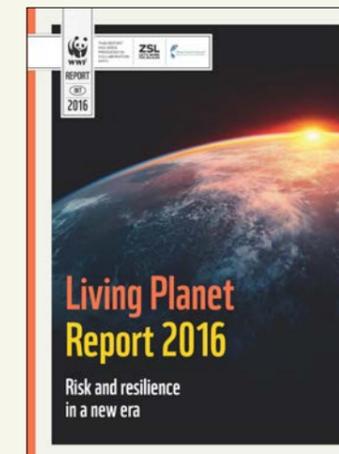
since the mid 20th century, having far-reaching impact on our planet.

The proof is in the numbers, and the latest Living Planet Report 2016 – which details the decline of vertebrate species across the planet – contains some very disturbing numbers. Since the 1970s, the human population has grown by over 90 per cent but in the same time period, the population sizes of other vertebrate species have declined by a distressing 58 per cent. Forests have shrunk to a fraction of their former size, our rivers and seas have been emptied of fish. It sounds dramatic, but it's the simple truth: we have gone past the limits of our planet to replenish itself and for decades we have been living beyond our capacity causing a global ecological overshoot.

UNDERSTANDING EARTH OVERSHOOT DAY

Overshoot occurs when humanity's consumption of natural resources exceeds the ability of the planet to regenerate those resources. This process is measured through a series of calculations and distilled into a global standard called the Ecological Footprint, which can be applied at both the global level and for individual countries and cities.

In the mid-1980s, a British organization called the New Economics Foundation determined a straightforward way of explaining this concept to the public: Ecological Debt Day, now known as Earth Overshoot Day. This is the theoretical day when humanity has consumed all the resources that the Earth can provide in a year, after

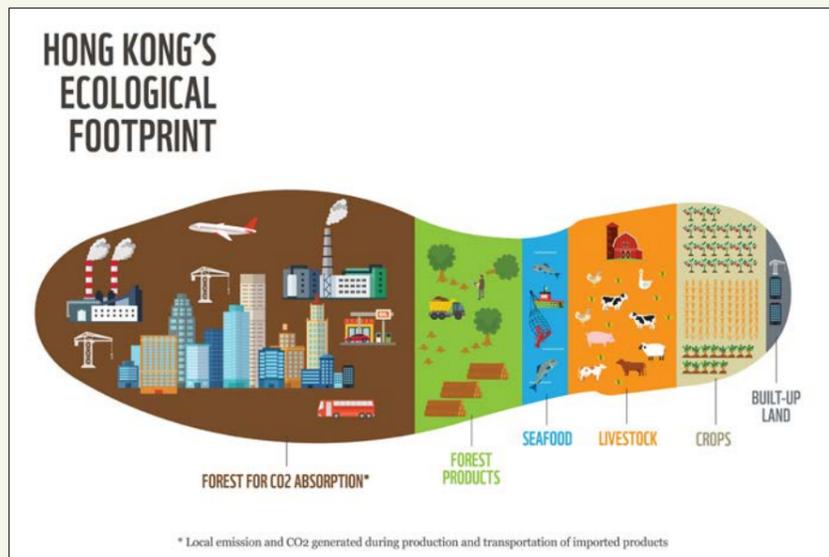


which the Earth is in ecological overshoot – "borrowing" resources from the following year. A formula is used to determine the day: take the Earth's biocapacity (i.e. the resources that are generated over a year), divide it by the resources that humanity consumes over that year, and then multiply that figure by 365.

Since its launch in 1987, Earth Overshoot Day has been moving relentlessly earlier each year. In 2000, the date was 1 October; in 2014, it was 19 August and this year, Earth Overshoot Day fell on 8 August.

As we know, Hong Kong's demand for natural resources is extremely high, and our city has a per capita Ecological Footprint much larger than many other nations: we are ranked 17th globally and second in Asia. We consume far more than we produce, and while this is unavoidable in a small, urbanized place, the size of our demand is truly disturbing. If all of humanity led the unsustainable lifestyle that we do in Hong Kong, our resource demands would require 3.9 Earths. The size of our Ecological Footprint is sending us a clear warning signal.

The Global Footprint Network (GFN) – a think tank focusing on the Earth's ecological limits and how economic systems can work within them – points out that "every scientific model used to account for human demand and nature's supply shows a consistent trend: We are well over budget when it comes to our planet, and that debt is being compounded by an addiction to fossil fuels and over-consumption. This ecological debt will have dire economic and human consequences with crop failures, food shortages, soil erosion, and the build-up of CO₂ in our atmosphere."



A LIVING PLANET?

Mother Nature has already been paying a heavy price for years, but how bad is the situation. Now the Living Planet Index (LPI) reveals the true scale of the problem our planet faces. The latest report paints a dark picture of degradation: between 1970 and 2012, terrestrial populations have declined by 38 per cent, marine species declined by 36 per cent and freshwater species crashed by 81 per cent.

