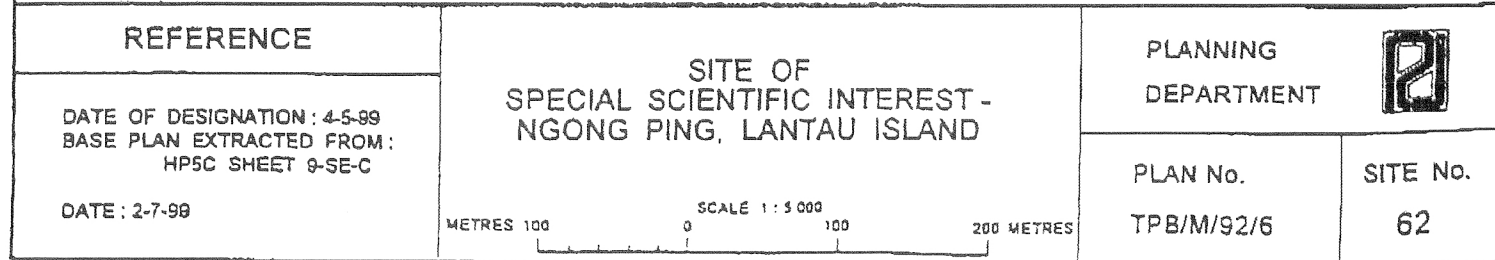


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SITE No.  
62

SCALE 1 : 5 000

METRES 100 0 100 200 METRES

No. 62 - Ngong Ping, Lantau Island

The site is located at Ngong Ping, Lantau Island. It has an area of about 14 hectares, covering part of Ngong Ping Stream, some forest areas and plantations. Details of the site coverage are marked on the plan attached. (N.B.: Any building within the area is not included in the SSSI.)

Date of Designation

4 May 1999

Special Scientific Interest

Romer's Tree Frog, Philautus romeri, is a tiny frog with an average length of 1.5 cm to 2 cm. It is Hong Kong's smallest amphibian.<sup>1</sup> The frog is endemic to Hong Kong<sup>2,3</sup> and has only been recorded from a few locations in Hong Kong, namely, Lamma, Lantau, Chek Lap Kok, and Po Toi.<sup>4,5,6,7</sup> The habitat of Romer's Tree Frog at Chek Lap Kok was lost due to the construction of the new Hong Kong airport.

During a five-year survey of Hong Kong amphibians, the Ngong Ping valley is found to support the largest population of Romer's Tree Frog.<sup>8</sup> Most of the other Romer's Tree Frog habitats on Lantau are in the lowlands or basins outside the two country parks and are therefore vulnerable, the subject site lies at an altitude of above 400 mPD.

According to a study of the ecology of Romer's Tree Frog,<sup>8</sup> this species breeds in fishless, oligotrophic, shaded, still or slow-flowing waters. The breeding sites are usually associated with forest or shrubland whereas the non-breeding habitats are mostly found in the forest, plantations and clearings within them.

Degree of Hazard

Disturbance, encroachment and degradation of the Romer's Tree Frog's habitats will threaten the survival of the population. Pollution or sedimentation to the stream will affect the breeding habitat of the frog.

Existing/Recommended Protection Measures

Romer's Tree Frog is protected under the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance Cap. 170.

As far as protection of its habitat is concerned, both the breeding and non-breeding habitats have to be protected if the conservation of the population at Ngong Ping is to be effective. Hence, both the seasonally-inundated stream and the surrounding forest, plantation and shrubland should be enlisted as a SSSI in order to safeguard the world's largest population of this unique frog.

Departments concerned with planning and development of the area should be made aware of the importance of the site so that due consideration on the conservation of the site will be given when developments in or near the site are proposed. Activities that will affect the water quality and flow of the stream should also be avoided.

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