

JOB NO.: TCS01267/22

CEDD SERVICE CONTRACT No. WD/07/2022

YUEN LONG SOUTH FIRST PHASE DEVELOPMENT - ENVIRONMENTAL TEAM

EGRETRY SURVEY REPORT

SUBMISSION FOR

EP No. EP-549/2018 CONDITION 2.6 AND EP No. EP-553/2018/A CONDITION 2.8

PREPARED FOR

CIVIL ENGINEERING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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Tam Tak Wing (Environmental Team Leader)

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CEDD Service Contract No. WD/07/2022 Yuen Long South First Phase Development – Environmental Team Egretry Survey Report



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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 Ford Business International Limited (hereinafter called "Ford") was awarded the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) Agreement Contract No. WD/07/2022 Yuen Long South First Phase Development Environmental Team on 26 October 2022. The Contractor period is 78 months, which covers the construction period and the first-year operation period for the Works Contracts 1, 2 and 3 under the Yuen Long South First Phase Development (hereinafter named as "the Project).
- 1.1.2 The Yuen Long South (YLS) Planning and Engineering Study is a Designated Project under *Item 1 Schedule 3* of the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance. In November 2017, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report for YLS Development was approved by Director of Environmental Protection pursuant to EIAO. The approved EIA report (AEIAR-215/2017), the approval letter with conditions and recommendations and the relevant Environmental Permit (EP) issued subsequently. To implement the Project, there are various infrastructure items among some of which are classified as DPs under *Schedule 2 of the EIA Ordinance*.
- 1.1.3 The YLS Development is currently being implemented by three phases: First Phase, Second Phase and Third Phase. The site formation and engineering infrastructure works to support the First Phase Development will be delivered through three works contracts, as listed as below:-
 - (a) CEDD Contract No. YL/2021/03 Site Formation and Infrastructure Works for Yuen Long South First Phase Development Contract 1
 - (b) CEDD Contract No. YL/2021/04 Site Formation and Infrastructure Works for Yuen Long South First Phase Development Contract 2 (the designated works of Contract 2 are governed by EP-549/2018 & EP-553/2018/A)
 - (c) CEDD Contract No. YL/2022/01 Site Formation and Infrastructure Works for Yuen Long South First Phase Development Contract 3 (the designated works of Contract 3 are governed by EP-548/2018/A, EP-549/2018, EP-550/2018/A & EP-551/2018/A)
- 1.1.4 The layout plan for Contracts 1, 2 and 3 of YLS First Phase Development is shown in *Appendix A*.

1.2 PURPOSE OF SUBMISSION

- 1.2.1 According to EP No. EP-549/2018 Condition 2.6 and EP No. EP-553/2018/A Condition 2.8, the Permit Holder shall conduct a survey to ascertain the existence of egretry at Tai Tong. The Permit Holder shall, no later than 3 months before the commencement of construction of the Project, submit 4 hard copies and 1 electronic copy of Egretry Survey Report on the findings of the survey and corresponding recommendations to the Director for approval.
- 1.2.2 In accordance with EP No. EP-549/2018 Condition 2.7 and EP No. EP-553/2018/A Condition 2.9, subject to the findings of the Egretry Survey Report, the Permit Holder shall, no later than one month before commencement of construction of the Project, submit 4 hard copies and 1 electronic copy of details Noise Mitigation Measures Plan with a view to minimizing the construction noise impact on the egretry at Tai Tong to the Director for approval. The Plan should include but no limit to details on the deployment of low noise construction method in the vicinity of the egretry, especially during the breeding seasons.
- 1.2.3 The Egretry Survey Report is prepared by the ecologist of the Environmental Team to



present the findings of egretry survey and determine the presence of egretry at Tai Tong prior to the commencement of construction of YLS First Phase Development.

2 EGRETY SURVEY

2.1 GENERAL

2.1.1 During the EIA Study, an egretry was identified at Tai Tong (Pak Sha Tsuen). Although the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (Anon, 2021) reported this egretry as abandoned and no breeding activity has been recorded since 2020, a baseline Egretry Survey shall be conducted prior to the commencement of construction activities on the project to confirm the latest location and status of the colony, including any occupation by egrets and number of breeding pairs, during the breeding season (March to August).

