

Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme
Research Activities on Countryside Conservation and Revitalisation

Project Number	EP86/27/24/11-19
Project Proponent	School of Architecture of The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Project Title	From Valley to Plain: Conservation and Revitalisation from ‘Ng To’ to Kuk Po River and Plain via Multi-disciplinary, Educational and Action Research
Target Site	Ng To, Kuk Po River and Plain
Project Description*	<p>This project pioneers a rural conservation partnership model involving university and village community collaboration. Taking the eco-cultural landscape from Kuk Po coastal plain connected by the natural thread of the Kuk Po River to inland ‘Ng To’ as our focus, we will record the multiple eco-cultural heritages and reveal the human-environment interactions of these centuries-old Hakka settlements. Working closely with the village community, professors from anthropology, architecture, planning, geography, life sciences and sustainable tourism will conduct research on Hakka socio-cultural history, architecture and settlement, river ecology, biodiversity and tourism impact.</p> <p>Restoring Ng To village houses will provide a base for multi-disciplinary field studies, site-based surveys and in-depth experiential learning. Besides improving the hidden gem of Ng To setting, integrating the research to develop an educational kit and eco-cultural trail, incoming researchers, students and volunteers will involve returning villagers to co-curate educational tours and co-organise trial operations in recultivation, local food and culture workshops.</p> <p>The project aims to revitalise Ng To, its relationship to the ecologically important river, Kuk Po and neighbouring villages. Creating impact through operation prototypes that can be tested and adjusted incrementally, this pilot explores a viable partnership process for sustainable rural revitalisation for the longer term.</p>
Project Period	29 October 2021 – 28 January 2024
Grant Approved	\$3,000,000

***The project description is provided by the project proponent.**