WWF-Hong Kong Overview of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Programmes 2016 - 2017
WWF

WWF is one of the world’s largest and most respected conservation organizations, with a global network active in more than 100 countries. WWF-Hong Kong has been working since 1981 to deliver solutions for a living planet through its Conservation, Footprint and Education programmes.

“ESD empowers learners to take informed decisions and responsible actions for environmental integrity, economic viability and a just society, for present and future generations, while respecting cultural diversity.”

UNESCO

WWF-Hong Kong is committed to helping fully implement ESD across Hong Kong. During the 2016-2017 school year, WWF will be organizing a wide range of ESD programmes for students under three broad themes: Wetland Conservation, Marine Conservation, and Ecological Footprint. The content of the programmes will meet the needs of schools across Hong Kong in terms of the set curriculum and in terms of extra-curricular learning, specifically:

- General Studies
- Liberal Studies
- Integrated Science
- Biology
- Geography
- Moral, Civic and National Education
- Environmental Education
- Other Learning Experiences
- Life-wide Learning
- Extra-curricular activities

WWF will begin taking applications for the 2016-2017 school year in June 2016. Application details and information related to all of WWF’s ESD programmes are available on the WWF website: wwf.org.hk/schools/en.

Application

wwf.org.hk/schools/en (online application)
Due to limited programme quotas, all applications will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Enquiry

Phone: 2526-1011 (Press 5 after selecting the language)
Email: education@wwf.org.hk
# Primary School Education Programmes

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outdoor Learning centre</th>
<th>Education programme</th>
<th>Target Level</th>
<th>Number of participants</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Activity Period</th>
<th>Application Procedure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mai Po Nature Reserve</td>
<td>Wetland Detective</td>
<td>Primary 4-6</td>
<td>30-40 students, 2-4 accompanying teachers</td>
<td>Weekdays, except Wednesdays and public holidays</td>
<td>3 hours</td>
<td>Free of charge (cost is covered by the Education Bureau subvention)</td>
<td>Whole year</td>
<td>Online applications are available at <a href="http://www.wwf.org.hk/schools/en">www.wwf.org.hk/schools/en</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Island House Conservation Studies Centre</td>
<td>Story of Bird</td>
<td>Primary 1-3</td>
<td>20-40 students per group, including 2-4 accompanying teachers</td>
<td>One week or more, depending on school requirements</td>
<td></td>
<td>HK$100 per student, HK$100 for the first two accompanying teachers, HK$250 per extra teacher</td>
<td>Only available in Summer and Autumn (between April to October)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hoi Ha Marine Life Centre</td>
<td>The Mini-world of Mai Po</td>
<td>Primary 4-6</td>
<td>30-40 students per group, including 2-4 accompanying teachers</td>
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<td></td>
<td>HK$50 per student and accompanying teacher</td>
<td>Whole year</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Campus</td>
<td>Green Teenage Diary</td>
<td>Primary 4-6</td>
<td>All students and teachers at the school</td>
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<td>Details available upon request</td>
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<td></td>
<td>STEP (Outreach programme)</td>
<td>Primary 1-6</td>
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## Cross Key Learning Areas - General Studies Strand
- People and Environment
- Science and Technology in Everyday Life
- Community and Citizenship
- Global Understanding and the Information Era

## Other related curriculum
- Moral, Civic and National Education
- Project Learning
- Life-wide Learning
## Secondary School Education Programmes

