



# The Attitude of The Public Towards Human-Wild Boar Interaction (*Sus scrofa*) in Hong Kong

Summer Research Fellowship (SRF)  
2020 for Science Students  
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## Wild Boar Issues in HK

- Human-wild boar interaction has become very common recently.
- complaints about wild boar nuisance increase: >1000 complaints during 2018-2019, increased 155% compare to 2014-2015<sup>1, 2</sup>

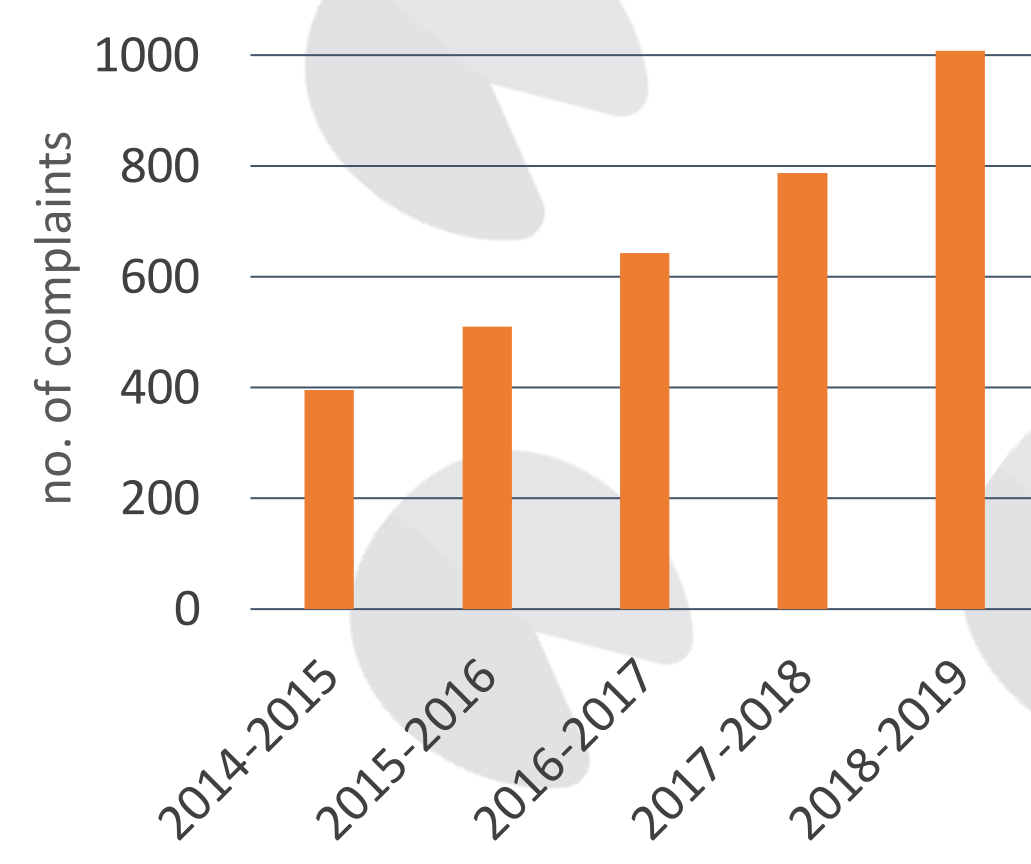
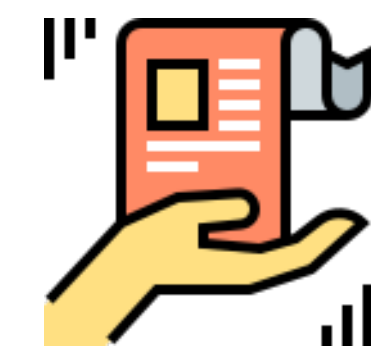


Figure1. No. of complaints on wild boars received by AFCD

## Method



Design Online Questionnaire



Snowball Sampling  
- 21 groups on Facebook and Whatsapp  
- private message



## Data Analysis

- Non-parametric tests ( $\chi^2$  tests and the Spearman's Rank Correlation)
- Generalized Linear Model
- Thematic analysis

## Objectives

We hypothesize that people's attitude towards feeding (feeding by human-provided food outside the range of boars' natural diet) and encountering is correlated with:

- perception on the effects of feeding
- demographic background, and
- understanding in current regulations

## Main results

### Attitude towards wild boar encountering

- keep the recent frequency (54.0%)
- meet wild boar less often (32.8%)
- meet wild boar more often (13.2%)

Sex: Man  
→ fewer encountering

Perception of the effect of feeding:  
People who believe feeding will increase the risk of disease transmission  
→ fewer encountering

### Attitude towards wild boar feeding

- Oppose feeding (94.1%)
- Support feeding (5.9%)



Living districts: Kwai Tsing, Wan Chai  
→ support feeding

Perception of the effect of feeding:  
People who believe feeding will increase the risk of disease transmission → oppose feeding

Group: Pet group → support feeding

## Discussion

- Men were found more intolerant and aggressive to wild boars<sup>3</sup>
- People who believe feeding increases the risk of disease transmission prefer to maintain greater distance with them, perhaps due to the outbreak of Covid-19 epidemic → increase awareness on zoonosis.
- People from pet group tend to support feeding, as they concern more about animal welfare and their constraints living in the wild. However, there is little evidence of any merit to animals' long-term welfare through this kind of feeding<sup>4</sup>
- Frequent encountering sites are correlated with feeding sites, either feeding attracts boars or human feed in places where boars are common.