2.2 REQUIREMENT

- 2.2.1 According to relevant EP conditions, the Permit Holder shall conduct a survey to ascertain the existence of egretry at Tai Tong and submit a Egretry Survey Report on the findings of the survey and corresponding recommendations to the Director for approval.
- 2.2.2 Subject to the findings of the Egretry Survey Report, the Permit Holder shall submit a Noise Mitigation Measures Plan with a view to minimizing the construction noise impact on the egretry at Tai Tong to the Director for approval. The Plan should include but no limit to details on the deployment of low noise construction method in the vicinity of the egretry, especially during the breeding seasons.
- 2.2.3 Besides, according to Section 8 of the updated EM&A Manual, prior to commencement of construction activities, a baseline egretry survey shall be conducted during the breeding season to confirm the location of egretry, evidence of egretry occupation and number of breeding pairs. During the construction phase, for any works within 250m of the egretry, the egretry shall be monitored weekly during the ardeid breeding season i.e. from March to August by a qualified ecologist to confirm its activity during the breeding season and to ensure the egretry is not significantly disturbed by nearby construction activities. Monthly flight-line surveys shall be conducted during the ardeid breeding season throughout the construction phase and in the first 12 months of operation phase to confirm flight paths of the egrets are not significantly impacted by the Project.

2.3 SURVEY METHOD

- 2.3.1 AEC has been hired by Ford to be the ecologist of the Environmental Team to conduct the egretry survey. Mr. Ma Chun Ning, Moses of AEC has more than 5 years experiences in fauna and flora survey. His CV is provided in *Appendix B*.
- 2.3.2 Site surveys at the previous location of egretry at Tai Tong (Pak Sha Tsuen) were conducted in April and May 2023, during the peak activity of ardeid breeding season. If any breeding ardeids were found, the egretry would be scanned by surveyors by naked eye or with the use of 8-10X binoculars.
- 2.3.3 In addition, walkover surveys were also conducted within 250m from the works areas of the Contract 1, 2 and 3, to check the presence of any new egretry colonies. The survey area is highly developed. Potential tree groups were checked by surveyors by naked eye or with the use of 8-10X binoculars, searching for presence of breeding ardeids and/or nests.
- 2.3.4 The location of previous Tai Tong (Pak Sha Tsuen) Egretry and the proposed survey



transect is shown in Figure 1.

2.4 SURVEY FINDINGS

- 2.4.1 Site surveys at the previous location of egretry at Tai Tong (Pak Sha Tsuen) were conducted during daytime on 4th April, 14th April, 28th April and 12th May 2023 and the survey area and transects were mapped in *Figure 1*.
- 2.4.2 All four visits were conducted under fine weather condition, without thunderstorm or rain.
- 2.4.3 The previous egretry location at Tai Tong (Pak Sha Tsuen) remained abandoned during the 2023 breeding season, as confirmed by the four survey visits. No ardeids were recorded in the vicinity. Photographic records of the survey visits at previous egretry at Tai Tong are presented in *Appendix C*.
- 2.4.4 In addition, walkover surveys were conducted on the same day as the site survey of previous egretry. During the walkover surveys, there were no sign / evident of breeding ardeids was found within 250m from the works areas of Contract 1, 2 and 3. Photographic records of walkover surveys presented in *Appendix D*.
- 2.4.5 The nearest active egretry is located at Hung Shui Kiu, which is approximately 1km away from the closest works boundary. Therefore, no direct or indirect impact from the construction activities is anticipated.

2.5 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED BY EPD AND AFCD

2.5.1 According to the comments provided by EPD on 18 August 2023, having consulted the AFCD, a new egrety was discovered in Tai Tong since June 2023, and a maximum of 5 nest of Chinese Pond Heron were recorded. In our investigation, the new egretry in Tai Tong as concerned by AFCD is located beyond 250m from the works area of the YLS First Phase Development (i.e., Contract 1, Contract 2 and Contract 3). Therefore, the relevant monitoring under EM&A is considered not required to follow.

