

2	SITE ASPECTS	2.2 SITE PLANNING AND DESIGN	1
		SA 5 ECOLOGICAL IMPACT	
	EXCLUSIONS	None.	
	OBJECTIVE	To conserve and enhance the natural environment by protecting the ecological value of the site in terms of habitat and biodiversity, and using Brownfield sites.	
	CREDITS ATTAINABLE	1 Bonus	
	PREREQUISITES	For designated project (DP) as specified under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO), Environmental Permit shall be obtained by following the statutory Environmental Impact Assessment Process, unless exempted.	1
	CREDIT REQUIREMENT	<p>One Bonus credit from SA 5 Ecological Impact can be achieved through the following:</p> <p>Having a site which scores less than 20% of the points in the Habitat Section of The Nature Conservation Policy - 2009[1] and having a site which scores less than 30% in the Biodiversity Section of The Nature Conservation Policy - 2009; or</p> <p>Demonstrating that appropriate design measures have been implemented to contribute positively to the ecological value of the site.</p>	
	ASSESSMENT	<p>To obtain a proper balance between building development needs and unacceptable damage to the natural environment, the ETWB of the HKSAR Government introduced a revised scoring scheme for assessing the ecological value of a site, called Nature Conservation Policy - 2009. This is a relatively objective and systematic method of assessing the ecological importance and value of individual site by taking into accounts the value of the particular habitats and biodiversity.</p> <p>This indicator is particular applicable for Greenfield site building development. The assessment scheme facilitates the identification of the entire site or particular portion of the site that deserve better protection and their relative priorities for action.</p> <p>There are 2 portions in the Nature Conservation Policy, which are Habitat and Biodiversity. Lower percentage obtained in the Habitat section means the building is designed on a Brownfield site, which has low habitat value. The major Sub-criteria in this indicator are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naturalness (weighting 15%) • Habitat diversity (weighting 15%) • Non-recreatability (weighting 10%) <p>A lower percentage obtained in the Biodiversity section means the building is designed on a Brownfield site, which has a low biodiversity value. The major Sub-criteria in this indicator are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Species diversity & Richness (weighting 30%) • Species rarity / Endemism (weighting 30%) 	
		Survey of the site-wide ecological value is required in order to ensure the preventive measures and the following detailed design work will take full consideration of the existing sites' ecological conditions.	2

1 Paper for the Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs - New Nature Conservation Policy 2009 revision - http://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/conservation/con_nncp/con_nncp_news/con_nncp_news.html

Relevant site survey and assessment report for Habitat and Biodiversity sections as described in the Nature Conservation Policy shall be provided to demonstrate compliance with the bonus credit requirement.

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BACKGROUND

Habitat conservation is the most effective means to minimise developmental impacts on the natural environment and endangered species (if any). The natural environment is a valuable asset belonging to the people of Hong Kong and our future generations. New developments may destroy the natural environment of the habitats. The complexity of the habitat types, the time and effort needed to recreate the ecosystem, and the degree of uncertainty in recreating the habitats within the site should be of concern. Hence, the ecological value of the site in terms of habitat is assessed in this indicator.

Hong Kong contains large areas of natural landscapes which support a diverse assemblage of plant and animal species. However, there are expanding areas of building development, connecting roads and parking areas, which endanger wildlife corridors and the survival of species. Therefore, at the site level, BEAM encourages the creation or retention of habitats for indigenous species to maintain / increase the local biodiversity. Biodiversity consideration shall be included in the design or redevelopment stages to improve / maintain the biodiversity conditions. If an area of high biodiversity is identified in the site, it is encouraged to formulate management strategies to protect the habitats and any rare or endangered species within the land under ownership. Hence, building development is encouraged at brownfield sites with a low ecological value.

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Ecological Impact SA5

This circular letter announces that one Bonus credit from SA5 Ecological Impact can be achieved through the following:

- meeting a value less than 20% of score obtained in Habitat Section of Nature Outlook Assessment (revised in 2009) and for meeting a value less than 30% of score obtained in Biodiversity Section of the Nature Outlook Assessment (revised in 2009), or 4
- demonstrating that appropriate design measures have been implemented to contribute positively to the ecological value of the site. 5

Signed: _____


Chair of Technical Review Committee
Ir. Cary Chan