

## Darwin Plus Main: Annual Report

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

**Submission Deadline: 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

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### Darwin Plus Project Information

Project reference	DPLUS182
Project title	Habitat restoration and species re-introductions on four Falklands' island reserves
Territory(ies)	Falkland Islands
Lead Partner	Falkland Conservation
Project partner(s)	
Darwin Plus grant value	£303,425.00
Start/end dates of project	01 April 2023 - 31 March 2026
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2023-Mar 2024) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2)	Apr 2023 – Mar 2024 <b>Annual Report Year 1</b>
Project Leader name	Andrew [REDACTED]
Project website/blog/social media	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/FalklandsConservation">https://www.facebook.com/FalklandsConservation</a>
Report author(s) and date	Grant [REDACTED] (30/04/2024)

### 1. Project summary

Across the Falklands historical land-use practises and introduced rodents have led to habitat degradation that reduces biodiversity, creates fragmented species distributions and continues to cause ongoing peatland erosion. The project aims to deliver management actions on four offshore island reserves to reverse habitat loss and reintroduce endemic native species. Tussac planting will restore native habitat, improve biodiversity, stabilise eroding peatland, and conserve ecological function. Reintroductions of threatened plants and two endemic bird species will maximise the conservation benefits from previous rat eradications on islands where the extirpated species have not returned naturally post-eradication. This is due to the extended dispersal distances now required as a result of fragmented habitats and distributions. Intervention through translocation is now required to overcome these distances and better restore the native systems.

As climate change leads to a continued drying of the Falklands' landscape the peatlands become increasingly susceptible to drying-out and erosion. Rather than the carbon sequestration of a healthy peatland this drying and erosion will lead to the loss of accumulated peat and increased carbon emissions that will in turn exacerbate climate change issue and the carbon balance. Maintaining the peatland habitats and their carbon store is critical in combating global climate change, and local biodiversity, landscape health and livelihoods. Tussac grass is a key Falkland habitat that when growing in a continuous cover can moderate its own growing environment and maintain soil moisture. Historically tussac has one of the fastest carbon accumulation rates of any habitat type surpassing both tropical and boreal forests. Replanting of tussac tillers on bare exposed coastal peatland can stop erosion and potentially reverse carbon loss, restoring exposed peat to healthy tussac habitat with active carbon sequestration.

The main tussac restoration activities will occur on Pebble Islet to the north of West Falkland. It has not previously been possible to restore this relatively remote and inaccessible islet (156 km from Stanley) due to the logistics of access (involving flights, 4x4 vehicle and boat transfers) and lack of accommodation on the islet suitable for winter working.

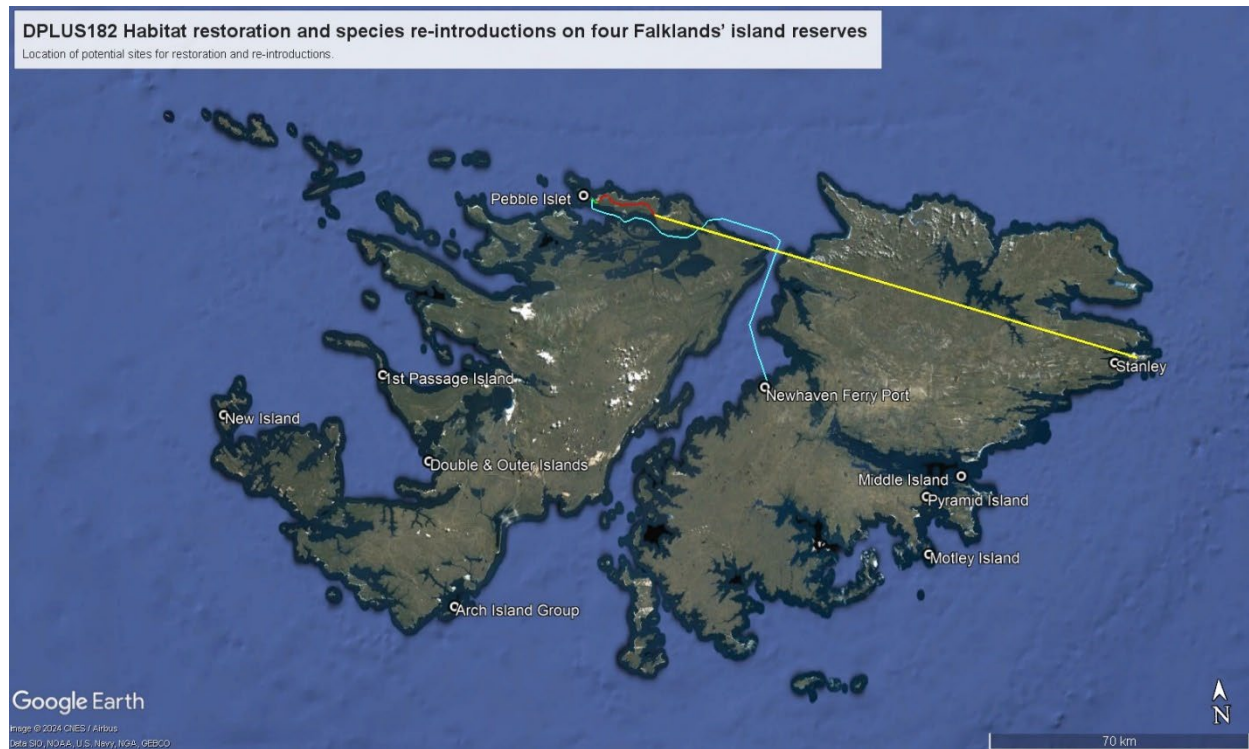


Figure 1: Location within the Falkland Islands of the main island sites for restoration or re-introductions. The plotted lines show the main access routes to Pebble Islet the main site for tussac restoration.



Figure 2: A close-up of Pebble Islet where the tussac, bluegrass and native boxwood restoration planting will occur. The dark areas around the coastal fringe are areas of actively eroding bare dark peat that would formerly have been tussac prior to grazing, whilst the light areas are areas of clay-patch (where 100% of the overlying peat has already been lost) or wind-blow.

The first year primarily entailed preparatory logistics and facilitation work as necessary predeterminant steps to commencing restoration outputs in the second year.

## 2. Project stakeholders/partners

The project does not have formal partners but has worked with a range of stakeholders and developed a number of collaborations.

One auxiliary aim of the project is to further develop a “conservation economy” where restoration skills, capacity and personnel are retained within the private sector. Since there is minimal unemployment in the Falklands earlier restorations have largely relied on volunteer labour. However, to scale-up restoration in a sustainable manner there is a need to establish a professional labour employment model, where tussac planting is as established as any other seasonal contract work, such as contract shearing or fencing. But to attract and retain labour from other sectors, mainstreaming of restoration is required with long-term security so that people know there will be forthcoming work, and can plan their work year accordingly. A significant component of the outreach and collaboration has dealt with this matter.

Significant liaison has been undertaken with:

**Pebble Island Farm (PIF):** The adjoining landowners are critical to project success as they facilitate access to the islet and provide an airstrip, 4x4 vehicle transfers and zodiac storage. They have so far fully assisted with the project. A building and survey team have passed through Pebble Island with transit accommodation, vehicle and zodiac transfers to the island seamlessly organised. Unfortunately, the build team was not able to successfully complete the build as the materials could not be landed by the coastal shipping service due to weather, but the constant rescheduling of the work due to weather over the 10-day period demonstrated the close working relationship with Pebble Island as plans first changed and then changed again.

**Habitat Restoration Services (HRS):** The first local company set up and established to wholly service and meet the demands of the environmental restoration sector. We have worked with this fledgling commercial enterprise to foster the initiative by establishing where we can work with them to ensure that their capacity in the sector is maintained and grown. A successful and enduring partnership not only facilitates the project but looking forward increases restoration capacity which would be an added legacy of the project and should be supported where possible.

