Darwin Plus:
Overseas Territories Environment and Climate Fund
Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the "Writing a Darwin/IWT Report" Information Note: (https://dplus.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources/reporting-forms-change-request-forms-and-terms-and-conditions/). It is expected that this report will be a **maximum** of 20 pages in length, excluding annexes)

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2021

Darwin Plus Project Information

Project reference	DPLUS110
Project title	Recognise, protect, restore: driving sound stewardship of Falklands peat wetlands
Territory(ies)	Falkland Islands
Lead organisation	Falkland Conservation
Partner institutions	Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH), Falkland Islands Government (FIG), Ministry of Defence (MoD) - British Forces South Atlantic Islands (BFSAI)
Grant value	£265,889.00
Start/end dates of project	1 April 2019 - 31 March 2023 extended to October 2023 after change request aproval
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2020-Mar 2021) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2)	Apr 2020-Mar 2021 Annual Report 1
Project Leader name	Andrew Stanworth
Project website/blog/social media	falklandsconservation.com
Report author(s) and date	David Higgins, April 2021

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.

2. Project stakeholders/partners

Prior to departure the PO worked with Angus Garbutt and Chris Evans (CEH) to develop the methods and order the reqd. survey and field kit. Due to Covid-19 restrictions the training with CEH was reduced to 3 days (16th to 18th Nov 2020). This took place at the CEH centre, Bangor and involved the PO, Dr Chris Evans, Dr. Ed Rowe and Angus Garbutt. Email introductions to Denise Blake (FIG Env Officer) and Colin Clubbe (Kew Gardens) as well as staff at FIGs Dept of Agriculture (DoA) were made prior to PO arrival on the Falkland Islands.

On arrival PO worked with FIG to organise the research permit for the project to commence. This was issued on 23/12/2020. Work with FIG took place to organise access to Kidney Island and to make sure biosecurity was key for island access.

Meetings with DoA staff (Dr Mat McNee and Tom McIntosh) took place to develop methods for whitegrass sampling to develop understanding of above ground biomass/carbon. Further work took place with Gordon Lennie (DoA Senior Lab Technician) for developing methods for drying soil and vegetation samples, carrying out loss on ignition work as well as for pH testing. Gordon Lennie also assisted with the lab work during the early stages and gave an overview of lab safety. Contact made with Daniela Baigorri (FIG Biosecurity Officer) to assist with invertebrate ID and subsequent assistance with identification of spiders has taken place. A meeting took place with Denise Blake on 26/02/2021 to discuss the project and project development. Denise has been excellent with organising access to common land and ensuring the PO has access to reqd. locations.

A Skype meeting with Dr Colin Clubbe (Kew Gardens) took place on 20/01/2021. Colin gave excellent advice and guidance for getting the most from the project and fieldwork as well as building support for the Falkland Islands herbarium (held by FC with Kew Gardens support) via the project activities.

Kevin Lane (MOD Env Office/Mount Pleasant Complex) organized access to MOD land at Mount Pleasant and Mare Harbour. He joined project staff while surveying and sampling on MOD land on 09/03/2021 and has provided excellent feedback and, importantly, made introductions to other key MOD people.

Contact was made with several landowners, farmers and island owners during the early stages of the project. To date all have been supportive and allowed access to their land, either during the 2020/21 survey season, or have given permission for future access. After a local radio broadcast introducing the PO and the project at least one farmer (Fitzroy Farm, held by Falkland Land Holdings) made contact to ask if soil samples could be taken in their whitegrass camps. A date was arranged but postponed due to the farm workload. This will be rearranged for late May/June 2021.

Work with Falkland Islands TV company has been ongoing to develop a series of short films covering the project and peatlands. A three-part series has now been filmed and the first will be shown w/c 03/05/2021. Further filming will take place over the 3 year project to cover fieldwork, discoveries and develop understanding of the importance of peat soils and native habitats. The films will be posted on social media after the TV airing. The Darwin Initiative and brand will be discussed in the films.

Project social media posts have been liked, and shared, by two landowners as well as project partners, Members of the Legislative Council (MLAs), FIG, Darwin Initiative, Kew Gardens staff and private individuals.

This project arose from urgent knowledge gaps identified by FC's Habitats Officer working with land-managers and the Government to protect and restore native habitats. Planning included consultation with the key stakeholders.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

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*

Key peat-wetland habitats prioritised for the project, including those listed as vulnerable, are mainland tussac, offshore tussac, boxwood, whitegrass, whitegrass-fachine and bluegrass.

Field work has been directed at these habitat types in the shortened 2020/21 survey season. Working with CEH two sets of methods have been devised. CEH staff were unable to visit the Falkland Islands due to Covid-19 restrictions but a short training visit was made to CEH in Bangor (16th to 18th Nov 2020), Wales prior to the PO departing for the Falklands. This offered training in methodologies and introductions between key project partners. Follow up communications by email and Skype have helped develop the methods.

