

Darwin Plus: Overseas Territories Environment and Climate Fund Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the "Project Reporting Information Note"
(<https://darwinplus.org.uk/resources/information-notes>)

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 20 pages** in length, excluding annexes)

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2023

Submit to: BCF-Reports@niras.com including your project ref in the subject line

Darwin Plus Project Information

Project reference	DPLUS110
Project title	Recognise, protect, restore: driving sound stewardship of Falklands peat wetlands
Territory(ies)	Falkland Islands
Lead Partner	Falkland Conservation
Project partner(s)	Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH), Falkland Islands Government (FIG), Ministry of Defence (MoD) - British Forces South Atlantic Islands (BFSAI)
Darwin Plus grant value	£265,889.00
Start/end dates of project	1 April 2019 - 31 March 2023 extended to October 2023 after change request approval
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2022-Mar 2023) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2)	Apr 2021-Mar 2022 Annual Report 1
Project Leader name	Andrew Stanworth
Project website/blog/social media	falklandsconservation.com
Report author(s) and date	David Higgins, April 2022

1. Project summary

Covering over a quarter of the Falklands' land-area, peat-wetland is highly significant for carbon storage, ecosystem function, and the important habitats, fauna and flora it supports. Habitat and soil loss, are ongoing threats to our peat-wetland ecosystems, exacerbated by a lack of knowledge which prevents site-based protection and management for conservation. Descriptions of nationally 'Vulnerable' peat-wetland ecosystems, development of assessment tools for land-managers, and multimedia outputs will inspire and drive protection and management of valuable sites for lasting conservation benefit.

The projects aims to gather baseline knowledge of the condition of the best of the Falklands threatened peat-wetland habitats and develop ecosystem knowledge of the species associations within and between the habitat types. Through this greater understanding of the relationships between the habitat types and peat condition including moisture, carbon, bulk density and pH can be deciphered. Once this knowledge has been gained the aim of the project is to inform improved management from government and private landowners to encourage land set-aside for nature and restoration effort.

On the way to this outcome the project will work with landowners, Falkland Islands Government and young people to pass on the knowledge gained and develop greater appreciation of the

habitats, their importance and the services they provide. Through this collaborative work action plans and management plans will be developed to facilitate positive impacts at appropriate selected sites.

2. Project stakeholders/partners

Falkland Island Government (FIG) continue to be engaged with the project and have allowed access to all sites under their ownership. A change of FIG staff hasn't hindered the smooth relationship. Mike Jervois sat on the steering group while Denise Blake was on maternity leave. Denise is back at work and has resumed her position. Mike continues to offer assistance especially with the development of the field key and Habitat Action Plans. The Department of Agriculture (DoA) continue to give access to the labs to process soil samples as and when required.

There have been two steering group meetings in the last year (**annex 4**) with good attendance from all project partners. The feedback, advice and general positivity from the members has been productive and formative for the project.

An informal group for people interested in peatland related matters (Peaty Pals) has been set up between Falklands Conservation (FC) and South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute (SAERI). This has met on five occasions with presentations covering peatland restoration, wetlands, history of Falkland Island peatlands, state of global peatlands, botanical surveys of Hill Cove Mountains (which will soon be designated as the Falkland Islands first national park) and a presentation covering this project. The group has been attended by FIG partners, SAERI, Falkland's farmers and land managers and interested members of the Falklands community.

This year the project has worked with 11 volunteers and 3 FC staff who have helped with surveys and developing the media outputs as well as when working with youth groups. The survey teams have been an even mix between male and female helpers. This year the project has worked with the following landowners:

- Hugue and Marie-Paul - Dunbar
- Ben Bernsten – Cape Dolphin and Elephant Beach Farm re: soil samples, time lapse footage and main project surveys
- Sarah Croft and Micky Reeves – Sea Lion Island re: full project surveys on bluegrass, tussac grass and regenerating tussac grass habitats
- Jo Turner – Weddell Island re: invertebrate sampling using pit fall traps
- New Island wardens – re landing on North Island, Saddle Island and New Island
- Suzi and Gilberto – Fitzroy re full project surveys on Fitzroy Ridge
- Mount Pleasant Complex– c/o Kevin Lane re: soil samples and main project surveys
- Falkland Islands Govt.x 8 – access to Kidney Island and FIG land re: soil samples, time lapse footage and main project surveys
- Falklands Conservation land holdings – 10 FC owned sites visited re: soil samples, time lapse footage, videography, tussac grass restoration and main project surveys
- Antarctic Research Trust (ART) - Hummock Island re: soil samples, nutrient analysis of tussac grass in field trials and main project surveys
- Jeremy Poncet x 1 – New House Farm re: soil sampling and site visit at his new holding
- Sally Poncet and Ken Passfield - re: Hummock Island, Green Island and survey advice
- Stephen and Sue Luxton – Patricia Luxton National Nature Reserve Island re: soil samples and main project surveys
- Miles and Critter Lee – Port Howard and Purvis re: main project surveys

The following landowners have been involved in training on collecting soil samples, sampling methods, project survey methods and invertebrate sampling:

- Mike Evans (Springpoint and South Harbour)
- Ben Bernsten (Cape Dolphin and Elephant Beach Farm)
- Jeremy Poncet (New House)

- Suzi and Gilberto (Fitzroy)
- Hugue and Marie-Paul (Dunbar)
- Sally and Ken Passfield (Hummock Island)
- Jo Turner (Weddell Island)
- Emily Gilbert (Little Creek Farm)
- Four FIG staff (Cape Pembroke and several islands)
- Five Falkland's Conservation staff acting as landowners
- Fiona Felton (Cape Dolphin)
- Helen and Leon Marsh (Long Mountain)
- Giselle Hazell (Dyke Island)
- Tito Aguila (Goose Green Farm)
- Kevin Lane (MPC)

Work has continued with Falklands Island TV (FITV) and Stanley Media. FITV have continued to follow the project for the final year of surveys with a videographer joining the surveys on the extended boat trip. Gary Lawson, a UK based videographer visited with his son (Ollie Lawson) to help capture further footage for the project. Ollie Lawson remained on island for 7.5 months as a long-term volunteer on the project. We had three further overseas volunteers work with us for shorter period along with seven new island based volunteers.

Professor Chris Evans, Dr. Ed Rowe and Angus Garbutt, UKCEH project partners, visited the Falkland Islands in November 2022 and January 2023 for a total time of 6 weeks. Their time on the project was invaluable and while it would have been preferable had the visits occurred earlier in the project the advice and help they gave boosted the project work and allowed us to tweak the surveys and increase our footprint.

We added value with Katy Ross, a peatland PhD student based at SAERI, taking soil cores on South Twin, North IIsand and Bird Island and Augustin Clessin joining the field trips on North Island and Saddle Island as part of his research on disease vectors and biosecurity. Springcreek, Conservation visited the Falklands to explore the potential for funding peatland restoration. The Project Manager has been in discussions with Darwin200 to lead a group of young conservationists exploring tussac grass and peatlands when they visit the islands as part of following Darwins voyage.

Falkland Island Government (FIG) continue to be engaged with the project and have allowed access to all sites under their ownership. A change of FIG staff hasn't hindered the smooth relationship. Mike Jervois now sits on the steering group while Denise Blake is on maternity leave. Mike has offered assistance developing new invertebrate sampling methods for the next season of surveys bringing in his expertise developed in Australia and St Helena Island. He is also keen to work on developing action plans and management plans on behalf of FIG. The Department of Agriculture (DoA) continue to give access to the labs to process soil samples as and when required.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Output 1:

1.2 Delayed UKCEH visits

Both Dr. Ed Rowe and Angus Garbutt visited during November 2022 and January 2023 respectively with Professor Chris Evans also visiting during January. While the visits were delayed they proved invaluable and allowed the protocols to be improved along with assistance with the surveys. This year we improved marking of each site for the potential of long-term monitoring and added sites of bare peat, restoration sites and diddle-dee heaths into the surveys. This gave a broader spectrum and represented the Falkland Islands condition better. Moreover, it will allow an assessment of restoration and assist with the Habitat Action Plans.

Both Ed and Angus gave public presentations while on island (**Annex 5**). Out of this Angus had meetings with government and MLAs, along with Chris, talking all things peat and long-term monitoring potential. Ed wrote an article for The Wool Press, the island's Farmers bulletin (**Annex 5**). Presentation and articles by the PM and other people have also been included in **annex 5**.

