Lingnan University 2025/2026 SDG Report
SDG 15 – LIFE ON LAND



64th in the world
(THE Sustainability Impact Ratings 2026)

3rd in Hong Kong
(THE Sustainability Impact Ratings 2026)

40%+
Trees on Campus are Native Species

87
Projects/Grants

Lingnan University advances **SDG 15: Life on Land** through research, education and community engagement that support biodiversity conservation, sustainable land use and terrestrial ecosystem protection. Connecting scientific knowledge with policy and practice, the University explores ways to conserve insect pollinators and farmland ecosystems while strengthening environmental learning through field-based research. These initiatives encourage responsible stewardship of natural habitats and equip students to contribute to a more sustainable relationship between people and nature.

Protecting and Restoring Hong Kong's Terrestrial Ecosystems

Dr Roger Ho, Assistant Professor at Lingnan University's Division of Science, leads research advancing SDG 15: Life on Land. His work addresses ecological challenges in urban and rural environments, promoting biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, and sustainable habitat management in Hong Kong and across the region.

Urban Greening and Farmland Conservation

To combat biodiversity loss in human-modified landscapes, Dr. Ho champions nature-based solutions. In urban settings, he is developing a pollinator preference database and planting guide to help municipal agencies select pollinator-friendly plants, directly supporting wild pollinators.

Extending these efforts to rural areas, his lab leads farmland conservation initiatives in Mui Wo, Lantau Island. By revitalizing agricultural habitats and evaluating plant–pollinator interaction networks and microclimate buffering, the project enhances

essential floral and nesting resources to safeguard wild insect populations within farming landscapes. These efforts support pollinator conservation, sustainable agriculture, and ecological resilience.



Researchers conducting field surveys in an agricultural habitat to evaluate plant-pollinator interaction networks and support the conservation of wild insect populations in human-modified landscapes.

Functional Urban Forests and Ecosystem Health

Dr Ho investigates how urban environments reshape fundamental ecosystem processes, including leaf litter decomposition. Through a Research Grants Council-funded project, his team examines how soil detritivores drive decomposition across natural and urban forests.

By isolating the effects of microclimate and leaf litter quality, this work highlights the critical role of soil biodiversity and ecosystem functioning. The findings inform urban forest management and plant selection, strengthening conservation efforts to build functional, resilient, and healthy urban ecosystems.



The research team setting up leaf litter decomposition experiments to investigate how soil detritivores and microclimate contribute to the health and resilience of forest ecosystems.

Wetland Conservation and the East Asian–Australasian Flyway

Dr. Ho's lab also addresses regional biodiversity challenges, emphasizing the protection of vulnerable wetland ecosystems. Recently published in the *Journal of Applied Ecology*, his collaborative research advocates evidence-based habitat management to secure the future of waterbirds along the East Asian–Australasian Flyway.

By evaluating how human-modified wetlands can be optimized for conservation, this work provides actionable, data-driven frameworks to protect critical resting and wintering grounds. It supports migratory waterbird conservation, wetland habitat protection, and ecological connectivity, helping ensure the long-term survival of migratory waterbird populations.



A flock of waterbirds foraging in a drained fishpond, highlighting the importance of optimizing human-modified habitats to conserve waterbirds along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.