

ENVIRONMENT  
STRATEGY  
PROGRESS REPORT  
2025



FALKLAND ISLANDS  
GOVERNMENT

Falkland Islands Government  
Environment Department  
Secretariat  
Stanley  
Falkland Islands  
2025

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## **BACKGROUND**

The Falkland Islands Environment Strategy 2021-2040 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.

The strategy extends for 20 years and work towards the vision will grow, develop and evolve over time. The Environment Strategy Programme Board will continue to guide implementation through government and provide Executive Council and the public with regular updates on progress. The programme board brings together teams of representatives from across government with appropriate skills and backgrounds to further define and tackle the workstreams flowing out of the strategy.

This is the second progress report. The first was published in 2022<sup>1</sup>. The urgency of protecting the environment and promoting sustainability has continued to grow. Globally, communities are increasingly recognising the need to live within the limits of natural systems. The Falkland Islands are no exception, with a clear commitment to environmental stewardship.

This second progress report highlights successes, identifies where further work is required, and outlines ways to continue strengthening the collective response to environmental challenges.

Appreciation is extended to all individuals and organisations who have contributed towards this work. Continued collaboration is essential to ensuring that the Falkland Islands remain a place where nature thrives alongside a healthy, resilient, and vibrant community.

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<sup>1</sup> Available to download from <https://www.falklands.gov.fk/policy/environment/environment-strategy>

## **BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM INTEGRITY**

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

**Status:** Ongoing

**Who:** Environment

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in 2022. The Falkland Islands Biodiversity Framework (2016) has not been updated to accommodate these changes because it has been superseded by the Environment Strategy. FIG maintains its commitments towards the CBD and its reporting obligations to the UK.

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

**Status:** Started

**Who:** Environment

Work related to improving protections for biodiversity under the Conservation of Wildlife and Nature Ordinance, 1999, has commenced.

Legislation for a national park under the National Parks Ordinance, 1999, was approved in 2025. Guidance for environmental impact assessments was updated in 2022 under the Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations, 2015.

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3. Implement more controls on invasive species

**Status:** Implemented & ongoing

**Who:** Agriculture, Environment, Falklands Conservation, SAERI

The Department of Agriculture (DoA) continued to lead Calafate control programmes in areas of high infestation and provided additional funding through the Farm Improvement Programme. During the 2024–2025 season, 1,868 hectares were surveyed for invasive plants, bringing the total area searched and controlled to 2,844 hectares, with 316 hectares treated over 12-week periods.

A detailed species assessment of invasive Mouse-eared Hawkweed was conducted at Port Stephens in January 2025 to evaluate the feasibility of a control plan.

Ongoing biosecurity protocols at border entry points helped to reduce the risk of new introductions, with increased staffing during the summer months. The DoA and the Environment Dept. partnered on a Darwin-funded Invasive Species project with the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (UK), led to the establishment of a National Invasive Species Working Group, which aims to strengthen cross-departmental and stakeholder collaboration on invasive species control.

The Environmental Studies Budget small grant scheme (ESB) has supported projects tackling invasive species, such as rodents, earwigs, purple thistles and Mouse-eared Hawkweed.

A long-term control programme for invasive plants occurs each year on Stanley Common.

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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

**Status:** Ongoing

**Who:** Environment, Agriculture, Fisheries, Falklands Conservation, SAERI, Island Landcare and others

Data collection efforts continue through multiple ongoing projects, many of which are delivered in partnership with or funded by FIG. These include terrestrial biodiversity surveys (such as those on the Important Plant Area at Cape Pembroke), assessments of the environmental condition of all FIG-owned islands by Island LandCare, evaluations of tussac restoration extent and success, studies on climate change resilience in Falkland Islands fisheries and marine ecosystems, wetland monitoring, and the long-term Falkland Islands Seabird Monitoring Programme.

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***Additional actions:***

**Status:** Ongoing

**Who:** Veterinary Services, Environment Dept.

In recent years, biosecurity efforts in the Falkland Islands, especially in response to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI – bird flu), have played a key role in improving environmental data collection and identifying priority areas for long-term monitoring.

The HPAI response was coordinated by the FIG Veterinary Services, working closely with Biosecurity, the Environment Department, local stakeholders, and international partners. A range of proactive measures were implemented to reduce the risk of HPAI and other diseases spreading. These included updated policies, guidance, and the installation of disinfection points, such as footbaths and Virkon stations at critical entry sites like the airport, FIGAS and jetty centre.

