



**Responding to**  
**‘Strategy adopted by the Government in tackling the issue of stray cattle’ of Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene (Agenda)**  
**9 December 2014**

## Content

- P3 --- Introduction
- P4 --- 1. Adoption of international values confirmed by ICOMOS, to invest and implement LOCAL SPECIES CONSERVATION POLICY 制定本土物種保育政策
- P3 --- 2. IDENTIFY and RESTORE conservation within the concern of 'Public Eco Right 公共生態權' with committed resources and policy. Step up Conservation Considerations as part of public right from planning and development levels.
- P6 --- 3. Advocate and implement regulation for 'Animal Friendly Traffic Condition' to Transport Development to improve road safety control management along Lantau South road

## Attachments:

- "HONG KONG BOVIDS AS A SHIFTING SYMBOL OF 'PROGRESS' (6pages),
- ICOMOS registration proof (2pages) .)
- 'LBA 立法會申訴漁農自然護署於 2013 年 12 月強行「調遷牛隻」實驗計劃」之書面陳述-final edition'.
- 'Maps of Water buffalo wetland Habitats and Cattle habitats and Grazing Routes' of existing herds identified by LBA'.
- Death spots of Lantau cattle and bovine, identified in 2013 (1page),
- Speeding black spots on Lantau S Rd, identified in 2013 (1page)
- Reference of Animal Rescues for Cattle Animals Fell into Water Catchment or caught by badly design drainages. (4pages)
- Case reference of Aggressive Dogs Attack.
- 2013 Lantau Bovine and Cattle Survey Summary Report-v3

## Introduction

### **Response to ‘Strategy adopted by the Government in tackling the issue of stray cattle’, Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene (Agenda) 9 December 2014**

Lantau Buffalo Association (‘the Association; or ‘LBA’ thereafter) , would like to take this opportunity to announce to the Panel that a paper was accepted by The ‘18th International Council of Monument and Sites’ (thereafter ICOMOS for the General Assembly and Scientific Symposium, under the category “Heritage and Landscape as Human Values” (譯作 ‘人文價值景觀遺產’), titled : ‘HONG KONG BOVIDS AS A SHIFTING SYMBOL OF ‘PROGRESS’: Towards protecting Lantau Island’s environments and cultural heritage. (譯作 ‘香港的牛科動物作為’一個移動符號’以促進保護大嶼山的環境和文化遺產’)

(Please see attached :

- LBA submission “HONG KONG BOVIDS AS A SHIFTING SYMBOL OF ‘PROGRESS’ (6pages), and
- ICOMOS registration proof (2pages) .)

This paper by LBA set out to describe how an enduring human-bovid relationship is integral to Lantau Island’s cultural and natural heritage and advocating how water buffalo and cattle provide direct benefits to Lantau’s environment and communities. Consequently, it also introduces readers to how public education activities can and are serving to protect local cultural heritage, identity and living conditions whilst promoting community development. In doing so, the paper encourages and argues for the Panel’s current ‘management’ policy to undertake an urgent policy review in order to adopt more appropriate practices towards Lantau’s free roaming herds, notably to change the policy to one that prioritizes their conservation, in order to promote better animal welfare whilst simultaneously protecting the enduring cultural heritage and future of Lantau’s evolving social and natural landscapes.

<sup>1</sup>18th ICOMOS General Assembly and Scientific Symposium :

(ICOMOS - International Council on monuments and sites )

<http://icomos.org/en/about-icomos/governance/general-information-about-the-general-assembly/18th-general-assembly-florence-2014>

The submission of the paper to the Panel today also summarizes and policy improvement requests previously submitted to the Panel and to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (‘AFCD’ thereafter) in March 2014, which were in response to a ‘cattle relocation experiment project’ carried out by the department in November 2013 , ‘LBA 立法會申訴漁農自然護署於 2013 年 12 月強行「調遷牛隻”實驗”計劃」之書面陳述-final edition’.

Bovid abandonment in Hong Kong took place forty some years ago. Throughout history, around the

world, cattle and water buffalo have provided important sources for survival, including cultural and economy development yet often zero respect and protection has been afforded to them and their sacrifices. The slaughtering and culling is a poor choice of perception – not seen as ‘economically’ valuable – and masked as core public policy in excuse of ‘public hygiene safety concern’. Such a policy is not only an insult to human civilization, cultures and community built upon joint human-animal labor efforts but also totally out dated to serve public health, safety and the environment.

During these past forty years following being relinquished from agricultural labour, bovines have readapted with their surrounding environments and transformed themselves from beholden as farming slaves for human needs into a new eco-conservation management servant, which amazingly performs a free service that benefits humans and other species in their existence and with their environments.

According to the announced existing figure of water buffalo in 2013 by AFCD, 120 were found in to be living in both Lantau and Yuen Long remaining wetland. 72 alone were located by LBA in Lantau in November 2013. This year, recent survey conducted on Nov 22 can provide a more updated figure with 83 being located by LBA. *(Survey report will soon be submitted when it is ready.)* Hopefully Lantau can recover the 10 numbers lost in Yuen Long area during 2012 and 2013.

### 香港僅存130亞洲水牛！

但可惜牠們的生存條件，正每天在急速地消失中！

**Hong Kong's last remaining  
130 Asian Water Buffalo!**  
Unfortunately, their survival condition  
**IS DISAPPEARING EVERYDAY!**

香港亞洲水牛是香港現時已知唯一能有效地修復濕地和天然水源的大型生態物種！牠們亦是唯一能同時促進水、陸、空生物多樣性水重要的生態平台！

Asian Water Buffalo in Hong Kong have been found the only known wetland species that can directly restore wetland and natural water resources conditions. They are also the most important eco-platform that encourages the biodiversity for the ecology of water + land + air at the same time!



Nowadays, this ‘four legs community’ are living in threat due to the tremendous loss of their habitats, the unused abandoned farm land, to the totally out of control and continuation of urbanization abuse in green belt zone found in all rural area. Land for eco – environment and species biodiversity in ‘greenbelt’ is increasingly becoming lost to illegal landfill or concrete development for traffic condition use, small house building development and tourist attraction facilitation.





One extreme example is in Pui O where up to almost 30% of wetland space has been lost in last 5yrs. This is, until now, the most important and successful habitat for water buffaloes that has ever existed in Hong Kong. Right now, there is zero efficient lawful power that can protect the habitats lost from continued abuse. LBA therefore is urging the Panel to advocate and advise the Bureaus and AFCD for necessary and urgent implementation of the following suggestions and list of policies by LBA below which address a number of issues:

**1. Adoption of international values confirmed by ICOMOS, to invest and implement LOCAL SPECIES CONSERVATION POLICY 制定本土物種保育政策**

**1.1 Establish local species data bank** for the documentation, monitoring and protection of Hong Kong endangered 'local species' 成立本土物種保育資料庫，保護本土瀕危物種！

**1.2 Remove 'Stray' label for the Bovine and cattle animal in Hong Kong 給香港牛物種正名**, in respect of their identified historical, cultural heritage, ecological and conservation value for Hong Kong, a value recognized by ICOMOS. In order to sustain the existence precious species, and encourage the enhancement of the continuous eco-function, benefits and relations with the community from this 'four legs community ' in each rural village, Government should prioritise immediate support with all possible channels to enact a 'Local Herd Management' policy to be adopted. LBA would like to motion the adoption of a new category title 'Community Eco-specie 社區生態物種' to replace current policy labelling (stray) for those animal species .

**1.3 UPGRADE AFCD animal management for cattle management service from current stray animal management up to conservation practice level.**

1.3.1 Implement and/or upgrade professional conservation training for current cattle management team, specifically in local herd conservation management to assist with

covering policy monitoring for local animal welfare, population, cadaver control (including disease death cause research) management.

1.3.2 Cruelty identification research and traffic control condition research.

1.3.3 Restrict and discipline 'Animal Experiment' practice within AFCD. Do not approve animal experiment project without consulting any legally registered independent cattle animal service provider as a practice monitor to all animal experiment project.

**2. IDENTIFY and RESTORE conservation within the concern of 'Public Eco Right 公共生態權' with committed resources and policy. Step up Conservation Considerations as part of public right from planning and development levels.**

2.1 Rezone existing water buffalo wetland habitats, cattle habitats and grazing routes in each herd areas up to 'ISSS' level to guarantee lawful preservation and protection against the continuation of concrete development.

2.2 Request Town Planning board to formulate and initiate land swap compensation, or land compensation funds, as a necessary exercise to compensate land owners to surrender land space identified in the habitat to Government. (See attached – 'Maps of Water buffalo wetland Habitats and Cattle Grazing habitats and Routes' for existing habitats identified by LBA.)

2.3 Identify and advocate 'Rural Planning' in Town Planning Board to ensure green planning policy to be adopted in rural environment that includes preservation for elements of local cultural, historical heritage and eco-environment. Separate Rural planning method from current outdated 'urban planning', method to avoid bad planning reproduced in rural environment.

2.4 Preserve ALL local herds - No killing, No relocation! Install cattle shelter facilities in sites of each local herd grazing area. This facilitation is not only confirming the residential right to this local species, it is also a community source that can function efficiently to support local herd management service (both animal welfare and disease control management), public education and local economic activities like rural tourist development that develop and benefit the local economy especially.

*Note: LBA has been working with Land Department since 2013 after the tragic '8 cows' incident in Cheung Sha, in identifying suitable spots for cattle shelters for each herd on Lantau. 10 sites*

*have been identified so far to cover 7 local herds including water buffalo and cattle animal along Lantau South Road. 3 herds, Chi Ma Wan, Ngong Peng and Tai O, are still in need of identification of suitable shelter sites. LBA will continue to work with the Land Department for the continuing development. LBA would like to urge the Panel and Bureau's support for the cattle shelter infrastructure development project.*

*LBA is tremendously grateful to learn that study of cattle shelter design was initiated by an architecture design team from Poly University (the exhibition is now displayed for public at the entrance hall of Poly University at the moment). LBA met with the design team two weeks ago and are looking into opportunity to further work with the design team. )*

**3. Advocate and implement regulation for 'Animal Friendly Traffic Condition' to Transport Development to improve road safety control management along Lantau South road including:**



3.1 Install necessary procedure requirement for 'Lantau South Road Condition' that acknowledges the safety concern for free roaming animals on Lantau, including making available information as part of road permit application requirement to permit applicants. (Attached : Death spots of Lantau cattle and bovine, identified in 2013 (1page), Speeding black spots on Lantau S Rd, identified in 2013 (1page).

3.2 Reinstall Close Road Control Kiosks at entrances of closed road sections on Tung Chung Road and Shek Mun Kap, to deter illegal driving and drivers entering Lantau South without a permit. See attached reference :

- Death spots of Lantau cattle and bovine, identified in 2013 (1page),
- Speeding black spots on Lantau S Rd, identified in 2013 (1page)

3.3 Reduce speed limits for all 70 kmph sections down to 50kmph on Lantau South roads.

3.4 Redesign cattle warning sign with clear symbol and text message about their wandering presence. See below sample of current 'Cattle Warning sign erected on Lantau South.



#### **4. Advocate and Improve drainage and water catchment system design in concern for the cattle safety concern**

Drainage and water catchment system on Lantau are one most dangerous animal trap. Every year cattle animal was has been repeatedly fell into drainage or water catchment kennel. Victims most were from Cheung Sha and Shui Hau herd. It is necessary for AFCD to advocate to CEDD to improve drainage and water catchment system design in concern for the cattle safety concern. (See attached: Reference of animal rescues for cattle fell into water catchment or caught by badly design drainage.)

#### **5. Reduce aggressive dog attack, tighten up village dog control**

Aggressive dog attack problem has always be a serious and frequent animal safety threat to the local both water buffalo and cattle animal, especially to new born calf. One most recent case was adopted yesterday, an infant calf of Mui Wo herd was killed by local village dogs. See attached : Case reference of Aggressive Dogs Attack.

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大嶼山愛護水牛協會 2014 年 3 月 17 日

立法會申訴部，投訴漁農自然護署

於 2013 年 12 月強行「調遷牛隻”實驗”計劃」之書面陳述

## 內容

- 立場聲明
- 大嶼山愛護水牛協會於事件之背景
- 「強行遷牛實驗計劃」事緣
- 本會對署方「強行遷牛實驗計劃」存有的質疑
- 本會就署方「強行遷牛實驗計劃」事件作出訴求

## 附件

- 'Records of Email communication between LBA and AFCD in AFCD Cattle relocation enforcement.'
- 大嶼山牛慘劇 Incident of Cheung Sha 8 cows tragic :
  - 追究大嶼山牛慘劇聯盟
  - Statement by the Lantau Cattle Defence Alliance
  - 重申不遷、不殺、保育大嶼山黃牛
  - Speeding black spots on Lantau S rd
  - Death spots of Lantau cattle and bovine
  - Notes of Joint Meeting (19.6.2013)(Government respond)
  - Dr. Joe's statement
  - Photos of 19th June meeting
- Reference of Ecosystems Ltd (totally 20pages)'.
  - Data of Lantau Cows in Relocation Enforcement (totally 10 pages) '.
  - Route Map of Lantau and Sai Kung Cattles Relocation Enforcement of AFCD 2013 (1page)
  - 有關梅窩牛女 3 號的資料 Information of Tag No 3, Mui Wo cattle girl . (totally 5 pages)
  - 漁護署在過往在大嶼山遷牛行動中，濫用行政權力造成動物傷亡紀錄
  - 有關大嶼山牛群簡介文章：
    - ◆ 大嶼山區牛不野！
    - ◆ 牛，本來就是天生的自然生態管理員

## • 立場聲明

1. 大嶼山愛護水牛協會（下作本會）重申在 2014 年 1 月 31 日就有關事件，曾向漁農自然護理署（下簡稱「漁護署」）發出一份英文電郵聲明，立場保持不變。（參閱附件' Email communication between LBA and AFCD on AFCD Cattle relocation enforcement .'）

2. 本會就事件聯同地區內外多個關注牛隻保育團體，向立法會提出嚴正申訴（大嶼山愛護水牛協會認同大澳環境及發展關注協會就事件發起「大嶼黃牛關注聯盟」所發表立場。）

3. 本會在大嶼山從事牛羣的自然保育護理工作已經超過 10 年，多年來不斷投資及協助署方在大嶼山區內的工作，見證著署方的努力不懈及當中無數成敗的個案。可惜，特區政府在物種保育工作上的掌握與公眾期望落差甚大，本會不但為受害動物感到痛心，更為我們財雄勢大的政府的無能感到痛心。

