

## Lantau Conservation Fund

### Research Project

Project Number	RE-2021-01
Recipient Organisation	City University of Hong Kong
Project Title	The role of Buffalo in Lantau Biodiversity Conservation
Project Description*	<p>Buffalo are ecosystem engineers that are essential for biodiversity conservation. Thus, it's surprising that there is little detailed evidence about their role in Lantau biodiversity conservation. Lantau's buffalo population is currently estimated at 160, mainly around Mui Wo, Pui O and Shui Hau. We will conduct a 3-year study to gain an understanding of their conservation, cultural and social importance, with the overall aim of maximising their sustainable conservation role.</p> <p>This project has two complimentary parts: 1. Assess how the buffalo and their behaviours affect Lantau biodiversity, 2. Assess how buffalo-human relations influence buffalo in their conservation role. Project Part 1 will determine the size and age structure of the population, population growth rate, and for wet and dry seasons, estimate the amount of food consumed, home range sizes, and also determine the sustainable population size. Project Part 2 will focus on buffalo-human relations to assess anthropogenic influences on buffalo as agents of conservation. The research team combines expertise in behavioural ecology, veterinary sciences and social science. The time has come for scientific knowledge to help optimize the Lantau buffalo population for local and Hong Kong biodiversity conservation.</p>

Project Period	1 December 2022 to 28 November 2025 (36 months)
Approved Grant	\$2,161,190

\*The project description is provided by the project proponent