Deep Bay Fishpond Management Agreements — Paying Hong Kong Fish Farmers to Drain Ponds for Waterbirds

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Hong Kong

Quality score: 33/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

Since 2012 Hong Kong's conservation fund has paid fishpond operators in Deep Bay, via HKBWS management agreements, to drain each pond at least a week a year so waterbirds can feed. Over 600 ha are enrolled; monitoring found ~19× more waterbird species during drain-down.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	2/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	1/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-11-10

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (with AFCD / Environment and Conservation Fund) — accessed 2026-11-10

HKBWS — Deep Bay in a minute — accessed 2026-11-10

Environment and Ecology Bureau — Eco-fishpond Management Agreement Scheme 2023–2025 grant — accessed 2026-11-10

Environment and Ecology Bureau — Fishpond Conservation Scheme in Ramsar Site 2023–2025 grant — accessed 2026-11-10

AFCD — Local wetland conservation projects — accessed 2026-11-10

Lingnan University — Ng et al. (2025), drain-down effects on waterbirds, poster — accessed 2026-11-10

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