**Workboat Services (WBS):** Intensive liaison with WBS has been required to enable cargo delivery to the islet. The difficulty of delivery to the islet was recognised before the project commenced and communication began early. In addition to the remote site and weather there were additional wider regulatory/contractual shipping issues that had not been recognised by Falklands Conservation. In working with WBS these issues have now been resolved, but initial delays are highlighted in later sections.

**Island LandCare (ILC):** ILC have considerable local knowledge and expertise and also undertake their own restoration activities including rodent eradications, invasive control and planting. Pooling of experience has given obvious gains in knowledge that highlights best working practice whilst avoiding known issues.

Ongoing liaison on planting dates allows planting work to be spread across the season, balancing available personnel to work volumes, and thus facilitating sustainable employment across a season. This again aids the development of a “conservation/restoration economy” as coordinated sequential planting provides extended work for planters rather than a short simultaneous planting period with everything happening at once and projects competing for planters. Instead through liaison and coordination of work programs the group of planters can be given extended employment across the duration of the season becoming more attractive for employment (and more skilled as planters) which is a double positive.

**Falkland Islands Government (FIG):** Seed and plant collection and the capture, handling and translocation of birds does require FIG permitting under current FIG wildlife legislation. Whilst the work will occur in Year 2, liaison has already occurred to inform on the importance of the work and to advance permit application. Furthermore, continued liaison and update of departments

does occur within the general aim of mainstreaming restoration activities. This includes the Department of Agriculture (DoA) and Environment Department (EnvD).

As outlined in the application the project contributes to a number of aims and targets within national plans and strategies.

**Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB):** Synergy in capacity and funding was realised with the RSPB who facilitated the 3<sup>rd</sup>-party donation of tasked SkySat (50 cm resolution) satellite imagery from a 3<sup>rd</sup> party funder. This <1m resolution is more than sufficient for habitat mapping and saves the project the budgeted image purchase costs and the expensive alternative requirement for drone survey. Liaison is ongoing for the habitat analysis.

### **3. Project progress**

#### **3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities**

The following highlighted activities were scheduled to occur in the first year.

***Output 1. "Pebble Islet habitats restored via a doubling of the area of native tussock grass and a halving of the area of bare-peat ground through boxwood planting."***

***Activity 1.1 Undertake baseline survey of Pebble Islet (PI) and produce PI digital GIS habitat map to inform restoration.***

The habitat map represents the baseline condition of Pebble Islet prior to the project commencing, subsequent changes and improvements in vegetation cover can be monitored by future imagery updates.

During project planning and budgeting the habitat mapping component was designed and costed to be undertaken *either* by an orthomosaic drone survey *or* by satellite imagery, with budgeting set at a level sufficient for either one, but not both, to be completed.

Satellite imagery was selected for three reasons. Firstly, upon advice and guidance, pixel resolution was considered sufficient for habitat mapping. Secondly, specifically tasked 50cm resolution SkySat imagery was offered to the project for free by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party funder. Finally, it was considered that flying an extensive survey grid by the available drone across the 500 ha of Pebble Islet would be extremely weather dependent.

Previous habitat-scale mapping in the Falkland Islands has been conducted on 10mx10m pixels so the offered 50x50cm resolution is more than sufficient for accurate habitat monitoring. On a cost/benefit basis the finer resolution but higher cost of orthomosaic drone imagery was not considered necessary, especially given the logistical difficulties of weather-windows for drone flying in the Falklands when conducted across a larger area.

Ground truthing of the imagery has commenced with 35 survey data points completed and subsequent mapping analysis is ongoing by a consultant.

***Activity 1.2 Construct simple weather-proof sleeping shelter for x6 people on PI to allow effective, safe, winter-season planting***

The Pebble Islet restoration planting site is on a difficult to access remote islet and basic accommodation that is safe, windproof, and warm is required before extended planting over the winter season can occur. This will mitigate risks of adverse weather in terms of daily exposure with a warm place for planters to return to. It will also provide security during any weather delays that might enforce a longer stay on the islet. It is not intended to construct a full house but a basic mountain-hut / shanty type sleeping accommodation.

Shanty construction and delivery of the building materials onto the islet was identified as a potentially difficult undertaking at the outset and this has proven to be the case due to a number of factors.

- Personnel availability. The Falkland Islands is currently under-going accelerated house building in advance of an oil-exploration round and established builders are fully committed with extended waiting lists. No builder was therefore prepared to tender for a "turn-key" build in a remote location when their current build-books were full. FC were



therefore required to fully undertake the build planning ourselves, formulate our own bill of quantities, source the building supplies and sub-contract an individual handyman builder for the construction.

- Shipping delivery: Delivery of the materials (ready since Nov 2023) to the islet has proven difficult. The only means of transport is a coastal shipping service that every 6 weeks runs a 10-day voyage serving several remote island settlements. Commencing in December 2023 initial trips were missed as the company sought assurances and permission that it would be allowed to deliver to the islet, which has an uncharted anchorage, without jeopardising their other contractual obligations. Prior to accepting cargo, the next trip was dedicated to the cautious unloaded scoping of the uncharted anchorage and landing site. Finally in March, the trip with loaded cargo was undertaken but unfortunately the weather over the 10-day period was not conducive to cargo operations and the islet landing was cancelled. Between each of these delivery attempts a 6-week wait was necessary. As a result, the build completion has run beyond the original expected completion date. Whilst not ideal, as long as the build can be completed before September then it should not impact the projects outputs and deliverables.



Figure 3: The closest point of approach of the coastal shipping vessel Concordia Bay before landing of the materials by sea-truck landing craft was cancelled due to adverse weather and tide conditions.

All materials have been sourced. The majority of materials were sourced locally. Materials not available on the islands were ordered and delivered from the UK. All materials and provisions are now stored locally in a container and are ready for future sailing attempts.

In March a full build team was on the island awaiting the delivery of building materials but unfortunately these could not be landed due to inclement weather extending across the whole 10-day period (that would not have been envisaged when assessing risk). Further attempts are planned in late-April and June.

Whilst ashore awaiting delivery of the materials the build party was not inactive. A current old derelict shanty was cleaned and stabilised using salvaged materials. Whilst this is not a longterm solution it will provide very basic emergency shelter when the main build is completed in the winter months – this will assist in ensuring that other deliverable activities are not impacted by build delays.

#### **Activity 1.4 Establish native plant nursery to grow-on bare-root boxwood transplants.**

A small native nursery to grow-on boxwood seedlings has been established in Stanley utilising up-cycled cube containers. Seeds were sown in September 2023 and transplants are now

available for planting-out once planting activities commence (photos available). Approximately 400 transplants are of sufficient size for planting out, whilst approximately the same number will be retained to grow-on for a further year. Additional seed will be sown in Sept to replace those planted out in a rolling cycle. This will more than meet the target of 1000 plants over the course of the project. The project is therefore on track for delivery.



Figure 4: The small native nursery seed beds in Stanley were constructed from up-cycled IBC cube tanks cut in half to produce bare-root transplants of native boxwood

Due to savings with the up-cycling of materials to construct the small nursery in Stanley, materials have also been able to be purchased to establish a second nursery on New Island. New Island airstrip operates under severe weight restrictions that would limit the airfreight of bareroot transplants, whilst the alternatively coastal shipping route would require too long a duration between booking cargo in and subsequent delivery of bareroot transplants. The on-island nursery will facilitate the nature-reserve wardens to produce transplants on site as part of a restoration program to gradually replace introduced invasive gorse with native boxwood. Invasive gorse is sprayed, and boxwood planted into the subsequent die-back. The nursery will be established in Sept 2024 once the research station re-opens after the winter.