1.4 Field work carried out in austral summers

In total we carried out 65 surveys over 7 extended field trips, including one 8-day boat based trip, during the 2022/23 season at:

- Port Howard (2 surveys)
- Hummock Island (5 surveys)
- Coast Ridge (5 surveys)
- Fitzroy Farm (2 surveys)
- Little Creek Farm (3 surveys)
- Cape Dolphin (3 surveys)
- Government Islet (2 surveys)
- Split Island (7 surveys)
- South Twin Island (1 survey)
- Flat Jason Island (3 surveys)
- North Island (2 surveys)
- Bird Island (2 surveys)
- Purvis (2 surveys)
- Patricia Luxton NNR (3 surveys)
- Turkey Island (1 survey)
- Albermarle (3 surveys)
- Cape Pembroke (5 surveys)
- Sea Lion Island (14 surveys)
- Goose Green (to collect soil samples after a prolonged and extensive fire)

We also carried out repeat surveys at MPC, Patricia Luxton NNR and Purvis as part of the internal monitoring process. This year we added in diddle-dee heath and bare peat as well as sites in the process of restoration offering a better understanding of the trajectory towards, and potential for, restoration. Cape Pembroke for example holds over 20Ha of bare peat which, despite ongoing erosion, was found to be up to 350cm deep with over 70% soil moisture.



Survey sites throughout the Falkland Islands have been visited as part of the project with 65 full surveys carried out during the 2022/23 survey season.

In addition, we visited Goose Green after a large uncontrolled fire to take soil samples. These will be processed through the drying ovens and furnace for moisture, bulk density and carbon as well as pH. It may be of interest to see if there are significant differences in soil characteristics post-burning. It was interesting to note plenty of green shoots but also numerous sinks and hollows that appear well-primed for erosion processes to take hold.

1.5 Survey data analysed:

The data has been collected, soils processed and all stored on a clean excel spreadsheet. Scores were given to each plant and bird species based on native/non-native status, conservation value, rarity and invasivity so a mean conservation values could be assigned to each X-plot. The data is now with colleagues at UKCEH for analysis with results coming through. Data analysis to date shows:

- Number of species and mean conservation score are not necessarily correlated
- Mean conservation score higher on deeper soils at lower pH

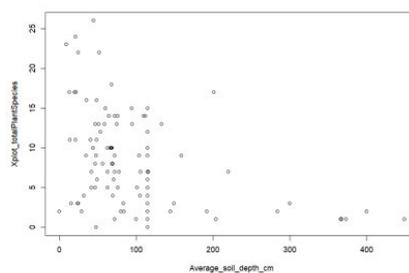
We also collected tussock grass for nutrient analysis from trial plots with different treatments (nutrients, lime, planting methods etc) on Hummock Island. These are also with UK CEH for processing.

The data and analysis to date can be seen in **annex 6**.

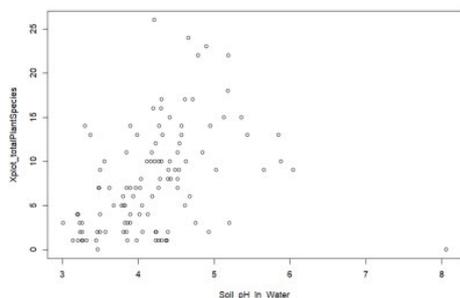
- Potential metrics**
- Bird species-richness
 - Plant species-richness
 - Proportion native plant species
 - Mean "biodiversity index" score for plant species
 - Scores -10 to 10 assigned based on nativeness, conservation status & invasion risk

Wetlandname	Species	Native Status	Conservation Status	Risk Factor	Conservation Status_Risk	Score
Calabate	Berberis microphylla G. Font.	I	I	High	I_H	-10
Broun	Cytisus scoparius	I	I	Moderate	I_M	-5
Foglove	Digitalis purpurea	I	INI	Moderate	INI_M	-2
Chickweed	Stellaria media	I	INI	low	INI_L	-1
Blugrass	Poa alpescens	N	LC	low	LC	3
Slippery buttercup	Hemadlysa argentea	N	NT	low	NT	-2
Antarctic prickly burl	Acaena antarctica	N	V	low	V	4
Orchids	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	6
Falklands ruscusoid	Naxosia falklandica	E	CE	low	CE	10

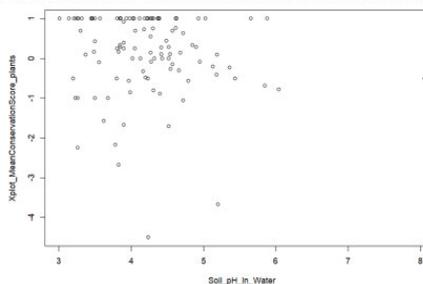
Negative correlation between soil depth and number of plant species



Positive correlation between soil pH and number of plant species



...but negative correlation between soil pH and mean conservation score for plant species



Initial data analysis displays negative and positive relationships between the variables

1.6 Technical report and data with quantitative ecological descriptions

Between July and September the Project Manager was in the UK and worked directly with UKCEH on data analysis, technical reporting and preparation. A Teams meeting with Colin Clubbe was organised and Colin has provided a review of the work with UKCEH which has been extremely helpful.

A template has been devised for the technical reporting, which is being populated on an ongoing process, and there is strong potential for journal articles coming out of the project.

Output 2

2.1 Protocols for stakeholders including land managers

Landowners have assisted with the main project surveys and several have taken on elements of the surveys on their holdings including soil and invertebrate sampling. The survey methods are well understood by FIG environment staff and there is potential for developing the plots into a long-term monitoring programme.

A recent development in the Falkland Islands has been the Dept of Agriculture (DoA) signing to the Responsible Wool Standards (RWS) at a national level. The project is taking advantage of this opportunity to develop further training as part of the conservation monitoring which is required as part of the RWS certification. The standards have a significant element of conservation and sensitive land management to ensure the natural world is considered, and conservation improvements are made.

To make the project protocols useful for the RWS a key is being developed to offer a field tool for farmers and landowners to quickly assess the conservation value of a plot of land. This would offer a reporting tool against the scheme criteria. The key will score plants based on a number of conservation values e.g. native/non-native, red list data, scarcity, invasivity etc. The training coming out of this is going to be rolled out at Farmers Week after field testing with colleagues and landowners. We are working with Rob Still of Princeton Wildguides on the key and which will fit on a double-sided A4.

Plant species	Score	Bird Species	Score	Vegetation cover	Score
Any orchid species	6	Striated caracara	10	80 - 100% bare soil	-100
Bluegrass & Fuegian Couch	5	Tussac bird	10	50 – 79% bare soil	-25
Fachine	5	Cobbs wren	10	25 – 49% bare soil	-10
Boxwood	5	Peregrine falcon	5	5 – 24% bare soil	-5
Tussac grass	5	Crested caracara	5	< 5% Bare soil	5
Native wood rush	1	Variable hawk	5		
Whitegrass	1	Austral thrush	2		
Scurvy grass	1	Grass wren	2		
Cinnamon grass	1	Dark-faced ground tyrant	2		
Pale maiden	1	Black-chinned siskin	2		
Marsh daisy	1	White-bridled finch	2		
Common bent	-10	Falklands pipit	2		
Marram grass	-10	Long-tailed meadowlark	2		
Any thistle NB: thistles lumped together and median score assigned	-7	Any wading bird (dotterel, snipe, plover)	2		
Dock (except southern dock found in coastal areas) NB: all other dock species lumped together & median score assigned	-7	House sparrow	-10		
Any gorse species	-7				
Orange hawkweed	-5				
Yorkshire fog	-2				
Sheep's sorrel	-2				
Heath groundsel	-2				

There are some trade-offs here to ensure the key is fit for purpose. The species selected are easy to identify or have been lumped together in groups, which have the same scores and show similar benefits/disbenefits to the conservation status of a piece of land. We expect to roll this key out as part of Farmers Week in July but will be doing further field trials with landowners prior Farmer's Week to 'tweak' the key. The key can be used in a number of ways:

- as part of the RWS land parcels can be randomly selected and surveyed with the key
- as part of a regular long-term monitoring replicating surveys using repeat plots
- to measure change post restoration or from changes to stocking rates

There will be at least two further training sessions with land managers and FIG staff, at the DoA and Environment Department, to ensure familiarity with the key, how to use it and what the results signify in terms of conservation value.