3 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1.1 The ecologist of ET conducted a total of four visits on 4th April, 14th April, 28th April and 12th May 2023 to the previous egretry location at Tai Tong (Pak Sha Tsuen) during the peak activity of ardeid breeding season in April and May 2023. The previous egretry at Tai Tong (Pak Sha Tsuen) remained abandoned during the 2023 breeding season.
- 3.1.2 Walkover surveys result revealed that no egretry were recorded within 250m of the works areas for the Contract 1, 2 and 3 in 2023. There were no sign / evident of breeding ardeids was found within 250m from the works areas of Contract 1, 2 and 3. In addition, the egretry found in Hung Shui Kiu and the new egretry Tai Tong concerned by AFCD are beyond 250m from the works area of the Project.
- 3.1.3 Since there were no egretry found within 250m of any works, weekly egretry monitoring survey and flight-line survey as prescribed in the EM&A Manual will not be required, until the updated survey result of next breeding season.
- 3.1.4 It is recommended that the egretry survey shall be conducted in following breeding seasons until the completion of the Project. And the relevant monitoring shall be followed according to the EM&A requirement.

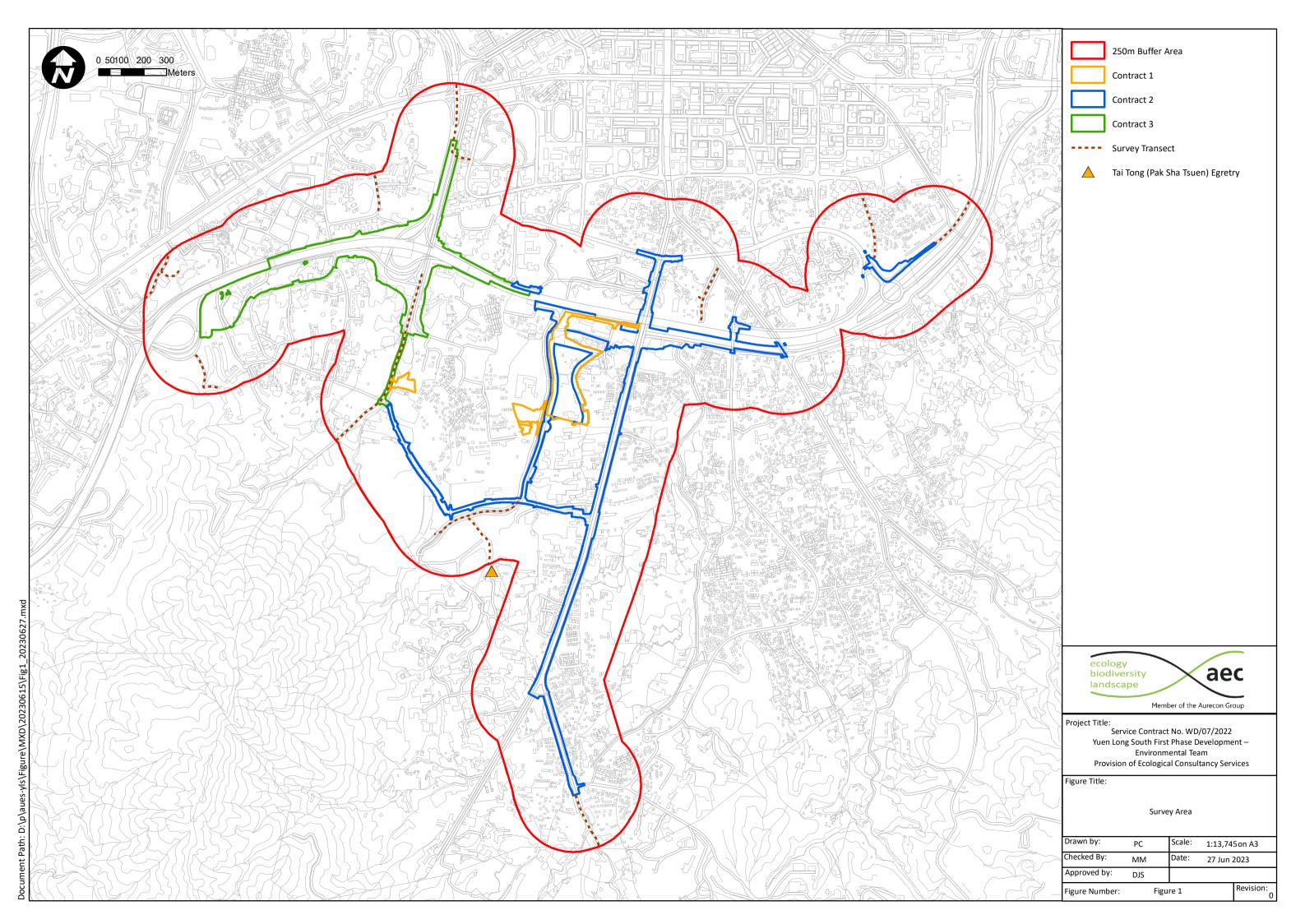


4 REFERENCE

Anon, 2021. Summer 2020 Report: Egretry Counts in Hong Kong with particular reference to the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site. Report by The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government.



