

DPLR1\1047

Restoring native tussac grassland habitat

Our overall objective is to improve native tussac grassland in the Stanley Common and Cape Pembroke Peninsula National Nature Reserve.

Tussac grassland is a native coastal grass that once covered much of the coastline of the Falkland Islands. The introduction of livestock, and the sensitivity of tussac grass to grazing contributed to its decline over the decades. It has been estimated that over 80% of the original tussac grass has been lost since the Falklands were first settled, with East and West Falkland suffering the worst declines. Mainland tussac had declined to such extent, that the Falkland Islands Government classified it as a threatened habitat.

Tussac grassland provides nesting habitat for native kelp geese and steamer duck, and resting areas for seals and sea lions. In the Stanley Common and Cape Pembroke Peninsula National Nature Reserve, near to the capital Stanley, tussac is a favourite breeding habitat for Magellanic penguins that burrow into the peaty soil below the grasses. These areas have since been fenced off from livestock and the Environment Department has ambitions to improve it. This project will improve areas of existing native tussac habitats and improve the breeding habitat for Magellanic penguins at their colonies on Cape Pembroke. (See attachments, Map Hadassa Bay to Gypsy Cove and Map Rookery Bay to Hooker's Point).

The existing tussac grassland on Cape Pembroke hugs the coastline in isolated fragments. Those fragments could benefit from being joined up to create a more contiguous habitat. The Cape is an Important Plant Area and this project will extend and connect existing areas of native tussac habitat, reversing habitat fragmentation on Cape Pembroke.

The limiting factor for tussac habitat restoration is the availability of mature plants that can provide 'tillers' for planting. Tillers are tussac stems with developed roots that can be easily separated from a mature plant and planted somewhere else. The more mature plants available in Cape Pembroke means the more habitat restoration can be done. This project will increase the area of tussac on Cape Pembroke from which tillers can be harvested, which can be used for future work.

A team of professional tussac planters will be employed to carry out the restoration work. Volunteers will be recruited locally to complement their efforts. Community involvement is important for sharing the importance of native habitats and teaching methods of restoration. This project will build capacity and capability of tussac habitat restoration in the Falkland Islands' community by providing opportunities to volunteer, participate and learn.

Success means:

Approximately six hectares of tussac grassland habitat will be improved by planting tussac tillers, which will increase the area of tussac on Cape Pembroke from which tillers can be harvested. This will be measured by before and after drone imagery.

Fragmented patches of tussac habitat will be joined up to create a more contiguous tussac habitat on Cape Pembroke. This will be verified by before and after drone imagery.

At least two community volunteer planting days will be held with at least 20 volunteers participating. This will be measured by field work records.

CONTACT DETAILS

Title	Mr
Name	Mike
Surname	Jervois
Organisation	falkland islands government
Tel (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

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Restoring native tussac grassland habitat

Section 1 - Project Title & Contact Details

Q1. Project Title

Restoring native tussac grassland habitat

Q2. Please select whether you are applying as an organisation or as an individual (Guidance section 3 and Guidance Glossary)

Organisation

CONTACT DETAILS

Title	Mr
Name	Mike
Surname	Jervois
Organisation	falkland islands government
Tel (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	Falkland Islands Government
Phone (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Website (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

Section 2 - Overseas Territory(ies)

Q3. Overseas Territory (Guidance section 1.3):

Which UK Overseas Territory(ies) will your project be working in? Please note that in case of a non-permanent resident population you need to demonstrate a clear, meaningful, long-term link to the territory.

Falkland Islands (FI)

* if you have indicated a territory group with an asterisk, please give detail on which territories you are working on here:

No Response

In addition to the UKOT(s) you have indicated, will your project directly benefit any other UK OT(s) or country(ies)?

No

Section 3 - Project Partners

Q4. Project partners (Guidance section 3.2)

In this section, please give details of all the partners involved (including the Lead Partner) and provide a summary of their roles.

