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世界自然基金會
香港分會

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Submission to Panel on Development

Meeting on 26 July 2013

North East New Territories New Development Areas (NENT NDA) Planning and Engineering Study - Stage 3 Public Engagement Report

WWF would like to express our preliminary views on NENT NDA with the focus on the conservation of Rose bitterling and Ma Tso Lung Stream.

1. Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation

WWF believes that a holistic nature conservation policy, with mainstreaming biodiversity into cross-bureau strategies and policies in compliance with Convention of Biological Diversity, is crucial for identifying effective measures to enhance the conservation of ecologically important sites under private ownership.

2. Rare freshwater fish – Rose bitterling to be affected by FLN NDA

The NENT NDA EIA has failed to record a rare freshwater fish – Rose bitterlings (*Rhodeus ocellatus*) in the mitigation wetlands adjacent to Ng Tung River (Fig 2). According to the assessment by AFCD, the Rose bitterling has become a rare species in Hong Kong with only a few localities in Hong Kong with the records of this species. In the Proposed Action Plan for the Conservation of Freshwater Fish in Hong Kong by AFCD, the Rose bitterling is of restricted distribution throughout Hong Kong. Indeed according to the LMC Loop EIA also conducted by the same Government Departments, Rose bitterling is recorded in the study area and the fish is considered as high conservation in the EIA. As most of these meanders will be affected because of the proposed developments along Ng Tung River, WWF views that the proposed development plan should be revised to prevent any disturbance or removal of these meanders and safeguard the wetland habitats of this rare freshwater fish on-site.

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3. LMC Loop Connection Road affects Ma Tso Lung Stream

The proposed connection road to LMC Loop will affect the Ma Tso Lung Stream (MTL) and stream diversion is proposed by the consultant (Fig 3). Since MTL Stream has high ecological value with the presence of species of conservation interest, WWF view that it is not suitable to divert the stream and we recommend shifting of the proposed road westward to avoid disturbing the naturalness of the stream.

Figure 1. Site boundary of Long Valley and Ho Sheung Heung priority site for enhanced conservation under the 2004 New Nature Conservation Policy



Figure 2. Newly found Rose Bitterlings in Ng Tung River Meanders

(Source: Ming Pao, 23 July 2013)

東北環評漏報稀有淡水魚

環團指低估梧桐河生態 促修訂計劃

特稿

政府正就新界東北發展計劃的環評報告諮詢公眾，世界自然基金會發現，報告內遺漏了一種極具保育價值的淡水魚類「高體鰱鯪」，於新發展區內的梧桐河曲出沒。環評顧問指該段梧桐河的生態價值屬「低至中等」，建議可作發展，但環團認為應盡量保留河道的自然面貌，要求政府補做該種魚類的生態研究，並修訂發展計劃。發展局昨晚至截稿前未有回應。

—— 明報記者 馬耀森

政府因應《生物多樣性心約》要求，正草制訂「生物多樣性策略及行動計劃」。據悉，政府計劃為本港的稀有物種制訂名單，高體鰱鯪榜上有名。

馬草壟擬建連接路影響河道

另外，政府建議於馬草壟興建一條約130米長的連接路，接駁到北新發展區。梁士倫指出，連接路將破壞具生態價值的天然河道，部分河道需要改造，擔心會影響瀕危的兩棲類動物棲息，要求重新規劃連接路走向及附近的設施如運動場地等，令天然河道得以保留。

8河曲被批生態價值低至中

根據新界東北發展計劃，新界北新發展區將沿梧桐河而建。環評報告指出，沿河有8段「河曲」灘地，面積合共1.57公頃，生態價值屬低至中等。因此建議將大部分「河曲」轉為發展土地。

世界自然基金會香港分會環境保護經理梁士倫認為，官方環評的生態調查未能發現「高體鰱鯪」，「反映出有關調查的生態價值」。

抽泥，為解決新界東北水浸問題，政府於1990年代為梧桐河進行疏濬工程，包括填闊及挖深河道。原來彎彎曲曲的河道被拉直，只有小部分河道得以保留，以緩衝對工程破壞的生態。因此餘下河曲有必要保留，不應成為其他工程的犧牲品。根據環評，只有一段河曲被保留，用作建造人工島島林。

全港只4地點有「高體鰱鯪」

梁士倫說，全港只有4個地點有高體鰱鯪




▲世界自然基金會香港分會環境保護經理梁士倫，上星期到梧桐河河道實地，發現淡水魚類高體鰱鯪。高體鰱鯪屬小型鯉科魚類，身長約百毫米。

—— 世界自然基金會提供

▲新發展區發展計劃建議，梧桐河曲的生態價值不高，可以填平發展，但環團發現該種有的魚類「高體鰱鯪」在河中出沒，促請政府補做生態研究。

—— 世界自然基金會提供

Figure 3. Locations of Ma Tso Lung Stream to be affected (red circles) (Source: Fig. 13.17a NENT NDA EIA report (EIA-213/2013))