4. 港內所餘牛隻物種不多，牠們不是寵物，更不是家禽，在大嶼山現存的牛群甚至不是「流浪」動物。（請參與附件：「大嶼山牛不野」一文），牠們是活生生、有感覺、有思考能力的動物，和更重要的是，動物是我們人類遵守拒絕殘暴虐待行為的道德執行的責任。

可是，作為擁有數萬億財力的政府，漁護署卻完全妄顧部門對本土環境動物物種文明開發研究和保育管理責任，單單只依賴舊社會政治和引入經常違背物種保育原則的外來獸醫技術（全來自西方式動物農場業管理培訓）來進行管理施政，所引入的專業技術對我們東方自然牛隻物種的理解認知疲乏，問責局長和署長亦理所當然地會被誤導和對物種理解失誤，自然造成施政對焦錯誤問題，不但導致公帑被常常濫用，更導致政府重複地以執法者之身，經常墮入濫用職權的險地。（詳情請參閱：漁護署在過往十年在大嶼山遷牛行動的行政濫權和造成動物傷亡的紀錄。）

5. 本屬香港漁護署的政府獸醫主要日常責任，是協助並支援食物及環境衛生局在公眾環境衛生和疾病管控方面有關工作，可是小小部門亦同時肩負本港所有動物管理（包括私人或商業管有、或野外生活的動物）和**唯一執行「自然護理」**的政府問責部門。很不幸地，這部門在與動物管理有關的工作表現上，多年來一直受公眾話柄，真到現時為止，漁護署在依循動物方面的疾病管控工作，只集中在動物出入的檢疫抽樣管理，當發生錯漏時，就以大量屠殺，毀屍滅跡的方式來署理。在流浪貓狗或野外自然生活物種的動物疾病預防和檢疫仍然是零建立，無數據庫存、無抽樣研究，署方對所有患病動物，除了以一刀切的方式「人道毀滅」之外，對已存在境



內的傳播疾病管控方法匱乏。這不是單單從「自然護理」層次工作上的失職，更是境內疾病傳播管控上的失職。

由於漁護署部門本身，並不執行自然動物物種研究（反而在植物和地理科方面卻常有著作）。

政府亦無恆常鼓勵本港學府在有關方面的研究，政府在動物管理工作的認知幾乎只停頓在寵物業利益和 169 條例的政治拖拉上。在過去十年，政府對自然物種，尤其在大型物種的研究方面，幾乎完全裹足不前，除非受僱獸醫本身擁有物種保育研究的專業背景，否則依仗政府獸醫，根本難以寸進。

政府獸醫本身並非真正的動物專家，今次發生了「強行遷牛實驗」計劃，就正好反映來自「農場管理思維」去實行「物種保育管理」工作上的重大失誤。新領隊獸醫不但摧毀政府的公信聲譽，「閉門黑箱」作業的決策方式更對公眾甚為侮辱，摧毀了政府與民間多年來辛苦耕耘投資而建立得來的互信，更毀掉政府在動物管理工作上得來不易的功績。

**6.政府作為對香港法例 169 條例有直接被問責的動物管理部門，漁護署不但沒有投放資源在保障自然動物在原居地棲息，反而不惜一切去破壞原本自然動物組羣，穿山過嶺地把牠們置於生死不明的境地，去滿足無理投訴的小眾，背棄政府對投訴事實的調查和保護動物的責任，署方不顧一切策動「強行遷牛實驗」！由於事態嚴重，被牽連無辜動物數字亦是歷來最多，本會認為署方牛隊人士調動後絕對有出現行政濫權和處理失當，而且負責獸醫官員極有可能已觸犯 169 防止殘酷對待動物條例，有需要被問責。本會作為香港在大嶼山區從事牛隻/羣保育工作超過十年的機構，有責任向政府問責和替被受害的動物追究責任。**

[illegible]



## ● 大嶼山愛護水牛協會於事件之背景

1. 大嶼山愛護水牛協會（下稱「本會」）自 2004 年起已就大嶼山水牛保育和村牛管理議題與當年漁農自然護理署（下稱「漁護署」或「署方」）對話。2007 年 11 月本會更與漁護署達成共識建立合作伙伴關係至今。當年共識包括：
  - 甲、由本會投資提供大嶼牛隻熱線服務 8103 6312，接收經由漁農自然護理署（下作‘AFCD’）或其他政府部門轉介要求協助或跟進的個案。直接處理有關公眾對大嶼山區內牛隻投訴、查詢或求助個案。
  - 乙、本會亦同意 AFCD 在牛隻數字管控的要求，投資全港首次野外牛隻絕育手術，聘請特別在水牛方面經驗獸醫 Dr. Joe Laval 領導本會工作隊，換取漁護署承諾停止在大嶼山撲殺牛隻。
2. 2011 年漁護署牛隻管理隊（下稱「牛隊」）成立並開始投入服務，本會與牛隊一直合作無間，從來「有商有量」。

2.1 牛隊初成立時，無論資源、資歷、人才支援等嚴重不足，每位隊員職責卻最為艱巨，所以每每牛隊到大嶼山區工作，本會成員都經常陪伴或協助共同處理個案。牛隊自成立以來，雖然資源短缺，但表現刻苦熱誠，雖然資歷尚淺，但處處表現對動物關愛尊重，處事態度亦謹慎專業，一洗以往官僚形象，罕有地為漁護署的動物管理部門開始帶來正面評價，是政府和市民之福。牛隊是政府首個護理本地自然大型物種的直接投資，開政府照顧動物公職歷史先河，公眾珍而重之。

2013年7月本會因‘長沙8牛慘劇事件’曾召開跨部門會議，會上6個部門代表(包括署方牛隊代表)連同8個民間團體出席。署方於會上曾重申‘沒有遷牛計劃’，且在會議紀錄文件(請參閱附件：‘大嶼8牛慘劇事件’ Incident of Cheung Sha 8 cows tragic的‘Notes of Cross department Meeting on 19 June 2013’第3頁，清楚列明：

>>

(1) Government departments had the following responses:

1) AFCD

- The department had no plan to remove cattle from Lantau Island. The “capture-sterilization-return” program for Lantau cattle is undergoing. Since relocation of cattle in Lantau has been proven to be not so effective, the Cattle Team of the department would generally put back the cattle to the location where they were caught from after

neutering.

- The department was now doing a research on an injectable form of contraceptive vaccine, which hopefully could increase the efficiency of the neutering procedure and could be used in buffalo as well.
- The proposal of setting up a cattle team base station and the recruitment of herdsman in Lantau Island would be reflected to their management level for consideration.
- Regarding using vacant government land for cattle shelter in Mui Wo, the department advised the concerned NGOs to apply for short term tenancy (STT) with DLO/Is for the land grant.
- Continued efforts to promote public education about Lantau cattle would be strengthened through channels like displaying more cattle banners on South Lantau Road, printing and distributing new cattle leaflets, bus advertisement and the newly launched cattle webpage.

3. 在 8 牛慘劇事件後，本會與牛隊亦從未間斷地溝通，且一直以來合作無間，直至去年十二月「強行遷牛群」被大澳村民揭發西貢牛混入大澳牛群，本會方知牛隊獸醫突然不聲不響地祕密執行所謂「實驗計劃」。自 8 牛慘劇事件會議(七月)至十二月的半年間，漁護署動物管理部門包括牛隊在內曾出現過人事改組。

3.1 「強行遷牛實驗」在 12 月在大澳被揭發。據本會追查紀錄所得，大部份被調遷大嶼牛隻主要來自塘福牛群，十月前牠們仍在大嶼南，所以漁護署兩區捉牛強行對調，應該是在漁護署動物管理部門人士調動之後發生的。有關被署方公佈的 21 頭大嶼牛隻詳細內容和經本會追蹤所得資料，請參閱以下附件：

- ‘Data file adopted by LBA of Relocated Lantau Cows (totally 10 pages)’
- Route Map of Lantau and Sai Kung Cattles Relocation Enforcement of AFCD 2013 (1page)
- ‘西貢區追蹤大嶼山牛隻記錄 Tracking Record of Relocated Lantau Cows and Health inspection report’ (Totally 4 pages)

4. 2014 年 1 月中，關注牛隻被強行調遷的團體義工在追查被強行調遷牛隻下落時，在大嶼山石壁發現來自梅窩的雌性牛(耳牌 3 號)，該牛女是經「梅窩牛牛之友」向本會求助的個案，由本會於 2013 年 8 月與署方安排送入署方打鼓嶺農接受治療的(請參閱附件：‘有關梅窩牛女 3 號的資料 Information of Tag No 3, MuiWo cattle girl’ . (totally 5 pages)，該牛女在不明原因下被棄置在石壁，且被發現時，牠的健康狀態令人憂慮。

5.1 本會與「梅窩牛牛之友」在 8 月，就 3 號牛女被送入署方農場後一直與牛隊獸醫跟進著進展情況，且一直共識待牛女健康獲改善後，便送她返梅窩。可是她卻在「強行調遷」事件中，在石壁被發現。而署方直到現時為止，**一直沒有解釋為何及如何將這頭梅窩病牛從打鼓嶺農場運送到石壁？**

5.2 由於 3 號牛女來自梅窩牛羣，該牛羣是由當地護牛組織「梅窩牛牛之牛」監察，故本會將尊重該會在跟進此個案主導/動權，本會在此個案將以支援角色繼續跟進。

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- 事件簿內容

1. 2013 年 12 月，兩幅來自本會一名大澳區村民上載到 Facebook 分享的大澳牛羣照片，揭發了漁護署牛隻管理隊，以「公眾投訴」為由，在未有知會地方牛隻管理服務伙伴團體情況下，進行了一項被署方後來確認為「牛隻調遷'實驗'計劃」。

一幅由一名大澳區居民上載到 Facebook 的大澳牛羣分享照片，揭發了一頭懷疑是來自西貢區的雌性牛，在不明原因下混入了大澳牛群。



2. 本會得知有西貢牛隻被混入大澳牛羣後，曾向西貢護牛團體「西貢護牛天使 Sai Kung Cattle's of Angel」和「SAI KUNG BUFFALO WATCH」查詢該區牛隻情況後，得知有西貢群牛在 10 -11 月期間被漁護署以進行「絕育放回」程序為由，被捉回漁護署牛隻管理隊（下稱牛隊）的農場進行絕育手術。
  - 2.1 西貢護牛團體更知會本會，以往一直曾要求漁護署替西貢區牛群進行絕育手術，並一直等待著獸醫通知手術完成後，與署方商討在「放回」上的處理安排，可是團體一直地等著牛隊知會開會日期時，突然發現被「絕育放回」程序捉走的牛群的其中牛隻卻大嶼山大澳區的牛群中出現。
  - 2.2 事件被揭發後，西貢護牛團體成員亦親到大嶼山驗證 Facebook 上的照片確實是所屬西貢被漁護署所捉的牛群的其中一頭。

3. 本會亦懷疑大嶼南也出現了情況，並於 12 月 30 日，電郵漁護署新上任牛隊劉獸醫 Dr. Patrick Lau 查詢有關西貢牛出現在大嶼山區的事宜，並得到署方回覆(參閱附件‘Records of Email communication between LBA and AFCD in AFCD Cattle relocation enforcement.’)。以下是漁護署提供兩區被強行調牛隻耳牌編號資料：

Cattle (tag no.) relocated from Sai Kung to Shek Pik	Cattle (tag no.) relocated from Lantau Island to CHWSC
1, 4, 7 (with GPS collar), 9, 14, 20, 37, 38, 39, 40, 66, 80, 94, 103, 105, 109, 110, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 235, 239, 240, 341, 342, 343	3 (orange-tag), 7, 46, 68, 106, 107, 108, 112, 113, 115, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 129, 133, 134, 135, 285

- 3.1 署方聲稱決定進行計劃是根據一間名為 Eco-system Ltd ([http://www.ecosystems-ltd.com/ecosystems\\_eng/frame1.htm](http://www.ecosystems-ltd.com/ecosystems_eng/frame1.htm)) 的顧問公司建議，並在未有向地方牛隻服務團體知會或商議情況下，私下將 21 頭大嶼牛隻與 29 頭來自西貢區牛隻強行互相調遷。(有關被聲稱為漁護署提供「牛隻調遷實驗計劃」的顧問公司 Eco-system Ltd, 請參閱附件‘Reference of **Ecosystems Ltd** (Totally 20pages)’
4. 2014 年 2 月 7 日，本會代表應漁護署的安排，在漁護署轄下南山郊野公園管理中心會面，就有關是次牛隻跨區調遷一事聯另外 3 個受邀大嶼南有關團體代表(「梅窩牛牛之友」、環境生態保育協會、大澳環境及發展關注協會)一同與署方會面。

- 4.1 會上，署方代表劉獸醫重申署方回覆本會就「遷牛」事件查詢的回應，重申署方因收到地區公眾「牛隻造成交通問題」而作出了是次「遷牛實驗計劃」，更重申署方是採納顧問公司 Eco-system Ltd 的建議而實行，並會在 6 個月後檢討實驗成效。

#### 請注意！

4.1.1 有關被聲稱為漁護署提供「牛隻調遷實驗計劃」的顧問公司 Eco-system Ltd 代表，於 2012 年初在證實成功被政府委任一項為全港牛隻普查研究計劃後，曾親身約見本會，並向本會承認該公司並然無任何有關牛隻研究經驗，要求本會為他們提供指引或協助。該公司代表更在同年 5 月直接參與本會在大嶼山的牛普查工作，以作參考研究。

從該公司網址資料亦顯示，該公司除一項濕地爬蟲類的保育研究紀錄外，並無

任何能反映其公司俱備任何大型物或哺乳類物種研究專業背景或經驗，沒有任何牛隻管理，甚至動物農場工作經驗。

4.1.2 本會在該會上亦曾向劉獸醫要求回覆，政府在何種情況下或如何決定委任動物研究顧問，因為本會發現有關委任對研究對象毫無有關學術專業基楚或相關的實際的管理經驗。劉獸醫曾承諾會追查有關提問，並會回覆本會，但至今仍未收到回覆。

4.2 會上代表劉獸醫同時亦親自承認，署方的處理投訴機制系統是有問題的，無論公共查詢、投訴、讚揚或對牛隻管理改進建議等，系統計算得出的結果全歸納為「投訴」！

4.3 劉獸醫亦同時承認，雖然處理投訴機制系統存在問題，但署方未有任何解決方法。

4.4 本會與當日與會團體代表在離開前已向署方要求終止此「強行遷牛實驗計劃」，並要求署方立即將被調遷牛隻盡快送回原居地。

5. 2014 年 1 月中，關注牛隻被強行調遷的團體義工在追查被強行調遷牛隻下落時，在大嶼山石壁發現來自梅窩的雌性牛(耳牌 3 號)。有關該牛女在不明原因下被送置石壁的事件內容，請參閱附件: ‘有關梅窩牛女 3 號的資料 Information of Tag No 3, MuiWo cattle girl’ . (totally 5 pages)