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<tr>
<th>Outdoor Learning Centre</th>
<th>Mai Po Nature Reserve</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Education programme</strong></td>
<td>Wetland Reserve Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Target level</strong></td>
<td>Secondary 1-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of participants</strong></td>
<td>30-40 students, 2-4 accompanying teachers</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Date</strong></td>
<td>Weekdays except Wednesdays and public holidays</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Duration</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fee</strong></td>
<td>Free of charge (cost is covered by the Education Bureau subvention)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Application Procedure</strong></td>
<td>Online applications are available at <a href="http://www.wwf.org.hk/schools/en">www.wwf.org.hk/schools/en</a></td>
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<tr>
<th>Related curriculum</th>
<th>Liberal Studies</th>
<th>Integrated Sciences</th>
<th>Science</th>
<th>Geography</th>
<th>Biology</th>
<th>Other related curriculum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hong Kong Today</td>
<td>Energy Technology and the Environment</td>
<td>Balance in Nature</td>
<td>Looking at Living Things</td>
<td>Living Things and Air</td>
<td>Organisms and Environment</td>
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<tr>
<th>Education programme</th>
<th>Marine Ranger</th>
<th>Marine Discovery</th>
<th>Oceanographer</th>
<th>Coastal Ecologist</th>
<th>Sustainable City @ Tai Po</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Target level</td>
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<td>Secondary 1-3</td>
<td>Secondary 4-6</td>
<td>Secondary 4-6</td>
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<td>Number of participants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Weekdays except Wednesdays and public holidays</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>4 hours</td>
<td>3 hours and 30 minutes</td>
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<td>Fee</td>
<td>First 10 groups supported by Sino Group and Ng Teng Fong Charitable Foundation</td>
<td>HK$100 per student, HK$100 for the first two accompanying teachers, HK$250 per extra teacher</td>
<td>HK$50 per student and accompanying teacher</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Science</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Introducing Science</td>
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<td>Looking at Living Things</td>
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<tr>
<td>Living Things and Air</td>
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<tr>
<td>Materials of the Modern World</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Geography</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Changing Climate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oceans in Trouble</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building a Sustainable City</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global Warming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Biology</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organisms and Environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Applied Ecology</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Other related curriculum**
Moral, Civic and National Education, Project Learning, Life-wide Learning and Other Learning Experience
Mai Po Nature Reserve

Located in the north-west corner of Hong Kong, the Reserve lies at the heart of Hong Kong’s only internationally-designated wetland. With its rich diversity of wetland habitats including gei wai (traditional shrimp ponds), mangroves, intertidal mudflats and reed beds, a vast variety of wildlife species make the Reserve their home or transit point. Known as Hong Kong’s “bird paradise”, Mai Po is an important habitat and staging site for local and migratory waterbirds. During the winter months, spectacular scenes are often encountered when up to 60,000 migratory birds roost in Deep Bay. Since 1983, WWF-Hong Kong has been actively managing Mai Po Nature Reserve, carrying out extensive wetland conservation and education work.

Featured theme: Wetland Conservation

Wetland habitats are an important part of the wider ecosystem. Significantly, these habitats support large numbers of waterbirds and allow migratory birds to rest and feed. As “nature’s lifeline”, these wetlands are vital to the lives of humans and other species. However, numerous human-induced threats, especially urban development, are causing harm to coastal wetland habitats all around the world and here in Hong Kong.

Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park was one of the first designated marine parks in Hong Kong and is home to a diverse range of marine life. The Park contains over 60 species of stony corals and over 120 species of coral-associated fish. The Jockey Club HSBC WWF-Hong Kong Hoi Ha Marine Life Centre (“the Centre”) was established in 2004, and is Asia’s first “classroom on the sea”. The Centre also features Transparency – the first specially-designed glass-bottomed boat in Hong Kong. The boat provides a unique opportunity for students to appreciate and understand our priceless marine resources and offers an ideal place to enhance their learning experiences.

Featured theme: Marine Conservation

Hong Kong’s waters once teemed with a rich biodiversity, nurturing over a thousand marine species, including many native species. However, as the threats of urban development, pollution and overfishing have advanced, our marine ecosystem has drastically deteriorated. Hong Kong’s huge appetite for local and regional seafood has pushed some marine species to the brink of extinction, and our waters continue to face a barrage of threats – some of which are increasing in intensity.

