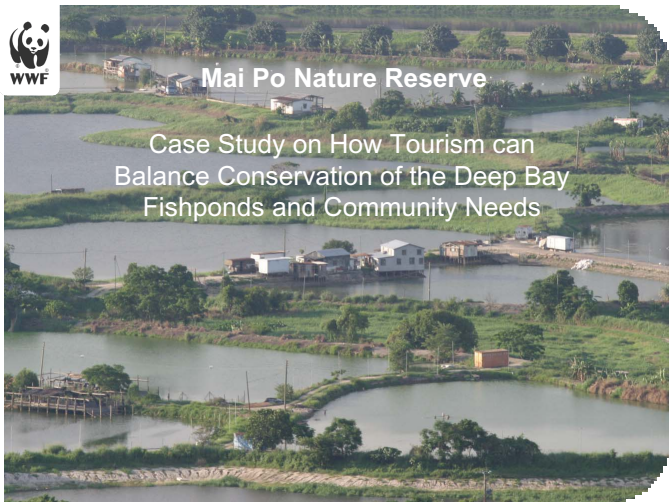




## Mai Po Nature Reserve

### Case Study on How Tourism can Balance Conservation of the Deep Bay Fishponds and Community Needs



## Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay

- The northwestern New Territories supports the largest area of wetlands in Hong Kong, mainly made up of commercial fishponds.
- In 1995, a 1,500 ha of these wetlands was listed as a Ramsar Site
- 467 ha of fishponds in the Ramsar Site were listed as a Wise Use Zone (1997)



## Fishpond values



- Flood alleviation
- Social and cultural value
- Economic importance
- Ecological significance



## Wise Use Zone

- Wise Use Zone : a "win-win" situation
  - economic benefits to the people
  - ecological benefits to wildlife
- However, the traditional pond-fish farming practices are important in maintaining the ecological values



Oriental Long-arm shrimp *Macrobrachium nipponense*



Mosquito fish *Gambusia affinis*



## Threats to the Deep Bay fishponds

- Competition from import of cheaply produced fish from Mainland China
- Decreasing wholesale price of fish
- Increasing cost of feed
- Predation by wintering Cormorants



## Threats to the Deep Bay fishponds

- Movement of young people to cities
- Increasing age of fish farmers
- Unwilling to invest further
- Changing the management practice e.g. intensification
- Conversion to other uses so reducing the value to wildlife



## WWF Fishpond conservation programme

- 2000, initiated a community programme to understand the problems, and open up dialogue with the fishermen
- 2004, initiated a pilot Management Agreement project with a local fisherman
  - economic incentive is provided to the fishermen
  - the fishermen are agreed to carry out the management practices beneficial to waterbirds



## WWF Adopt A Green Fish Farm

### Mission

- To balance the needs of conservation and local fishermen for the future of the Deep Bay wetlands

### Objectives

- Raise funds for WWF to extend the pilot management agreement scheme to conserve the values of the Deep Bay fishponds
- Encourage the fisherman to carry out management practices that will maintain the ecological value of the fishponds
- Encourage the public to join the programme as 'foster parents' and to raise fund from them
- Organize regular activities for the 'foster parents' at the fishponds.



Photo credit: S. K. Lau



Photo credit: S. K. Lau

## WWF Benefits to the fishermen

### Fishermen

- Receive additional income to encourage them to continue traditional methods of pond-fish farming
- Fishermen voluntarily joins the programme
- Receive payment = \$2,880 / ha / yr
- Have to:
  - perform tasks prescribed in the agreement
  - guide and interpret fishpond visits by 'foster parents'.



Photograph: Mr. S.K. Lau



Photograph: Mr. S.K. Lau

## WWF Benefits to the 'foster parents'

### Public

- 'Foster parents' – participation in conservation of the Ramsar Site
- Public are invited to join the project as 'foster parents'
- Adoption fee : \$1,440 / 0.5ha / yr
- Foster parents can join the fishpond visits and other programmes



Photo credit: Y. Y. Chak

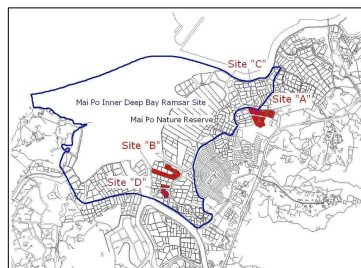
## WWF Implementation

### 2006 Targets

- 25 ha of fishpond
- 12.5ha at present (Site A)
- 25 ha are awaiting to join
- expand to 20 ha (mid 2006)

### 2006 (1st quarter)

No. of participants : 2 individuals  
1 Rotary club  
1 corporation

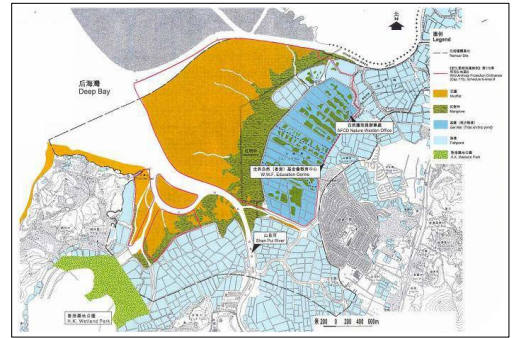


### Adopt a Green Fish Farm

Please contact Mr. Tobi Lau or Ms. Polly Chik  
Tel: 2461- 6306  
E-mail: [fishpond@wwf.org.hk](mailto:fishpond@wwf.org.hk)  
website: <http://www.wwf.org.hk/eng/maipo/greenfishfarm/index.html>

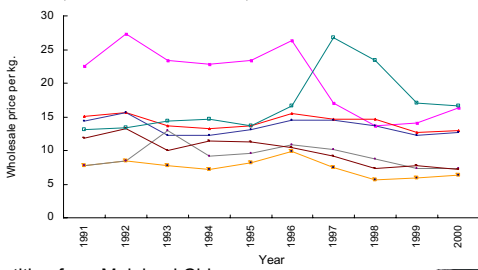
Thank you



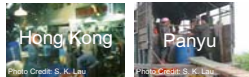


### Threats to the Deep Bay fishponds

Yearly average wholesale price of freshwater fish per kg from 1991 to 2000 (Source: HKSAR Government AFCD)



- Competition from Mainland China
  - China daily import : 50,000 kg (2005)
  - HK daily produce: 30,000 kg (2005)



Photographs: Mr. S.K. Lau

### In response

- Leave the industry and abandon the fishpond
- Intensify the farming practice harvest fish throughout the year
- Loss of values, such as less feeding opportunities for water birds



Photographs: Mr. Rubin Chiu

Photo credits: S. K. Lau