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鄉郊保育辦公室 Countryside Conservation Office

慶春約七村·谷埔·鳳坑 YANCHAUTONG VILLAGES ACTIONPLAN

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Towards Sustainable and Inclusive Conservation and Revitalisation in Hing Chun Yeuk Seven Villages, Kuk Po and Fung Hang, Hong Kong

Project Team: Department of Urban Planning and Design, Faculty of Architecture, The University of Hong Kong Project Period: 1 September 2021 – 31 August 2022 Funding Party: Countryside Conservation Office Funded under the Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme (Project Number: EP86/27/24/11-7)

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Building a Modern Yeuk.



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Introduction

The Yan Chau Tong Villages Concept Plan will contribute to a 21st-century rural region that is distinctive, sustainable, and resilient — a region designed to encourage cultural and economic participation, with long-term healthy communities and a regenerative environment.

The Yan Chau Tong Villages Concept Plan builds upon the exemplary conservation and revitalisation achievements in Lai Chi Wo and the increasing popularity of Kuk Po and Fung Hang as recreation destinations. It is conceived of as a long-term plan to accommodate the region's revitalisation development.

The concept plan contains an agenda to protect the rural character of the region while overcoming challenges related to affordable resettlement, balanced mobility, cultural resilience, modern economic livelihoods, and landscape conservation.

5 Objectives

Yan Chau Tong Villages Concept Plan is structured around 5 objectives:

- 01 The Yan Chau Tong region will be managed by a tailored rural governance system
- 02 The Yan Chau Tong villages will showcase an evolving human-nature approach to development
- 03 The Yan Chau Tong region will provide **self-sustaining livelihoods**

04 The Yan Chau Tong region will be home to **long-term healthy communities**

05 The Yan Chau Tong villageswill benefit from ecotourismoutcomes

5 Outcomes

Following the successful rollout of the Concept Plan, the Yan Chau Tong region will be:

- 01 Recognized as the exemplary model for Hong Kong-style rural revitalisation
- 02 Designated as a world-class agrarian landscape showcasing a unique human-nature approach
- 03 Defined by a village alliance economy with strong reciprocal relations and indigenous entrepreneurs
- 04 Home to **multi-generational** living communities practicing traditional and modern village lifestyles
- **05** Host to **high-quality rural tourism** defined by distinct and vibrant village cultures

Delivering the Yan Chau Tong Villages Concept Plan

Integrating actions across existing governance scales will be critical for the successful delivery of the Yan Chau Tong Villages Concept Plan.

The concept plan takes a territorial development approach to rural planning for the area by embedding management within a regional coordination body and delivering implementation across government departments, authorities, village institutions, and project partners.

The plan focuses on the area comprising nine village enclaves, plus the connecting trails and adjoining country park and marine landscapes. It also covers additional neighbouring villages whose inclusion in actions will be necessary for their delivery. Over time, the plan should also be scaled up to incorporate a more comprehensive set of area villages into regional planning, including Yung Shue Au, Kat O, Ap Chau, Wu Kau Tang, Sai Lau Kong, A Ma Wat and Kau Tam Tso.

Partnerships for Yan Chau Tong's future growth

A network of partnerships has emerged in the area around the funding associated with the Countryside Conservation Office (CCO). Government, businesses and the community are working together to plan for the future. Implementing the Yan Chau Tong Villages Concept Plan through a partnership approach will require a sustained and committed effort phased over a planning horizon.



Institutional structure for plan implementation

New Regional Coordination Hub

The CCO is the front-facing government agency situated between rural stakeholders and government departments. They will have the key coordination role, tasked with managing a whole-of-government approach to revitalisation in Yan Chau Tong. The CCO will also lead negotiations with partners in areas for development planning.

A new governance partner, the Regional Coordination Hub, will be established under the Concept Plan to support, advise and oversee region-specific revitalisation for the CCO in Yan Chau Tong. The Hub will develop a robust institutional structure to advise on the delivery of key planning outcomes.

Staffing and recruitment of experts for the Regional Coordination Hub will prioritise those with region-specific and rural project implementation experience. The hub will provide expert input and design competency for the purpose of delivering planned actions and work alongside the CCO to coordinate and deliver region-specific development for Yan Chau Tong.

Lead agencies and partners

Actions will be implemented by lead agencies with the competence and expertise necessary to deliver phased implementation.

While the Regional Coordination Hub will provide the framework for the Yan Chau Tong Villages Concept Plan's implementation, the lead agencies will lead delivery of its actions. Selection processes will give preference to those with place-based and rural specific experience. Particularly to those partners who have proven track records in Hong Kong rural development.

Government departments and major existing regional stakeholders will be the main lead agencies in the delivery and ongoing management of integrated action plans. They will provide the management capacity and on-the-ground coordination to successfully deliver phased action planning.

Implementation partners will be hired as part of an action-aligned team to deliver targeted pieces of the action plan. Area experts with direct experience and preferably existing regional experience will be selected to execute these implementation components.

Connecting with other strategies, plans and policies

Delivery of the Yan Chau Tong Villages Concept Plan will occur within a network of interconnected activities. A number of projects and initiatives are already underway, and align with the planning vision of this concept plan. These are outlined in the 'projects underway' section of each programme. The Yan Chau Tong Villages Concept Plan has been guided and aligns with strategies, plans and policies announced at the national, domestic and local levels. This includes the Northern Metropolis plan, which will inform the government's long term planning vision for the Northern New Territories, including the Yan Chau Tong region. The Yan Chau Tong Villages Concept Plan's actions will align with the government's priority concepts, initiatives and funding under that plan. It also includes documents such as the Hong Kong 2030+ vision which sets out the territorial spatial development strategy for the city beyond 2030, and the Hong Kong Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan which outlines a five-year strategy with corresponding actions to be taken for conserving biodiversity and supporting sustainable development.

Local government partnerships

The Sha Tau Kok Rural District Committee (STKDRC) shares responsibilities with the CCO in planning for Yan Chau Tong's future. Heung Yee Kuk, as the major statutory advisory body for the wider region, will also be a key partner in creating a policy environment and corresponding support for the delivery of the Yan Chau Tong Concept Plan.

Local government, in partnership with city government agencies, will focus on:

- participating in regional governance arrangements to support the plan's implementation
- undertaking local planning actions to implement the Yan Chau Tong plan

Putting the plan into action >>>>

This plan put forwards 21 actions with 51 recommendations for implementation as the Yan Chau Tong Villages **Concept Plan. These build on** projects already underway. Each action aligns with objectives and strategies that delivers the vision of building a Modern Yeuk.

A number of actions are identified as 'ongoing' rather than phased as short, medium or long for completion. They will provide essential services for regional planning.

Each action is delegated to a lead agency with primary responsibility for delivering the action. Actions also identify and recommend implementation partners for the delivery of the action, due to their area of expertise. Overall coordination and oversight rests with the Regional Coordination Hub. Local communities will also be encouraged to develop their own initiatives as suggested in Villager Action List.





Decision-making and delivery of the Yan Chau Tong Villages Concept Plan

The Yan Chau Tong Villages Concept Plan is a policy proposal. Detailed decisions about the implementation of actions, the delivery of infrastructure and timing of the projects will be made by CCO and its partners, in line with the normal government policy and budget processes.

A commitment from CCO to align its funding decisions with findings from our concept plan would enable the rollout of a long term planning vision for the region.

The government will continue its commitment to rigorous decision-making about initiatives that require funding, statutory amendments or new regulations.

The indicative timeframes for completing actions are:

Short term First 3-5 years

Medium term Coming 5-10 years



Long term Coming 10-20 years

Ongoing Constant action For all the initiatives and actions proposed here above, implementation and timing will be subject to consideration of their evidence base and likely net benefits.

Actions and Implementation Components



The Yan Chau Tong region's ongoing development has been financed and implemented on a piecemeal basis through small-scale village projects. This approach has been uncoordinated and unaligned with wider government goals, leading to limited investment towards rejuvenating the region. The designation of a Rural Revitalisation Action Area (RRAA) will help to pioneer a Hong Kong-specific approach to countryside development characterised by its "community-led" approach. It will achieve this by indicating the government's commitment to investment, by attracting additional private sector commitments to rural development, and by providing a regional framework for implementation.

Projects underway

Regional network

 APAC Initiative for Regional Impact (AIRI) (under HSBC Rural Sustainability Programme)

Non-specific | HKU CCSG

Local rural governance

• Lai Chi Wo Pui Shing Tong Committee

Regional | Villagers, HKU CCSG

HakkaHome-LCW Limited

Regional | Villagers, HKCF

 Management Agreement Scheme at Lai Chi Wo Enclave

Regional | AFCD

• Management Strategies (under Forest Village Programme)

Regional | HKU CCSG, ASTKCE

Rural Revitalisation Action Area

Designate an conceptual framework to indicate government's commitment towards investing in regional rural revitalisation

P1



Institutional design

• Village Commoning: Developing a Community-led Model in Countryside Revitalisation

Regional | HKU DLA

Next actions

Action 1 Regional Governance

Objective	01
Proposed Scale	Regional
m	
The scale can eventually expand to include Yung Shue Au, Kat O, Ap Chau, Wu Kau Tang, Sai Lau Kong, A Ma Wat, Kau Tam Tso	
Timeframe	• • • • •
Lead Agency	ссо

Lead Agency	00
Implementation	YCT VRs, PlanD,
Partners	HKU DUPAD

Establishment of a set of regional planning and coordination structures to oversee revitalisation activities within the Yan Chau Tong area.

This will facilitate village and intervillage development by standing up a tailored governance approach for planning and execution over a long-term horizon.

- The "Regional Coordination Hub" will implement a regional development plan through steering ongoing investments into Yan Chau Tong's villages (see 1.1)
- The "Yan Chau Tong 2035 Vision" will offer a long-term roadmap for achieving exemplary rural revitalisation (see 1.2)
- The "Community Planning Workshops" will showcase Hong Kong's community-led model for rural revitalisation and enable distinct village development in Yan Chau Tong (see 1.3)

Action 1 aims to improve institutional design for the planning and delivery of Yan Chau Tong's development.

Implementation Components:

- 1.1 Regional Coordination Hub
- 1.2 Yan Chau Tong 2035 Vision
- 1.3 Community Planning Workshops

The government should designate the area as a village revitalisation action area. **This will give a strong indication to show their commitment** and will serve to mobilise locals and private secto partners in a systematic manner.

- K. K. Ling, Strategic Planning Advisor of Northern Metropolis Plan Strategy

Implementation components

1.1 Regional Coordination Hub

	Implementation Partners	ссо
	Funding Roadmap	As rural development funding a within CCO they will take the lea Coordination Hub'
	Pilot	N/A, will be implemented as an created Rural Revitalisation Acti

Establishment of a management structure to oversee the rural revitalisation action area in Yan Chau Tong.

- Optimise investment by including rural knowledge and on-the-ground regional stakeholders in advisory and authority positions
- 2. Pursue durable outcomes by aligning and then managing ongoing work according to a long term planning process
- Achieve set targets by building up incremental local capacity, synergizing ongoing work and making integrated solutions possible

1.2 Yan Chau Tong 2035 Vision

Implementation Partners	CCO, YCT VRs
Funding Roadmap	As rural development funding a within the CCO they will take the 2035 Vision
Pilot	N/A, will be implemented along the RRAA

Formulation of a regional plan to direct investment into the phased development of distinct villages and larger multi-village collaborative projects.

- 1. A regional masterplanning document to guide development of the Yan Chau Tong RRAA
- 2. **Implementable development plans** for each of the nine villages, phased for long-term incremental revitalisation
- Planning alignment with city, regional and national plans such as the Hong Kong 2030+ and the Northern Metropolis plan
- 4. A participatory and inclusionary community planning process to ensure long-term buy-in and enthusiastic support













Community Planning Workshops 1.3

Pilot

Implementation Partners	YCT VRs, HKU DUPAD
-------------------------	--------------------

Funding Roadmap	The individual workshops can be designed as 'Research Activities' projects under CCFS

Sam A Tsuen will host a trial community workshop, future versions can then scaled accordingly to all regional villages

A design process to establish villagers' self-chosen objectives and vision and communicate them to authorities and partners. The end result will be a community-led vision which makes use of planning discourse for legitimisation by government officials.

- Workshops will be held in each village 1. community to develop a village-specific planning document
- **Development workshops** will be jointly hosted 2. with villages, local politicians and partners for direction setting
- Village planning sessions will be jointly hosted 3. with villagers and planning consultants to deliver a formal planning document

Justification:

1. Yan Chau Tong villages lack formal local plans to negotiate with government officials and authorities

2. Villagers must be central to planning in order to foster a future Yan Chau Tong region defined by distinct village identities

3. For regional planning to deliver results, it must incorporate on-the-ground expertise and be based on real village conditions



Participatory Development **Processes**

P2

Empower villagers with resources for self-initiated projects and co-planning, co-creating, and co-implementing activities



Villagers of the region have lamented the lack of resources available to them to participate in ongoing revitalisation or self-initiate their own efforts. Creating a platform which provides villagers with access to funding, opportunities and up-to-date information will improve the situation. It will reduce dependency on government investment for development, create a collaborative approach aligned with local needs, and enable revitalisation outcomes which increase community benefits.

Projects underway

Village-/project-specific resource platforms

- Stakeholders' whatsapp groups
 Regional | Villagers, project-doers
- Project websites and social media platforms

Regional | Project-doers

Participatory design

• Sustainability Design Hackathon for Rural Camping Experience (under Forest Village Programme)

Mui Tsz Lam | HKU CCSG, ASTKCE, HKU DLA

Participatory Action Research
 <u>Mui Tsz Lam</u> | HakkaHome-LCW Limited

Villager-external party matchup

Consultations for revitalisation potentials
 Ngau Shi Wu | CCO / EPD / Private

Community capacity building

 "Co-creation of the Community" (3Cs) Scheme (under HSBC Rural Sustainability Programme)

Non-specific | HKU CCSG

 Village volunteer training programme (under Forest Village Programme)

Kop Tong, Mui Tsz Lam | HKU CCSG, ASTKCE

• Lai Chi Wo Farming Apprenticeship (under HSBC Rural Sustainability Programme)

Lai Chi Wo | HKU CCSG

 Recruitment of Agricultural Products Processing Team Members (under HSBC Rural Sustainability Programme)
 Lai Chi Wo | HKU CCSG

 Ecological and agricultural education programmes (under Management Agreement Scheme at Lai Chi Wo Enclave)

Lai Chi Wo | HKCF, CA

Next actions

Action 2 CCFS-Villager Alignment Objective O1 Proposed Scale Non-specific Timeframe

Lead Agency CCO

Implementation YCT VRs Partners

A project alignment initiative which calls for engaging locals as part of the existing revitalisation process.

This will involve young and middle age villagers from the nine project villages of the Yan Chau Tong region. The idea is to nurture local capacity for regional and village development through the existing Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme (CCFS).

