

Lantau Conservation Fund

Research Project

Project Number	RE-2024-04
Recipient Organisation	Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden Corporation
Project Title	Forgotten but not Gone: Lantau Otter Conservation Project
Project Description*	<p>The Eurasian otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) is one of the two mammal species that has recently been identified as being at the high risk of extinction in Hong Kong (Or & Chan., 2025), and a critical yet under-studied apex predator locally and in the region. In 2024, KFBG published the first verifiable evidence of otters in northern Lantau waters, confirming that the Eurasian Otter is still present in the area and significantly extending the current known range of this locally endangered species in Hong Kong (Hui et al., 2024).</p> <p>This proposed two-and-a-half-year project aims to conduct the first comprehensive island-wide Eurasian Otter survey on Lantau and its adjacent waters to assess the past and current distribution and status of the otters, thus, to identify the key sites and major threats for the conservation of this locally critically endangered species on Lantau and enhance public awareness regarding otter conservation.</p> <p>Through an integrative research approach combining sign surveys, local ecological knowledge (LEK) survey, camera trapping, non-invasive genetics methods, and conservation dog detection, the project aims to fill the critical knowledge gaps for the conservation of this species. The findings will provide valuable data</p>

	to guide future conservation measures, raise public awareness, and contribute to broader ecological studies of threatened species and wetland conservation on Lantau.
Project Period	30 months
Approved Grant	\$2,284,207

*The project description is provided by the project proponent