Avian swabbing protocols were introduced in 2023. Swab samples are analysed locally, and where potential positives arise, and sent to the UK for confirmation. Confirmed cases triggered a response protocol, with actions ranging from public awareness campaigns to temporary area closures in more serious outbreaks.

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## **OCEANS AND COASTS**

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

**Status:** Started/ongoing

**Who:** Environment, Legal

In September 2025 ExCo approved a public consultation on a detailed policy for Marine Managed Areas. The consultation is expected to occur in early 2026. This follows significant policy development work, engaging external consultants MRAG and holding stakeholder workshops to ensure the policy is both practical and aligned with broader strategic objectives.

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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

**Status:** Started/ongoing

**Who:** Fisheries

For the past three years, the Fisheries Department has been involved in an initiative to develop a regional stock assessment for *Illex argentinus* squid with Uruguay, Brazil and Argentina. The most recent activity was a data-sharing meeting in November 2024, where the Falkland Islands was represented by the Senior Stock Assessment Scientist. In addition, the Toothfish Scientist has been working with CCAMLR (Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources), including South Georgia, to develop best practice standards and an otolith reference set for toothfish ageing.

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

**Status:** Ongoing

**Who:** Fisheries

FIG will hold a public consultation on salmon farming in the near future. In preparation, the environmental impacts of salmon farming report produced by MEP in 2021 has been updated, as well as the production of a report on calculating carrying capacities. FIG officers also visited the Faroe Islands to discuss how the Faroese Government regulates its salmon farming industry and produced a report on the findings that was made available on the Fisheries Department website.

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

**Status:** Implemented & Ongoing

**Who:** Fisheries

Implementation of the key recommendations from the fin-fish review (ExCo 16/21) has begun, with progress made in areas such as structural reforms and the development of management policies.

However, full implementation is now scheduled to commence in 2026, and completion expected by 2028.

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

**Status:** Started

**Who:** Falkland Islands Maritime Authority

The Falkland Islands continues to explore opportunities to strengthen legal frameworks aimed at reducing the introduction of marine invasive species. One of the most relevant international instruments in this context is the Ballast Water Management Convention (2004), which seeks to prevent the spread of harmful aquatic organisms by regulating ballast water discharge from ships. The UK has now ratified the Convention and FIG has expressed an interest to seek extension to the Falklands.

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***Additional actions:***

**Status:** Implemented & ongoing

**Who:** Fisheries

Work has continued on bycatch mitigation, with measures such as withholding trawler licences in the *Illex B* fishery and increasing mesh sizes in the skate fishery to reduce impacts on non-target species like seabirds and marine mammals.

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## **LAND AND FRESH WATER**

### **10. Establish additional National Nature Reserves**

**Status:** Started/ongoing

**Who:** Environment

A proposal for creating additional National Nature Reserves on land owned by FIG and Falklands Conservation is nearing completion.

The Hill Cove Mountains National Park was designated in September 2025. This followed significant policy work, public consultation and working with landowners.

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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**

**Status:** started

**Who:** Agriculture, SAERI

The Agriculture Dept. (DoA) has finalised its Strategic Plan for 2025–2030, with Resilient Land and Grazing Systems identified as a core theme.

The DoA has embedded delivery of extension and advisory services into its revised key performance indicators and restructured its team. This role will increase work on invasive species control, and promote climate- and nature-smart farming practices.

The DoA has partnered with SAERI to enhance farm mapping services. This will provide data to support rotational and sustainable grazing, map habitat types and pasture condition to inform stocking level evaluations, and assess emerging threats such as diddle-dee dieback.

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### **12. Develop an action plan to manage land and water**

**Status:** Started

**Who:** Agriculture, Environment, Public Works, Green Overseas, eLink, and others

The Agriculture Dept. (DoA) has completed the first phase of public consultation on the development of a Land Recovery Programme (LRP), which will form the basis for the Falkland Islands' first agri-environmental funding scheme. The LRP aims to support on-farm activities that restore degraded land and improve the environmental and climate resilience of agro-ecosystems. DoA will administer a new Partnership Grant Programme to fund on-farm trials focused on land restoration and reclamation techniques, such as increasing soil moisture, enhancing water availability, and mitigating erosion.

