

# ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY PROGRESS REPORT 2022

Falkland Islands Government



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Falkland Islands Government Environment Department  
Secretariat  
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## Background

At the end of 2021 Executive Council adopted the Falkland Islands Environment Strategy 2021-2040. The Strategy envisions a future where our natural environment is:

### *For All*

The Falkland Islands' natural environment supports resilient, healthy and functioning ecosystems that all our community and future generations can continue to enjoy and benefit from.

### *Biodiverse*

The quality of our habitats is improved, biodiversity has been retained and we benefit from flourishing oceans, coasts, land and freshwater.

### *Healthy*

The Islands' air, water, and soils are clean.

### *Sustainable*

We use and manage our natural resources efficiently and sustainably, and our thriving economy respects our environmental assets.

### *Adapted*

Renewable energy has been embraced, we play our role in tackling the climate emergency, and are able to understand and adapt to global change at a local level.

### *Connected*

Our connection to nature continues to be a vital part of our identity, and engagement with our environment and natural heritage is enhanced across the community.

In order to achieve this Vision, a set of strategic objectives were developed under different themes. A sample of actions to work towards achieving these objectives were highlighted for completion during the life of the strategy. This report captures the progress against those actions within FIG.

The work of the strategy extends far beyond simply achieving this set of actions, because the strategy extends for 20 years and work towards the vision will grow, develop and evolve over this time. An Environment Strategy Programme Board, comprised of the Chief Executive, MLAs with the Lead and Deputy Portfolio for Environment, Directors of Natural Resources, Public Works and Policy and Economic Development as well as the Head of Environment, has been established and will continue to meet regularly to help guide implementation through government and provide Executive Council and the public with regular updates on progress. The programme board will bring together teams of representatives from across government with different skills and backgrounds to further define and tackle the workstreams flowing out of the strategy.

The present report is the first report back on progress against the strategy within FIG during its first year, and indeed during the first year of a new Legislative Assembly. The strategy is intended to extend to everyone across the community and there are many other initiatives and projects by individuals and organisations working towards the objectives of the strategy that are not captured in this report. We would encourage others within our community to also share their experiences and achievements.

## Biodiversity and Ecosystem Integrity

- 1.1 to continue working towards integrating biodiversity (i.e. considerations of ecosystem integrity) across environmental and economic agendas, acknowledging that the integrity of ecosystems underpins the continued provision of all ecosystem goods and services for current and future generations
- 1.2 to protect and enhance our biodiversity (ecosystem integrity), reducing its loss through tackling threats
- 1.3 to work towards preventing the introduction of invasive species, reducing their spread and reducing, eliminating or appropriately managing them
- 1.4 to mitigate for degradation and promote restoration of native ecosystems, where possible
- 1.5 to work towards understanding and managing creeping change (slow, incremental environmental degradation) before environmental thresholds are passed that have costlier and fewer solutions
- 1.6 to increase knowledge of the marine, terrestrial and aquatic environments and biodiversity, through identifying and filling key knowledge gaps, to support effective governance and decision-making

### Actions

1. Update our biodiversity framework and action plans to accommodate upcoming changes to the international Convention on Biological Diversity

**Lead Dept(s):** Environment

**Status:** Not started

The international meeting COP15 on the Convention on Biological Diversity was several times delayed due to covid-19, but nations finally concluded proceedings in late December 2022.

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2. Update wildlife and nature legislation to increase protections for biodiversity

**Lead Dept(s):** Environment

**Status:** Started

A biodiversity protection advisor was recruited in May 2022 to lead this work. Scoping of issues related to wildlife law and policy is underway, with options for potential solutions to the issues. Initial conversations with targeted stakeholders to aid the scoping work has happened. During 2023, it is anticipated that direction will be sought from ExCo and that detailed policy work and stakeholder engagement will continue.

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3. Implement more controls on invasive species

**Lead Dept(s):** Agriculture

**Status:** Implemented & ongoing

**Partners:** Environment

Controls on invasive weeds continues, with 316 hectares of invasive Calafate sprayed over 12-week periods through contractors Indigena biosecurity. Ongoing biosecurity protocols have been put in place

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at borders to reduce the risk of entry of invasive species, with additional staffing through the summer to further reduce risk.

Five projects funded in the 2022 funding round of the Environmental Studies Budget (ESB) will implement controls on invasive species. These include two projects about detecting invasive rodents, two projects about controlling earwigs, and one about controlling mouse-eared hawkweed. This builds on existing work that includes ongoing management of weeds on Stanley Common, assistance for pensioners with earwig control.

