

Dr. Connie Ka-yan Ng (伍家恩)

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Communicative professional with over 13-year experience in conservation policy and strategy in Hong Kong and the East Asia Region. Solid knowledge of wildlife conservation issues. Versatile in liaising and collaborating with a wide spectrum of stakeholders including governmental officials, non-governmental institutions and local communities on species recovery, wetland management, habitat protection, land use and planning, and Environmental Impact Assessments. Advocacy of steering sustainable option and balanced perspective in development and controversial burning issues with stakeholders. A team leader and player keen on building capacity of the International Sea Turtle Society, who actively foster network and cross-cultural collaboration to produce synergistic impact through science and communication. Mentor to young professionals and students through public speeches, customized workshops and meetings.

Areas of Expertise

- Communication with Stakeholders
- Mentoring Young Professionals and Colleagues
- Project Management
- Scientific Research and Analytical Writing
- Wildlife Recovery Strategy
- Wetland and Ocean Management
- Environmental impact Assessment (EIA)
- Fluent in English, Cantonese, Mandarin Chinese

Professional Experience

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)

Hong Kong SAR Government

Nature Conservation Officer/ Lantau (Forestry Officer)

2014 – Present

Advised on the novel establishment of River Park, a blue-green feature to combine ecological restoration, flood management and recreation in the large-scale EIA study on Tung Chung New Town Extension. Provided scientifically-informed recommendation to conserve areas of ecological importance in Tai Ho and Tung Chung Valley in the town planning process. Mapped out solution for the long-standing problem of marine debris in mangroves with departments and local communities.

- Provided professional ecological advice on EIA, planning strategy, land use zoning and engineering projects related to climate change mitigation and blue-green infrastructures.
- Spokesperson on nature conservation in meetings with Legco and District Council Members, Departments, Green Groups, professional consultants, representatives from industry sectors and local communities.
- Led a team of 10 people and coordinated between different government departments including Planning Department and Lands Department to tackle environmental vandalism and enforce local ordinance on protection of forests and countryside.

Wetland and Conservation Officer (Forestry Officer)

2009 – 2014

Successfully led, devised and implemented a conservation strategy in collaboration with stakeholders to relocate the protected Burmese Pythons (*Python bivittatus*)—seen as a public nuisance—from developed areas to the countryside, with a movement study using radiotracking. Trained a team of 20 people to launch a programme on sea turtle rescue, conservation and research involving the Ocean Park Hong Kong. Established a scientifically-based action plan to manage water levels and sediment quality for a baseline ecological monitoring programme at the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site.

- Formulated and supervised the baseline ecological monitoring programme for management of the Ramsar Site, in close liaison with WWF-HK and Futian Mangrove Nature Reserve in Shenzhen. The programme covered monitoring of the water and sediment quality, mangrove community, ecological survey of avifauna, coastal fauna and benthic fauna.
- Reviewed and implemented with various stakeholders an action plan of the endangered Romer's Tree Frog (*Liuixalus romeri*).
- Engaged in regular science communication on species conservation through public presentations (for example, "Dialogue with Dr. Jane Goodall" in Hong Kong Science Museum in 2018, workshops in Huidong National Nature Reserve and the Shantou University in China, various public seminars on Marine Parks and Protection) and publications on Hong Kong Biodiversity Newsletter.

Field Officer

2009

Assisted in establishing a territory-wide biodiversity database and the formulation of species action plan on Romer's Tree Frog (*Liuixalus romeri*).

- Performed weekly biodiversity surveys and tree assessment.
- Reported ecological assessment with statistical data analysis and graphics using ArcGIS.

Professional Services

Species Survival Commission of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Marine Turtle Specialist Group ([link](#))

Regional Co-Vice Chair for the East Asia Region

2016 – Present

Composed a comprehensive regional report with members from Japan, South Korea, mainland China and Taiwan that covers conservation policy and scientific data of sea turtles.

- Fostered network and cross-cultural communication among members of various expertise from researchers, academia to wildlife managers in the East Asia and with other regions.
- Hosted meetings and thematic seminars at the Annual International Sea Turtle Symposium.
- Served as Nominating Committee of the International Sea Turtle Society to review nominations to fill vacant positions in the Society.

Member

2013 – Present

Advocated, led and completed the first multi-disciplinary Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) study in the South China Region with government institutions (including Huidong National Nature Reserve, a Ramsar Site in Guangdong Province), non-governmental bodies and local communities focused on the sea turtle habitat use, migratory corridors and marine pollution.

- Capacity building by collaborative research and mentoring young professionals in customized workshops.
- Developed and managed a collection of literature from China Region at Seaturtle.org ([link](#)).

North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES)

Working Group on Indicators of Marine Plastic Pollution ([link](#)) 2019 – Present
Currently preparing with group chairs and members a review on marine pollution in the North Pacific to identify multiple organismal and environmental indicators of plastic pollution. Manuscript to be published soon on Environmental Pollution journal.