An assessment on the security of Stanley's water supply commenced in 2024. Funded by the Green Overseas Programme and delivered by Haskoning and eLink, the project is assessing the impacts of climate change on Moody Brook and Murrell catchments.

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

**Status:** Ongoing

**Who:** Environment, Agriculture, Policy, SAERI, Falklands Conservation, UK CEH and others.

Since 2023, the three-year Peatland Greenhouse Gas Project has been working to improve understanding of carbon storage and emissions across key Falklands habitats. A partnership by FIG, SAERI, Falklands Conservation, RSK, and the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, the project is designed to inform peatland restoration, land management decisions, and explore the feasibility of carbon offsetting frameworks in the Falklands. To support this, four flux towers and 20 chamber sites have been deployed to continuously measure greenhouse gas emissions. Peat cores collected by the British Antarctic Survey provided historical context for carbon accumulation. The project also includes a private landowner case study, contributing valuable insight into restoration potential on working land.

SAERI, in collaboration with the DoA, is investigating the use of remote sensing, modelling, and ground-based sensors to monitor the resilience and condition of freshwater resources. This includes tracking seasonal and inter-annual variation in lake and pond areas, and evaluating soil moisture status.

These scientific efforts are being complemented by practical interventions. The DoA's Land Recovery Programme (LRP) Partnership Grant (starting in 2025) and the Environment Dept's Environmental Studies small grant scheme, supported restoration approaches at scale, including methods to enhance soil moisture and support native vegetation recovery.

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

**Status:** Implemented & ongoing

**Who:** Environment

A project by Island LandCare, funded through the Environmental Studies Budget (ESB) grant scheme, evaluated the outcomes of past tussac planting. The project identified what worked, what had not worked, and made recommendations for improving future restoration efforts.

Between 2023 and 2024, Island Landcare completed ecological assessments on 90 FIG-owned islands, identifying priority areas for restoration. As a result, restoration work has begun on Green, Bob's, and Top Islands.

In 2025, the Rural Business Association, in partnership with the DoA, hosted a Land Recovery Workshop. This event brought together farmers and stakeholders to present case studies of restoration in practice and explore opportunities and challenges for land reclamation and ecosystem recovery across the Islands. A workshop summary was developed by the DoA and shared to support knowledge exchange and future planning.

It is recognised that assessing restoration outcomes remains a challenge, as monitoring is not always consistent or centralised. Events such as Peaty Pals lunchtime meetings, Environment Committee, and various social media, helped to share successes and knowledge.

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**15. Develop a clear biosecurity policy**

**Status:** Ongoing

**Who:** Biosecurity, Agriculture

Work is ongoing to develop a comprehensive and integrated biosecurity policy for the Falkland Islands. Initial scoping has identified key areas for improvement. Collaboration across relevant departments has been established to support development of this complex policy.

Several practical measures have already been implemented to strengthen biosecurity operations on the ground. A notable example is the increased presence of biosecurity inspectors at Mount Pleasant Airport. Prior to 2019, inspectors were present only two or three times per month. Now up to three inspectors per flight during the busy period.

Significant work has also been undertaken to update animal disease prevention and response plans, particularly in response to HPAI.

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

**Status:** Implemented & ongoing

**Who:** Agriculture, Environment

Efforts to raise community awareness of invasive species across the Falkland Islands continue to grow through extensive media campaigns, stakeholder engagement, public talks, and targeted initiatives. While many outreach actions were initiated in the context of avian influenza, the messaging was deliberately designed to address broader biosecurity objectives, including the prevention and management of invasive species.

The Invasive Species Working Group, coordinated by the DoA, is developing a strategy for public outreach and education, and has already launched awareness efforts encouraging the use of iNaturalist to map high-risk invasive plant sightings. This includes the 'High-Risk Invasive Plants Falklands' citizen science project, Peaty Pals talks, articles in the Wool Press, and the "Bug of the Week" social media campaign.

Awareness and action have also been incentivised through the Environmental Studies Budget small grant scheme and Farm Improvement Programme grants, alongside regular guidance and engagement with landowners and farmers by the DoA.