This steep, stark decline is driven by various factors. Two of the most significant are the loss and degradation of habitats caused by human activities, our unsustainable agriculture and logging practices; and the overexploitation of species through illegal or unsustainable hunting and fishing. The situation is bad and getting worse – we are losing species through man-made extinction faster than before. Populations of critically-important species around the world continue to fall – in Africa three elephants are killed for their ivory tusks every hour, Pacific Bluefin tuna populations have plummeted by 97 per cent from their original number, and here in Hong Kong, the Chinese White dolphin numbers continue their relentless fall to just 65 in the latest figures released in 2016.

A BLEAK FUTURE

So here we are, with people thriving and still prospering on a planet poised on the brink. Is it too late? Is it even possible to change course? As individuals, what can we do to alter this situation? The answer is to focus on taking responsibility as individuals and this begins with the choices we make on a daily basis.

Firstly and most importantly, it is never too late to change. While humanity's negative impact on the natural world has never been greater, our positive impact could

reach new heights if we embrace low carbon living and sustainable consumption and restore species populations and biodiversity. Examples: though rampant poaching is devastating species across the world, WWF supports programmes dedicated to protecting and restoring species, working together with governments around the world committing to bans on the illegal trade in wildlife. Our energy consumption has never been greater, yet our ability to produce and use renewable energy is now such that we can switch to renewables and increase their deployment exponentially. Although biodiversity is being damaged in every corner of the world, our awareness and understanding of how our planet works is continuing to rise. We know better than ever what we need to do, and now it is up to us to act on this knowledge.



© WWF China

Humanity's collective effort will change the course of over-consumption and over reliance on fossil fuels. The landmark 2015 Paris Climate Agreement has united the world in the fight against climate change, while the recent CITES CoP 17 meeting saw a number of far-reaching agreements made which could make the world safer for endangered species. The Global Sustainable Development Goals announced in 2015 by the UN show that social, economic and environmental agendas are beginning to converge at the international level and we can change to ensure the planet's future for people and nature to thrive.



CHANGE BEGINS WITH ME

What can we do at the local level? How can I help? Each one of us can start with the choices we make every day when we purchase products, buying new electrical goods, clothes, food or make a decision to switch to an electric vehicle. As families we can look at the food and clothes we buy – where do they come from? How do they get here? How much electricity does our household consume? Was this item sustainably produced? Develop an understanding of your own consumption habits and start learning how your personal lifestyle and choices could send a message and protect us against global warming.

Latest figures show that as much as 76 per cent of our Ecological Footprint here in Hong Kong comes from our daily choices, whether they are at the individual, family or company level. The four main drivers of our Footprint are “clothing”, “food”, “electricity, gas and other fuels”, and “personal transportation”. With almost no productive agricultural land, Hong Kong imports nearly everything, meaning the impact of our consumption creates ripples far beyond our city. The cotton in our jeans might come from

Tajikistan, Pakistan or America. The seafood in our meals may come from Indonesia, Australia, Canada or even Antarctica. The carbon released from the coal or natural gas burned to keep our lights on and our devices running adds to the problems of global warming and climate change. Every purchase decision can impact our planet. Start by saying no to plastic bottles and plastics.

While there is much to think about and consider, living a more sustainable lifestyle does not have to be difficult or complicated. Small, everyday actions repeated by many people can create positive change. The crisis our planet is facing is real and severe and has been caused by humanity's inability to recognize and live within the limits of our one planet.

“These changes are upon us, and if we are awed by the scale of the challenges that this generation is facing, we should be equally motivated by the unprecedented opportunity to build a future in harmony with the planet.”

-Marco Lambertini, Director-General, WWF International

Living within Earth's limits - Top Tips

Clothing

- Reuse your wardrobe and ask whether you really need to buy new items
- Recycle unwanted clothes or swap them for other goods
- Choose clothing made from organic cotton

Food

- Eat sustainable seafood listed on WWF-Hong Kong's Seafood Guide
- Buy seasonal produce from local farmers whenever possible
- Only buy or order what you can consume to reduce food waste

Living

- Choose electrical appliances with an “Energy Efficiency Grade 1” label
- Reduce your use of paper
- Choose paper and timber products that are certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

Travel

- Take public transport, drive less and drive an electric vehicle
- Walk or bike whenever you can
- Travel by train and avoid taking flights where possible. If it is necessary to travel by air, opt for direct flights and offset your carbon emissions.



WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Globally, WWF's Market Transformation Initiative allows us to carry out conservation work by creating long-term transformational partnerships with corporations around the world in areas like water stewardship, forestry and fisheries. To work with corporations to foster the economic benefits of working together for a sustainable future, WWF-Hong Kong set up its Corporate Membership Programme in 2000 to invite companies to participate in our conservation programmes as well as seminars and audit on low carbon office and low carbon supply chain environment (LOOP and LCMP). By working with us, our corporate supporters can contribute to creating a sustainable planet, and in return gain tangible benefits from lowering emissions, fostering more engaged

staff and ensuring a business with more competitive advantage and meeting customer expectations.

