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23 July 2025

Mr. TSE Chin Wan, *BBS, JP*  
Secretary for Environment and Ecology  
Environment and Ecology Bureau

[see@eeb.gov.hk](mailto:see@eeb.gov.hk)  
By email

Dear Mr. TSE,

HKIA's Response to Hong Kong Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP)

The Hong Kong Institute of Architects (HKIA) express our support for the Government's initiative to update the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP). We commend the commitment to integrating biodiversity conservation into urban development, which is essential for a sustainable future. Enclosed please find our comments and recommendations for your consideration.

Should there be any enquiries, please contact Mr. Nick KONG of the HKIA Secretariat at 3155 0407 or email to [council@hkia.org.hk](mailto:council@hkia.org.hk).

Yours sincerely,

Ar. LAU Man Kwan Julia  
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President  
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<nk/JL>

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## HKIA's Response to Hong Kong Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP)

### Introduction

The Hong Kong Institute of Architects (HKIA) commends the Government's initiative in updating BSAP and the document demonstrates your commitment in enhancing its initiatives and objectives. Enclosed please find the following comments/ recommendations.

### Comments/ Recommendations

1. Nature Base Solutions (NBS)  
Adopt nature-based solutions in planning and design which is in line with a sustainable development approach under the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The qualities and the spirit of NBS planning also help to contribute towards China & HK "Carbon Neutrality" Goals.
2. Incentives  
Provide incentives for the adoption and implementation of nature-based solutions.
3. Technology  
Adopt prevailing and new technology (AI / Drones) for ecology and environmental studies to take meaningful records to enable relevant professionals to come up with remedial measures/ alternative designs to address the affected ecology and environment.
4. Biodiversity in Urban Design:  
The integration of biodiversity considerations into urban planning is crucial. This includes adopting eco-friendly designs for infrastructure and promoting the use of native plant species in urban greening projects.
5. Advocate Tree Planting  
Advocate tree planting in a well-planned and meaningful way.
6. Revitalization of Abandoned Villages:  
The revitalization of abandoned villages for eco-living and farming is essential. These areas should be equipped with adequate supporting facilities, and regulations on alterations to village houses should be relaxed. This will attract more residents and promote sustainable living practices, integrating ecological farming with community life.
7. Public Engagement / Consultation  
It is important and essential to consult relevant experts and professionals as well as affected stakeholders on the context, history, conservation, and biodiversity as villagers often have a unique / thorough understanding of the context and biodiversity of the affected environment. This would help serve as a background for professionals to formulate meaningful planning and design. The background knowledge will help formulate creative thinking to drive things forward.



#### 8. Public Education / Awareness

From education point of view, the schools will be able to gear what level and depth they should teach students of different tiers. Promotion can be done strategically to increase public awareness of key issues.

#### 9. Interdisciplinary Collaboration

Addressing environmental challenges requires collaboration across various disciplines. The HKIA calls for interdisciplinary partnerships in urban planning to enhance biodiversity outcomes and foster innovative solutions.

### Conclusion

The HKIA is supportive taking a symbiotic approach to achieve sustainable urban development. Adopting NBS approach is something considered pioneering in HK. Through collaboration and partnership with relevant professionals and knowledgeable stakeholders, we believe that we can formulate new creative solutions for the planning and design of future communities to bring a positive impact to quality of life and refreshed / create new neighbourhoods with biodiversity in mind i.e. what can be called "Symbiotic Urban Systems" - having the urban environments and natural ecosystems mutually benefit from each other. The concept emphasizes the integration of ecological principles into urban planning to enhance biodiversity while promoting sustainable urban growth, (instead of putting one or the other first).