**Output 2. Four new, sustainable offshore island populations each of two globally threatened endemic plants; Falklands rock-cress and hairy daisy, are established.**

**Activity 2.1 Collection of Falkland rock-cress seed from Middle Island and hairy daisy seed from Motley Island using visits already scheduled for other concurrent work.**

Collection of Falkland Rockcress (*Endangered*) seed has been undertaken from two sites. Unfortunately, it was not possible to collect Hairy Daisy (*Endangered*) as seed was not yet sufficiently mature for collection at the time of the opportunistic site visit and a repeat visit could not be made to the offshore island collection site.

However, to compensate seed collection was made from a number of other species including Fuegian Saxifrage (*Critically Endangered*). Fuegian Saxifrage is limited to just two known sites, both within grazed paddocks. It has a more limited population and more restricted distribution than either rockcress or hairy daisy and would benefit from the establishment of more sites to protect against stochastic events.

Seed collection of Yellow Maiden has also occurred. This species is scarce and legally protected although is sufficiently widespread to not be considered at risk. Additional collection of Fuegian Couch seed, which is of conservation interest for restoration activities was also conducted. Fuegian couch is of interest as it is one of the few species able to colonise eroded clay.

Further collection of native box wood seed for the native nursery has also been conducted.

Seed from all of these species will be grown on in Year 2.





Figure 5: Some of the collected seed, dried and awaiting sowing and transplant production in the austral spring (September 2024)

***Output 4. Improved information on the benefits of ecological restoration and restoration techniques shared with community members through media and engagement (employing equal opportunity and ‘do no harm’ approaches).***

***Activity 4.1 Dissemination of information from project via local media, including radio, press, TV and social media.***

The most effective outreach materials are undertaken with visual images in a mixed media format to reinforce words and text. As the first-year activities are largely preparatory in nature, without visual direct restoration improvements on the ground, traditional and social media outputs have been limited. Media output targets (2 Wool Press articles, 2 Penguin News articles and 2 TV and radio slots) are however over the whole 3-years of the project and as tussac tillers are planted in the ground, reintroduced plants flower at new sites and ringed Cobb’s wren appear over the next 2 years there will be ample opportunity for positive stories with good impactful imagery.

Some general outreach, encompassing but not specific to the project, has been undertaken with community talks on restoration and land-management with presentations given at Falklands Conservation AGM (26 members and community attendees), Farmers’ Week (80 farmer and land-owner attendees,) and Peaty Pals community group (25 community attendees). These encompass FC members, local community, farmers, and landowners.

***Activity 4.2 Engagement in project activities by community members.***

Preparatory work of infrastructure improvement and seed collection has involved 5 landowners with direct involvement from 3 island owners in the activities (Pebble Island, Keppel Island and Sedge Island). Experience gained will be transferable.

Watch Group members have undertaken one session making seed-bombs. Whilst this was not for restoration sites within the current program this activity will be repeated utilising some of the seed collections from the project. A Watch Group visit will be made to the native nursery to assist

with cultivation of transplants. It is considered that plans are in place to meet the target indicators of community engagement.

### **Additional Activities**

Cobb’s wren reintroductions and tussac planting fall within Year 2.

Preparatory desk-top study work has commenced on wren re-introductions to guide the research application and a suitable advisor has been contacted in the UK to provide advice, guidance, and oversight.

A tussac planting agreement has been reached with Habitat Restoration Services to conduct the planting work.

### **3.2 Progress towards project Outputs**

#### **Output 1. “Pebble Islet habitats restored via a doubling of the area of native tussac grass and a halving of the area of bare-peat ground through boxwood planting.”**

No measurable change in the output areas has occurred in the first year, but progress on stepwise intermediary indicators has been completed.

The project is still on track to meet targets by Year 3, with preparatory work sufficiently advanced to begin registering changes in output metric land areas in Year 2.

Pebble Islet currently has approximately:

Land / Habitat Type	Area (ha)
Healthy Remnant Tussac	20
Degraded Tussac	12
Bare Tussac Peat	38
At-Risk Peat	5
Clay Patch Erosion / Exposure	18
Unstable Dunes and Deposition Areas	30

By planting c. 20ha of tussac grass and boxwood into bare peat areas the project will double the existing area of tussac (tussac coverage increases from 20ha to 40ha) and approximately half the area of bare tussac peat (38ha of bare ground reduces to 18ha). This planting into eroding bare peat areas will have the added benefit of holding and stabilising drifting wind-blown material and hence also reduce the areas of inland peat dust deposition and sand-blow. This aeolian deposition buries existing inland vegetation and following the loss of this stabilising inland surface vegetation destabilises additional areas leading to a rolling front of erosion. By planting the eroding areas, the quantity of erosional material is reduced, and the areas of deposition can also stabilise – multiplying the benefit of the planting activities.

Prior to planting (and any change in the output area metrics) several precursory activities have been undertaken towards the intermediary indicators, including habitat mapping the baseline (1.1), construction of a shanty (1.2), and production of planting stock (1.4 & 1.5). These activities are underway and have been highlighted in Section 3.1.

Boxwood planting stock is available (1.4 native nursery completed, 1.5 sufficient grown-on seedlings produced to meet 1000 target of bare-root transplants).

Satellite imagery has been acquired for baseline habitat mapping with sampling of 35 points for ground truthing the imagery undertaken. The data processing of the habitat map is now with an external consultant for analysis and processing.

The shanty has not yet been completed due to unforeseen local shipping delays for the delivery of the purchased building materials to the islet across 3 sailings. This could potentially cause



delays in delivery of tussac planting if no accommodation is available in the current planting season. However, there are currently two sailings scheduled (in late-April and June) during which repeat attempts will be made. If the shanty can be built by Aug/Sept it will still be possible for Spring plantings to occur, meeting logframe and timeline commitments.

***Output 2. Four new, sustainable offshore island populations each of two globally threatened endemic plants; Falklands rock-cress and hairy daisy, are established.***

No measurable change in output has occurred in the first year. However, advancement has been made in the first intermediary indicator (2.1).

Necessary preparatory work has progressed in the first year with collection of native seed (2.1) and arrangements are in place for this to be grown on (2.2). Once grown on the transplants will be available for planting out (2.3) and if in-situ flowering and seed-set occurs this will achieve (2.4). Progress is therefore on-track to achieve outputs by end of Year 3 subject to the normal uncertainties of plant production and planting out.

Whilst work is on track there are a number of factors not fully within the control of the project going into Year 2.

- Transplant production is reliant first upon the collected seed being viable, then on the germination potential of the seed (and correctly overcoming any latent dormancy with the appropriate pre-treatment of seed) and finally upon the growing conditions and care of cultivation.
- Further plant loss can occur when planting out transplants on a new site.
- Plants may not flower every year or survive long-term.

The first issues will be addressed by pre-chilling seed and dividing the seed batch between several growers to avoid risks such as damping-off impacting the full crop. The second and third issues will be addressed by matching planting sites with known population sites in terms of habitat, soils, shelter/exposure, and aspect to most closely match the growing environments.

The indicators and means of verification” are considered sufficient to chart the project progress towards achieving the outputs.

***Output 3. Two new sustainable offshore island populations of endemic Cobb’s wren and tussacbird are established on rat-free Double and Outer islands.***

No measurable change in output has occurred in the first year and all activities were scheduled to occur in Year 2.

Nevertheless, desk study has progressed to inform the drafting of a work plan and research application to obtain the necessary legal permissions from FIG.

An expert has been identified in the UK to provide advice, independent oversight of plans and assist the translocation operation on sabbatical.

***Output 4. Improved information on the benefits of ecological restoration and restoration techniques shared with community members through media and engagement (employing equal opportunity and ‘do no harm’ approaches).***

As detailed in section 3.1 above on project activities (4.2 & 4.2), generalised outreach has occurred on restoration and specific project outreach will commence when on the ground deliverables are met.