- An "Employment Matching Scheme" will connect villagers to available opportunities as part of ongoing CCFS projects (see 2.1)
 - A "CCO Rural Forum" will provide an ongoing channel for dialogue between government officials and village residents toward co-building an exemplary rural revitalisation model (see 2.2)
- "Village-led CCFS projects" will enable villagers to directly participate in regional revitalisation and deliver targeted outcomes for which they have unique competence to achieve (see 2.3)

Action 2 aims to establish an alignment between ongoing revitalisation work and villagers.

Imple	ementati
2.1	Emplo
2.2	CCO R
2.3	Village
2.5	Villag

•

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SC
own re local r

tion Components: oyment Matchup Scheme Rural Forum Jer-led CCFS Projects

LO PUN

Pun's indigenous villagers have undertaken **their** vitalisation work to repair the floodgate of the nan-made pond and resume its function as a nd. Their hope is to attract local villagers back for ion and community building.

Employment Matchup Scheme 2.1

Implementation Partners	CCO, YCT VRs
Funding Roadmap	The scheme can operate through the ongoing CCFS process and can be developed without special funding support
Pilot	N/A, the scheme can be implemented as a policy adjustment or throug

N/A, the scheme can be implemented as a policy adjustment or through the advocacy of CCO

Principal investigators will identify opportunities for villager engagement in ongoing CCFS projects and will work with the CCO and VRs to recruit and match villagers accordingly.

- 1. A general employment stream will match villagers with ongoing CCFS projects through part-time contractual work as needed
- 2. A shadow stream will place young villagers on CCFS projects to shadow research assistant staff by assisting in research activities and advising on baseline data

Justification:

1. An urgent need exists for local revitalisation capacity in Yan Chau Tong as part of ongoing development work

2. CCFS projects require more substantive interaction with locals to successfully apply research

3. Young villagers must be provided opportunities to learn and work in their villages for future leadership capacity

CCO Rural Forum 2.2

Implementation Partners	CCO, YCT VRs	
Funding Roadmap	The forum can be financed through C work funds	CO's non-recurrent or minor improvement
Pilot	Lai Chi Wo plaza, future events can b capacity	e hosted at different villages according to
An interactive discussion series established by CCO for advertising its ongoing good work in the region and for hosting productive discussion with villagers on local needs and visions.		Justification: 1. Current communication strategies between Yan Chau Tong villagers and the government lack formal

- An annual onsite forum hosted by the 1. government with participation and engagement from local villagers, village leadership and partner organizations
- 2. The forum can be organized to coincide with each new round of CCFS approved projects

structures for constructive engagement

2. Villagers report feeling unaware of ongoing work and find it hard to keep track of new projects and opportunities

3. Villagers, project partners and government officials currently meet on an ad hoc basis thus limiting the potential for wider collaboration

Villager-led CCFS Projects 2.3

Implementation Partners	CCO, YCT VRs
Funding Roadmap	N/A, the adjustment can be deve special funding support
Pilot	N/A, the scheme can be impleme advocacy of CCO

Formalization and expansion of ongoing efforts to engage villagers in CCFS project work as principal or co-investigators.

- 1. Call for proposals from villagers with proven competence and preferably existing CCFS experience to apply for future rounds of CCFS project funding
- 2. Assign onsite technical staff to support villagers in going through the application process and perform essential paperwork

eloped under the existing CCO system without

nented as a policy adjustment or through the



Next actions

Action 3 Villager Action Platform

Objective	01
Proposed Scale	Regional
m	
Timeframe	
Lead Agency	ссо
Implementation Partners	HKCF, AFCD, STKDRC

Development of a multi-model platform to supply villagers with resources and information needed to undertake self-initiated projects.

The platform will enable villagers to take on small-scale revitalisation efforts on their own (e.g. community gardens, art projects, social spaces, village events).

- The "Online Resource Portal" will provide essential • resource information for villager action (see 3.1)
- "Enhanced Notice Boards" will provide villagers with on-the-ground opportunities for engagement on an ongoing basis (see 3.2)
- A "Revitalisation Referral Hotline" will provide extension services for villager self-implementation (see 3.3)

Action 3 aims to provide a comprehensive service support to residents as a way of generating self-initiated projects and stimulating villager-led development.

Implementation Components:

- 3.1 **Online Resource Portal**
- **Enhanced Notice Boards** 3.2
- 3.3 **Revitalisation Referral Hotline**

Implementation components

3.1 **Online Resource Portal**

Implementation Partners	HKCF
Funding Roadmap	The initiative can be designed as
Pilot	N/A, the online portal can be ma non-resident, simultaneously

A comprehensive online portal to support villagers in initiating self-starting projects and for participating in ongoing revitalisation work.

- 1. **A 'funding roadmap'** will offer an easy-to-use up-to-date listing of ongoing and new funding schemes provided by public and private agents which apply to village residents
- 2. **An 'opportunity section'** will aggregate the latest news related to new projects, upcoming events and ongoing opportunities (volunteering, part-time jobs) for villagers to get involved with
- A 'best practices overview' will offer villages 3. examples of successful efforts and solution-making related to common rural challenges across the world and which they can apply to their own communities

Enhanced Notice Boards 3.2

Implementation Partners	STKDRC, CCO
Funding Roadmap	The boards can be financed thre
Pilot	N/A, the enhancements can tak ongoing CCO work

A display strategy to physically site information within villages for residents to sign-up for initiatives, source information on meetings and events, and broadly feel they are kept posted on ongoing regional activities.

- CCFS projects will post job opportunities 1. related to their work in relevant villages
- 2. Villagers will be allowed to use notice boards to share opportunities and advertisements fo ongoing events and activities
- 3. CCO and STKDRC will make an effort to advertise their work and promote opportunities to villagers through these boards

s a 'Research Activities' project under CCFS





rough CCO's 'Capital Works Reserve Fund'

ke place as part of a regional effort aligned with

in e	Justification:
9	 Current village notice boards share only a narrow set of information related to village development
or	2. Villagers report wanting to be more involved, informed and engaged as part of ongoing revitalisation work
	3. Each regional village already has a physical notice board through which enhancements can be implemented
	4. Physical notice boards will supplement online information and other communication channels

Revitalisation Referral Hotline 3.3

Implementation Partners **HKCF**

Funding Roadmap The hotline can be funded by STKDRC as part of its service delivery for the Yan Chau Tong villages

Pilot

N/A, the hotline will be accessible to any villager within the Yan Chau Tong area

A teleservice for villagers to get their revitalisation questions answered and obtain support and how-to-guidance for self-initiated work.

- 1. A team of trained agents will offer technical assistance for such inquiries and answer villager questions relating to revitalisation
- 2. Agents will offer villagers referral services so that residents can access additional education, financing and technical assistance

Justification:

1. Hong Kong's rural policy is continuously evolving and villagers require contextual support to be able to undertake their own projects

2. Online resources and notice boards limit information sharing due to accessibility issues

3. Interactive revitalisation support will provide villagers with the necessary resources and confidence to take on their own projects



Intergenerational Connections

P3

Provide opportunities and incentives for the new generations to cherish their culture and build local youth leadership



Existing village communities are characterised by an older residential population with many of the younger generation living and working in more urban environments domestically or abroad. Village heritage and local capacity are endangered by these demographics challenges, creating a threat to community health. Designing new opportunities for descendants to get involved in village life, strengthen local bonds and generate leadership will help to bridge this discrepancy and create the possibility for long-term communities.

Projects underway

Leadership training

 Academy for Sustainable Communities (under Sustainable Lai Chi Wo Programme)
 Non-specific | HKU CCSG

Cultural workshops for youth

 Lai Chi Wo Children Play Theatre [Children Theatre Workshop + Art Tech Performance]
 Lai Chi Wo | Zuni Icosahedron

Next actions



01

Proposed Scale Regional

Objective



Timeframe VCT VRs
Lead Agency VCT VRs
Implementation
Partners CC, MaD,
HakkaHome,

HakkaHome, ASTKCE, LCW PST, STKDRC

- aD, aHome, CE, PST, RC
- A "Hakka Youth Leadership" programme will provide opportunities for village leadership training (see 4.3)

Action 4 aims to foster new connections among villagers to create future local leadership and preserve indigenous cultural practices.

Implementation Components:

- 4.1 Regul
- 4.2 Desce 4.3 Hakk

•

•

о пакка

The ne Hakka langu and p **spoke** don't

Interlinking initiatives which will foster descendant engagement with their ancestral communities, create intergenerational solidarity among geographically diverse villagers and a next-generation indigenous leadership cohort.

The initiatives will use shared cultural heritage values and practices to stimulate engagement between villagers and provide opportunities for them to deepen attachments to ancestral spaces and communities. In this way, older generations will pass on the precious yet fragile cultural heritage unique to the region.

- A set of "Regular Community Competitions" will serve to strengthen bonds among indigenous villagers in Hong Kong and overseas (see 4.1)
- A "Descendant Festival" will provide a platform for continuous connection among non-resident and on-site villagers (see 4.2)

Regular Community Competitions Descendant Festival Hakka Youth Leadership Programme

> xt generation doesn't even know how to speak ... It would be a pity if we cannot pass on the Hakka age. I always ask the younger ones to come back actice. **We must preserve Hakka, it can be n around the world.** Some of my brothers overseas even know cantonese, but they still speak Hakka.

> > - Kop Tong VR

Regular Community Competitions 4.1

Implementation Partners	CC, HakkaHome, ASTKCE, LCW PST	
Funding Roadmap	The initiative can be designed as a 'Cultural Rehabilitation/Revitalisation' project under CCFS or through alternative cultural-funding schemes available (Commissioner of Heritage's Office (CHO), LCSD's Intangible Cultural Heritage Office (ICHO), Lord Wilson Heritage Trust)	
Pilot	Lai Chi Wo plaza can play host a trial run of competitions, then expanded accordingly to other villages	

A series of competitions hosted semi-regularly to gather the village communities across the globe to practice intangible cultural heritage and celebrate their traditions.

- A Fapao competition reenactment for residents 1. to share with other villagers as a way of celebrating deeply rooted, no longer practised traditions
- 2. Rap-style competitions for young villagers to explore the Hakka language and showcase its potential for modern interpretation through song
- Amateur cooking events invite participants to 3. make their best attempts at a classic dish of Hakka Cuisine such as braised pork belly

Descendant Festival 4.2

Implementation Partners	YCT VRs
Funding Roadmap	The festival can be funded by the joint village communities with support from CCO and/or the LCSD-ICHO 'Community Driven Projects Scheme'
Pilot	Lai Chi Wo, with consideration for hosting it within multiple villages (Ngau Shi

Wu, So Lo Pun)

An event organised annually or bi-annually to attract people of Hakka ancestry, traditionally from the Yan Chau Tong region, to visit the area. The festival will be conceived as a 'homecoming' to connect participants to each other, their shared culture and the land.

1. A series of events based on Hakka language, song and poetry to draw out common meaning and shared memory

A celebration of traditional cultivation and its 2. many cultural derivatives (e.g. rice wine, preserved foods, agrarian culture) to engage with tangible inheritance

Showcasing great Hakka innovations (related to 3. the region's historic sustainable development) to foster ancestral pride

Justification:

Justification:

1. Preservation efforts need to

Hakka food, Fung Shui

diasporic villagers

villagers

re-energise and re-contextualise

intangible heritage (e.g. weaving,

2. Hybrid modes of activities will

3. Competition-style activities will

create excitement around cultural

heritage practices and engage youth

interpretations) for a new generation

bridge the divide between onsite and

1. Villagers commonly report a growing divide between generations and a lack of youth engagement

2. VRs are aging and there is a need for grooming future local leadership

3. The Yan Chau Tong villages have significant diasporic communities with attachment to the place and useful skills

Hakka Leadership Programme 4.3

	Implementation Partners	YCT VRs, STKDRC	
-	Funding Roadmap	The programme can be subsidise income generated by tourism. Th amount of funding available on a supplemented by government n	
	Pilot	Regional, a trial run can be teste interspersing activities across th	

A programme for young descendants (ages 18-30) living abroad to discover and connect with their heritage by spending a subsidised week in the Yan Chau Tong region.

- 1. The youth will be accommodated in restored Hakka homes within villages and shuttled to the area via ferry
- 2. They will be offered 3 meals per day, showcasing local Hakka cuisine and engaging them in culinary culture
- Organised eco-cultural activities will introduce them to the incredible landscape amenities of the region
- Engagement with village elders and 4. storytelling will promote intergenerational connection and offer leadership training
- 5. Tours to the sacred sites and cultural centres of the region (including Sha Tau Kok) will deepen their sense of place attachment

sed by the joint Village Committees and through The programme's cap will be linked to the any given year, and the fund can be matched funds

ed and assessed with one-off funding the area



P4

Village Placemaking

Using a five-senses framework to preserve village atmospheres, convert heritage and enhance landscapes



Rural heritage in general and intangible village heritage in particular benefit from few supports under existing policy. This is in spite of the fact that visitors and residents commonly report village atmospheres as a major draw for them. Deploying a dynamic approach to preservation and placemaking which highlighting immersive five-senses village qualities will serve to fulfil multiple stakeholder interests: paying homage to villager's roots and memories, enhancing visitors' experiences, and enabling long-term village remigration.

Projects underway

Place-based activities

• Da Chiu Festival

Regional | STK HCY Da Chiu Committee

- Mui Tsz Lam Kop Tong forest life festival (under Forest Village Programme)
 - Kop Tong, Mui Tsz Lam | HKU CCSG, ASTKCE
- Village Fest (under 3Cs Scheme of HSBC Rural Sustainability Programme)

Lai Chi Wo | HKU CCSG, villagers

• Xiu Jing Experience @Lai Chi Wo

Lai Chi Wo | Jing Xin Yuan

• Homey Mui Tsz Lam

Mui Tsz Lam | The Common Map

Intangible heritage practices

 Traditional Craftsmanship and Cultural Inheritance

Lai Chi Wo | HKCF



Ecocultural activities

• Seminar on eco-art (under Forest Village Programme)

Mui Tsz Lam | HKU CCSG, ASTKCE

• Assessment of Historic Buildings

Non-specific | AMO, AAB

• Register of Old and Valuable Trees

Non-specific | DB GLTMS

Village preservation policy

• Sites of Archaeological Interest in Hong Kong

Non-specific | AMO

• Assessment of Historic Buildings in Hong Kong

Non-specific | AMO, AAB

• Register of Old and Valuable Trees

Non-specific | DB GLTMS

Projects underway

Village heritage documentations

• Rural Common for Countryside Revitalisation (developed from The Common Map project)

Regional | MaD

• "Hing Chun Yeuk" in Sha Tau Kok — A journey of cultural conservation

Regional | CCO

 Conservation and Revitalisation Strategies for Architecture and Landscape of Hakka Village Spaces

Fung Hang, Kuk Po (and nearby villages) | HKU CCAU

• Oral History Documentary, Illustration and Design for Kuk Po: "Reconnect Kuk Po: The Past, Present and Future Sustainability"

Kuk Po | PolyU

- Same Roots, Same Origin Lai Chi Wo (and other nearby villages) | HKUGGp
- JC WISE Water Initiative on Sustainability + Engagement (under sustainable Lai Chi Wo programme)

Lai Chi Wo | HKU Faculty of Social Science

Building conversions

• From Valley to Plain: Conservation and Revitalisation from 'Ng To' to Kuk Po River and Plain via Multi-disciplinary, Educational and Action Research

Kuk Po | CUHK SoA

• A Catalyst Project for Kuk Po Village: Restoration of Architecture and Built-Environment for the Annex Block of Kai Choi School

Kuk Po | HKU CCAu

 Mui Tsz Lam Story Room (under Forest Village Programme)

Mui Tsz Lam | ASTKCE

Next actions

Objective

Action 5 Vibrant Village Atmospheres

Proposed Scale **Regional**, with Kop Tong as

pilot

02



CHO, HKICHDB, Implementation CC. YCT VRs. Partners ASTKCE, HakkaHome, TC

qualities.