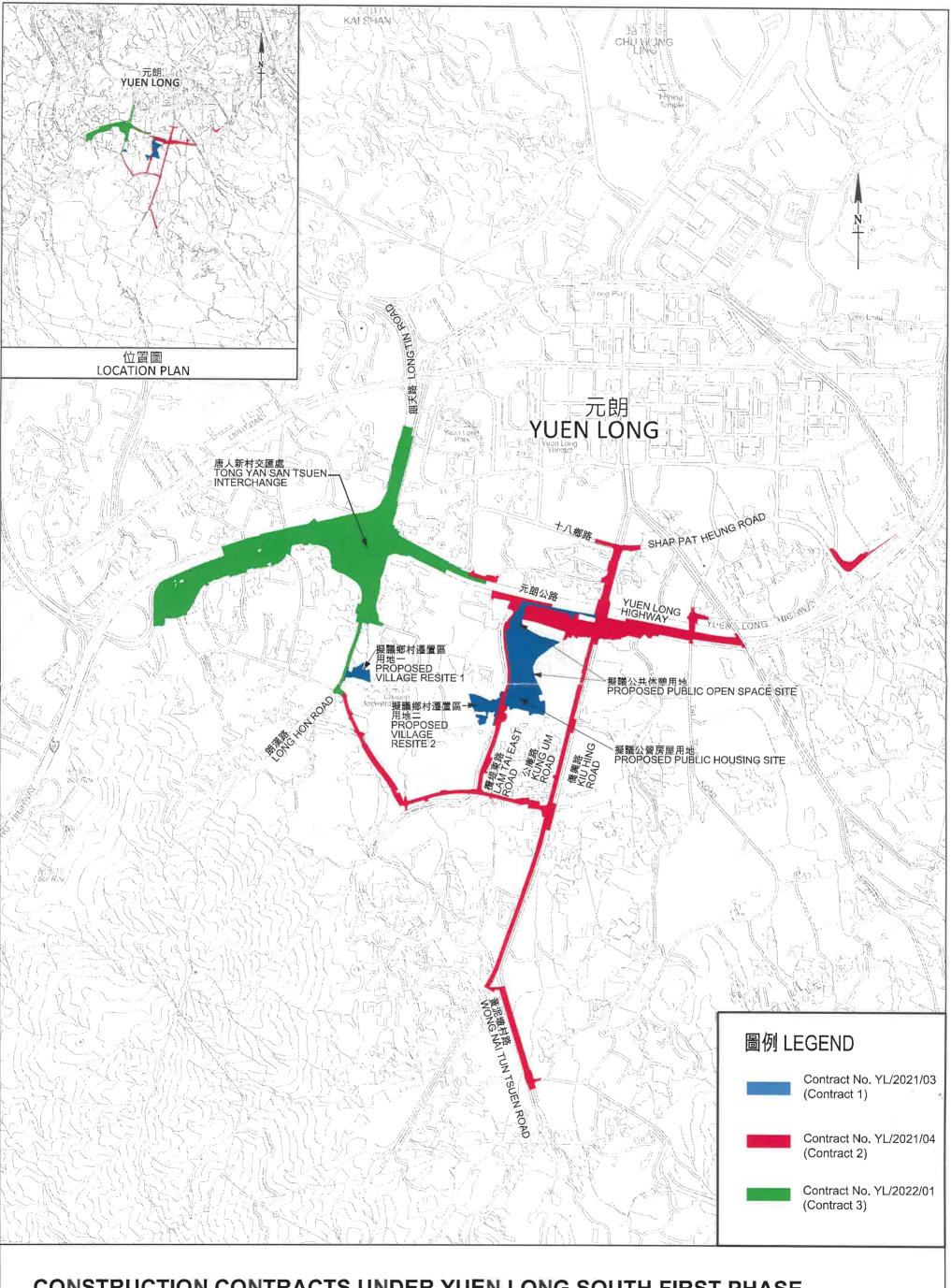
Figure 1





Appendix A

The Layout Plan for YLS First Phase Development



CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS UNDER YUEN LONG SOUTH FIRST PHASE DEVELOPMENT



Appendix B

CV of the Ecologist



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CURRICULUM VITAE

Ma Chun Ning, Moses

B. Sc. in Ecology & biodiversity
The University of Hong Kong (Sep 2013 – Jun 2017)

Ecologist, aec Ltd.: Moses has experienced in the field of conservation and environmental education. In aec, he has worked as fauna ecologist for more than 5 years, with hands-on experience in ecological baseline surveys and impact assessment, as well as ecological monitoring projects. He is familiar with local fauna in the terrestrial context and a wide range of techniques for ecological field surveys and samplings.

Professional Experience

Dec 2017 to present, aec Ltd.

Widening of Yuen Long Highway (Section between Lam Tei Quarry and Tong Yan San Tsuen Interchange). Project manager and fauna specialist responsible for overseeing project implementation and survey programme.

BREEAM Ecological Study at Hin Keng Station. Project ecologist responsible for Ecological Site Appraisal.

Penfold Park Enhancement Project: Additional Service According to Environmental Permit Requirements. Project manager and fauna specialist responsible for overseeing project implementation and survey programme; coordinating and conducting egretry and ardeid roost monitoring.

