



WWF

ADVOCACY

HK

2018



# TRANSFORM HONG KONG INTO Asia's Most Sustainable City

# ABOUT WWF

Founded in 1961, WWF is the world's leading conservation organization. WWF works in 100 countries and is supported by close to five million members globally. WWF-Hong Kong has been working since 1981 to deliver solutions for a living planet through conservation, footprint and education programmes.

## VISION

WWF-Hong Kong's vision is to transform Hong Kong into Asia's most sustainable city where nature is conserved, carbon pollution is reduced, and consumption is environmentally responsible.

## MISSION

WWF-Hong Kong's mission is to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature by:

- Conserving the world's biological diversity
- Ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable
- Promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption

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## CEO'S MESSAGE

Hong Kong's biodiversity provides many essential services for our daily lives and is inextricably linked to human wellbeing – something that was affirmed by a United Nations summit on sustainable development, where two out of the 17 sustainable development goals focus on conserving marine and terrestrial ecosystems. In addition, the natural environment and wildlife contribute significantly to the quality of life in our otherwise urbanized and crowded city.

More needs to be done to tackle the challenges that face our city. Country parks and green zones are an invaluable part of our environment and need protection to retain their ecological value. Marine litter has been a persistent environmental issue in Hong Kong and effective source reduction strategies are urgently needed to ease the problem, deal with the waste and single-use plastics. Less than 5 per cent of Hong Kong waters are designated as marine protected areas – more marine parks are needed and we advocate for 30 per cent of Hong Kong's waters to be protected by 2030. We also need an ambitious renewable electricity target for 2030 and to speed-up the development of renewable energy, with solar and wind power generation.

Bold and ambitious actions must be adopted, as befits a 21st century world class city.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'P. Cornthwaite'.

**Peter Cornthwaite,**  
Chief Executive Officer  
WWF-Hong Kong

# ACHIEVE A 10% RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY TARGET BY 2030

Hong Kong committed to reduce its absolute carbon emissions by 26-36 per cent by 2030 from 2005 levels by replacing coal with less carbon intensive gas power stations.

To meet Hong Kong's obligations under the Paris Climate Agreement, there is a great need to set up a more aggressive target for renewable energy of 10 per cent by 2030.

With the introduction of a feed-in tariff (FiT) since April 2018 at HK\$3-5/kWh and a relaxation of height restrictions for solar system installation at village houses in the 2018 Policy Address, we advocate extending the FiT to 20 years from the date of renewable system installation, to induce the installation of renewables across our city with support to green buildings.

## IN NUMBERS

In 2016, **66.5%** of greenhouse gas emissions came from electricity generation, the same as 2015.

Renewables remained at **0.1%** of energy in our electricity fuel mix in 2016.

If solar were built on rooftops and open spaces, it could supply **5.5 TWh** of electricity, equivalent to 12.4% of demand.

## WHY OPEN SPACE?

Renewables at public open spaces enable integrated and sustainable land use. The public, businesses and local communities can install renewables at public parks or housing estates. Solar farms can be installed at large open spaces with tendering.

## WHAT BENEFITS?

Installing solar PV panels at homes and offices allows people and business to invest their savings in a green economy and participate in clean energy production. Hong Kong needs to play its part in limiting global warming to 1.5°C. This means completely replacing fossil fuels with renewables in the coming decades. With the opening of public open space for renewables, most of us will be able to participate in decarbonizing Hong Kong in the long-term.

# TACKLE MARINE LITTER TO CLEAN UP HONG KONG'S DEBRIS

Marine litter has been a persistent environmental issue in Hong Kong for decades and it is only getting worse, with litter appearing along the shoreline, the waters' surface and on the seabed. The source of much of this litter is from plastic discarded on land.

To reduce Hong Kong's marine litter, WWF urges action in the community and by the government. We need to end our addiction to single-use plastics. We can implement source reduction strategies, including a producer responsibility scheme on plastic bottles. Marine litter should be intercepted before it enters the sea, through increased waste collection and recycling and processing facilities in Hong Kong. Clean-up efforts must be enhanced especially in ecologically important areas, including the removal of abandoned fishing nets.