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***Additional actions:***

**Status:** Implemented & ongoing

**Who:** Agriculture, FIDC

Responsible wool standard (RWS) certification is a land management tool with ecological, social and economic considerations. Almost 50% of farmers and 75% of the woolclip have already been certified under the RWS. A key element is improving land management with positive outcomes for biodiversity, e.g. biodiversity management plans, which consider restoration, conservation and habitat/species enhancement measures.

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## **CLIMATE CHANGE**

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

**Status:** Started

**Who:** Environment, Public Works

Following an analysis of the various risks that the Falkland Islands may face as a result of climate change, work is underway to develop a comprehensive adaptation and mitigation plan. This includes reducing emissions and exploring the most suitable adaptation methods based on their effectiveness and appropriateness to the local context. Engagement with multiple government departments, stakeholders, and community organisations continues to support this process.

The Energy Strategy and Implementation Plan, approved at ExCo in February 2025, will contribute to emission reductions through the expansion of renewable energy generation and the promotion of energy efficiency across sectors.

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

**Status:** Implemented & ongoing

**Who:** Environment, Agriculture, Emergency Services

Climate change risks for the Falkland Islands have been assessed through a series of stakeholder workshops and structured analysis exercises. Two multi-stakeholder workshops were held to review, critique, and expand the list of identified climate-related risks.

Each identified risk was evaluated based on its social, environmental, and economic impacts, as well as the urgency of response required. The findings have informed the development of a draft Climate Change Risk Assessment, which will underpin future climate policy and adaptation planning in the Islands.

Linked to this work, a draft National Wildfire Management Strategy, which seeks to establish a coordinated, multi-sector approach to wildfire risk in the Falklands, underwent a public consultation in 2025.

The DoA is conducting monitoring to better understand seasonal variation in vegetation and peat fuel moisture. Further work is planned to assess the relationship between fire weather characteristics and wildfire incidence, with the goal of developing fire weather warning systems.

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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

**Status:** Ongoing

**Who:** Environment, Agriculture, SAERI

Several projects have been initiated to improve understanding of climate change impacts on the terrestrial environment. The Falkland Islands Freshwater Project, is assessing trends in surface water and soil moisture in collaboration with the Departments of Agriculture and Environment, and SAERI.

SAERI also continues to focus on developing data-driven solutions to support climate change adaptation and mitigation.

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

**Status:** Started

**Who:** Fisheries, SAERI, FIFCA

Our understanding of how climate change may impact fisheries in the Falkland Islands has advanced significantly through recent scientific studies. For the first time, physiological experiments have been conducted locally, providing valuable insights into ocean warming tolerances, species resilience, and vulnerabilities.

A survey carried out recently has greatly enhanced knowledge of seasonal and fine-scale spatial patterns within the zooplankton community, with a particular focus on fish larvae to help identify key nursery areas in inshore waters.

A comprehensive literature review on migration patterns and predator-prey dynamics in the marine food web has been published in *Advances in Marine Biology*.

Two successful workshops were held on ecosystem modelling in data-limited environments and ecosystem-based fisheries management in the Falkland Islands.

An ecosystem model has also been developed to replicate historical trends and explore possible future scenarios under climate change.

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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.**

**Status:** Started

**Who:** Environment, Agriculture, Policy, Minerals, Falklands Conservation, SAERI, UKCEH

A DEFRA-funded peatland monitoring project, delivered by Falklands Conservation and SAERI, is assessing peatland condition and carbon storage potential. The project will explore carbon accounting frameworks for the Falkland Islands. This work involves collaboration between FIG (including the Environment, Agriculture, and Policy and Economic Development departments), SAERI, Falklands Conservation, the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (UKCEH), and other partners. As an initial step, key scientific data are being collected to better understand the Islands' carbon dynamics and to support the design of future frameworks.

Parallel to this, a project funded by the Green Overseas Programme, is investigating various funding mechanisms for environmental work including the practicalities of carbon credits for the Falkland Islands.

The Minerals Department has produced a new policy on offsetting for the offshore hydrocarbons industry. A new statutory Environment Trust will be established, and operators will be required to pay into the Trust based on their level of emissions, with the funds to be used for projects including those that reduce or sequester carbon emissions. The legislation to create the Trust is planned to be introduced in 2026 and the policy will be applied to the Sea Lion project.

Aether Ltd (a UK company) continues to collate emissions data from the Falklands on behalf of the UK Government as part of our reporting to international treaties.

