

ECF EECA Project No. 1448
 Establishing a framework and resources for Hong Kong BioBlitzes
Information sheet

Join us to support HK's first official "BioBlitz"! A BioBlitz is a biological survey of a defined area over a continuous period of time, usually 24 hours, often involving a public educational component. Our event is being held on 24-25 October 2015 (tentative) and will involve **expert guided tours for school groups**, followed by a **24 hour expert survey** to find as many species as possible in and around Tai Tam, HK.

This Environmental Education & Community Action Project is supported by the HKSAR Environment and Conservation Fund and run by Tai Tam Tuk Foundation with the University of Hong Kong, Swire Institute of Marine Science, Civic Exchange, Bristol Natural History Consortium, UK (BNHC) and National Geographic Young Explorer, HK Explorers Initiative and many others.

Project aims:

- Measurably increase biodiversity awareness -> expert guided tours educate school participants, train up volunteers on observing and recording wildlife.
- Encourage collaboration among schools and government/ academic/ NGO experts -> support HK's Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.
- Proof of concept for HK BioBlitzes -> pilot guided tours/activities suitable for public participation in future events.
- Collect high quality data on local biodiversity -> replicate BioBlitz format for other HK sites.

Location: Just 30 minutes from Central, Tai Tam Tuk is a historic fishing village and one of HK's earliest SSSIs having HK island's last remaining mangroves, intertidal mudflat, sandy shore, sheltered sand flat, natural water course, grassland and shrubland- "a diversity of habitats and concomitant plant and animal communities within a small area".

Event timetable (all events free of charge but registration is needed):

Date	Event	Content
24 July 2015 (Fri), 9:30am-12pm (tbc) @Tai Tam Tuk Foundation, Tai Tam Tuk Village, HK	1st Stakeholder Engagement Session: For Experts *REGISTER NOW*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organised by Civic Exchange • Aim: Coordinate stakeholder input in proposed protocol & activities • <i>Guest speaker: Matt Postles, UK National BioBlitz Coordinator/Programme Manager, BNHC on Principles and practice of running a BioBlitz</i>
TBC Aug/Sept 2015	2nd Stakeholder Engagement Session: For Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organised by Civic Exchange • Aim: Coordinate stakeholder input in proposed protocol & activities
TBC Aug/Sept 2015	3rd Stakeholder Engagement Session: For Experts x Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organised by Civic Exchange • Aim: Coordinate stakeholder input in proposed protocol & activities, networking
TBC Sept/Oct 2015	Volunteer Training Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organised by BioBlitz Project Coordinator • Aim: familiarise volunteers with site, duties, expectations; educate on wildlife recording, working with the public, countryside code.
24-25 Oct 2015 (Sat-Sun), 9am-3:30pm @Tai Tam Tuk, HK	BioBlitz Event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert guided tours for schools + interactive exhibition stands (9am-3:30pm) • Expert Surveys (24 hours: 4pm-4pm)

For more information visit: <http://taitamtuk.org/tai-tam-bioblitz-info-page>.

Partners



Sample BioBoltz schedule

Saturday 24 th October (School timetable)*		
9am	- 10am	AM Session 1- Expert guided tours
10am	- 11am	AM Session 2- Expert guided tours
11am	- 12pm	AM session interactive exhibition stands
12:30pm	- 1:30pm	PM Session 3- Expert guided tours
1:30pm	- 2:30pm	PM Session 4- Expert guided tours
2:30pm	- 3:30pm	PM session interactive exhibition stands
Saturday 24 th October (Expert surveys)#		
4pm	- 5pm	Bug hunt
6pm	- 8pm	Twilight wildlife walk
8pm	- 10pm	Bats, moths, frogs
11:30pm	- 1am	Midnight rocky shore safari
12:30am	- 2am	Data entry and lab work
Sunday 25 th October (Expert surveys continued)#		
5:30am	- 7am	Morning chorus bird walk
7am	- 9am	Stand-up paddle tour: mangroves
9am	- 10am	Noises in the night: frog/insect/mammal night cams
10am	- 12pm	Native tree survey
12pm	- 2pm	Horseshoe crab survey
12:30pm	- 2pm	Stand-up paddle tour: coral reef
1pm	- 2:30pm	Rocky shore, sandy shore and HK island's last mangrove
2pm	- 3pm	Microscopic diversity (soil/ sediment/ plankton)
3pm	- 4pm	Final data entry, countdown and species announcements

*School timetable:

- School groups will join either AM or PM session and experience 2 different guided tours + interactive exhibition stands manned by environmental NGOs/ natural history societies/ other wildlife experts.
- Aim of guided tours is help students **explore and experience** biodiversity in the immediate vicinity under expert supervision in order to educate, increase awareness and interest.
- Capacity: 150 students for AM session (15 students per group x 10 activities); 150 students for PM session (15 students per group x 10 activities).

#Expert surveys:

- Example surveys only, to be determined by participating experts.
- Survey activities to include pilot guided tours/activities suitable for future public participation, volunteers to provide support.