

Lantau Conservation Fund

Research Project

Project Number	RE-2024-11
Recipient Organisation	Lingnan University
Project Title	Ecology and Conservation of Freshwater Eels in Lantau
Project Description*	<p>The island of Lantau, with its natural estuaries and pristine undisturbed streams, presents a crucial sanctuary for numerous species, including two threatened freshwater eel species: <i>Anguilla japonica</i> and <i>Anguilla marmorata</i>. These species are critical to maintaining ecological balance but are currently threatened by habitat degradation and over-harvesting. Due to the nocturnal habits of eels and the lack of standardized surveys, little is known about their population status in Lantau. This project seeks to address this gap by collecting quantitative data on eel populations and engaging the local community in conservation efforts. This project comprehensively assesses, conserve, and promote the threatened eel populations in Lantau, in line with the objectives of the LCF. Through repeated surveys targeting both the juvenile and adult life stages of these cryptic animals, we will quantitatively assess these two species' populations in Lantau river systems and collect critical baseline data about their abundance and distributions. We will also establish a eDNA barcode reference database their will enable long term fish monitoring using eDNA methods.</p>
Project Period	36 months
Approved Grant	\$1,496,500

*The project description is provided by the project proponent