## ● 本會對「強行調遷計畫」存有的質疑

### 1. 署方行政混亂，專業變兒嬉

1.1 據漁護署聲稱，是次決定策劃「強行遷牛」原因，是因為收到過百封（包括來自區議會和多名地區代表）的投訴信，投訴‘牛隻走出馬路，影響交通，造成危險’，署方認為搬調牛群可解決問題。

1.2 但在今年 2 月 7 日，本會與漁護署的會議中，新調任牛隊的劉獸醫親自承認，部門內的處理投訴機制是有問題的，無論是公共查詢、投訴、讚揚、或對牛隻管理提出改善建議等，機制系統都只會盡數當作「投訴」來處理！他不但承認處理投訴機制有問題，且更承認署方現時沒有解決方法。

1.3 匪而所思的是，獸醫一方面承認署方處理投訴機制是有問題及無解決方法，卻又繼續沿用明知有問題的機制所提供的數據作為公務決策基礎，且繼續引申「遷牛」計劃的出現和執行，作為單位領袖，把這些錯誤以幾何次方擴大，究竟負責獸醫在決策過程中是否理解他/她對政府公信的責任？

### 2. 投訴理據成疑，署方策劃「遷牛」的程序正當性何在？

根據本會 2013 年處理案件記錄，共錄得 55 個案，其中 20 死亡個案中包括 16 頭直接被交通導致死亡，1 頭被間接導致死亡。署方策劃及執行是次「強行調遷實驗計劃」，是基於百多封公眾投訴「牛隻對交通造成影響和危險」。投訴個案固然需要處理，但除百多封地區投訴信外，無證據顯示：

2.1 署方曾就投訴作出過任何能顯示署方已掌握全面事實的調查？如所謂「對交通造成影響」的實際有關數據內容，地點、時間？牛隻造成了什麼形式的影響或危險？可有任何因牛隻在馬路出現而造成意外之數據？交通的安全問題是來自駕駛者的問題，還是使用道路的其他公眾，的？所謂「影響」的評估方式？**和更重要的是如何得出「調遷牛隻/羣」是「有效、可行和合適」的解決投訴方案？**

2.2 漁護署作為隸屬食物及環境衛生局轄下現時唯一「自然護理」和「動物管理」的問責部門，事件中無證據顯示負責獸醫曾在進行策劃「強行遷牛」計劃之前，有盡過任何努力以避免影響原區牛群的「自然護理」的職責；無證據顯示負責獸醫

曾根據在「8牛事件」跨部門會議結果後，就各牛隻關注團體經會議向署方提交有關大嶼南道路安全問題反映及處理建議文件（請參閱附件：‘大嶼八牛慘劇 Incident of Cheung Sha 8 cows tragic.’ 合總 8 分文件）與其他有關路面安全改善措施的部門商討跟進及研究改善方案。

牛隊在「自然護理」責任上，是否應為保護野外生活動物在公共空間的正常安全上，建立簡單行政工作，例如為動物的傷亡立案記錄？

2.2 作為隸屬食物及環境衛生局轄下唯一「自然護理」和「動物管理」問責部門，漁護署是否俱合法權力或責任去承擔或解決交通問題的責任？署方亦必須具體地解釋，何以把 21 頭大嶼山牛，換成 29 頭西貢牛，就可解決交通投訴問題。

2.3 「強行遷牛實驗」計劃牽涉跨區行政，署長對區會諮詢的情況是否知情？

### 3. 署方執行「動物實驗」的合法性？

3.1 據本會所知，現時漁護署架構隸屬食物及環境衛生局轄下部門，牛隊自成立致今只短短兩年多，署方除在 2012 年委任過一間名為 Ecosystem Ltd 的顧問公司為香港進行一項全港牛隻數字普查研究外，並沒有證據顯示署方曾就牛隻的「自然護理」進行過任何相關研究。

3.2 漁護署作為政府機構，是公眾前線的服務單位，所有受僱人員都須循公務守則提供服務的公務員，工作範圍都須循已有權責制定的指引作為執行。而「動物實驗」是關乎學術和有可能改動施政有關的投資，從來不是前線公務員工作範圍，如署方所謂的「牛隻調遷」是一項「動物實驗」，署長可有在審批通過此「實驗」的所有對被「實驗動物」的合法權益保障的程序？若否，原因為何？

3.3 署方於 2012 年所委任專家顧問進行一項全港牛隻數字普查研究，聘任了當時對牛隻完全門外漢的公司作為顧問，納稅人投資的所得數據真確性可疑，卻被政府利用作政策決定基礎。署長在這方面可有法律責任？

3.4 署方可有措施在防止公務執行人員，或經驗不足獸醫在執行職務時對動物造成傷害？及，署方如何確保經驗不足獸醫可在守法情況下對被處理動物在香港法例第 169 章第三條所包括的合法權益的法律責任？如調查證實負責獸醫有濫用權力或失



職情，署方會否作出制裁？（請參閱附件：漁護署在過往十年在大嶼山遷牛行動的行政濫權和造成動物傷亡紀錄）

- 3.5 在物種研究專業中，「物種調遷」屬非常專業的範疇，且經常被警惕應盡量避免，就算在避無可避免的「調遷」，都必須由資深保育專家領隊執行，因為單單就調遷計劃準備所需的物種基線研究(Baseline study)，最少都須要 12 個月，還未計物種遷移計劃所需的人力物力的投資。牛隊在 2011 年才正式投入服務，發展仍在初階，且在過去兩年是在並無資深領隊獸醫領導下工作，在牛隻物種的「自然護理」和科研經驗薄弱，且獸醫只是動物疾病專家（況且全球現有服務牛隻物種的執業獸醫都來自牧場，除非執業者對自然牛隻物種有專門研究或相對經驗，獸醫專業本身並足以不自動成為動物專家或動物保育專家）。牛隊從決策到執行「牛隻強行調遷」的時間只在 8 星期間完成，且選在全年對野外生活牛群最嚴峻的季節來執行，完全違背牛隻作為自然物種本來應受到法律保障的權益。本會嚴重質疑署方是次「牛隻強行調遷」的合法性。

## ● 本會就署方「強行遷牛實驗計劃」事件作出訴求

### 1. 本會根據：

- i. 漁護署是香港法例，[第 169 章《防止殘酷對待動物條例》](#)和官方「自然護理」第一身被直接問責的單位，在並沒有足夠證據顯示署方已就策劃和執行是次「動物實驗」時曾充分考慮到署方對「被實驗動物」的法律責任，亦沒有足夠證據顯示署方曾充分考慮到政府對公眾的守法責任的示範，及
- ii. 本會就以漁護署已確認在策劃「強行遷牛實驗」計劃的目的和期望成效立場上已錄得的數據足以證實是項「實驗」無效，且有記錄能提出初步指控，懷疑負責計劃獸醫可能已觸犯香港法例 169 的情況下，

本會嚴正要求食衛局局長及漁護署署長須盡履行作為有關部門的問責領導身份，立即終止此項有可能未經正式行政授權執行的「動物實驗」，盡快將被調遷牛隻送返原居地，以防止再有被「強行遷牛實驗」的「實驗動物」遭受持續的不必要的對待。

### 2. 要求立法會立案調查是次「強行遷牛實驗」的所有詳情，建議調查內容應包括：

- a. 牛隊在策劃「強行遷牛實驗」計劃的任何事前評估，包括任何有關所謂「牛隻對交通造成影響」的實際有關數據內容，地點及時間，調查次數等。
- b. 牛隻造成了什麼形式的影響或危險？任何因牛隻在馬路出現而造成意外之數據？
- c. **最重要的是，署方如何得出「調遷牛隻/羣」是「有效、可行和合適」的解決投訴方案？**
- d. 負責決定策劃獸醫在處理選定牛隻時的評估方式，從執行選擇牛決定、捕捉、搬運、替牛隻絕育手術方法、耳牌標籤方法和釋放牛隻過程的記錄。

**註：**經本會追蹤所發現，部份被調遷牛隻（包括來自西貢和大嶼山）有發現成因可疑的創傷傷口，有些甚至已對牛隻身體造成永久殘缺，本會有理由懷疑漁護署曾將牛隻動物，在署方農場扣留期間，被利用作其他不明「實驗」

而導致牛隻被受傷害。本會為避免漁護署先行毀滅證據，不便在此提出文件指出，本會希望在立法會申訴立案後，誠邀議員親身到現場驗證。

- e. 所謂 6 個月後的「強行遷牛實驗」成敗效果的評估方式
- f. 解釋梅窩 3 號牛為什麼被放逐到石壁
- g. 提交 121 號牛死亡報告，包括屍體發現日期，死因評估方式，為 121 執行的驗屍的政府成員名字和身分
- h. 負責決定策劃「強行遷牛實驗」獸醫和批准此「動物實驗計劃」的官員名字。

3. 追究食衛局局長及漁護署署長就如何防止部門內，獸醫濫權導致無辜受到傷害的問責機制，如何鑒別出現濫權或違法風險的公務員及懲罰方式。

4. 本會懇請立法會要求政府必須盡快全面檢討現時動物管理政策。建議：

- i. 政府為現時官方現存每區牛隻提供「原區在地式」管理，包括增聘原區牧牛人(每區最少兩人一隊全職)作為協調署方在地區上的牛群前線管理工作，如即時記錄和處理投訴個案、照顧地區牛群的前線人道福利等。
  - ii. 落實原區牛棚設施
  - iii. 根據本會記錄，在大嶼山區內，已有達 80%黃牛被絕育，來年原區牛群增長數字將放緩，**建議政府必須先為牛隻/ 羣絕育影響評估進行研究及修訂後，才繼續下一輪的計劃。**
  - iv. 為牛隻物種保育投入專業研究的資源，與大學或民間機構合作進行物種生態基線研究，為香港本土物種成立資料庫，以為政府境內疾病傳播管控和在動物管理繼續工作發展上，提供合乎科學理據及合法且可行的執法基礎。
5. 本會重申在去年 7 月就「大嶼 8 牛慘劇事件」，由離島民政事務協助安排的跨部門會議中曾向署方提交過的聲明文件中已提過的 3 項要求：
- a) 大嶼 8 牛慘劇是大嶼南因盲目發展和禁區管理失效導致大嶼南道的道路安全惡化，死亡黑點處處。如政府繼續放縱區內盲目失衡的發展，類似事件不但會繼續發生，且傷亡數字亦會不斷增加。**我們需須要從特首行政、運輸及**

地政規劃和鄉郊發展政策層面上作出全面檢討，確保大嶼南的綠色可持續將來，不會因被政策、政權的盲搶地情況下被犧牲掉！

b) 大嶼山島上各社羣團體、絕大部份島上居民和本港一般理智公眾，對政府建議「覓地遷牛」的說法或建議都極之反感的。無論署方所提出的「覓地遷牛」建議，不管是否牽涉或等同「畫地圈養」，或「覓地放養」之概念，都是暴力強行他遷區內牛羣，我們都同樣反對，不單單因署方過往在牛羣他遷行動中，已落得聲明狼藉。且圈養牛羣不是保育（且一直是虐畜事故的溫床），與牛羣生態保育亦互相違背，我們堅決守護大嶼各區牛羣原區居留的底線，反對任何形式牛羣他遷或圈養建議。

**c) 正名大嶼牛羣為「村區生態物種」，「村牛」或「社區動物」**

聯盟亦反對政府及其政策，繼續以抹黑大嶼牛羣「流浪」，以「流浪牛」字眼來標籤大嶼山區內各種牛隻！因為大嶼山牛羣並不像新界或西貢的失去了他們原居地「流浪者」，牠們仍然是承繼著島上百多年來每條原村的原來農耕的活歷史，屬原居物種，就算島上一些恨牠們入骨的野蠻人，也不會用「流浪牛」來形容牛羣的，只有無知政客或官僚，硬將牛羣說做流浪，好方便他們能隨時「合法地」去拘趕或謀殺牠們。

聯盟認為，漁農自然護署作為主要執行「169 防止殘酷對付動物」的問責的政府部門，且部門以「自然護理」名命，有最大及第一責任從多面檢討現存過時的所謂「動物管理」政策，正當地執行「自然護理」的定義，落實「自然護理」原則，成立「本土物種保護科」，為大嶼牛羣正名，繼而將政策推及所有本土物種，以「自然護理」原則來進行保育學術研究和日常管理。以取代以往衝著「169 防止殘酷對付動物」條例的衝突，知法犯法地以「滅門殺戮」、「強行遷移物種」等藉口，殘暴地向動物作出種種傷害的行政措施。

~ 完 ~



**‘LOCATION MAPS OF WATER BUFFALO WETLAND HABITATS AND CATTLE HABITATS AND  
GRAZING ROUTES’ OF EXISTING HERDS ON LANTAU**  
**(13pages)**

Content:

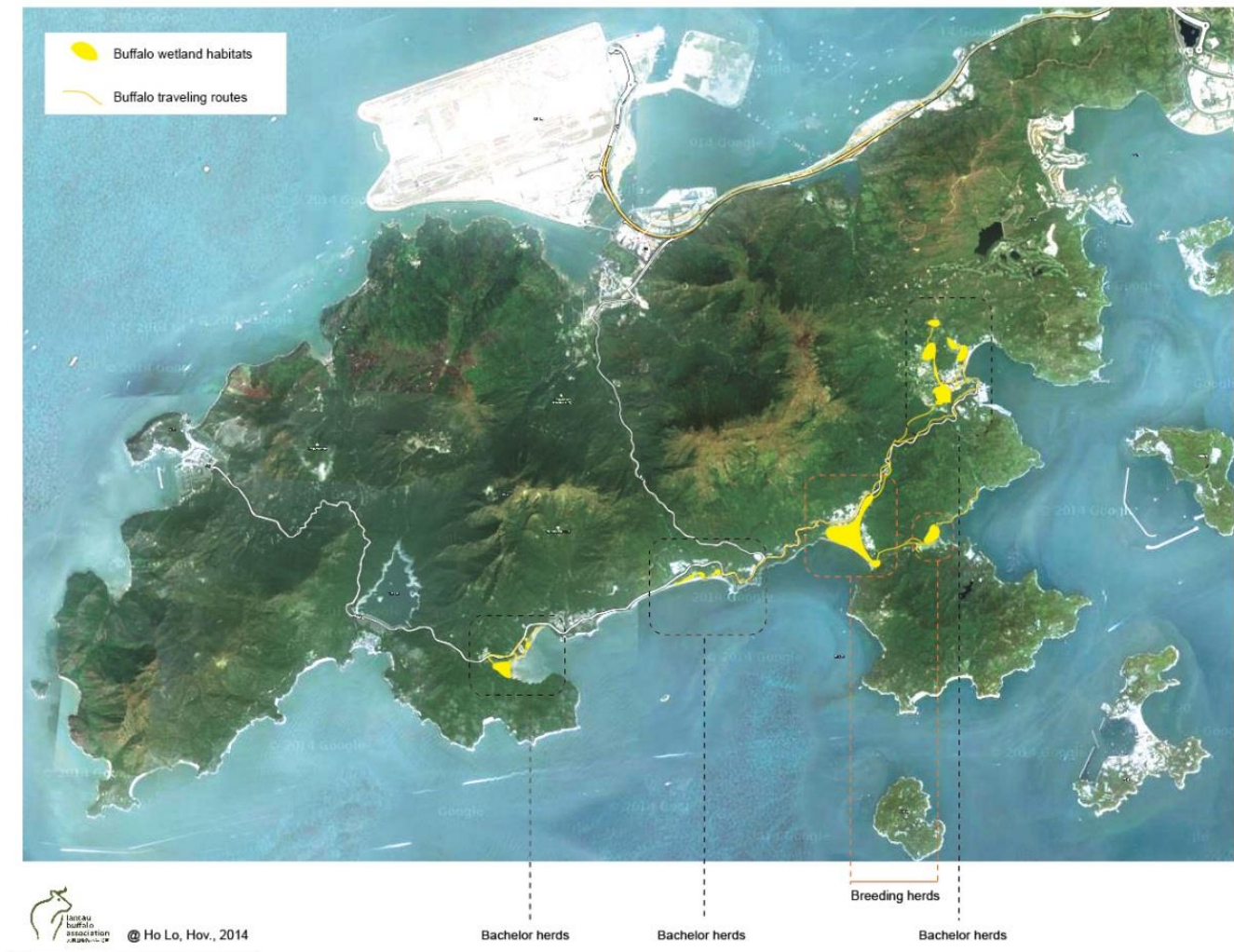
**P3 --- MAPS OF WATER BUFFALO HERDS HABITAT AND TRAVELLING ROUTES**

**P8 --- MAPS OF CATTLES HABITATS AND GRAZING ROUTES ON LANTAU**



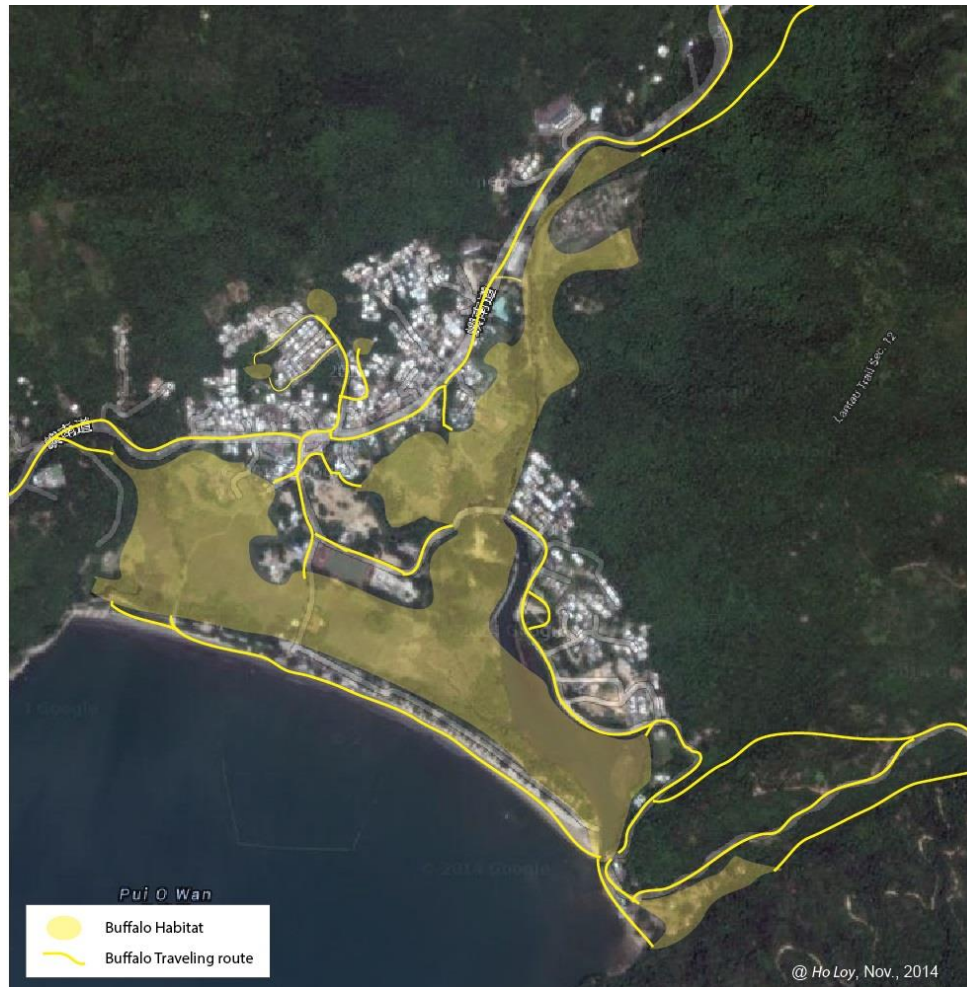
## MAPS OF WATER BUFFALO HERDS HABITAT AND TRAVELLING ROUTES

- Four breeding herds (three in Pui O, one in Chi Ma Wan). Three bachelor herds (Mui Wo, Cheung Sha and Tong Fok)
- Buffaloes are shy animal, they are not keen in human contact and due to their mud bath habit every day, they spend most time in their habitat environment. But when bachelor reaches to their mature age (around 4). They will be chased away by the dominant in the herd and start to travel to seek for suitable habitat.
- Female buffaloes spend most of their life in their habitat area. Occasionally young female might 'run away' if she was attracted by a new bachelor enough, they might risk their life to 'run' with him to form a herd outside their original habitat. But this is very rare to happen.





## PUI O WATER BUFFALO BREEDING HERDS (3herds) HABITAT



### Habitat abuse situations





## CHI MA WAN WATER BUFFALO BREEDING HERD HABITAT



Habitat abuse situation



## MUI WO WATER BUFFALO BACHELOR HERD HABITAT



## SHUI HAU WATER BUFFALO BACHELOR HERD HABITAT



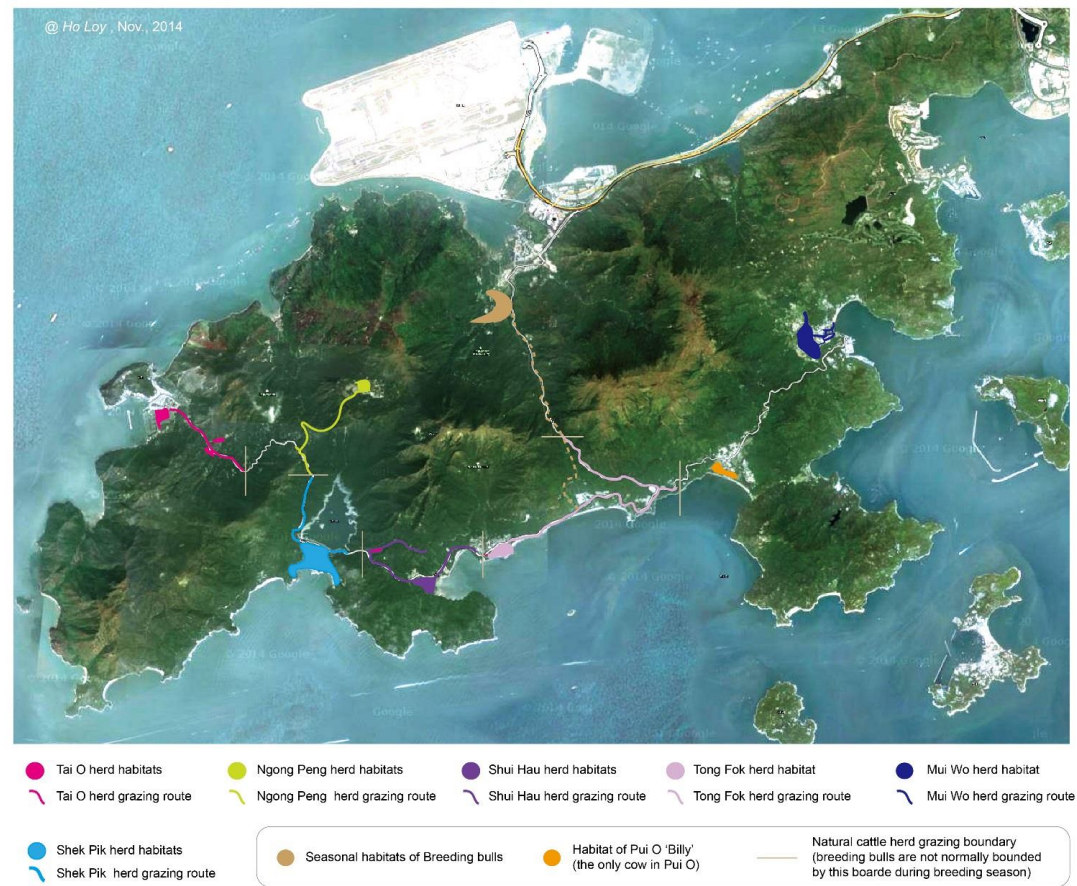


## CHEUNG SHA WATER BUFFALO BACHELOR HERD HABITAT



## MAPS OF CATTLES HABITATS AND GRAZING ROUTES ON LANTAU

- Lantau contains six cattle herds in allocated village environment. All cattle herds on Lantau are Breeding Herd, except 'Billy, the only cow in Pui O. Habitat in Tung Chung is used mostly by a few mature breeding bulls during winter season.
- Different from water buffalo, cattle are very social active animal. They enjoy human contact and can graze minimum 5 to 8 miles per day even for young age animal.





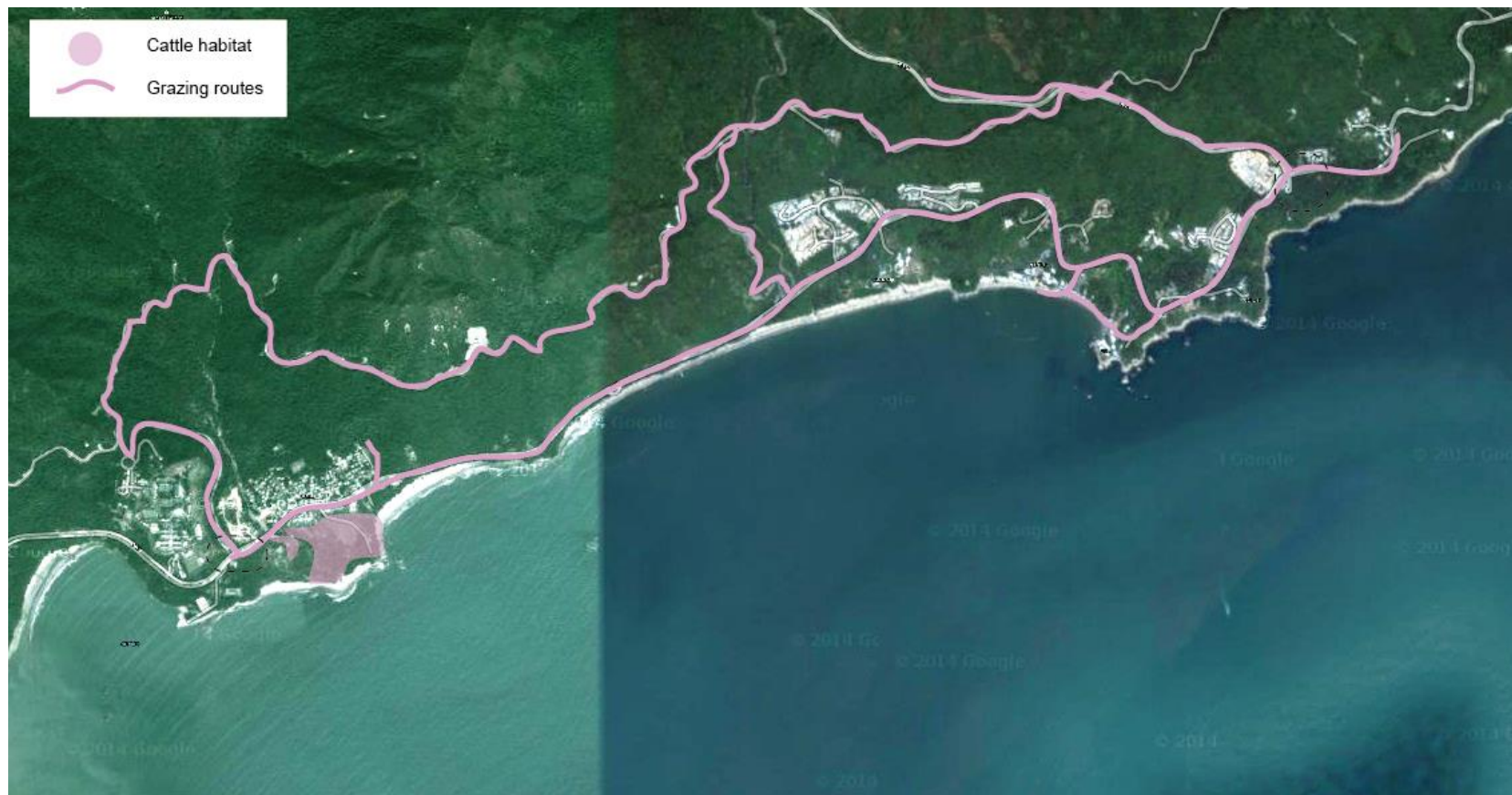
## MUI WO CATTLE HERD HABITAT AND GRAZING ROUTES