These immersive elements, which form the basis of village appreciation and public interest, have so far been too difficult to quantify for inclusion into existing heritage lists and policy schemes.

- •

Action 5 aims to stand up a comprehensive support framework for the promotion of five-senses heritage and the preservation of intangible village qualities.

Implementation Components: 5.1 **Village Preservation Policy Place-Based Activities** 5.2



Policy, documentation and programming initiative for promoting the preservation of intangible five-senses village

A comprehensive "Village Preservation Policy" will protect and enhance village atmospheres (see 5.1) "Place-based Activities" will draw out five-senses qualities, making them part of modern village culture and animating them for visitors (see 5.2)

5.1 Village Preservation Policy

Pilot

Implementation Partners	HKICHDB, CC

Funding Roadmap	The documentation initiative and rubric can be designed as 'Cultural Rehabilitation/Revitalisation' projects under CCFS or through alternative cultural-funding schemes available (CHO, LCSD-ICHO, Lord Wilson Heritage Trust)

A preservation pilot study at Kop Tong, and then expanded to other villages accordingly

Documentation, design and policy advocacy for the preservation of five-senses village elements.

- 1. **Atmosphere documentation** will take place to develop a baseline dataset of five-senses village elements in Yan Chau Tong
- A village preservation rubric will be derived 2. from the documentation process and used for the development of policy supports
- A preservation incentive scheme policy will be 3. piloted to mobilise and support efforts at village preservation
- National and international designations will 4. valorize the process and showcase these villages as world-class reservoirs of five-senses qualities (e.g. PRC Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development's lists of Historical and Cultural, Ecological, Eco-Civilisation, Beautiful, and Beautiful Leisure villages and/or International Beautiful Village Alliance)

Justification:

1. There is a lack of documentation and awareness around intangible village heritage elements

2. Yan Chau Tong's villages are defined by their atmospheric qualities and delicate multisensory landscapes

3. Protecting the heritage value of local assets in the area means establishing a system for preserving intangible qualities

5.2 **Place-Based Activities**

Implementation Partners	YCT VRs, HakkaHome, ASTKCE,	
Funding Roadmap	projec [see Yi	dual events can be design ts under CCFS, through tl im Tin Tsai's 3-year festive ts Scheme'
Pilot	1.	'Local village events' pi Festival'
	2.	'Regional celebrations' Experience'

Village-scale events hosted to deepen place identity and re-energise community traditions. Immersive five-senses village celebrations will foster a sense of community for the villagers themselves but will also be inclusive of outsiders.

- Place identity workshops will bring the 1. community together to create dynamic new rituals rooted in village traditions
- Local village events will combine eco-activities, 2. food, and art to celebrate the village and showcase the village sense of place and preserve traditional cultural traditions through practice
- 3. **Regional celebrations** (e.g. traditional weaving and textile which combines do-it-yourself workshops, storytelling, and intergenerational exchanges) will promote an area-based identity that residents share across villages and help deepen the notion of Yan Chau Tong

TC

ned as 'Cultural Rehabilitation/Revitalisation' the Tourism Commission (TC)'s events funding val pilot], or LCSD-ICHO 'Community Driven

pilot at Kop Tong: 'Kop Tong Frog and Star Fruit

pilot at Lai Chi Wo: 'Nature and Hakka Materials



Village Building Conversions 6.1

restaurants, community centres).

Implementation Partners	HKCF,	HKU CCAU
Funding Roadmap	1.	The policy review can t department-led goverr Activities' under CCFS
	2.	The conversion pilot ca Heritage' project unde
Pilot	Multi-v	village, trial conversions o

Built heritage conversion policy and pilot which restore and draw out the immersive qualities of village environments, transforming derelict buildings into

- 1. A comprehensive policy review process will advocate for the expansion and promotion of existing heritage funding schemes to rural areas (e.g. Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme)
- New funding and support will be designed to 2. help stimulate and incentivise the conversion of dilapidated and/or unused heritage stock
- 3. **A conversion pilot** will establish the viability and showcase the value of conversion projects in local villages

Next actions

Action 6 **Visualising Rural Heritage**



Policy and design initiative to tangibilize rural qualities through physically manifesting rural heritage.

Conversion of derelict buildings for community uses and landscape enhancements will bring back the deeply rooted village environments. The outcome will be reconstructed traditional layouts and modern interventions which draw out cultural memory.

- "Village Building Conversions" will promote the • transformation of abandoned village buildings into vibrant and usable spaces (see 6.1)
- "Village Landscape Restorations" will rehabilitate • significant eco-cultural environments and reanimate place identity and history (See 6.2)

Action 6 aims to foster a supportive framework for the enhancement of village spaces by enabling the conversion of abandoned buildings and the rehabilitation of local landscapes.

Implementation Components:

- Village Building Conversions 6.1
- 6.2 Village Landscape Restorations

take place internally as part of ongoing rnment efforts or if needed, as part of a 'Research

an be designed as a 'Restoration of Built er CCFS

of the Kai Ming School at So Lo Pun and the Sam Shing School at Sam A Tsuen into working spaces for village activities



Village Landscape Restorations 6.2

Implementation Partners HKU DLA, HKU CCAU, CUHK SoA

Funding Roadmap	Village-specific restoration projects can be designed as a 'Cultural Rehabilitation/Revitalisation' and/or 'Restoration of Built Heritage' projects under CCFS or through alternative cultural-funding schemes available (CHO, LCSD-ICHO, Lord Wilson Heritage Trust)
Pilot	'Landscape rehabilitation' pilot at So Lo Pun: orchard resumption at So Lo Pun and interventions to showcase the historical fishing industry that once flourished in the village (previously home to 8 piers, and dozens of fish and

Cultural and ecological design interventions which restore traditional layouts and draw out distinct human-nature village qualities.

Landscape restoration research will make use 1. of satellite images from the 1960s to reference and guide work

shrimping boats)

- Villagers working with project partners will use 2. natural elements (e.g. trees, grasses, flowers) and man-made designed elements (e.g. entrances, statues) to restore village layouts and create high quality public spaces
- Landscape rehabilitation will incorporate 3. historical elements (e.g. Sam A Tsuen's traditional rice wine production) as part of design interventions
- 4. Improvement work will also establish viewpoints and new landscape elements for enhancing village design (e.g. significant flora, refurbished entrances, a frog pond at Kop Tong, butterfly garden at Mui Tsz Lam)

Justification:

1. Villagers report that the overgrowth and weed invasion of village environments diminish their willingness to move back

2. The restoration of Lai Chi Wo's village environment exemplifies the value proposition for wider village landscape restoration

3. Regional village landscape restoration will manifest distinct villages rooted in five-senses qualities



P5

Wetland **Stewardship**

Identify key regional wetlands and employ a stewardship approach to incentivise local management



Hong Kong's freshwater wetlands provide vital services to the ecosystem and local human communities. But in the last 20 years they have shrunk by nearly half due to a lack of active management. Conserving Yan Chau Tong's freshwater wetlands, the largest remaining regional network, by moving beyond passive protection towards more intensive interventions will regenerate these landscapes and increase their production of beneficial functions. As human-dominant habitats, existing within enclave areas, management will need to factor in local communities and engage them in conservation.

Projects underway

Place-based activities

- Da Chiu Festival
 - Regional | STK HCY Da Chiu Committee
- Mui Tsz Lam Kop Tong forest life festival (under Forest Village Programme) Kop Tong, Mui Tsz Lam | HKU CCSG, ASTKCE
- Village Fest (under 3Cs Scheme of HSBC Rural Sustainability Programme)

Lai Chi Wo | HKU CCSG, villagers

• Xiu Jing Experience @Lai Chi Wo

Lai Chi Wo | Jing Xin Yuan

• Homey Mui Tsz Lam

Mui Tsz Lam | The Common Map

Intangible heritage practices

• Traditional Craftsmanship and Cultural Inheritance

Lai Chi Wo | HKCF

Ecocultural activities

• Seminar on eco-art (under Forest Village Programme)

Mui Tsz Lam | HKU CCSG, ASTKCE

Assessment of Historic Buildings

Non-specific | AMO, AAB

• Register of Old and Valuable Trees Non-specific | DB GLTMS

Village preservation policy

• Sites of Archaeological Interest in Hong Kong

Non-specific | AMO

 Assessment of Historic Buildings in Hong Kong

Non-specific | AMO, AAB

• Register of Old and Valuable Trees

Non-specific | DB GLTMS

Next actions

Action 7 **Regional Wetlands Network**

Objective 02 Proposed Scale Kuk Po, Sam A Tsuen, Siu Tan. So Lo Pun

Timeframe

AFCD Lead Agency

Implementation Partners

HKWCA, HKU SBS. CA. Green Power, WWF-HK. OWLHK

•

7.1)

7.1 7.2

protection.

repr

Conservation management project to rehabilitate significant regional wetlands into an exemplary wetland conservation model for the Yan Chau Tong region.

Regional wetlands are parcelized meaning they showcase different forms of wetland types (freshwater, brackish and saltwater). There is an opportunity to showcase these habitats under a representative mosaic conservation system and provide them with suitable active management for regeneration.

> A "Community Managed Wetlands" will identify key wetland sites and establish community-based pilots for wetland management in human-dominant habitats (see

> A "Wetland Services Campaign" will promote the significant services and functions provided by wetlands to the public, in an effort to educate Hong Kongers on wetland protection (see 7.2)

Action 7 aims to deliver a tailored management approach to enclave wetlands which ensures active conservation

Implementation Components: **Community Managed Wetlands** Wetland Services Campaign

In the Yan Chau Tong region, there is an opportunity to provide a mixture of habitat types as part of a representative wetland mosaic. Some wetlands like th

7.1 **Community Managed Wetlands**

Implementation Partners AFCD, HKU SBS, HKWCA, Green Power, CA

Funding Roadmap	With the rollout of the Northern Metropolis plan and expected funding supports, the wetland project can be aligned with its Action 32 ("Co-operate with Shenzhen to take forward the conservation of the nature reserve under the framework of the Mirs Bay/Yan Chau Tong Eco-recreation/Tourism Circle")

Pilot

'Villager Management' pilot at Kuk Po 1. 2.

'Payment for Ecosystem Services' pilot at Sam A Tsuen

Conservation initiative to comprehensively catalogue Yan Chau Tong's regional wetlands, establish a suitable habitat management plan and engage village communities in ongoing management.

- 1. **Comprehensive baseline surveys** will perform updated analyses of wetland hydrology, biodiversity, and ecosystem services according to the Wetland Ecosystem Services Protocol
- A conservation model study will identify 2. priority sites for active conservation management
- Regional watershed protection will keep the 3. wetlands 'wet' by protecting their water sources and ensuring proper irrigation
- 4. A 'Villager Management' pilot will test the viability of paying villagers monthly salaries as opposed to government contractors for the provision of wetland maintenance services
- 5. A 'Payment for Ecosystem Services' pilot will test the viability of an innovative solution paying villagers by outcome, as 'commission-type' payments aimed at incentivising villagers to enhance wetland functions

Justification:

1. Currently, there is a lack of up-to-date information available on key remaining regional wetland sites at Kuk Po, Sam A Tsuen, Siu Tan and So Lo Pun

2. Current statutory tools provide only passive protection and do not call for active management in areas of high conservation value

3. Local wetlands are human-dominant (i.e. their boundaries adjoin the villages) meaning a 'conservation with human' approach will be needed to ensure adequate protection

7.2 Wetland Services Campaign

	Implementation Partners	WWF-HK, OWLHK	
	Funding Roadmap	Research activities will take place wetland survey. The campaign of for Biodiversity Education' fund campaign to educate the public	
	Pilot	N/A, this will be a general camp	

An eco-educational campaign based on ongoing research efforts to promote public knowledge about the services rendered by wetlands.

- **Ecosystem service surveys** will help quantify 1. vital functions in dollar amounts thus providing an easy communication metric
- An eco-promotional campaign will promote 2. the importance of wetland functions for climate mitigation, species protection and flood prevention
- 3. **Illustrative examples and visuals** will help showcase in a more visceral way the role, for example, mangroves play in coastal protection during typhoons



I/A, this will be a general campaign targeting the Hong Kong public at large





Yan Chau Tong's coastal habitat has been officially designated as a Hong Kong marine park but remains undervalued and under-showcased as part of the region's ecological amenities. Creating a conceptual cluster will help target investments and projects into the region's richest marine habitat for participants to immerse themselves in the coastal landscape.

Projects underway

Local ecology conservation training

- Academy for Sustainable Communities (under Sustainable Lai Chi Wo Programme) Non-specific | HKU CCSG
- Citizen scientist programme (under Forest Village Programme)

Regional | HKU CCSG, ASTKCE

Ecological education

 Ecological education programmes (under Management Agreement Scheme at Lai Chi Wo Enclave)

Lai Chi Wo | HKCF, CA

Baseline survey

• Biodiversity monitoring programme (under Sustainable Lai Chi Wo Programme)

Regional | HKU CCSG, HKU SBS

P6

Marine-scape Activation

Activate the coastline through investment and positioning to showcase ecological richness and promote citizen conservation



Next actions

Action 8 Coastal Ecology Cluster

Objective	02	
Proposed Scale	Multi-Village, with Sam A Tsuen, Ngau Shi Wu, Sai Lau Kong, Siu Tan as sites	
m		
Timeframe	• • • • •	
Lead Agency	AFCD	
Implementation Partners	WWF-HK, SWIMS, OPCFHK, OWLHK	

A development concept to activate the marine landscape between Sam A Tsuen, Ngau Shi Wu, Sai Lau Kong and Siu Tan.

The peninsular region these villages share provides a unique vantage point from which the coastal assets and ecological amenities of the Yan Chau Tong Marine Park can be enjoyed. The cluster will provide robust and high quality eco-programming without compromising the marine park's intended ecological mitigation functions.

- The design of a "Coastal Trail" with world-class conservation, education and tourism facilities will provide visitors with a chance to experience the Yan Chau Tong Marine Park (see 8.1)
- "Sea-Based Activities" will serve to economically energise neglected outlying villages and provide immersive recreation for visitors (see 8.2)
- An "Exploration of Nature Field School" will establish a designated education curriculum and provide training and research capacity related to Yan Chau Tong marine ecology (see 8.3)

Action 8 aims to create a comprehensive ecological model integrated with ecotourism elements to showcase Yan Chau Tong's rich marine amenities and revive its outlying coastal villages.