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## **ENERGY AND NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES**

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

**Status:** implemented

**Who:** Public Works, Environment, Policy

The Energy Strategy & Implementation Plan was approved by ExCo in February 2025. The documents set out a strategic direction that will enhance life in the Falkland Islands by replacing aging and polluting energy infrastructure with modern facilities. The strategy outlines that as the use of renewable energy increases, the use of fossil fuel will decrease.

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

**Status:** Started

**Who:** Public Works

The Energy Strategy & Implementation Plan, approved by ExCo in 2025, outlines a roadmap towards 100% renewable electricity by 2045, including phased expansions of wind power (6.9 MW by 2030 and potential further capacity), solar power and battery storage.

Plans for the new power station are progressing. The new power station has been designed to incorporate additional renewable energy sources and includes energy storage options to support the transition.

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

**Status:** Started

**Who:** Public Works

The domestic insulation project began with FIG properties, and insulation materials were delivered to the Islands for the first 20 homes. Since then, FIG has continued to upgrade insulation as FIG properties are refurbished. The majority of FIG housing stock now meets a reasonable insulation standard. As a result, the focus going forward will shift towards private properties, where there is greater potential to reduce energy consumption through improved thermal efficiency.

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

**Status:** Implemented & ongoing

**Who:** Public Works

The solar renewable energy trial has received Planning and ExCo approval to proceed at the Sand Bay Windfarm on the Stanley Common, with amendments made to the Common Ordinance to allow development. While the project is not yet complete, notable progress has been made. All "indoor"

installation works are finished, with 75% of the configuration completed. Outdoor installation is currently 33% complete.

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**26. Increase energy saving practices within FIG**

**Status:** Implemented & ongoing

**Who:** Public Works, Environment

The Environmentally Sustainable Workplaces Policy was approved in 2023 and outlines practical steps to make FIG workplaces more sustainable. It encourages all staff to take actions such as saving energy, reducing resource use, and supporting sustainable transport. Office managers and “Sustainability Champions” are tasked with longer-term measures, including switching to eco-friendly cleaning products and recycled paper, ensuring recycling facilities are available, and promoting reuse and sharing of equipment through the asset hub.

FIG is also replacing street lighting and domestic lighting with more energy-efficient LED alternatives.

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**27. Trial the use of electric vehicles**

**Status:** Started

**Who:** Public Works

The Falkland Islands Government (FIG) has deployed three Citroën ë-Berlingo electric vans, which are in active service: one assigned to the PWD Municipal Section, one to Tussac House, and one in the shared vehicle pool. Operational feedback notes that while the vans are quiet, comfortable, and useful for five-door crew transport, their full usefulness depends on improved infrastructure, and investigations continue into night-time electricity tariffs, overnight trickle-charging options, and access to low-carbon energy sources.

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

**Status:** Started

**Who:** Minerals

Legislation for the establishment of the Falkland Islands Environment Trust is in place, although the Trust itself is not yet operational. In June 2025, Executive Council approved a new policy outlining how hydrocarbons licensees are expected to meet their offsetting obligations under the Offshore Minerals Ordinance 1994. The policy reinforces the originally proposed role of the Environment Trust in receiving payments from licensees and funding projects focused on carbon reduction, carbon sequestration, and biodiversity protection and enhancement. Following the ExCo decision, the next step is to produce the necessary legislation.

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## **WASTE AND POLLUTION**

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

**Status:** Started

**Who:** Public Works, Environment

While a number of waste processes and collections are now in place, the completion of a Waste Management Plan has been delayed due to limited resources. However, creating plans for dealing with various wastes are actions of the Pollution Prevention and Waste Management Strategy, which was approved by ExCo in 2025.

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

**Status:** Started

**Who:** Environment, Public Works

The Pollution Prevention and Waste Management Strategy 2025-2030 was approved by ExCo in August 2025. The strategy provides a comprehensive framework for addressing all aspects of pollution prevention and waste management in the Falkland Islands. It sets out a coordinated set of actions focused on prevention, minimisation, control and long-term management. Developing detailed policy to enable the development of pollution and waste legislation is one of its key actions.