Ocean Park Conservation Foundation Hong Kong

Reviewer to appraise and recommend conservation and research applications on community-based wildlife recovery in the Asia Region 2017 – Present

Pacific Science, Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom, Micronesia

Reviewer to evaluate the originality, impact and quality of the scientific papers 2014 – Present

Professional Membership

- Asia-Pacific Marine Turtle Genetic Working Group ([link](#)) 2020 – Present
Large Marine Vertebrates Research Institute Philippines, NOAA Pacific Islands and Southwest Fisheries Science Centres in US, WWF-US, WWF-AU, University of Malaysia Sabah and University of the Philippines
- China Sea Turtle Conservation Alliance Expert Advisory Committee 2019 – Present
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, People's Republic of China
- Team Scientist and Leader of Reef Check 2006 – 2008
AFCD & Reef Check Foundation

Education

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong 2011 – 2015
Biology and Chemistry

- Dissertation: Conservation Implications of the Genetic Structure and Habitat Use of Green Turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) in the South China Region and Baseline Contaminant Levels in Green Turtles and Burmese Pythons (*Python bivittatus*) ([link](#))

Master of Philosophy (Mphil), Chinese University of Hong Kong 2006 – 2009
Biology

- Thesis: Faunal Community Structure Associated with the Bed of Subtropical Brown Seaweed *Sargassum siliquastrum* (Trun.) Ag. In Hong Kong Eastern Waters ([link](#))

Bachelor of Science (BSc), Chinese University of Hong Kong 2003 – 2006
Environmental Science (First Class), Minor: French Studies

- Senior Research Project: Competition between Scleractinian Corals in Tung Ping Chau Marine Park (Best Student Award for Oral Presentation at 1st Asian-Pacific Coral Reef Symposium)

Certification

Certificate for Module (Sustainability Professionals) 2021
University of Hong Kong, School of Professional and Continuing Education

Certified Arborist	2020
International Society of Arboriculture	
Professional Tree Hazard Assessment	2017
LANTRA Awards	
Qualified Global and Regional Assessor	2018
Assessing Species' Extinction Risk Using IUCN Red List Methodology, IUCN	

Selected Publications

1. **Ng, C.K.Y.**, Gu, H.X., Li, T.H., Ye, M.B., Xia, Z.R., Zhang, F.Y., Duan, J.X., Hsu, C.K., Balazs, G.H., and M.B. Murphy. (2018) Insights into Identifying Habitat Hotspots and Migratory Corridors of Green Turtles in the South China Region. *Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems* 28:1181–1191. <https://doi.org/10.1002/aqc.2923>.
2. **Ng, C.K.Y.**, Lam, J.C.W., Zhang, X.H., Gu, H.X., Li, T.H., Ye, M.B., Xia, Z.R., Zhang, F.Y., Duan, J.X., Wang, W.X., Lam, I.K.S., Balazs, G.H., Lam, P.K.S. and M.B. Murphy. (2018) Levels of Trace Elements, Methylmercury and Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers in Foraging Green Turtles in the South China Region and their Conservation Implications. *Environmental Pollution* 234: 735-742.
3. **Ng, C.K.Y.**, Dutton, P.H., Gu, H.X., Li, T.H., Ye, M.B., Xia, Z.R., Zhang, F.Y., Duan, J.X., Hsu, C.K., Balazs, G.H., and M.B. Murphy. (2017) Regional Conservation Implications of Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) Genetic Stock Composition in China. *Chelonian Conservation and Biology* 16(2): 139-150.
4. **Ng, C.K.Y.**, Ang, P.O., Russell, D.J., Balazs, G.H. and M.B. Murphy. (2016) Marine Macrophytes and Plastics Consumed by Green Turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) in Hong Kong, South China Sea Region. *Chelonian Conservation and Biology* 15(2): 289-292.
5. **Ng, C.K.Y.**, Chen, T.H., and G.H. Balazs. (2014) Flying fish egg harvest off Keelung, Taiwan uncovers occurrence of pelagic-phase green turtles. *Marine Turtle Newsletter* 143: 14-15.
6. **Ng, C.K.Y.**, Dutton, P.H., Chan, S.K.F., Cheung, K.S., Qiu, J.W., and Y.N. SUN. (2014) Characterization and Conservation Concern of Green Turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) Nesting in Hong Kong, China. *Pacific Science* 68(2): 231-243.
7. Li, T.H., Cai, Y.R., Wu, P.Y., **Ng, C.K.Y.**, and G.H. Balazs. (2020) Lessons to Learn from an Endangered Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*): Marine Debris Ingestion, Rehabilitation and Satellite Tracking. *Indian Journal of Animal Research* DOI: 10.18805/ijar.B-1246
8. Oki, K., Hamabata, T, Arata, T, Parker, D.M., **Ng, C.K.Y.**, and G.H. Balazs. (2019) Inferred Adult Foraging Grounds of Two Marine Turtle Species Nesting at Amami-Oshima, Japan. *Chelonian Conservation and Biology* 18(1): 91-97.
9. Jang, S., Balazs, G.H., Parker, D.M., Kim, B., Kim, M.Y., **Ng, C.K.Y.**, and T.W. Kim. (2018) Movements of Green Turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) Rescued from Pound Nets Near Jeju Island, Republic of Korea. *Chelonian Conservation and Biology* 17(2): 236-244.
10. Rees, A. F., Alfaro-Shigueto, J., Barata, P. C. R., Bjorndal, K. A., Bolten, A. B., Bourjea, J., Broderick, A. C., Campbell, L. M., Cardona, L., Carreras, C., Casale, P., Ceriani, S. A., Dutton, P. H., Eguchi, T., Formia, A., Fuentes, M. M. P. B., Fuller, W. J., Girondot, M., Godfrey, M. H., Hamann, M., Hart, K. M., Hays, G. C., Hochscheid, S., Kaska, Y., Jensen, M. P., Mangel, J. C., Mortimer, J. A., Naro-Maciel, E., **Ng, C. K. Y.**, Nichols, W. J., Phillott, A. D., Reina, R. D., Revuelta, O., Schofield, G., Seminoff, J. A., Shanker, K., Tomás, J., van de Merwe, J. P., Van Houtan, K. S., Vander Zanden, H. B., Wallace, B. P., Wedemeyer-Strombel, K. R., Work, T. M., and B. J. Godley. (2016) Review: Are we working towards global research priorities for management and conservation of sea turtles? *Endangered Species Research* 31: 337-382.