Implementation Components:

- 8.1 Coastal Trail
- 8.2 Sea-Based Activities
- 8.3 Exploration of Nature Field School

Surve

Survey respondents strongly agreed (65% of villagers, 79% of visitors) that **biodiversity was the most essential resource to preserve in the area.**

Implementation components

8.1	Coastal Trail	
Impler	mentation Partners	AFCD, SWIMS, WWF-HK
Fundir	ng Roadmap	The coastal trail can be financed renewed <i>millennium capital wo</i> philanthropy (HSBC, or HKJC's <i>l</i>
Pilot		Facilities can be implemented i A Tsuen, Ngau Shi Wu, Sai Lau J

Comprehensive improvement works to enhance the attractiveness of the Sam A and Ngau Shi Wu's penins world-class coastal trail attraction will be established showcase its marine amenities and provide high-qua ecotourism.

- 1. A baseline exercise will catalogue the richness ocean and coastal life in this section of the ma park and determine the conservation vulneral
- A feasibility study will assess the potential for designing a seaside coastal trail and high qua visitor attractions
- Infrastructure and minor work investments provide necessary facilities to incoming visite while upgrading essential services to outlying villages

ed through a special government grant (e.g. /orks projects scheme) and through private . Enriching Our Community Scheme)

incrementally to achieve the coastal cluster (Sam Kong, Siu Tan)

nsula. A 🥇	Justification:
d to ality	1. The marine biodiversity of Yan Chau Tong is little promoted as part of ongoing tourism
ess of narine abilities or	2. The Yan Chau Tong Marine Park's landscape richness and biodiversity is undervalued and it currently lacks the facilities to pull visitors to the area
ality	3. Adjoining coastal villages which have suffered historical underdevelopment (Ngau Shi Wu,
will	Sai Lau Kong, Siu Tan) can be
ors	rejuvenated through this
g ``	intervention

8.2 Sea-Based Activities

Implementation Partners	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Funding Roadmap		
Pilot	1.	WWF Marine Centre at Ngau Shi Wu Wan
	2.	A coastal information centre at Sam A Tsuen for visitors to book activities
	3.	Equipment rental store at Sam A Tsuen and potentially Sai Lau Kong

Programming and recreational opportunities centred around the marine coastline to provide visitors with immersive experiences of the coastal scenery and the marine park.

- 1. Villager-owned equipment rental stores will provide kayak, stand up paddle board and snorkelling equipment for self-guided visitors
- Sea boat tours will offer participants a chance to 2. explore coastal habitats and outlying villages without getting wet
- 3. Kayaking trip itineraries will offer a chance to explore the Sam A Chung's coastal and riparian landscapes
- Eco guided marine tours led by culturally 4. **experienced coaches** will provide snorkelling trips to participants wanting to delve deeper into the marine park
- 5. The establishment of a Marine Centre by the World Wildlife Fund at Ngau Shi Wu Wan will provide robust activities and exhibitions to promote conservation education and interactive ecological experiences

Justification:

1. Compared to Hoi Ha and other local marine parks, the Yan Chau Tong Marine Park lacks immersive experiences for interacting with nature

2. Most ongoing visitations to the region are related to hiking and do not generate significant income for local residents

3. Ecological activities will serve to energise neglected outlying villages and provide economic opportunities for returning residents

8.3 **Exploration of Nature Field School**

	Implementation Partners	SWIMS, OWLHK	
	Funding Roadmap	The School can be rolled out as Agreement' project or through a (Environmental Conservation Fu Community Action Projects')	
	Pilot	School facility at Sam A Tsuen	

Establishment of an educational programme and facility to create training and research capacity related to coastal and marine ecology.

- 1. A specialized citizen science attachment programme will be linked to external institutes, providing primary school, high school and postsecondary students opportunities to learn and specialise in marine coastal ecology
- 2. An adult training stream will work as a skills buildings and job training programme for individuals interested in joining the marine conservation industry
- Participants in both streams will be asked to 3. contribute to ongoing ecological work in the region as part of their study
- Trained graduates will be offered priority hiring for 4. roles related to ecological monitoring in the area





P7

Upscaled Primary Production

Position local production to better leverage its market niche and supply it to citywide consumers who value it most



The ongoing revival of agriculture in Lai Chi Wo and some adjoining villages has relied on external financing or else stayed small-scale to support village level demand. Sales have depended on flows of visitors to the area or regional produce markets. Integrating agri-production with place branding and using digital tools to promote and sell local goods to a wider set of customers at a higher price can enhance viability. A new set of modern agricultural livelihoods can be made possible through these value-added extensions.

Projects underway

Agricultural activities

- Small scale farming
 - Kop Tong, Kuk Po, Sam A Tsuen | Villagers
- Fruit tree replanting
 Kop Tong, Kuk Po, Sam A Tsuen, So Lo Pun | Villagers

Eco-product branding

 Eco-production branding (under Management Agreement Scheme at Lai Chi Wo Enclave)

Lai Chi Wo | HKU CCSG

Agri-product shop network

 Monthly Lai Chi Wo Farmers' Market (under Sustainable Lai Chi Wo Programme)

Lai Chi Wo | HKCF, CA



Regional network

• Explore alternative farming methods and crops (under Sustainable Lai Chi Wo Programme)

Lai Chi Wo | HKU CCSG, Produce Green

Yield Data from Lai Chi Wo farms' crop experimentation (September 2020, August 2022)

Farm output	Starting
Coffee	Since 2010
Papaya (Red Lady)	May 2019
Turmeric	Jan 2019
Ginger	Feb-Mar 2
Radish	Oct 2019
Mustard Plant (mustard leaf/Meitsai/Tsatsai)	Oct 2019
Pak Choy	Oct 2019
Wax Gourd	Mar 2020
Chilli	Mar 2019
Shiso	Mar 2020
Young ginger	Feb-July 2
Pumpkin*	2020-202
Lemongrass*	2020-202
Pineapple*	2020-202
Peanut*	2020-202
Carrot*	2020-202

*These newer crops are part of experimental production and are not considered major outputs of the farm project

Next actions

Action 9 Village Spotlight Marketing

Objective	02 + 03
Proposed Scale	Regional
m	
Timeframe	•••
Lead Agency	HKU CCSG
Implementation Partners	Marche, HKU CCAU, Farmshare, AFCD

An upscaling effort to enhance ongoing farming operations through value added strategies and top end customer outreach.

A decade of resumption, harvesting and business growth at Lai Chi Wo has established the foundation for modern livelihoods, while Kuk Po is in the midst of a new small-scale resumption effort. Heritage branding will establish local products as high value and culturally significant. Meanwhile, new connections with high-end markets will enable niche production capable of supporting local farming.

- A "Storytelling Brand" will incorporate village history and community identity into product marketing to enhance value (see 9.1)
- A "FarmtoTable" digital application will connect Yan Chau • Tong agri producers with high end local restaurants (see 9.2)
- A strategy for "Seasonable Top-End Sales" will increase • the value of Yan Chau Tong-branded produce (see 9.3)
- An "Artisanal Shop Network" will create day-to-day • opportunities for local agri-businesses to promote and sell their products (see 9.4)

Action 9 aims to integrate place and product branding to strengthen the positioning of locally produced goods and establish a new set of sales relationships to improve farming livelihoods.

Implementation Components:

- 9.1 **Storytelling Brand**
- 9.2 FarmtoTable App
- 9.3 Seasonal Top-End Sales
- 9.4 **Artisanal Shop Network**

- (In the planning department) people think the (Yan Chau Tong) villages are just remote villages. But the isolation and distance of these villages means farmland rental is more affordable and feasible for long term development. **A key area opportunity exists to develop a long term agriculture strategy for young farmers, not just transition agriculture.** The local farmland sizes will be more suitable to develop specific crops like a special plum. Crops can also undergo

/oar	ot	nroc	ducti	ion
cai		piod	aucu	

2019

2020

9.1 Storytelling Brand

Implementation Partners AFCD

Funding Roadmap

Brand design work and physical manufacturing can be funded as part of AFCD's 'Vegetable Marketing Organization Loan Fund' or other funds offered as part of AFCD's marketing support services

Pilot

Lai Chi Wo's community and HKU CCSG-run farms

Establishment of a regional 'select brand' which leverages existing place branding and associated cultural positioning to achieve a top-end designation. The consumer brand will be used to sell vegetables, fruits and locally made products through physical and online sales channels.

- Local stories and histories will be captured and packaged as branded content for the development of the Yan Chau Tong select brand
- 2. **New packaging** will be designed to integrate cultural and storytelling elements into product promotion
- 3. Videos, websites, social media campaigns will be used for communicating with customers and establishing name recognition

Justification:

1. Ongoing farming work cannot compete at scale with other large commercial Hong Kong endeavours

2. Cultural geography and village positioning are among the high sales points of local agri-production

3. Local demand is increasing for heritage branding, which leverages history and culture to drive sales and customer identification

9.2 FarmtoTable App

Implementation Partners Marche

Funding RoadmapThe app can be developed under the 'Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship
Development Fund' or one of five other government funding schemes available
for social entrepreneurs seeking financial support

Pilot

Lai Chi Wo's HKU CCSG-run farm (the group has already been in contact with the developer)

Development of a platform for connecting Yan Chau Tong agriculture producers with high-end local restaurants.

- Development of an app which facilitates trading and knowledge transfer between farmers and businesses through data, information technology and Natural Language Processing
- 2. **On-the-ground data collection and digitization** to create a database of farming produce and accurate production metrics
- Outreach to chefs to enable relationships and ensure a steady demand for Yan Chau Tong produce

Justification:

1. Hong Kong has one of the highest numbers of restaurants per capita and 87 Michelin starred restaurants but many struggle to link with farmers for offering a locally-sourced menu

2. Local agriculture is small-scale and far from markets limiting the viability of commercial production

3. Linking chefs with local agriculture practitioners has the potential to create stable and long term business relationships

9.3 Seasonal Top-End Sales

Implementation Partners	Farmshare
Funding Roadmap	N/A, small-scale funding needs car CCSG farming project at Lai Chi Wo
Pilot	Lai Chi Wo's HKU CCSG-run farms

Sales strategy targeting top end markets for exclusive distribution relationships of special seasonal production.

- Establishment of seasonal distribution relationships with high-end markets like Market Place by Jasons and Citysuper
- 2. Making use of ongoing branding work to promote Yan Chau Tong produce as part of exclusive, limited-time offerings aligned with seasonal holidays
- 3. Marketing of Yan Chau Tong produce as a heritage brand through online and digital campaign material



can be provided from within the existing HKU Wo

9.4 Artisanal Shop Network

-	Implementation Partners	HKU CCAU
	Funding Roadmap	The flagship store can be rolled out as part of AFCD's 'Sustainable Agriculture Development Fund' or as part of <i>'Restoration of Built Heritage'</i> projects under CCFS. Alternatively it can be established through private philanthropy and village fundraising
	Pilot	Flagship store at Lai Chi Wo (part of Siu Ying school complex, currently used fo

Flagship store at Lai Chi Wo (part of Siu Ying school complex, currently used for storage)

Artisanal stores stood up across the region to create space and marketing opportunities for regional small artisan and craft businesses to promote and sell their products. Local businesses related to direct farming, value-added production, skincare, and other cultural crafts will be given the opportunity to market and sell products through the shop network.

- 1. An initial artisanal shop at Lai Chi Wo will take advantage of existing visitor flows to create viable market demand and prototype the model
- 2. A network of additional smaller stores can be established across the area to meet demand from different visitor flows and establish the stores as a truly regional presence promoting a diversity of products
- Connecting the Yan Chau Tong branded products with the regional artisanal shop network will offer cross promotional opportunities and further enhance the positioning of products as part of the regional place identity

Justification:

1. The local Lai Chi Wo farmer's market runs only once a month

2. Village artisanal producers currently sell their goods from their homes limiting accessibility and awareness

3. A store network will create synergistic buying opportunities and position products as part of a regional story



P8

Hakka Agrarian Revival

Showcase the region's agrarian traditions through interactive programming and promote this approach as an example of sustainable development



The region's vernacular approach to agro-ecology and its related cultural traditions are quickly disappearing due to disuse and disinterest. The local approach however retains its value as a locally-conceived form of sustainable development. Introducing its concepts to the wider public as an example of green development and highlighting its cultural value will offer a way to preserve and continue this unique human-nature approach.

Projects underway

Agricultural system restoration

- Opening of abandoned farmland (under Forest Village Programme) Kop Tong, Mui Tsz Lam | HKU CCSG, ASTKCE
- Use of traditional farming methods (under Forest Village Programme)

Mui Tsz Lam | HKU CCSG, ASTKCE

Immersive agritourism

• Agricultural tourism activities (under Management Agreement Scheme at Lai Chi Wo Enclave)

Lai Chi Wo | HKCF, CA

• Agriculture Volunteer Holiday (under HSBC Rural Sustainability Programme)

Lai Chi Wo | HKU CCSG

Habitat protection and management

• Butterfly garden (under Forest Village Programme)

Mui Tsz Lam | HKU CCSG

Agriculture support schemes

• Lai Chi Wo Roselle Adoption Scheme (under Management Agreement Scheme at Lai Chi Wo Enclave)

Lai Chi Wo | HKCF, CA

Next actions

Timeframe

Lead Agency

Partners

Implementation

Action 10 **Experiential School Learning**

Objective 02 + 03

Proposed Scale **Regional**, with



ссо

HKU DUPAD,

HKU CCAU,

YCT VRs



•

customs.

Implementation Components: **Human-Nature School Trips** 10.1



An edutourism alignment effort to establish ongoing relationships with schools for the provision of agrarian experiential learning.

The action will create a system for local guides to provide agro-heritage programming to school visitors and showcase the region's agricultural landscapes and histories. This will create new economic opportunities and interactive exchanges related to non-productive aspects of local farming, and in turn showcase the multi century tradition of Yan Chau Tong

> Newly organized "Human-Nature School Trips" will provide Hong Kong students with experiential learning opportunities to deepen their cultural training (see 10.1)

Action 10 aims to establish a high quality agrarian learning exchange which will showcase the region's traditional farming

10.1 Human-Nature School Trips

Implementation Partners AFCD

Funding Roadmap	A fixed rate will be provided by schools as part of existing experiential learning funds. An allocated amount will go towards paying the local tour guides and the rest is allocated to a regional fund for programme upgrading.
Pilot	Kuk Po, the 'Vernacular Knowledge School' can be established via the adaptive reuse of the Kai Choi School

Special edutourism trips established through school programmes to bring students to Yan Chau Tong and provide information sharing, learning-by-doing and holistic activities designed to pass on knowledge and communicate care around local traditions.