The first set of methods (**Annex 3, No, 1**) are directed at whitegrass camps and aims to understand how above-ground biomass and carbon differs under three land management regimes (low grazing pressure, high grazing pressure and no grazing). The second set of methods (**Annex 3, No. 2**) captures more detail of a suite of physical and ecological measures including flora, fauna and soil characteristics associated with each habitat type.

Field work has been carried out at:

- Blue Beach Farm visited 15 - 16/12/2020 and 01/03/2021 (3 days)
- Elephant Beach Farm 14/02/2021 and 03-04/03/2021 (2 days)
- Cape Dolphin Farm 14/02/2021
- Rincorn Ridge 28 - 29/12/2020 (2 days)
- FIG land on Stanley Common (Cape Pembroke, Murrell River, Yorke Bay) 15-17/12/2020 and 19 – 21/12/2020 (6 days)
- Walker Creek 26 - 28/03/2021 (3 days)
- Goose Green 29/03/2021
- The Murrell 08/03/2021
- Saunders Island 27/12/2020
- Mount Pleasant Complex 09/03/2021

Contact made with owners of Dyke Island, West Point Island, Carcass Island, Green Island and Beaver Island with a view to including these as fieldwork sites in years 2 and 3.
Four periods of fieldwork have been carried out on remote islands including extended fieldwork on both the Lively Island Group and New Island Group (including Tea Island).

- Hummock Island Field Trip 02 -04/02/2021
- Kidney Island visit 21/01/2021
- Lively Island Field Trip 18 - 23/03/2021 (visited Middle, Centre, Pyramid, Little Pyramid, Sal and Motley islands)
- New Island Field Trip 24 - 28/03/2021 (visited Carcass, Beaver, Beef, Saddle and Tea Island with sail arounds of North, Coffin, Staats and the Channel Islands)

At each farm, and island visits, nationally vulnerable peat wetland habitats were explored with measures of sward height, soil depth, flora (in $2m^2$ quadrats or the $200m^2$ X-plots) and fauna (invertebrates, birds and mammals). The whitegrass method involved harvesting small areas of vegetation for drying and weighing to assess above ground biomass.

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).*

The bulk of the work for Output 2 will be carried out in years 2 to 4. The methods and field work plans have been developed and trialled on 10 offshore islands, 6 farms, at the MOD Mount Pleasant Complex and on Falkland Islands Govt owned common land at Cape Pembroke, Yorke Bay and The Murrell River.

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.*

To date 6 landowners, or their representatives, have been directly involved in field work:

- Blue Beach Farm
- Elephant Beach Farm
- Goose Green Farm
- Hummock Island
- Rincorn Ridge
- MOD/Mount Pleasant Complex

A further 10 landowners have engaged with the project 7 of which have allowed field work to take place on their land during year 1 and the remaining 4 are allowing access during years 2 and 3. All engaged landowners are allowing future access. To date seven of the landowners, or their representatives, are female.

Two field trips have taken place with Falklands Conservation Watch Group in year one (**Annex 3. No. 7**). The first involved seed collection at Yorke Bay and took place on 16/02/2021. This involved plant ID and understanding seed collection and propagation. The second took place on the weekend of 27 – 28/02/2021 at Cape Dolphin Farm and involved soil surveys and simple exercises to understand soil properties.

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

The late announcement of successful Darwin Plus projects, coupled with severe Covid-19 regulations and delays, created difficulties with the early stages of the project. Recruitment was hindered and meeting work permit criteria proved especially difficult with delays in accessing GP and Dental surgeries in the UK. The Project Manager arrived on the Falkland Islands on 26th November 2020 and was then subject to a further 2 week delay due to Falkland Island quarantine rules.

Data is to be stored with the SAERI IMS-GIS data centre. CEH have provided support in data processing and management with this year's outputs. Metadata will be held by SAERI and all project outputs passed to FIG. All project outputs will be held by both FC and CEH.

The steering group is composed of CEH staff (Dr Chris Evans, Dr Ed Rowe and Angus Garbutt), Dr Colin Clubbe (Kew Gardens), Denise Blake (FIG), Dr. David Higgins (FC Peatlands Biodiversity Project Manager) and Dr. Andrew Stanworth (FC). Information has been passed to the steering group members since September 2020 with more intense work with CEH members to develop the methods. The first formal steering group meeting will take place during May with the agenda to include the working methods for all vulnerable peatland habitats and whitegrass-specific methods, year 1 outputs and the end of year report (which steering group members have assisted with). This is later than anticipated due to the late start of the project and the ongoing issues with arranging fieldwork during a shortened survey season. Further delays to extended boat-based fieldwork have arisen due to weather conditions and high winds. This has added to the difficulties of arranging the steering group meeting.

