Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme
Research Activities on Countryside Conservation and Revitalisation

Project Number	**EEB(EB) 27/24/11-54**
Project Proponent	**Social Infrastructure for Equity and Wellbeing (SIEW) Lab, Faculty of Architecture, The University of Hong Kong**
Project Title	**Conceptual Framework for Transforming Sha Lo Tung into an Insect-themed Multi-functional Eco-Park: Conservation, Research, Education and Recreation**
Target Site	**Sha Lo Tung**
Project Brief *	**A rare valley-based freshwater wetland, Sha Lo Tung (SLT) is Hong Kong's dragonfly paradise and a major insect habitat. However, persistent environmental threats and the lack of a comprehensive and scientifically informed planning framework still precludes it from becoming a well-conserved natural and habitat reserve. Integrating and extending existing conservation efforts to the 56-hectare whole territory of SLT, this RA proposal seeks to transform SLT into an insect-themed eco-park that combines natural and habitat conservation with various eco-services (such as scientific research, recreation, public education, and eco-farming). This new vision will be created upon a three-pronged approach that incorporates Interdisciplinary Baseline Research, Facility and Conceptual Planning, and Public Engagement and Knowledge Transfer. Mobilising expertise in bioscience, landscape, hydrology and planning, this project will utilise multiple forms of scientific data to facilitate an evidence-based planning process, and actively integrate augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) techniques in public engagement and as part of SLT's future interactive display strategies. For SLT's longer-term transformation, this project will also explore the site's potential as a carbon sink that contributes to Hong Kong's climate sustainability, and acknowledge the Hakka cultural heritage and ecological wisdom intrinsic to the creation and maintenance of this precious landscape.**
Project Duration	**1 July 2024 to 31 May 2026**
Grant Approved	**$2,999,900**

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