In this 35th Anniversary year, we are looking to our current corporate members to spread the message on a sustainable business environment and encourage their business contacts to join with us to Transform Hong Kong into Asia's Most Sustainable City.

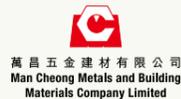


WWF-Hong Kong Corporate Members (As at 1 August 2016)

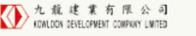
DOUBLE DIAMOND MEMBERS



DIAMOND MEMBERS



GOLD MEMBERS



PEARL MEMBERS

- Canon Hongkong Company Limited
- Cathay Pacific Airways
- Dah Chong Hong Holdings Limited
- Galaxy Entertainment Group
- HAYCO GROUP
- Hong Kong Baptist Hospital
- The Hong Kong Jockey Club

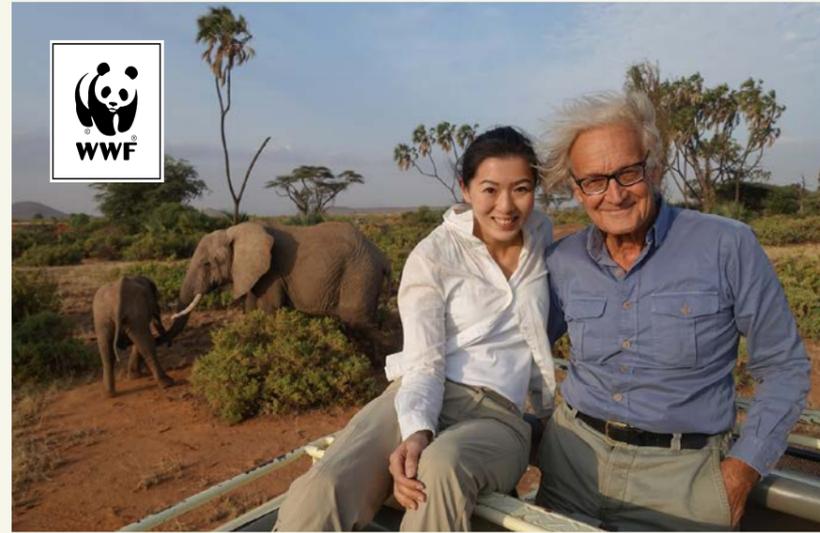
- HP Inc Hong Kong Limited
- Linklaters
- MUJI (Hong Kong) Company Limited
- Noble Group Limited
- Simatelex Group
- Victor and William Fung Foundation

SILVER MEMBERS

- AEON Stores (Hong Kong) Co., Limited
- AFSC Operations Limited
- Arup
- AXA Hong Kong
- Bank of Communications Co., Ltd Hong Kong Branch
- The Bank of East Asia, Limited
- The Body Shop (HK & Macau)
- Bond Apparels International Limited
- Bridgestone Aircraft Tire Company (Asia) Limited
- Centuryan Environmental Services Group Limited
- China Aircraft Leasing Group Holdings Limited
- Chun Wo Development Holdings Limited
- Cinda International Holdings Limited
- CITIC Telecom International Holdings Limited
- Como Como
- Convoy Financial Group
- COSCO International Holdings Limited
- Cree Hong Kong Limited
- Crocodile Garments Limited
- The Dairy Farm Company Ltd - 7-Eleven
- D&G Technology Holding Co. Ltd.
- Ecolab Limited

- Elite Partners CPA Limited
- Emperor International Holdings Limited
- First Shanghai Group
- General
- Global International Credit Group Limited
- Gravity Partnership Limited
- Great Eagle Holdings Limited
- Hinrich Foundation
- HNA Group (International) Company Limited
- Hong Kong Aero Engine Services Limited
- Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (Management) Limited
- Hong Kong Disneyland Resort
- The Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited
- Hopewell Holdings Limited
- Hysan Development Company Limited
- Inchcape Hong Kong
- Japan Home Centre (H.K.) Limited
- Johnson Matthey Pacific Limited
- KPMG
- Lamma Rainbow Seafood Restaurant Limited
- LAWSGROUP
- Leo Paper Group (Hong Kong) Limited
- Lidl Hong Kong Limited
- Light Engine Limited
- Linkz Industries Limited

- Lombard Odier
- Long Data Technology Limited
- Manulife (International) Limited
- Mayer Brown JSM
- McDonald's Restaurants (Hong Kong) Limited
- Meinhardt Consulting Engineers
- Meiriki Japan Company Limited
- Modern Terminals Limited
- MTR Corporation
- M.Y.Cheng & Co. (Engineering) Limited
- Neonlite Electronic & Lighting (H.K.) Limited
- New World Development Company Limited
- Olympus Capital / Asia Environmental Partners
- Orient Overseas Container Line Limited
- PCCW Limited
- Sa Sa International Holdings Limited
- Schmidt Marketing (H.K.) Limited
- Shenzhen International Group Holdings Limited
- Simmons Bedding & Furniture (HK) Limited
- Sinomax Health & Household Products Limited
- Swarovski Hong Kong Limited
- Texwinca Holdings Limited
- Thong Sia Watch Co., Limited (SEIKO)
- Top Form International Limited
- Turner International Asia Pacific Ltd.