## HABITAT OF 'BILLY', THE ONLY COW IN PUI O



## CHEUNG SHA CATTLE HERD HABITAT AND GRAZING ROUTES





## SHUI HAU CATTLE HERD HABITAT AND GRAZING ROUTES



## SHEK PIK CATTLE HERD HABITAT AND GRAZING ROUTES

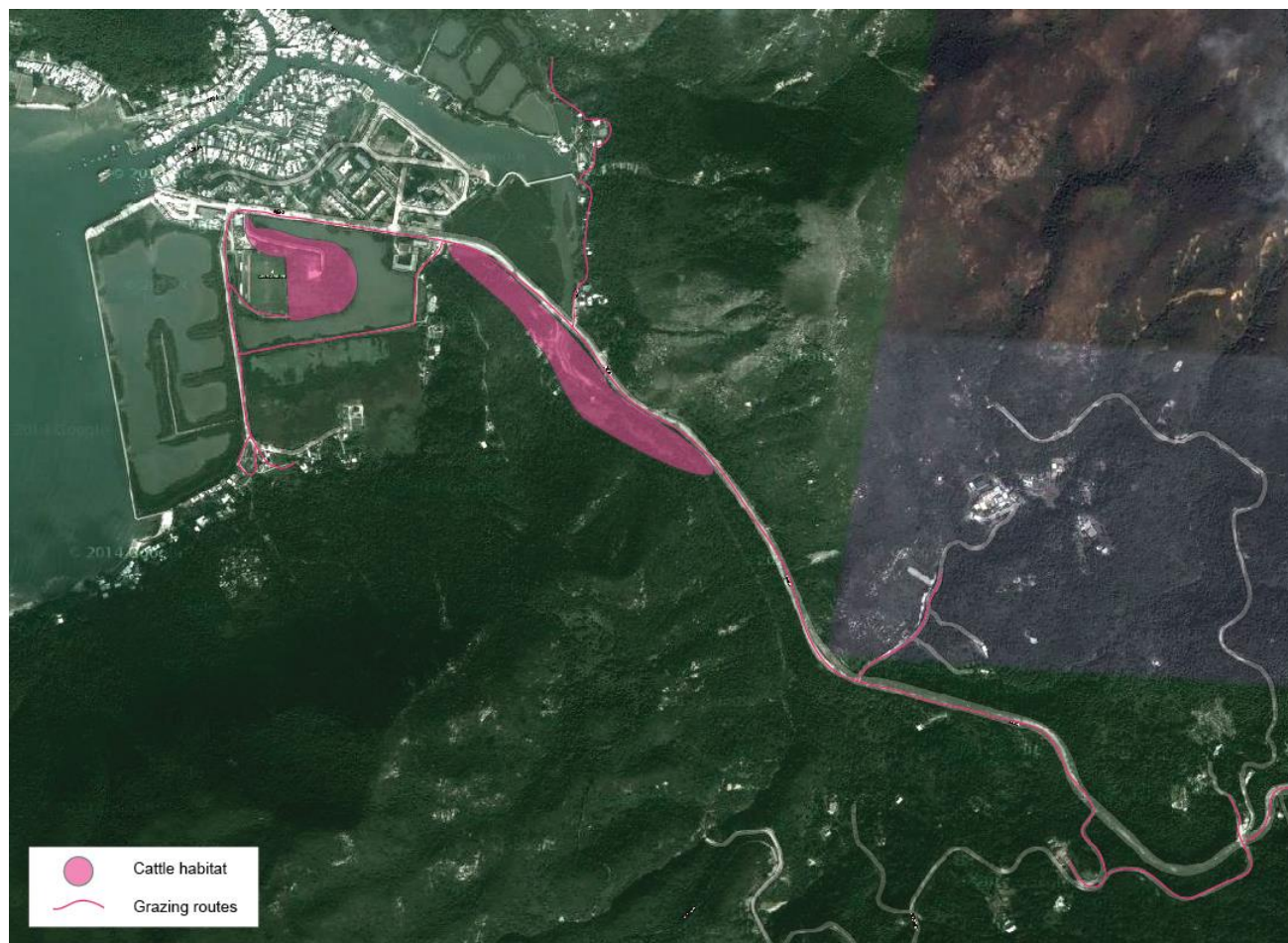


## NGONG PENG CATTLE HERD HABITAT AND GRAZING ROUTES





## TAI O CATTLE HERD HABITAT AND GRAZING ROUTES



## 大嶼南道牛隻死亡陷阱

Death Spots of Cattle or Bovine on Lantau South Rd.



地圖上黑點所示為大嶼山愛護水牛協會在2012年1月至2013年6月，所錄得的在同一或附近位置有超過兩頭或以上牛隻動物，被撞致重傷（須即場人道）或被發現死亡。

Black spots indicating areas that were recorded with over two cattle seriously injured that resulted to be put down under humane concern, or dead body found by a report in between Jan 2012 to June 2013.

Released on 19th June 2013 , by:

追究大嶼8牛慘劇聯盟

The Alliance for Investigating the Accountability of Lantau 8 cows tragedy.  
<http://www.facebook.com/groups/168785839966398/members/>



(LBA) Hotline on telephone number:  
大嶼山愛護水牛協會熱線：8103 6312  
[lantaubovine@gmail.com](mailto:lantaubovine@gmail.com)  
<http://www.facebook.com/groups/5472304711/members/>

# 18th ICOMOS General Assembly - Registration Confirmation

Inbox

x



Nov 13

Dear **Loy Ho**,

Thank you for registering for the **18th ICOMOS General Assembly and Scientific Symposium** which will take place in Florence, Italy, from 9 to 14 November 2014.

Your registration number is: **1335**.

To confirm your registration and reserve the events you wish to attend please click on the following link: [confirmation link](#).

Please note that the registration process will only be completed once your registration fee payment has been confirmed to us by *Unicredit Bank*.

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[Book now >>](#) We thank you for your interest in the 18th **ICOMOS** General Assembly and look forward to welcoming you soon in Florence.

18 ICOMOS Italy Secretariat

Sept 26

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X

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your abstract presented for the Theme 2 has been classified as General Interest and accepted just for the publication of the full paper that will be edited by ICOMOS-IT in e-book version with ISBN.

Please note that registration is essential for publication proceedings too.

Regards

Claudia Ventura

On 18 September 2014 00:04, GA2014 Icomos HLHV <[GA2014-Symposium@icomos.org](mailto:GA2014-Symposium@icomos.org)> wrote:

Dear Authors,

on the 18th GA website have been published the official Layouts for Oral Presentation and Poster Session.

You are kindly requested to download the official layouts at [http://florence2014.icomos.org/en/symposium/authors\\_info](http://florence2014.icomos.org/en/symposium/authors_info)

Please remind also that early bird registration fees are still available until 18th September 2014.

Hoping to see you in Florence.

Regards

Scientific Symposium Secariat

Sept 23:

Dear Authors

your abstract presented for the Theme 2 has been classified as General Interest and accepted just for the publication of the full paper that will be edited by ICOMOS-IT in e-book version with ISBN.

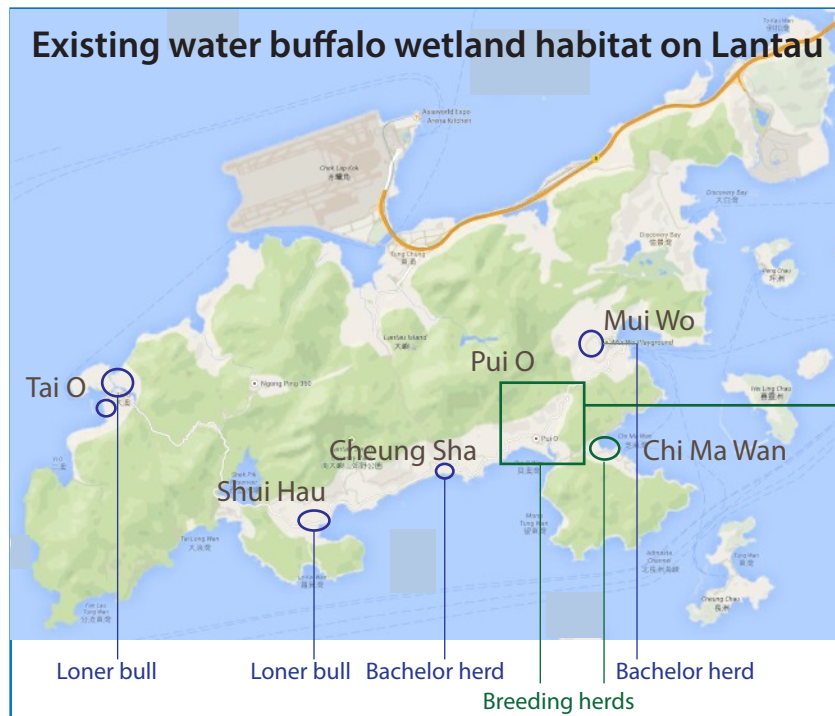
Please note that registration is essential for publication proceedings too.  
Regards  
Claudia Ventura



# Environmental Impact of Water buffalo Habitat in Pui O of Hong Kong

Ho Loy- Lantau Buffalo Association 2013

This map is to show how the water buffalo habitat wetland in Pui O places an important function in purifying sewage and water pollution released from the villages into the wetland where it mixed with nature water source, before it reach to the public beach and ocean.



852 8103 6312 lantaubovine@gmail.com

香港僅存130亞洲水牛！  
但可惜牠們的生存條件，正每天在急速地消失中！

Hong Kong's last remaining  
130 Asian Water Buffalo!  
Unfortunately, their survival condition  
IS DISAPPEARING EVERYDAY!





# **HONG KONG BOVIDS AS A SHIFTING SYMBOL OF ‘PROGRESS’**

## **Towards protecting Lantau Island’s environments and cultural heritage**

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### **Abstract**

This paper explores how an enduring human-bovid relationship is integral to Lantau Island’s cultural and natural heritage. Water buffalo and cattle provide direct benefits to Lantau’s environment and communities. Consequently, public education activities are serving to protect cultural heritage, identity and living conditions whilst promoting community development. Thus, we argue for the current ‘management’ policy of Lantau’s free roaming herds to change to one that prioritises their conservation, in order to protect the heritage and future of Lantau’s evolving social and natural landscapes.

**Key words: bovids, wetland conservation, rural cultural heritage, Lantau Island Hong Kong**

### **Introduction**

For hundreds of years, water buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*) and locally bred brown cattle (*Bos Taurus*) have been an enduring presence amongst the diverse landscapes of Lantau Island, Hong Kong’s biggest and still predominantly green island. Up until the 1970’s, bovids were integral to Hong Kong’s agricultural livelihoods and industry as a valuable source of draft labour for rice and vegetable farming. Large bovid populations that once laboured with farmers in rice paddies and vegetable fields have transformed into today’s small free roaming nomadic herds, the offspring of a generation of bovids abandoned by the farmers following the onset of local agriculture decline during the 1970s and 1980s. In the contemporary semi-rural, semi-urban landscapes of Lantau, humans and bovids carve out their lives together amidst villages, roads, paths, public spaces, old rice paddies, small farm plots, wetlands and beaches (fig. 1). This unique cohabitation is a continual source of debate amongst Lantau communities over the economic and cultural value of the presence of water buffalos and cattle, especially in the wake of the Hong Kong Government’s



recent declaration of future large-scale economic development for Lantau Island<sup>1</sup>. This paper seeks to show how bovids continue to be a ‘transformative force’ for Lantau resident’s relationship with their wider environs which humans and bovids shape and inhabit together. The paper will focus primarily on two points. First, on how current herds of bovids provide new and direct benefits to both the environment and communities. And second, how through public education activities, bovids can serve to preserve Lantau and Hong Kong’s cultural heritage and identity, living environment conditions, all of which are important for social cohesion and wider community development. Proposed development plans for Lantau now directly threaten to extinguish the presence of Hong Kong’s largest wetland mammal. Thus, this paper also argues for the need for current government policy to move beyond ‘managing’ Lantau’s bovid populations towards one that prioritises conservation and encompasses the important interdependent nature of both human and bovids have with Lantau’s landscapes.

### **The Buffalo Project – From Farmland to Wetland**

In the past four decades since the decline of Lantau agriculture one major development is proving to be beneficial to the island’s biodiverse landscape and human communities. As farming livelihoods and agricultural economies dried up abandoned farmland has been transformed into viable wetlands. Responsible for this major ecological transition are the water buffalos, subsequently relinquished from farming labour and left to fend for themselves. Over time, Lantau’s free roaming buffalo herds have turned the hard grounds of old farmland into green, marshy and muddy plains (fig 2). Buffalo hooves have helped churn the grounds and create wallowing pools for herds to keep cool and protect their skin from the sun and insects, while their grazing bodies carved water canals amongst numerous wetland plants that have sprouted and are thriving in response, including water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), salvinia (*Salvinia cucullata*), giant alocasia or taro (*Alocasia macrorrhiza*), water lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes* L) and diffuse dayflower (*Commelina diffusa*) (fig. 3). Consequently, this diverse plant life not only provides fodder for grazing buffalo but is also encouraging numerous amphibious, insect and birdlife to flourish alongside. Notable bird and insect species include cattle egret (*Bubulcus ibis*), the rare oriental plover (*Charadrius veredus*), golden plover (*Pluvialis fulva*), woodsandpiper (*Tringa glareola*), brown fish owl (*Bubo zeylonensis*), stockwork dragonfly (*Neurothemis fulvia*), water spider (*Argyroneta aquatica*) and a number of grasshopper species. Amphibian and invertebrate life thriving include fiddler crabs, mudskippers, soldier crab (*Dotilla myctiroides*), the endangered<sup>2</sup> Romer tree frog (*Liuxalus romeri*)<sup>1</sup>, Asian painted frog (*Kaloula pulchra*), true toad (*Duttaphrynus melanostictus*), Asian mud snail (*Battlearia attramentaria*) and a variety of terrestrial snails. The creation and strengthening of wetland ecologies by water buffalo on

<sup>1</sup> (Lantau Development Task Force, 2004)

<sup>2</sup> (IUCN 2014)

Lantau Island mirrors a previous report that highlights bovids critical role in revitalising wetland ecologies<sup>3</sup>

### **Evolving Landscapes**

The transformation of old farmland into wetlands by buffalos is exemplary of Lantau's evolving landscapes. Lantau's biodiverse country parks have previously existed alongside rice paddies and farm plots, and more recently are coexisting with the gradual urbanisation of former farming villages. Prior to Hong Kong's handover to Mainland China in 1997, Lantau Island was a designated 'conservation' zone<sup>4</sup>. However, this changed following the handover and the redevelopment of Hong Kong airport located on Lantau. The development and construction that accompanied the airport expansion project has opened the island up to further development projects at the expense of its inherent conservation value. Encroaching town and urbanisation development has resulted in increased road expansion and traffic flow, providing further risks and hazards to both residents and bovid herds that share the roads with drivers and cyclists and form part of their grazing routes.