No impediment to meeting outputs is foreseen.

### **3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome**

***Outcome: Restored native island habitats and newly established endemic bird and plant populations increase biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and resilience to climate change and invasive species, and inform on restoration benefits and methodologies.***

No measurable change in outcome has occurred in the first year. The outcome indicators are closely aligned to the outputs and therefore the comments above regarding progress towards

intermediary output indicators as a process to subsequently achieving the outputs and hence outcome in Years 2 and 3 are relevant.

The SMART outcome indicators are based upon the outputs and considered adequate and logical for measuring the outcome.

The final outcome is to be achieved by Year 3 and at least in the first year the outputs are not linear or cumulative. They do not fully capture the preliminary work and activities that must be undertaken. Once the project enters its 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> years then outputs such as annual planting amounts will cumulatively contribute to the level and area of improved habitat and fulfil the project outcome.

### **3.4 Monitoring of assumptions**

The original assumptions are still valid.

The benefits of habitat restoration have been proven in a range of studies that have monitored and compared plant diversity, and bird and invertebrate density, in a range of habitat types and in the presence/absence of introduced invasive species and grazing. This was most recently conducted in the Darwin Peatlands Project. There is full confidence that improving the quality and extent of tussac habitat on bare peat and reintroducing endemic species to areas free of rodents will have the desired outcome benefits.

Output assumptions also remain valid. The need for secure winter accommodation prior to planting and the uncertainty of access to the island due to weather were identified and remain as both assumptions and risks. Adverse weather leading to the delay and cancellation of the coastal shipping vessel did occur. Whilst this was expected, the initial assumption had been that delays would be a matter of days, but that the 10-day duration of the ship's island trip would provide sufficient flexibility to work around any poor weather. It was not expected that weather would cause complete cancellation across the whole 10-days. This cancellation has in turn caused delays in the construction of the shanty, which is a necessary precursor for planting (although temporary restitution of a derelict shanty has mitigated this and will allow for construction to proceed over the winter period). The builders are still available and prepared to work through the winter period and repeat attempts will be made on subsequent sailings. As long as the work can be completed by September it should not cause a knock-on impact to other outputs.

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

As detailed in Section 3 on impact, outcome, and outputs, the first year of the project undertook preparatory work to put the relevant infrastructure requirements and precursory activities in place. This will allow direct on-the-ground restoration activities to commence in the Years 2 and 3.

The project contribution to achieving strategic long-term outcomes has been fully detailed in the application and further outlined within the logical-framework outcome assumptions. This details the positive impact of restoration and improved habitat and peatland health on both biodiversity indicators and carbon sequestration.

None of this can be done on a meaningful scale without sufficient personnel and a sustainable conservation economy that can put plants in the ground. A highlight of the first year has therefore been the collaboration with Habitat Restoration Services. This is a fledgling local company seeking to provide a range of restoration services. The project supports capacity within the sector that will ultimately allow environmental restoration and climate change works to be sustained in the future.

## **5. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)**

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board <sup>1</sup> .	2 of 4 Senior Project Board = 50% 2 of 5 Project Staff = 40% 9 of 15 Falklands Conservation Staff = 60% 3 of 7 FC Board Trustees = 43%
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 <sup>2</sup> .	No formal project partners.

GESI Scale	Description	X
<b>Not yet sensitive</b>	The GESI context may have been considered but the project isn't quite meeting the requirements of a 'sensitive' approach	
<b>Sensitive</b>	The GESI context has been considered and project activities take this into account in their design and implementation. The project addresses basic needs and vulnerabilities of women and marginalised groups, and the project will not contribute to or create further inequalities.	X
<b>Empowering</b>	The project has all the characteristics of a 'sensitive' approach whilst also increasing equal access to assets, resources and capabilities for women and marginalised groups	
<b>Transformative</b>	The project has all the characteristics of an 'empowering' approach whilst also addressing unequal power relationships and seeking institutional and societal change	

Overall Falklands Conservation can be considered both a sensitive and empowering organisation; the organisation's CEO is female and overall FC employs 9 female (60%) and 6 male staff (40%) spread equally across leadership and support roles. FC has extant policies and procedures on; Field-working, Leave Policy (including maternity and paternity leave), Safeguarding, Employee Code of Conduct, Harassment and Bullying, and Whistleblowing; all of which also provide components to ensure that the organisation is an equal opportunities employer and that the organisations activities will actively adhere to gender equity and 'do no harm' principles.

Recent volunteer tussac planting covering 20 days over the last 2 years has involved 87 separate volunteers of whom 48% were female and 10% were youth under 24-years of age.

Whilst the project does not have formal partners, women are well-represented in key positions in the Falklands community and among project stakeholders including; FIG Environment Department (60%), Pebble Island Farm (50%), and Island LandCare (100%).

The project to date has predominantly worked with the key staff (40%) and it is considered that it has neither had a negative nor positive impact on gender recognition.

## 6. Monitoring and evaluation

The logical framework has been used as the basis of monitoring review and evaluation and is considered alongside the timetable template at each internal quarterly review.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.



The logical framework is formulated so that project activities feed to outputs, outcome and impact with quantitative SMART indicators and means of verification at each level (this is supplied in Annex 1 & Annex 2).

Initial activities have been undertaken to solve an identified road-block to subsequent work and completion. Once enabled by these initial works, later activities then directly contribute to the output indicators (such as area of planted tussac, number of plants in established populations, etc.). This activity progression can be considered the following example; planters need accommodation (design, order materials, delivery, build activities) before they can plant (the output/outcome) on an island in winter and native boxwood transplants must be produced (collect seed, establish nurse, grow on activities) before there is any planting-stock (output/outcome) available for the planters.

Real-time ongoing monitoring was hampered by the on-ground works being back-end loaded within Year 1. For example, at the half-year major review point all activities were on track with all materials sourced, ordered and/or stored ready for the field work to occur. At this point the delays could not be anticipated or forecast. The delay only occurred after Christmas with 3 successive postponements or cancellations of the coastal shipping service (1<sup>st</sup> to allow for authorisation, 2<sup>nd</sup> for anchorage scoping, and 3<sup>rd</sup> for weather) which immediately brought the project to the March year-end.

Review also looked forward to how any identified short-comings might be rectified and brought back on course.

## 7. Lessons learnt

With hindsight there are lessons to be learnt, although as is usually in the case of hindsight they may not have been obvious or knowable at the time.

Between ordering and collating the build materials over the first half of the year and then scheduling the build for the last quarter of the year there was a natural lull. As a result, there was also a lull in ongoing communications with stakeholders, who may have *either* assumed that things had stopped *or* prioritised their immediate work. Maintaining continuous contact is crucial to show that the project is progressing and that outstanding queries are addressed and not pushed back. For example, whilst initial contact with the local coastal shipping had been made earlier and was positive their response (in hindsight) was perhaps slightly hypothetical and given "in principle". It was only latter after the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter lull when a definite request with cargo was made that it was suddenly pushed to their immediate fore and it was decided that authorisation and a pre-inspection of the anchorage would be required. In the absence of continuous communications, we both made incorrect assumptions as to the actions of the other that then, through compounding factors, led to unforeseen delays.

This lull in communications was also partly a result of organisational capacity in relation to meeting unforeseen emergency wildfire contingencies. Project commitments across the work of the organisation are known and can be planned for so that projects do not compete for restricted personnel time or resources. However additional unforeseen emergency response and advocacy can impact activities within a small organisation and community. The continued drying climate means the Falklands had a particularly bad year for wildfires on offshore islands. Three large fires occurred during the late summer season burning both tussac habitat and the underlying peat. The fires impacted 3 times the area that the current project is seeking to restore and it was imperative that action was taken to maintain what we still have. If we want to avoid a net loss of habitat, then degradation prevention is better than restoration cure - the potential loss to fire of 10,000 years of accumulated peat was critical to address. The additional work involved operation logistics, direct fire-control action and advocacy work with FIG and other stakeholders. Whilst this additional work all falls within the larger picture of maintaining healthy habitats, restoration and peatland carbon, it did mean that direct communication on the project was more limited for a period as action was focused elsewhere.

