



Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

## Hong Kong Country Parks Education Kit for Secondary Schools

### Case Study 2: Tung Chung - Ngong Ping Cable Car Project

#### 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 provide students with an authentic local example of the sustainable development of large-scale infrastructure on Lantau Island.
2. To develop students' ability to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the infrastructure, so as to consolidate the importance of the combined environmental, social and economic aspects of sustainable development.
3. To facilitate student visits to [Lantau Island and Ngong Ping Nature Centre](#).

#### Suggested study mode

#### Field study and classroom activity

#### 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 LS-3](#), 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 LS-3](#), answering the questions about visiting the [Ngong Ping Nature Centre](#).

5. Take the Ngong Ping Tree Walk. Have the students complete [Worksheet LS-4](#), which requires them to identify several species of trees (ranging from common trees to valuable trees) and identify their importance to the environment.
6. Discuss with your students the meaning of eco-tours. Ask them to rank several aspects of the tour on [Worksheet LS-4](#).
7. 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 LS-4](#), 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.
8. Along the trail, point out the integration of the cable car and the country park. Then in [Worksheet LS-5](#), have them evaluate the relationship between the different organisms and their habitats, and the cable car infrastructure from an ecological impact perspective.
9. After the walk, have them do [Worksheet LS-6](#). 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.
10. Finish the trip by dismissing the class in Tung Chung District Centre.