



A LEADING PERMACULTURE  
ECO-EDUCATION COMMUNITY  
IN HONG KONG

A large, faint, light orange spiral graphic that serves as a background for the central text.

# **Corporate Social Responsibility**

A photograph of a lush green mountain landscape with rolling hills and dense vegetation under a clear sky.

REMINDED OURSELVES TO TREASURE,  
AND GIVE BACK TO OUR ENVIRONMENT.

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## About Us

Ark Eden Foundation is a leading eco-education and permaculture community based on Lantau Island, Hong Kong.

It is part of a network of global ecological restoration centres providing sustainable solutions for global environmental and social issues through educational workshops, nature-based experiences and restorative projects that create a positive change in people's attitudes and actions towards the planet and towards each other. Since Ark Eden's inception in 2006, over 45,000 people have been involved in Ark Eden programs.

Ark Eden provides sustainable solutions for local and global environmental and social problems by running programs on social permaculture, food, building, water, zero-waste, energy, natural and sustainable living systems for students, from kindergarten to university level, as well as adults and community groups.

These programs include:

- children's holiday eco-camps and a six-week Forest Summer Camp,
- the 72-hour Permaculture Design Certificate and related workshops,
- longer term comprehensive Sustainable Education courses for secondary schools, universities and graduates,
- professional development for environmental educators,
- volunteer and internship programs,
- workshops in natural living, ecological restoration, permaculture food systems and farming, zero-water practices, ecological building, habitat exploration, nature connection, wellness, leadership and values for the global goals.

Ark Eden is part of a larger community of Green Groups in Hong Kong that engage the public in a number of advocacy issues that pose serious environmental threats to the biodiversity of Lantau and Hong Kong. Two examples include action against the proposed Mega-Incinerator and East Lantau Metropolis off Lantau island.

By educating and show-casing alternative and more sustainable ways to live, Ark Eden aims to create a positive change in people's attitudes and actions towards the planet and towards each other.

Its long-term vision is to partner with other organisations to develop a network of eco-facilities in Hong Kong and world-wide to provide environmental education, training and action-projects that everyone can be involved in.



## What Ark Eden Foundation offers our Business Partners

Ark Eden aims to satisfy business and CSR platform objectives by providing

### *Local projects*

Employees are engaged with working on solutions for local issues and hence long-term benefits for the local communities they are serving making employees efforts and commitment meaningful. As issues are, for the most part, ongoing, employees can often become involved in a long-term ongoing project where they can play a full role.

### *A wide range of volunteer programs*

Ark Eden offers choice and a range of sustainability issues and action projects for your employees. Ten programs are outlined in this brochure but Ark Eden can design and tailor programs on request. A wide range of projects means variety and the potential to engage in several projects a year.

### *Engagement for a large number of employees*

Several of our projects are capable of engaging larger numbers of volunteers enabling more employees to be involved. Tree maintenance and beach-cleaning programs can involve several hundred people.

### *Enhanced Eco-literacy and Useful skills*

It is a fact that the level of 'eco-literacy' ranks low in Hong Kong. Ark Eden will educate employees how to live a sustainable lifestyle and how to apply that knowledge into the workplace and community. At the same time they will learn new practical skills.

### *A Healthy body and mind!*

There is no need to go to the gym after a day out at Ark Eden. Even getting there involves quite a lot of physical exercise and then most programs take place outdoors doing physical things. Spending a day under the forest canopy of Ark Eden will also offer peace and tranquillity to people's otherwise very busy lives.

### *A long-standing partnership*

Founded in 2006, Ark Eden has been working many years with its corporate partners. Employees are able to see progression and completion of their projects as well as be able to feel very much a part of Ark Eden's valley home. Ark Eden is here for the duration as there is much work to be done for the planet and with its corporate partners it can also get a lot more done!

In short, Ark Eden offers a wide range of activities for an unlimited number of corporate employees, engaging them in long-standing partnerships. Ark Eden can also equip participants with essential practical skills and knowledge in sustainable living that they can apply to their daily lives.





## Corporate Projects

### 1. Setting up a Permaculture Demonstration Site for Hong Kong

It is important to showcase what 'sustainable living' looks like so that people have working examples that they can model. Permaculture asks how we can best mimic natural systems to live sustainably so covers all areas of living such as building, food, energy, waste, water as well as social relationships.