Project stakeholders have been identified with assistance from FIG, FC colleagues and readily available data (not breaching FI data protection protocols). FC colleagues, with many years' experience working with FI landowners, have provided invaluable assistance and organised introductions. The project has contacted, and is directly working with, 19 landowners (including island owners) alongside work on FC owned islands, which hold some of the best peatland habitats in the Falkland Islands especially bluegrass and tussac grass peatlands. A spreadsheet with the landowners, island owners and key habitats on each landholding has been prepared.

The first of this year's biannual reports was brief due to delays in recruiting the project officer (already discussed). This report is the end of year report and the second of the biannual reports for year one.

A communications plan (**Annex 3. No. 3**) has been developed alongside FC's Communications and Marketing Officer. Project information has been added to the website and will be updated

at least twice yearly. Regular tweets and posts on Facebook have been taking place and will continue throughout the project lifetime.

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*

The methods have been devised and fieldwork started (fieldwork images in **Annex 3. No. 7**) to understand these key peatland habitats. The methods have been tested on whitegrass, whitegrass-fachine, Bluegrass, offshore tussac grass and boxwood habitats. The key sites have been identified, both on East and West Falkland, as well as on the more remote islands owned by FC, FIG and private individuals.

The whitegrass specific method has been followed in 13 camps (large pastures) on 5 farms, at the MOD Mount Pleasant Complex and on FIG land. The majority of samples have been processed and data analysed. An initial report (**Annex 3. No. 4**) has been produced between CEH and FC. The work developed knowledge on above ground biomass and soil characteristics. Further lab work will take place with the remaining samples (gathered in the 2020/21 season) over the coming southern winter.

This early-stage work has refined the methodologies (**Annex 3. No. 1&2**) while developing an understanding of the habitats as well as the logistics of carrying out remote fieldwork.

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).*

Background research has been carried out on previous reports and existing knowledge of these habitats. Work with FC staff, and key partners/stakeholders, has taken place to ensure the methods are fit for purpose and will move the project forwards to achieve the objectives and overall outcome. For example the pit fall traps have shown low invertebrate returns in the majority of habitats surveyed. An invert vacuum sampler will be available for the next 2 survey seasons to ensure we get the most from the fieldwork.

Early results suggest that heavily grazed whitegrass camps have drier soils and are less prone to erosion. This will need to be confirmed with further camps brought in to project sampling. Given the difficulties of the previous year the project has made good progress and the methods fit for purpose. The results will move the PO towards developing Hab Action Plans.

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.*

To date 6 landowners, or their representatives, have been directly involved in field work:

- Blue Beach Farm
- Elephant Beach Farm
- Goose Green Farm
- Hummock Island
- Rincorn Ridge
- MOD/Mount Pleasant Complex

A further 10 landowners have engaged with the project 7 of which have allowed field work to take place on their land during year 1 and the remaining 4 are allowing access during years 2 and 3. All engaged landowners are allowing future access. To date seven of the landowners, or their representatives, are female.

Two field trips have taken place with Falklands Conservation Watch Group in year one. The first involved seed collection at Yorke Bay and took place on 16/02/2021. This involved plant ID and understanding seed collection and propagation. The second took place on the weekend of 27 – 28/02/2021 at Cape Dolphin Farm and involved soil surveys and simple exercises to understand soil properties.

Combined with social media posts, radio broadcasts, articles in FC newsletters and in the local newspaper (Penguin News) has helped develop a groundswell of interest with further landowners allowing us access over the next two seasons.

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

Despite a shortened season the project has achieved good communication with landowners and other stakeholders. A communication plan has been devised and regular social media posts have raised awareness of peat soils. Considering the Falkland Islands soils are rich in organic matter, with a high % being deep peat, the knowledge of these habitats has been limited to date.

Now the methods have been established the information coming from the project will help the Falkland Islands community, decision makers, conservation staff and landowners consider the future for natural habitat and peat soil management. Presently, the situation is peat soils are prone to severe erosion and, given that the Falkland Islands appear to be a drying environment, this situation will be poorly managed without direct intervention. The project will feed in to this process of understanding how best to manage peatland habitats and will be applicable to natural habitats and grazed whitegrass camps.

A meeting with RSPB staff has bee arranged for 5^{h} May 2021. This has come from the growing awareness of peatlands as well as the early-stage results from the whitegrass method. The discussion will centre around:

- the next steps in setting up a credible carbon credit scheme for the Falklands
- what FC might need to do to progress this
- how RSPB may support this

In addition, a first meeting between the Falklands Peatlands interests will take place between FC, SAERI and CEH during May 2021. This has been developed due in part to the SAERI work on wetlands and soil mapping as well as this project. CEH are partners with both SAERI and FC soil and wetland projects and will bring an international level expertise to this developing Peat Group.