FIG is also partnering on the FC-led Darwin Plus project *New Island: completing preparatory steps for restoration against invasive mammals* started this year to collate information, develop approaches and secure stakeholder support necessary for an ambitious plan to rid New Island of invasive mammals.

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4. Identify and prioritise data types and key geographic areas for data collection to increase our knowledge of marine, terrestrial and aquatic environments

**Lead Dept(s):** Environment **Status:** Implemented & Ongoing

**Partners:** Agriculture, Fisheries, partner organisations including Falklands Conservation, SAERI, Island Landcare and other entities and individuals across the community

The climate change project work has identified key data gaps and actions are in place to fill these; a network of weather stations across the Islands is planned for installation in 2023. Data gaps are also being addressed by multiple organisations in partnership or funded by FIG; this included a range of projects in 2022 many of which are still ongoing. For example, commissioned terrestrial biodiversity surveys (surveys of Important Plant Area on Cape Pembroke), an assessment of the environmental condition of all FIG-owned islands, evaluation of (tussac) restoration extent and success within the Falkland Islands, assessing climate change resilience in Falkland Islands fisheries and marine ecosystems and wetlands status and monitoring data, and the 29<sup>th</sup> year of the Falkland Islands Seabird Monitoring Programme long term data series of key seabird populations.

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Additional actions:

**Lead Dept(s):** Veterinary Services **Status:** Implemented & Ongoing

**Partners:** Environment Department

Avian influenza response prepared; led by Veterinary Services working together with the Environment Department, multiple stakeholders across our community and international experts. Measures were put in place to reduce the risk of introduction of avian influenza into the Islands and reduce the risk of spread throughout the Islands should it arrive at one location. This includes policy updates, advice and guidance to relevant stakeholders (tourism industry, vessels, military, general public, etc.) but also practical interventions such as deployment of footbaths and Virkon at borders, FIGAS, all FIGAS airstrips and on the Common at key wildlife sites. Advice and guidance have been produced with regular outreach to the public and key stakeholders. Measures implemented will also help with elements of biosecurity and also enhances protocols that can reduce the introduction of pests and diseases to different sites.

## Oceans and Coasts

2.1 to have healthy, functioning and robust marine and coastal ecosystems in the Falkland Islands through protections and management

2.2 to ensure that future generations can benefit from marine and coastal ecosystems and the goods and services they provide by sustainably managing human activities which impact our oceans and coasts

2.3 to actively participate in the integrated, cross-boundary management of marine ecosystems in the South West Atlantic, that considers cumulative impacts and contributes to the good condition of marine and coastal ecosystems

### Actions

5. Establish Marine Managed Areas with a target of 15% of our marine waters designated and with management plans

**Lead Dept(s):** Environment

**Status:** Started

A consultation on technical proposals for MMAs that cover 15% of the Falkland Islands marine waters was run during 2022. Analysis of the consultation has been undertaken and will inform future policy development. Fine scale policy development is expected in 2023.

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6. Continue working with countries in the broader region to share information and resources to facilitate better management of our marine environment

**Lead Dept(s):** Fisheries

**Status:** Ongoing

Continue to work with DEFRA in order to ensure that fisheries management and IUU matters remain a priority for regional states and UKG.

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7. Conclude investigations of potential environmental impacts of aquaculture, including large-scale aquaculture

**Lead Dept(s):** Fisheries

**Status:** Closed

A review of international best practices for large scale fish farming has been carried out. A policy decision has been made by ExCo that there is no large-scale salmon farming in the Falkland Islands. An outstanding task is to complete the legislative review to ensure that small scale fish farming is carried out to the highest environmental standards.

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8. Implement the agreed recommendations from the fin-fish review (ExCo 16/21)

**Lead Dept(s):** Fisheries

**Status:** Implemented & Ongoing

A number of key recommendations, which relate to environmental improvement, have been implemented. For example, there has been a full review of the strategic and operational control and enforcement function and implementation is ongoing. A fisheries manager role has been established and recruited to. International standards for stock assessment modelling have been implemented for

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the fin-fish fisheries and an additional in-depth review of how to better manage the fin-fish fishery has been carried out. Next steps include policy development with key stakeholder engagement. A fisheries management policy and management framework for the Fisheries Department have been drafted. Next steps include internal and then external review and ExCo approval.