Students can explore the undersea world of Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park through the glass-bottomed boat, Transparency.
Island House Conservation Studies Centre was built at the beginning of the 20th century, and was the former official residence of the District Commissioner of the New Territories. Island House is now a declared historic heritage site under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance. The grounds of Island House are a mixture of formal English-style gardens and lawns, with over 140 species of plants. WWF began operating and managing Island House in 1986, transforming it into a Conservation Studies Centre for promoting Education for Sustainable Development and cultural heritage.

**Featured theme: Ecological Footprint**

The Ecological Footprint is a tool used to measure the extent of humanity’s demand for the Earth’s natural resources. While humanity as a whole is living beyond the limits of what the Earth can provide, Hong Kong people are notoriously high consumers. According to the latest data, if everyone on Earth lived the lifestyle that Hong Kong people do, we would need the equivalent of 3.1 Earths to satisfy our demand for resources.

**Why ESD is Important to Hong Kong Students**

Mr Yamme Leung, WWF-Hong Kong’s Education Director, has been enriching and expanding young minds with regard to the environment for over 13 years. He draws on his extensive background in addressing and explaining environmental issues to guide WWF’s education strategy into the future. Yamme truly believes that ESD is a fundamentally important part of education in Hong Kong.

**Why is ESD important?**

YL: WWF’s founder, Sir Peter Scott, said a few decades ago that “the most important task, if we are to save the Earth, is to educate”. We believe that ESD is a key strategy for building a future in which humans live in harmony with nature. UNESCO provides a comprehensive definition of ESD*, saying, among other things, that “for present and future generations [we must] take informed decisions and responsible actions for environmental integrity”. Both of these concepts are crucial to educating children in present-day Hong Kong. Our hope is that these future pillars of society will be concerned about other people and future generations, rather than living their lives in a selfish or egocentric manner. ESD is the perfect platform for young people to learn about an individual’s responsibility to the planet and the environment; this knowledge will empower them to make informed decisions in their daily lives.

*Remark: “ESD empowers learners to take informed decisions and responsible actions for environmental integrity, economic viability and a just society, for present and future generations, while respecting cultural diversity.”* - UNESCO

**How do you get young learners interested in nature conservation?**

YL: The first step is to “bring them back” to nature where our passionate and experienced educators create a connection with them. Through field studies and interactive learning, they naturally and organically develop an interest in nature. Eventually after enough exposure, the young learners will realize their responsibility to conserve the natural world.

**Has the public’s attitude towards conservation changed in the last decade?**

YL: Yes. People’s awareness and knowledge of environmental issues has generally increased. They have become more willing to speak up when they become aware of conflicting issues between urban development and nature conservation. Turning this knowledge and awareness into a real change is the next big challenge for us: it is not easy to “educate” someone into making a life-long commitment to nature, especially in a place that heavily promotes consumerism and materialism. But as always, this challenge is another opportunity. If we persevere with ESD, the next generation will become more aware of the environment and eventually their thoughts will turn into action.

**How is the WWF Education Team addressing this challenge?**

YL: WWF International President Yolanda Kadabadse Navarro says “If we want any hope of conserving nature in times to come, we need to inspire and empower our amazing young people as leaders of the future and the ultimate agents of change.” WWF has always tried to empower the next generation to support conservation. Young people are encouraged to ask questions and become engaged in the learning process. Our ESD programmes emphasize fun and interaction, with artwork, role-playing and drama elements being important parts of our ESD programmes.
Primary School Education Programmes

Shark Adventure  Hoi Ha Wan

**Activity format**
Role play, drama in education

**Related General Studies curriculum**
People and Environment, Global Understanding and the Information Era

**Activity highlights:**
Learn about interesting features of sharks and the threats towards sharks throughout their growth by mimicking a pup.

Hoi Ha Detective  Hoi Ha Wan

**Activity format**
Beach exploration, marine organism observation, sensory activities

**Related General Studies curriculum**
People and Environment, Science and Technology, Global Understanding and the Information Era

**Activity highlights:**
Explore the beach by different senses; discover the characteristics of different marine lives and their relationship with humans.