Agreement No. CE 87/2021 (WS) Relocation of Tsuen Wan No. 2 Fresh Water Service Reservoir to Caverns – Investigation, Design and Construction (Contract No.PMS 01/2022 Ecological Baseline Survey for Relocation of Tsuen Wan No.2 Fresh Water Service Reservoir to Caverns). Project ecologist responsible conducting multi-fauna surveys.

Agreement No. CE 54/2020 (DS) Drainage Improvement Works in Mui Wo – Investigation (Contract No. PM 03/2021 Ecological Survey in Mui Wo). Project ecologist responsible conducting multi-fauna surveys.

Natural Climate Solution - Powering Our Wetlands: A climate adaptation plan for Mai Po through Nature-Based Solutions and Bankable Nature Solutions - Ecological monitoring and impact assessment. Project ecologist responsible conducting multi-fauna surveys.

Agreement No. CE 72/2020 (DS) Village Sewerage for Kam Tin (Stage 1) – Investigation. Project manager and fauna specialist responsible for overseeing surveys and providing technical input to the relevant survey reports.

Fanling Golf Course – Provision of Ecological Consultancy Services (2022 - 2023): Specific Bat and Moth Surveys. Project ecologist responsible conducting multi-fauna surveys, and providing technical input to the relevant survey reports.

CEDD Agreement No. CE 15/2020 (CE) Artificial Islands in the Central Waters – Investigation: Service Contract No. SLO 27/2021 Terrestrial Ecological Surveys for the Central Waters. Project ecologist responsible conducting multi-fauna surveys, and providing technical input to the relevant survey reports.

