

From: Caitlin Chiu  
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Good afternoon, I am Caitlin and I am a student of Benenden School in England. I am an impassionate Hong Kong citizen who was born here and has spent my childhood growing up in this fast paced and beautiful city, I have come to raise awareness and plead concern for the marine biodiversity of the area around Southern Lamma Island, particularly Shum Wan Beach.

Nature is an integral part of our lives. But while we appreciate the blessings she besties on us, we forget that we are plundering her treasures and thereby denying the younger generation with the pleasure of enjoying nature in all her abundance and variety in the future. Every since I was a little girl, I have had a passion for nature and animals. Over the years, watching nature deteriorate has been heartbreaking and therefore, I strongly believe it is time for me to speak up and do something about the green sea turtle decline in Hong Kong.

The decline of the Green Turtles in Hong Kong is drastic. Green Turtles have been nesting in Shum Wan Beach ever since recorded history. But it just isn't protective enough. On weekends, there are numerous speed boats and jet skis that don't comply with speed limits. Sea turtles breed in the shallow waters of Sham Wan and go onto dry sand at night to lay eggs. It is a known fact that many Sea Turtles die from collusion or ingestion of indigestible trash. There have already been 8 reported cases of Sea Turtle carcasses found in Hong Kong this year alone.

Green Sea turtles are amazing creatures who help us maintain the health of the world's oceans. From maintaining productive coral reef ecosystems to transporting essential nutrients from the oceans to beaches and coastal dunes. They have helped us in countless ways that haven't been appreciated. But instead of protecting them and doing the least to provide them with a happy and healthy environment to inhabit in, we are taking their natural habitat away from them, leaving them exposed to numerous threats. They deserve better than living in harsh environments and having most of their hatchlings die before even reaching their final resting place.

While progress is vital to the society, I reassure you that the suggested areas will not affect the Hong Kong, Zhuhai and Macau transport linkage and its infrastructure which intends to provide significant social and economic benefits for the Greater Pearl River Delta region.

I plead for the protection and preservation of our natural heritage to future generations. I plead that we stop destroying what is rightfully ours. I believe that if we have the right to lead peaceful and secure lives, green sea turtles also do to. While they have done so much to aid us in keeping our oceans clean and healthy, we have stood there watching their numbers slowly decrease until one day, they will become extinct. Therefore, we must do everything we can do to protect our future natural inheritance before it is too late.