## IN NUMBERS

Roughly **60-80%** of Hong Kong's marine litter is plastic. The government collects **15,000 tonnes** of marine litter every year, equivalent to filling 3,750 garbage trucks with a capacity of four tonnes

## More than 12,000

citizens and organization joined WWF to urge the government to introduce producer responsibility schemes for single-use plastic products back in 2016

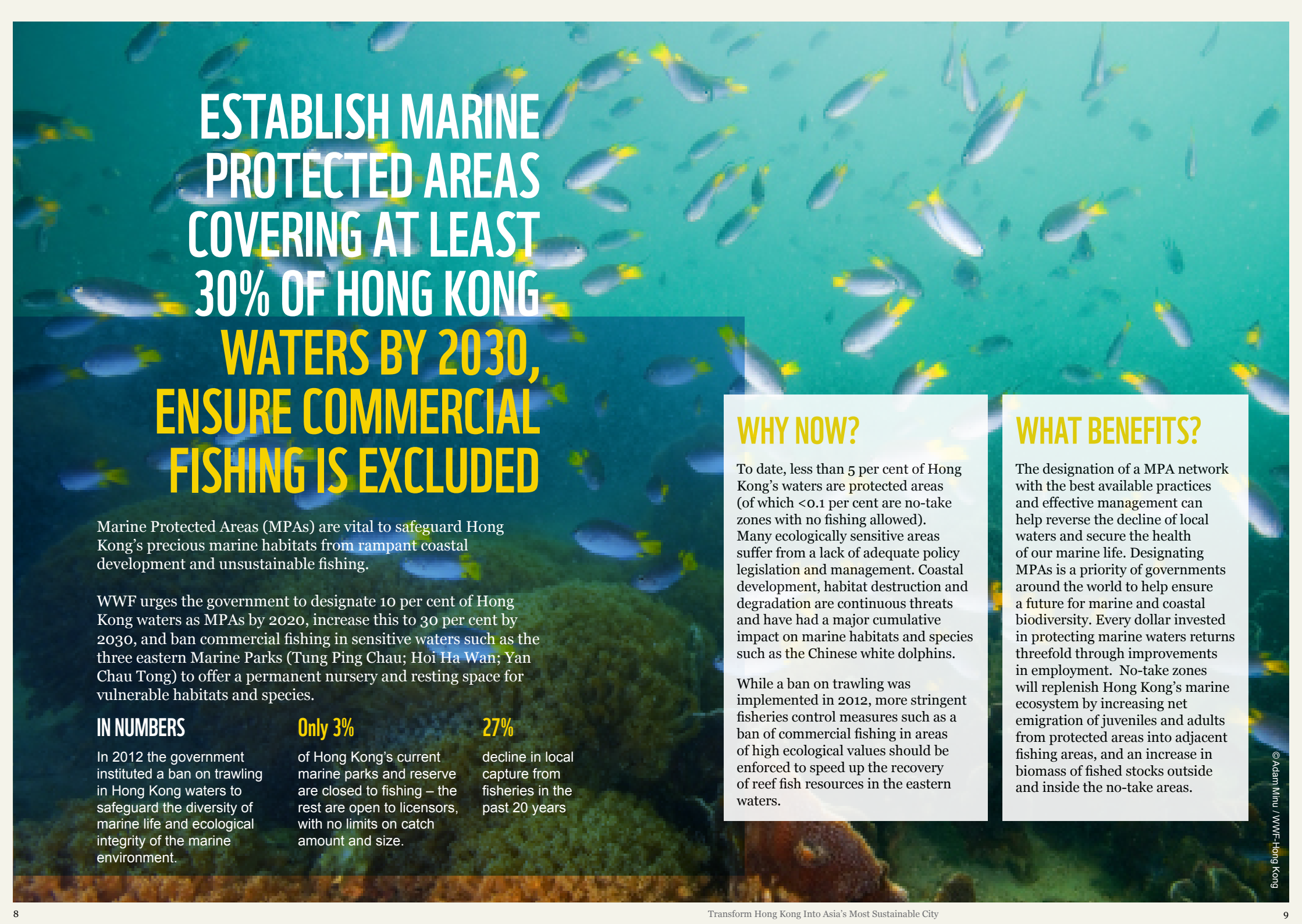
## WHY NOW?

Plastic marine litter breaks up into smaller and smaller fragments over time, resulting in a long-term impact. Scientists estimate that 8 million metric tonnes of plastic entered the global oceans from land-based sources in 2010, and projected it to double by 2025. More than 600 marine species in the world have been found affected by entanglement in or ingestion of plastic debris. This threatens marine wildlife and affects our society and economy.

