

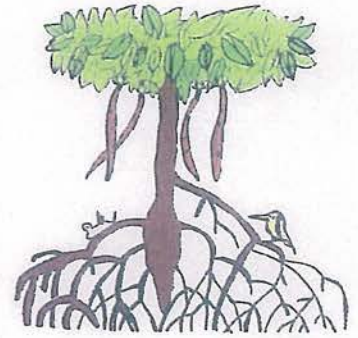
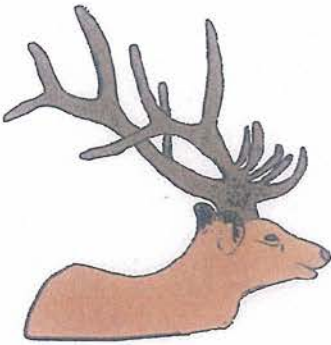
From the desk of

Professor Gordon S. Maxwell

FRSB, FLS,

BSc, MSc (Hons)(Auckland), MA (Leeds), PhD(HKU), DipSecColl (Auck),
DipEd(Massey), DipTchg(NZ) ANZAPER, LMISME (Japan)

* Life Member International Society for Mangrove Ecosystems (ISME)
 * Member Technical Advisory Committee, ISME
 * On-going Associations with MAB, UNESCO, ASPACO, Ecotone, SeaBRnet; Universities of Ryukyu, Tropical Biosphere Research Centre, Okinawa; Tokyo University of Agriculture; Srinakharinwirot University, Bangkok, Thailand; Open University of Hong Kong; Caritas Institute of Higher Ed, Hong Kong; Thailand Environment Institute; Dept of Marine and Coastal Resources, Thailand; Sirindhorn International Environment Part Foundation (SIEP); SUNY (State University of New York); Waikato Regional Council, New Zealand (N.Z.); *Director Ecosystem Research Centre, Hauraki Plains, N.Z.



To: Panel on Environmental Affairs,
 Legislative Council Secretariat,
 Legislative Council Complex,
 1 Legislative Council Road,
 Central, Hong Kong,

Re: Feral and Wild Pigs on Tap Mun

For many years I have visited and researched aspects of physical geography, ecology and cultural heritage on the island of Tap Mun (Grass Island), located north of the mouth of Long Harbor in the Sai Kung region of Hong Kong.

The island is a scenic gem and an ideal teaching environment for students of all ages, including my post-grads taking courses in Ecosystem management and environmental protection. On the 23rd February this year I, again, led my small party of OUHK post-grads on a field study of Tap Mun's biodiversity and ecosystems. A very productive and inspiring assignment blossomed from this field work.

One noteworthy outcome was the assignment paper by my student which touched on the wild pig question. Over the past three decades or so, I have worked in many areas of Hong Kong's impressive countryside of which Tap Mun is one and have gained evidence that wild pig numbers may need reduction. My core concern here is captured in Figs 3 & 4 of my students' *assignment: the potential for unpleasant wild pig/human contact. I have led and guided younger students of High School age to Tap Mung and these younger people and many Hong Kong adults with urban backgrounds do not see these wild animals as dangers. I do. My experience is solid and long term based on my farm in New Zealand and the potential dangers that these smart yet potentially aggressive wild pigs can present.

I feel that some culling and related measures should be looked at before a serious negative wild pig – human encounter unfolds.

I hope that this letter is helpful as this is my genuine intention based on social responsibility and civic duty. If helpful, I am quite willing to speak to the panel and elaborate as may be desired.

Yours sincerely,

* Extract attached.

Date: June 17, 2019

CONTACT mode
at given date:

(1) e-mail : [REDACTED]

(2) phone : [REDACTED]

(3) Address : [REDACTED]



Apart from that, biotic pressure is increasing in Tap Mun. Without control in the population of wild animals like wild boar, the number of wild boars would be higher and higher in a speedy rate. According the article "Our Close Neighbours - Wild Boar" from Green Power (2016), wild boars is a omnivores. If the population of wild boar loses control, it would bring biotic pressure to the plant. It is because the consumption of grass of wild boars would be faster than the growth of grass. Besides, Tap Mun is a famous island for picnic in Hong Kong. People like to go there. With an increase in traveler, hygiene condition is getter worse (see Figure 3 & 4) as rubbish has been left behind. This harms the environment and attracts more wild boars to live in (Apple Daily, 2009) and hence biotic pressure in this land in getting higher which is not good for sustainable development.



Figure 3 Wild boars attracted by trash in Tap Mun



Figure 4 Video of wild boars in Tap Mun

Extract from post-grad student assignment!