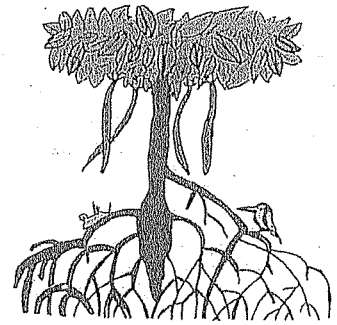
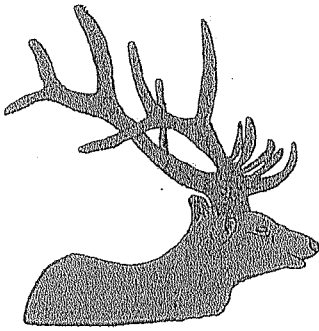


From the desk of

**Professor Gordon S. Maxwell**

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

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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.

**Wild Boar attack: feral pigs as dangers in Country Parks**

Dear Panel Members, Sadly the issue of wild boar attack has attracted attention once again (page 5 of Sunday Morning Post, "Pop star's mother injured in wild boar attack on peak"). Back in June, 2019 I made a submission (copy attached) on the *feral pig* issue to this panel and signed an agreement to make this available to the media and public (see attached reply slip). Sadly, due to the totally unnecessary and disturbing mindless protest activity of the year 2019, any work on the feral pigs issue was halted. This we all hope is now history.



In my duties as a professor teaching environmental and ecological matters in Hong Kong for 30 years or more, I have conducted teaching (field trips) and research (mostly student projects) in many of HKSAR's Country Parks (CP's) and rural areas associated with fung shui woodlands. As a New Zealander with both a farm and a forest, I am very aware of the potentialities of feral pig dangers. I alert my students to this aspect of safety when involved in recreation and study in vegetated non built up areas. However, my students and I get the impression that the general public do not appreciate the dangers that these smart, potentially aggressive and dangerous wild animals can be.

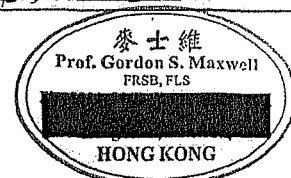
If it would be helpful for the Panel, I am very willing to answer questions on this issue and play my part as a concerned citizen to help address the matter before further incidents occur. In the Age of COVID, many more people are seeking Country Parks as safe, fresh air alternatives to shopping and eating. Some of my former students are AFCD officers who are doing a great job in keeping our CP's open. During this COVID era, many people visit the island of Tap Mun (mentioned in the attached earlier letter) and, even way out there, the feral pig issue surfaces and is not helped by inexperienced urban families feeding these wild animals.

I hope that this letter is helpful and feel it is my civic duty to try help. Ga Yau, Best wishes.  
Yours Sincerely,

Date : OCTOBER 10<sup>th</sup>  
2021

CONTACT mode  
at given date:

- (1) e-mail :   
(2) phone :   
(3) Address :



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.

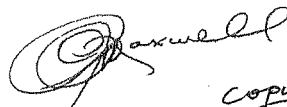
The island is a scenic gem and an ideal teaching environment for students of all ages, including my post-grads taking courses in Ecosystem management and environmental protection. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> February this year I, again, led my small party of OUHK post-grads on a field study of Tap Mun's biodiversity 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,



copy  
10 OCT. 2021

