

HSBC Wetland Management Training Programme



Samson So

Background

WWF Hong Kong began organising the Wetland Management Training Programme in 1991 at our Mai Po Nature Reserve, Hong Kong. This programme has been generously sponsored by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd. since 1998. Over 12 training courses and 3-5 study tours are organised each year, attended by some 130 participants, who come mainly from the wetland reserves in Mainland China. Courses have also been held for participants from elsewhere in East Asia.

Objectives

The objectives of the HSBC Wetland Management Training Programme are:

- to promote awareness of the value of wetland ecosystems to man and wildlife
- to improve participants' skills to better manage their wetlands and wetland reserves
- to use Mai Po as a case study to demonstrate the effective practice of wetland reserve management and environmental education
- to provide an opportunity for participants to exchange experiences, techniques and knowledge regarding wetland management and conservation.

Course Capacity and Training Contents

The HSBC Wetland Management Training Programme currently offers 2 main types of courses:

Wetland Management Training Course

These are held primarily for reserve staff. Each course runs for 8 days with a maximum of 11 participants. Each year, 12 courses are organised.



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Wetland Management Study Tour

These are run for government officials responsible for wetland management and conservation. Each course runs for between 2-6 days with a maximum of 11 participants. Each year, 3-5 courses are organised.

The Wetland Management Training Course places emphasis on practical approaches to wetland reserve management, although both the training course and the study tour will cover:

- biodiversity conservation
- function and value of wetlands
- wetland survey techniques and report writing
- wetland management practices
- education and public awareness programmes for students, teachers and the general public
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies.

Training Course Facilities and Personnel Involved

Training manuals are available in Chinese and English. Lectures, discussions, workshops, management planning practices, field studies and audio-visual programmes are held at our Mai Po Nature Reserve. Course participants join field visits to Country Parks and other sites of conservation value and meet government officials with responsibility for wetland management in the Hong Kong SAR.

The Training Programme is organised and run by a full-time Training Officer and an Assistant Training Officer. The programme is supported by other WWF Hong Kong staff, Hong Kong SAR government departments such as Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Territory Development Department, Lands Department, Planning Department, Highways Department, and Environmental Protection Department as well as organisations such as Kadoorie Farm & Botanic Garden.

Post-training Programme

In order to encourage participants to use what they have learnt on the course in their daily work, the HSBC Wetland Management Training Programme will continue to support participants on their return to their place of work in the following ways:

Small Project Grants

Small project grants are provided to selected participants to undertake formal projects related to wetland conservation at their place of work.



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Technical support

WWF Hong Kong staff will visit participants' reserves to provide technical support to participants.

Training Course Newsletter

Participants can publish reports on their work in the HSBC Wetland Management Training Programme Newsletter.

Diploma

Participants receive a diploma on successfully completing the course.

Application Process

Interested reserves and agencies may contact the WWF Hong Kong Training Officer to request a training course application form.

For further information, please contact:

Training Officer
WWF Hong Kong
Mai Po Nature Reserve
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