This is not a situation that can be entirely avoided in a small organisation, community, or Overseas Territory with limited personnel. There are times when, regardless of job description or funding, everybody must mobilise to meet an exigent priority.

It is recognised that improved earlier communication might have initiated authorisation and anchorage scoping at an earlier date and could have moved the delay forward and provide an additional month for a second attempt. However, at the time it was not known or yet confirmed that these two preliminary steps would be required.

The delay in shanty construction can yet be rectified and should not impact the overall outputs nor budget of the project at this stage. There may be some slight changes in the timeline, but this should remain within a year rather than cross years.

It was initially proposed that two planting sessions would occur between April – September 2024. It is proposed that the first of these planting sessions now be replaced by shanty completion such that the shanty and one planting session is completed by September. The second planting period can then be carried forward to March 2025. This means that outputs and budgets will all remain within the same financial year. This will be clarified in a “Change Request” with a new implementation timetable provided if required.

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

As the first annual report of the current project no review of progress or recommendations have yet been made.

## **9. Risk Management**

An updated version of the Risk Register Framework is included in Appendix 4 (Risk Framework Register, Appendix 4)

Risks remain as previously identified.

As previously detailed the risk of poor weather delaying delivery of building materials to the islet was realised and led to longer delays than had been envisaged. As weather extended to the whole 10-day duration of the trip the delivery was postponed to at least the next trip (6 weeks hence). This was compounded on to delays from authorisation and to scope-out the uncharted anchorage which had not been foreseen.

As a result, rescheduling has taken place. As long as build and one planting session are completed by September 2024 no delay or impact to year-end outputs should occur (Section 7).

## **10. Sustainability and legacy**

If restoration across the Falkland Islands is to be scaled up to a significant and meaningful scale to tackle the estimated 5,000 ha of degraded bare peat already extant then a sustainable restoration economy will need to be established. This includes the provision of professional labour capacity to undertake the work. It has taken 20 years to restore just 70 ha with annual volunteer planters. Volunteer use, whilst beneficial for outreach, is at capacity and if nature is to be fully valued and areas increased then it must also be paralleled with professional planting.

It is therefore gratifying that in the past year the private local enterprise Habitat Restoration Services has been established and that the project will assist in their consolidation and capacity building. The project along with other initiatives is assisting in establishing a long-term personnel capacity for the future.

The project has also involved the two adjoining island owners with them assisting directly in the work. This has further exposed them to restoration work and sustainable land-management. It has also allowed the opportunity for informal discussions through the day for both sides to learn and better understand the interests and limitations of the other in a two-way flow. This has undoubted benefits for future work and initiatives.

## 11. Darwin Plus identity

Darwin Plus and Darwin Plus Local both have a high profile in the Falkland Islands with the majority of people involved within land management, conservation and research in the Falkland Islands fully aware of the extent that Darwin has assisted in environmental management, policy, planning and work. Darwin Local has further advanced this recognition with the Department of Agriculture, Environment Department and Falklands Conservation highlighting the scheme eligibility widely amongst farmers, landowners, smaller organisations, and individuals. The outreach of previous projects and social media has also expanded this audience to include all that have an appreciation and interest in the environment and wildlife.

The Darwin logo is included within most public presentations and membership articles by Falklands Conservation. Whilst outputs this year have been more generic and wider in scope than this specific Darwin Plus project much of the data and knowledge that the project is based upon and justified by has in the past been supported by Darwin Plus (and the previous Overseas Territories Environmental Programme, OTEP) and hence Darwin Plus has been acknowledged. Furthermore because of this wider support by Darwin the general presentations on restoration and land-management given this year often contain overlap between past, concurrent, and present projects.

As project specific outputs are completed there will be more project specific outreach and social media conducted this year and this will fully recognise the contributions of the current Darwin Plus project.

The project does not have a stand-alone project website or social media page but is incorporated within the Falklands Conservation outreach and public relations outputs.

## 12. Safeguarding

Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months?	No Last official update Feb 2022
Have any concerns been reported in the past 12 months	No
Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point?	Yes Glenn ██████████ Community Outreach Officer – ██████████
Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months?	No. Two-module on-line Safeguarding Course completed Feb 2022
What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding?	Past: 87% - (13) Planned:13% - (2)
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.	
Yes	
As part of the FC Safeguarding Policy all staff must undertake a two-module on-line Safeguarding Course that must be completed by 31st October each year and is valid for a 2-year period. This includes modules on “Vulnerable Adults” and “Safeguarding” and guidance on identifying, responding to, and reporting safeguarding issues, concerns and actions. This is	



conducted through an only webinar course with short section questionnaires that must be passed before the student can progress to the next section.

Training is provided through High Speed Training Limited UK: Visit <https://lms.highspeedtraining.co.uk>

Furthermore, all staff must register all FC Work Policies on an on-line portal downloading each policy and marking it as read if they are changed or biennially, whichever is sooner.

Please describe any community sensitisation that has taken place over the past 12 months; include topics covered and number of participants.

None

Have there been any concerns around Health, Safety and Security of your project over the past year? If yes, please outline how this was resolved.

No. No incident or near-miss has occurred or been reported in the Health & Safety Incident Log.

A Health and Safety review of zodiac transfers and communications whilst on fieldwork was undertaken and approved.

### 13. Project expenditure

Please expand and complete Table 1. If all receipts have not yet been received, please provide indicative figures and clearly mark them as Draft. The Actual claim form will be taken as the final accounting for funds.

**Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024)**

Project spend (indicative) in this financial year	2023/24 D+ Grant (£)	2024/25 Total actual D+ Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs				
Consultancy costs				Budgeting included drone survey and imagery purchase that was not required due to high-resolution satellite imagery obtained for free
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				Additional expenditure for second build trip due to cancellation of vessel landing on first trip
Operating Costs				
Capital items				
Others (Please specify)				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>109,772</b>	<b>108,104</b>	<b>(2)</b>	

#### Consultancy Costs

The production of a habitat map was considered as one stand-alone piece of consultancy work that would include either a drone survey or the purchase of satellite imagery by the consultant. However through the facilitation of the RSPB high-resolution SkySat imagery was obtained for free from a third-party funder. This meant that only the image processing and GIS mapping component of the work was required, resulting in a significant saving in consultancy costs.

#### Travel & Subsistence

A slight over-run in travel and subsistence was incurred for two reasons, both related to the cancellation of the building materials landing by Workboat Services. Only transit accommodation for two nights on Pebble Island whilst on-route to Pebble Islet was budgeted for, however due to the weather-standby for the full 10-days of the MV Concordia Bay delivery trip and extended period of 10 nights was spent on weather stand-by on Pebble Island. Furthermore, since the delivery was eventually cancelled, it was necessary to conduct a second trip leading to additional expense.

**Table 2: Project mobilised or matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024)**

Falklands Conservation have provided the use of field equipment to the nominal value of £3,800 and in-kind contributing costs to organisational overheads and staff costs.

The project assists in supporting a restoration staff member who over the course of the year has also been responsible for sourcing and facilitating the following additional grants and activities.

- Spring Creek Restoration Grants c. £14,958
- Middle Island Georgia Seafoods Tussac Planting c. £6,000

	Secured to date	Expected by end of project	Sources
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project (£)			Falklands Conservation
Total additional finance mobilised for <b>new activities occurring outside of the project</b> , building on evidence, best practices and the project.			Spring Creek Conservation Georgia Seafoods Ltd.



**14. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere**

No additional comments on progress.