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9. Investigate extension of appropriate international instruments to reduce introduction of marine invasive species

**Lead Dept(s):** Falkland Islands Maritime Authority (FIMA) **Status:** Not started

With the UK now having ratified the Ballast Water Management Convention, FIMA's intention is to proceed with implementation of the Convention.

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**Additional actions:**

**Lead Dept(s):** Fisheries **Status:** Implemented & ongoing

Continued implementation and refinement of bycatch mitigation measures to minimise environmental impacts on key species, such as seabirds and marine mammals. Reducing unintended bycatch of non-target species, for example through not issuing trawler licences in *Illex* B fishery and increasing the mesh size in the skate fishery.

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## Land and Fresh Water

- 3.1 to manage and protect our native terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems (including wetlands) and the quality of land and water
- 3.2 to improve terrestrial and aquatic ecosystem integrity, for the benefit of current and future generations, through considering the ecological impact of and improving land-management approaches, practices and incentivisation
- 3.3 to take an integrated land-water management approach that adopts a long-term view and incorporates ecological considerations alongside social and economic ones

### Actions

10. Establish additional National Nature Reserves

**Lead Dept(s):** Environment **Status:** Started

The ambition for a new National Park has been reignited. Working towards the goal of establishing more protected terrestrial areas for the Falkland Islands, a site of important environmental conservation and heritage value has been identified.

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11. Create an agricultural action plan and an agricultural advice framework, which will reflect the ecological principles in the Environment Strategy

**Lead Dept(s):** Agriculture

**Status:** Not started

No update at this time.

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12. Develop an action plan to manage land and water

**Lead Dept(s):** Agriculture, Environment, Public Works (PWD)

**Status:** Started

Collaborative work has begun on integrated land and water management; given that this is a broad and complex area of work, next steps involve breaking this up into smaller discrete (albeit connected) work packages and assigning responsibility for these.

A particular focus has been on water, given dry conditions during 2022. In consultation with the departments of Agriculture, Minerals and Public Works work has begun on a strategic framework, which identifies key areas of focus and action required by each of the departments. This requires further discussion and development before it is fully operational. A report was commissioned by the Agriculture department in early 2022 which looked into the causes of the drying land and the implications and impacts on land management in the Falklands. A draft version of the report was also shared with landowners which sought to encourage comments from them to help understand the experiences and impacts of drying soils, as well as identify any particular historical practices which may have unduly contributed to the current conditions experienced.

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13. Investigate the potential for peatland restoration and frameworks around restoration

**Lead Dept(s):** Environment

**Status:** Started

**Partners:** Agriculture, Policy, SAERI, FC, UK CEH and others.

Multi-institutional project has been scoped. Work is intended to be achieved through a joint project work between FIG (Environment, Agriculture, Policy Unit), SAERI, Falklands Conservation, UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology and others. As a first step, key scientific data to investigate potential and that would be essential to support any frameworks are intended to be collected. Additionally, through the Environmental Studies Budget fund, a project by a private landowner has been funded as a case study that will provide further insights.

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14. Assess successes of previous restoration efforts to build better knowledge for future efforts

**Lead Dept(s):** Environment

**Status:** Implemented  
& ongoing

A project call was put out through the Environment Studies Budget (ESB) process during 2021/22 for projects to achieve this action. Island Landcare proposed a project to address this for tussac habitat. The project was completed during 2022 and a report has been delivered. This report informs the current status of extent of tussac habitat and restoration to date and helps to identify some successes and challenges, all of which will be informative for planning future restoration efforts in the Falkland Islands. The project principal investigators identified that restoration of other habitat types and extent of area needed to be restored is harder to quantify. Beyond the scope of this project, future attention will also focus on expanding knowledge for other habitat types. Other ESB funded projects focused on restoration are also keeping track of their restoration successes, such as work on Dyke Island.

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15. Develop a clear biosecurity policy

**Lead Dept(s):** Agriculture **Status:** Started

**Partners:** Environment

Work has begun on scoping and identifying ways to improve overarching policy. Collaborative working has been established. This is a large policy development piece that still requires a great deal of work. Some short-term actions to improve biosecurity practice have been identified and a huge amount of work has gone into updating animal disease prevention and response plans.