IN THE FIELD WITH AFRICA'S WILDLIFE

Cheryl Lo - Senior Wildlife Crime Officer

WWF-Hong Kong's recent campaign to end the ivory trade and domestic market in Hong Kong focused on the loss of 20,000 of Africa's elephants every year. Suddenly, people all across Hong Kong are talking about ending the ivory trade. Cheryl Lo, WWF's Senior Wildlife Crime Officer, has been campaigning to end transnational trade in endangered species.

Cheryl was recently assigned to our Kenyan office to share her experience and take part in on-the-ground support work in tackling wildlife crime, engaging local communities and in particularly researching the role of Chinese nationals in fuelling wildlife crime in East Africa.

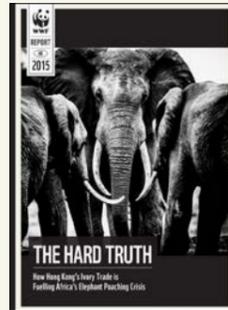
Why did you start working in conservation?

I graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, majoring in mass communications. Prior to WWF, I worked in corporate branding and communications, but a passion for animals I've had since I was very young led me to WWF. I've always felt that animals are exploited by humans because they cannot speak up for themselves. When I am close to nature I see how our planet was intended to be, and I don't want our Earth to lose species that we have.

Tell us a little more about your work with WWF.

This year marks my fifth year at WWF-Hong Kong – I started in 2011. Currently, I work in environmental advocacy and conservation, working to reduce the impact that wildlife crime is having on priority species like elephants. In Hong Kong and whilst on attachment to WWF-Kenya this summer, my work focuses on reducing the demand for key wildlife products on Asian market in Hong Kong. The report called *The Hard Truth: How Hong Kong's Ivory Trade is Fuelling Africa's Elephant Poaching Crisis*, in 2015 made a big impact around the city when it

came out and was followed by the ivory campaign, 'Rewrite Their Future', to show the cruelty of ivory trade where elephants are slaughtered to remove ivory.



© WWF-Hong Kong



What is your favourite species? Why?

I love cheetahs; I could just stare at them for hours. Everything about them is perfect – they're built for extreme speed, they're beautiful and elegant. Generally, they are very civil and refined and quite tame when near people. But I feel very sorry for them: human development has dramatically shrunk their habitat and they are forced to live in close proximity with other predators, ones which they traditionally could avoid. The impact of this is that they are being out-competed: it consumes huge amounts of energy for them to catch and kill their prey.



© Martin Harvey / WWF



© WWF-Hong Kong

Using exceptionally high speed, but before they can take a bite, the prey is stolen from them by others predators like hyenas. Even worse, their relatively docile character attracted humans to capture adorable cheetah cubs as exotic pets. Overall, the cheetah's chance of survival is slim – they are the fastest animal on Earth, but ironically they are racing towards extinction.

What is your role in Kenya and what are you seeking to achieve?

Kenya and Hong Kong are working together on effort to end transnational trade in endangered species. Besides campaigning in Hong Kong, it is important to support the amazing work on the ground in Africa. I have been involved with the WWF-Africa team:

- Mapping out the illegal wildlife trade and the involvement of Chinese nationals in this trade;
- Participating in fieldwork support, which includes anti-poaching activities that use advanced technology to strengthen rangers' work, collaring and monitoring elephants etc.
- Working on sustainable development to engage local communities to protect and live alongside wildlife.

Can you tell us about some of your experiences when in the field?

Africa represents the cradle of life where the human race started. Africa is home to so many amazing animals – the largest, the fastest, and even the most human-like. But this is a critical time: wild nature still exists in Africa, but it could be lost forever if we continue to push species to the brink of extinction.

Wild animals may be perceived as being dangerous simply because they are wild and untamed. But since I've been here, in the field I've learned that the relationship between

humans and wildlife is incredibly dynamic – in areas where there has been severe poaching and human encroachment, wildlife becomes wise to the danger and more wary of human encounters. But in areas where people and wildlife live in harmony, animals can often become curious and come close to humans. Sometimes, when animals are injured, they head for protected conservation areas.

Have you discovered anything whilst on assignment?

I've gained a much deeper understanding of the scale of the problem with the illegal wildlife trade. A great deal of hard intelligence exists on how the illegal trade and wildlife crime syndicates operate and it is time that Hong Kong works to interrupt the supply chain. Learning about wildlife crime from inside a wildlife range state definitely helps WWF's efforts to press law enforcement to tackle crime in the Asian countries that are often the final destination for illegal wildlife products.

What's happened at CITES COP17?

As a WWF delegate, I participated in the CITES CoP17 in South Africa in September. The international treaty CITES is an important mechanism which, if directed correctly, can be used to regulate the trade of endangered species and provide resolutions for 183 governments around the world to follow.

