



Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Hong Kong Country Parks Education Kit for Secondary Schools

Protecting Our Natural Environment and Sustainable Development

Background information:

The swift urbanization of sections of the New Territories has caused disturbance to the natural environment and wildlife habitats. But is this impact inevitable? The United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development defines 'sustainable development' as follows:

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

From the environmental perspective of sustainable development, we should avoid development of society and the economy that exceeds the carrying capacity of the environment. This required consideration of alternatives, for example, in the construction of the Tung Chung - Ngong Ping Cable Car project. Pollution should also be minimised to provide future generations with at least the environmental conditions we currently enjoy.

Teaching objectives

1. To introduce the concept of sustainable development and eco-tours to students.
2. To illustrate examples of sustainable development in Hong Kong using the construction of Ngong Ping Cable Car project to minimize the ecological impacts on [Lantau North Country Park](#).

Suggested study mode

Field study

Suggested country park/visitor centre for the field study

- [Lantau North Country Park Ngong Ping Nature Centre and Fun Walk](#)

Suggested procedures

1. Before the field trip, ask the students several background questions, such as:
 - Have you ever taken the Ngong Ping 360 Cable Car?
 - Do you know if the construction of Ngong Ping cable car was environmentally friendly?
2. Take the students to the Tung Chung MTR station.
3. Have the students finish part A of [Worksheet BIO-9](#), describing the new Tung Chung district.
4. Take the Ngong Ping 360 Cable Car to Ngong Ping Market. Visit the Ngong Ping Nature Centre. Have them complete Part B in [Worksheet BIO-9](#), answering the questions about visiting the [Ngong Ping Nature Centre](#).
5. Walk along the Ngong Ping Trail from Ngong Ping to Tung Chung. Encourage them

to observe their surroundings. Have them record the common animals and plants along the trail on [Worksheet BIO-10](#), Part A. Have them make comments on the level of disturbance to the habitats by the cable car system along the walk. Have them complete the table by pasting a photo or drawing of their impression of the work. Then move on to Part B, which requires them to evaluate the cable car system.

6. Along the trail, point out the integration of the cable car and the country park. Then in [Worksheet BIO-11](#), have them evaluate the relationship between the different organisms and their habitats, and the cable car infrastructure from an ecological impact perspective. With the given reference, have them design and draw their own alternative cable car route, along with any related infrastructure, on the given [map of Lantau Island](#). Have them explain the design in terms of the three aspects of sustainable development.
7. After the walk, have them do [Worksheet BIO-12](#).
8. Finish the trip by dismissing the class in Tung Chung District Centre.