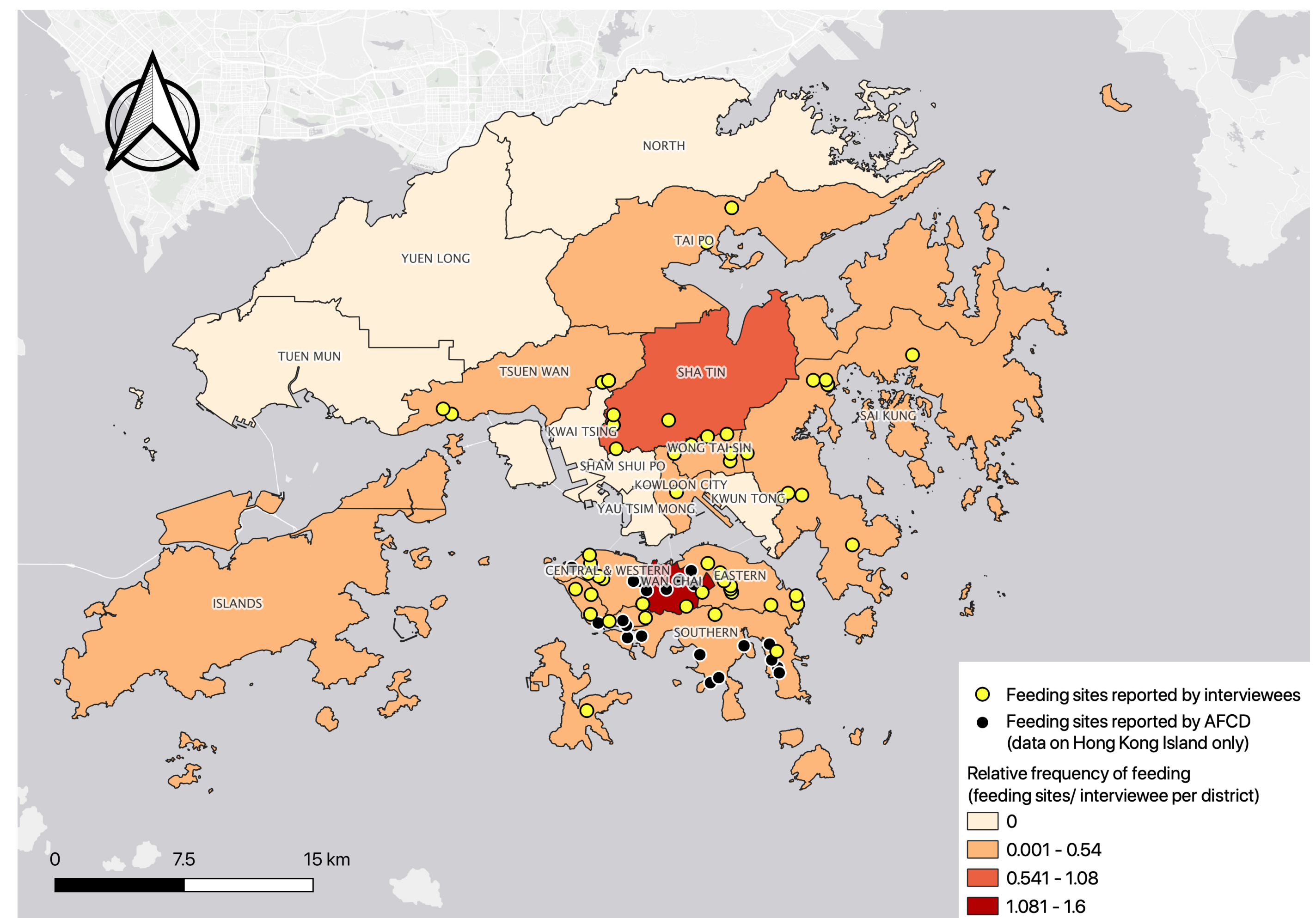
## Limitation & Further Study

- Most feeders are 40 years old or above based on interviewees' observation (63.1%), but only 25.8% of the interviewees are within this age range. Facebook may not be a good way to recruit them.
- 80.3% of the interviewees are well-educated (Bachelor degree or above), the education level is skewed and may not reflect general public's understanding on feeding.
- Difference in sex, perspective of pet owners, casual relationship of encountering sites and feeding sites, the neighborhood of different districts can be investigated in further study.