However, there are also shared benefits as much as there are shared hazards. In addition to water buffalo helping to increase plant and wildlife biodiversity via the creation of wetland ecologies from abandoned farmland, evidence is also mounting in showing how these recreated wetland 'buffers' are proving to be beneficial to village communities dwelling on their edges. For example, the wetland 'buffer' created by two herds of water buffalo is helping to maintain water purification by controlling water pollution run-off, including wastewater and untreated sewerage, from the village of Pui O before it reaches the coast and a popular swimming beach (fig 4). Wetland 'buffers' also exist now along the South Lantau coastline, near the villages of Tong Fok and Shui Hau.

Bovid presence through grazing is also helping to maintain undergrowth of country parks that line Lantau's roads. While one of the biggest complaints among Lantau residents living with bovids is the presence and clean-up of dung, other residents are finding beneficial uses from it, collecting it as fertiliser for private gardens or, as in the case of a local university student, using it as a source to create a series of ingenious products useful for residents (mosquito coils, flower pots, fuel briquettes).

### **Evolving Heritage**

The launch of the Lantau Development Task force has ignited local debates on Lantau's future development and joins a wider public dialogue on future visions of Hong Kong. One ongoing dialogue regards the 'value' of the buffalo and cattle's presence. Once considered as "members of the family", buffalo and cattle were for a long time invaluable and essential to farmer's economic and social livelihoods. Whilst

<sup>3</sup> (European Commission, 2007: p 34-35)

<sup>4</sup> (Hong Kong Government 1997 and Lantau Development Task Force, 2004, p6)

not all farmers could afford to keep buffalo and cattle to plough their fields, those who did often employed a ‘herder boy’ to lead bovids between fields and villages to plough neighbouring fields and for all residents to prosper from their presence by collecting their dung and turning it into fuel, fertiliser and medicine. Buffalos and cattle became the glue that held Lantau farming communities together. With the onset of rapid economic development during the 1970s and 1980s, farmers who sold their land to developers became suddenly wealthy whilst younger generations pursued higher education and city employment rather than farming. Over time, free roaming bovids have come to be seen by some as “embarrassment of old ways”, “pests” and “a nuisance”, antithetical to economic development. However, in the past decade many Lantau residents living with free roaming bovids have come to view them as “majestic reminders of the past” and as “wetland angels”. The status of Lantau’s bovids is indeed ambiguous; while current free roaming herds are descendants of domesticated breeds and are thus officially classified as ‘feral’ or ‘stray’<sup>5</sup>, they are also perceived as ‘re-wilding’, as well as ‘community companions’ and ‘village herds’. Lantau’s human-bovid relationships and proximity of dwelling together present a new form of domestic (or post-domestic<sup>ii</sup>) relations. For many Hong Kong residents fiercely resisting unscrupulous development planning<sup>iii</sup>, sympathies have been found with bovids who also face similar threats.

In recognition of their importance to Lantau’s environments and cultural heritage and identity a number of community organisations are working together towards greater protection of Lantau’s bovids, grazing areas and wetlands, implementing public education campaigns that seek to promote “peaceful coexistence” of living with free roaming bovids. The Lantau Buffalo Association’s (LBA) ‘Faces of Local Herds’ ongoing public banner project was introduced into villages to provide more information on and social guidance around interaction with the herds. LBA also recently initiated a herder-training course to help mitigate human-bovid conflict in popular public areas frequented by visitors and tourists unfamiliar with living with bovids. Part of the training includes an ecotour of Pui O’s wetlands, performing as an important educational resource about the history of Hong Kong and Lantau’s rural heritage and wetland flora and fauna. Friends of Mui Wo Cattle (FOMC) also holds cultural heritage tour and community-volunteer days for local village residents to help erect cow-proof fences and collect dung for fellow residents. Presently, LBA and FOMC are also working towards undertaking a long term research project collecting and archiving oral records on Lantau human-bovid relations, including herding songs, and farming knowledge from surviving former farmers, for future generations.

Besides contributing to education and preservation of Lantau’s evolving cultural heritage, identity and living conditions, these projects also contribute to establishing wider community development and social cohesion both within Lantau and Hong Kong. Today, buffalo and cattle still continue to perform as *social glue*, a uniquely shared Lantau experience, for Lantau’s village communities. At the same

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<sup>5</sup> (AFCD, 2013)

time, the diversity of narratives around the conflicting value and attitudes towards bovids' presence signifies competing aspirations concerning the direction of Lantau's development and the protection of the health, wellbeing and wealth of island environment communities, human and nonhuman alike.

### **Evolving Policy**

Wetlands are treasured for numerous ecosystem services that they provide human communities such as flood control, shoreline stabilisation and water purification (Lambert 2003). Wetlands are the only ecosystem in the world that is protected by their own convention, the Ramsar Convention. Currently only one wetland in Hong Kong, Mai Po, is listed under this treaty. Mai Po is significant as a stopping point for migratory birds, including endangered blackface spoonbills. While Pui O wetlands are also home to migratory birds, they are reminiscent of paddy fields and Lantau's farming heritage. Water buffalo and cattle are integral part of that cultural history.

Between 2010 and 2011, the Agricultural, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) of Hong Kong established a 'Cattle Management Team' to "*handle stray cattle and buffalo*". The Cattle Management Team was developed in dialogue between AFCD and LBA in working towards solving a number of bovid 'management' issues. The team was mandated to record and address resident complaints, attend to bovid welfare and rescue cases as well as implementing long term 'management' plans, including sterilisation measures, herd movement control (i.e. cattle grids), in consultation with residents and community NGOs like LBA and FOMC. In this partnership, the current AFCD 'Stray Cattle and Buffalo Management Plan' recognises the importance of bovids to Hong Kong's cultural heritage and wetlands; "*The Department recognises that the cattle and buffalo are part of the heritage or rural Hong Kong, and that it brings pleasure to visitors and locals alike to see the animals in a natural environment.*"<sup>6</sup> In the 'Q&A' section of the policy, AFCD states that buffalo in the Mai Po Nature Reserve "*... are very beneficial to wetland ecology*"<sup>7</sup>

While AFCD have worked hard to establish the Cattle Management Team to further protect the welfare and concerns of both bovids and Lantau residents, there is an urgent need to build on this recognition of bovids' importance to Hong Kong's cultural heritage and environments. Adopting a policy that prioritises conservation of existing bovid herds is one way to ensure the protection of both Lantau's cultural heritage, wetlands and bovid welfare. A conservation policy could help strengthen a database on Hong Kong endangered wildlife, support habitat protection of wetland species by rezoning land and further protect Lantau's unique rural culture.

Wetland conservation policy has already been enacted in a number of places in Hong Kong, ensuring the development and protection of a rich biodiversity. As part of the government's New Nature Conservation Policy implemented in 2004, a 'Management Agreement Scheme' in Long Valley, Yuen Long has "*successfully*

<sup>6</sup> (AFCD, 2013)

<sup>7</sup> (AFCD, 2013)

*increased the abundance and diversity of butterfly and wildlife*", notably birdlife<sup>8</sup>. Similar measures protecting Mai Po and Long Valley can also be implemented, or expanded to, recreated wetlands inhabited by water buffalo in Lantau villages Pui O, Tong Fok and Shui Hau. With funding assistance from Hong Kong's Environmental Conservation Fund Dr Sukhmani Mantel previously investigated habitat usage and requirements of Pui O water buffalo with the aim of designing a plan for preservation and sustainable population of buffalo in the wetlands<sup>9</sup>. However, this has yet to be fully realised. Currently, there are only an estimated 130 water buffalo (72 on Lantau) and 1250 free roaming cattle remaining in Hong Kong<sup>10</sup>, thus a conservation policy for bovid and Lantau wetland protection is required urgently. Protection of bovids and wetlands is especially critical in relation to ongoing and future development plans of Lantau. The Chinese government has previously demonstrated its realisation of the ecological and economic importance of wetlands and a commitment to increasing the number of protected wetlands<sup>11</sup>; Hong Kong now has an opportunity to follow suit.

## Conclusion

Bovids, especially water buffalo, are a transformative force for Lantau's changing environments and socioeconomic fabric of communities. Transforming farmland into wetlands has seen bovids continue to provide direct benefits to Lantau's natural heritage, by helping to sustain its rich biodiversity, as well as to communities, through water purification service of wetland as well as potential restoration and development of forms of local economies and industry. Consequently, public education activities working towards greater protection of Lantau's buffalo and cattle herds is helping to preserve Lantau's unique cultural heritage and identity, living conditions, proving important to wider community development and social cohesion. The social lives of Lantau's human and bovid residents are closely entwined. Landscapes co-created and inhabited together have become evolving milieus that humans and bovids are shaping in dialogue. Multiple and changing narratives about the bovids 'value' finds bovids as symbols of shifting 'progress' where values and attitudes surrounding development of healthy and prosperous communities and environments is being explored. The transformation of current policy to one that prioritises the conservation of herds and their habitats presents the next significant change.

## Notes

<sup>i</sup> Currently protected by Chapter 170 of the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance Hong Kong.

<sup>ii</sup> According to Richard Buillet (2005), one defining feature of *post domesticity* is the modern value for humanized wild animals been greater than for farm animals.

<sup>iii</sup> See Williams, 2012 and World Wildlife Fund For Nature Hong Kong, 2014.

<sup>8</sup> (EPD, 2012)

<sup>9</sup> (Mantel, 2007)

<sup>10</sup> (AFCD 2013)

<sup>11</sup> (China National Wetlands Conservation Action Plan, 2000)

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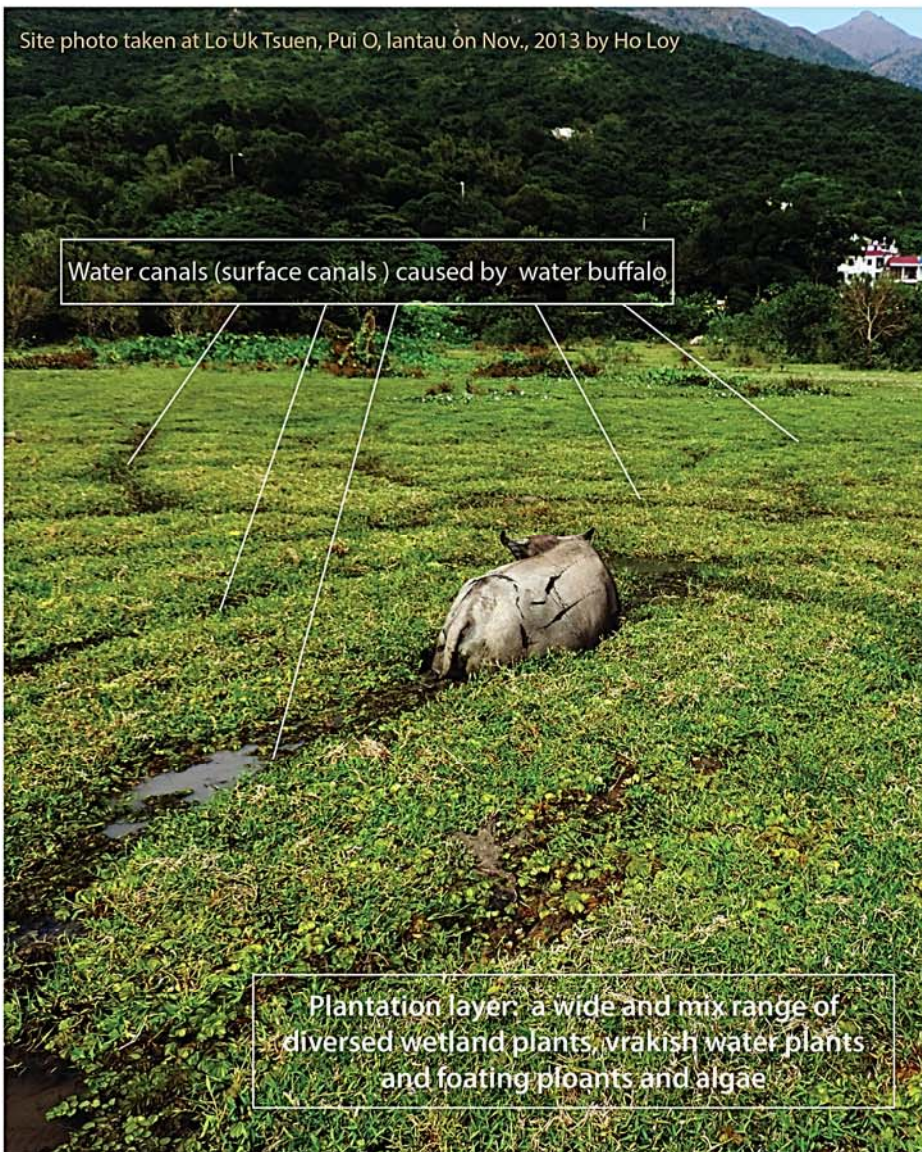
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# Water Buffalo Habitat Ecology in Pui O of Hong Kong