CITES COP17 protected the listing key species like elephants and reiterated the need to end illegal trade and poaching. It requires our deep thought and serious consideration as to which proposal serves wildlife's best interests. The CITES COP17 made progress to issue a call on governments with a resolution to end domestic ivory markets worldwide.



WOODN'T IT BE NICE?

The Earth's forests are often referred to as the "lungs of our planet", removing carbon dioxide from the air and producing vital oxygen for us to breathe. Forests are also reservoirs of biodiversity – providing essential habitat for plants and animals, especially endangered species. 13 countries across Asia support WWF's motion to protect forest range that is vital to our effort to double tiger numbers across Asia by 2022.

Forests are a source of timber and pulp, raw materials that allow us to build houses, furniture and create paper products. The challenge for conservationists is ensuring that forests are in balance and that humanity's needs for wood and paper are not serviced at the expense of the natural world. The best way to create this balance is through responsible, sustainable forest management supporting only certified sustainable product – a key component of WWF's vision for a future in which people and nature thrive.

FORESTS NEED TO BE PROTECTED AND CERTIFIED

Forest certification is the best way to improve forest management. Certified forests are better monitored,

and the timber and pulp which are derived from these forests adhere to an agreed set of standards and are thus better produced, traced and labelled. Certified forests take into account the social and economic well-being of forest workers and the local communities that surround them. Best of all, properly certified forests ensure that the essential habitats for the plants and animals which call them home are maintained – keeping species protected and promoting conservation.

There are more than 50 forest certification schemes operating in the world today, spread across many different countries and regions. However, certification does not necessarily lead to responsible forest management – to be more than "just a green label", a scheme must abide by comprehensive management standards, rigorous control mechanisms and engage a wide range of stakeholders from across the economic, environmental and social spheres.

FSC, THE BEST FOREST CERTIFICATION SYSTEM

In 2015, WWF used our Forest Certification Assessment Tool to evaluate three of the biggest global forest certification schemes, looking at their standard strength –

i.e. what requirements forestry operations need to fulfil in order to become certified; and their system strength – the rules and procedures that regulate the system. Of the three, the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) came out on top.

In WWF's opinion, FSC is currently the best forest certification system, as it ensures the environmentally responsible, socially beneficial and economically viable management of forests around the globe – positive impacts which have been confirmed repeatedly through independent research. As the fastest-growing certification programme in the world, FSC is leading well-managed forest projects all over the globe – they have certified more than 180 million hectares of forest in 80 countries.

WWF PARTNERING WITH FSC IN AUSTRALIA

Consumers in Australia can now check for FSC-WWF LOVE YOUR FORESTS logo. Forest managers, policymakers and businesses alike, especially here in Hong Kong, need to be on the lookout for timber that comes from non-certified or even illegal sources. By purchasing products with an FSC label, consumers and businesses can support sustainable industries.

A recent WWF-led study of the economic impacts of FSC certification on forest operators showed that having the scheme led to real, quantifiable benefits including higher profits, retention of key customers, improved staff morale and improved community relations; on top of the many environmental and social benefits.

FSC embodies "Profitable sustainability" that balances the needs of the environment with the needs of humanity.



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READ MORE ABOUT FSC AND FSC-CERTIFIED PRODUCTS

I AM NOT A TRINKET

More than 20,000 elephants are being slaughtered annually for their tusks, which have been turned into ivory trinkets and statues.

Please help STOP it!

Enquiry: 2526 1011
wwf.org.hk

© Martin Harvey / WWF

© WWF-Hong Kong



TURNING THE TIDE AGAINST MARINE LITTER

WWF's unique two-year community action Coastal Watch Project has brought green groups, community action groups and government together to tackle the marine litter issue. Across Hong Kong, attention has focused on the enormous amount of waste that is on our shores, beaches on the sea surface and underwater.

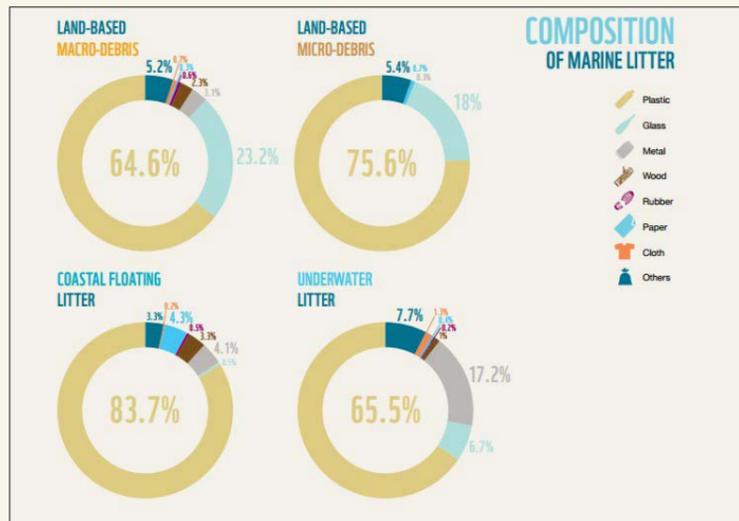
From 2014 to 2016, 2,000 volunteers conducted 130 surveys at 34 coastal habitat sites around Hong Kong. Thanks to everyone's hard work, the project revealed the fact that on average, between 60 and 80 per cent of the litter in Hong Kong's marine environment is composed of plastic. Plastic litter is widespread in the ocean – this is a problem that society needs to face up to and take seriously by spreading the message not to use plastic bottles to look to reduce waste, recycle and reuse.