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.*

The Falkland Islands have the highest proportion of peat-wetland cover of any part of the UK and the UK Overseas Territories. About 40% of the Falkland Islands are covered with deep peatlands, and with Falklands' peat-carbon storage estimates of 934 Mt C (778 t C ha-1), you would have to plant a forest the size of the entire archipelago to store the same amount of carbon. Peat-wetlands support habitats for diverse wildlife, protect against soil erosion, provide stunning landscapes, and are major water catchments. However, little hard-data has been gathered about these wetlands and damage to peat wetlands has given rise to extensive soil erosion, disturbed wildlife communities, non-native invasive species, and habitat fragmentation. Estimates suggest an 80% loss of original tussac peat-wetland habitat.

Some Falklands peatlands have remained largely unaltered; many of these are on remote islands. Over the next three years the project will explore these native habitats of whitegrass

plains, boxwood scrub, bluegrass and tussac grass ‘forests’. Despite this there is presently little protection, or understanding, of these vulnerable habitats.

The project has developed good communications with key landowners, FIG staff and partners. The methods have been devised, tested and followed – especially in whitegrass, and whitegrass/fachine, camps but also in tussac, bluegrass and boxwood habitats. Above ground biomass, soil properties, and floral diversity have already been quantified. With the bulk of the survey work taking place in years 2 and 3 these early stages will be built on across the best examples of the Falklands peat-wetland habitats.

Work with FITV, local radio stations, through social media and FC newsletters (**Annex 3. No. 5&6**) has developed deeper understanding and interest in the project. FITV will be running a series of short films covering the project to be broadcast over the project lifespan developing the understanding of peatlands as the surveys bring in new data and information. The first set of three films will be broadcast throughout May 2021.

Social media posts have been widely viewed, liked and shared. A communications plan is in place and work with FC’s media and communications officer will develop inspiring in-house footage and images through the main survey seasons including time lapse and drone footage. The media kit has been purchased to achieve this.

Farmers, landowners and island owners have allow access to land and assisted our understanding of local land management methods and issues. It would be an understatement to say these people are valuable when they’re essential to project success. Their knowledge, expertise and willingness to engage is key to the project. In the first five months seven landowners have been directly involved in field work. A further eleven have engaged with the project. All are allowing access during years 2 and 3. A list of key landowners and the habitats on their holdings has been prepared and further landowners will be contacted as we prepare for the survey work in year 2.

The landowners have shown keen interest in the project and given that soil erosion is becoming a major concern in a drying climate there is a developing groundswell of interest in peatland habitats and soil protection. The Falklands community are also showing a developing interest in carbon capture through good soil management and carbon offsetting. This developing interest will be built on throughout the project lifespan. In addition, we’ve worked with young people, through FCs watch group, to help them understand peatland habitats, their importance and benefits to people.

Alongside FCs Sites Officer, management plans and action plans will be developed for locations that require work and restoration. Restoration work on Middle Island, to increase tussac grass habitat and reduce soil erosion, will be taking place this southern winter (August 2021). The PO will be developing a plan for capturing soil data, to set baselines and aid future measurements of success, as well as feeding into the restoration methods. This first action plan will be further developed and built on to expand to other sites requiring restoration effort and action plans.

The project outputs will feed into FIG policy development for peatland protection, management of FIG landholdings, including FIG islands such as Kidney Island. Soil erosion is developing in to a major issue and the project will assist FIG as responses to the loss of peat soil are developed. In this way the project is both timely and much needed.

With the methods now established, and tested, the indicators appear to be fit for purpose but this will be reviewed by the steering group and key colleagues. Understanding peat-wetland habitats will be aided by measurements of soil, floral and faunal relationships as well as linkages between the marine and terrestrial environment. The information gathered will be communicated in inspiring ways to the local community and wider to ensure interest is maintained and developed. Given the approval of the change request, which was largely an extension of the timeframe, we feel confident that we are on track to deliver within the funding period.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Assumption	Response
1: Project partners remain sufficiently resourced to support the project. Key partners are large well-established organisations or Government backed. CEH, Kew Gardens and FIG/DoA have proven to be good partners in the project.	*Despite the C-19 situation CEH managed to provide training to the PO after navigating the official processes internal to CEH and directed by central government. Unfortunately, this was shortened to two days rather than the originally 2 weeks anticipated. This was unavoidable given the pandemic restrictions. CEH have continued to offer remote support with project development and establishing the field methods. The seasons field work has been reviewed by CEH and they have provided a short report on the outputs. FIG have proven to be good partners and have allowed access to FIG owned islands, common land around Stanley and to the laboratories at the Dept of Agriculture to process soil and vegetation samples. Kew Gardens have offered advice on the methods and have confirmed that they will continue to offer the support throughout the project. FIG, CEH and Kew Gardens staff sit on the steering group.*
2: A suitable charter vessel is available for hire to support field work on islands. FC have existing relationships with vessel owners.	*We have a list of contacts and have good relationships with all. This years work has involved two extended field trips in March and then April to visit 15 islands in the Lively Island and New Island groups aboard the Saoirse. The launches, owned by Solomons Shipping, were contracted to take us to Kidney Island, an FIG owned tussock island and National Nature Reserve.*
3: 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.	*The seasons field work has involved visiting farms on East and West Falkland and habitats on 16 offshore islands including whitegrass (incl. whitegrass/fachine), bluegrass, tussock and boxwood habitats. The logistics have been manageable even in a shortened survey season. The winter period will be used to plan field work, engage with landowners and process soil and plant samples gathered during the 2020/21 survey season. As this season was reduced we made change request to move some of the field work/travel budget to the 2021/22 season. This greatly increases the potential for access to islands next summer. We expect their to be another reduced tourist season meaning that we will have less competition for boat charters and our work will support local boat charter businesses.*