Proposed Residential Development in Nam Sang Wai and Nature Reserve at Lut Chau: Updating Ecological Surveys for EIAO Submissions. Project manager and fauna specialist responsible for overseeing project implementation and survey programme; coordinating and conducting terrestrial and aquatic ecological surveys.



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Proposed Wetland Restoration Plan cum Ecologically Sensitive Low Density Residential Development in OU(CDWPA) near Yau Mei San Tsuen, Yuen Long — 12-month ecological survey and S16 application. Project ecologist responsible conducting multi-fauna surveys, and providing technical input to the relevant survey reports.

Partly Discharge of S16 Approval Condition (m) of TPB/A/YL-KTN/604 in "Comprehensive Development Area (1)" and "Comprehensive Development Area" Zones on Various Lots in D.D. 107 and Adjoining Government Land, Cheung Chun San Tsuen, Kam Tin – Provision of Updated Baseline Ecological Survey, Revised Ecological Impact Assessment and Updated Habitat Creation and Management Plan. Project ecologist responsible conducting multi-fauna surveys, and providing technical input to the relevant survey reports.

Partly Discharge of S16 Approval Condition (j) of TPB/A/YL-KTN/663 in "Comprehensive Development Area" and "Comprehensive Development Area (1)" Zones on Various Lots in D.D. 107 and Adjoining Government Land, Kam Tin – Provision of Updated Baseline Ecological Survey, Revised Ecological Impact Assessment and Updated Habitat Creation and Management Plan. Project ecologist responsible conducting multi-fauna surveys, and providing technical input to the relevant survey reports.

Contract No. YL/2017/03 Development of Lok Ma Chau Loop: Land Decontamination and Advance Engineering Works – Sub-contract No. S5-SC092 Ecological Monitoring at Ecological Area (EA) Zone. Project manager and fauna specialist responsible for overseeing project implementation and survey programme; coordinating and conducting terrestrial and aquatic ecological surveys.

Submarine Cable Landing Ducts and Beach Manhole at Chung Hom Kok – Ecological Impact Assessment and Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment for Section 16 Planning Application Submission. Project ecologist responsible conducting multi-fauna surveys, and providing technical input to the relevant survey reports.

Ecological Baseline Study for a Development Project at Tai Po Kau D.D. 33 Lot 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. Project ecologist responsible conducting multi-fauna surveys, and providing technical input to the relevant survey reports.

Agreement No. CE 10/2020 (CE) Site Formation and Infrastructure Works for Proposed Public Housing Developments at Sha Po, Shap Pat Heung and Tai Kei Leng, Yuen Long – Feasibility Study. Project Ecologist.

HyD Agreement No. CE 6/2020 (HY) Upgrading of Deep Bay Road – Investigation. Project ecologist responsible conducting multi-fauna surveys, and providing technical input to the relevant survey reports.

Agreement for the Provision of Consultancy Service for Proposed Submarine Cable between Telegraph Bay and Lamma Island Intertidal Survey and Marine Ecological Impact Assessment. Project manager responsible for overseeing survey programme, coordinating and conducting ecological surveys, and providing technical input to the relevant survey reports.

Proposed Submarine Cable between Lantau Island and Cheung Chau, and between Lantau Island and Peng Chau – Intertidal Survey and Marine Ecological Impact Assessment. Project manager responsible for overseeing survey programme, coordinating and conducting ecological surveys, and providing technical input to the relevant survey reports.

Proposed Submarine Cable between Sandy Bay and Lamma Island – Intertidal Survey and Marine Ecological Impact Assessment. Project manager responsible for overseeing survey programme, coordinating and conducting ecological surveys, and providing technical input to the relevant survey reports.

CEDD Agreement No. CE 28/2019 (CE) Study on Phase One Development of New Territories North – San Tin / Lok Ma Chau Development Node – Feasibility Study. Project ecologist responsible conducting multi-fauna surveys, and providing technical input to the relevant survey reports.



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DSD Agreement No. CE 50/2019 (DS) Upgrading of Tai Po Sewage Treatment Works – Investigation – Contract No. SPW 15/2020 – Ecological Survey. Project manager responsible for overseeing survey programme, coordinating and conducting ecological surveys, and providing technical input to the relevant survey reports.