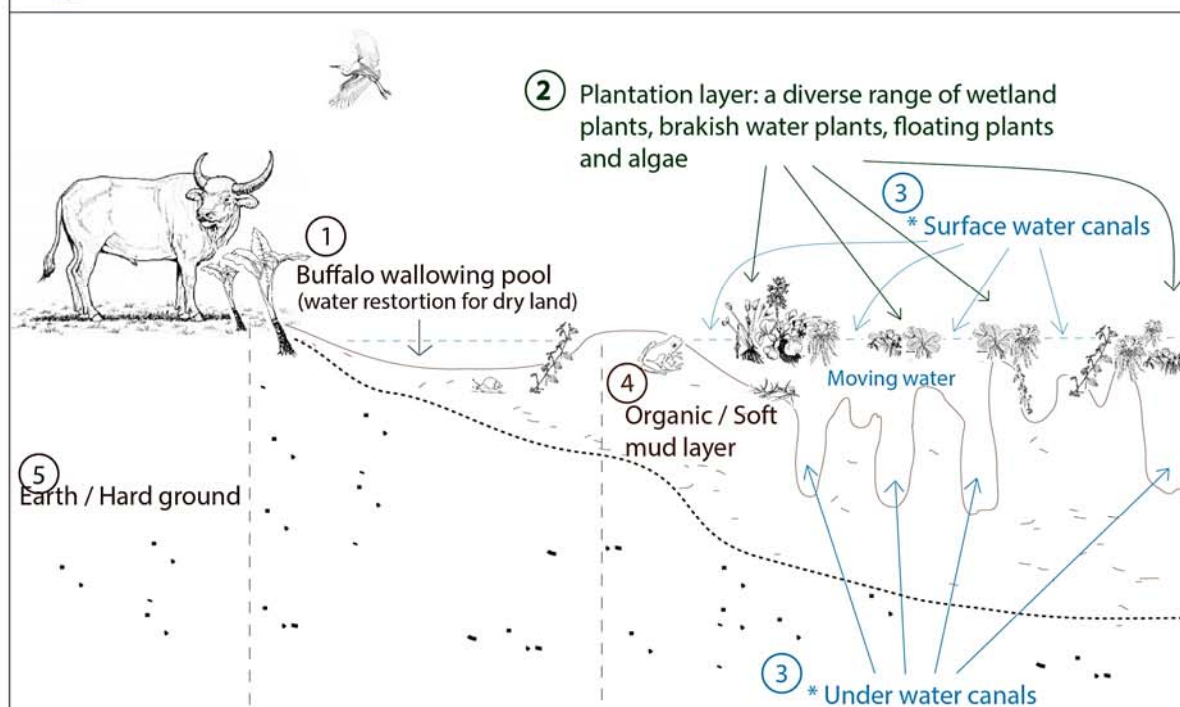
Analized by Ho Loy- Lantau Buffalo Association 2013

Site photo taken at Lo Uk Tsuen, Pui O, Lantau on Nov., 2013 by Ho Loy



## Buffalo Wetland /Swamp Structure :

- ① Buffalo wallowing pool (water restortion for dry land)
- ② Plantation layer: a diverse range of wetland plants, brakish water plants, floating plants and algae
- ③ Water canals (surface canal and under water canal)
- ④ Organic /Soft mud layer
- ⑤ Earth/ Hard ground



Abandoned farm land  
with no eco-transform

Over 5 years up eco-trans-  
formed by water buffalo

Over 15yrs eco-transformed by water buffalo

Water Buffalo Habitat Ecology in Pui O of Hong Kong

Analized by Ho Loy- Lantau Buffalo Association 2013



852 8103 6312 lantaubovine@gmail.com

香港僅存130亞洲水牛！  
但可惜牠們的生存條件，正每天在急速地消失中！

Hong Kong's last remaining  
130 Asian Water Buffalo!  
Unfortunately, their survival condition  
IS DISAPPEARING EVERYDAY!





## **CASE REFERENCE OF ANIMAL RESCUES FOR CATTLE ANIMALS FELL INTO WATER CATCHMENT OR CAUGHT BY BADLY DESIGN DRAINAGES.**

(4pages)



## Worse case record in 2010

A 3yrs old mother cow slipped and trapped in a drainage conduct in 2010, and died in neck fracture.

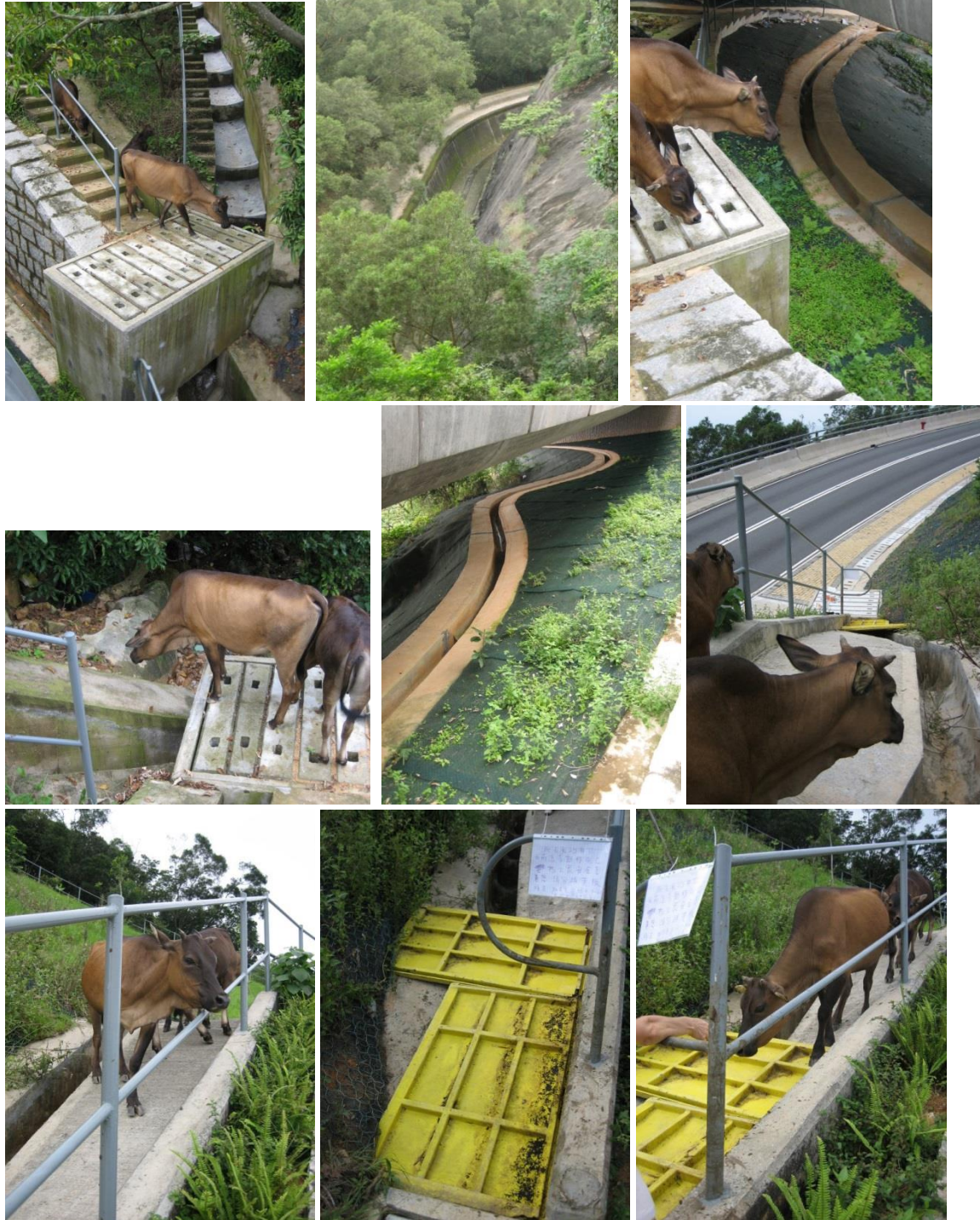


Conduct design like a 'head chopper'.



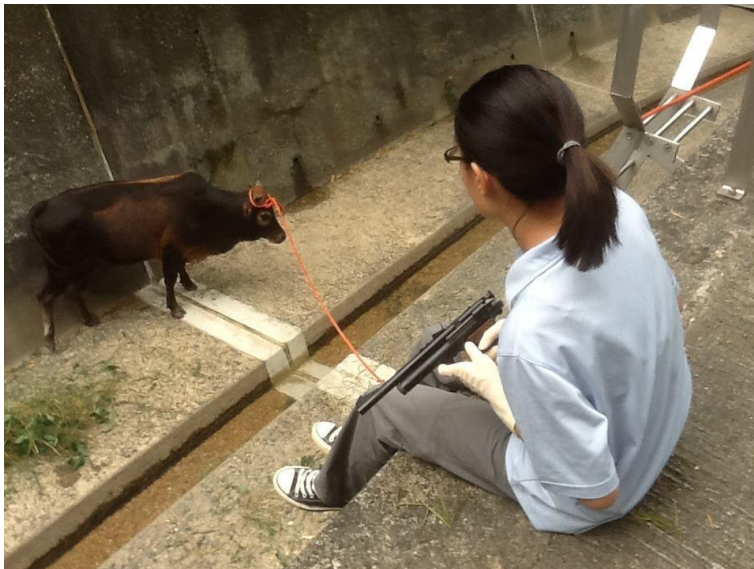


**Water catchment system design on Lantau are putting animal in safety risk in all time. Animals got trapped so often when they took on a wrong turn during grazing**





## Animals fell into water catchment in 2014





## CASE REFERENCE OF AGRESSIVE DOG ATTACK

(5pages)





## WHEN 'BILLY', THE ONLY COW IN PUI O WAS WOUNDED!

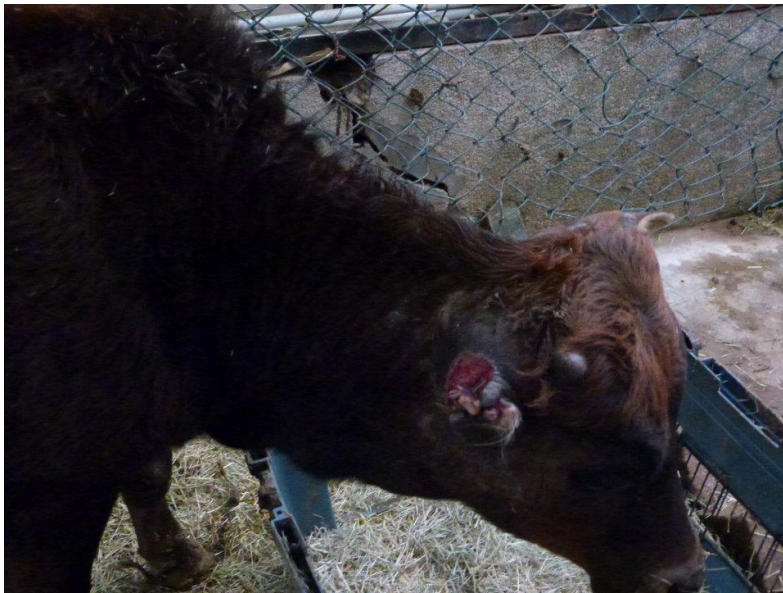




## **WHEN 'CHOCOLATE', A SHUI HAU CALF WAS WOUNDED!**



In order to heal the wound, ear shell of 'Chocoloate' was removed.



## **'OLIVIA', A PUI O BUFFALO CALF WAS SO SERIOUSLY WOUND THAT SHE WAS GIVEN UP BY HER MUM.**

A local village girl rescued her and after one week wound infection treatment, her mum came to the villager's house to bring her back to wetland.



## **NOT ONLY SMALL SIZE ANIMAL GOT ATTACKED, ADULT SIZE ANIMAL TOO!**





# 2013 Lantau Bovine and Cattle Survey Summary Report





# Content

[illegible]

1. Survey Plan
2. Methodology
3. Surveyors Teams
4. Survey Return Summary
5. Conclusion

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# 1. Survey Plan

The practice is covering mostly Lantau South , plus Shek Mun Kap valley of Tung Chung for currently 5 water buffalo herds and 7 cow herds origin areas to collect data of servicing animal for its :Age, Gender, Health condition See below indication in 'Map of Lantau Bovine and Cattle '.



## Herds situation

For Cow :

- 6 breeding herd and 1 bachelor herd (animal number 1 only)

For Water buffalo :

- 3 breeding herds
- 3 bachelor herds (animal number from 2 to 5)

## Methodology

Two survey practice sessions was scheduled to cover target areas. Morning section for cow survey to cover 7 villages where currently containing a local cattle herd, afternoon section for water buffalo survey to cover 6 wetland areas where a local herd resides.

### 上午組普查 Morning Cow survey groups:

1. 梅窩村區內 Mui Wo rural areas cow herd and wondering water buffalo :  
Luk Dai Tong 陸地塘> Tai Dai Tong 大地塘> Kau Tsuen 舊村> Pak Ngan Huen 白銀鄉 > Wong Tin Tsuen 黃田村> Wang Tong 橫塘> Silvermine beach 銀礦灣海灘  
\* CB(黃牛群或水牛) –
2. 梅窩 Mui Wo > 貝澳經南山郊野公園 Pui O via Nam Shan country park)  
CB(黃牛群或水牛) –
3. 長沙東涌路口回旋處 Cheung Sha round-about > 長沙上下灘 Cheung Sha upper and lower beach > 塘福 Tong Fok football pitch > 麻布坪路 Ma Po Peng Prison  
\* C(黃牛群) – 塘福主牛群 Tong Fok herd
4. Tong Fok Catchwater > Shek Pik country park > 水口 Shui Hau > 石壁郊野公園 Shek Pik country park  
\* C(黃牛群) – 水口主牛群 Shui Hau herd
5. 水口灣 Shui Hau Wan > 羅箕灣 Lo Kei Wan  
\* CB(黃牛群或水牛) – 水口主牛群 Shui Hau herd
6. 石壁濱海>羅箕灣 Coastal walk from Shek Pik > Lo Kei Wan > 石壁水塘 Shek Pek Reservoir > 監獄 Prison  
\* C(黃牛群) – 石壁主牛群 Shek pek herd
7. 寶蓮禪寺 Po Lin Monastery > 大東山 Sunset Peaks > 嶼南道 South Lantau Road(public area only) > 大澳 Tai O, 羌山 Keung Shan, 二澳 Yi O > 石柴泊 Shek Chai Po  
\* C(黃牛群) - 昂坪主牛群 Ngong Peng herd

**Morning Section surveyor team please return to 2/f 6 ,Tong Fok for data return and photo downloading soon survey duty is completed.**

## 下午組為水牛普查 **Afternoon Buffalo survey groups**

1. 梅窩村區內 Mui Wo rural areas cow herd and wondering water buffalo : Luk Dai Tong 陸地塘  
> Pak Ngan Huen 白銀鄉 > Wong Tin Tsuen 黃田村> Butterfly hill wetland > Wang Tong 橫塘> wetland behind Silvermine beach 銀礦灣  
B - 水牛群 bachelor herd
2. Pui O, Lo Wai > San Wai (main water buffalo nursery herd, 3 separated survey teams might required)  
B - 主牛群 main breeding herd
3. Pui O, Football court > Ham Tin (juvenile herd of water buffalo )  
B - 主牛群 main breeding herd
4. Pui O , behind Bui O public school > Lo Uk Tsuen  
B - 主牛群 main breeding herd
5. Shan Shek Wan > Cheung Sha Lower beach (beach & road, wondering water buffalo )  
B - 牛群 main breeding herd
6. \*芝麻灣 Chi Ma Wan , 拾朗 Shap Long  
(water buffalo herd)  
B - 主牛群 main breeding herd
7. Shu Hau Bay  
\*B - 主牛群 main breeding herd

**Afternoon Section surveyor team please return to container store at the entrance of Pui O beach for data return and photos downloading soon survey duty is completed.**



### 3. Surveyor teams

Five survey team for each survey sections for the day (totally 10 teams) were recruited through Event promotion on Facebook (see below '**Promotion of Survey Event** (for community participation)' for reference), and was assigned to target areas for the day practice. Each team was provided with one copy **2013 Lantau Bovine and Cattle Survey Manuel (see Appendix III)**, with guidance of requiring data for the day service collecting.

