

# Dr. Connie Ka-yan Ng (伍家恩)

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A communicative professional with over 16-year experience and solid knowledge in conservation strategy, research and public education in Hong Kong, China and the East Asia Region. A passionate team leader versatile in coordinating and collaborating with a wide spectrum of stakeholders, including governmental officials, non-governmental institutions, academia, private sectors and local communities, on habitat protection, species recovery, wetland management, sustainability, land use and planning, and Environmental Impact Assessment. An interactive facilitator keen on building capacity of the International Sea Turtle Society, who actively foster network and cross-cultural collaboration to produce synergistic impact through science, communication and education. An engaging mentor to young professionals and students through publicity, public speeches, customized workshops, regional meetings and interactive learning platform.

## Areas of Expertise

- Cross-sectoral and cultural networking
- Multi-disciplinary collaboration
- Public Education
- Capacity Building
- Project Management with Budget Control
- Scientific Research and Analytical Writing
- Marine Science and Sea Turtle
- Protected Area Management
- Wildlife Recovery Strategy
- Environmental impact Assessment (EIA)
- Fluent in English, Cantonese, Mandarin Chinese

## Professional Experience

### Hong Kong Maritime Museum

*Head of Marine Discovery Centre*

2024-present

Lead a dedicated team to develop and direct a Marine Science Strategy and Education Programme. By leading collaborative efforts across stakeholders and disciplines, to create a prominent and interactive learning hub, enhance ocean literacy and education outreach through multi-disciplinary marine science activities that engage the public, schools, and multiple sectors.

- Directed the opening of and supervised the implementation of the Swire Marine Discovery Centre at the museum, comprising the Marine Science Gallery, Lecture Hall and Ocean Learning Centre
- Organised over 200 marine science activities and reaching over 7,000 participants, including an interactive online learning platform
- Developed with over 40 partners, including the Government, academia, NGOs and corporates, quality marine education programme targeting at schools and community groups

### Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)

#### Hong Kong SAR Government

*Country Park Ranger Services Officer/ Northwest (Forestry Officer)*

2023 - 2024

Leader of 60 staff to carry out habitat protection, forestry management, law enforcement and public education of the Protected Area Country Parks in Hong Kong. Directed several hiking and tree planting events participated by thousands of the public members and volunteers, with an aim to promote nature education, increase public awareness and engage community in conservation.

- Developed, researched and supervised the production of publicity materials and exhibitions in the newly designated Country Park, which would be crafted into an open museum for multi-sensory visitor experiences.
- Oversaw consultancy projects on culture and oral history in villages to inform community-based public education of the Country Parks.

*Nature Conservation Officer/ Lantau (Forestry Officer)*

2014 – 2022

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. Advocated 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  
Authored and edited an annual comprehensive regional report with members from Japan, South Korea, mainland China and Taiwan that covers conservation policy and scientific research of sea turtles, and engages public education including citizen scientist programmes.

- 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 (2016-2019, 2024-2025).

*Member* 2013 – Present  
Advocated, led and accomplished 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, and National Museum of Marine Biology and Aquarium in Taiwan), non-governmental bodies, local communities, cultural bodies and fishermen, focusing 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 Marine Plastic Pollution and the precedent group* ([link](#)) 2019 – Present  
Co-authored with group chairs and members on Environmental Pollution Journal a review on marine pollution in the North Pacific to identify multiple organismal and environmental indicators of plastic pollution.

### **International Congress of Maritime Museums (ICMM)**

*Ocean Sustainability Committee Member* ([link](#)) 2024 – Present  
Create synergy and collaborative projects to promote ocean literacy and sustainability in a network of international maritime museums

### **Ocean Park Conservation Foundation Hong Kong**

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

### **Pacific Science, Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom, Micronesica, Current Herpetology, Marine Biology**

*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

**Introduction to Psychology** 2022  
Yale University, completed through Coursera

**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.**, Ishihara, T., Hamabata, T., Nishizawa, H., Liu, M., Song, J., Li, T.H., Fong, C., Moon, D.Y., and I.H. Kim (2024) Overview of the population genetics and connectivity of sea turtles in the East Asia Region and their conservation implications. *Frontiers in Marine Science* 11. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2024.1325849>. (Open Access)
2. **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>.
3. **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. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envpol.2017.11.100>
4. **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. <https://doi.org/10.2744/CCB-1253.1>
  5. **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. <https://doi.org/10.2744/CCB-1210.1>
  6. **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.
  7. **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. <https://doi.org/10.2984/68.2.5>
  8. 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
  9. 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. <https://doi.org/10.2744/CCB-1337.1>
  10. 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. <https://doi.org/10.2744/CCB-1279.1>
  11. 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. <https://doi.org/10.3354/esr00801>