Agreement No. CE 21/2019 (WS) Fresh Water and Flushing Water Service Reservoirs and Associated Works in Fanling North – Design and Construction. Project ecologist responsible conducting multi-fauna surveys, and providing technical input to the relevant survey reports.

DSD Agreement No. CE 15/2019 (DS) Drainage Improvement Works in Sha Tin and Sai Kung – Investigation: Contract No. DP 02/2020 Baseline Ecological Survey for Drainage Improvement Works at Sha Tin and Sai Kung. Project ecologist responsible conducting multi-fauna surveys, and providing technical input to the relevant survey reports.

AFCD Contract Ref. AFCD/WFCD/SD/QT Provision of pilot ecological survey for wild pigs in Hong Kong. Project ecologist responsible conducting multi-fauna surveys, and providing technical input to the relevant survey reports.

MTRC Contact M1193-19C, Ecological Monitoring and Adaptive Maintenance Advice Servies for Lok Ma Chau and West Rail Wetlands. Project ecologist responsible for monitoring of all main terrestrial fauna groups, in-situ water quality monitoring, vegetation monitoring, habitat mapping and desktop mapping with ArcGIS and habitat management works.

Precautionary Ecological Checks for WWF Hong Kong's Peter Scott Field Studies Centre at Mai Po Prior to Demolition. Project ecologist responsible conducting multi-fauna surveys, and providing technical input to the relevant survey reports.

DSD Agreement No. CE 93/2017 (DS) Yuen Long Barrage Scheme – Investigation, Design and Construction: Contract No. PM 04/2019 Ecological Survey in Yuen Long. Project ecologist responsible conducting multi-fauna surveys, and providing technical input to the relevant survey reports.

CEDD Agreement No. CE 40/2015 (GE) Landslip Prevention and Mitigation Programme, 2015, Package F. Landslip Prevention and Mitigation Works - Investigation, Design & Construction. Project ecologist responsible for conducting tree surveys in several man-made slopes in Hong Kong Island.

CEDD Agreement No. CE 32/2016 (CE) Site Formation and Infrastructure Works for Development near Po Lam Road South in Tseung Kwan O – Feasibility Study. Project ecologist responsible conducting multi-fauna surveys, and providing technical input to the relevant survey reports.

Provision of Ecological Consultancy Services for S.12A Rezoning Application – Proposed Residential cum Passive Recreational Development within ""Recreation" ("REC") Zone and "Residential (Group C)" Zone at Various Lots in DD 104, Yuen Long, N.T. Project manager responsible for overseeing survey programme, coordinating and conducting ecological surveys, and providing technical input to the relevant survey reports.

Section 16 Planning Application for Proposed "Place of Recreation, Sports or Culture" (Equine Experience Centre) At "Other Specified Uses" annotated "Race Course" Zone At Penfold Park, San Tin Race Course. Project ecologist responsible conducting multi-fauna surveys, and providing technical input to the relevant survey reports.

DSD Agreement No. CE 65/2017 (DS) Feasibility Study on Extension of Siu Ho Wan Sewage Treatment Works: Contract No. SPW 17/2018 Ecological Survey for Siu Ho Wan Sewage Treatment Works. Project ecologist responsible conducting multi-fauna surveys, and providing technical input to the relevant survey reports.

Sha Po North Phase 2 Residential Development Section 16 Planning Application. Project ecologist responsible conducting multi-fauna surveys, and providing technical input to the relevant survey reports.



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Section 12A Rezoning Application for a Proposed Residential cum School Development at Nam San Wai – Tree Survey and Ecological Impact Assessment. Project ecologist responsible conducting multi-fauna surveys, and providing technical input to the relevant survey reports.

Section 12A Planning Application for Proposed Comprehensive Development for Residential and Educational Uses in Various Lots and Adjoining Government Land in D.D. 115, Yuen Long, Nam Sang Wai, New Territories. Project ecologist responsible conducting multi-fauna surveys, and providing technical input to the relevant survey reports.