An on-going project since 2010, Ark Eden's permaculture demonstration site is nestled in the valley between our three training centres, Eden Rock, Ark Eden home base and Darshan.

It is an important project for Hong Kong and a successful work in progress thanks to your help. Ongoing projects include:

- Developing diverse permaculture kitchen gardens of inter-planted vegetables, herbs and flowers, vegetable nurseries, a food wall, fruit forests, a herb garden and rooftop gardens.
- Developing and expanding the compost toilets and showers
- Revamping the mountain-water system and grey-water systems
- Building a multi-functional class room/intern accommodation, gathering areas and wooden trellises to provide rain-proof, shaded work stations on terraces



Program	1. Setting up a Permaculture Demonstration Site for Hong Kong
Maximum Group Size	60 people



## 2. Forests of Lantau Ecological Restoration

With the help of local volunteers and the support of the HKSAR government, Ark Eden has planted over 30,000 native trees of more than 120 species around the Tung Hang Mei valley and along the peninsula in Mui Wo. For its size, Hong Kong has one of the highest deforestation rates in the world due to hill-fires. Planting back the hillsides with native trees mitigates against Climate Change, ecologically restores the degraded hillsides, strengthens biodiversity, prevents soil erosion and protects lowland rivers.

To ensure these trees are given the best possible chance to survive in the tough conditions they face and to grow up the forests, Ark Eden invites volunteer teams to join Tree Maintenance programs to fertilise, mulch and water the trees and to collect data to monitor their progress and impact.



Program	2. Forests of Lantau Ecological Restoration
Maximum Group Size	300 people





### 3. Zero Waste Office

Be the change you want to see. Walk your talk.' Zero Waste' your work space, your home and your community!

This workshop begins with an introductory session to understand how the world – and now your office -is moving into 'zero waste' and includes a hands-on 'Eco-house Trail' which gives participants practical examples of sustainable life-style solutions and a blue-print that can be adapted to homes, offices and the community. A feedback session includes relating solutions back to problems and understanding current social and political constraints.

Finally, groups work to apply solutions to the urban environments they work in. How can solutions be adapted and messaged? What tools do they need? And how do we spread the movement.



Photo by Richard Tilney-Bassett

Program	3. Zero Waste Office
Maximum Group Size	40 people



#### 4. Permaculture Crash-course

This workshop is run by members of the Ark Eden team, certified in Permaculture Design. The introductory session runs through the ethics and basic principles of permaculture and discusses main zoning and permaculture systems that include:

1. Building
2. Energy
3. Food
4. Living
5. Sustainable living
6. Waste systems
7. Water systems

The next session is a practical activity that draws upon the main permaculture principles in designing a permaculture food system and involves activities such as various composting and fertilising methods, soil building, setting up a worm farm, a plant nursery, companion planting and seed-saving. Working in teams, participants then head to the roof garden where they apply their knowledge to design a Permaculture Office Roof- top Garden and feed back to the main group. The workshop ends with a team quiz, a Q&A session and a review.



Program	4. Permaculture Crash-course
Maximum Group Size	35 people





## 5. Diet Change Not Climate Change (A Day on the Farm)

Ark Eden's Permaculture Organic Farm is an educational farm now moving at last into local production. Since its inception, students and adults have been attending practical workshops to learn why it is important to develop their own local 'farms' and how to do so. Local, intensive organic farms are now increasing exponentially all over the world as people choose more ethical food with more nutritional density and a reduced carbon footprint. Come join us! There is constant work that needs to be done on the farm— general maintenance such as making compost and fertilizer; mulching and weeding; planting and transplanting; seed collection and maintaining the plant nursery, seed bank, constructive wetland, food wall, rooftops and worm farms. With a team of people all this work is made easier and we guarantee you will learn a lot!



Photo by Richard Tilney-Bassett

Program	5. Diet Change Not Climate Change (A Day on the Farm)
Maximum Group Size	60 people



## 6. From Farm to Table (A Day of Harvesting Food and Fibre)

What we eat has a huge and long-lasting impact on the environment and on our health and the health of our families. We look into how much water, energy and waste goes into producing what we eat, wear and use. We look at alternatives for a more sustainable and greener way of living – and then we make some of those alternatives by harvesting from the farm and processing.

