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Environmental Impact Assessment  
香港环境影响评估学会



香港中文大學  
THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG



Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

## Wetland Compensation: Policy, Methodology and Practice

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### Discussion Forum

#### *Wetland Compensation: The Way Forward for HKSAR:*

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## Summary of Key Points Discussed

The wetland conservation policy of avoidance/minimization/compensation currently adopted in Hong Kong was noted. Similar policies are also adopted in other places such as Florida in the USA. Under the overall objectives of wetland protection and the principles of sustainable development, the following approaches and practices currently developed and implemented overseas warrant further exploring, in order to investigate whether and how they could be adopted for enhancement of wetland protection and compensation in Hong Kong.

- *Understanding Wetland as An Integrated System*

The usefulness of the Functional Approach to wetland creation, restoration and enhancement was noted. The need to study the physical (such as hydrology and soil), chemical and ecological functions, as well as social functions of a wetland system as a whole was highlighted.

- *Planning and Design of Wetland Site: Need to see the bigger picture*

Examples of unsuccessful examples of piecemeal and fragmented mitigations in Hong Kong and overseas were evident. Functional and spatial connectivity of wetland sites is an important criterion in planning and design of wetland mitigation sites. There may be also a need to look at the issues at a sub-regional level.

- *Monitoring and Assessment*

Key criteria to measure the success of a wetland compensation scheme, baseline and post-construction monitoring and assessment are important. The various assessment methods and practices adopted internationally should be further explored.

- *Pooling of Conservation Resources*

The merits, regulation and management of systems to pool financial resources to create, restore and maintain “better” wetland systems, such as conservation trust and mitigation banking, should be further explored.

- *Knowledge Transfer*

Knowledge transfers, locally and internationally, among various disciplines/professions, such as engineers, hydrologist, scientists, financial and management experts, policy makers and green groups, should be encouraged. Working groups should be formulated to explore the specific issues and report to the larger audience of stakeholders at seminars and conferences. Specific guidelines could be developed for use by the practitioners.