**Project Leader name
(Guidance section 3.1):**

Mike Jervois

**Lead Partner name (if
applying as an
organisation; Guidance
section 3.1):**

Falkland Islands Government

**Lead Partner Website (if
applicable):**

<https://www.falklands.gov.fk/policy/environment>

**Is the Lead Partner based
in a UKOT where the
project is working
(Guidance section 3.1)?**

Yes

**List other partners
involved and where are
they based (Guidance
section 3.2):**

No other partners

Summary of roles and responsibilities of each partner in the project:

The Environment Department of the Falkland Islands Government has responsibility for conservation, protection and management of the environment. Its work is led by the national Environment Strategy with work across operational programmes and policy development. Its wide ranging remit incorporates themes of biodiversity, climate change, pollution control, and licensing for research and other activities. It currently boasts 6 full time staff and several external contractors and is based in Stanley.

The Environment Department will lead all aspects of the project including financial and performance reporting.

I confirm that all listed partners are aware of this application and have indicated support:

Checked

Attach a Cover Letter for your application (Guidance section 4.2).

 [Cover letter - tussac habitat restoration](#)

 14/02/2023

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Section 4 - Project Summary & Description

Q5. Project Summary (Guidance section 3.8)

Please provide a brief summary of your project. This may be used in communication activities and/or published online, if your application is successful.

We will improve native tussac grassland in the Stanley Common and Cape Pembroke Peninsula National Nature Reserve in the Falkland Islands. By reversing fragmentation of tussac grassland, we will improve breeding habitat for Magellanic penguins, and will build capacity and capability of tussac habitat restoration in the Falkland Islands' community by providing opportunities to volunteer, participate and learn.

Q6. Description (Guidance section 2.1)

Please provide a description of your project, including:

- the overall objective
- the current situation and the problem the project is trying to address
- what success will look like and how you will measure it

Please be as specific as possible when describing the project, using quantified data and evidence where available. You may wish to consider: what are the specific threats to the environment that the

project will attempt to address, and what should we know about these threats? What does your successful project look like? And how will you demonstrate whether and how your project has been successful?

Our overall objective is to improve native tussac grassland in the Stanley Common and Cape Pembroke Peninsula National Nature Reserve.

Tussac grassland is a native coastal grass that once covered much of the coastline of the Falkland Islands. The introduction of livestock, and the sensitivity of tussac grass to grazing contributed to its decline over the decades. It has been estimated that over 80% of the original tussac grass has been lost since the Falklands were first settled, with East and West Falkland suffering the worst declines. Mainland tussac had declined to such extent, that the Falkland Islands Government classified it as a threatened habitat. Tussac grassland provides nesting habitat for native kelp geese and steamer duck, and resting areas for seals and sea lions. In the Stanley Common and Cape Pembroke Peninsula National Nature Reserve, near to the capital Stanley, tussac is a favourite breeding habitat for Magellanic penguins that burrow into the peaty soil below the grasses. These areas have since been fenced off from livestock and the Environment Department has ambitions to improve it. This project will improve areas of existing native tussac habitats and improve the breeding habitat for Magellanic penguins at their colonies on Cape Pembroke. (See attachments, Map Hadassa Bay to Gypsy Cove and Map Rookery Bay to Hooker's Point).

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Fragmented patches of tussac habitat will be joined up to create a more contiguous tussac habitat on Cape Pembroke. This will be verified by before and after drone imagery.

At least two community volunteer planting days will be held with at least 20 volunteers participating. This will be measured by field work records.

(Optional) Please upload any additional and supporting materials or files (such as maps of project sites, etc) below. Maximum of 5 pages:

 [Map Hadassa Bay to Gypsy Cove](#)
 13/02/2023
 19:36:18
 png 5.97 MB

 [Map Rookery Bay to Hooker's Point](#)
 13/02/2023
 19:36:15
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Section 5 - Project Outcome(s)

Q7. Project Outcome(s) (Guidance section 1.2)

Successful Darwin Plus Local projects must demonstrate measurable outcomes in at least one of the themes of Darwin Plus, either by the end of the project or soon after through a credible plan.