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16. Increase community awareness of invasive species, how and why they should be managed

**Lead Dept(s):** Agriculture **Status:** Implemented & ongoing

**Partners:** Environment

Extensive media campaigns and direct engagement with key stakeholders, provision of guidance etc., have been carried out to improve biosecurity practice to avoid the spread of pests and disease to the Falkland Islands and within the Islands. While this has been linked to avian influenza, messaging was specifically designed to be broader to also improve practice to reduce spread of invasive species. Invasive species projects and awareness have also been incentivised through Environmental Studies Budget grants and through advice and engagement with farmers through the Agriculture Department. It's recognised that this is an ongoing task, which will also be informed through the development of policy and practice on invasive species.

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**Additional actions:**

**Lead Dept(s):** Agriculture **Status:** Implemented & ongoing

**Partners:** FIDC

Responsible wool standard (RWS) certification is a management tool that helps improve land-management, taking an integrated and long-term view with ecological, social and economic considerations. Almost 50% of farmers and 80% of the woolclip has already been certified under the responsible wool standard. A key element of RWS is improving land management with positive outcomes for biodiversity. The landowners have produced biodiversity management plans, which consider restoration, conservation and habitat/species enhancement measures. This is expected to have long term positive outcomes for biodiversity.

**Lead Dept(s):** Environment **Status:** Implemented & ongoing

**Partners:** Falklands Conservation, SAERI and others

FIG has partnered on Darwin Plus projects led by local partners, such as SAERI's wetland project and Falkland Conservation's peatland and wetlands project. SAERI's project resulted in additional scientific knowledge and suggested monitoring plans for wetlands. FC's project on peatlands is ongoing and is providing insights and knowledge on habitat quality of peatlands.

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## Climate Change

- 4.1 to reduce our carbon emissions through transitioning to using renewable (low carbon) energy sources for power generation
- 4.2 to consider and plan for the possible extent of the multiple effects of climate change for our ecosystems, society and economy and how these may interact with other human impacts
- 4.3 to understand the potential of native ecosystems for mitigating and offsetting carbon emissions, e.g. peatlands, wetlands and marine ecosystems
- 4.4 to consider the potential negative environmental effects of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures

### Actions

- 17. Produce a climate change adaptation and mitigation plan for the Falkland Islands

**Lead Dept(s):** Environment

**Status:** Started

Following analysis and evaluation of the various risks that the Falkland Islands may face due to climate change, options are being explored to better understand the adaptation methods that would best suit the Falkland Islands in response to the risks identified. This involves analysis of the likely effectiveness, the appropriateness of the adaptation action for the Falkland Islands, exploring the potential negative impacts of that action, as well as the interrelationships that this may have with other areas. Reducing our emissions through mitigation actions is also being explored. Ongoing work in support of this has involved engagement with and input from multiple government departments and individuals and organisations across the community.

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- 18. Assess the suite of potential risks of climate change for the Islands to inform policy

**Lead Dept(s):** Environment

**Status:** Implemented

**Partners:** Agriculture

Two workshops were held in April and July with multiple stakeholders who critiqued and analysed the potential climate change risks that had been identified. The workshops were an opportunity to ensure that all potential risks to the Falkland Islands had been considered and to further develop local context of certain risks. A risk analysis was also conducted at both workshops which graded each risk based on their social, environmental, and economic impact as well as the urgency with which a response to the risk ought to be conducted. This has provided context for addressing adaptation options in terms of the time-frame required to act as well as the perceived likelihood of this potential risk being an issue.

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19. Increase our understanding of how climate change could impact our species and ecosystems, particularly those that also experience effects of commercial exploitation

**Lead Dept(s):** Environment **Status:** Ongoing

Several key gaps in our understanding of species and ecosystems have been identified which should provide focus and priority for research projects in the future. Key indicators are also being identified which will help with understanding of how climate change is impacting these key important areas and to actively monitor for changes. This year, several ESB projects related to impact of climate change on ecosystems were funded, including the mapping of Weddell Island peatlands and habitats to inform land management decisions for climate change adaptation, and wildlife and habitat surveys of FIG-owned islands.

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20. Increase our understanding of climate change impacts on fisheries through scientific studies

**Lead Dept(s):** Fisheries **Status:** Started

**Partners:** SAERI; FIFCA

SAERI is leading a Darwin Plus project that FIG and FIFCA are partners in. This project will look at plankton to identify key indicator species to monitor climate change that may impact fisheries, e.g. squid diet.