Green Teenage Diary  Island House Conservation Studies Centre

**Activity format**
 Historic heritage visit, plant identification, Ecological Footprint game, green DIY workshop

**Related General Studies curriculum**
People and Environment, Community and Citizenship

**Activity highlights:**
Visit a historic heritage in Tai Po to understand the concept of “Ecological Footprint” and the importance of using natural resources wisely.

Wetland Detective  Mai Po Nature Reserve

**Activity format**
Role play, sensory activities

**Related General Studies curriculum**
People and Environment, Global Understanding and the information Era

**Activity highlights:**
Understand the significance of wetlands to humans and wildlife through sensory exploration and appreciation towards wetlands.
Replacing paper towels with handkerchiefs

Using reusable cutlery and utensils for school lunches and parties

Installing flow controllers in water faucets

Some examples of post-STEP actions taken by participating schools include:

Chiu Yang Por Yen Primary School
- The school requested that their lunchbox suppliers reduce the amount of rice in P1 students’ lunch boxes. Extra rice can be provided upon request.
- The average amount of food waste decreased by over 10% last year, despite the number of students increasing by 20%.

Chung Sing School
- After the school participated in STEP in 2013/2014, education on sustainable lifestyle principles was added to the school’s 2014-2017 development plan.
- STEP has continued to help the school develop sustainable lifestyle educational materials for their interdisciplinary project-based learning programmes and General Studies curriculum.

If you are interested in implementing green activities or actions in your school, why not take a look at our list of STEP school-based action recommendations? The list is available at: http://step.wwf.org.hk/step/files/school_action.pdf

Application form is available at: wwf.org.hk/step/
Students observing the base of the food chain – plankton – through microscopes.

In 2015, WWF submitted comments on nearly 200 cases, including planning applications, land use zoning plans, New Town development projects and Environmental Impact Assessment reports.

Stakeholder role play allows students to gain a deeper understanding of land use issues and the impacts of urban development.

“Although 40 per cent of Hong Kong’s land area is protected by our world-class network of country parks and other special areas, there are still areas and species of high ecological value and conservation interest that currently receive little or no protection. Students visiting Mai Po Nature Reserve will come to understand more about Hong Kong’s land use planning through investigating the Reserve’s history and its high biological value. We hope that this learning will act as a springboard, allowing them to pay more attention to local urban development issues and fostering a desire to conserve our precious ecological assets.”

Dr. Michael Lau, Assistant Director, Conservation, WWF-Hong Kong

“We are expecting a comprehensive Marine Protected Area (MPA) network and a comprehensive management plan for Hong Kong waters that will save Hong Kong’s dolphins and other precious marine creatures. With the education programmes provided by the Hoi Ha Marine Life Centre, we hope that the next generation will be amazed by the beauty of the ocean and want to protect the ocean when they grow up.”

Samantha Lee, Assistant Conservation Manager, Marine, WWF-Hong Kong

“Through various WWF programmes, students learn about the marine litter issue and its threats to humanity.

“Shorten the duration of your shower and help avoid the unconscious consumption of natural resources!”

Dr. Allen To, Assistant Manager, Footprint Programme, WWF-Hong Kong

“In 2015, Earth Overshoot Day fell on 13 August. According to Global Footprint Network, in less than eight months humanity used up nature’s “natural resource budget” for the entire year. Every year, this date moves back further – meaning that people are consuming resources at a faster and faster rate. Education about the wise consumption of natural resources is becoming more vital than ever. Through our Ecological Footprint education programmes, students learn that 78 per cent of our Ecological Footprint is created during our daily lives and our daily routines. They are encouraged to think of ways to reduce humanity’s Ecological Footprint so as to embrace a more sustainable future.”

Dr. Allen To, Assistant Manager, Footprint Programme, WWF-Hong Kong

In 2015, WWF submitted comments on nearly 200 cases, including planning applications, land use zoning plans, New Town development projects and Environmental Impact Assessment reports.