CEDD Agreement No. CE 36/2015 (GE) Landslip Prevention and Mitigation Programme, 2015, Package B, Landslip Prevention and Mitigation Works and Provision of Emergency Works Services for Natural Terrain Landslides Occurring in Mainland East (South) – Investigation, Design and Construction: Provision of Ecological Survey (Feature No. 12SW-A/F28). Project ecologist responsible for conducting faunal and floral surveys in a man-made slope in Tseung Kwan O, New Territories.

CEDD Agreement No. CE 28/2013 (GE) Landslip Prevention and Mitigation Programme, 2013, Package B, Landslip Prevention and Mitigation Works — Investigation, Design and Construction: Provision of Ecological Survey (Feature No. 13NW-B/F148). Project ecologist responsible for conducting floral surveys in a man-made slope in Keung Shan Road, Lantau.

Section 12A Rezoning Application for Amendment to the Approved Mai Po and Fairview Park OZP No. S/YL-MP/6 - Proposed Rezoning of Various Lots in D.D. 104 and Adjoining Government Land, Yuen Long , N.T. from "Residential (Group D)" to "Residential (Group B)" Zone. Project ecologist responsible conducting multi-fauna surveys, and providing technical input to the relevant survey reports.

CEDD Agreement No. CE 12/2017 (CE) Improvement Works at Tai O, Phase 2 Stage 2 – Design and Construction. Project ecologist responsible conducting multi-fauna surveys, and providing technical input to the relevant survey reports.

DSD Contract No. 09/LD/2015 Provision of Services of Ecological Field Survey. Project ecologist responsible for habitat mapping and preparation of survey reports.

Operational Phase Ecological Monitoring (2018-2019) for Proposed Residential Development with Commercial and GIC Facilities in "Comprehensive Development Area" and "Undetermined" Zones, Various Lots and Adjoining Government Land in DD107 Sha Po, Kam Tin, Yuen Long. Project ecologist responsible for conducting regular ecological monitoring and surveys on various fauna taxa, with special attention to wetland bird fauna and the globally near-threatened Four-spot Midget *Mortonagrion hirosei*.

AFCD Contract Ref. AFCD/SQ/111/17 Provision of Service for Field Trial on Pond-wiring to Reduce Cormorant Predation in Commercial Fishponds 2017-18. Project ecologist responsible for conducting avifaunal surveys and field inspections in commercial fishponds in the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site.

Contact M1070-13C, Ecological Monitoring and Adaptive Maintenance Advice Services for Lok Ma Chau and West Rail Wetlands. Project ecologist responsible for monitoring of all main terrestrial fauna groups, in-situ water quality monitoring and on-site habitat mapping and desktop mapping with ArcGIS.

Oct 2017 to Dec 2017, School of Biological Sciences, the University of Hong Kong.

Research Assistant II (Fulltime): Assisted in Oyster culturing in aquarium for filtration experiment and analysis of the experimental result.

Oct 2016 to Jan 2017, World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong

Part time Project Helper: Assisted in "Discovering Biodiversity in Hong Kong Wetlands" project, mainly sorting of insect and benthic samples and data entry.



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Other Experiences

September 2017 to present, Hong Kong Wetland Park

Volunteer: Trained as Eco-tour guide inside the Park.

May 2017, Kadoorie Farm & Botanic Garden

Volunteer: Assisted in DNA barcoding of shark fin samples for long-term conservation project.

July 2015 to December 2015, World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong

Volunteer: Participated in small mammal and insect survey.

Training Course

June 2017 to August 2017, Odonata Course 2017, School of Biological Sciences, HKU

June 2015 to July 2015, Herpetology Course 2015, School of Biological Sciences, HKU

Other Qualifications

- Classes I and 2 HKSAR Driving License



Appendix C

Photographic Record of the Survey Visits at previous Egretry at Tai Tong



Photographic record at previous location of Egretry at Tai Tong (Pak Sha Tsuen)





14 April 2023





28 April 2023

12 May 2023



Appendix D

Photographic Records of Walkover Survey



Photographic record of Walkover Surveys within 250m from Works Area