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

<b>File Type (Image / Video / Graphic)</b>	<b>File Name or File Location</b>	<b>Caption including description, country and credit</b>	<b>Social media accounts and websites to be tagged (leave blank if none)</b>	<b>Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary)</b>
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No

It is preferred that high-profile publicity is not undertaken to the Year 2 – Half-Year Report by which time significant advances on the ground with high-quality photographic images will be available including tussac restoration, that can accompany publicity materials.

## Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against logframe for Financial Year 2023-2024

Project summary	Progress - April 2023 - March 2024	Actions for next period
<p><b>Impact</b></p> <p>Improved conservation status of the Falkland Islands' native habitats, faunal and floral biodiversity with resultant improvement in ecosystem functioning and carbon sequestration of coastal peatlands.</p>	<p>YR1 preparatory activities were focussed at overcoming the logistical impediments to restoration activities on a remote island. This was a necessary precursor to allow subsequent direct action to improve the conservation status in following years (Yr2 &amp; 3). No on-the-ground measurable improvement in conservation status was expected in the first year, rather the preparatory work was aimed at improving the logistical capacity and island infrastructure to facilitate such improvements to be advanced in Yr2.</p>	
<p><b>Outcome</b></p> <p>Restored native island habitats and newly-established endemic bird and plant populations increase biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and resilience to climate change and invasive species, and inform on restoration benefits and methodologies.</p>		
<p>Outcome indicator 0.1</p> <p>Area of tussac habitat on Pebble Islet (PI) increases by 24ha and length of boxwood planted coastline increases by 4km by YR3.</p>	<p>No outcome indicator.</p> <p>Preparatory work to provide winter accommodation infrastructure undertaken. Materials containerised and awaiting re-delivery following weather-cancelled landing on islet.</p> <p>Native boxwood seedlings grown on and available for planting.</p>	<p>Tussac and boxwood planting will commence in Yr2 Q2</p>
<p>Outcome indicator 0.2</p> <p>New populations of Cobb's wren and tussacbird established on Double and Outer islands by YR3.</p>	<p>No outcome indicator.</p> <p>No activities on re-introductions was planned in Yr1. These activities will be commenced in Yr2.</p>	<p>Application for a translocation permit will be made to FIG during Yr2 Q1 &amp; Q2 and if permitted translocations will occur in Yr2 Q3 &amp; Q4.</p>
<p>Outcome indicator 0.3</p> <p>Number of sustainable sub-populations of Falklands rockcress and hairy daisy increased by 4 new island sites by Yr3.</p>	<p>No outcome indicator.</p> <p>Seed collections have occurred.</p>	<p>Seed will be sown in seed-trays in Sept and grown on as transplants to subsequently be planted out at the identified introduction trial sites.</p>

Project summary	Progress - April 2023 - March 2024	Actions for next period
<p>Outcome indicator 0.4</p> <p>Evaluations of developed restoration approaches are shared with the community up to end YR3.</p>	<p>Talks on restoration and sustainable land-management have been given at the Falklands Conservation AGM (26 attendees), Farmers' Week (80 attendees) and Peaty Pals community group (25 attendees). These talks were not specific to the project but encompassed components of it to promote restoration and lobby for improved mainstreaming of restoration activities by government, island businesses and the community.</p>	<p>Further project specific publicity and outreach will occur as direct on-the-ground mile-stone indicators are reached which provide visual and tangible publicity for the project.</p>
<p><b>Output 1</b></p> <p><b>Pebble Islet habitats restored via a doubling of the area of native tussac grass and a halving of the area of bare-peat ground through boxwood planting.</b></p>		
<p>Output indicator 1.1</p> <p>1.1 Survey data and drone images collected to inform restoration planning and monitoring of PI in Yr1.</p>	<p>Habitat mapping was costed as <i>either</i> satellite imagery or orthomosaic drone imagery.</p> <p>High-resolution tasked satellite imagery obtained. Ground-truthing undertaken. Mapping currently being undertaken by consultant.</p>	
<p>Output indicator 1.2</p> <p>1.2 Simple weather-proof sleeping shelter for x6 people constructed on PI to allow necessary winter-season planting by end Yr1.</p>	<p>All materials have been purchased and are in containerised storage locally. A building party was ashore awaiting ship delivery of materials but the landing was cancelled due to weather.</p>	<p>Repeat attempts to land the materials will be made on the next coastal shipping sailings conducted approx.. every 6 weeks.</p>
<p>Output indicator 1.3</p> <p>1.3 24ha of tussac planted on PI using 100,000 tussac tillers by Yr3.</p>	<p>Tussac planting was not scheduled in Yr1. Planting will commence in Yr2 once accommodation established.</p>	<p>Tussac planting will commence subsequent to shanty construction.</p>
<p>Output indicator 1.4</p> <p>1.4 Native plant nursery established to provide grow-on bare-root boxwood transplants</p>	<p>Native nursery established in Stanley for production of native boxwood with first batch of transplants now available for planting.</p> <p>Materials purchased to establish a second nursery on New Island.</p>	<p>Continued production of native boxwood seedling transplants in Stanley.</p> <p>Construction of second nursery on New Island in Sept.</p>
<p>Output indicator 1.5</p> <p>1.5 1000 bare-root boxwood transplants planted along 4km of coastline on PI by Yr3</p>	<p>Bare-root boxwood transplants available in Stanley.</p>	<p>Planting will commence on Pebble Islet this year after shanty completed.</p>

Project summary	Progress - April 2023 - March 2024	Actions for next period
<b>Output 2.</b> <b>Four new, sustainable offshore island populations each of two globally threatened endemic plants; Falklands rock-cress and hairy daisy, are established.</b>		
Output indicator 2.1. 2.1 At least 200 collected each of Falkland rock-cress and hairy daisy seed in Q4 of YR1/ Q2 of YR2.	Seed collection of; Falklands rock-cress (EN, Pr) Fuegian saxifrage (CR, Pr) Yellow maiden (LC, Pr) Fuegian couch (LC)  Hairy daisy (EN) could not be collected as island visit missed seed set (this varies from year to year and cannot accurately be estimated) however this was replaced by seed collection of the even scarcer Fuegian saxifrage (CR).	Seeds will be sown and grown on in September/October for subsequent planting out.
Output indicator 2.2 2.2 Perennial planting stock of Falklands rock-cress and hairy daisy produced by native plant nursery during Oct. through March 2023/24 and 2024/25.	No collection of seed was made prior to the project starting (April is too late for seed collection in the Falklands) and therefore the first opportunity to collect seed was in the current summer season (Jan/Feb 2024). This current seed will be grown on in Spring (Sept/Oct)	Seed will be sown in Sept/Oct to produce perennial planting stock.
Output indicator 2.3. 2.3 Populations of both Falklands rock-cress and hairy daisy, each comprising of at least 25 plants, established on 4 new islands by Yr3.	No actions. Planting out will commence in second half of Yr2 (Jan)	Planting out of sown perennial planting stock in Dec 2024, Jan 2025 depending on size and growth of transplants.
Output indicator 2.4. 2.4 Each new endemic plant population demonstrates reproductive capability by end YR3.	No actions. Yr3 Project end activity to monitor and determine final success	No actions. Yr 3 monitoring.
<b>Output 3.</b> <b>Two new sustainable offshore island populations of endemic Cobb's wren and tussacbird are established on rat-free Double and Outer islands.</b>		
Output indicator 3.1. 3.1 Donor sites are selected and at least 20 individual Cobb's wren and tussacbird have been captured, ringed and measured	No actions were scheduled.	FIG capture and translocation license applied for July-Sept, including donor sites.  Capture and translocation occurs Jan 2025.



