

We recommend the setting up of a Heritage Development Trust for the long term protection of the natural and built heritage of Hong Kong including the Long Valley Wetlands.

We appreciate that for the protection of our heritage to be truly effective, acquisition of land is not the whole answer and in the long run would be too expensive as a general solution. We need the cooperation and even more importantly, the participation of the local residents and stakeholders. The failure and subsequent closure of a heritage trail in the New Territories taught us that the work is not easy but it must be done.

We do not just want empty fields and village ruins. We see the educational, scientific, leisure, historical, employment and other economic potentials of the conservation areas. These potentials, once developed, could benefit both the villagers and the rest of the community in Hong Kong.

It is therefore of the utmost importance that the Trust is engaged in a wide range of activities. These would include partial land acquisition, stakeholder consultation, drawing up of physical and viable business plans, developing local skills in the management and utilisation of the areas, education of the public and promotion of the areas.