4: IMS-GIS data centre continues to operate as it does currently.	*There are no indications that this will change. The data centre continues to be managed by SAERI*
5: Enough land managers willing to engage to trial protocols. 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.	*In the shortened 2020/21 survey season we managed to work on 7 farms, on land owned by FIG and the MOD. We have directly engaged with 16 landowners regarding the project. This is in addition to visiting and working on 10 FC owned islands and islets.*
6: Enough land managers willing and enthusiastic to engaged through project either immediately or as a result of engagement activities. (see above section).	*See response to above assumption*
7: 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.	*Due in part to the delayed Darwin announcement, but mostly because of the Covid-19 restrictions on internal and external travel, this proved far more difficult than expected. Once we appointed the successful candidate further delays were experienced with the medical requirements for the Falkland Islands work permit. This was due to arranging appointments at the candidates dental surgery, GP surgery and the hospital given the huge difficulties the NHS were experiencing with tackling the pandemic coupled with the severe restrictions on internal travel within the UK. This added a three month delay to the appointment process and bringing the PO to the Falkland Islands. On arrival the PO had to conform with the 2 week quarantine period within the Falkland Islands before work could commence with full effect on Dec 14th.*
8: The website has recently been overhauled and continuous technical support is available to ensure functioning.	*There have been no issues with the website and work will continue to ensure the project information is kept up-to-date.*
9:Stakeholders willing to collaborate and cooperate.	*There has been good engagement in the early stages of the project with peat soils/carbon storage becoming a topical issue on the Falkland Islands. Local landowners/farmers have contacted the PO to express their wish to be involved in the project and especially to test whether different farming systems on whitegrass camps benefit carbon storage and biodiversity. The local TV company (FITV) are preparing to work with us to do a series on peat soils and the benefits of peatland habitats.*

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.

5. OPTIONAL: Consideration of gender equality issues

There are no specific barriers to engagement of particular genders in activities in the Islands or specifically in this project. For example our Watch Group for young children actively engages equal numbers of boys and girls (this equal representation has occurred naturally), and our Falklands Conservation Volunteers, who carry out a range of practical actions, include around 101 females and 68 males. Falklands Conservation employs 8 females and 3 males. The project will provide equal opportunities for different gender involvement and will endeavour, as per logframe statements, to achieve good representation of gender types in project activities, including training events for adults and field trips for young people.

6. Monitoring and evaluation

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 are reviewing methodologies and 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 will meet at least bi-annually, but more often as appropriate to address any specific issues; however, the involvement of the partners in project elements will ensure they have more 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 major learning lessons came from external pressures placed on us from the pandemic response, both in the UK and in the Falkland Islands. We recognise this will be a common theme throughout this year's Darwin reports. While this created serious delays the available time left in 2020/21 was utilised to full effect and, combined with the approval of our change request, we feel we are making good progress and on track to complete an effective project. We have to thank the Darwin Initiative for the flexibility shown with the change request which will enable the project to meet the objectives.

The methods have been tested on both East and West Falkland and on several small islands with good effect. Most of the methods have shown good results however, the pit fall traps for invertebrate surveys have been less successful (see **Annex 3. No. 1**). To counter this we've purchased a vacuum sampler which has been used to good effect on South Georgia, in the UK and as part of Darwin Plus projects on St Helena Island. We are yet to test this method in the Falklands due to the vacuum sampler being in transit. The addition of a heavy piece of survey kit will mean we require an additional volunteer during fieldwork. With a long list of active volunteers, and capacity on the boats available to charter, this should not pose any difficulties.

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

A progress review will take place during May and will feed into planning for the 2021/22 survey season. The people involved in this will include the steering group, FC staff and key stakeholders.

9. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

Covid-19 created difficulties in recruitment, work permitting and with the PO joining FC on the Falkland Islands. The delayed start to the announcement of the successful added to these delays. This meant the project started only after significant delays. We would like to thank the Darwin Initiative for the understanding shown and the approval of a significant change request.

The reduction in tourism has improved the situation with regards contracting boat operators with reduced competition for their time and services. However, some boat-based tour operators have ended the year early and taken boats out of water for repair and servicing.