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21. Investigate carbon accounting for the Falkland Islands to understand our current net carbon emissions and to help us set targets around carbon neutrality.

**Lead Dept(s):** Environment, **Status:** Started

**Partners:** Agriculture, Policy

See also point 13. Multi-institutional project has been scoped. Work is intended to be achieved through joint work between FIG (Environment, Agriculture, Policy and Economic Development), SAERI, Falklands Conservation, UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology and others. As a first step, key scientific data to investigate potential and that would be essential to support any frameworks is intended to be collected. Additionally, through the Environmental Studies Budget fund, a project by a private landowner has been funded as a case study that will provide further insights.

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## Energy and Non-renewable Resources

5.1 to increase our use of renewable energy sources, with a focus on reliable and appropriate energy with low environmental impacts

5.2 to promote energy efficiency and savings, slowing down and stabilising the consumption of energy while ensuring that the needs of people are met

5.3 to consider whole of life impacts of measures intended to reduce energy use or of transitioning to renewable forms of energy

5.4 to conduct the extraction of non-renewable resources, including any hydrocarbon development, in a way that values and conserves our unique biodiversity and ecology, supported by effective regulation

### Actions

22. Produce and implement a new Energy Strategy for the Falkland Islands

**Lead Dept(s):** PWD

**Status:** Not started

Full energy strategy has not been started. However, current workstreams are being considered in a strategic way that is anticipated to align with an energy strategy that includes further transition to renewables. See also 23 – 25.

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23. Increase our reliance on renewable energy, with Stanley's primary electrical supply being 100% renewable by 2050

**Lead Dept(s):** PWD

**Status:** Started

The power station project incorporates ability to receive additional renewables and includes energy storage options to allow working towards our renewable energy transition goals. See also 25.

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24. Build on existing schemes to increase domestic insulation, thereby reducing their energy consumption

**Lead Dept(s):** PWD

**Status:** Started

Domestic insulation project has begun on FIG properties. Insulation received on-Island for the first 20 properties.

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25. Trial alternative renewable technologies for Stanley's electricity supply, such as solar energy

**Lead Dept(s):** PWD

**Status:** Started

Solar renewable energy trial has obtained planning and ExCo approval to go ahead on the Common at the Sand Bay site. Common Ordinance has been amended to allow for development of this project on the Common. It is anticipated to be implemented within the financial year.

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26. Increase energy saving practices within FIG

**Lead Dept(s):** PWD

**Status:** Implemented  
& ongoing

**Partners:** Environment

Media campaign was launched in 2022 to encourage energy saving practices, including within FIG.

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27. Trial the use of electric vehicles

**Lead Dept(s):** PWD

**Status:** Started

Budgeting to allow for vehicle practice has been completed to allow for some electric vehicles within FIG fleet. It is anticipated that first orders are to be placed in 2023/24 financial year.

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28. Promote and encourage investment in the Falkland Islands Environment Trust and support projects funded by that Trust

**Lead Dept(s):** DMR

**Status:** Started

Legislation for Trust is in place. Trust is not yet established.

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## Waste and Pollution

6.1 to improve pollution controls in the Falkland Islands, with a particular focus for onshore pollution controls

6.2 to improve waste management in the Falkland Islands, including sewerage, hazardous and e-waste, to reduce impact on the environment

6.3 to use resources efficiently, keeping them in use for as long as possible to reduce waste and its environmental impacts through the promotion of re-use, remanufacturing and recycling

6.4 to promote changes in behaviour, including consumption patterns, to reduce waste and pollution

### Actions

29. Create a Waste Management Plan to implement for the Falkland Islands

**Lead Dept(s):** PWD

**Status:** Not started

No update at this time.

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30. Develop a policy framework and identify and implement appropriate tools (e.g. legislation) to control and prevent pollution

**Lead Dept(s):** Environment

**Status:** Started

Pollution expert/specialist is assisting with policy development, with scoping work well underway. A local officer has been recruited on a temporary basis to assist with policy development, including stakeholder engagement.

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31. Create a protocol for dealing with terrestrial fuel spills

**Lead Dept(s):** Environment

**Status:** Not started

This work has not yet begun. Additional equipment to help deal with terrestrial fuel spill clean-up and testing of soil has been purchased and received.

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32. Decommission and replace current power station in order to reduce polluting emissions

**Lead Dept(s):** PWD

**Status:** Started

Work on decommissioning is not due to progress until new power station is commissioned. Concept design of new power station is expected to be completed in January 2023 with expectation that detailed design will follow this within around 6 months. Construction will follow.