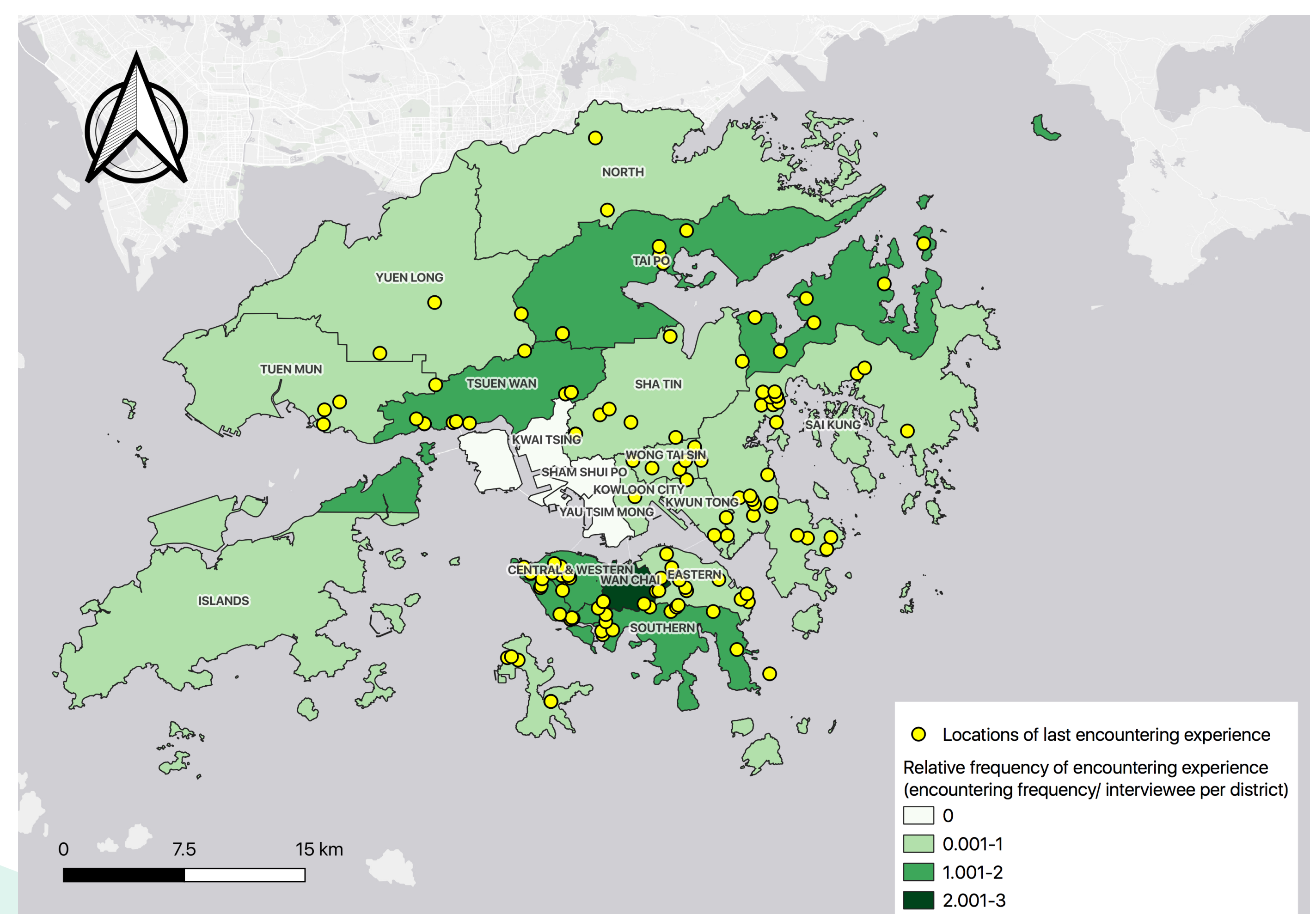


## Acknowledgement

Many thanks to Calvin Ma, Amy Leung and Kammy Wong for helping field work. Thanks those who have participated in the questionnaire.



Map(1). Feeding sites reported by interviewees and AFCD. There are 83 reported feeding sites in this study, 50 of them are within country parks. 15, 11, 7 and 7 locations are within Kam Shan, Tai Tam, Shing Mun and Aberdeen Country Park respectively. AFCD has provided 25 frequent feeding sites (on Hong Kong Island only).



Map(2). Locations where interviewees last saw a boar in the past one year. There are 192 reported locations, among 15 districts in Hong Kong (except Sham Shui Po, Yau Tsim Mong and Kwai Tsing), 72 are within country parks. Relative frequency of encountering boar is the highest in Wan Chai. Frequent encountering sites are correlated with feeding sites ( $r=0.804$ ).

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