Stakeholder role play allows students to gain a deeper understanding of land use issues and the impacts of urban development.
Secondary School Education Programmes

Marine Ranger  
**Hoi Ha Wan**

**Activity format**
Beach exploration, marine litter surveys

**Activity highlights:**
Take part in shoreline clean-up and reflect on the impacts of our daily habits on the environment.

**Related curriculum**
- Science – Materials of the Modern World
- Geography – Oceans in Trouble, Building a Sustainable City
- Biology – Organisms and Environment, Applied Ecology
- Integrated Science – Balance in Nature
- Liberal Studies – Hong Kong Today, Energy Technology and the Environment

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Wetland Reserve Officer  
**Mai Po Nature Reserve**

**Activity format**
Field study, outdoor field work experience

**Activity highlights:**
Experience part of the field work at the Reserve and understand the importance of wetland management.

**Related curriculum**
- Biology – Applied Ecology
- Integrated Science – Balance in Nature
- Liberal Studies – Energy Technology and the Environment

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Wetland Encounter  
**Mai Po Nature Reserve**

**Activity format**
Wildlife survey, nature photography and photo sharing

**Activity highlights:**
Discover the fascinating wetlands and appreciate the natural beauty by becoming a photographer.

**Related curriculum**
- Science – Looking at Living Things, Living Things and Air

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Marine Discovery  
**Hoi Ha Wan**

**Activity format**
Seawater analysis with the use of different apparatuses, plankton observation

**Activity highlights:**
Learn some measurement skills and, the characteristics of seawater and its close relationship with marine creatures through corals.

**Related curriculum**
- Geography – Changing Climate, Oceans in Trouble
- Science – Introducing Science, Looking at Living Things, Living Things and Air
Secondary School Education Programmes

Wetland Ecologist

**Activity format**
Wildlife survey, measure physical parameters with scientific equipment, plankton observation

**Activity highlights:**
Experience the daily work of an Ecologist; study the values and importance of biodiversity.

**Related curriculum**
- Biology – Organisms and Environment, Applied Ecology
- Integrated Science – Balance in Nature
- Liberal Studies – Energy Technology and the Environment

Sustainable City @ Tai Po

**Activity format**
Introduction to Tai Po history, field study, group discussion

**Activity highlights:**
Carry out field studies at various locations in Tai Po and discuss the factors that make Tai Po a sustainable city.

**Related curriculum**
- Geography – Oceans in Trouble, Building a Sustainable City
- Biology – Applied Ecology
- Integrated Science – Balance in Nature
- Liberal Studies – Hong Kong Today, Energy Technology and the Environment

Mangrove Ecology

**Activity format**
In-depth study and identification of mangrove species, group discussion and presentation

**Activity highlights:**
Explore the core zone of the Reserve by observing the largest mangrove community in Hong Kong along the boardwalk, as well as to understand the adaptive features of mangrove and the threats they are facing.

**Related curriculum**
- Biology – Organisms and Environment, Applied Ecology
- Liberal Studies – Energy Technology and the Environment

Urban Planner @ Deep Bay

**Activity format**
Field study, case analysis, group discussion on the role of different stakeholders

**Activity highlights:**
Act as different stakeholders in groups, and to learn and discuss on urban planning issues with case analysis.

**Related curriculum**
- Geography – Building a Sustainable City
- Biology – Applied Ecology
- Integrated Science – Balance in Nature
- Liberal Studies – Hong Kong Today, Energy Technology and the Environment
Life-wide Learning and Other Learning Experience Activities

WWF provides programmes which allow schools to hold ESD-related Life-wide Learning and Other Learning Experience activities throughout the school year. These activities can accommodate a flexible number of students and a flexible schedule, allowing a customized educational activity plan to be developed which fits the needs of schools and students. Early planning is key, so please contact one of our education officers as soon as possible!