Depending on the season of the year we might make sauces, preserves, fermented and dried foods. Or we might make soap, candles and natural dyes. The products we make will help to generate funding for restoration and advocacy projects.



Program	6. From Farm to Table (A Day of Harvesting Food and Fibre)
Maximum Group Size	40 people



## 7. Natural Building Projects – Earthworks and Woodwork

The Ark Eden site still lacks sheltered spaces, intern accommodation and outdoor 'classroom' settings for students and visitors, so on this day we work on the design and renovation of existing or new-build eco-facilities. We cover some basic training in environmental factors necessary in eco-design and then begin working with local materials such as bamboo, clay, stone and wood and the re-using of materials and furniture. Depending on on-going projects you might be working on constructing a passive building, a tree-house or a solar shower.



Photo by Richard Tilney-Bassett

Program	7. Natural Building Projects – Earthworks and Woodwork
Maximum Group Size	40 people





## 8. \*On the Buffalo Trail \*

Pui O is one of the most diverse ecological habitats in Hong Kong with the largest remaining buffalo population in Hong Kong. It is truly a treasure to learn from – and both the buffaloes and the land are under threat.

An educational tour will be given on the land, its history, the current threats it faces and how you can get involved. We will then collect buffalo poo (aka black gold!) to be used at the Ark Eden farm. The afternoon will focus on products that we make from the buffalo poo – such as making barrels of liquid fertilizer ready for the tree maintenance needed in the winter months; and making hot compost and biochar to add to them.



Program	8. On the Buffalo Trail
Maximum Group Size	30 people



## 9. Ark Eden Biodiversity Mapping Project

Hong Kong is listed in the top 25 'Biodiversity Global Hotspots'. Furthermore, the biodiversity of Lantau Island is remarkably diverse as up until very recently it has remained largely undeveloped. An astonishing variety of flora and fauna call the streams, wetlands, grasslands and forests their home.

The construction of Chek Lap Kok Airport brought significant changes to Lantau and now the 'Sustainable Blueprint for Lantau' has created a land-grab that is already seeing green areas of Lantau disappearing before any documentation is produced to see what might live there.

The aim of Ark Eden's Biodiversity Mapping Project is to collect biodiversity documentation on the flora and fauna of the Tung Hang Mei valley in Mui Wo. Ark Eden has called upon local experts, specialising in different fields to input into creating a baseline study of the valley which then allows for a platform that local citizen science can feed into. The data from your biodiversity mapping will be shared with these experts and fed into the growing data-base. We have already discovered a species of beetle previously unknown to Science so it is possible that you may even discover a new species! Your observations may also help make a crucial difference to the future of this valley and Hong Kong's natural heritage by informing government officials and to help them make better decisions on how to protect Lantau for us to enjoy for many years to come.

This project is also about taking time to notice and be in nature and give you the opportunity to explore Lantau's habitats and meet its charismatic wildlife.

It will also give you the opportunity to recognise and record the plants and creatures and the easy to follow training will teach you the science skills to get you started on local citizen science documentation – which is an important sustainability tool to have in your toolbox



Program	9. BioBlitz
Maximum Group Size	60 people





## 10. Dolphin Watch and Beach Clean

The Chinese White Dolphins are now critically endangered, with fewer than 50 dolphins left in Hong Kong waters. It is essential that as a community we come together to protect these magnificent animals that are vital to HK's ecosystem as well as our natural heritage. Threatened by large scale development projects, reclamation, pollution and high-speed ferries off the coast of Lantau Island, our dolphins are facing a defining moment that will determine their very existence.

On this event, volunteers will join us on board the HK Dolphin Watch junk boat and travel carefully through the dolphin's habitat, observing them as we sail to the Soko Islands, where finless porpoises can also be spotted!



After a workshop on the different issues we face with pollution of the oceans, volunteers will get hands-on experience cleaning one of the beaches on the Soko Islands and get a first-hand look at the types of threats not just the dolphins, but our entire ecosystem faces.



