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**Comments on Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation -
Environmental Protection and Ecology conservation**

Submitted by

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1. Further details, such as targets to achieve the suggestions in the framework, timeframe, institutional setup to push ahead the action plans, are necessary to be provided by the Administration. Targets should comply with all current international treaties and conventions related to environmental and ecological conservation.
2. More importantly, a thorough review on past performance between Hong Kong and Guangdong on environmental protection and ecology conservation would provide concrete foundation for future co-operation on the framework agreement.
3. NGOs involvement should be supported and encouraged.
4. CA urges for more proactive measures on the proposed greenway. CA notices that the proposed greenway lies on some "hollows" which are long suffered from hillfire, such as Tai Lam Country Park. Afforestation, together with precautionary measures on combating hillfire, would help recover those "hollows". Another consideration is designating the greenway as "no-go" area to ensure formal preservation of such ecological corridor. Protection and enhancement of such important habitat links is advantageous for terrestrial wildlife movement, particularly large mammals such as crab-eating mongoose and yellow-bellied weasel which have restricted distribution in northeast New Territories¹.
5. Co-operation should be also put on conserving wetlands and ecologically important sites in Pearl River Estuary to protect one of the main bird migration areas in South China. Such natural lowland habitats have been vulnerable to highly urbanized development in the Mainland side of Shenzhen River during previous decades. Conserving aquatic ecosystem

¹ Fei, K.J.C., Lai, Y.C., Corlett, R. T., and Suen, K.Y. (2010). The Larger Mammal Fauna of Hong Kong: Species Survival in a Highly Degraded Landscape. *Zoological Studies* 49(2): 253-264.

in Pearl River Estuary, as a whole, should not be confined to current efforts on Mai Po Inner Deep Bay only. This highlight the importance to jointly establish an integrate regional plan on wetland conservation, not to say water quality management.

6. Developing circular economy and environmental industries have long been put in the agenda of Hong Kong government and even highlighted as one of the "six advantage industries", but the progress remains slow. We sincerely hope that the concept of green industry would not become another empty talk without concrete action. To turn waste from a problem to an opportunity, the industry chain should incorporate waste treatment, processing, product production and marketing, with further efforts on promoting practice of reduce, re-use and recycle. Co-ordination details between Hong Kong and Guangdong government within these various aspects should been fully illustrated.