

Lantau Conservation Fund

Research Project

Project Number	RE-2021-16
Recipient Organisation	The University of Hong Kong
Project Title	Community-driven tracking and conservation of migratory danaid butterflies on Lantau
Project Description*	<p>Every winter in Hong Kong, thousands of migrating danaid butterflies (subfamily Danainae) rest in large aggregations in forested valleys. Danaiids are believed to migrate southwestward across southern China, although their origin, destination, and migration route are unknown. Due to its location on the southwestern edge of Hong Kong, Lantau Island hosts multiple winter aggregations and is thus uniquely positioned as an essential fieldsite for understanding and conserving danaid populations.</p> <p>Our research aims to 1) understand the migration route, wintering behaviors, and site preferences of aggregating danaiids on Lantau; 2) collect and collate data on wintering and pre-wintering sites on Lantau, in order to inform conservation policy decisions; and 3) raise community awareness of this fascinating local biological phenomenon, foster a desire to understand and protect it, and involve community members as valuable scientific contributors.</p> <p>To achieve these aims, we will 1) launch a large mark-recapture study involving Lantau's community; 2) collect data on new and existing aggregation sites, danaid populations, and habitat conditions; 3) report findings in formal</p>

	reports and publications, at local schools, and online; and 4) host a biennial conference to collate all local danaid research and recommend specific action for the conservation of this phenomenon on Lantau.
Project Period	1 October 2022 – 1 June 2025 (32 months)
Approved Grant	\$1,421,107

*The project description is provided by the project proponent