2.2 Protocols rolled-out

Protocols were developed alongside colleagues and with the many landowners that have engaged with the project. Feedback from landowners has been especially useful and has shown a wide knowledge base among the farming and landowning community. Certain bird species appear to be associated with specific habitat types. For example grass wrens are clearly associated with whitegrass/fachine habitats, while seabirds are attracted to tussac grass habitats, along with sea lions which in turn attract turkey vultures. Soil conditions differ between the habitat types with tussac grass and bluegrass appearing to hold greater moisture with reduced moisture in whitegrass/fachine habitats. The field protocols work to assign scores and values to each plot of land in these broad habitat types.

2.3 Habitat Action Plans produced for nationally 'Vulnerable' peat-wetland habitats (including those which are important for Ramsar site designations) and provided to Government's Environmental Officer and Policy Advisor

Work has started on this output with initial discussions with FIG staff to develop the action plans to ensure they are fit for purpose and cover land that is both in good condition and areas that have suffered damage and erosion and require more restoration effort. The Habitat Action plans are being prepared for broad peatland habitat types including fachine/whitegrass, boxwood, bluegrass and tussac grass. These will fit with the Responsible Wool Standards (RWS) that farmers are starting to join as a national membership of the standard as well as of use for conservation charities, FIG and other landowners. Project surveys may offer long-term monitoring sites to farmers that are required to report back on conservation efforts and habitat quality as part of the RWS. The Action Plans can be expected to fit with the field key development with the keys helping assign a conservation score to a plot of land and the action plans offering advice for management of those plots rated as being of high conservation value.

Output 3:

3.1 Land managers and decision makers engaged: a minimum of 2 training sessions with over 20 participants (in total)

Training has already taken place with numerous landowners and this will be further augmented with a scoring sheet for easy assessment of land conservation value based on easily identified plant species and birds. Scores will reflect their status (native/non-native/invasive) along with conservation value (critically endangered/endangered etc.). The scoring measures are currently under review through Colin Clubbe (Kew Gardens), partners at UKCEH as well as colleagues at FC.

The following landowners and managers have had field training in project survey methods including x-plots, plant surveys, invertebrate sampling and soil surveys:

- Helen Marsh, Rincon Ridge Farm
- Leon Marsh, Rincon Ridge Farm
- Ben Bernsten, Cape Dolphin
- Emily Gilbert, Little Creek Farm
- Mike Evans, Springpoint and South Harbour Farm
- Hugue Delignieres, Dunbar
- Marie-Paul Delignieres, Dunbar
- Ken Passfield, Hummock Island (representative of Antarctic Research Trust)
- Sally Poncet, Hummock Island (representative of Antarctic Research Trust)
- Kevin Lane (representing MPC)
- Tito Aguila (Goose Green Farm and Falkland Land Holdings)
- FIG staff – Denise Blake, Mike Jervois, Lily Copping, Emma Harte
- Sonia Felton, Cape Dolphin
- Giselle Hazell, Dyke Island
- Jo Turner, Weddell Island (training in using pit fall traps)
- FC staff as landowners, (Grant Munro, Shaani Stashynsky, Sorrel Pompert Robertson, Hannah Gatenby, Caroline Weir, Andy Stanworth)

Training on collecting soil samples took place with:

- Mike Evans (Springpoint and South Harbour)
- Ben Bernsten (Cape Dolphin and Elephant Beach Farm)
- Jeremy Poncet (New House)
- Gilberto Castro & Suzi Clarke (Fitzroy Farm)
- Hugue and Marie-Paul Delignieres (Dunbar)

Actions taken by landowners post-training (also see **annex 7**):

- Soil samples taken by 3 landowners and processed by project staff
- Further fencing out of land to exclude stock at South Harbour and Dunbar and fence repair at Rincon Ridge
- Pit Fall Trap surveys carried out by Jo Turner on Weddell Island

These training sessions were fitted in with the main project allowing landowners to see the full scope of the surveys while also taking soil samples from specific locations in addition to the main work. These sessions allowed a two-way learning experience with the survey team gaining better understanding of land management and tapping into the wider expertise of the land managers, including the historical changes in management and the farming response to the drying climate that the Falkland appear to be experiencing.

A recent development in the Falkland Islands has been the DoA signing to the RWS at a national level. The project is taking advantage of this opportunity to further develop training as part of the conservation monitoring required as part of the RWS certification. The RWS has a significant element of conservation and sensitive land management to ensure the natural world is considered, and conservation improvements are made see 2.1 above for details.

3.2 Land managers (to include good representation of both female and male managers from at least 10% of all Falklands farms) recognise and value nationally 'Vulnerable' peat-wetland habitats by Y3Q2 and YR4 Q1.

To date over 40 landowners and managers have been actively engaged in the project 17 of which were female. This covers over 20% of all Falkland Farms. Many of these have worked in multiple habitat types including tussac grass, whitegrass/fachine and bluegrass. Boxwood habitats are more remote and found in fewer locations. However, 4 landowners have joined us surveying boxwood habitats on Split Island, Tea Island and Turkey Island in the west. Most of these could already identify the major habitat types of the project but further information of their importance has arisen from the project findings including soil moisture and associated species within the broader keystone habitat type. It has been interesting to note that several

farmers have expressed that they would significantly de-stock for conservation purposes if there was an alternative income source. In addition to the surveys we carried out a short questionnaire with each landowner of the sites we visited. Some examples can be seen in **annex 8**.

3.3 A minimum of 3 field trips for young people during which children (significant numbers of both girls and boys) and educators learn to recognise at least three native plant habitats and their associated fauna. From Y1Q4.

This has already been met and evidenced in earlier Darwin Reports. This year we have worked with one work experience student exploring peat soils, habitats and processing soil samples in the labs and carried out one Watch Group meeting exploring peatland flora surveys (**annex 9**). The PM gave a presentation to the Falkland Islands Community School and is preparing a final Watch Group activity in May looking at the linkages peat-wetland and freshwater habitats. The PM also assisted with a session with the watch group on wildlife photography which included how to use peatland landscapes to improve image capture.

3.4 At least 8 land managers involved in fieldwork activities

The following land managers have been directly involved with the fieldwork during the 2022/23 season:

- Leon Marsh, Rincon Ridge Farm
- Ben Bernsten, Cape Dolphin
- Emily Gilbert, Little Creek Farm
- Hugue Delignieres, Dunbar
- Marie-Paul Delignieres, Dunbar
- Ken Passfield, Hummock Island (representative of Antarctic Research Trust)
- Sally Poncet, Hummock Island (representative of Antarctic Research Trust)
- Jo Turner, Weddell Island (training in using pit fall traps)
- FIG staff

Output 4:

4.3 Steering Group identified. Project Officer provides Progress Updates for discussion with Steering Group (project partners and key stakeholders (to include RBG Kew and Environment Officer at Falkland Islands Government))

There have been two steering group meeting during year 3. The first was in January and the second in April, **see annex 4**. Between July and September the Project Manager was in the UK and worked directly with steering group members at UKCEH covering data analysis, technical reporting and preparation. A Teams meeting with Colin Clubbe was organised and Colin provided a review of the work with UKCEH which has been extremely helpful. FIG members of the steering group joined us during fieldwork at Cape Pembroke and there have been two further meetings covering the action plans.

4.5 Biannual Darwin Plus reports submitted on-time and shared with Project Partners.

This has been met. The next reporting will be for the end of project

4.7 Project information hosted on the web and updated regularly twice a year

A further update is planned once the Habitat Action Plans and key are finalised.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1: Peat-wetland habitats (including, but not necessarily limited to, all peat-wetland habitats listed as 'Vulnerable' under the national Biodiversity Framework and associated documents) are characterised and described

1.1 List of additional peat-wetland habitats, beyond those 5 classed as nationally 'Vulnerable' ranked by priority for assessment, agreed with Project Partners.

The three habitats that would have potential to be included in this list would be cinnamon grass, sword grass and Fuegian couch. However, only the latter could be considered a keystone peat-wetland in the same way as the main habitats included in the project. Cinnamon grass is of interest as it appears to be growing through the diddle-dee heath, which outcompeted heavily grazed grasslands and is now suffering from diddle-dee dieback, and so could offer potential for maintaining a native ground cover. Thus, in order of priority the habitats are:

- Fuegian couch
- Cinnamon grass
- Sword grass

1.4 & 1.5 Fieldwork and preliminary results of data analysis outlined biannually in progress reports for Steering Group (see output 4.3) and reports for Darwin Plus Secretariat.

This was carried out in year 1 with the above ground carbon in whitegrass assessment. Steering group meetings have covered project progress and the reporting on data is beginning with the analysis through UKCEH.