Despite the late start and complications we have visited far more sites than expected given the severe delays during the 2020/21 survey season meaning the project has caught up to some extent and is in now a good position to push forward with delivery in years 2 and 3. The methods have largely been established and the survey kit has arrived. The Covid-19 restrictions did not hinder the arrival of the kit or result in refined methodologies meaning that the fieldwork has taken place using the best methods to aid meeting the objectives and overall outcome.

10. Sustainability and legacy

There appears to be a growing interest in peat soils, carbon capture, carbon offsetting schemes and soil conservation in the Falkland Islands. In part this is due to project activities but also arises from a developing awareness of climate change as an issue creating a drying environment in the Falkland Islands. Increasing issues of soil erosion, and reductions of farm sheep numbers, coming from environmental constraints appear to be permanent and

worsening. While this situation is not ideal for the Falkland Islands it has primed the community, landowners and government with a developing interest in new ways of land management. This is timely and has allowed the project to make a good start, especially when surveying whitegrass camps. We are receiving regular positive feedback from landowners and members of the public and volunteers are keen to work with us on the project.

In the few months the project has been active we have produced newsletter articles (**Annex 3. No. 5&6**), been on the local radio station and Falkland Islands TV are working with us to prepare a series of TV reports covering peatland habitats and project progress throughout the 3 years of the peat-wetlands project. The first three reports are due to be broadcast during May 2021. We have posted on Twitter and Facebook receiving positive feedback with numerous likes and retweets.

This growing level of awareness has given the project momentum and will allow us to further develop interest that can be a driver to improved policy direction with a groundswell of interest in carbon capture, native peat-wetland habitats and restoration effort, especially when attempting to tackle issues of soil erosion. A Peat Group composed of on and off-island specialists is due to meet during May 2021 which will help drive the developing interest and knowledge surrounding the multiple benefits arising from sound management of peat-wetlands.

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 FCs 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 officers function. These roles will support stakeholders in terrestrial habitat conservation (as guided by the current project), into the future. FC commits around £150,000 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.

11. Darwin identity

There have been previous projects in the Falkland Islands that have been funded by Darwin Plus, governmental 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. 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.

Over the previous 5 months, with the PO in post and resident in the Falkland Islands, the Darwin Initiative has been publicised on local radio, in the Penguin News (local paper), in FC newsletters (**Annex 3. No. 5&6**) and through social media posts (Twitter and Facebook). The Falkland Islands TV company have filmed the work in particular fieldwork carried out during island visits and will be running a series of films in May that will further publicise the Darwin Initiative. All press releases highlight that the project is funded through the Darwin Initiative/Darwin Plus.

12. Impact of COVID-19 on project delivery

Covid-19 restrictions on internal and external travel, as well as on pre-travel training, proved far more difficult than expected. Once the successful candidate had been appointed further delays

were experienced with the medical requirements for the Falkland Islands work permit. This was due to arranging appointments at the candidates dental surgery, GP surgery and the hospital given the huge difficulties the NHS were experiencing with tackling the pandemic, coupled with the severe restrictions on internal travel, within the UK. This added a three month delay to the appointment process and bringing the PO to the Falkland Islands. On arrival the PO had to conform with the 2 week quarantine period within the Falkland Islands before work could commence with full effect on Dec 14th.

UK based training with CEH, in Wales, was cut from 2 weeks to 2 days due to the restrictions in Wales and England and due to the difference in the pandemic response between UK countries. Much of the planning had to be done online which created some difficulties with timings and planning the field kit purchases. CEH staff were unable to visit the Falklands as expected due to the travel restrictions.

Due to Covid-19 related delays to the start of the project a change request had to be made which was approved by Darwin. This extends the end date to account for the delays and moves a significant portion of the travel budget to years 2 and 3 allowing the surveys and fieldwork to be completed to the level the project requires.

Staff have now had both vaccine injections and the Falkland Islands remain a low risk with only one case presently on island which has been caught in quarantine. FIG have put in place adequate measures to safeguard the islands from the pandemic.

The use of Skype and Team meetings works well with contacting UK based partners, however, this would have been required if the Covid-19 situation hadn't placed restrictions on travel. Given the good roll-out of the vaccines within the Falkland Islands, the sensible restrictions on international travel to and from the Falkland Islands and the quarantine measures we do not expect any further Covid-19 delays. Though we will not become complacent and will quickly respond to any signs of concern.

13. Safeguarding

Please tick this box if any safeguarding violations have occurred during this financial year. ☐

If you have ticked the box, please ensure these are reported to ODA.safeguarding@defra.gov.uk as indicated in the T&Cs.

There have been no safeguarding issues. Project staff, along with all FC staff, have completed online training in:

- Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults (Level 1) - **Annex 3. No. 8**
- Introduction to Safeguarding Children (Level 1) - **Annex 3. No. 8**

Further training in 'Understanding Child Sexual Exploitation' is being made available to all staff during May to June 2021.

14. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure <u>during the reporting period</u> (1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021)

Project spend (indicative) in this financial year	**2020/21 D+ Grant (£)**	**2020/21 Total actual D+ Costs (£)**	**Variance %**	**Comments (please explain significant variances)**
Staff costs	[redacted]			
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items				
Others (Please specify)				
TOTAL				

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2020-2021 – if applicable

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
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.		FITV filming for a 3-part short series to eb broadcast May 2021 Radio interview broadcast in December 2020 Penguin News article about the project 2 FC newsletter articles Regular Twitter/FB social media posts Whitegrass methods developed to understand above-ground biomass/carbon storage potential under different grazing regimes. More detailed methods for all habitat types developed to explore flora (200m^2 X-plot quadrats) and faunal relationships (pit fall traps, pollinator traps and bird surveys) Methods trialled at 10 mainland sites across 5 different landholdings - Blue Beach Farm, Walker Creek Farm, Yorke Bay and Cape Pembroke and several remote island sites.	
Outcome Nationally 'Vulnerable' peat-wetland habitats are recognised, can be assessed and monitored to inform appropriate management by Government and	0.1 No Response Policy recognition of nationally 'Vulnerable' peat-wetland habitats and their Action Plans by Government (Y4Q2).	Developed valuable data on soil characteristics and ecology that can feed into policy and	Develop suite of survey sites and charter local boat owner for access. Planning work to take place in southern winter 2021

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
community alike. The importance of plant habitats for fauna is newly understood.	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)	action/management plans. FIG Env Officer sits on steering group. Captured quantitative data on whitegrass camps incl. soil and ecology. Directly working with landowners have assisted with fieldwork. To be built on in future years. Working with FC and Georgia Seafoods to develop Action Plan and Monitoring protocols for Motley Island restoration effort. Working with FCs Habitats and Sites Officers to explore best sites which will be refined as data is gathered,	Develop links with landowners. Soil samples to be taken at Fitzroy Farm during May/June 2021.
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		*Work carried out on five nationally vulnerable peat-wetland habitat types. Explorations of remote islands undertaken to assess suitability for survey work in 2021/22*	
Activity 1.1: Peat-wetland habitats prioritised for assessment, to include nationally 'Vulnerable' peat-wetland habitats by Y1Q2, Q3 and Q4.		5 vulnerable peat-wetland habitat types identified, assessed and surveyed. Extensive whitegrass surveys carried out. Good contact made with landowners, farmers and island owners.	List of sites for future access made, planning for access to be carried out in winter 2021 to roll out working methods.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
Activity 1.2: Initial technical survey protocols developed with CEH (including advisory visit) by Y1Q2, Q3 and Q4.		Two sets of working methods devised in collaboration with CEH. Advisory visit postponed due to C-19 restrictions.	Refine methods once final field kit arrives (vac attachment for leaf-blower). Re-arrange CEH visits.
Activity 1.3: Fieldwork plans developed by Y1Q3 and Q4, and Y2Q1, Q2 and Q3.		Fieldwork plans developed and acted on. Local boatowners identified. Island visits made.	Plan for southern summer survey season 2021/22 to be completed during May – August 2021.
Activity 1.4: Field work carried out in austral summers 2020-2021, 2021-2022 and 2022-23.		Despite 2020/21 difficulties good start made. Work carried out on East and West Falkland and off-shore islands.	As above – also plan with prospective volunteers for next field visits.
Activity 1.5: Survey data analysed: Y2Q1 and Q2, Y3Q1 and Q2, YR4 Q1 and Q2.		Initial results analysed with assistance from CEH.	Process final whitegrass and soil samples from 2020/21 field season. Recording sheets devised and roles assigned for data collection.
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.		Field methods tested in all nationally Vulnerable peat-wetland habitats. Detailed data collected for whitegrass camps.	Continue with data collections, storage and analysis with working methods and see above responses.
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).		*Methods established and tested in all 5 identified habitats. Work carried out alongside landowners and plans for preparing Action Plans for Motley Island during southern winter 2021.*	
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		Work to identify simple key identifiers of habitat quality. Directly	Expand work with landowners during remaining survey seasons.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
nationally 'Vulnerable' peat-wetland habitats) developed and trialled (years 2 and 3 and YR4 Q1).		worked with landowners and their representatives to develop methods.	Continue to refine key identifiers suitable for quick and effective deployment by busy landowners. Explore other assessment methods and effectiveness such as the UK Riverfly Monitoring scheme.
Activity 2.2: Protocols rolled-out YR3 Q1, Q2 and Q3.		Fieldwork to assess working methods and identify key features.	Continue to develop and refine methods/protocols alongside farmers and landowners to ensure protocols are fit for purpose.
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.		Methods established and data analysis of whitegrass camps made offering information on important features. PO working with Sites and Habitats Officers to develop Action plans for Motley Island as a trial.	Continue to roll out methods and data analysis through 2021 – 23. Work with colleagues and stakeholders incl FIG to develop strong Action Plans while raising awareness of the need to manage peat-wetlands better.
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.		*Already worked with several key landowners and engaged with wider stakeholder interests through FITV, social media and radio.*	
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.		Refined methods and developed good landowner contacts. Directly worked with landowners who have offered valuable feedback and questioned the thinking behind methods. Landowners have proven	Continue to work with landowners and start to develop training method through southern winter/spring. Training is expected to be field based and to