## WHAT BENEFITS?

Clean-up costs are a financial burden to our society, and marine litter could cost our city in tourism dollars and impact our health. Solving the marine litter problem provides direct benefit to the economy and helps conserve our precious marine ecosystems and resources. Hong Kong can act by placing deposits on all plastic bottles and implementing a reverse vending scheme to ensure they are recycled. Incentives and opportunities are needed to upscale the recycling industry to treat plastic waste locally to close the loop on plastic pollution and keep it out of our oceans.





# ESTABLISH MARINE PROTECTED AREAS COVERING AT LEAST 30% OF HONG KONG WATERS BY 2030, ENSURE COMMERCIAL FISHING IS EXCLUDED

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are vital to safeguard Hong Kong's precious marine habitats from rampant coastal development and unsustainable fishing.

WWF urges the government to designate 10 per cent of Hong Kong waters as MPAs by 2020, increase this to 30 per cent by 2030, and ban commercial fishing in sensitive waters such as the three eastern Marine Parks (Tung Ping Chau; Hoi Ha Wan; Yan Chau Tong) to offer a permanent nursery and resting space for vulnerable habitats and species.

## IN NUMBERS

In 2012 the government instituted a ban on trawling in Hong Kong waters to safeguard the diversity of marine life and ecological integrity of the marine environment.

**Only 3%**

of Hong Kong's current marine parks and reserve are closed to fishing – the rest are open to licensors, with no limits on catch amount and size.

**27%**

decline in local capture from fisheries in the past 20 years

## WHY NOW?

To date, less than 5 per cent of Hong Kong's waters are protected areas (of which <0.1 per cent are no-take zones with no fishing allowed). Many ecologically sensitive areas suffer from a lack of adequate policy legislation and management. Coastal development, habitat destruction and degradation are continuous threats and have had a major cumulative impact on marine habitats and species such as the Chinese white dolphins.

While a ban on trawling was implemented in 2012, more stringent fisheries control measures such as a ban of commercial fishing in areas of high ecological values should be enforced to speed up the recovery of reef fish resources in the eastern waters.

## WHAT BENEFITS?

The designation of a MPA network with the best available practices and effective management can help reverse the decline of local waters and secure the health of our marine life. Designating MPAs is a priority of governments around the world to help ensure a future for marine and coastal biodiversity. Every dollar invested in protecting marine waters returns threefold through improvements in employment. No-take zones will replenish Hong Kong's marine ecosystem by increasing net emigration of juveniles and adults from protected areas into adjacent fishing areas, and an increase in biomass of fished stocks outside and inside the no-take areas.



# BROWNFIELDS FIRST & CONSERVATION TRUST

A commitment to not develop country parks and green zones. Adopting a “brownfield first” policy and conservation trust established.

WWF suggests the government take initiative to speed up the resumption of brownfield sites and devise a fair compensation mechanism, establish an open and comprehensive land database to enhance transparency and holistic urban planning, and establish an independent, statutory conservation trust to protect and manage private land of high ecological value (e.g. private fish ponds in Deep Bay).

## IN NUMBERS

**Around 1,200**

ha of brownfield sites

**78%**

of brownfield sites occupy land outside open storage zones. According to the Census and Statistics Department, in 2043 the population will peak, the **601,160** housing units planned by the government is about 25% in excess of the projected population increase

## WHY NOW?

Despite the persistent decline in the growth of the logistic sector, the number of applications to the Town Planning Board for brownfield uses remains high and the approval rate has surged from 20 per cent in 2001 to almost 90 per cent in recent years.

At the same time, conflict between conservation needs and development interests of landowners is intensifying. Existing conservation measures are inadequate in resolving this conflict, leading to the destruction of ecologically sensitive areas (e.g. mangroves in the Tai Ho Site of Special Scientific Interest and the land clearing in Sai Kung Wong Chuk Yeung). A new mechanism – a conservation trust – is required to safeguard and finance the long-term biodiversity management of important private land.

## WHAT BENEFITS?

A “brownfield first” policy can take development pressure off valuable natural areas while allowing the housing and other needs of our city to be met. A statutory conservation trust provides a solution to bring ecologically important private land into protection and management through Public Private Partnership, land acquisition, management agreements and creating conservation easements that permanently forfeit development rights.