- Curriculum alignment will be undertaken to 1. establish fixed, long term school connections, as part of existing school programmes and funding
- 2. A specially-restored 'Vernacular Knowledge School' at Kuk Po will provide a centre for ongoing learning activities rooted in agrarianism
- 3. Picnic days and field-trips (related to the **curriculum)** will take place in Kuk Po to showcase the local agrarian practices. For example, the concoction of traditional medicinal balms or the production of local delicacies (Mui Choy, and other Cantonese preserved vegetables and fruits)
- More expansive biology, service and cultural 4. trips will undertake multi village itineraries, starting at Kuk Po, showcasing the Tangerine Orchard at So Lo Pun and then departing via Lai Chi Wo ferry pier

Justification:

1. Schools in Hong Kong have specially designated funds and stipulations for providing student experiential learning opportunities (picnic days, field trips, experiential learning activities)

2. Villages businesses and activities experience weekday slowdowns due to the low volume of normal tourism flow

3. Significant agrarian knowledge and traditions are at risk of disappearing due to low interest or lack of sharing opportunities

Next actions



A development concept for the reconstruction and rejuvenation of agrarian zones as part of a regional experiential landscape.

Diversified and exemplary sites will showcase traditional agro-ecological landscapes in Yan Chau Tong. Newly designed programming will offer participants the opportunity to deepen their engagement and knowledge of farming. The development concept will establish the Yan Chau Tong region as a major Hong Kong rural agricultural landscape.

- A "Hakka Experimental Farm" at Kuk Po will showcase traditional approaches to agriculture (see 11.1) A "Traditional Fruit Experience" at So Lo Pun will
 - rehabilitate historic citrus orchards into an agritourism attraction (see 11.2)
 - A "Fishpond Discovery Zone" at Siu Tan will restore the abandoned ponds, prepare them for demonstrative aquaculture, and provide new facilities for visitor enjoyment (see 11.3)
 - "Farmstay & Day In The Life" packages will provide opportunities for visitors to immerse themselves in local farming life (see 11.4)

Action 11 aims to enrich the opportunities related to agrarian practice and integrate ongoing farming with ecotourism to make it financially resilient.

11.1 11.2 11.3 11.4

Implementation Components: Hakka Experimental Farm **Traditional Fruit Experience Fishpond Discovery Zone** 'Farmstay & Day In The Life' Packages

> Agricultural heritage (for example field dams, wells, and properly to the public, and not listed within the existing

11.1 Hakka Experimental Farm

Implementation Partners AFCD, TC

Funding RoadmapThe demonstration zone can be financed through AFCD's 'Sustainable
Agricultural Development Fund' or as as part 'Research Activities' projects
under CCFS

Pilot

The Kuk Po farm will build upon ongoing informal agriculture in the village and demonstrate agri-spatial approaches related to traditional Hakka farming. The farm will form part of an agrarian demonstration zone network (see 11.2 & 11.3).

Kuk Po

- 1. The initiative will resume and rehabilitate farmland in Kuk Po into a productive landscape for demonstrative farming
- 2. Cultivators will use traditional Hakka farming techniques methods to experiment with new crops and practice cultivation as a cultural and heritage process
- Interactive learn-by-doing programming will enable participants to plant heirloom crops and discover the construction principles of a rice terrace system

Justification:

1. Informal farming resumption is taking place in Kuk Po but needs further financial support

2. Traditional Hakka farming and farming infrastructure remain undervalued heritage assets in Hong Kong

3. Demonstrations of traditional practices will help position the area as a major domestic agrarian landscape

11.2 Traditional Fruit Experience

	Implementation Partners	AFCD, TC
	Funding Roadmap	The demonstration zone can be Agricultural Development Fund under CCFS
	Pilot	So Lo Pun

A project to restore the citrus orchard at So Lo Pun and reshape it into a 'Traditional Fruit Experience'. The demonstration zone will focus on the traditional harvest of local citrus fruits and their processing into agriproducts. The orchard will form part of an agrarian demonstration zone network (see 11.1 & 11.3).

- The orchard will be rehabilitated and added as a stop on the Human-Nature school trips itinerary (see 10.1)
- 2. **Medium term investment and expansion of the orchard site** will facilitate its transformation into comprehensive standalone project with a shop selling locally made products and equipment rental for visitors to pick tangerines
- Special curated programming will draw out the meaning and heritage of tangerine culture in So Lo Pun for visitors

e financed through AFCD's 'Sustainable d' or as a part of 'Research Activities' projects



11.3 Fishpond Discovery Zone

Implementation Partners AFCD, TC

The demonstration zone can be financed through AFCD's 'Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund', through ECF's 'Nature Conservation Project under the Public Private Partnership Scheme' or through a special government grant (e.g. renewed millennium capital works projects scheme)

Pilot

Funding Roadmap

Siu Tan

A fishpond rehabilitation project at Siu Tan will revitalise the village, provide a major agro-ecological attraction and offer demonstration of traditional aquaculture practice. The fishponds will form part of an agrarian demonstration zone network (see 11.1 & 11.2).

- Rehabilitation of the fishponds and the creation of a discovery zone concept for visitors to experience the man-made landscapes
- Landscape design (e.g. adding chairs, tables, pavilions and other minor facility interventions) will help to build up the discovery zone over time into a comprehensive site positioned for high-quality eco-agricultural attraction
- 3. **An aquaculture process demonstration** will introduce visitors to traditional fishing practices
- 4. Additional programming such as pond boat tours (to get a closer look) and a fish restaurant will act as additional income streams for local villagers

Justification:

1. The fishponds are no longer economically viable from a commercial production perspective

2. The village of Siu Tan has been mostly abandoned but its fishponds and regional viewscapes have great potential as a tourism amenity

3. Visitor earned income can help generate a sustainable business model for aquaculture and help rejuvenate the village

11.4 'Farmstay & Day in the Life' Packages

Implementation Partners	SeasonfoodHK
Funding Roadmap	AFCD can sponsor illustrative bu marketable packaging for prosp
Pilot	Kuk Po, as part of ongoing farm

Agrotourism programme linking participants with farmers and local agricultural production, and packaging this into a sellable experience for participants interested in trying out and learning about the farming way of life.

- 1. **A 'full overnight package'** will offer participants room, board and learn-by-doing opportunities in exchange for a fixed rate as part of overnight experiences in farmers' homes
- 2. **A 'Day In The Life' itinerary** will place volunteers on working farms to experience a dawn to dusk village itinerary and practice the harvest and sowing processes

usiness plans and help villagers with creating pective participants

ning volunteering project



Small Business Ecosystem

P9

Create an entrepreneurial environment for residents to self-initiate sustainable livelihoods rooted in village conditions



Returning villagers and newcomers have developed local enterprises to take advantage of ongoing tourism flows but have been constrained by an unfavourable regulatory regime and a lack of policy support. This has resulted in an unstable business environment characterised by underleveraged commercial potentials and unsustainable financial opportunities. Applying an ecosystem approach to entrepreneurial development will help create greater regional resilience, diversify business types and approaches and enable the incubation of new businesses related to emerging and ongoing industries.

Projects underway

Local entrepreneurship and tourism operation

- Restaurants and agri-product stores
 Fung Hang, Kop Tong, Kuk Po, Lai Chi Wo, Sam A Tsuen | Villagers
- Hakka Life Experience Village @Lai Chi Wo (under Sustainable Lai Chi Wo programme)
 Lai Chi Wo | HKCF
- Campsite pilot (under Forest Village Programme)

Mui Tsz Lam | HKU CCSG, ASTKCE



Village economic framework

• Small scale farming

Kop Tong, Kuk Po, Sam A Tsuen | Villagers

- Fruit tree replanting Kop Tong, Kuk Po, Sam A Tsuen, So Lo Pun | Villagers
- Monthly Lai Chi Wo Farmers' Market (under Sustainable Lai Chi Wo Programme)
 Lai Chi Wo | HKU CCSG

Projects underway

Entrepreneurship training

• LoCoKitchen pilot (under Sustainable Lai Chi Wo programme)

Lai Chi Wo | HKU CCSG

• Lai Chi Wo and Surrounding Village Docent Training Course (under Hakka Life Experience Village@Lai Chi Wo of sustainable Lai Chi Wo programme)

Lai Chi Wo | HKCF

Licensing review

 Feasibility Study of Licensed Food Business in Remote Old Villages

Regional | HKCF

- Feasibility Study and Pilot Scheme of Water Bus for Inter-village and Coastal Eco-tour Service for Lai Chi Wo and Nearby Villages Regional | HKCF
- Review guesthouse ordinance (under Hakka Life Experience Village @Lai Chi Wo of Sustainable Lai Chi Wo Programme) Regional | HKCF, CCO

Commercial loan and incubation support

- Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund Non-specific | AFCD
- AFCD loan schemes (e.g. Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Loan Fund, J.E. Joseph Trust Fund, Vegetable Marketing Organization Loan Fund)

Non-specific | AFCD

• "3 Dous" Community Building Scheme (under Sustainable Lai Chi Wo programme) Lai Chi Wo | HKU CCSG

Next actions

Action 12 **Village Economic Framework**

Objective 03

Proposed Scale Regional



Implementation YCT VRs, Villagers Partners

The approach facilitates mutual support through emphasising the consumption and sale of local products within and between the region's restaurants, tourism facilities, and other enterprises. The economic framework will draw out the 'Yeuk' concept in a tangible and beneficial way for local villagers.

•

Action 12 aims to identify and create opportunities for small businesses to supply goods needed locally and facilitate a village-style regional economy.

Implementation Components: Yan Chau Tong Supply Chain 12.1



An economic framework for localising supply chains and fostering reciprocal business to business (B2B) relations.

A "Yan Chau Tong Supply Chain" will provide a roadmap for long term economic resilience and foster local small business development (see 12.1)

<u>SAM A TSUEN</u>
Yan Chau Tong Supply Chain 12.1

-	Implementation Partners	YCT VRs, Villagers	
	Funding Roadmap	The design of an economic blueprint (including illustrative reciprocal business plans to help villagers adopt and implement the framework) can be funded as a ' <i>Research Activities</i> ' project under CCFS	
	Pilot	Small-scale test model between Lai Chi Wo, Sam A Tsuen and the uphill villages of Kop Tong and Mui Tsz Lam	

Provide planning for village-tailored supply chains which incorporate small businesses into a long-term local economic network.

- A local small business association will create a 1 venue for enterprises to communicate, collaborate and find new opportunities for synergy and mutual support
- Bulk resource purchases can be organised to 2. offer local producers greater sales margins and facilitate the logistical challenge of getting supplies to the region
- Reciprocal business guidelines will promote the 3. localization strategy and help integrate new businesses into this regional economic framework
- Entrepreneurship events will strengthen 4. relationships between local enterprises and facilitate local collaboration

Justification:

1. Local businesses currently do not take advantage of local integration across industries (e.g. bread from the baker at Kop Tong does not factor into local menus, most drinks sold at restaurants derive from large scale corporate brands)

2. Geographic distance means local F&B and stores must source products from far away markets (e.g. Sheung Shui and Sha Tau Kok)

3. Local small businesses can support each other by carrying their respective products and promoting each other's services

Next steps



Incubation and training initiative for resident and non-resident villagers intending to start local area businesses.

The opening of Sha Tau Kok will further speed up the development of the local tourism industry, providing enhanced opportunities for villagers to partake at different scales of the tourism value chain. Meanwhile, ongoing and future regulatory reform will continue to open space for new kinds and types of small businesses. The action will stand up a comprehensive set of services to create a supportive ecosystem for new entrepreneurial efforts.

Action 13 aims to scale up the proliferation of village businesses run by locals and create a support network for business growth.

•

Implementation Components: **Comprehensive Licensing Review** 13.1 13.2 **Docent Training & Certification** 13.3 **Tourism Operator Lab** 13.4 **Commercial Loan & Incubation**



suggested they would be willing to pay 30-50% more per dish, as compared to the urban areas, as long as produce was fresh and locally sourced and dishes

A "Comprehensive Licensing Review" will spur the process of rural business creation (see 13.1) "Docent Training and Certification" will stimulate the development of self-employment guides and provide local jobs (see 13.2)

A "Tourism Operator Lab" will enable villagers (particularly youth) to take part in the tourism industry as owners or management trainees (see 13.3) A "Commercial Loan & Incubation" pilot will provide support to village entrepreneurs for financing and running local small businesses (see 13.4)

13.1 Comprehensive Licensing Review

Implementation Partners CCO

Funding Roadmap	The policy review can take place internally as part of ongoing department-led government efforts or as a ' <i>Research Activities</i> ' project under CCFS
Pilot	Initial policy pilot to explore licensing of villager-run guesthouses at Kop Tong & Sam A Tsuen

Regulatory review of licensing and other controls which limit the process of rural business creation or practice.

- The proposed review process will target the 1. regulatory hurdles associated with tourism and entrepreneurial development
- 2. Adjustments will be studied to stimulate project and business initiation in a balanced way
- Feasibility pilots will test out the practical 3. implications of licensing relaxation for key areas: F&B, guesthouses, consumer production, transportation

Justification:

- 1. The urban-bias of many business ordinances unfairly or unintentionally limit the development of businesses in Yan Chau Tong villages
- 2. Local farmers and entrepreneurs are forced to process their products in Sha Tau Kok due to local standards limitations

3. Villagers have been restricted in their operation of informal guesthouses and no licensing exists to expedite this

13.2 Docent Training & Certification

Implementation Partners	Eco Travel, HYK
Funding Roadmap	A programme can be funded wit
Pilot	Hybrid, with on-site Sam A Tsuen existing company headquarters

Scheme to train and certify local stakeholders to start self-employed guide businesses. The initiative will tar villagers in particular, so as to leverage their experien and memories as part of a high quality tour product ar create locally available jobs.

- 1. Recruitment will start with village candidates through an advertisement campaign on notice boards and subsequently through an open call interested outsiders
- 2. Existing tour guides and retired professionals be hired to offer locals and interested outsider safety and professional skills training
- Trainers will focus on teaching participants ho 3. to set up and run success self-employed tour businesses. Training will include insurance filir recordkeeping, access to financing, legal and permitting issues, etc.
- 4. The course will lead to certification which tour guides can use to promote their services in Yan Chau Tong
- 5. If necessary, partnerships with existing tour companies can be established to offer graduates not interested in self-employment preferential hiring through companies

ith government support through HYK or STKDRC

en training and off-site theoretical workshops at

rt rget	Justification:
nce nd	1. Existing residents and new returnees have access to a limited set of local livelihood opportunities
e Il for	2. Current tourism flows are dominated by hikers who provide little local income and derive limited cultural benefit from self-guided touring
s will ers	3. Many retired village residents have important local stories and childhood memories which can be leveraged as part of a local guiding
OW	opportunity /
ing,	

13.3 Tourism Operator Lab

Implementation Partners **HKCF, HKU CCSG, YBHK**

Funding Roadmap	The training lab can be set up through the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups's 'Youth Business Hong Kong' (YBHK) Scheme, through HKTB's 'Youth Academy', or as part of new dedicated funding by AFCD
Pilot	Hybrid, on site tutorials at Lai Chi Wo tourism facilities and off-site classes at the training college or management faculty which will run the lab

Start-up project to enable villagers (particularly youth) to take part in ongoing and emerging opportunities related to the tourism industry. Participants will be trained in business planning and development, capital-raising, recordkeeping and operations, marketing and promotion.