#### For morning cow survey section :

<u>Surveyor team and member names</u>	<u>Survey areas</u>
1. Candy Chan, Jossie Ng	Shui Hau
2. Peg Li, Stone Leung	* Shek Pik
3. Robert Clark, Ho Loy (with journalists: Wu Yi, Jacky Zhao)	Ngong Peng,
4. Tim Gnadig, Roni Wong	Tong Fok
5. Kathy Daxon	Tai O.

\* Two water buffaloes was located at Shui Hau bay wetland during this morning cow survey session

#### For afternoon water buffalo survey session: 3 teams of

<u>Surveyor team and member names</u>	<u>Survey areas</u>
1. Francesca Ng, Jessica Hsuan, Tong Tsang	Pui O wetland (Law Uk Tsuen > Pui O football pitch > Ham Tin river bank)
2. Peg Li, Stone Leung Jossie Ng Roni Wong	Pui O wetland (Lo Wai > San Wai)
3. Robert Clark, Ho Loy	Chi Ma Wan, upper Chep Long wetland
4. Stephen Tse, Harmony Li	Chi Ma Wan, lower Chep Long wetland
5. Seeman Ho, Al Lung (Member of FOMC)	Mui Wo (for both water buffalo and cow)

## Promotion of Survey Event

大嶼山牛隻普查又黎啦!

**Here comes the 2013 Bovine and Cattle Survey on Lantau**

Date: 15 September 2013

Facebook promotion: <https://www.facebook.com/events/160631484126108/>

大嶼山牛隻統查又黎啦，今次統查行動須要徵用十七隊有影開生態或動物相的義工幫忙，到被委派指定牛羣地區收集牛羣數據包括：牛羣數目、性別、年紀、簡單健康情況、耳牌編號（如有）和相片等。參加既朋友請先到 event page 內 click '參加'，方便我們電郵一份牛隻統查指引手冊給你，謝謝!

分上下午兩輪，上午組為 黃牛普查，報到時間為上午 10 時，「塘福 3 號白色亭」，塘福 Fair Inn 酒店右邊村入口。下午組為 水牛普查，報到時間為 3 時，貝澳的士站集合。

Dear Friends and Supporters of LBA,  
LBA will be holding a Lantau Bovine Population Survey, calling time 10.00 am on Sunday, 15 Sept.

Two timing session:

10:00 -14:00 for style survey , briefing gathering No 3 , the white pagolder of Tong Fok. (It is on the main road at the access of the village , right hand side of

Fair Inn hotel when you are facing the hotel. )

15:00 to 17:00 for water buffalo survey, briefing gathering at Pui O taxi stop.

Please click 'Join' on this event page if you can join us that day, so we can email you the information you need for joining the survey.



## 4. Survey Return Summary

### 2013 Survey Data Summary For Water Buffalo

herd location	<u>Gender</u>		<u>Age status</u>				<u>health status</u>					injured/ wounded/sick	horn shape	Others
	F	M	Calf	Juvenile	bachelor	Elderly	year of age	Under weight	Normal / healthy	Pregnant	nursing			
Mui Wo	0				0									
shui Hau	2				2				4					
Chi Ma Wan	14	9	7	3	9	4			23		5			
Lo Uk Tsuen	17	11	8	8	8	4	0	0	28	0	0			
Ham Tin	8	7	3	3	7	2	0	15	0	4	0			
<b>Subtotal count</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>			

68

68

Total count = 68

#### Remark:

One residential bachelor herd of 5 water buffalo was not seen on survey day. Although this bull was not seen during the survey, but data of him has always been adopted repeatedly in other general practice during the year . As this bull has been recognized and not duplicated with other herd number in other area . **LBA is therefore should include this 5 missing numbers in this survey and adopt it into the 2013 Survey Data Summary For Water Buffalo to be 73 (68 + 5 )**

## 2013 Survey Data Summary For Cows

<u>herd location</u>	<u>Gender</u>		<u>Age status</u>				<u>health status</u>					Number Missing on Survey day	Cows remain in AFCD farm	<u>remarks</u>
	F	M	Calf	Juvenile	bachelor	Elderly	Under weight	Normal / healthy	Pregnant	nursing	injured/ wounded/sick			
Tong Fok	12	12	3	4	15	2	5	20	3	2	5	4		
Tai O	7	7	0	3	9	2	0	14	1	0	1			
Ngong Peng	7	7	1	3	10	0	0	14	2	0	1			
Tung Chung	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0		1	
Shui Hau	7	9	3	6	7	0	2	14	1	3	3	11		
Shek Pik	8	4	0	4	8	0	0	12	1	0	1			
Pui O	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0			
Mui O	7	7	3	0	10	0	0	12	0	0	0	4	2	
<b>Subtotal count</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>3</b>	

96

22

**Total cattle count = 118**

### Survey result of Lantau Buffalo and Cattle in 2013

**A total of 73 Water buffalo , and 118 for Cow was concluded in this survey .**



## 5. Review Conclusion of the survey execution this year

- a. The practice revealed that this kind of one off activity is welcomed, more by outsider but not necessary local community members. Only 3 local cattle supporting members joining the survey, other surveyors were from urban area.
- b. The changing of gathering spot for the morning session in Tong Fok, to replace Pui O from last year. The white pagoda building allowed the briefing session for the survey more efficiently. And the data collecting gathering at Mr. Robert Clark's home with refreshment and computer source for photo data download was a good change and success. Having a computer source for survey to download photo data immediately before they departed had prevented data lost. The arrangement also brought surveys to return to one spot to meet each other to share their experience of the activity. Allow LBA to learn from their experience for improving future survey practice. *Same arrangement is recommended.*
- c. Afternoon survey was not as successful as the morning session, as the crew was dragged behind by a small incident on the road to help a small calf off the road. The briefing session delay was caused. Deal to this delay, one of the Pui O buffalo herd was in the water when the survey crew located them, which has made surveyors almost impossible to adopt data required. *Timing control planning is a must in next survey.*
- d. A celebrity had joint the survey this year, which has caused to a situation during the survey. She could not do the survey as the public was following her, so she had to split up with her team partner, so her partner can get close to animal while she need to bring the crowd away from surveyor. The same situation should be avoid in next survey.
- e. The survey had arranged photo data returning spot at container store near the beach for electricity source required. Rain happened at end of the afternoon survey and jeopardized the plan a little. Wet crowd jamming

into the store to hide from the rain made the surveyor re-gathering impossible to proceed data downloading, some of the surveyor could not complete the data download before their depart. *Improvement for surveyors re-gathering is required for next survey.*

- f. Mui Wo herd survey was delegated to FOMC this year. The survey was not a success, as they did not send surveyor to join our briefing session. Photo data collected was not up-to standard. LBA conducted a back up survey at the end of the same day to cover the practice. Although the number of cows were covered, but timing was quite late that photo collected was not clear enough. Buffalo data was not actual neither. It is a failure practice. *Improvement required for next survey.*

# Other relating data of Lantau Bovine and Cattle

## LBA Cattle and Bovine Case Registry 2013

The 'Registry' collected throughout the year of LBA practice on Lantau South for adopting public complain, respond to public query, local herd animal welfare condition monitoring and rescue request. The case service were most reported /requested by local community volunteer, the local visit public or forward by AFCD. Channels including:

- LBA Hotline 8103 6312 >> 35 cases were adopted.
- LBA Facebook page >> 6 cases were adopted
- and community volunteer case witness report >> 14 case were adopted.

35	6	14				17	65	0	LBA	SPCA	AFCD	23	44	18	9	34	7	12	4	28		60	20
LBA HtIn	LBA Fcbk	Email/ Others	Date Time	Date Time	location	buff	Cow	other	LBA	SPCA	AFCD	F	M	Calf	Juvenile	bachelor	Over age of 8	LBA	SPCA	AFCD	Other	Alive/ Recovered	Dead
Case source and total adoption	55		First record	Follow up record		Total Animal			Ear-tag			Gender		Age Status total				Veterinary attendance				Case result	

In 2013, a total of 55 cases were adopted, including: crops damage complain, bull fights, lost calf attending, dead animal body report and wound /injured/sick/ trapped animal rescues attending. In these 55 cases, 17 water buffaloes and 65 cows, in which 23 female and 44 male in age as young as a 2weeks old to age 14yrs old were involved. 44 veterinary attendance between 3 local public veterinary services sourced by: LBA, SPCA and AFCD, and had made resulted to bring recovery for 60 animals count, but 20 deaths.

### Summary of case adopting from each area:

11 for Mui Wo  
 11 for Pui O  
 5 for Chi Ma Wan  
 7 for Tong Fok  
 5 for Cheung Sha  
 3 for Tung Chung  
 1 for Shui Hau

Although LBA adopted zero case record from area of Ngong Peng and Shek Pik in 2013 , there were a few investigation query of cow hit by travel or human cruelty abuse that due to query maker refuse to provide evidence for case proof. LBA could not adopt the cases.

- **Warning Signs revealed from LBA Cattle and Bovine Case Registry 2013!**

Three scenarios had highlighted in the LBA Case Registry of animal rescue or case attending in 2013. Situation are reflecting impact study of animal living environment and vaccination to prevent further diagnosed for Lantau is necessary from Animal Management Department in respond to their concern of human health and public safety on Lantau South. This concern is part of the Management team mission duty of AFCD under the administration structure of The Food and Environmental hygiene Bureau. These three scenarios are :

- **The number of Sick animal revealed**
- **The number and level of Injury and death caused by speeding traffic**
- **The number of animal death in suspicious /unknown cause.**

**For ‘The number of Sick animal revealed’**

LBA adopted the highest record of sick animals revealing with symptom in suspect of ‘Bovine ephemeral fever’/ ‘Three days Sickness’(see below description of ‘Three days Sickness’, or [http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/bovine\\_ephemeral\\_fever.pdf](http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/bovine_ephemeral_fever.pdf) ) . The suspect decease is commonly exist in natural environment and transfers by insects pass between pet animal, living stock and human.

One case (a Tong Fok mother cow) was proof of \* Babesia 巴貝斯蟲病 (蜱傳播的寄生蟲病 <http://www.lymedisease.org/lyme101/coinfections/babesia.html>) , a common decease in amount farm animals that can lead to serious blood count drop to the animal.

Totally 8 records were filed in diagnosed with cow sickness in similar symptoms that believed human health affecting, but public animal welfare service exist did not consider they were public health safety threat. LBA adopted and resolved 7 of them.

See below research of cow decease descriptions:



1. 'Bovine ephemeral fever'/ 'Three days Sickness' (see below description of 'Three days Sickness', or [http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/bovine\\_ephemeral\\_fever.pdf](http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/bovine_ephemeral_fever.pdf) )

➤ *Identifying and diagnosing 'Three day sickness'. Clinical signs that would lead producers to suspect three day sickness include the following :*

<http://www.mla.com.au/Livestock-production/Animal-health-welfare-and-biosecurity/Diseases/Infectious/Three-day-sickness>

2. 'Babesiosis can be transmitted to people from a tick bite.

(<http://www.lymedisease.org/lyme101/coinfections/babesia.html>)

*It is a malaria-like infects the red blood cells and it is caused by a protozoa. It is treated with an anti-malarial (often Mepron) combined with an antibiotic (often Zithromax, Biaxin, or Ketek). People who have or may have Babesiosis should also be tested for other tick-borne diseases including Lyme disease, Ehrlichiosis (HME & HGE), Bartonella, Mycoplasma, and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. These diseases can be very serious and chronic if not properly treated early in the infection....'*

(Remark: ' Can babesiosis effect humans ?

[http://wiki.answers.com/Q/Can\\_babesiosis\\_effect\\_humans?#slide=2](http://wiki.answers.com/Q/Can_babesiosis_effect_humans?#slide=2))

**\* Query of vaccination for the animal was raised by LBA to AFCD in concern to prevent further diagnose in amount the animals that might cause public health safety in risk. AFCD replied that at the stage, they have no plan to proceed vaccination for the animal.**

(For detail of cases reference, please refer to attached : **Appendix III – 'The number of Sick animal cases revealed'(6pages)**

### **For ‘The number and level of Injury and death caused by speeding traffic ‘**

According LBA Cattle and Bovine Case Registry 2013, in amount of 20 death cases adopted, 13 were proof of hit by speeding drivers on the road. One savior case adopted in June at Cheung Sha, in which 8 cows in age between a few weeks to 3yrs old were killed in one single accident. One suspect was arrested according to vehicle registration record and prosecuted, but no convict to be made so far. The situation high-lighting road safety is in continue tremendous threat, not only of increasing number of speeding problem on the Lantau South road. The Cheung Sha savior tragic revealed a new level of road safety threat to this public road. We believe unless a purpose aim of a driver who meant to cause a dramatic impact by hit a big number of large animals in one roll, or the driver was in un-sober condition (insane, drunk or drugged) to cause such savior incident.

A ‘Cross departments meeting’ was immediate demanded by LBA to Island Home Affair office in addressing our deeply concern of public road safety on Lantau South. The request was responded. See LBA Position statement of Cheung Sha 8 cows tragic, meeting was held on ... (see attached Appendix V – Cross Departments Meeting in July )

### **For ‘The number of animal death in suspicious /unknown cause.’**

Three ‘Dead body found’ were adopted in the Registry, with no obvious injury. Two of the dead bodies were belong to infant water buffalo. Both bodies revealed in ‘perfect shape’, with no sign of open wounded or obvious injury caused by forceful impact.

According to veterinary profession’s advise, death can be easily caused to new born calf if the new born was in lack of immunity required in against of environmental pollution, umbilical cord infection for example. In other case, food poison can also be another cause to animal death as the animal will pick up any element released to the grass when they are grazing along.

A dead body of adult cow bull found in Cheung Sha can echo to the vet common. The body was found rotten from his oral, and body was swollen behind a bushy area near by a fresh water stream. A report of suspect pollution was filed to the F&Ehd recently shortly before the bull was found dead.

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End of Lantau Bovine and Cattle Survey 2013, Reported by Ho Loy