Output 2: Habitat Action Plans developed incorporating straight-forward protocols for assessing and monitoring change in chosen habitats (to include the 5 nationally 'Vulnerable' peat-wetland habitats).

2.1 Draft habitat protocols and trial feedback.

This is being worked on with initial feedback coming through from steering group members and other FIG staff.

2.2 Final habitat protocols on website and 2.3 Habitat Action Plans available.

The field key and habitat action plans (**annex 10**) will be made available through the website once complete after feedback edits. The videos carried out by FITV also show the process of the field surveys and these are available and linked to through the website. The field key and action plans will be available to everyone in the Falklands and shared with project partners. Training will be given covering how to use the field key.

Output 3: Decision makers, landowners and wider Falkland Islands community members have engaged in the project and are able to independently progress the project outcome.

3.1a Training reports.

To date the training has been field based and feedback has come from landowners that have carried out work after the training. **Annex 7** shows communications with two of the landowners and excel sheets for the soil samples on the farms.

3.2a Before and after quizzes completed by land managers during outreach work show that at least 9 can newly recognise nationally 'Vulnerable' peat-wetland habitats and their associated fauna. They also show a mix of male and female participants.

As per 3.1a however, the extra training we plan once the field key has been developed and tested will be a more appropriate setting to carry out quizzes or other feedback method.

3.3 Trip reports show that the majority of participants and leaders have learnt to identify nationally 'Vulnerable' peat- wetland Habitats.

All participants, volunteers and colleagues as well as boat crew quickly learned to identify the habitat types. Several of the volunteers at the early stages of the project were especially helpful with improving the PMs knowledge of Falkland habitats. The participants were all included in the videography and were interviewed for the final production. Several of the broadcasted videos have previously been shared in earlier reports as well as broadcast by FITV and uploaded to youtube. The project page shows a short timelapse of the team working in a tussac grass habitat on Middle Island: <https://falklandsconservation.com/peat-wetlands-project/>

FITV Youtube videos can be seen at:

[Tea Island Peat Deposits in the Falkland Islands - YouTube](#)

[Peat Deposits at Saddle Island - YouTube](#)

[Peat Deposits on Coffin Island - YouTube](#)

[Peat Wetlands Project | West Falkland | Part 1 - YouTube](#)

[Peat Wetlands Project | West Falkland | Part 2 - YouTube](#)

3.4 Fieldwork reports.

Fieldwork reports have been written and provided to landowners with some still in draft. **Annex 11** gives examples.

Output 4: Project Management, monitoring, evaluation and communication schemes.

4.3 Steering Group details. Copies of progress updates and summary of feedback from advisors.

Information for this year's 2 steering group is in **annex 4**.

4.6a Final Communications Plan as sent to Project Partners.

This was included in the first Darwin EoY report at the end of year one.

4.6b Attractive information for each nationally 'Vulnerable' peat-wetland habitat available on the website (text and video) and by hard copy.

This is being prepared and will be uploaded and disseminated on production.

4.6c Inspiring and immersive multimedia material (e.g. long-term time lapse and macro photography) through FC website and public sessions.

This year we worked with Stanley Media, FITV and Gary Lawson to produce new footage to complement earlier footage broadcast by FITV and available on Youtube. The plan is to produce a final video of the project exploring the habitat types and the benefits through conservation and restoration. Links to the videos produced to date are in section 3.3.

4.7 Regular updates (at least 20 annually) on FC's social media accounts.

This is an ongoing process with several posts shared by the Darwin Initiative

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Outcome: Nationally 'Vulnerable' peat-wetland habitats are recognised, can be assessed and monitored to inform appropriate management by Government and community alike. The importance of plant habitats for fauna is newly understood.

0.1 No Response Policy recognition of nationally 'Vulnerable' peat-wetland habitats and their Action Plans by Government

FIG are developing a deeper understanding of peat-wetlands through the project and associated peat management developments. FIG staff are involved in the development of the

field key and action plans. UKCEH staff had meetings with MLAs about peatland management and the potential for long-term monitoring coming out of the project. FIG are now funding some tussac restoration close to Stanley at Cape Pembroke and Gypsy Cove.

Developments in peatland projects on the Falkland Islands are ensuring the potential for restoration and improved management remains in the community psyche.

0.2. Quantitative and inspiring non-technical descriptions of at least 5 peat-wetland habitats (to include all those which are nationally 'Vulnerable') are available

Now the data collection is finalised and the action plans are being prepared these non-technical descriptions will be drafted. Much of the information is already prepared and needs to drawing together as the project moves towards the final phase.

0.3. Stakeholders can recognise nationally 'Vulnerable' peat-wetland habitats and are familiar with the principles of their assessment

0.4 At least 4 site management plans are updated to support Action Plan targets

This will be carried out with FC and FIG staff once the action plans are prepared.

0.5 Practical management responses occur to Action Plan targets at least 4 sites

The tussac planting this year will offer an opportunity to include the action plans into management responses. FIG environment staff are working directly with the project to aid this. FC islands have funding to carry out work on Government Islet with potential for further funds for restoration work on New Island. These offer the same potential.

The project appears to be running within the timelines and should be completed within the timeframe. There have been adaptations from the monitoring and lessons learnt as the project moves forward but the indicators appear adequate for assessing achievements and keeping the project moving forward.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Assumption	Response
FC retains positive working relationship with Government including Department of Agriculture. FC have a good and pro-active relationship with Government through regular meetings at all levels from Departmental representatives to Members of the Legislative assembly (MLAs). FC has been receiving Government funding for projects, working jointly on policy development and providing advice to Government for over 30 years.	These assumptions remain true with solid work partnerships between FC and FIG including DoA. The PO has forged good collaborative work relationships with the new laboratory manager and FIG agricultural advisors. Members of FIG staff have joined the project surveys as have MLAs. At a more strategic level FC and FIG continue to work jointly.
Project Officer or replacement remains in the Falklands to complete field work program. FC have a good record of project staff retention. Project partners remain sufficiently resourced to support the project. Key partners are large well-established organisations or Government backed.	The PO continues to work well in the Falklands and intends to complete contract. Partners continue to support the project with financial and practical support from FIG and project advice from the steering group partners. Covid has limited visits to the Falkland's from partners but these did take place in November 2022 and January 2023.
A suitable charter vessel is available for hire to support field work on islands. FC have existing relationships with vessel owners.	Year 3 surveys were undertaken from SY Le Sourire owned by Marie-Paul and Hugue Delignieres. The multi-day island surveys went very well landing on all the sites we planned to work on.

<p>Sites are accessible and logistics affordable. Best/only good examples of some habitats are on remote offshore islands. Weather can influence access. In order to get to remote islands and have flexibility to accommodate bad weather a live aboard boat is necessary. These platforms are costly, as fieldwork often competes with the option for commercial tourist hire, and prices can rise annually. The costs in the project for fieldwork travel aim to remain as cost effective as possible, but ensure, as much as possible, that necessary sites can be accessed.</p>	<p>Logistics were devised between PO and boat owners. Sea conditions determined the route we took and there was a degree of flexibility day by day. However, Marie-Paul and Hugue are extremely skilled and experienced. This year they were joined by their son who is equally experienced and between them they ran an excellent charter allowing us to access some difficult locations and survey the best examples of boxwood, tussac grass and bluegrass habitats.</p>
<p>IMS-GIS data centre</p>	<p>There is no change with this assumption.</p>
<p>Enough land managers willing to engage to trial protocols.</p> <p>FC have invested significant time and resource in building relationships with the Falkland landowners and have an established outreach programme. For the initial submission of this project an unprecedented number (31) of landowners were motivated to write or sign letters of support for the project.</p> <p>Enough land managers willing and enthusiastic to engage through project either immediately or as a result of engagement activities.</p>	<p>To date the project has worked with 30 landowners and farm managers. The interest in the project has been considerable and already 8 landowners have been trained in how to take soil samples, carry out the surveys and use invertebrate sampling methods. The soil and invertebrate samples have been provided for analysis. This interest has grown from the large number of landowners that provided support at the application stage.</p>
<p>Suitably qualified candidate found in Falklands or externally who is willing to travel to the Falklands. FC appointment processes have provided successful project officers for numerous projects including Darwin. FC's website is fully functioning throughout the lifespan of the project.</p>	<p>The initial delay in arrival of the PO has not hindered the project and year 3 surveys have gone well with 65 full surveys taking place at 16 sites which includes 10 islands. The PO has expressed their intention to continue to the end of the project.</p>
<p>The website has recently been overhauled and continuous technical support is available to ensure functioning.</p>	<p>The website is due to be updated to cover year 3 surveys. The Habitat Action Plans and survey field key will also be added.</p>
<p>Stakeholders willing to collaborate and cooperate.</p>	<p>Local engagement in the project has been excellent with 42 separate land holdings accessed over the project. The local TV company (FITV) have now filmed 10 short films covering the project with 6 already broadcast along with 2 radio interviews. Two on island presentations were well attended and meetings with FIG and the MLAs took place afterwards to discuss long-term monitoring and peatland management.</p>

4. Project support to environmental and/or climate outcomes in the UKOTs

Given that the Falkland Islands are signatories to an array of international agreements, whereby international commitments toward targets for the conservation and management of biodiversity have been made, this project directly supports the Falkland Islands to meet their obligations under multi-lateral agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Sustainable Development Goals. This statement from FIG specifically relates to its current development of an Environment Strategy, which will be the key environmental policy document for the Falklands, incorporating the national biodiversity strategy equivalent. The field methods involve capturing data on above ground carbon and soil carbon which will produce evidence for future routes towards carbon offsetting schemes.

