

15 LIFE ON LAND



SDG 15

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

The Education University of Hong Kong is committed to protecting, restoring, and promoting the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems. Our approach is rooted in our unique position as a university with a remarkably biodiverse campus, which we leverage as a living laboratory for education, research, and community engagement to foster a deep and lasting respect for life on land.

Cultivating Ecological Awareness Through the Lens of Cinema

The University champions innovative interdisciplinary approaches to environmental education. A prime example is the '**Eco-cinema and Sustainable Community**' course, offered by the Department of Literature and Cultural Studies, which fosters a sophisticated understanding of ecological issues through the powerful mediums of film and creative practice.

The course guides students to critically analyse how cinema reflects and promotes the protection, restoration, and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems. By examining themes of biodiversity, environmental justice, and the 'more-than-human' world within both local and global contexts, it encourages a profound awareness of the urgent need to conserve land and natural resources.

Crucially, the curriculum moves beyond theoretical discussion to encompass practical application. Students engage directly with sustainable communities and are tasked with producing their own ecological short films. This hands-on experience empowers them to contribute actively to the preservation and ethical management of land ecosystems, shaping them into environmentally conscious citizens and communicators.



29

12



56

FWCI:0.80



874

participants



19
events

Strategic Research to Inform Conservation of Endangered Species

Research from EdUHK is providing critical data to inform conservation strategies for endangered species, directly supporting the aims of Sustainable Development Goal 15 (Life on Land). A 2024 study in the journal *Scientific Reports*, co-authored by Professor C.Y. Jim of EdUHK's Department of Social Sciences and Policy Studies, utilised advanced species distribution models to predict suitable habitats for *Ormosia microphylla*, an endangered tree species in China. The research identified crucial environmental factors for the species' survival, including specific ranges for precipitation and temperature.

By pinpointing regions with optimal environmental conditions, the study offers invaluable information for targeted conservation, supporting efforts to halt biodiversity loss. The findings help in prioritising key areas for habitat protection and restoration. Furthermore, the research projects how climate change could shift these suitable habitats, underscoring the importance of developing adaptive land management strategies to maintain ecosystem resilience.

This work exemplifies how ecological modelling at EdUHK can inform evidence-based conservation efforts, ensuring sustainable land use practices and contributing to the global goal of restoring and safeguarding terrestrial ecosystems for future generations.

Source: Wei, L., Wang, G., Xie, C. et al. Predicting suitable habitat for the endangered tree *Ormosia microphylla* in China. *Sci Rep* 14, 10330 (2024)

A Campus Rich in Biodiversity

Nestled in a scenic area of Hong Kong, China, the EdUHK campus is a recognised biodiversity hotspot, home to more than 380 species of trees, plants, insects, birds, and other wildlife. This rich natural heritage provides an unparalleled environment for learning and teaching. The University has distinguished itself in the Inter-University City Nature Challenge, an international effort to document urban wildlife, by recording the highest number of observations and species among several tertiary institutions in the region. This achievement underscores our community's engagement and our campus's significant ecological value.

At the heart of our hands-on educational efforts is the campus Eco-Garden. This vibrant space, which includes organic farmlands, ecological ponds, a constructed wetland, and aquaponics systems, serves as an authentic platform for sustainability education and environmental studies. The Eco-Garden facilitates field-based learning and research, emphasising resource recycling, energy-saving design, and biodiversity conservation.



Fostering Ecological Stewardship Through Citizen Science and Community Engagement

Through the "**Sustainable Humanities Project**," the University fosters a nuanced understanding of sustainability by forging connections between artistic expression, scientific inquiry, and cultural research.

A key component of this initiative "**Citizen Science Sustainability Dialogue and Practice**" invites the public to become citizen scientists by documenting and mapping the biodiversity within their own living environments. This participatory project encourages residents to use species recognition tools to record the co-living species in their immediate surroundings, fostering a greater awareness of urban and domestic micro-biodiversity and promoting a more sustainable interaction with local ecosystems.

In parallel, another initiative offers guided forest walking tours in partnership with conservation scientists. These immersive excursions provide a unique opportunity for participants to explore Hong Kong's natural forests alongside experts, offering deep insights into local ecology. The tours focus on ecological education, highlighting the importance of conserving native flora and fauna and fostering a deeper public connection with the region's terrestrial ecosystems. Through these hands-on activities, EdUHK empowers the wider community with the knowledge and tools to appreciate and protect the rich natural heritage of Hong Kong, China.

Extending Compassion into the Community



The University is dedicated to nurturing a sense of social responsibility and compassion that extends to all members of our community, including animals. A year-long programme "**EdUHK Paws and Me**" was launched to enhance students' awareness of stray animal welfare and equip them with the skills to become active advocates.

The programme was structured in two phases. In the first phase, participants engaged in intensive workshops and training sessions held on 20 October 2024 at the Luk Heung Campus and on 9 November 2024 at the House of Joy and Mercy animal shelter. These sessions provided students with essential skills for animal-related volunteer work and offered deep insights into the current situation facing stray animals and the operational realities of animal shelters.



In the second phase, empowered by their new knowledge, our students took the initiative to educate the next generation. Between February and May 2025, a dedicated group of eight EdUHK students organised and delivered three in-school educational talks. These presentations, which reached a total of 427 primary school pupils, focused on promoting the adoption of stray animals and raising public awareness of the associated issues. This initiative not only provided practical support for animal welfare but also demonstrated the powerful role of education in fostering a more compassionate and responsible society.

Fostering Global Citizenship and Sustainable Awareness

The University is committed to preparing students for a complex and interconnected world through initiatives like the 'Global Lens' programme. Managed by the Student Affairs Office, the programme is designed to equip students with the essential knowledge and skills for a global perspective, encouraging them to step beyond their comfort zones and engage with the world.

The programme provides culturally engaging opportunities that encourage students to be aware of their own culture, recognise critical global issues, and understand their interconnections. In alignment with this objective, the majority of workshops are knowledge-based, covering a diverse range of topics from various cultures to key themes within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This includes focused discussions on significant regional and international frameworks such as the Greater Bay Area (GBA) and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Throughout the 2024-25 academic year, the Student Affairs Office delivered 14 distinct webinars and workshops. The initiative saw substantial engagement, with a total of 744 EdUHK students participating—347 in the first semester and 397 in the second. The 'Global Lens' initiative has been met with positive feedback from participants, affirming its success in broadening their horizons and fostering a deeper understanding of global dynamics.



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