Please tick which theme(s) of Darwin Plus your project underpins:

Checked **Biodiversity: improving and conserving biodiversity, and slowing or reversing biodiversity loss and degradation;**

Unchecked **Climate change: responding to, mitigating and adapting to climate change and its effects on the natural environment and local communities;**

Unchecked **Environmental quality: improving the condition and protection of the natural environment**

Checked **Capability and capacity building: enhancing the capacity within OTs, including through community engagement and awareness, to support the environment in the short- and long-term.**

Please justify your selection.

This project will improve six hectares of native tussac grassland habitat. Habitat fragmentation will be reversed, separate tussac patches will be joined up to create contiguous grassland habitat. Magellanic penguins rely on tussac habitat for breeding sites and it may help reverse their trend of population decline. Engaging the local community in organised volunteer planting days will increase awareness of the importance of biodiversity, and will build capability and capacity for tussac planting for habitat restoration. Soil in the area is rich peat and erodes easily in strong winds, so planting tussac will help to reverse erosion.

Section 6 - Project Timeline

Q8. Project timeline (Guidance section 2.2)

Please provide anticipated dates for the start and end of your planned project here. Please use the Darwin Plus Local Project Implementation Timetable Template (which can be downloaded below) to provide a list of the individual activities you have planned for this project, a brief description of what each activity entails, and the months in which the activities will be carried out. If the project involves

only one activity (e.g. a purchase), please still provide project start and end dates (noting estimated times for procurement). Please note that your project will need to be completed by 31 March 2024.

Start date:	End date:	Duration (e.g. 3 months):
01 April 2023	30 November 2023	8

Please upload the completed Darwin Plus Local Project Implementation Timetable template with your proposed project activities below.

-  [Implementation Timetable Tussac Planting](#)
-  14/02/2023
-  11:58:24
-  docx 36.53 KB

Section 7 - Costs

Q9. Costs (Guidance section 2.2 and please read the Finance Guidance)

Please provide a breakdown of costs to be funded through Darwin Plus Local (in GBP).

Are you seeking any matched funding for this project? (Please note that this is optional and there is no requirement to seek matched funding for Darwin Plus Local projects).

Yes

How much matched funding are you seeking and where from?

██████ secured in-kind support by Environment Department for travel and subsistence related to the project, includes fuel and vehicle to access restoration sites.

██████, secured in-kind time by Environment Department staff to manage the project, recruit staff and volunteers, manage the field supervisor, lead the volunteer planting days, conduct before and after drone surveys, and complete any reporting.

Budget line	Explanation	Cost in GBP
Staff costs:	Costs to pay a field team to plant tussac grass.	██████
Overhead costs:	Overhead costs to manage the project will be given in-kind by the Environment Department.	£0.00
Travel & subsistence costs:	Travel and subsistence costs related to the project will be given in-kind by the Environment Department.	£0.00
Operating costs:	Costs related to PPE, first aid kits, workers liability insurance, recruitment of staff and volunteers, and catering for volunteer planting days.	██████

Capital equipment:	Costs related to purchasing shovels for tussac planting work.	██████████
Consultancy costs:	Not applicable	£0.00
Total:		██████████

This section provides more information on the budget to help evaluators understand how you will use the funds you are requesting. You do not need to list all costs, but please list and detail costs of more than £1,000 per item below, under the appropriate budget line.

Details of staff costs over £1,000 (if relevant)

90 person-days are required to restore tussac grass in the approximately 6 hectares required. This will consist of a field team of 6 people working for 15 days.

██████████, site supervisor, time for 15 days to plant tussac grass and supervise the field team.