Important Falkland Islands commitments include

- The Kyoto Protocol and UN Framework Convention on Climate which set out to reduce GHG emissions and global warming
- UK government's ambition for Net Zero GHG emissions by 2050, which could be extended to incorporate GHG removals in the Overseas Territories.
- The Falkland Islands Biodiversity Framework which identifies climate change as a threat to Island biodiversity
- The Falkland Islands 'Islands Plan 2018-2022' which states a government commitment to 'Fulfil our commitments under international treaties and agreements such as climate change accords, and strive to mitigate our carbon footprint', 'Encourage research into the Falkland Islands environment to provide greater understanding of ecosystems, biodiversity and wider influences' and 'Encourage natural habitat restoration and preservation'
- The Falkland Islands Government Energy Strategy 2017
- Private sector agreements on carbon offsetting such as the aviation sector CORSIA scheme, which could finance carbon offsetting activities in the Falklands and elsewhere.

The project has been a major driver of interest in peatlands both within FIG and at a broader scale. The UK government, through Defra, are showing interest in developing further peatland work in the Falkland Islands including the potential deployment of flux towers to describe the sequestration potential of different peat-wetland habitats. During year 1 the UK Government Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy provided match funding to the project to carry out work exploring above ground carbon capture potential of whitegrass camps under different grazing regimes.

At the national level FIG and Members of the Legislative Assembly are increasingly showing interest in the carbon capture potential of peatlands as well as potential restoration. The project, along with a wider group of peatland researchers visiting the Falkland Islands, has helped develop a groundswell of interest in peatlands. The recent Falkland Island elections showed how all the candidates developed manifestos with strong environmental statements.

Work has taken place to develop Action Plans alongside FIG environment staff in order to write management and restoration into government targets. The Action Plans are now in review with FIG staff, colleagues and members of the steering group. Recent FIG work on 'Drying climate and impacts for land management in the Falkland Islands' (**annex 12**) highlights the developing interest for land management change and the importance of peatlands and native vegetation. This year FIG are committing to tussac restoration on Cape Pembroke and Gypsy Cove on Stanley Common and have had discussions with UKCEH steering group members on how to start a long-term monitoring programme from the surveys carried out as part of the peat-wetlands project.

In addition, the Falkland Islands have joined the Responsible Wool Standards an international certification scheme which has a strong element of conservation as part of the process. The protocols developed as part of the project are being revised in order to offer a potential monitoring method that allows any plot of land in the Falkland Islands to be assessed for its conservation value. This can be used as one-off surveys or for longer term monitoring with repeat visits to assess change and improvements.

5. Gender equality and social inclusion

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board ¹ .	25%
Please quantify the proportion of project partners that are led by women, or which have a senior leadership team consisting of at least 50% women ² .	75%

6. Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation is an ongoing process on the project with colleagues, steering group members and other stakeholders, including farmers, all adding useful feedback to the project. Specific assistance has been sought from FIG staff and steering group members regarding adapting the invertebrate methods to ensure they're fit for purpose.

Project partners and steering group members have been reviewing work and assisting with project development. Key FC staff have offered continual feedback, guidance and advice on all stages of the project including development of the working methods, approaching local landowners and other stakeholders. CEH reviewed methodologies and are assisting with data analysis ensuring the project maintains high level scrutiny and the outputs are rigorous and fit for purpose.

The Project Lead will have overall project accountability; however, project delivery will be overseen and managed by the Steering Group. The Steering Group and Project Officer met twice in year 2. The involvement of partners in project elements ensures they have regular oversight. The Project Officer will provide Steering Group members with project updates including a budget summary from the FC's Finance Officer (who will administer finance for the project).

Within Falklands Conservation weekly meetings are held between FC project staff to share updates on project progress. This will facilitate finer scale monitoring and evaluation of and by the Lead Organisation. Darwin M & E reporting (spend predictions and half-yearly and annual reports) will be delivered by the FC staff: Project Lead, Project Officer, Project Administrative Officer and Community Outreach Officer and the Communications and Marketing Officer. The Project Lead and Project Administrative Officer will communicate regularly to ensure appropriate tracking of budget lines and address any administrative challenges. Broader, external feedback on overall progress, or specific relevant elements of it, will be gained through communication with relevant stakeholders. Accounting will be managed as an auditable restricted fund.

7. Lessons learnt

The initial plan was to use pit fall traps for sampling invertebrates but time constraints, particularly the island sites, meant the traps weren't deployed long enough to ensure a good catch rate. Timed vac sampler was considered a good alternative and was deployed for this year's surveys. Work by Roger Key on South Georgia and St Helena Island suggested catches between pit fall traps and vac sampling were not significantly different except when the vac sampler is used on vegetation. However, there have been further issues with a poor catch rate and the sampler becoming 'clogged' with plant material especially in tussac grass habitat.

¹ A Project Board has overall authority for the project, is accountable for its success or failure, and supports the senior project manager to successfully deliver the project.

² Partners that have formal governance role in the project, and a formal relationship with the project that may involve staff costs and/or budget management responsibilities.

Adapted Berlese Funnel extractions, using naphthalene instead of heat to move invertebrates into sampling bottles, was considered a suitable method for processing the samples. This has proven difficult with very few invertebrates being caught in the preservative. Again this method has worked well on St Helena Island and South Georgia but doesn't appear to be working well in the Falkland Islands. Advice is being sought from UKCEH specialists but it appears that next year's surveys will use multiple invertebrate sampling methods to gather the information needed.

The CEH visit was cancelled due to Covid however the PO returned to the UK to work directly with CEH. The delayed visits occurred during November 2022 (Ed Rowe) and January 2023 (Angus Garbutt and Chris Evans). The assistance was invaluable and would have aided the project during the formative period. However, the advice helped improve the site recording during the final year and the sites are better set to be added into a long-term monitoring programme.

8. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

1: The report has aimed to address this through the text and evidence from annex 4 onwards.

2 MOD-BFSAI have allowed us access to the estate and we carried out 12 surveys on their land spread between the initial above-ground carbon whitegrass arm of the project and the main project surveys following the Countryside Survey methods. We set up two long term monitoring sites there which gives the potential for repeat surveys. Kevin Lane has been the main point of contact. Kevin joined us on several surveys and allows us to visit the survey sites unaccompanied when he is too busy to escort us.

9. Risk Management

Nothing to report

10. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

N/A

11. Sustainability and legacy

This year has had some significant developments including the joining of the RWS scheme at a national level. This has given the project opportunities to develop new field protocols that will be simplified for use in the field while offering a good scoring mechanism for conservation value of any plot of land.

The visits by UKCEH staff were especially well received with high-level talks held with MLAs and key government influencers. The potential for long-term monitoring programmes to start using the project as a baseline have been explored and the government has this year put £20k into tussac restoration on Cape Pembroke and Gypsy Cove.

Springcreek Conservation visited the Falkland Islands to explore potential for funding habitat restoration in the Islands. Several FC staff, including the peat-wetlands PM, met with them to discuss our projects. They are especially interested in terrestrial restoration and this fits with their expertise in large-scale wetland restoration in the US.