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33. In partnership with BFAI, create a waste management facility and a new landfill designed and built to high specifications by 2025 to minimise environmental impact

**Lead Dept(s):** PWD

**Status:** Started

Design phase nearing completion, awaiting emissions sign-off by MOD and FIG.

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34. Reduce waste to landfill through ongoing recycling, repurposing and other waste management practices

**Lead Dept(s):** PWD

**Status:** Implemented and ongoing

Recycling has continued to be successful this year, with around 5 tonnes of tins and cans and 101.16 tonnes of glass collected.

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35. Explore options for additional sewerage treatment to improve quality of effluent

**Lead Dept(s):** PWD

**Status:** Started

A feasibility study for waste water management has been commissioned.

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36. Establish a list of hazardous substances and products typically disposed of in the Falkland Islands, including e-waste, batteries and agricultural chemicals, and identify options for appropriate disposal or recycling e.g. export supply chains

**Lead Dept(s):** PWD

**Status:** Not started

**Partners:** Environment, MOD, private sector, waste producers

No update at this time.

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37. Work with industry and business to source more sustainable, lower waste product options and encourage them to explore viable options for tackling waste streams from existing economic activities

**Lead Dept(s):** DPED

**Status:** Not started

**Partners:** FIDC

There has been early engagement with FIDC and Chamber of Commerce on environmental issues generally but no work has been progressed specifically related to waste.

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38. Investigate extension of appropriate international instruments to reduce marine pollution

**Lead Dept(s):** FIMA

**Status:** Started

Work is underway on two pieces of legislation relevant to the reduction of marine pollution: Ship-to-Ship Transfer Regulations (giving effect to Annex I of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships) and a Maritime (Amendment) Bill to enable the Falkland Islands to adopt the Nairobi Wreck Convention.

In earlier work the Falkland Islands adopted the Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships) Regulations 2008; the Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Pollution from Noxious Liquid Substances in Bulk) Regulations 2018; the Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Pollution by Garbage from Ships) Regulations 2020, and the Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Pollution by Sewage from Ships) Regulations 2020.

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## Sustainable Development and Quality of Life

- 7.1 to have development that is sustainable, within ecologically meaningful boundaries, so that the natural environments on which we ultimately depend are not undermined
- 7.2 to manage and protect our heritage - natural, geological and cultural, our sense of wild places, open skies and small community spirit
- 7.3 to consider, manage and minimise the impact of economic activities and development on the environment, taking a long-term strategic approach that considers future generations and incorporates environmental assessment
- 7.4 to consider the strong links between natural environment and human health when making decisions and policies, recognising that an impact on environmental health frequently translates to an impact on human health

## Actions

39. Improve environmental assessment frameworks for land-based development

**Lead Dept(s):** Planning & Building Services **Status:** Implemented  
**Partners:** Environment

Revised guidance for Environmental Impact Assessments was approved by Exco in 2022. It replaced guidance from 2015, providing greater clarity of the procedures and expectations of the EIA process.

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40. Continue to promote and improve environmental standards for new builds

**Lead Dept(s):** Planning and Building Services **Status:** Started  
Building Control Officer reviewing standards to identify where these might be amended to support environmental aspirations.

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41. Encourage the adoption of environmentally-friendly measures, e.g. energy savings, water savings and thermal efficiency, through educational advice provided with building permit applications

**Lead Dept(s):** Planning and Building Services **Status:** Ongoing  
Officers are encouraging best practice in terms of environmental standards such as energy savings and renewables. This will continue in future as best practice evolves.

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42. Explore management plans for tourist industry in environmentally sensitive areas

**Lead Dept(s):** Environment and partners **Status:** Not started  
While this has not yet been explored for environmentally sensitive areas broadly, measures have been put in place for the tourist season on Stanley Common. The Environment Department have expanded the warden programme to include the wildlife site on Yorke Bay and continues the warden programme at Gypsy Cove. This helps to manage tourist movements to minimise wildlife disturbance on busy days through the tourist season. Additional infrastructure including fencing and barriers, signage and footbaths (to reduce risk of wildlife disease transmission) have all been installed to help manage people movements and other risks to wildlife.

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43. Explore concept of eco-certification for Falkland Islands tourist industry

**Lead Dept(s):** FITB **Status:** Started  
**Partners:** DPED

FITB currently operates the Green Seal scheme, which serves to encourage environmentally friendly practice in tourist operators. FITB is exploring the possibility of international schemes.