"Apart from birds, we occasionally find large mammals like the Small Asian Mongoose, Leopard cats at night with our infrared cameras or even discover the unique Mai Po Bent-winged Firefly! I strongly recommend that students take part in the "Wetland Ecologist" programme at the Reserve – they will learn about the interrelationships that exist between wildlife and the surrounding environment and the importance of biodiversity. Through programmes like these, students will learn more about conservation and live a more sustainable lifestyle!"

Lai Nga Yee, Reserve Officer, WWF-Hong Kong
I.T. in Education for Sustainable Development

Several teachers training programmes have been organized jointly by the EDB ITE section and WWF in recent years, helping teachers learn ways to use mobile devices in outdoor learning programmes which help enhance students’ interaction and collaboration. Teachers also learn about practical skills in organizing Sustainable Development programmes in different ecological “hotspots” and Mai Po Nature Reserve.

Please contact one of our education officers if you are interested in using information technology to enhance teaching in Mai Po Nature Reserve. Contact us by phone on 2326-1011 or at [education@wwf.org.hk].

Sharing from teachers

The course was very helpful in implementing environmental education. It helped in preparing teaching plan when I teach humanities subjects to Form 3 students in the second semester.

This course required students to use mobile devices and carry out live interviews and take photos. The information collected was more dynamic than usual.

It is more convenient to have students collect information with their mobile devices rather than through writing. This method engages the students better, giving them instant results which they can then discuss. This method also saves teachers’ administrative work time.

Education Resources

Biodiversity Exhibition Pack (Secondary Schools)

A newly launched exhibition panel pack with nine double-sided colored panels, uses a storytelling approach and interactive elements, this exhibition highlights the rich biodiversity in Hong Kong. Students will come to understand the relationship between human and biodiversity as well as the importance of maintaining biodiversity.

Why Elephants? Exhibition Panel (Primary and Secondary Schools)

How much do your students know about elephants, the largest land animal on Earth? This exhibition showcases fun facts about elephants, their importance to humans and their ecosystems, as well as the threats faced by elephants and the relevance of these threats to Hong Kong. Students deserve to know more about elephants and wildlife crime issues!

To rent either of the above resources, please contact our Education Team at 2526-1011 (choose 2 for English, then press 5, 4, 1) or by e-mail at [ihsc@wwf.org.hk].
Feedbacks and comments from teachers and students

Feedback from students

Nature is our important property that we must protect and cherish.

This was a rare chance to learn about mangroves, especially along the boardwalk.

The education officer explained things clearly. Now, I have a deeper understanding of land use in Hong Kong.

The tour was meaningful, I now have new ideas about the ocean and marine protection.

I think more mitigation should be implemented to conserve affected species due to frequent marine pollution issues.

Feedback from teachers

Before joining the programme, students would step on tiny creatures without a second thought. Now they have been given the chance to collect and release insects, they realize that we can still observe wildlife without injuring it.

The programmes are inspiring and they help teachers arrange activities related to environmental science.

These systematic and rich wetland programmes allow students to reflect on how to balance urban development and conservation.

Even though the students have seen mangroves before, they have probably never observed pneumatophores, mangroves’ structural adaption [that allow them to “breathe”]. The field studies help students focus on the features of plants.

Teachers thought that WWF education programmes

- Raised students’ knowledge of sustainable development: 98.4%
- Motivated students’ interest in learning and multi-perspective thinking: 96.9%
- Engaged students in discussions, investigations and other learning processes, under the guidance of WWF’s experienced staff: 99.3%
- Provided a unique learning experience: 94.4%
WWF-Hong Kong
Education For Sustainable Development (ESD) Programmes

WWF organizes ESD programmes under three themes: Wetland, Marine and Footprint for primary and secondary school students.

1986
WWF began providing ESD programmes at Mai Po Nature Reserve since 1986.

2004
WWF began providing Marine ESD programmes in Hoi Ha Wan Park and our Life Centre since 2004.

+30,000
Over 30,000 primary and secondary school students participate in WWF’s ESD programmes every year.

Why we are here
To stop the degradation of the planet’s natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.
wwf.org.hk