This knowledge is also embedding into the psyche of local, and international, decision makers. Defra, and BEIS have already provided, or are discussing providing funds, for peatland research in the Falkland Islands. The Falkland Islands Government are showing keener interest in better peatland management. Over the last two years FIGs Environmental Unit has grown from one staff member to six. There appears to be a developing convergence between landowners, farmers and conservation interests with solid restoration work taking place on private land such as Blue Beach Farm, Dunbar, Cape Dolphin and Springpoint among others. New landowners at New House, Dyke Island and Little Creek Farm are developing their own programmes of restoration. Businesses are funding restoration effort of tussac grass habitat as part of their corporate responsibility efforts. For example, Georgia Seafoods have funded several hectares of restoration on Falkland's Conservation's Middle Island with the final year's

work taking place during April 2023. This is in addition to the good work already taking place on Antarctic Research Trust and other Falkland Conservation owned islands.

Other key sustainability components will be maintaining the public use of outputs and an interest in habitat assessment and monitoring. Much of this will be through FC's permanent roles and functions. The Communications and Marketing Officer maintains FC's website (hosting project outputs) and delivers communications around FC's key strategic aims, including informative, positive messaging around habitat restoration and land management. The Community Outreach Officer ensures engagement in related activities, whilst the Habitats Officer engages landowners on sustainable land management (including site protection and habitat restoration). The outcomes from this project will be built into the habitat officer's function. These roles will support stakeholders in terrestrial habitat conservation (as guided by the current project), into the future. FC commits around ██████ annually to support these core roles. CEH will ensure methods are future-proof for straight-forward, long-term, field-use, including for repeated or expanded national habitat surveys. Relevant lessons will be shared with other OT's. FC has an ongoing Memorandum-of-Understanding with Government to support policy development including Biodiversity and Action Planning. The MoD and Government will mainstream the use of project outputs into the future, to inform strategic environmental decision making, extension work with land managers and working towards "best practice" for sustainable land-management. Long-term data management and accessibility will be through the IMS-GIS centre.

As the new data and knowledge is developed Action Plans and changing management regimes are expected to enhance native peat-wetland habitats as well as improve already modified peatlands. FIG are taking an interest in these developments as are local landowners. The exit strategy is to provide enhanced knowledge of the habitat types and provide training and accessible information on key indicators, management suggestions and more formal action plans.

12. Darwin Plus identity

There is already good awareness of the Darwin Plus Initiative in the Falkland Islands and this has been enhanced through the DPLUS110 project. Five presentations have taken place in year 3, one at the annual Falkland Islands Community School, two public presentations by UKCEH staff and a third by one of our volunteers when he returned to the UK, **annex 5**. The Darwin Plus logo or identity has been publicised in the Falklands Conservation Magazine annex 5.

In addition, a series of tweets and Facebook posts have been published throughout the year including time-lapse videos of habitats and survey work. We always tag Darwin Initiative in the posts. Falkland Conservation's website page for the peat-wetlands project has recently been updated to cover the work carried out in year 3.

The Darwin Plus programme is already well-known in the Falkland Islands due to previous projects funded by Darwin Plus. FIG departments we work closely with, such as environment and policy, are aware of the Darwin initiative as well as other stakeholders engaged in the project. Present FC and SAERI Darwin Plus projects are regularly publicised in the Falkland Islands through the local media channels and social media posts. The Darwin Initiative is well known in the Falkland Islands and each Darwin funded project receives media attention and publication.

13. Safeguarding

Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months?	No (last update Feb 22)
Have any concerns been investigated in the past 12 months	No
Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point?	Yes – Glenn Welch, Community Outreach office – [REDACTED]
Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months?	No – last training March 22
What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding?	Past: 93% [14] Planned: 7% [1]
Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses.	
No	
Does the project have any developments or activities planned around Safeguarding in the coming 12 months? If so please specify.	

Falklands Conservation has in place specific policies for Safeguarding, Code of Conduct for staff and volunteers, Harassment and Bullying, and Whistleblowing, copies of which were provided with our Darwin Plus application and are available on request from the organisation. No concerns have been raised relating to these matters with regard to DPLUS110 in this financial year.

Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023)

Project spend (indicative) in this financial year	2022/23 D+ Grant (£)	2022/23 Total actual D+ Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items				
Others (Please specify)				
TOTAL	92496	92496	0	

Table 2: Project mobilising of matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023)

	Matched funding secured to date	Total matched funding expected by end of project
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project.		

14. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements or progress of your project so far (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes

N/A

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against logframe for Financial Year 2022-2023 – if applicable

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Impact</p> <p>Key Falkland Island peat-wetland habitats are locally valued, better managed and understood, including their national importance for biodiversity and carbon storage. Community endorsed Action Plans are adopted for their conservation.</p>		<p>Project has worked with 10 landowners in year 3 as well as FIG contributing to better understanding of peat-wetlands.</p> <p>Data collection is showing that higher grass swards improve soil moisture conditions.</p> <p>Working with FIG environment staff to develop action and management plans for land needing restoration.</p> <p>FITV have filmed a further 4 short films and Gary Lawson has provided us with 10 days of free videography</p> <p>Work with youth groups to help young people understand Falkland's peatlands has included a full exploration of project methods as well as presentations at the school.</p> <p>Defra are taking an interest in Falkland's peatlands to develop more information on carbon capture potential of whitegrass camps and tussac grass habitats.</p>	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Outcome Nationally 'Vulnerable' peat-wetland habitats are recognised, can be assessed and monitored to inform appropriate management by Government and community alike. The importance of plant habitats for fauna is newly understood.</p>	<p>0.1 No Response Policy recognition of nationally 'Vulnerable' peat-wetland habitats and their Action Plans by Government (Y4Q2). 0.2. Quantitative and inspiring non-technical descriptions of at least 5 peat-wetland habitats (to include all those which are nationally 'Vulnerable') are available (Y4Q1). 0.3. Stakeholders can recognise nationally 'Vulnerable' peat-wetland habitats and are familiar with the principles of their assessment (by Y4Q1). 0.4 At least 4 site management plans are updated to support Action Plan targets (by Y4Q1). 0.5 Practical management responses occur to Action Plan targets at least 4 sites (by Y4Q2)</p>	<p>FIG agreed to work with project to develop action plans and management plans for government holdings.</p> <p>Data collection at 114 randomly selected sites providing improved knowledge of the best remaining examples of peat-wetlands. Data will be analysed to inform non-technical descriptions.</p> <p>Worked with 10 landowners providing training on soil sampling for 5 landowners and 5 landowners have joined the full surveys for in-field training. One landowner had bespoke invert collection training.</p>	<p>Data analysis from the full data set surveys alongside UKCEH staff.</p> <p>Finalise field key and action plans</p> <p>Give presentation at Framers Week covering project findings and field key.</p> <p>Working with FIG staff to develop action plans and presenting at the Peaty Pals meeting.</p> <p>Technical reporting and EoY report</p>
<p>Output 1. Peat-wetland habitats (including, but not necessarily limited to, all peat-wetland habitats listed as 'Vulnerable' under the national Biodiversity Framework and associated documents) are characterised and described</p>		<p><i>Work carried out on five nationally vulnerable peat-wetland habitat types. Carried out 49 full surveys at 30 sites including 18 islands.</i></p>	
<p>Activity 1.1: Peat-wetland habitats prioritised for assessment, to include nationally 'Vulnerable' peat-wetland habitats by Y1Q2, Q3 and Q4.</p>		<p>Peat-wetland habitats identified and surveyed: boxwood, whitegrass/fachine, bluegrass,</p>	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
		tussac grass (offshore) and tussac grass (mainland).	
Activity 1.2: Initial technical survey protocols developed with CEH (including advisory visit) by Y1Q2, Q3 and Q4.		Surveys developed in previous year with refinements during year 3. Three UKCEH staff visited	
Activity 1.3: Fieldwork plans developed by Y1Q3 and Q4, and Y2Q1, Q2 and Q3.		Fieldwork carried out at 65 sites which included one boat-based fieldtrip down West Falkland	
Activity 1.4: Field work carried out in austral summers 2020-2021, 2021-2022 and 2022-23.		As above	
Activity 1.5: Survey data analysed: Y2Q1 and Q2, Y3Q1 and Q2, YR4 Q1 and Q2.		Lab work carried out on soil samples and processed for bulk density and Loss on Ignition. Analysis of data taken using scatterplots.	More sophisticated processing of data alongside CEH
Activity 1.6: Technical report and data with quantitative ecological descriptions and condition criteria for, at least the 5 nationally 'Vulnerable' peat-wetland habitats. Descriptions to include plants, invertebrates and birds. Reports and data finalised by YR3 Q2, Q3 and Q4, and YR4 Q1 and Q2.		Work towards these have included the whitegrass report, year 2 surveys and data analysis.	Work alongside FIG staff to develop action plans and field key and trial key in the field. Prepare further training to rollout the field key.
Activity 1.7: WebGIS developed to display project outputs. Y3Q4.		Work with SAERI	Work with SAERI
Output 2. Habitat Action Plans developed incorporating straight-forward protocols for assessing and monitoring change in chosen habitats (to include the 5 nationally 'Vulnerable' peat-wetland habitats).		<i>Methods established and tested in all 5 identified habitats. Work carried out alongside landowners and full surveys carried out with data collection to be processed in year 3 to inform plans.</i>	
Activity 2.1: Protocols for stakeholders including land managers to identify and assess the condition of peat-wetland habitats (to include at least all 5		Worked with 10 landowners providing training on soil sampling for 5 landowners and 5 landowners	Work with local community and farmers to develop protocols and