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44. Promoting high-value, low-environmental impact tourism

**Lead Dept(s):** FITB **Status:** Ongoing  
**Partners:** DPED

There is ongoing promotion of land-based tourism in the Falkland Islands and continuing exploration of the possibility for improved accessibility to the Islands and specific sites. FITB continues to locally promote for additional tourism providers and activities to expand the range of opportunities for land-based tourists.

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45. Further develop self-guided nature walks with partners to promote physical and mental well-being

**Lead Dept(s):** Public Health **Status:** Implemented  
**Partners:** FITB, community groups, organisations & individuals from across the community

Self-guided nature walks have been developed for various sites on the Common, with associated signage and promotional leaflets and materials. Adding to this, a walking festival was successfully run during February 2022 to promote the walks and raise awareness around the benefits of nature for public health and well-being.

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46. Continue to implement the Stanley Common Management Plan and undertake ongoing policy development for the Common as appropriate to its importance as an open space for the public and National Nature Reserve

**Lead Dept(s):** Environment **Status:** Implemented & ongoing

Management of the Stanley Common is ongoing. The minefield fence removals programme has continued; Yorke bay, Gypsy Cove, and Stanley Common South have now been completed. Work will continue for Stanley common North and West as well as further work to remove and/or repair fences on Stanley Common. Other infrastructure has been improved, including benches and tables, access gates and the new information signage at the entrance at Gypsy Cove and Yorke Bay.

Biosecurity measures have been improved with footbaths now deployed at Gypsy Cove, Yorke Bay, and Rookery Bay. Invasive weeds control continues to be successfully carried out, especially gorse at Gypsy Cove with replacement planting of native species.

Information has also been collected to inform and improve management; seabird monitoring at Gypsy Cove and Yorke Bay continued as part of Falkland Islands Seabird Monitoring Programme. The Cape Pembroke Important Plant Area was resurveyed at its 10-year mark by FC with recommendations provided for conservation actions.

And finally, with the resumption of the full tourist season in summer 2022/23, the warden programme has resumed at Gypsy Cove and has included the now-accessible Yorke Bay gentoos for the first time.

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## Science and Innovation

- 8.1 to create a strong, well-managed and accessible science and evidence-base to help support decision-making with respect to the environment, including for helping to cope with and adapt to environmental change
- 8.2 to help facilitate science, research and the development or implementation of new technologies, methods or approaches
- 8.3 to have a strong and responsible culture of innovation across the Falkland Islands; engaging in horizon-scanning and investigating the potential environmental benefits and impacts of new technologies, industries and practices
- 8.4 to continue to develop skills to enable innovation and research, e.g. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), for the Falkland Islands
- 8.5 to future-proof technologies and approaches in the Falkland Islands, particularly in light of global shifts, e.g. environmental change, green economy

### **Actions**

- 47. Identify current practices and procedures around (environmental) data management.

**Lead Dept(s):** Environment

**Status:** Started

Working with the GIS specialist at SAERI, an overview of the data availability and procedures has been obtained. Further sources of environmental data have been obtained and appropriately archived. Monthly collection of data has continued with associated monitoring and analysis.

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- 48. Identify and explore opportunities for managing and sharing of data and information with relevance to the environment across sectors, both public and private, promoting the benefits of managing and sharing such data.

**Lead Dept(s):** Environment

**Status:** Started

Discussions have been held across government departments (e.g. Agriculture, Commercial Services, Maritime, Public Works) in terms of the usefulness of sharing of environmental data; all of which have been taken into consideration when designing the weather station and environmental monitoring network. Environmental data collection has also been a topic of conversation at Farmers week in July, with many landowners expressing their interest in having access to current environmental data to aid in decision making. There are also further benefits to the availability of data for private and public use, as well as scientific research, which would all contribute to a better understanding on how the environment and ecosystems are responding to climate change.

Internal process on data collection with respect to local research permits has been improved, to increase data 'returns' to the Falkland Islands.

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49. Explore the possibility of collating long-term climate or weather data sets from variable data sets for the Falkland Islands and the broader region

**Lead Dept(s):** Environment

**Status:** Implemented

Data sets have been gathered from a multitude of sources resulting in the collation of long-term rainfall data for Stanley from 1874 (with data gaps) and temperature from 1923 (with data gaps). Various weather data have also been collected over the years from a number of different locations across the whole of the Falkland Islands, which have all been collated and archived. Work has been commissioned to provide specialist analysis of collected data to support understanding of how the climate is changing and may vary across the islands.