Program	10. Dolphin Watch and Beach Clean
Maximum Group Size	50 people
<b>Additional Costs</b> (outside of per person programme costs)	
Cost of hiring "Dolphin Watch Junk Boat"	HK\$ 15,000
Cost of undertaking pre-trip preparation – Recce of Island and path cutting	HK\$ 2,500

Ark Eden, 11 Tung Hang Mei, Mui Wo, Lantau Island, Hong Kong. 2988 5355  
ArkEdenOnLantau.org





## Logistics

### Getting here

Ark Eden Foundation is located in a rural valley in the foothills behind Mui Wo, Lantau, a leisurely 30-minute walk from the ferry pier. After passing through Mui Wo village, access is by foot along a shady concrete path. Please see map for exact route.

For activities held at Ark Eden, our staff will meet guests in Mui Wo and accompany them to the venue.

Take the ferry from Central Pier 6 to Mui Wo. Fast ferries take 30 minutes and slow ferries take approximately 50 minutes. Groups would typically take the 9.10am fast ferry from Central to begin the program on Lantau at 10am. An option to take a public bus from Tung Chung is also available.

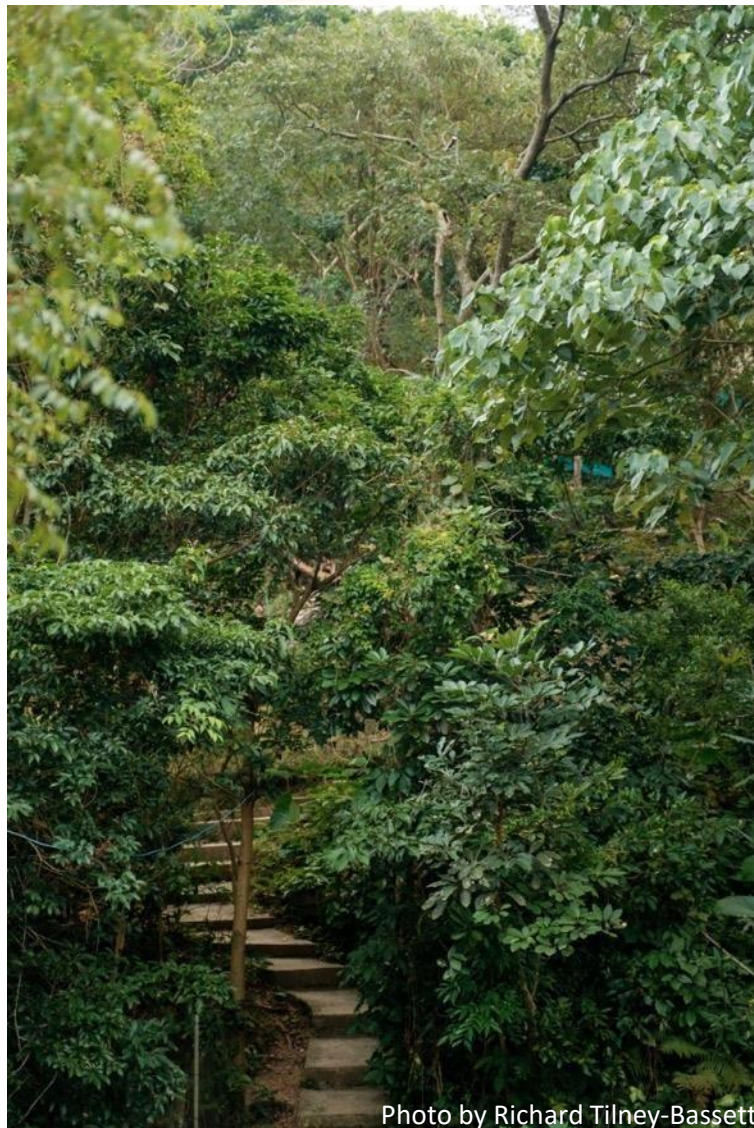
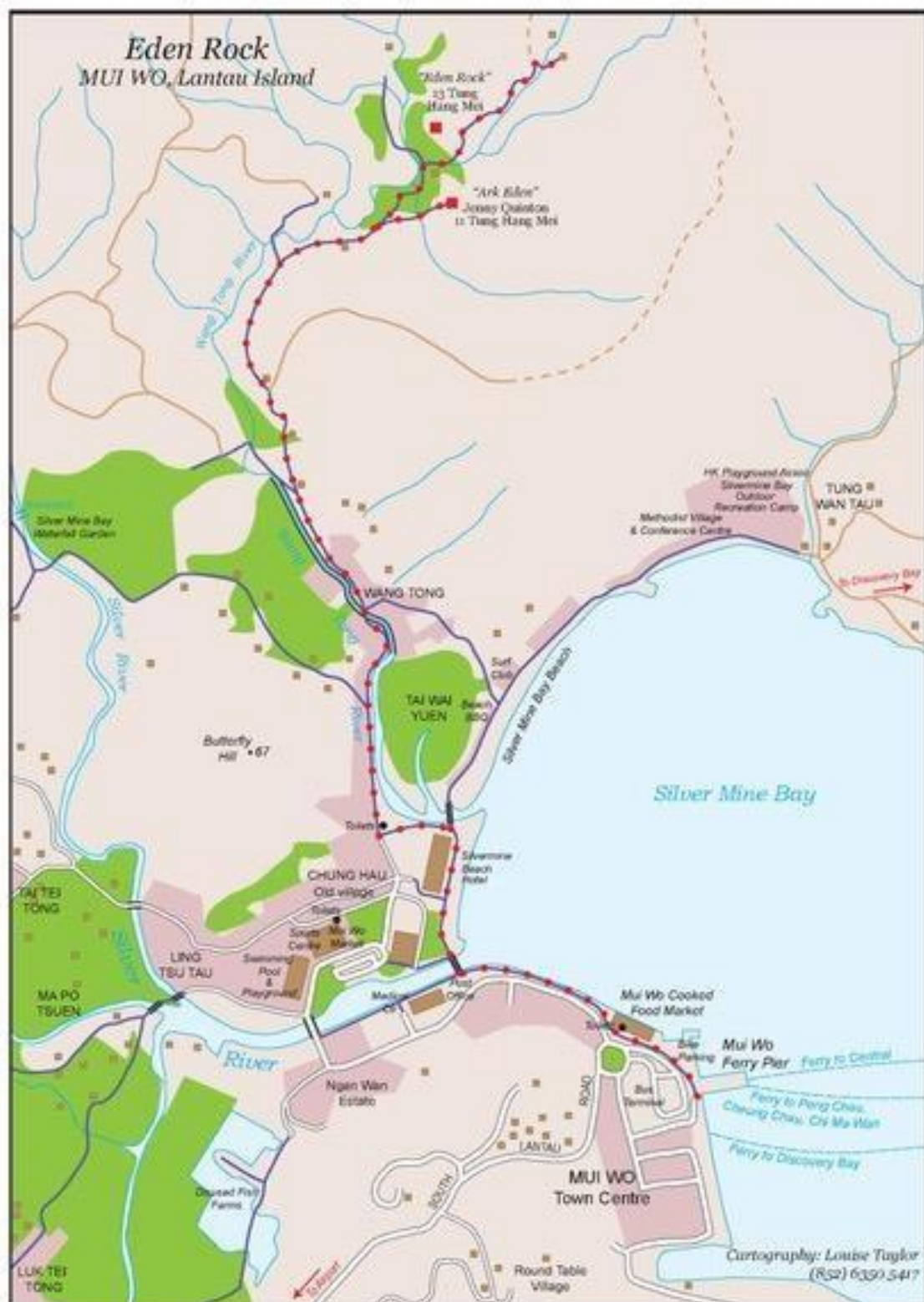


Photo by Richard Tilney-Bassett

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## Cost

No of people	Costs	Inclusive of	Exclusive of
0 – 20 people	1080 per person  980 per person without lunch  Minimum 15 people charge	Morning tea and snack Organic Vegetarian Lunch (optional) All programme costs Fresh water re-fills Insurance	Ferry / Transportation costs to and from site
21 – 40	980 per person  880 per person without lunch  Minimum 21 people charge		
41 – 60	860 per person  800 per person without lunch  Minimum 41 people charge		

\*NOTE: \*Fees vary for Dolphin Watch and Beach Clean and On the Buffalo Trail Programs as they involve extra transportation.

## Group size

Group sizes are typically 30 people, but larger groups of up to 250 people can be accommodated depending on the program. A minimum size of 15 participants is required in order to run the program.

## Contact Us

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