In April 2015, Lap Sap Wan, Hong Kong's most severe marine litter black spot was the focus of our intrepid volunteers. The isolated bay was an environmental catastrophe: the entirety of this natural pebble beach was

covered by 185 tonnes of litter. Only six months after that, the beach at Lap Sap Wan was once again covered with marine litter. This reflects an important truth: beach clean-ups are not the ultimate solution to marine litter problem – we need to tackle the marine litter problem at its source.

Hong Kong's marine litter problem is not unique. On 5 June this year, Coastal Watch volunteers collaborated with NGOs from mainland China and Macau to conduct a massive, coordinated clean-up.

Coastal Watch has inspired meaningful action by volunteers to stop marine litter by the "Knock Plastic Out of the Ocean" pledge. The pledge asks government and the business sector to agree on a producer responsibility scheme which will see items produced in a more sustainable way. Visit the Coastal Watch Exhibition at HK Maritime Museum from 28 Oct to 26 Feb; to learn more about how the community can reduce marine litter waste. Join WWF in a volunteer action against marine litter at wwf.org.hk.



130 Surveys
34 Coastal habitats
2,000 Volunteers

© WWF-Hong Kong



THE "REEL" SITUATION

In mid-October, WWF announced the results of a year-long study into the environmental, legal and social risks of frozen seafood for sale at 9 major Hong Kong supermarket chains.

With Hong Kong being the second largest per capita consumer of seafood in Asia, and the eighth largest in the world, our seafood choices can impact the health of our oceans. As one of the largest aggregate purchasers of seafood in Hong Kong, our supermarkets have incredible purchasing capacity which can tip the balance and either make things better for the sustainability of the world's oceans – or worse, causing degradation of ocean's resources.

WWF's investigation examined the purchasing practices of the nine major supermarket chains in Hong Kong and 21 of their sub-brands and was divided into two parts. First, a risk matrix was developed which ranked each supermarket chain and sub-brand in terms of their association with seafood linked to serious environmental, social and legal problems; and second, a series of field studies were done to examine their exposure to these risks in more detail.

THE RISK MATRIX

The risk matrix concentrated on four products: frozen shrimp, grouper, sea cucumber and basa. These products were chosen as these are relatively well-known seafood for Hong Kong, have considerable impact on the environment and our consumption of these seafood in Hong Kong has

significance to regional and global waters. Our preliminary market survey also confirmed the relatively wide availability of these seafood in the nine supermarket groups. All these products were available in the market in frozen form. Unlike seafood in live or chilled form, the packages of these frozen products come with certain levels of detail such as species, country of origin, information of suppliers, importers, distributor and packagers, which were critical data for us to be able to undertake in-depth research.

Through a market survey, the team recorded 657 samples of seafood from 96 supermarkets, tracing and logging the information and undertaking desktop research to develop an indicative risk rating. The rating ranged from 1 (low risk) to 3 (high risk), with analysis revealing that 11 supermarket brands fell into the high risk category and 10 were medium risk.

Check out here to know which supermarket is doing relatively better than others

Seafood Supply Chain Risk in Hong Kong Supermarkets



© Jürgen Freund / WWF-Canton

These results should resonate across the entire supermarket sector: the status quo is unacceptable and purchasers urgently need to look at how to improve their seafood sourcing practices. Simply put, supermarkets need to take action immediately by implementing a comprehensive seafood procurement policy. Through setting up and implementing a procurement policy that addresses these issues, supermarkets will reassure their consumers that they can shop with confidence for environmentally sound, safe and ethically acceptable seafood products.



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DISCOVERING MAI PO TOGETHER

The “Discovering Biodiversity in Hong Kong Wetlands” project, launched for more than a year now, has recruited over 450 “citizen scientists”. Together with WWF and a group of local wildlife experts and species specialists, over fifteen biological surveys have been conducted across the Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay Ramsar site. The species under scrutiny include mammals, *gei wai* aquatic creatures, benthic fauna, insects, crabs and spiders. Here we would like to share some of our research results as well as some thoughts from our “citizen scientists”.

MAI PO BIODIVERSITY

The area around Mai Po provides food and habitat for over 400 species of birds than can number 60,000 in winter months. The reserve and Inner Deep Bay Ramsar site is home to a rich variety of resident and migratory wildlife. Thanks to the generous support of The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (HSBC), we were able to commence this two-year project in March 2015. Conducting

biological surveys at Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay Ramsar site, the project provides us with the latest information on local wetland biodiversity. The species composition at the reserve is extremely helpful to reserve staff in carrying out habitat management and restoration work.