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50. Increase capability within government to dedicate to exploration of opportunities for development in science and innovation (e.g. strategic horizon-scanning)

**Lead Dept(s):** Responsibility to be assigned

**Status:** Not started

No update at this time.

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51. Identify indicators for each different theme as appropriate and begin measuring/collecting data for this

**Lead Dept(s):** Environment, Other Departments

**Status:** Started

Critical indicators have already been identified and are being measured. It is anticipated that this will be expanded for key workstreams across government as they develop. Next steps include assignment of responsibility for the development of indicators (and associated data collection to support these) with respect to various workstreams.

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Additional actions:

**Lead Dept(s):** Agriculture

**Status:** Implemented  
& ongoing

**Partners:** KEMH and others

Cross-departmental working has resulted in streamlining of process to assist with creating a culture of science and innovation and upskilling, with technologies and approaches learnt in one part of government being shared with other parts to increase efficiencies, streamline processes and maximise outputs. For example, the sharing of expertise between hospital laboratory and agriculture laboratory to facilitate cross-training of staff and increasing efficiency of testing standards.

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## Communication and Education

9.1 to improve communication and sharing of knowledge, data and information related to the environment

9.2 to promote sustainable behaviour and environmental stewardship throughout the community

9.3 to embed environmental awareness in lifelong learning, including education on the Falkland Islands' natural environment and the relationship between environment, society and economy

9.4 to promote skills development to support the global shift towards a green economy and enable the local community to adapt to respond to environmental issues, e.g. global change, and opportunities in the Falkland Islands

### Actions

52. Incorporate more information about the Falkland Islands' natural environment into education programmes

**Lead Dept(s):** Education

**Status:** Started

Through the Environmental Studies Budget in 2022/23, several projects have been funded on key educational and outreach projects to be completed in FICS (Falkland Islands Community School) by various age groups, including on such topics as restoration, carbon sequestration, recycling and re-use of waste and responding to water scarcity. In 2022, the Environment Department continued to fund an annual trip for IJS (Infant and Junior School) students to the Kidney Island National Nature Reserve where they can experience the wildlife and natural environment of the Islands up close and get to learn about native habitats and species. The annual trip is intended to continue in February 2023.

In February 2022 the Environment Department delivered a session to the Girl Guides where they explored the biodiversity of our marine ecosystems, as well as discussing the effects of climate change. In September 2022 the Environment and Public Health departments delivered a session on healthy eating and reducing food waste to the students of IJS. During these activities, the students were keen to explore the options and methods that would reduce the amount of food and packaging they would throw away, and were very enthusiastic to understand the importance of considering food and plastic waste in terms of its impact on the environment.

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53. Information campaigns and other outreach initiatives/programmes to encourage positive changes in consumer attitudes (e.g. reducing plastics use) and increase environmental awareness (e.g. invasive species awareness, growing of native species of plants, energy saving behaviours)

**Lead Dept(s):** Environment, Other Departments

**Status:** Started & ongoing

Information campaigns have been successfully run on energy saving practices, biosecurity & animal disease awareness and environmentally sensitive behaviours in the outdoors (e.g. following the countryside code). Information campaigns have included newspaper articles, TV interviews, social

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media, outreach at community events and direct engagement with stakeholders. A workshop on climate change and was jointly organised at Farmer's week and hosted by Agriculture and Environment Departments, with contributions and support from the RBA and multiple organisations and members of the community. This focused on the risks of climate change for natural environment, people and built environment, infrastructure and rural business in Camp.

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54. Work together with the private sector on projects or initiatives that could benefit the environment, in-line with the actions and objectives set out throughout the strategy

**Lead Dept(s):** Environment; Other Departments **Status:** Implemented & Ongoing

FIG has successfully partnered on a number of projects with the private and non-profit sector in 2022. These include a project with FC assessing the risks and plan the logistics for a multi-species invasive species management and restoration programme on New Island and a project with SAERI looking at baselines of wetlands in the Falklands (both in partnership with Environment). Further opportunities for engagement of various FIG departments with the private sector will be explored in future.

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Falkland Islands Government Environment Department  
Secretariat  
Stanley  
Falkland Islands  
2023