

Conservation Education Comes to Hong Kong: IUCN Academy Partners with Ascent Partners Foundation

Territory Partnership Agreement signed 25 June 2026

HONG KONG, 8 July 2026 — The IUCN Academy, the professional education programme of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the Ascent Partners Foundation Limited (APF), a Hong Kong registered charity, have announced a partnership to bring professional conservation education to Hong Kong.

Under the Territory Partnership Agreement, signed on 25 June 2026, APF will serve as the dedicated Territory Partner for Hong Kong — building on the Memorandum of Understanding the two organisations signed in April 2024 — creating opportunities for conservation professionals and the wider community to access world-class training.

Through this collaboration, APF will connect Hong Kong professionals with the full IUCN Academy portfolio — from free introductory courses to Professional Certificate programmes — broadening access to conservation education across the region. All net proceeds from the partnership will be directed to conservation projects led by IUCN's local NGO members in Hong Kong, so that the benefits extend beyond the classroom to the ecosystems and communities this partnership aims to protect.

“We are honoured to partner with the IUCN Academy to bring world-class conservation education to Hong Kong,” said Simon Mak, Chairman of the Ascent Partners Foundation. “This collaboration reflects our shared belief that knowledge and action belong together. By directing all net proceeds from our work to local conservation efforts led by IUCN’s NGO members in Hong Kong, we hope to create a lasting impact that reaches far beyond the courses themselves.”

Valerie D’Hoedt Meyer, Head, KMLLS at IUCN, said: “Ascent Partners Foundation came as a natural partner in Hong Kong for the IUCN Academy. It is already active in the field of conservation and works closely with IUCN Asia. With this partnership, the Academy will be able to reach new audiences, helping pave the way for sustainable change. We look forward to seeing the impact of our collaboration and are grateful for Ascent Partners Foundation reinvesting their proceeds in local conservation action.”

Implementation planning is now underway. APF will connect professionals in Hong Kong with IUCN Academy’s Professional Certificate programmes and free introductory courses, with the first cohort expected in the second half of 2026. APF will also work with the IUCN Academy to explore options such as live sessions led by local experts and study groups tailored to Hong Kong.

Hong Kong professionals and organizations interested in the courses may contact the Foundation for enrollment details.

###

About the Ascent Partners Foundation

Established in 2017, APF is a Hong Kong registered charity (IRD Section 88, File No. 91/16023) and the philanthropic arm of Ascent Partners Group Limited. The Foundation advances sustainability through practical tools, structured knowledge, and collaborative platforms across three core areas: education, environment, and poverty alleviation. All donations are tax-deductible for Hong Kong taxpayers.

About the IUCN Academy

The IUCN Academy is an initiative of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which harnesses IUCN's global expertise to deliver professional education to those seeking to make a meaningful contribution to conservation. The Academy offers Professional Certificates — a series of online professional education courses hosted on its digital learning platform — covering Nature-based Solutions, conservation finance, urban nature, and nature-positive approaches.

Media Contact

Ascent Partners Foundation Limited

Ms Ivy Lee

Email: ivy.lee@ascent.partners

Website: <https://www.ascent.partners>

IUCN Academy

Hannah Moosa

Email: Hannah.Moosa@iucn.org