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
		valuable allies and have offered a pragmatic refinement of methods.	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.			
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.		Two taken place during southern summer 2020/21 with FCs Watch Group.	Plan for more activities with Watch Group and local schools during 2021/22. To be done in conjunction with FCs Habitats Officer and Outreach Officer.
Activity 3.4: At least 8 land managers involved in fieldwork activities. Y1Q4, YR2Q3 and Q4 and YR3Q3 and Q4.		Worked directly with 6 landowners and/or landowners reps who have assisted with fieldwork.	Continue to develop this and act when landowners approach the PO directly (e.g. Dyke Island and Fitzroy Farm).
Output 4: Project Management, monitoring, evaluation and communication schemes.		*Comms plan developed. Work with FITV, local radio and press to publicise project. Social Media posts well received and shared by stakeholders. Work with SG and other stakeholders to develop methods and protocols. Work with landowners has offered valuable feedback and constructive suggestions.*	
Activity 4.1: Project Officer recruited in post, signed contract by Y1Q3.		PO arrived in the Falkland Islands Nov 26th 2020	
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. Developing a local 'peat' group between FC and SAERI alongside CEH to continue progress.	Refine protocols as required.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
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.	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 landowners/farmers made and to date access granted on all occasions.	Maintain promising start and expand contacts made.
Activity 4.5: Biannual Darwin Plus reports submitted on-time and shared with Project Partners.		To date this has been done with slight delay on end of year 2020/21 report due to tight deadlines with fieldwork.	Ensure these are made in timely manner.
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.	Follow plan and rollout direct media capture during fieldwork seasons 2021/22 and 2022/23 alongside FCs marketing officer.
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.	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) - if applicable

N.B. if your application's logframe is presented in a different format in your application, please transpose into the below template. Please feel free to contact Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk if you have any questions regarding this.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
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. .			
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 (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)	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	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.
Output 1 Peat-wetland habitats (including, but not necessarily limited to, all peat-wetland habitats listed as	1.1 Peat-wetland habitats prioritised for assessment, to include nationally 'Vulnerable' peat-wetland habitats by Y1Q2, Q3 and Q4.	1.1 List of additional peat-wetland habitats, beyond those 5 classed as nationally 'Vulnerable' ranked by priority for assessment, agreed with	Project Officer or replacement remains in the Falklands to complete field work program. FC

'Vulnerable' under the national Biodiversity Framework and associated documents) are characterised and described	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.	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).	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. A suitable charter vessel is available for hire to support field work on islands. FC have existing relationships with vessel owners. 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. IMS-GIS data centre continues to operate as it does currently.

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 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.	2.1 Draft habitat protocols and trial feedback. 2.2 Final habitat protocols on website. 2.3 Habitat Action Plans available.	Enough land managers willing to engage to trial protocols. 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.
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.	3.1 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 recognise at least three native plant	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 correspondance 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 conserve or restore nationally 'Vulnerable' peat-wetland habitats.	Enough land managers willing and enthusiastic to engaged through project either immediately or as a result of engagement activities. (see above section)

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

	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. 4.7 Project information hosted on the web and updated regularly twice a year, from Y1Q3.		

Activities (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)

1.1 Survey sites are selected. A statistically robust survey design is produced.
1.2 Protocols are developed for fieldwork and circulated. CEH advisory visits occur.
1.3 Fieldwork planning
1.4 Field work including multimedia collection
1.5 Data analyses
1.6 Technical report including quantitative descriptions of habitats. Data management, access and storage through IMS-GIS centre and FC website.
1.7 WebGIS developed with IMS-GIS centre.
2.1 Monitoring protocols developed, tested with land managers and updated according to their feedback.
2.2 Application of monitoring protocols including during training.
2.3. Drafting of habitat Action Plans and presenting to policy makers.
3.1 Training sessions (at least 2, one on East and one on West Falkland)
3.2 Training assessments completed during training sessions or other outreach work.
3.3 Field trips for young people.
3.4 Fieldwork opportunities for land managers.
4.1 Project Officer (PO), recruited and in post by July. Undergoes training with CEH in UK.
4.2 PO consults with data manager and establishes data protocols
4.3 Identify Steering Group. Project updates, ongoing M&E process with Steering Group.
4.4 Stakeholders identified and engaged
4.5 Darwin Plus reporting
4.6 Communications Plan drafted – including development of inspirational multimedia aspects.
4.7 Website content and updates