- The lab will be implemented as an intensive cohort-based program which will equip participants with the training necessary to start tourism businesses and help them navigate the licensing process
- 2. **The Operator Stream** will train villagers to start their own businesses related to equipment rental businesses, conservation tourism, immersive ecology, cultural facilities, food travel, etc.
- 3. **The Management Trainee Stream** will offer participants a chance to work under the supervision of managers of existing big projects (guesthouse, farmer's market, campsite) to learn how to perform rural project management
- 4. Graduates will be offered preferential employment in the regional tourism industry at different scales of the value chain

Justification:

1. There is lack of local job availability to pull back returning villagers or new residents

2. As part of the eco-recreation circle of the North Metropolis plan and the opening of Sha Tau Kok pier the tourism industry will offer new opportunities for local employment

3. A lack of local capacity and investment in Yan Chau Tong prevents the proliferation of small tourism businesses catering to visitors

13.4 Commercial Loan & Incubation

Implementation Partners	HKMC, Y.E.S., YBHK
Funding Roadmap	A programme can be funded wit
Pilot	N/A, an initial commercial loan p operator lab and expanded acco

Creation of an integrative business loan and support service for villagers intent on starting or scaling up lo small businesses. The immediate target for such incubation will be the graduates of operator and management schemes.

- Commercial loan services will provide self-liquidating loans to young entrepreneurs who plan on starting and operating village businesses at affordable interest rates
- 2. **Incubation support** will provide peer mentori business consulting, expansion planning and market opportunity mapping to help provide a blueprint for village business development

ith government support through HYK or STKDRC

n pilot scheme can be aligned with the tourism cordingly

ocal	Justification:
	1. Rural youth entrepreneurs lack access to capital and service support for starting small businesses
5	2. Yan Chau Tong villages have few remaining resident youth, with most living off site closer to job opportunities
ing, a	3. Commercial opportunities for young villagers will also support the development of local youth leadership



Hong Kong villages have often been locked out of economic and social service innovations due to a lack of urban-rural symbiosis. The ongoing extension of broadband coverage to the area and the Smart City blueprint have made it viable for the region's villages to pursue new forms of digital livelihoods. Digital economy alignments and remote work can help reduce over-reliance on precarious tourism flows. Meanwhile, smart technologies will provide enhanced social infrastructure to villagers by overcoming traditional delivery bottlenecks.

Projects underway

Telecommunication improvement

• Subsidy Scheme to Extend Fibre-based Networks to Villages in Remote Areas (under Smart Countryside)

> Fung Hang, Kop Tong, Kuk Po, Lai Chi Wo, Mui Tsz Lam, Sam A Tsuen | OFCA

Small village studies

• Smart Village Pilots (under Smart City Blueprint 2.0)

Non-specific | ITB

P10

Digital Livelihoods

Foster high quality, long-term village livelihoods through 'smart' service extensions and digital economy linkages



Next actions

Action 14 Smart Village Upgrading

Objective	03 + 04
Proposed Scale	Non-specific
Timeframe	••••
Lead Agency	ссо
Implementation Partners	ITB, YCT VRs, HKU CCSG

A digital initiative to solve existing village challenges through new technological investments.

Efforts will be made to apply digital and smart solutions to existing village service and commercial operations. The government 'Smart Village Pilots' programme has made funding available for the upgrading and piloting of new digital rural services. Meanwhile, the rising affordability and applicability of digital extensions will optimise and improve rural service delivery for ongoing commercial purposes.

- "E-Social Services" upgrading will enable the provision of • telehealth, smart logistics and eco-monitoring systems (see 14.1)
- "E-Business Services" upgrading will enable local businesses to apply e-payment systems, enter e-commerce markets, and standup online footprints (see 14.2)

Action 14 aims to rollout a strategy which makes use of digital technologies to leapfrog over existing rural service provision bottlenecks.

Implementation Components:

- 14.1 **E-Social Services**
- 14.2 **E-Business Services**

Villagers and Visitors both highlight local digital as requiring improvement. In our survey, overa

Implementation components

14.1 E-Social Services

Implementation Partners ITB, YCT VRs Funding Roadmap Pilot

Apply for funding through ITB's ongoing 'Smart Village Pilots' programme for enhancing social services in villages. The initiative will identify suitable pilot projects and work with government to execute them at appropriate regional sites.

medical service

- 1. **Expand phone-enabled service delivery** to the populated villages and explore provision of mobile medical boats to supplement telemedical service
- Monitoring of minibuses and piers to control 2. capacity and plan for visitor inflow and exploring local uses for mobility tech
- Smart eco-monitoring system for preventing illegal 3. dumping, wild animal nuisance, tree fall cleanup, and hillfire & flooding warning

14.2 E-Business Services

	Implementation Partners	ITB, HKU CCSG
	Funding Roadmap	E-business projects can be desig programme or as a ' <i>Research Ac</i>
	Pilot	A pilot centre at Lai Chi Wo will

Initiative to support existing local businesses with digitising their product and payments offerings and s e-commerce opportunities.

- 1. Government or non-profit organization staff employed to provide recurrent digital suppor villages for business upgrading and digital alignments
- A village e-payment expansion scheme will 2. promote the proliferation of contactless payr methods for onsite vendors such as FPS, Oct Alipay etc.
- E-commerce training will be delivered through 3. online skills workshops and onsite support w given to villagers for digitising existing stock goods for e-market platforms
- Marketing support will help villagers with website 4. creation, Search Engine Optimization and other digital strategies for improving their digital footprints



Feasibility study and trial of regional mobile medical boat to supplement local



gned to fit under the 'Smart Village Pilots' ctivities' project under CCFS

provide a trial run of the support service

Justification: 1. Existing local entrepreneurs in the catering, tourism and agri-production rely on local foot
traffic and tourism to sell their goods and generate proceeds
2. Visitors to the region are limited to cash payments as part of ongoing catering service and souvenir buying
3. Local commercial operator information continuously changes (names, opening hours, prices) and there is no existing up-to-date platform for sharing this with customers

Next actions

Action 15 **Remote Work Villages**

Objective	03 + 04
Proposed Scale	Regional, with Kop Tong as site
m	
Timeframe	••••
Lead Agency	ссо
Implementation Partners	НКСҒ, ІТВ, НКТВ

A development concept to expand remote work opportunities into Yan Chau Tong villages.

As investments in fibre-optic broadband and housing renovation grow, the opportunity for promoting rural remote work will emerge as a value-added strategy. It will be designed to be integrative and additive for Yan Chau Tong, aligning with and meeting existing community objectives while posing no challenge to the focus on primary production and rural character.

- A "Local Remote Work" pilot will test out the concept and • enable non-resident villagers to return to live and work in their communities (see 15.1)
- A "Digital Nomad Recruitment" effort will expand the • concept to a larger and more international audience to provide supplementary income opportunities (see 15.2)

Action 15 aims to deliver a viable high-quality new opportunity which diversifies the local economy and helps recruit back residents.

Implementation Components:

- 15.1 Local Remote Work
- 15.2 **Digital Nomad Recruitment**

Implementation components

15.1 Local Remote Work

-	Implementation Partners	HKCF, ITB
	Funding Roadmap	A remote work pilot can be design programme or as part of the 'Res
	Pilot	Multi village, creation of a Kop To (following their inclusion in the f

Pilot project to test out rural remote working viability then establish a long-term planning framework for w implementation.

- 1. A pilot village will be selected based on its acc to high-quality broadband availability, renovat housing stock and full week access to food an essential services
- 2. Additional office space conversion will estab a workhub for remote workers to operate and socialise from
- 3. **A recruitment campaign** will target offsite villagers to come back for remote work and encourage others deemed suitable for integration into existing community practices
- After the pilot has shown proof of concept, an 4. online village booking platform will cater to different needs: temporary stays, village working holiday stays, and middle and long 'working from home' village residential stays

igned to fit under the 'Smart Village Pilots' esearch Activities' under CCFS

Tong & Mui Tsz Lam housing and workhub e fibre optic network starting in 2024)

y and vider	Justification:
ccess ated nd	1. Remote work will work as a low investment, high-value packaging to leverage ongoing broadband, housing, and service improvements for the creation of a high-quality economy opportunity
blish d	2. Remote work creates a viable return strategy for offsite villagers to resettle into their ancestral villages for longer periods
es \	3. Remote workers will bring rental incomes, more service demand and added vibrancy to declining villages
n	

15.2 Digital Nomad Recruitment

Implementation Partners HKTB. ITB

Funding Roadmap

Recruitment can be designed to fit under the 'Smart Village Pilots' programme or as part of the 'Research Activities' under CCFS in partnership with HKTB

Pilot

Long-term expansion plan to scale up the remote work initiative to a global audience. Digital nomads are a group of location-independent technology workers who work across the globe and provide valuable income to rural

village communities. A limited plan to trial a digital nomad strategy in the villages will explore the feasibility of a new and significant income source.

N/A

- 1. Online recruitment through digital community websites and social media marketing will promote the amenities of the Yan Chau Tong region and position it as a rural remote work destination
- 2. **Development of services** such as visa fast-tracking, talent-friendly working environments and shuttle services to the region to accommodate participants
- Alignment of the digital nomad scheme into 3. existing local projects (such as the youth operator or ecommerce training schemes) will support regional capacity upgrading efforts by providing knowledge exchange and best practices sharing

Justification:

1. Expanding the living community population will ensure local service and goods providers have sustained demand

2. Recruitment will broaden the potential customer base for local housing and provide an extra income source which can supplement villagers during the low tourism season

3. Global exchange and co-living will create opportunities for knowledge sharing and foster new opportunities for the villages



P11

Affordable Resettlement Support

Reestablish living communities by improving full time service in inhabited villages and part time stays in secluded ones



Making villages habitable again is a prerequisite for the comprehensive revitalisation of the region. Housing renovation projects have begun to emerge but the associated costs are too high for housing rehabilitation at scale. Meanwhile, the provision of essential services (toilets, portable water, sewage and electricity) is too limited for interested parties to consider settlement. A low-cost self-renovation approach to housing and incremental infrastructure improvement will make it possible for villagers to resume full-time residence in larger accessible villages and undertake part-time overnight stays in more secluded, less viable ones.

Projects underway

Self-help housing

• Renovation of village houses and/or ancestral hall

Kop Tong, Sam A Tsuen | Villagers

Assisted village house restorations

 Project Plum Grove: Revitalising Mui Tsz Lam with Experimental Restorations Mui Tsz Lam | CUHK SoA

Village maintenance

 Prevention of Deterioration of Built Environment and Landscape Improvement in Lai Chi Wo Village

Lai Chi Wo | HakkaHome-LCW Limited

• Annual village cleaning (under Sustainable Lai Chi Wo Programme)

Lai Chi Wo | LCW PST, HKU CCSG, HKCF, CA

• Dam and floodgate renovation

So Lo Pun | Villagers, volunteers

Community infrastructure building

 Wu Zhi Qiao Local Volunteer Service Mui Tsz Lam | WZQ

Village systems upgrade

Project LIGHTUP

Regional garbage collection

Regional | FEHD

 Villagers' Management Agreement Project with Hygiene Theme

Lai Chi Wo | HakkaHome-LCW Limited

• Trial Project on Municipal Solid Waste Charging at Rural Areas

Lai Chi Wo | EPD

Lai Chi Wo | Border District

Next actions

Action 16 **Housing Support**

Objective

Proposed Scale **Regional**, with So Lo Pun as prototype

04





CCAU, URA, Partners HKU CCSG

- (see 16.1) •

Action 16 aims to increase the viability of home renovation and spur the resumption of living communities.

Imple	mentati
16.1	Renov
16.2	Self-He
16.3	Renov

sta

Renovation and recruitment initiative which provides access to information and capital for villager resettlement.

Permanent residency rates in the region remain low, with the hubs of Lai Chi Wo, Kuk Po and Sam A Tsuen being the only communities with significant populations (Fung Hang has been omitted, due to its desire to remain independent from planning work). A major bottleneck is the prohibitive cost of housing renovation and the lack of mobilisation to this end. The action will explore an approach to cost reduction and promote it to ex-residents interested in returning.

> A "Renovation Database" will list suitable and trustworthy rural housing contractors and enable collective contracting for low cost renovation solutions

A "Self-Help Housing" pilot will establish a low-cost self-renovation solution for villager resettlement (16.2) A "Renovation Pilot Loan" scheme will provide low to no interest loans to villagers with existing properties in the villages to support and fast-track renovation (see 16.3)

> ion Components: ation Database elp Housing ation Pilot Loan

ssist this. **Some villagers want to go back but**ng long-term is difficult. When we applied to home

16.1 **Renovation Database**

Implementation Partners HKCF

Pilot

Funding Roadmap The database and its corollary activities can be designed as 'Research Activities' or as 'Restoration of Built Heritage' projects under CCFS

> N/A, the database is non-physical and can be made available to villagers across the region

Informational database which provides supporting information to villagers for renovation work. The database will list builders specialised in rural home renovation and enable creative contracting for cost reductions.

- 1. An easy-to-use and continually updated database of renovation contractors competent, able and willing to work in Yan Chau Tong will be established
- 2. Testing of a collective contracting model between villagers and renovation experts to reduce building and material costs
- 3. Alternative transportation strategies for securing cheap and reliable material delivery will be explored

Justification:

1. Ongoing housing rehabilitation is hampered by the lack of information on suitable contractors

2. Renovation efforts are further limited by the prohibitive cost of material delivery

3. Villagers consider housing a community-level concern preventing the seamless sharing of information and best practices among regional stakeholders

Self-Help Housing 16.2

Implementation Partners	HKU CCAU, HKCF
Funding Roadmap	The housing prototype, guidelines and training can be designed as a single project under the 'Research Activities' or 'Restoration of Built Heritage' under CCFS

Pilot

So Lo Pun, prototype and training can be trialled with local villagers

Pilot project to establish a low-cost self-renovation solution for villager resettlement. The project partner will oversee the pilot, working with villagers to create a prototype, provide training and promote the approach across the region.

- Development of a physical low cost renovation 1. prototype which meets villager needs in terms of cost and lifestyle necessity
- Creation of self-build guidelines to enable 2. villagers to undertake the renovations themselves (for cost reduction)
- 3. Training project to familiarise villagers with the guidelines and build up local capacity for housing renewal

Justification:

1. The cost of renovation (estimated at between 1-2 million HKD per house) has prevented villagers from taking on housing repair work

2. Labour and material costs remain a major source of cost prohibitiveness

3. Villagers across the region have consistently highlight housing renewal as a major priority for revitalisation work

16.3 **Renovation Loan Pilot**

	Implementation Partners	URA, STKDRC
	Funding Roadmap	The pilot loan can be designed a (URA)'s 'Home Renovation Intere conceived as a specialized scher enclaves whose aim it is to resto
	Pilot	N/A, the loan pilot is non-physica

Pilot loan scheme providing access to capital for villa wishing to renovate their homes. The scheme will provide low to no interest loans to villagers with exist properties in the villages as a strategy for restoring village communities and enabling residential resumption.