██████████, field worker (x5), time for 15 days to plant tussac grass. (total cost for 5 field workers is ██████████)

Details of overhead costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

NA

Details of travel and subsistence costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

NA

Details of operating costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

██████████ contribution to PPE per person in the field team for wet-weather gear (6 people = ██████████)

██████████ total for good-quality work gloves for field team and volunteers (██████████ per pair = 50 pairs of gloves)

██████████ per first aid kit and resupply of items (2 kits = ██████████)

██████████ per person worker liability insurance (6 people = ██████████)

██████████ advertising costs in local media for field team and volunteers

██████████ catering for volunteer planting days (2 days = ██████████)

Details of capital equipment costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

██████████ per good-quality shovel for planting tussac grass, 20 shovels needed (£80 x 20 shovels = ██████████)

Details of consultancy costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

NA

Details of other costs over £1,000 (if relevant)

No Response

If your project budget was prepared in another currency and converted to GBP, please provide the exchange rate, its source, and the date it was accessed:

Other currency:	Exchange rate:	Source of this exchange rate:	Date exchange rate accessed:
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No Response

No Response

No Response

No Response

Darwin Plus Local has been created to build capacity and contribute to local economies in-territory.

What % of the total will be spent in the OTs? 

If less than 80% of the total project spend is to be spent within the OT(s), please explain why.

No Response

Section 8 - Local and National Priorities

Q10. Local and national priorities

Please explain how this project aligns with local and national priorities? You may wish to consider the project in the context of national environmental laws, objectives, strategies, territory specific agreements, action plans or policies.

This project aligns with national priorities in the Falkland Islands. An aim of the national Environment Strategy 2021 - 2040 is to "mitigate for habitat degradation and promote restoration of native ecosystems". This aim is also a priority of the current Legislative Assembly and was highlighted in their national Islands Plan 2022 – 2026.

The restoration sites are located in the Stanley Common and Cape Pembroke Peninsula National Nature Reserve. The Conservation of Wildlife and Nature Ordinance 1999 lists the reserve as a protected area, and therefore the tussac grassland habitat and its associated wildlife, such as Magellanic penguins, are also protected by law.

The Stanley Common Management Plan 2019-2024, which was approved by Exco, aims to restore degraded habitats and protect species that rely on them.

The Falkland Islands Biodiversity Strategy lists mainland tussac grassland (such as the tussac patches on Cape Pembroke) as a nationally threatened habitat.

Will the project take place on Government owned land or water?

Yes

Please attach evidence that you have Government support i.e. Letter of Support.

 [20230214 LoS - Environment Department Cape Pembroke tussac restoration](#)

 14/02/2023

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Section 9 - Project Risks

Q11. Project Risks

Please demonstrate your consideration of any risks involved in this project and how you intend to manage them. Depending on your project, you may wish to consider:

- Biosecurity risks – particularly for projects involving external equipment.
- Safeguarding risks – particularly for projects involving vulnerable groups such as children, older people or people with disabilities.

Risk	Mitigation
Risk of not being able to recruit people to plant tussac as part of the field team.	Tussac planting is an established role for some people each winter so there are people available locally with the right skills. We will 'piggyback' on these established teams and recruit them for our project. Initial conversations with individuals have been promising, and we are confident that we'll recruit enough people. Winter is the slower month for farming so there are typically more people available for planting work.
Delays in planting due to poor winter weather	Extreme weather can occur at any time in the Falklands. Tussac planters are hardy people and are used to working in adverse weather. Flexibility will be built into their contracts to ensure delays do not affect the project. (Planting can only happen in winter because the peaty soil is damp enough to dig and the Magellanic penguins have migrated north so they will not be disturbed)
Biosecurity risk of introducing disease into tussac habitat	Tussac tillers will be collected as close as possible to the intended planting site to reduce the risk of spreading diseases amongst plants. All equipment, shovels etc., and boots, will be cleaned daily with water and sprayed with disinfectant to reduce spread of diseases. We will follow the protocols for field work as recommended by the Falkland Islands Government Biosecurity team.

Do you require more fields?

Yes

Risk	Mitigation
Safeguarding risk of involving young and vulnerable people in volunteer planting days.	We will abide by the Falkland Islands Government safeguarding policy for working with young and vulnerable people. Volunteers will sign forms that say they will abide by the policy.

