

Lantau Conservation Fund

Education and Engagement Project

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| Project Number | EE-2022-04 |
| Recipient Organisation | Hong Kong Marine Ecological Association Limited |
| Project Title | Oyster Shells Hotels: Building micro-habitats with oyster shells for the rehabilitation of marine biodiversity |
| Project Description* | <p>Hong Kong's diverse marine ecosystems host rich biodiversity with over 6000 species. However, a myriad of human-induced threats, such as shoreline hardening and land reclamation, has caused the loss of valuable natural marine ecosystems and their biodiversity. Oyster reefs are known as a natural-based approach to providing natural and complex structures for marine organisms such as bivalves, sponges, polychaetes, tunicates, and other invertebrates to live. The deployment of oyster shells in the waters, therefore, could potentially enhance marine biodiversity by fashioning a feeding ground for larger animals (e.g., crabs and fish) and fish nursery ground that could benefit the predators situated in the upper food chain by increasing fish stocks as their food source. Other than that, the naturally created microhabitats with a high potential to increase ecosystem functioning/services such as water bio-filtration, biomass, and carbon storage.</p> <p>In light of the ecological function of oyster shells, the project aims to 1) engage and mobilize the communities to rehabilitate the marine biodiversity in degraded artificial shorelines in Lantau Island through oyster shells deployment,</p> |

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| | and 2) raise awareness of local coastal restoration and conservation for participants by offering talks, training workshops, and hands-on fieldwork. |
| Project Period | 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 (12 months) |
| Approved Grant | \$965,180 |

*The project description is provided by the project proponent