- Design of a renovation loan product which 1. meets the needs of local homeowners. The value of said loan should be higher than the or offered through URA's 'Home Renovation Interest-free Loan' scheme. This is because t renovation works in question are not limited internal repairs but are also structural in natu
- Alignment with wider ecological and 2. sustainability goals to ensure housing resettlement is undertaken in a way which prioritises landscape protection and low-impact outcomes
- Testing of the loan through promotion to local 3. villagers as part of the overall Yan Chau Tong housing strategy

as an expansion of Urban Renewal Authority rest-free Loan' for rural home suitable or me targeted specifically to rural residents of ore their ancestral property

cal and can be made available to villagers across trial

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
Justification:
1. Renovation cost estimates are too high for villagers to be able to self-finance
2. The government also provides homeowners with a renovation loan through URA, but this is geared towards urban residents (given the value amount)
3. To rejuvenate villages and create an exemplary rural region housing renovation and resettlement will have to be made priorities

#### **Next actions**

#### Action 17 Settlement Service Provision

Objective	04
Proposed Scale	Regional
m	
Timeframe	••••
Lead Agency	ссо
Implementation Partners	HKCF, STKDRC, HAD

### Service investments to establish the proliferation of affordable and comfortable community living in the Yan Chau Tong villages.

The improvements will provide essential facilities to outlying villages while expanding existing systems in larger communities to accommodate growing populations. Basic facility improvements will aim to make use of green and sustainable materials as part of this effort.

- A specially designed "Smaller Village Incremental Facility" will provide hard-to-reach villages with affordable and expandable essential services (see 17.1)
- A study for "Larger Village System Upgrading" will determine the implementation of new village refuse collection services and decentralised sewage systems (see 17.2)

Action 17 aims to create a systematic improvement approach which ensures villagers' essential service needs are met and that public investment is targeted and cost-effective.

Implementation Components:

- 17.1 Smaller Village Incremental Facilities
- 17.2 Larger Village System Upgrading

#### Implementation components

#### 17.1 Smaller Village Incremental Facilities

	Implementation Partners	ссо
-	Funding Roadmap	The prototype facility can be de funded as an 'Environmental Re Conference Project' under ECF
	Pilot	Modular trial facility at Mui Tsz I

Prototype facility and improvement works programm which aims to provide essential service facilities to outlying, lightly populated villages in an affordable manner.

- Design of a special-made modular facility whe provides ablution, sanitary, shower and wash facilities at a lower cost per unit
- 2. **Pilot and testing of the facility** in an outlying regional village
- Wider installation of the module in other hard-to-reach villages lacking existing faciliti
- 4. **Post-implementation study** to determine prior and speed of investment for incremental upgrading of basic modules, according to risi population and visitor demand

#### esigned as a 'Research Activities' under CCFS or Research, Technology Demonstration and

Lam		
ne	Justification:	
/hich 1 line 9	<ol> <li>Topographic challenges limit the installation of backend water or sewage systems thereby preventing the provision of essential services to uphill villages</li> <li>The cost of standard toilet block installation prevents the government from providing basic services to outlying, low populated villages</li> </ol>	
ies iority ing	3. Facility upgrading decisions for villages are not adequately aligned with on-the-ground needs and fail to adjust to growing population and visitor demand	
`,	Sec	

#### 17.2 Larger Village System Upgrading

Implementation Partners CCO, FEHD, HAD, STKDRC

Funding Roadmap	Studies can be financed through the 'Research Activities' under CCFS, through ECF's 'Community Waste Reduction Projects' scheme or its 'Environmental Research, Technology Demonstration and Conference Projects' scheme	
Pilot	<ol> <li>A Kuk Po service study to determine the upgrading needs and priorities for population expansion</li> <li>A Sam A Tsuen service upgrading study to address littering and domestic garbage build up through system improvements</li> </ol>	

Infrastructure improvement study aimed at determining investment priorities and implementation methods for upgrading backend systems in villages with established residential populations (>5 households).

- 1. **Feasibility reports** to determine the implementation of decentralized sewage systems
- 2. Whole-of-village service studies to determine the upgrading needs for accommodating residential populations (sewage, water, and garbage)
- A regional planning study for developing a 3. 'greening' approach to upgrading facilities for accommodating larger populations
- A feasibility study to explore a regional refuse 4. **collection system** which solves existing garbage build up challenges and the lack of service to outlying villages
- 5. **A policy review** to ensure village facility provision is aligned with up-to-date population growth projections in communities so that adequate services are rendered

#### Justification:

1. Resident populations have the right to comfortable and convenient service provision in their villages

2. Residential villages in Yan Chau Tong experience difficulties related to sewage and garbage collection due to rising populations and tourism flows

3. The Yan Chau Tong region is home to fragile and significant ecosystems vulnerable to environmental damage





**P12** 

# Integrated **Mobility**

Using regionally scaled transport planning to distribute access across the region, link the north and south clusters, and activate abandoned villages



Accessibility to and within the area is currently disjointed and ad hoc due to a lack of overall planning. This has created bottlenecks at the few existing access points, separated north and south nodes, and led to the abandonment of several villages. Regional transport planning will better integrate different mobility modes, help distribute flows and link route types to make movement more convenient. The use of a hub-and-spoke model will leverage Sha Tau Kok's opening to increase access through new village entry points and make smaller secluded villages more connected via a cost-effective networked system.

#### **Projects underway**

#### **Trail restoration and enhancement**

• Double Haven Country Trail

Regional | AFCD, TC

#### **Trail information platforms**

Hong Kong hiking trails mobile apps

Non-specific | GOV / Private

#### Water service expansion

• Feasibility Study and Pilot Scheme of Water Bus for Inter-village and Coastal Eco-tour Service for Lai Chi Wo and Nearby Villages

Regional | HKCF

 Weekend Ferry Service to Lai Chi Wo from Ma Liu Shui

Lai Chi Wo | Best Sonic Industrial Limited

#### **Pier renewal**

 Lai Chi Wo Pier improvement (Under Study) for pier improvement at Lai Chi Wo and Tung Ping Chau - Investigation)

Lai Chi Wo | CEDD

#### Next actions



Implementation AFCD, CEDD, HKCF Partners

#### Mobility planning and investments which aim to create a regional, balanced transportation approach.

The proposed strategy will facilitate more convenient access to outlying villages, make it easier for villagers to get in and out of the area while creating strong management competencies for preventing overtourism. Furthermore, the strengthening of physical village connections will aim to strengthen their cultural and social ties as well.

Imple	mentati
18.1	Enhan
18.2	Target
18.3	Water

3	
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5	
	transp
ן ת	Po pie
3	

An "Enhanced Trail System" will facilitate regional pedestrian access and the restoration of culturally significant ancient trails (see 18.1)

"Targeted Pier Renewal" will facilitate the connection between three mobility hubs and neighbouring outlying villages (see 18.2)

A study for "Water Service Expansion" will assess the feasibility of providing marine transport choices which meet the needs of diverse stakeholders (see 18.3)

Action 18 aims to regional-ise mobility such that the nine villages are connected in a way which balances between accessibility and vulnerability.

> ion Components: nced Trail System ted Pier Renewal Service Expansion



nan walking along the coast passing through Yung u. The villagers made use of this connection to ort their goods to Sha Tau Kok Market from Kuk for trading.

#### 18.1 **Enhanced Trail System**

Implementation Partners AFCD

Funding Roadmap

Ancient trail improvements can be undertaken as part of AFCD's ongoing Country Parks 'Planning, management, building and maintenance of recreational facilities' division

Pilot

**Restoration of the So-Kuk Ancient Trail** 

The enhanced system will make use of existing trails and extend them through ancient trail restoration. The three corridors will follow and build upon ongoing pedestrian flows and use ancient trail rehabilitation to improve access in an affordable manner.

**Corridor 1** from Wu Kau Tang to Sam A Tsuen will be maintained without further expansion

**Corridor 2** from Luk Keng to Kuk Po will be extended to So Lo Pun to provide full mobility in the northern node

Corridor 3 will restore pedestrian access between Lai Chi Wo to Kuk Po to improve interregional connection

- Restoration of the So-Kuk Ancient Trail will 1. extend pedestrian access from Luk Keng to So Lo Pun, creating an alternative to the existing coastal trail and provide faster access to the village from Kuk Po
- **Restoration of the Lai-Kuk Ancient Trail will** 2. connect the region's two major population hubs
- 3. **Design guidelines** will enhance the aesthetic qualities of trails by promoting authentic materials, landscape edging, heritage elements, and path narrowing
- A walkability analysis of all existing trails in Yan 4. Chau Tong will provide convenient and comprehensive walking information to visitors as part of existing AFCD managed trails and maps

Justification:

1. Provide more entrance and exit options by aligning ferry (Lai Chi Wo) and bus (Luk Keng) access

2. Create a logic to restore the significant ancient trail system important to villagers and visitors alike

3. The cross-village connections and service offerings are hindered by the under-maintained regional pedestrian access

4. Many of the footpaths are in poor conditions or inaccessible, which hinder the transport of materials for revitalisation of hard-to-reach villages

#### 18.2 Targeted Pier Renewal

Implementation Partners	mplementation Partners CEDD	
Funding Roadmap		newal can be undertaken ninor improvement work
Pilot	1.	Kuk Po pier enhanceme Kok and/or Ma Liu Shui
	2.	Sam A Tsuen pier repair villager use

Development of a water connections network and corollary pier renewal for regional villages.

Ferry flow into the Yan Chau Tong region will be focus principally through Lai Chi Wo, and eventually through Kuk Po. These two villages will act as water-based hu from from which smaller boats can take visitors and villagers to neighbouring outlying villages. Sam A Tsue meanwhile, will act as the third hub, being a major pedestrian interchange and providing direct ferry acc to Ngau Shi Wu.

- Improvement work will prioritise renewal of the 1. unrenovated piers of two of the proposed hubs (Kuk Po, Sam A Tsuen). A further evaluation of damage levels will be used to justify such repa
- Smaller investments will be made to make 2. outlying village piers at Ngau Shi Wu and So Le Pun usable for docking by small boats. All necessary studies and precautions will be taken to establish their readiness for small-scale usage
- Develop the concept of 'piers as attractions' 3. through artist collaboration and activity clustering around piers (e.g. water bus touring, shops, pier restaurant, in-boat ecotourism programming)

#### through CEDD's 'Pier Improvement Unit' as part ks fund of STKDRC

ent to offer visitors direct access from Sha Tau to the northern node r to address sunken state and refurbish it for

	Justification:
ed n	1. Greater access to more villages will reduce overcrowding at major tourism nodes
bs en,	2. Water-based solutions will enable the rejuvenation of remote villages like Ngau Shi Wu and So Lo Pun
ess	3. Several local piers (e.g. the Sam A Tsuen pier) are sunken or in disrepair, presenting a potential hazard to ongoing pier use by
he s the airs	villagers
0	

#### Water Service Expansion 18.3

Implementation Partners **HKCF** 

Funding Roadmap	Studies can be designed for funding as 'Rese
-----------------	----------------------------------------------

earch Activities' under CCFS

Pilot

A series of feasibility studies will explore the expansion of regular water bus lines and the use of small scale modalities to complement existing transport options.

N/A

- 1. A study to determine the implementation and viability of a regular ferry for villagers which will serve all the coastal villages from Sha Tau Kok
- 2. A study to determine the implementation and viability of a low cost water taxi system which can support villagers and visitors to enter and exit the region during off-peak hours
- 3. **Feasibility study** to explore limited weekday expansion of the Shau Tau Kok - Lai Chi Wo ferry and extension of service to Kuk Po

Justification:

1. Villagers have trouble accessing their ancestral villages due to limited scheduling and timetables

2. Off-hour transportation is next to non-existent creating accessibility challenges for revitalisation work and project-doers

3. Tourism to the area is weekend-heavy preventing the realisation of weekday service and business operations



**P13** 

# **Region-Wide Ecotourism**

Use regional scaling to better manage ongoing visitor flows and distribute benefits to a wider set of local communities



The benefits from ongoing area visitation have been limited by piecemeal non-planned tourism development. With a visitor surge expected following the opening of Sha Tau Kok there is further risk that tourism will lead to negative impacts on local communities and ecologies. Moreover, recognition of the area as a tourism site has been limited to a few well-publicised villages and established hiking destinations. This has narrowed the distribution of benefits. Regional coordination which actively monitors flows and impacts and positions the region as a whole will lead to the development of sustainable, balanced and socially beneficial tourism.

Over time, the boundary of the programme will need to incorporate villages beyond the nine villages identified. A truly regional scale of tourism planning will link Wu Kau Tang, Ap Chau, Kat O, Yung Shue Au and other popular nearby villages to this tourism management framework. This will enable comprehensive responses at the appropriate scale.

#### **Projects underway**

#### **Online tourism branding**

- 慶春約記 Facebook page
  - **Regional** | Stories South & North
- Back To Our Countryside campaign

#### Regional | CCO

• Lai Chi Wo promotion on Discover Hong Kong website

#### Lai Chi Wo | HKTB

#### Tourism strategy design

- Sustainability Design Hackathon for Rural Camping Experience (under Forest Village Programme)
  - Mui Tsz Lam | HKU CCSG, ASTKCE, HKU DLA

#### **Tourism itinerary packaging**

- Double Haven Country Trail
- Ecotours led by private companies Regional | Private tourism companies
- Monthly Mui Tsz Lam and Kop Tong cultural ecological tours (under Forest Village Programme)

Kop Tong, Mui Tsz Lam | ASTKCE

• Lai Sam Ancient Trail promotion on the Enjoy Hiking Website

Sam A Tsuen | AFCD

Regional | AFCD, TC

#### Physical tourism promotions

 Hong Kong Geopark 10th anniversary celebration activities and souvenirs

Regional | AFCD

#### Next actions

#### Action 19 **Tourism Management**

#### Objective 05

Proposed Scale Regional



Timeframe ссо Lead Agency

Implementation Partners

#### AFCD, HKU DUPAD. HKU CCSG, YCT VRs

## benefits.

offerings.

Imple	mentati
19.1	Contro
19.2	Visitor
19.3	Local 7

lt is n
can ta
being

#### System designed for the monitoring of tourism distribution, the control of operational quality and the production of local tourism benefits.

Rigorous management will oversee the gradual development of tourism to ensure it does not endanger the carrying capacity of the region while producing high quality and sustainable visitor

> A "Control & Management Tool" will establish and maintain an optimal quantity and quality of tourism activity (see 19.1)

A "Visitor Code of Conduct" will communicate the values of the region and set behavioural expectations for visitors to follow (see 19.2)

"Local Tourism Benefit Studies" will assess the

feasibility of implementing benefit sharing mechanisms locally (see 19.3)

#### Action 19 aims at systematic management over the region's tourism development to control impacts and enhance

ion Components: ol & Management Tool Code of Conduct **Tourism Benefit Studies** 

easy to balance the visitor flow in ecotourism.

#### 19.1 **Control & Management Tool**

Implementation Partners HKU DUPAD, HKU CCSG

Funding Roadmap Studies and modelling can be designed for funding as 'Research Activities' under the CCFS stream or as part of wider-research themed government funding (University Grants Committee, Public Policy Research Funding Scheme, or ECF research funds)

Pilot

Agent-based modelling study to determine a carrying capacity quota for the region

A management tool to quantify and control for the optimal level of ecotourism activity. Management practices will build upon carrying capacity data to oversee the sustainable development of local facilities and programming while mitigating their negative impacts.