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
nationally 'Vulnerable' peat-wetland habitats) developed and trialed (years 2 and 3 and YR4 Q1).		have joined the full surveys for in-field training. One landowner had bespoke invert collection training.	trial with small groups ready to roll out.
Activity 2.2: Protocols rolled-out YR3 Q1, Q2 and Q3.		Action plans being developed with local community and FIG which will help inform protocols alongside data collection and habitat work.	As above
Activity 2.3: Habitat Action Plans produced for nationally 'Vulnerable' peat-wetland habitats (including those which are important for Ramsar site designations) and provided to Government's Environmental Officer and Policy Advisor (with advocacy) Y3Q4 and YR4 Q1 and Q2.		Discussions with FIG Environmental Officer and Biodiversity Officer to set the scene to develop action plans.	As above
Output 3. Decision makers, landowners and wider Falkland Islands community members have engaged in the project and are able to independently progress the project outcome.		<i>Worked with 19 landowners in the field and to plan surveys and provided training to 26 landowners. FITV and Stanley Media have filmed a further films. Project has worked with 14 volunteers evenly split between male and female covering a broad age range.</i>	
Activity 3.1: Land managers and decision makers engaged: a minimum of 2 training sessions with over 20 participants (in total) YR2Q4, Y3Q1, Q2 and Q3, YR4 Q2.		The project has good engagement from landowners and farmers as well as FIG staff. MLAs and FIG staff have joined the project surveys and are showing good interest.	Continue to work with landowners and start to develop training for the field key. Training is expected to be field based and to take place on East and West Falkland at key/central sites.
Activity 3.2: Land managers (to include good representation of both female and male managers from at least 10% of all Falklands farms) recognise and value nationally 'Vulnerable' peat-wetland habitats by Y3Q2 and YR4 Q1.		Already have good engagement which is turning into improved knowledge of the habitats. FITV broadcasts have built on this with FITV receiving a higher than average amount of positive feedback.	As above

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
Activity 3.3: A minimum of 3 field trips for young people during which children (significant numbers of both girls and boys) and educators learn to recognise at least three native plant habitats and their associated fauna. From Y1Q4.		Three activities have taken place, 1/ Watch Group habitat surveying in tussac and diddle heath involving plant ID 2/ work experience student worked in the field on peat soil sampling and then processed samples in the labs 3/ presentation to the school on water management in peatlands	Plan for one more activity with watch group exploring peat-wetland and freshwater systems
Activity 3.4: At least 8 land managers involved in fieldwork activities. Y1Q4, YR2Q3 and Q4 and YR3Q3 and Q4.		Worked with 19 landowners in the field and to plan surveys and provided training to 26 landowners.	Continue to develop this for the field key
Output 4: Project Management, monitoring, evaluation and communication schemes.		<i>Work with FITV, local radio and press to publicise project. Social Media posts well received and shared by stakeholders. Work with landowners has offered valuable feedback and constructive suggestions. Articles in the FC Newsletter and MOD Sanctuary Magazine.</i>	
Activity 4.1: Project Officer recruited in post, signed contract by Y1Q3.		PO already in post.	
Activity 4.2: Data protocols including secure data storage set out by project leader in consultation with CEH and IMS-GIS data manager, in Y1Q3.		Initial work with CEH to develop this. Contact and discussions with SAERI. Developed a local 'peat' group (Peaty Pals) between FC and SAERI alongside CEH to continue progress.	Finalise data analysis
Activity 4.3: Steering Group identified. Project Officer provides Progress Updates for discussion with Steering Group (project partners and key stakeholders (to include RBG Kew and Environment Officer at Falkland Islands Government) biannually from Y1Q3. This advisory group provides feedback as part of M&E process.		Steering group identified and includes staff from CEH, Kew Gardens and FIG. SG has met twice in year 2.	Plan steering group meeting and keep SG informed of progress and act on feedback.
Activity 4.4: Key Project stakeholders identified by name or job title and contacted from Y1Q3 and good relations/communication maintained throughout project.		List of key habitat locations, landowners and any access issues made. Good contact with key	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
		landowners/farmers made and to date access granted on all occasions.	
Activity 4.5: Biannual Darwin Plus reports submitted on-time and shared with Project Partners.		To date this has been done with agreed delay on end of year 2.	Continue towards the End of Project report
Activity 4.6: Communications Plan formulated with FC's Communications and Marketing Officer, and Project Partners by Y1Q3. Final elements of plan to include: Key features of nationally 'Vulnerable' peat-wetland habitats presented clearly to inspire and inform the community, particularly members directly involved in land management Y3Q4.		Comms plan formulated. Good start with comms made via social media and Falkland Islands media companies. FITV have provided FC with the footage taken on the fieldwork trips.	Follow plan and rollout direct media capture during fieldwork seasons 2023 alongside FCs marketing officer. New article written for next FC newsletter and produce an end of project video.
4.7 Project information hosted on the web and updated regularly twice a year, from Y1Q3		This has been acted on and updates will be made as per logframe. Update took place in January to cover the fieldwork.	Ensure timely updates are made and publicised via social and local media when relevant.

Annex 2: Project’s full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Impact: Key Falkland Island peat-wetland habitats are locally valued, better managed and understood, including their national importance for biodiversity and carbon storage. Community endorsed Action Plans are adopted for their conservation.</p>			
<p>Outcome: Nationally 'Vulnerable' peat-wetland habitats are recognised, can be assessed and monitored to inform appropriate management by Government and community alike. The importance of plant habitats for fauna is newly understood.</p>	<p>0.1 No Response Policy recognition of nationally 'Vulnerable' peat-wetland habitats and their Action Plans by Government (Y4Q2). 0.2. Quantitative and inspiring non-technical descriptions of at least 5 peat-wetland habitats (to include all those which are nationally 'Vulnerable') are available (Y4Q1). 0.3. Stakeholders can recognise nationally 'Vulnerable' peat-wetland habitats and are familiar with the principles of their assessment (by Y4Q1). 0.4 At least 4 site management plans are updated to support Action Plan targets (by Y4Q1). 0.5 Practical management responses occur to Action Plan targets at least 4 sites (by Y4Q2).</p>	<p>0.1 Nationally 'Vulnerable' peat-wetland habitats included in government planning documents. 0.2. Non-technical habitat descriptions available on FC website and through Department of Agriculture. 0.3 Training records including quiz results. 0.4 Updated site Management Plans 0.5 Site visit reports detail practical management responses</p>	<p>FC retains positive working relationship with Government including Department of Agriculture. FC have a good and pro-active relationship with Government through regular meetings at all levels from Departmental representatives to Members of the Legislative assembly. FC has been receiving Government funding for projects, working jointly on policy development and providing advice to Government for over 30 years.</p>
<p>Output 1 Peat-wetland habitats (including, but not necessarily limited to, all peat-wetland habitats listed as</p>	<p>1.1 Peat-wetland habitats prioritised for assessment, to include nationally 'Vulnerable' peat-wetland habitats by Y1Q2, Q3 and Q4.</p>	<p>1.1 List of additional peat-wetland habitats, beyond those 5 classed as nationally 'Vulnerable' ranked by priority for assessment, agreed with</p>	<p>Project Officer or replacement remains in the Falklands to complete field work program. FC</p>