DISCOVERING EURASIAN OTTERS

In 2015 summer, our group of citizen scientists set up ten infrared cameras traps at Mai Po. A picture of a Eurasian otter (*Lutra lutra*) was captured in a *gei wai* in March 2016. Eurasian otters are listed as near threatened on the Red List of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Experts believe that they could only be found in the area of Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay in Hong Kong. Mai Po Nature Reserve continues to serve as a pristine habitat for such species. Camera traps captured other mammals like Small Asian mongoose (*Herpestes javanicus*), Leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*) and Small Indian civet (*Viverricula indica*).

OUR YOUNG CITIZEN SCIENTISTS SPEAK OF THEIR EXPERIENCE



“I am glad my friends and I were able to join this effort. I have learnt a lot about different kinds of mudflat inhabitants!”

Kong Wong



“It is a rare opportunity for me to carry out studies at Mai Po. The most unforgettable part was the study of water quality since I could visit different *gei wais* and get to know the names of bird species.”

Wong Cheuk Yin



“I really like the dragonfly study. I was able to personally experience what I could see only from textbooks before. There are indeed many different kinds of species in Hong Kong. We should not destroy the natural environment like country parks but protect them.”

Edward Chow



“I have only heard the names of some species before. The scheme allows me to finally see rare species and know more about species of Mai Po like the Eurasian otter found by the infrared camera trap.”

Cheung Chui Lam



“It is normally difficult to see nocturnal animals but now we could thanks to the technology. This data collected is important since it lets us know that animals are very close to us even if we can't see them ourselves. This could also increase awareness towards conservation.”

Lawrence Chow

WWF would like to extend our special thanks to HSBC for supporting the “Discovering Biodiversity in Hong Kong Wetlands” project.



Organisms research

© WWF-Hong Kong



Eurasian otter

© WWF-Hong Kong



Spider research

© WWF-Hong Kong

The “Discovering Biodiversity in Hong Kong Wetlands” symposium

Date: 11 and 12 Feb 2017

Venue: Hong Kong Science Museum

Symposium Overview:

This two-day symposium will highlight the survey results to the general public and to emphasize how citizen scientists can actually contribute to professional scientific researches for nature conservation. It will also bring together with all related parties such as the government officials, local species experts and universities students etc. to exchange wetland species and management experience.



Pak Nai

TURNING OUR HOTSPOTS INTO HOPESPOTS



This issue comes with a bonus map. No ordinary map but one that introduces 31 marine ecological hotspots identified in Hong Kong waters in a study by WWF between 2015 & 2016. You may ask: “What’s a marine ecological hotspot? And why we need to identify those hotspots?”



Marine ecological hotspots are home to representative, rare or threatened species and habitats that merit conservation or further scientific study. Working in tandem with more than 30 experts, WWF has identified 31 marine ecological hotspots based on best available information and six globally recognized scientific criteria, adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity of the United Nations Environment Programme, for evaluating Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs).

Evaluation criteria for Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas

- Uniqueness or rarity
- Special importance for life-history of species
- Importance to threatened, endangered or declining species and/or habitats
- Vulnerability, fragility, sensitivity or slow recovery
- Biological diversity
- Naturalness

MARINE ECOLOGICAL HOTSPOTS

Spread all across the world’s oceans, these EBSAs incorporate a range of incredible environments – from the rare and beautiful seamounts scattered across the North Pacific, to the rich and productive waters of Southern Madagascar, to the deep and mysterious Hellenic Trench in the Mediterranean Sea.

31 HOTSPOTS NEED OUR PROTECTION

Hong Kong waters also support a number of diverse and unique marine environments – ones which face an unprecedented number of threats. In 2015 WWF-Hong Kong commenced a project to investigate and identify some of the local marine ecological hotspots.

Experts from Hong Kong’s universities, NGOs, consultancies and the government took almost a year to complete, the first stage of the project – identifying and mapping the hotspots according to the EBSA criteria. Representing the breadth and depth of our marine biodiversity, the 31 hotspots found in every corner of the waters surrounding Hong Kong have been depicted on a new WWF map.

31 BEAUTIFUL PLACES

These hotspots span Hong Kong, from east to west – Hoi Ha Wan, a bay with mangrove and more than 120 species of reef fish with stony corals, black corals and sponges, or the waters of west Lantau which are key to the survival of our beloved Chinese white dolphins. North to south, hotspots include Starling Inlet near the Chinese border, with its thick mangroves and extensive mudflats, is home to one of Hong Kong’s largest surviving populations of Mangrove horseshoe crabs. To the south, the uninhabited Soko Islands are the only places in Hong Kong where both Chinese white dolphins and finless porpoises can be found. The islands also provide a place for terns to breed and a home for the locally-rare False Pillow Coral. Dozens more sites provide refuge for threatened fish species, rare species of coral and seabirds.