# MAGICAL MAI PO, PROTECTED LANTAU

In 1983 WWF commenced active management of Mai Po Nature Reserve, which is part of a world-acclaimed Ramsar site, and hosts over 2,050 species and is a best-in-class example of conservation work in Hong Kong.

The Sustainable Lantau Blueprint developed by the government has adopted the planning vision of “balancing development and conservation”.

WWF suggests five proposals to protect South Lantau. Designate the Chinese white dolphin core habitat as a marine protected area. Incorporate Tai Ho valley, one of the 12 priority sites for enhanced conservation, into Lantau North Country Park. Protect the rich Shui Hau Wan sandflat as a marine park. Establish Pui O Water Buffalo Nature Park to safeguard the freshwater marsh. Provide enforceable land use control to prevent land filling, retaining the rural character and landscape.

## IN NUMBERS

70%

decline in Chinese white dolphin numbers in Hong Kong since 2003

3<sup>rd</sup>

Rank of Tai Ho in the 12 priority sites

180

species recorded in Shui Hau area in a half-year survey

## WHY NOW?

Many large-scale infrastructure developments in North Lantau, such as the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, the Three Runway System and the Tung Chung New Town Extension are under construction or being planned and the government initiated the discussion of Lantau development in 2014. There are expectations that there will be many opportunities for development on the island, making the private land in South Lantau particularly vulnerable to eco-vandalism because the land use plan is not enforceable.

To fulfill the planning intention of the Sustainable Lantau Blueprint, i.e. develop in the North and conserve the South, proactive measures should be undertaken to protect important land and waters.

## WHAT BENEFITS?

Protecting the five areas suggested by WWF will ensure the conservation of the important Lantau habitats. With proper management, their eco-tourism potential can be realized, benefiting visitors and providing opportunities for local businesses.

# RECOGNISE WILDLIFE CRIME AS SERIOUS CRIME, ENHANCE INVESTIGATION AND ENFORCEMENT

The government must recognize wildlife crime as serious crime. By doing so, all relevant law enforcement agencies, including the AFCD, Customs and police will need to closely cooperate and strengthen efforts in joint enforcement and investigation. In particular, investigating criminal syndicates behind the trafficking of wildlife can end the trade across Asian markets.

## IN NUMBERS

**HK\$130,000,000**

market value of  
wildlife contraband  
seized in Hong Kong  
in 2015

**More than 20,000**

elephants are killed  
each year for their  
ivory

**More than 1,000**

rangers have been  
killed and many injured  
over the past 10  
years worldwide while  
protecting wildlife

## WHY NOW?

Wildlife crime has become more lucrative and dangerous, involving large-scale, transnational organized criminal networks. It is now the 4th most profitable illicit trade in the world, estimated at up to USD19 billion each year. Hong Kong has become a major wildlife smuggling hub. Cases of wildlife smuggling tripled in the past five years. Law enforcement authorities are having some success. It also illustrates that there is not yet sufficient deterrent to smugglers. It is time to put an end to the trade and slaughter.

## WHAT BENEFITS?

The cost to wildlife, the rangers who protect it, and the wider society is unacceptable and the reputation of Hong Kong as Asia's World City is undermined. With strengthened efforts in combating wildlife crime, Hong Kong can help end the trade in local species such as agar wood and freshwater turtles, and help prevent the trade in globally important species that are being transshipped through our ports such as elephants, rhinos, sharks and pangolins.



# OPPORTUNITIES FOR A MORE SUSTAINABLE CITY...

## 66.5%

of Hong Kong's greenhouse gases emissions come from electricity generation. Government should promote emissions reductions and develop renewable energy to achieve at least a 41% absolute carbon reduction target by 2030.

## 13,000,000

visitors to country parks in 2017. Hong Kongers continue to look to the government to protect more country parks and enclaves from the threat of development and prioritize brownfield sites for development for housing needs.



## 30%

of Hong Kong waters should be designated as marine protected area, to safeguard marine ecosystem and fishery resources by 2030. 10% of Hong Kong waters are needed as MPAs by 2020.

## 3.9 Earths

would be needed to sustain our ecological footprint if everyone led the lifestyle of Hong Kong people. WWF supports education initiatives to change the way we live.



### 我們在這裏 Why we are here

為了遏止自然環境惡化，建立人類與大自然和諧共存的未來。  
To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and  
to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.  
[wwf.org.hk](http://wwf.org.hk)

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