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>'Vulnerable' under the national Biodiversity Framework and associated documents) are characterised and described</p>	<p>1.2 Initial technical survey protocols developed with CEH (including advisory visit) by Y1Q2, Q3 and Q4. 1.3 Fieldwork plans developed by Y1Q3 and Q4, and Y2Q1, Q2 and Q3. 1.4 Field work carried out in austral summers 2020-2021, 2021-2022 and 2022-23. 1.5 Survey data analysed: Y2Q1 and Q2, Y3Q1 and Q2, YR4 Q1 and Q2. 1.6 Technical report and data with quantitative ecological descriptions and condition criteria for, at least the 5 nationally 'Vulnerable' peat-wetland habitats. Descriptions to include plants, invertebrates and birds. Reports and data finalised by YR3 Q2, Q3 and Q4, and YR4 Q1 and Q2. 1.7 WebGIS developed to display project outputs. Y3Q4.</p>	<p>Project Partners. 1.2 Initial technical survey protocols circulated to Project Partners. 1.3 Outline annual fieldwork plans available. 1.4 & 1.5 Fieldwork and preliminary results of data analysis outlined biannually in progress reports for Steering Group (see output 4.3) and reports for Darwin Plus Secretariat. 1.6a Technical report available on website. 1.6b Metadata deposited in IMS-GIS data centre. 1.6c After being published by the researchers involved in the project, data will be available as open access through the IMS-GIS data centre. 1.7 Data visible on-line as interactive maps (webGIS).</p>	<p>have a good record of project staff retention.</p> <p>Project partners remain sufficiently resourced to support the project. Key partners are large well-established organisations or Government backed.</p> <p>A suitable charter vessel is available for hire to support field work on islands. FC have existing relationships with vessel owners.</p> <p>Sites are accessible and logistics affordable. Best/only good examples of some habitats are on remote offshore islands. Weather can influence access. In order to get to remote islands and have flexibility to accommodate bad weather a live aboard boat is necessary. These platforms are costly, as fieldwork often competes with the option for commercial tourist hire, and prices can rise annually. The costs in the project for fieldwork travel aim to remain as cost effective as possible, but ensure, as much as possible, that necessary sites can be accessed.</p> <p>IMS-GIS data centre</p>

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Output 2</p> <p>Habitat Action Plans developed incorporating straight-forward protocols for assessing and monitoring change in chosen habitats (to include the 5 nationally 'Vulnerable' peat-wetland habitats).</p>	<p>2.1 Protocols for stakeholders including land managers to identify and assess the condition of peat-wetland habitats (to include at least all 5 nationally 'Vulnerable' peat-wetland habitats) developed and trialled (years 2 and 3 and YR4 Q1). 2.2 Protocols rolled-out YR3 Q1, Q2 and Q3. 2.3 Habitat Action Plans produced for nationally 'Vulnerable' peat-wetland habitats (including those which are important for Ramsar site designations) and provided to Government's Environmental Officer and Policy Advisor (with advocacy) Y3Q4 and YR4 Q1 and Q2.</p>	<p>2.1 Draft habitat protocols and trial feedback. 2.2 Final habitat protocols on website. 2.3 Habitat Action Plans available.</p>	<p>Enough land managers willing to engage to trial protocols.</p> <p>FC have invested significant time and resource in building relationships with the Falkland landowners and have an established outreach programme. For the initial submission of this project an unprecedented number (31) of landowners were motivated to write or sign letters of support for the project.</p>
<p>Output 3</p> <p>Decision makers, landowners and wider Falkland Islands community members have engaged in the project and are able to independently progress the project outcome.</p>	<p>3.1 Land managers and decision makers engaged: a minimum of 2 training sessions with over 20 participants (in total) YR2Q4, Y3Q1, Q2 and Q3, YR4 Q2. 3.2 Land managers (to include good representation of both female and male managers from at least 10% of all Falklands farms) recognise and value nationally 'Vulnerable' peat-wetland habitats by Y3Q2 and YR4 Q1. 3.3 A minimum of 3 field trips for young people during which children (significant numbers of both girls and boys) and educators learn to</p>	<p>3.1a Training reports. 3.2a Before and after quizzes completed by land managers during outreach work show that at least 9 can newly recognise nationally 'Vulnerable' peat-wetland habitats and their associated fauna. They also show a mix of male and female participants. 3.2b Meeting notes or correspondence to evidence that by the end of the project at least three land managers have worked with the FC to instigate new assessments or projects to</p>	<p>Enough land managers willing and enthusiastic to engage through project either immediately or as a result of engagement activities. (see above section)</p>

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	<p>recognise at least three native plant habitats and their associated fauna. From Y1Q4.</p> <p>3.4 At least 8 land managers involved in fieldwork activities Y1Q4, YR2Q3 and Q4 and YR3Q3 and Q4.</p>	<p>conserve or restore nationally 'Vulnerable' peat-wetland habitats.</p> <p>3.3 Trip reports show that the majority of participants and leaders have learnt to identify nationally 'Vulnerable' peat- wetland Habitats.</p> <p>3.4 Fieldwork reports.</p>	
<p>Output 4:</p> <p>Project Management, monitoring, evaluation and communication schemes.</p>	<p>4.1 Project Officer recruited in post, signed contract by Y1Q3.</p> <p>4.2 Data protocols including secure data storage set out by project leader in consultation with CEH and IMS-GIS data manager, in Y1Q3.</p> <p>4.3 Steering Group identified. Project Officer provides Progress Updates for discussion with Steering Group (project partners and key stakeholders (to include RBG Kew and Environment Officer at Falkland Islands Government) biannually from Y1Q3. This advisory group provides feedback as part of M&E process.</p> <p>4.4 Key Project stakeholders identified by name or job title and contacted from Y1Q3 and good relations/communication maintained throughout project.</p> <p>4.5 Biannual Darwin Plus reports submitted on-time and shared with Project Partners.</p>	<p>4.1 Project Officer contract document.</p> <p>4.2 Data policy for project.</p> <p>4.3 Steering Group details. Copies of progress updates and summary of feedback from advisors.</p> <p>4.4 List of key stakeholders.</p> <p>4.5 Darwin Plus Progress Reports.</p> <p>4.6a Final Communications Plan as sent to Project Partners.</p> <p>4.6b Attractive information for each nationally 'Vulnerable' peat-wetland habitat available on the website (text and video) and by hard copy.</p> <p>4.6c Inspiring and immersive multimedia material (e.g. long-term time lapse and macro photography) through FC website and public sessions.</p> <p>4.7 Regular updates (at least 20 annually) on FC's social media accounts.</p>	<p>Suitably qualified candidate found in Falklands or externally who is willing to travel to the Falklands. FC appointment processes have provided successful project officers for numerous projects including Darwin. FC's website is fully functioning throughout the lifespan of the project.</p> <p>The website has recently been overhauled and continuous technical support is available to ensure functioning. Stakeholders willing to collaborate and cooperate.</p>

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	<p>4.6 Communications Plan formulated with FC's Communications and Marketing Officer, and Project Partners by Y1Q3.</p> <p>Final elements of plan to include: Key features of nationally 'Vulnerable' peat-wetland habitats presented clearly to inspire and inform the community, particularly members</p> <p>4.7 Project information hosted on the web and updated regularly twice a year, from Y1Q3.</p>		
<p>1.1 Delayed CEH visit postponed again and will be rescheduled for year 3</p> <p>1.2 field work planned alongside Hugue and Marie-Paul, the boat owners and colleagues</p> <p>1.3 field work undertaken at 65 survey sites</p> <p>1.4 data analysis has included laboratory work and preparing scatterplots. Further analysis taking alongside CEH staff in the UK</p> <p>2.1 project development with stakeholders has involved CEH, Kew Gardens, FIG staff as well as landowners, farmers and colleagues</p> <p>2.2 protocols rolled out through field work</p> <p>2.3 Hab action plans are prepared in draft and out to review among project stakeholders</p> <p>3.1 training sessions have been carried out in the field covering project survey methods/protocols, soil sampling and invertebrate sampling</p> <p>3.2 Land managers (to include good representation of both female and male managers from at least 10% of all Falklands farms) recognise and value nationally 'Vulnerable' peat-wetland carried out through field-based training and through assisting with field surveys</p> <p>3.3 youth field trips work with the Watch Group has taken place as well with work experience students</p> <p>3.4 land manager fieldwork involvement there has been great uptake on the project by farmers and landowners with several advising on fieldwork and joining the surveys both on mainland and islands</p> <p>4.2 data management protocols established</p> <p>4.3 steering group updates M&E has taken place at 2 steering group meetings in year 3</p>			

Checklist for submission

	Check
Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the correct template (checking fund, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and deleted the blue guidance text before submission?	Yes
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line.	NO
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	YES
Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	YES
Do you have hard copies of material you need to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number. However, we would expect that most material will now be electronic.	NO
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 15)?	N/A
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	YES
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	YES
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	