Risk of not being able to recruit volunteers for the volunteer planting days.	We will advertise for volunteers well in advance through local media and online. We have access to a large network of people in the Falklands. Winter is the quieter time for farming and tourism so people are generally more available. We will host an on-site BBQ lunch for volunteer as a reward for their efforts.
No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response

Section 10 - Terms & Conditions

Q12. Terms and conditions (Guidance section 3.10)

By applying for Darwin Plus Local you are adhering in full to the grant Terms and Conditions in full (available at: <https://dplus.darwininitiative.org.uk/apply> and as referenced in the Guidance at section 3.10). For information, the Terms and Conditions include requirements for all applicants to (amongst other requirements as per the full Terms and Conditions):

- Uphold a zero tolerance for inaction approach to tackling sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment.
- Where appropriate, make all reasonable and adequate efforts to address gender inequality and other power imbalances.
- Notify all cases of fraud and theft (whether proven or suspected) relating to the project to the Grant Administrator as soon as they identified.

Please indicate you have read, and understood, and will adhere to the Terms and Conditions.

Checked

If your application is successful: If your project application is successful, the Fund Administrator (NIRAS) will ask you to provide some financial evidence for due diligence checks before you receive your project grant. (Please see section 3.3 of the Darwin Plus Local Finance Guidance). Please be ready to provide this evidence promptly.

Financial evidence for organisations: Year-end financial statements, the latest management accounts or audited accounts (if you have these).

Financial evidence for individuals: Proof of identity such as a passport, ID card or driving licence and solvency (such as bank statements) and a police check.

Section 11 - Certification

Certification

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the statements made in this application are true and the information provided is correct.

Checked

I have the authority to submit an application on behalf of my organisation.

Checked

Name:	Mike Jervois
Position in the organisation: (if applicable)	Biodiversity Protection Advisor
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 Mike Signature  14/02/2023  14:47:01  jpg 4.6 KB
Date:	14 February 2023

Section 12 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance documents, including the “Darwin Plus Local Guidance” and the “Darwin Plus Local Finance Guidance”.	Checked
If my proposed project takes place on public lands or water, I have uploaded a Letter of Support from Government.	Checked
I have uploaded a cover letter that details the information requested in the guidance (Guidance section 4.2 has information on what this cover letter should include).	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.	Checked
I have provided actual start and end dates for the project.	Checked
I have provided my summary budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP in the application form.	Checked
I have uploaded my project implementation timetable using the specific template provided.	Checked

(If copying and pasting into Flexi-Grant) I have checked that all my responses have been successfully copied into the online application form.	Checked
The application has been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	Checked
I have checked the Darwin Plus website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.	Checked
I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on the Darwin Plus website.	Checked

We would like to keep in touch!

Please check this box if you would be happy for the lead applicant (Flexi-Grant Account Holder) and project leader (if different) to be added to our mailing list. Through our mailing list we share updates on upcoming and current application rounds under Darwin Plus. We also provide occasional updates on other UK Government activities related to biodiversity conservation and share project news. You are free to unsubscribe at any time.

Checked

Data protection and use of personal data

Information supplied in the application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the **Privacy Notice**, available from the [Forms and Guidance Portal](#).

This **Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals** whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information may be used when publicising Darwin Plus including project details (usually title, lead partner, project leader, location, and total grant value).

Project Title: Restoring native tussac grassland habitat

Darwin Plus Local

Provide a **Project Implementation Timetable** that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the following table as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project. Projects are based on UK Financial Years (**1 April – 31 March** - therefore starts April 2023).

Please add/remove columns to reflect the length of your project. For each activity (add/remove rows as appropriate) indicate the number of months it will last, and shade only the months in which an activity will be carried out. The workplan can span multiple pages if necessary.

Activity #	Description (max 25 words)	No. of months	UK Financial Year 2023/24											
			Calendar Year 2023									Calendar Year 2024		
			Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
1	Recruit field team of 6 people to plant tussac	2												
2	Conduct drone survey of tussac cover before planting commences, as baseline to measure planting success.	1												
3	Tussac planting by field team (timing is dependent on weather and availability of field team)	4												
4	Hold at least two community volunteer tussac planting days (timing is dependent on weather, progress of field team and availability of volunteers)	4												
5	Conduct drone survey of tussac cover after planting finishes, to measure planting success.	1												
6	Document project in a report	2												