PROTECT 10 PER CENT OF HONG KONG WATERS

As plentiful and diverse as the hotspots are, some of them face serious threats – from high-speed ferries shuttling people around the Pearl River Delta which create the threat of collisions to dolphins, to underwater noise disturbance



Breaker Reef



Three Fathoms Cove



Hoi Ha Wan

and habitat loss from construction and reclamation projects, to many other man-made dangers.

Our marine ecological hotspots are both important and unique. They need protection to restore biodiversity degraded over the last 20 years. Protected areas allow threatened species to thrive and breed, and facilitate depleted fisheries to recover; they also help build up marine ecosystems’ resilience against natural disasters and climate change. By promoting the sustainable use of our natural resources, through well-managed fisheries and eco-tourism for example, the well-protected hotspots will conserve the marine environment, generate wealth and sustain livelihoods.

The next stage of the project will identify those hotspots in need of priority protection and management, and recommend conservation measures for them, which will include threat assessments and need to establish more marine protected areas. Our goal is to uphold the Convention on Biological Diversity’s Aichi Target, and protect and then restore at least 10 per cent of Hong Kong waters. By working together, we can make this goal a possibility.

WWF would like to extend our special thanks to the Swire Trust for supporting the Sea for Future project.



© Global Warming Images / WWF



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URBAN GREEN VANCOUVER

Vancouver is a popular destination for Hong Kong emigrants and students studying abroad. Nonetheless, one little-known aspect of the city to most of us is that Vancouver has a target of being 100 per cent renewable and reducing carbon emissions by at least 80 per cent by 2050. This ambitious 'Renewable City Strategy' is setting a good example for cities around the world, where we face challenges to meet carbon emission targets and improve sustainability in our cities.

Vancouver 100% renewable

In response to the accelerating rate of climate change, Vancouver has committed to a 35-year Renewable City Strategy from 2015 to 2050, in order to become a 100 per cent renewable city. Some 46 per cent of the city's current energy comes from natural gas. The challenge to move away completely from fossil fuels in 35 years and transit to 100 per cent renewable energy is tremendous. With commitment to a goal to hold the increase in global average temperature below 2°C, all advanced economies have to phase out fossil fuel use by 2050, and Hong Kong is no exception.

RENEWABLE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

STEP 1 - Kick start Zero Carbon Living

The first step towards zero carbon emission is to cut energy demand from our cities around the world. Admirably, Vancouver shows us a determination to reduce city-wide energy use by 35 per cent within the next 35 years including zero-emission standards in new building construction, as well as establishing and enforcing carbon intensity limits for new developments.

STEP 2 - Renewable energy for Zero Carbon

In order to phase out fossil fuels completely, the next step is to increase renewable energy supply. Vancouver city plans to expand existing supply and develop new Neighbourhood Renewable Energy Systems (local energy networks) to 15 per cent of total energy use. Rooftop electricity-generating PV solar panels are one such solution. Vancouver aims to achieve renewables from 14 per cent biofuels, 10 per cent biomethane and small scale (1 per cent) hydrogen of total energy use to increase electricity supply and decrease the reliance on large-scale power stations. Between 2010 and 2014, Vancouver invested CAD\$31 billion in renewable electricity projects, building a solid foundation for the city to a renewably-powered future.

An Action Plan for Hong Kong

Like many cities around the world, Hong Kong can transition from our dependence on fossil fuels to renewable energy. Hong Kong now needs a net-zero carbon roadmap to make our city sustainable. Investment in developing renewable energy is of paramount importance as natural resources such as solar and wind energy are replenished constantly and emission free. Hong Kong can power at least 5 per cent of the city by local renewable energy, reduce our dependence on importing fossil fuels, and cut the absolute carbon emissions by up to 40 per cent by 2030. The government should take the first step in introducing a feed-in-tariff mechanism in our electricity market, providing a reasonable return to the investors for small-scale renewable energy generation systems. Individuals and corporates can also benefit from this new market model and play their crucial part in reducing carbon emissions. (<https://goo.gl/7tuIQs>)



See WWF Urban Green film documentary showing how cities around the world can become sustainable cities



跑出未來

Run for Change 2017

共建太陽能城市 For a Solar Powered City



香港科學園 Hong Kong Science Park

19 / 2 / 2017 (星期日 Sun)

活動詳情
Event Details
wwf.org.hk/run



截止報名日期
Enrolment Deadline:
23/1/2017

Hong Kong's Ecological Footprint

17

When Hong Kong is compared with other countries in the world, our per capita Ecological Footprint global ranking is 17.

3.9

Number of Earths needed to fulfil our resource needs if everyone on Earth had the same lifestyle that we have in Hong Kong



6.7 gha

Per capita Ecological Footprint for Hong Kong citizens is 6.7 gha(global hectares)

76%

Percentage of Hong Kong's Ecological Footprint arising from our daily choices, at the individual, family or company level



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 Registered Name 註冊名稱: World Wide Fund For Nature Hong Kong 世界自然(香港)基金會
 (Incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability by guarantee 於香港註冊成立的擔保有限公司)

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