- Agent-based and capacity modelling will be 1. used to develop a quantification metric for establishing the region's optimal level of visitor flow. This will provide scientific evidence for allocating a floating quota for regional planning
- A Kaito warning system tool will provide 2. authority to intervene and reduce ferry frequencies once a vulnerability threshold is crossed
- Operator sustainability criteria will ensure that 3. new facility plan proposals and business activities do not endanger the biological or cultural landscapes
- Facility design guidelines will promote the use of 4. local and rustic finishes for delivering of high quality tourism amenities
- 5. Regular compliance audits will offer post-implementation monitoring to ensure that sustainability and quality control criteria are maintained over the long run

Justification:

1. Yan Chau Tong is home to ecologically significant but fragile marine and terrestrial ecosystems vulnerable to overtourism

2. Living communities in Yan Chau Tong aim to live traditional and sustainable local lifestyles which tourism should enable but not endanger

3. The region is shifting towards a high-quality low-impact tourism framework which requires rigorous control and management support

#### 19.2 Visitor Code of Conduct

Implementation Partners	YCT VRs, HKU CCSG
Funding Roadmap	The code of conduct can be dev Rehabilitation/Revitalisation' ar
Pilot	N/A, the code of conduct shall b

Guidelines will be developed to communicate villager expectations and highlight cultural and ecological val order to create mutual understanding between village and visitors. The code of conduct will position the red as a landscape of culturally significant living commun and educate the public based on the concept of sustainable development.

- 1. Development of a code of conduct agreed to villagers and supported by project partners w educates visitors about ecotourism, highlight fragility of the ecosystem, and promotes Yan Tong as a region of high quality rural characte
- Communication strategy promoting the 2. guidelines through village signboards, tour gu announcements, restaurant signage, ferry brochures so that it achieves broad dissemination

#### Local Tourism Benefit Studies 19.3

Implementation Partners AFCD Funding Roadmap The feasibility studies can be designed as 'Research Activities' under CCFS Pilot Study projects to be undertaken offsite with research conducted at Lai Chi Wo

Studies conducted for establishing the viability of a sustainable development fee applied as a 'reservation to visitors and as a 'permit condition' for operators.

- A study will explore the implementation of a 'sustainable development fee'. Under this sys visitors would reserve visits through an entra booking system. A daily fee would be levied, i fluctuating depending on how crowded Yan C Tong is at any given time. System data would used to preemptively plan tourism services
- Another study will determine the viability of 2. 'operator permit conditions'. Conditions, prothrough local business contracts, would stipu fixed percentage of profits to be contributed operators in support of ongoing revitalisation

#### veloped as a 'Cultural nd/or 'Research Activities' project under CCFS

be disseminated formally and informally through villagers, CCO and other regional partners

r Ilues in Jers gion nities	Justification: 1. Visitation to the area takes place as status quo hiking and village visitation, providing low quality opportunities for cultural exchange and high-end tourism interactions
by vhich ts the Chau	2. Guidelines will mitigate negative impacts (garbage, cultural neglect) imposed on the residential community and make tourism a more positive local phenomena
er	3. Strong reputational positioning and stakeholder communication will facilitate the transition to a
uide	high-quality, low-impact tourism model
ation	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

on rate'	Justification:
rstem	1. Reservation fees will help maintain the exclusivity of the area and ensure low-impact tourism practice
ance	2. Permit conditions for operators
its rate Chau	will ensure top-end tourism service standards
be	3. Tourism-linked payments will compensate villagers for impacts and provide resources for the implementation of conservation
ovided \	and community objectives
ulate a	×
lby	
n work	

#### Next actions

#### Action 20 Visit Yan Chau Tong Promotion

Objective	05
Proposed Scale	Regional
m	
Timeframe	•••••
Lead Agency	ссо
Implementation Partners	HKTB, The Common Map, CACHe, TC, HKU DUPAD

#### Creation of a promotional strategy which uses regional scaling to promote Yan Chau Tong as a local tourism destination.

The action will use physical and digital marketing tools to package and re-contextualize tourism in the area, offering visitors a more expansive and diversified tourism offering.

- "Tourism Itinerary Packaging" will highlight a wider and • more distributed set of local cultural and ecological amenities (see 20.1)
- A "Yan Chau Tong Tourism Brand" will provide marketing • and positioning for the region as a whole (see 20.2)

Action 20 aims at regional tourism promotion in Yan Chau Tong which disburses benefits to more villages and creates place name-recognition.

Implementation Components:

- 20.1 Tourism Itinerary Packaging
- 20.2 Yan Chau Tong Tourism Brand

#### Implementation components

#### 20.1 Tourism Itinerary Packaging

Implementation Partners	HKTB, CACHe, The Common Ma
Funding Roadmap	HKTB will help finance the design Government partners can spon with itinerary creation to establ
Pilot	Eco-coastal itinerary at Sam A 1

Content development to promote a focused, coheren and integrated tourism positioning to local and international tourists. Thematic packaging and itiner mapping will promote existing and ongoing regional activities and attractions. Developed itineraries will t be advertised through the regional website, physical locations and directly to consumers.

- 1. A Hakka food itinerary pamphlet will package existing area restaurants as a culinary experience and offer a one-day itinerary for visitors
- An agrarian adventure will package existing 2. elements and ongoing projects as a way of promoting the 'agrotourism' concept
- An eco-coastal map and tour will showcase the 3. coastal villages of Yan Chau Tong and their marine amenities
- A five-senses immersion booklet will promote 4. an approach to village tourism which highlights the subtle Fung Shui elements of village landscapes and multisensory atmospheres

#### ар

ign and publication of promotional materials. nsor illustrative business plans and help villagers olish local economic opportunities

#### Eco-coastal itinerary at Sam A Tsuen, Ngau Shi Wu, Siu Tan and Sai Lau Kong

nt ,	/×	
, í	Justification:	
rary	1. Current tourism offerings to the	
then	area are overly concentrated on key tourism nodes and do not offer diverse offerings to visitors	
e	2. Programming does not integrate significant elements of village culture into its ongoing tourism attractions	
	3. Narrative design will encourage visitors to combine visits to various villages and see them as culturally connected and meaningful	
``	×/	

#### 20.2 Yan Chau Tong Tourism Brand

Implementation Partners The	Common Map, HKTB, TC
-----------------------------	----------------------

Funding Roadmap	Physical and online promotion work can be carried out through HKTB and To The website and app can be funded as ' <i>Research Activities</i> ' under CCFS		
Pilot	<ol> <li>A 'Visit Yan Chau Tong' visitor centre at Sha Tau Kok</li> <li>A test campaign promoting the collective villages of the region under the Yan Chau Tong brand</li> </ol>		

Marketing of the Yan Chau Tong brand, which will create a position for the region within Hong Kong's tourism ecosystem and establish its name recognition as a significant site for rural exploration. Innovative promotional resources which allow visitors to recognise and appreciate distinct villages will develop the region's brand in an inclusive and equitable way so that all nine villages will benefit.

- A Hong Kong-wide marketing campaign will contribute to the general promotion of Yan Chau Tong and establish its presence as a major rural tourism destination
- A regional website will act as a digital hub for visitors, providing trip planning services, up-to-date information on business hours and promoting ongoing local events and activities
- The tourism app (already in development) will showcase local hiking routes, provide village-specific information and enable GPS-enabled navigation throughout the area
- 4. **Physical booths at key departure points** (Ma Liu Shui, Sha Tau Kok) will establish a physical representation of the Yan Chau Tong brand, enable tourists to pre-book activities and provide physical materials (itinerary maps, local business brochures)

#### Justification:

1. Tourists to the region lack pre-journey information and knowledge of the region's many amenities on offer

2. The villages of the area do not currently experience collective benefits from tourism as part of a regional designation or brand (e.g. Sai Kung, Tuscany in Italy)

3. Promotional infrastructure will serve the needs of the region by creating stable, long-term and high-quality tourism opportunities

#### **Villager Action List**

# Ideas that could be done by villagers 1. Community Philanthropy Fund 2. Uncle Storytelling Tours & Home Experience 3. Hakka Restaurant & Parlour Experience 4. Forest or Beach Theatre 5. Hakka wedding experience

6. Plural Community

7. Twin Village Development Exchange

8. Community Space & Services

9. Yan Chau Tong Triennale

Description
Setting up of self-initiated sustainable community funds to execute actions based on village masterplan
Curated heritage guided tour experiences led by villagers (uncles). Villagers' stories could be recorded as audio guides to be rent to visitors for self-tours and can benefit from digital e-business services
Recreation of 19th century Hakka restaurant and corresponding games parlour
Activation to translate oral history project into performance and sharing activity for and by the villagers
Experience Hakka style wedding traditions like the bride being carried in a sedan chair through an ancient trail
Volunteer system & recruitment to attract young farmers and social welfare volunteers who want to work in a village environment
Local villages team up and twin with global villages on an annual basis for in person and online exchanges
Create regional community centre, community social itineraries, as well as physical and virtual village social spaces to connect local villagers and diasporas
A 3-year cycle regional festival will enable the gradual building up of regenerative projects at the village scale, and its continual structure will ensure a permanent cycle of development related to place identity

	Short Term (first 3-5 years)	Medium Term (coming 5-10 years)	Long Term (coming 10-20 years)
O1 Exemplary Rural Revitalisation	P1 - A1 Regional Governance		
	P2 - A2 CCFS-Villager Alignment		P3 - A4 Birthright Cultural Leadership
	P2 - A3 Villager Action Platform		
02		P4 - A5 Vibrant Village Atmospheres	P5 - A7 Regional Wetlands Network
Human- Nature		P4 - A6 Visualising Rural Heritage	P6 - A8 Coastal Ecology Cluster
Approach			
	P7 - A9 Village Spotlight Marketing		
			D9 A11 Immercive Agriteuriem
	P8 - A10 Experiential School Learning		P8 - A11 Immersive Agritourism
O3 Self-	P9 - A12 Village Economic Framework		
Sustaining Livelihoods		P9 - A13 Small Business Start-Ups	
	P10 - A14 Smart Village Upgrading	P10 - A15 Remote Work Villages	
O4 Long-Term Healthy Communities			
		P11 - A16 Housing Support	
		P11 - A17 Settlement Service Provision	
O5 Ecotourism Outcomes			
	P12 - A18 'Three Hubs, Three Corridors' System		
	P13 - A19 Tourism Management		



# Indicative Phasing

#### **Facility Plan Mapping**



#### 01 Exemplary rural revitalization

1.3 Community Planning Workshop (pilot)2.2 CCO Rural Forum (on-site pilot)3.2 Enhanced Notice Boards

#### 02 Human-nature approach

5.1 Village Preservation Policy
5.2 Place Based Activities (pilots)
6.1 Village Building Conversion (pilot)
6.2 Landscape Restoration (pilot)
7.1 Community-Managed Wetlands
11.1 Kuk Po Hakka Experimental Farm
11.2 So Lo Pun Tangerine Orchard
11.3 Siu Tan Fishpond Discovery Zone

#### 03 Self-Sustaining livelihoods

9.4 Artisanal Shop Network (flagship)
10.1 Human-Nature School Trips
13.1 Guesthouse Policy Pilot
13.2 Docent Training (site)
13.3 Tourism Operator Lab
14.2 E-Business Services (centre)
15.1 Local Remote Work (pilot)

#### 04 Long-term healthy communities

4.1 Regular Community Competitions
4.2 Descendant Festival (trial)
14.1 E-Social Services (medical boat pilot)
16.2 Self-Help Housing (pilot)
17.1 Incremental Facilities (pilot)

#### 05 Ecotourism outcomes

18.1 Enhanced Trail System
18.2 Pier Renewal
8.1a Coastal Trail
8.1b Coastal Information Centre
8.1c Equipment rental store
8.1d WWF Marine Center
11.4 Farmstay & Day In The Life (pilot)
20.2 Visit Yan Chau Tong' visitor centre

use of existing building use of village lanscape



#### List of abbreviations & acronyms

#### List of abbreviations & acronyms

AAB	Antiques Advisory Board	STK	
AFCD	Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	STKDRC	Sha Tau Kok District Rural Comm
AMO	Antiquities and Monuments Office	SWIMS	
ASTKCE	Association for Sha Tau Kok Culture and Ecology	тс	
САСНе	The Conservancy Association Centre for Heritage	TD	
СА		TID	Trade and Industry Department
CC	Contemplate Culture	URA	Urban Renewal Authority
CCFS	Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme	VR	Village Representative
CCO	Countryside Conservation Office	WWF-HK	World Wide Fund for Nature Hond
CEDD	Civil Engineering and Development Department	WZQ	Wu Zhi Qlao (Bridge to China) Cha
СНО	Commissioner for Heritage's Office	ҮВНК	Youth Business Hong Kong
CUHK SoA	Chinese University of Hong Kong's School of Architecture	YCT SBA	Yan Chau Tong Small Business As
DB GLTMS	Development Bureau's Greening, Landscape & Tree Management Section	YCT VRs	Yan Chau Tong Village Represent
ECF		Y.E.S.	Youth Employment Start
EPD	Environmental Protection Department	3Cs	
FEHD	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department		
GOV	Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region	<b>Forest Village Programme</b> refers to the "Forest village - Mu programme"	
HAD	Home Affairs Department		
HakkaHome	HakkaHome-LCW Limited		
НСҮ		Marche Ltd. is ar	
HKCF	The Hong Kong Countryside Foundation	village platform f	
HKICHDB	Hong Kong Intangible Cultural Heritage Database		
HKJC	Hong Kong Jockey Club	Farmshare Ltd. i	
НКМС	The Hong Kong Mortgage Corporation Ltd.	value-added stro	
НКТВ	Hong Kong Tourism Board		
НКТ			
HKU CCAU	The University of Hong Kong's Centre for Chinese Architecture and Urbanism		
HKU CCSG	The University of Hong Kong's Centre for Civil Society and Governance		
HKU DLA	The University of Hong Kong's Department of Landscape Architecture		
HKU DUPAD	The University of Hong Kong's Department of Urban Planning and Design		
HKUGGp	Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark		
HKU SBS	The University of Hong Kong's School of Biological Sciences		
HKWCA	Hong Kong Wetlands Conservation Association		
HSBC	Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited		
НҮК			
ICHO	Intangible Cultural Heritage Office		
ITB	Innovation, Technology, & Industry Bureau		
KFBG	Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden		
LCSD	Leisure and Cultural Services Department		
LCW PST			
MaD			
OFCA			
OPCFHK	Ocean Park Conservation Foundation, Hong Kong		
OWLHK	Outdoor Wildlife Learning Hong Kong		
PlanD	Planning Department		
PolyU	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University		
RRAA	Rural Revitalisation Action Area (proposed designation)		

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Scheme under HKU CCSG

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Towards Sustainable and Inclusive Conservation and Revitalisation in Hing Chun Yeuk Seven Villages, Kuk Po and Fung Hang, Hong Kong

Project Team: Department of Urban Planning and Design, Faculty of Architecture, The University of Hong Kong Project Period: 1 September 2021 – 31 August 2022 Funding Party: Countryside Conservation Office Funded under the Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme (Project Number: EP86/27/24/11-7)

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