

IPSI Case Study Summary Sheet

Basic Information

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| Title of case study | | | |
| Living Water & Community Revitalization - An Agricultural-led Action, Engagement and Incubation Programme at Lai Chi Wo (Sustainable Lai Chi Wo Programme) | | | |
| Submitting IPSI member organization | | | |
| Policy for Sustainability Lab of the Faculty of Social Sciences at The University of Hong Kong | | | |
| Other contributing organization | | Not applicable. | |
| Author and affiliation | | Policy for Sustainability Lab of the Faculty of Social Sciences at The University of Hong Kong | |
| Format of case study | | Manuscript | Language English |
| Keywords | farming rehabilitation, eco-agriculture, community revitalization, rural-urban collaboration, sustainable development | | |
| Date of submission | | 05/07/2018 | |
| Web link | | http://www.socsc.hku.hk/psl/laichiwo/ | |

Geographical Information

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|--|---|-----------|--|---|---|-----------------------|---------|---------|---|
| Country | | China | | Location | | Lai Chi Wo, Hong Kong | | | |
| Longitude/latitude or Google Maps link | | | | https://www.google.com/maps/@22.5267244,114.2416439,14z | | | | | |
| Ecosystem(s) | | | | | | | | | |
| Forest | x | Grassland | | Agricultural | x | In-land water | x | Coastal | x |
| Dryland | | Mountain | | Urban/peri-urban | | Other | Wetland | | |
| Socioeconomic and environmental characteristics of the area | | | | | | | | | |
| Lai Chi Wo Hakka village is rich in natural resources and high in ecological and landscape value. It has a long paddy farming history, but villagers began to leave in the 1950s. Village desertion led to a loss in traditional culture and biodiversity due to a lack of active management. | | | | | | | | | |
| Description of human-nature interactions in the area | | | | | | | | | |
| The Lai Chi Wo Hakka villagers in the past cut the nearby hilly slopes into terraces for paddy farming but they protected and managed the natural forest at the back of the village and along the coast as their Feng Shui woodlands. An environmentally friendly and self-sustained community was formed. | | | | | | | | | |

Contents

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| Status | Completed | Period | 10/2013 to 09/2017 |
| Rationale | | | |
| To combat the rapid loss of village culture and rural environment and communities amid urbanization in Asia, Policy for Sustainability Lab launched the Sustainable Lai Chi Wo Programme to revitalize the desolate, remote traditional farming landscape at Lai Chi Wo with a view to developing a sustainable rural revitalization model. | | | |
| Objectives | | | |
| To initiate a whole catchment approach to biodiversity and conservation; to revitalize agricultural activities with innovative farming methods; to re-discover the community resources and facilitate appropriate use; to develop the village as a sustainable development education hub; and to develop diverse local products and services for a sustainable local economy. | | | |
| Activities and/or practices employed | | | |
| Adopting a "University-Government-Community-Business" collaborative approach, the Sustainable Lai Chi Wo Programme worked on a wide array of activities, ranging from agricultural rehabilitation and community revitalization, to cultural reinvention, rural education, and biodiversity and hydrology-related research, with a focus on forging social innovation and cross-sectoral collaboration on revitalizing Lai Chi Wo. | | | |

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| Results | |
| More than five hectares of farmlands were rehabilitated. The village has been repopulated from zero population to around 20 inhabitants living and working at the site. Biodiversity and wetland functions of the village have been enhanced. Our rural revitalization approach is recognized by the Hong Kong government and the UNDP. | |
| Lessons learned | |
| Success factors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We adopted a holistic set of sustainability principles The team found out an all-rounded revitalization approach through communication and negotiation A dedicated and multi-skilled programme team A genuine partnership between the government, corporate sector and the civil society | |
| Key messages | |
| It is important for village revitalization programmes to take a cross-sector collaborative partnership approach and to adopt a holistic and diversified model which comprises variegated forms of conservation concepts and also takes care of the development of rural community livelihood. | |
| Relationship to other IPSI activities | Not applicable |
| Funding | Funding from The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited; and in-kind contribution from PSL. |

Contributions to Global Agendas

The table below shows based on the self-evaluation by author(s). ● and ■ indicates the “direct” or “indirect” contributions to the following global agendas respectively to which the work described in this case study contributes to.

CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets (<https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>)

| Strategic Goal A | | | | Strategic Goal B | | | | | |
|------------------|--|---|------------------|------------------|--|------------------|---|--|--|
| ● | | | | | | ● | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Strategic Goal C | | | Strategic Goal D | | | Strategic Goal E | | | |
| ● | | ● | ● | | | | ■ | | |
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UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>)

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