Project summary	Progress - April 2023 - March 2024	Actions for next period
<p>Output indicator 3.2.</p> <p>3.2 Release of at least 10 of each Cobb's wren and tussacbird on Double island and Outer Island in Q4 YR2.</p>	<p>No actions were scheduled</p>	<p>Capture, translocation and release occurs Jan 2025.</p>
<p>Output indicator 3.3.</p> <p>3.3 Un-ringed juvenile Cobb's wren and tussacbird observed one year after re-introduction to Double and Outer Islands by end Yr3</p>	<p>No action. Yr 3 final monitoring.</p>	<p>No action. Yr 3 final monitoring.</p>
<p><b>Output 4.</b>  <b>Improved information on the benefits of ecological restoration and restoration techniques shared with community members through media and engagement (employing equal opportunity and 'do no harm' approaches).</b></p>		
<p>Output indicator 4.1</p> <p>4.1 Information on the project provided annually through media outlets (YR 1-3), comprising at least 2 Wool Press articles, 2 Penguin News articles and 2 TV and radio slots; over 3 years at least 10 social media post per annum</p>	<p>Due to lack of demonstrable tangible outputs with associated photos for social media and articles, direct project outreach has been limited. General restoration presentations on extant erosion and the importance restoration have been given including at Falklands Conservation AGM (26 attendees), Farmers' Week (80 attendees) and Peaty Pals community group (25 attendees). These encompass FC members, local community, farmers and land-owners.</p>	<p>Shanty build and tussac / native boxwood planting will be completed in the current winter and provide opportunities for media articles with on-the-ground photos.</p> <p>Cobb's wren introductions and native plant seedling growing and subsequent transplant planting out will all provide media opportunities.</p>
<p>Output indicator 4.2</p> <p>4.2 Engagement in project activities by community members includes at least 5 land-owners and 5 women involved in planting activities (as proportion of 20 total planters) and at least 20 members Junior WatchGroup involved in endangered plant cultivation by end Yr3.</p>	<p>No action. Planting has not yet commenced.</p> <p>Preparatory work of infrastructure improvement and seed collection has involved 5 land-owners (Pebble Island, Keppel Island and Sedge Island) .</p> <p>Seed collection of endangered plants only just undertaken and growing on will only commence in Oct/Sept at which point WatchGroup interaction will be scheduled.</p>	
<p>Output indicator 4.3</p> <p>4.3 Knowledge product containing summarised planting productivity, restoration costs and success, logistical and employment challenges, and restoration benefits in the context of carbon sequestration (Yr3)</p>	<p>No action. Yr 3 final summary report.</p>	<p>No action. Yr 3 final summary report.</p>

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

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
<p><b>Impact:</b> Improved conservation status of the Falkland Islands' native habitats, faunal and floral biodiversity with resultant improvement in ecosystem functioning and carbon sequestration of coastal peatlands.</p>			
<p><b>Outcome:</b> Restored native island habitats and newly-established endemic bird and plant populations increase biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and resilience to climate change and invasive species, and inform on restoration benefits and methodologies.</p>	<p><b>0.1</b> Area of tussac habitat on Pebble Islet (PI) increases by 24ha and length of boxwood planted coastline increases by 4km by YR3.</p> <p><b>0.2</b> New populations of Cobb's wren and tussacbird established on Double and Outer islands by YR3.</p> <p><b>0.3</b> Number of sustainable sub-populations of Falklands rockcress and hairy daisy increased by 4 new island sites by Yr3.</p> <p><b>0.4</b> Evaluations of developed restoration approaches are shared with the community up to end YR3.</p>	<p><b>0.1</b> GPS generated polygons of new habitat areas. Photographs of new areas and survey records from start and end of the project. PI management plan.</p> <p><b>0.2</b> Confirmation of presence, persistence and breeding on donor and recipient island.</p> <p><b>0.3</b> GPS locations of planted sub-populations. Photographs of plants <i>in-situ</i>. Surveys to confirm survival through presence, persistence and seed-set on donor and recipient islands.</p> <p><b>0.4</b> Media articles and attendance lists for project activities.</p>	<p>Increased biodiversity, carbon sequestration and improved resilience to climate change and invasive species will result from habitat restoration and species introductions.</p> <p><i>A larger area of native habitat combined with management action will increase breeding and foraging options for a wide range of Falkland native species.</i></p> <p><i>Tussac grass habitat has one of the highest peat production rates globally with above ground carbon storage equivalent to temperate forest (Evans et al 2020)</i></p> <p><i>Increasing the population size and number of breeding sites of endemic birds and plants should reduce the population level impacts of invasive species colonisations at individual island sites.</i></p> <p><i>More healthy and robust habitats and species populations are commonly held to be more resilient to climate change</i></p> <p>Project legacy is maintained</p> <p><i>Long-term security of restoration and introductions will be provided by utilising sites owned by Falklands Conservation and managed as nature reserves.</i></p>

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
<p><b>Outputs:</b> 1. Pebble Islet habitats restored via a doubling of the area of native tussac grass and a halving of the area of bare-peat ground through boxwood planting.</p>	<p>1.1 Survey data and drone images collected to inform restoration planning and monitoring of PI in Yr1.</p> <p>1.2 Simple weather-proof sleeping shelter for x6 people constructed on PI to allow necessary winter-season planting by end Yr1.</p> <p>1.3 24ha of tussac planted on PI using 100,000 tussac tillers by Yr3.</p> <p>1.4 Native plant nursery established to provide grow-on bare-root boxwood transplants</p> <p>1.5 1000 bare-root boxwood transplants planted along 4km of coastline on PI by Yr3</p>	<p>1.1 Survey report published detailing survey data. Stand-alone habitat map produced for PI Meta-data submitted to National SAERI-GIS data centre.</p> <p>1.2 External and internal photographs of completed construction. Photographs of shelter in use.</p> <p>1.3 GPS survey track of daily planted area boundaries mapped to provide planted area polygons. Individual planting logs maintained giving daily planted tiller counts per person. Plot counts to estimate 12-month plant survival rate for 1<sup>st</sup> three planting periods. Metadata provided to SAERI GIS data center and restoration database managed by Island LandCare</p> <p>1.4 Photographs of native plant nursery.</p> <p>1.5 GPS survey track of outer boundary of planted areas walked on ground to give planted area polygons. Planting logs maintained giving daily planted transplant counts per person. Counts to estimate 12-month plant survival. Metadata provided to SAERI GIS data center and restoration database managed by Island LandCare</p>	<p>Access to skilled surveyors and survey techniques</p> <p><i>Falklands Conservation has staff and associated volunteers that are sufficiently experienced to carry out the required survey work. Access to satellite imagery has been confirmed and availability of GIS technician provisionally confirmed</i></p> <p>Field workers can be resident on PI during planting to overcome huge logistical and cost challenges, and risk management for a remote island location.</p> <p><i>PI is a remote location only accessible by boat. Weather is highly variable and boat trips are frequently cancelled. Planting occurs in winter months to avoid dry periods which reduce success rates. Boat availability, weather and location mean that it would simply not be possible to undertake effective day trips. The construction of a simple weather-proof sleeping shelter for x6 people through the project is critical for restoration efforts on PI and upholds the above assumption.</i></p> <p><i>FC have sought advice on approaches and costings for a simple weather-proof sleeping shelter for x6 people and there has been interest expressed by local tradespeople in achieving this output should the project go ahead. There is risk in this element of the project but a combination of current engagement and FC established contacts and relationship should facilitate delivery.</i></p>



Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
			<p>Sufficient planting resource is available.</p> <p><i>Recruitment aided by previous good community engagement with pool of experienced planters. Winter planting avoids peak summer tourism and farming workloads allowing employment of rural / agricultural residents in off-season downtime. Paid planting employment will encourage participation and allow longer time periods than volunteers can generally provide. Tussac planting techniques and success rates established by previous projects.</i></p>
<p>2. Four new, sustainable offshore island populations each of two globally threatened endemic plants; Falklands rock-cress and hairy daisy, are established.</p>	<p>2.1 At least 200 collected each of Falkland rock-cress and hairy daisy seed in Q4 of YR1/ Q2 of YR2.</p> <p>2.2 Perennial planting stock of Falklands rock-cress and hairy daisy produced by native plant nursery during Oct. through March 2023/24 and 2024/25.</p> <p>2.3 Populations of both Falklands rock-cress and hairy daisy, each comprising of at least 25 plants, established on 4 new islands by Yr3.</p> <p>2.4 Each new endemic plant population demonstrates reproductive capability by end YR3.</p>	<p>2.1 Photographs of seed collection</p> <p>2.2 Photographs of planting stock</p> <p>2.3 Survey report detailing locations of new populations with photo-evidence and GPS position.</p> <p>2.4 Survey report detailing the counts of mature plants reaching seed-set by end of project</p>	<p>Seed availability is sufficient to establish new population</p> <p><i>The donor sites will have to be selected during the project in order to ensure that sufficient plants are viable in that season for seed collection. However, populations of rock-cress on FC owned Middle Island and hairy daisy on FC owned Motley Island are likely. It may be necessary to collect across a number of sites.</i></p> <p>Permits required to collect protected species under Conservation legislation are granted.</p> <p><i>FIG are supportive of application and will assist in licensing and ensuring full safeguards in place.</i></p>
<p>3. Two new sustainable offshore island populations of endemic Cobb's wren and tussacbird are established on rat-free Double and Outer islands.</p>	<p>3.1 Donor sites are selected and at least 20 individual Cobb's wren and tussacbird have been captured, ringed and measured</p>	<p>3.1 Photographs of individuals and ringing records and measurements.</p>	<p>Capture from donor population and establishment of new population is sustainable and can be monitored.</p> <p><i>A population survey of the donor site will establish its suitability and no more than 10% or 20 birds would be taken. Sex</i></p>



Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
	<p>3.2 Release of at least 10 of each Cobb's wren and tussacbird on Double island and Outer Island in Q4 YR2.</p> <p>3.3 Un-ringed juvenile Cobb's wren and tussacbird observed one year after re-introduction to Double and Outer Islands by end Yr3</p>	<p>3.2 Photographs of releases along with GPS locations of release</p> <p>3.3 Survey report detailing a count of ringed birds, an estimate of survival, identifies any displaying males and juveniles, and records band numbers re-sighted, on both Double and Outer islands. Photos provided where possible</p>	<p><i>ratios in wrens can be skewed towards male birds, however collection of 20 birds should give a good chance to ensure representation of both sexes. There are no data on Cobb's wren morphometrics and sexual dimorphism and sex could only be confirmed post release.</i></p> <p><i>Cobb's wren and tussacbird are recorded persisting in very small isolated populations on remote islands. Ringed Cobb's wren have been re-sighted and recorded living up to 6 years later providing confidence that ringed birds survive and can be surveyed.</i></p> <p>Permits required to capture, handle and translocate protected species under Conservation legislation are granted.</p> <p><i>FIG are supportive of application and will assist in licensing and ensuring full safeguards in place.</i></p> <p><i>Donor islands selected to ensure &lt;24 hrs from capture to release transfer times to avoid aviculture and stress. Juveniles caught to not impact breeding pair numbers. Capture limited to 20 birds or &lt;10% population. Rat-free status confirmed prior to release by rodent detector dog.</i></p>
<p>4. Improved information on the benefits of ecological restoration and restoration techniques shared with community members through media and engagement (employing equal opportunity and 'do no harm' approaches).</p>	<p>4.1 Information on the project provided annually through media outlets (YR 1-3), comprising at least 2 Wool Press articles, 2 Penguin News articles and 2 TV and radio slots; over 3 years at least 10 social media post per annum</p>	<p>4.1 Catalogue and copy of TV/radio interviews, newspaper articles, FC magazine article and social media posts. Social media posts interaction &amp; engagement data</p>	<p>Information has good reach within the community.</p> <p><i>FC have an established social media profile and good relationships with local print, radio and tv media to disseminate project information, along with its own</i></p>

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
	<p>4.2 Engagement in project activities by community members includes at least 5 land-owners and 5 women involved in planting activities (as proportion of 20 total planters) and at least 20 members Junior WatchGroup involved in endangered plant cultivation by end Yr3.</p> <p>4.3 Knowledge product containing summarised planting productivity, restoration costs and success, logistical and employment challenges, and restoration benefits in the context of carbon sequestration (Yr3)</p>	<p>4.2 Participation and employment logs.</p> <p>4.3 Published report on restoration logistics, costs and carbon sequestration.</p>	<p><i>membership magazines, newsletters and volunteer database.</i></p>
<p><b>Activities</b> (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1. Each activity should start on a new line and be no more than approximately 25 words.)</p> <p>1.1 Undertake baseline survey of Pebble Islet (PI) and produce PI digital GIS habitat map to inform restoration</p> <p>1.2 Construct simple weather-proof sleeping shelter for x6 people on PI to allow effective, safe, winter-season planting</p> <p>1.3 Four 2-week winter tussac-tiller planting trips of 6 people to PI. Tillers harvested and transported by quad for planting. Planting information recorded.</p> <p>1.4 Establish native plant nursery to grow-on bare-root boxwood transplants</p> <p>1.5 Plant boxwood bare-root transplants to coincide with winter tussac planting periods on PI.</p> <p>2.1 Collection of Falkland rock-cress seed from Middle Island and hairy daisy seed from Motley Island using visits already scheduled for other concurrent work.</p> <p>2.2 Sowing and growing of perennial planting stock of Falkland rock-cress and hairy daisy, and making of seed bombs.</p> <p>2.3 Planting of perennial planting stock along with trial of seed-bombs into prepared seed-bed at selected sites on 4 separate new islands (including PI).</p> <p>2.4 Return visit to planting locations during flowering season to record plant survival and establishment and to monitor success of seeding trial.</p> <p>3.1 Donor site survey, mist-net capture (Cobb's wren and tussacbird) with banding, measurements and sex-identification</p> <p>3.2 Transfer to release islands - Double Island (9ha) and Outer Island (20ha).</p> <p>3.3 Return visit to both donor and release islands to conduct bird counts to confirm no significant impact to donor island and survival and establishment on release island.</p> <p>4.1 Dissemination of information from project via local media, including radio, press, TV and social media.</p> <p>4.2 Engagement in project activities by community members.</p> <p>4.3 Collation of outreach metrics for project activities detailing personnel involved, public contact and engagement levels by community / stakeholder constituency, gender and age. Report publication.</p>			

### Annex 3: Standard Indicators

**Table 1 Project Standard Indicators**

DPLUS Indicator number	Name of indicator	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
DPLUS-D04	Stabilised/ improved species population (relative abundance/ distribution) within the project area.	Number New Populations % Increase in Number Populations	Species	0				
DPLUS-D12	Area of degraded or converted ecosystems that are under active restoration	Planted Area	Species	0				
DPLUS-C12	Social Media presence	Facebook Posts Number / Year	Likes, Shares & Engagement	0				

**Table 2 Publications**

Title	Type (e.g. journals, best practice manual, blog post, online videos, podcasts, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)

## 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 <b>correct template</b> (checking fund, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and <b>deleted the blue guidance text</b> before submission?	Y
<b>Is the report less than 10MB?</b> If so, please email to <a href="mailto:BCF-Reports@niras.com">BCF-Reports@niras.com</a> putting the project number in the Subject line.	Y
<b>Is your report more than 10MB?</b> If so, please discuss with <a href="mailto:BCF-Reports@niras.com">BCF-Reports@niras.com</a> about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	N
<b>Have you included means of verification?</b> You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	Y
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 15)?	NA
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	NA
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	Y
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	