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- 31.** Create a protocol for dealing with terrestrial fuel spills

**Status:** Implemented & ongoing

**Who:** Environment, Maritime Authority, Emergency Services, Public Works

Work on the development of a protocol for terrestrial fuel spills is now well underway. Progress has included the purchase of additional equipment to support spill response and soil testing. A proposal to incorporate terrestrial fuel spills into the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP) has been prepared with the Maritime Authority. A terrestrial spill response plan was tested in a joint exercise involving Emergency Services and the Public Works Department, confirming its operational viability. The next step will focus on promoting the NOSCP and raising awareness on how to report terrestrial fuel spills.

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

**Status:** Started

**Who:** Public Works

Progress on the new power station continues. The new station has been designed to incorporate additional renewable energy sources and includes energy storage options. A plan will be made to decommission the current power station.

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

**Status:** Ongoing

**Who:** Public Works

The new Waste Management Facility will be located at the east end of Megabid, in the area vacated by the old asphalt plant. The new facility will be used for the processing and subsequent incineration of collected domestic and commercial rubbish, and also for residents to use as a “bring site”. Incinerator ash will be buried at the new landfill site near Pony Pass Quarry. Construction is under way, with groundwork started, and procurement of an incinerator has been completed. The next key milestone is commissioning of the facility, now expected in 2027.

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

**Status:** Implemented and ongoing

**Who:** Public Works, Agriculture, Development & Commercial Services, MOD, Workboat Services

Recycling efforts have continued in partnership with the (MOD) for tin and cans. Also, over 350 tonnes of glass collected from 2023 until August 2025. These efforts represent an ongoing commitment to reducing the volume of waste sent to landfill. Recycling of tins, cans and glass has been extended to Camp, including collections from some outer islands, supported by Work Boat Services.

Investigations into the potential for diverting organic waste streams from Stanley Growers and FIMCO through bio-digestion and composting has begun.

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- 35.** Explore options for additional sewage treatment to improve quality of effluent

**Status:** Started

**Who:** Public Works

An initial study established some baseline data for the existing catchment area and pumped sewer network. Building on this, a detailed design brief is being developed to explore potential options for enhancing effluent treatment quality.

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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

**Status:** Started

**Who:** Public Works, Environment, Agriculture, Health & Safety, MOD, private sector

Farms participating in Rural Wool Standard (RWS) certification are inspected to ensure safe and legal storage of hazardous materials and chemicals. RWS audits and animal welfare inspections by the Veterinary Service also ensure that livestock do not have access to such materials. The DoA has aided farms where legacy agricultural waste has been found and needs to be stabilised and/or securely disposed.

Options are being explored for the safe disposal of hazardous wastes such as household batteries, lead acid batteries, mercury, WEEE waste, insecticide, and firefighting chemicals. This includes options for shipping waste away from the Falklands for proper disposal overseas.

Bilateral agreements have been approved by ExCo to facilitate transhipments of wastes between the Falklands and South Georgia, and the Falklands and the UK.

The Pollution Prevention and Waste Management Strategy, approved in 2025, aims to address emerging risks and hazardous materials, including plastics, PFAS-containing products, and industrial waste.

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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

**Status:** started

**Who:** Policy, Environment, FIDC, Chamber of Commerce

Initial engagement has taken place with the Falkland Islands Development Corporation (FIDC) and the Chamber of Commerce to discuss environmental issues more broadly, particularly during the public consultation for the Pollution Prevention and Waste Management Strategy. However, no specific progress has been made to date in relation to identifying or promoting sustainable product alternatives or waste stream solutions within the business sector.

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

**Status:** Started

**Who:** Maritime Authority

The Falkland Islands have made substantial progress in aligning domestic legislation with key international instruments aimed at reducing marine pollution. In October 2023, the Maritime (Ship-to-Ship Transfer) Regulations 2023 were approved and came into force on 30 November 2023. These regulations give effect to Annex I of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), strengthening controls on oil discharges from vessels. Additionally, on 19 December 2024, legislation enabling the adoption of the Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks (2007), the 1996 Protocol to the Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims Convention (LLMC), and the 2002 Protocol to the Athens Convention came into effect, enhancing the legal framework for handling shipwrecks, liability limits, and passenger claims in maritime incidents.

Further efforts have involved the local implementation of several UK maritime regulations, including measures to prevent pollution from air (2008), noxious liquid substances (2018), garbage (2020), and sewage (2020). Together, these frameworks support the reduction of ship-based pollution and contribute to the long-term health of marine ecosystems in the region.

The Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC) Convention was extended to the Islands in November 2023.

One notable area for future progress is the Ballast Water Management Convention (2004), which has not yet been adopted. Given increasing global concern about the spread of invasive marine species through ballast water, exploring the feasibility of implementing this convention could be a valuable next step.

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## **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND QUALITY OF LIFE**

### **39. Improve environmental assessment frameworks for land-based development**

**Status:** started & ongoing

**Who:** Planning & Building Services, Environment

Revised guidance for Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) was approved by ExCo in 2022, replacing the 2015 guidance and providing greater clarity on procedures and expectations. Since then, the Environment Department and the Planning and Building Services have improved the environmental assessment framework. Updated screening and scoping checklists are now used routinely for assessing environmental impacts of proposed developments.

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

**Status:** started

**Who:** Planning & Building Services

The Energy Strategy, approved by ExCo in 2025, has a target of 100% of new buildings & 80% of existing (pre-2027) to be thermally efficient to identified standards by 2045. In order to achieve this target, it aims to develop a building standard to make all new homes thermally efficient so as to allow effective operation of sustainable heating by 2026, and to retrofit 200 existing homes to be thermally efficient by 2027. Building standards have been reviewed to identify areas where improvements could be made.

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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**

**Status:** Closed

**Who:** Planning & Building Services

Adoption of environmentally-friendly measures, such as energy and water savings, and thermal efficiency, are being encouraged by Planning and Building Services. Best practice guidance to homeowners and builders are offered as part of routine engagement for anyone interested in exploring ways to improve the environmental performance of their builds.

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

**Status:** Started & ongoing

**Who:** Environment, Falkland Islands Tourist Board

Important steps have been taken in key tourism locations to help manage the impacts of tourism. FIG has implemented a warden programme at Gypsy Cove and Yorke Bay helping to minimise disturbance to wildlife on cruise ship days. At Gypsy Cove, the walking trail has been improved with installation of

ropes and new viewing decks that allow visitors to enjoy the site. At Yorke Bay gentoo penguin colony, rope barriers are installed during the summer to reduce disturbance to wildlife.

Guidelines for penguin colonies at Gypsy Cove and Yorke Bay on cruise ship days have been developed in partnership with Falkland Islands Tourist Board.

Footbaths and signage promoting good biosecurity practices are maintained throughout the tourist season.

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

**Status:** Started

**Who:** Falkland Islands Tourist Board, Policy

The Falkland Islands Tourist Board (FITB) operates the Green Seal Scheme, which encourages environmentally friendly practices, and 46 tour operators have joined the scheme.

FITB has also registered for the internationally recognised Good Travel Seal Assessment, delivered through the Green Destinations Good Travel Seal Scheme. This serves both to set an example for local businesses and to test the feasibility of adopting this certification more broadly across the Islands. FITB is also pursuing Green Destination certification for the Falkland Islands as a whole.

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

**Status:** Ongoing

**Who:** Falkland Islands Tourist Board, Policy

Promotion of high-value, low-impact tourism occurs in line with the Tourism Development Strategy.

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

**Status:** Implemented

**Who:** Public Health, Falkland Islands Tourist Board, Environment, community groups

Self-guided nature walks have been developed for various sites, supported by signage, promotional leaflets and online materials. A joint project between Public Health, FITB and the Environment Department to promote access to the outdoors for health and wellbeing has now been completed, resulting in the creation of walking leaflets and the installation of nine signage boards on Stanley Common.

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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

**Status:** Implemented & ongoing

**Who:** Environment, Agriculture

The management of Stanley Common remains an ongoing priority for the Environment Department. An updated version of the Stanley Common Management Plan is currently being developed.

The minefield fence removal programme has been completed and additional fencing has been undertaken, such as the fencing of Yorke Bay Pond to protect rare plant species. To support responsible use and visitor awareness, signage has been installed across several areas of the Stanley Common.

Biosecurity protocols remain in place, particularly during the higher risk summer tourist season. The department continues to work closely with the Department of Agriculture to ensure that biosecurity measures are proportionate to assessed risks.

Control of invasive plant species continues across the Stanley Common. A programme of habitat restoration has commenced with the planting of native plants over the past several years.

During the summer tourist season, Gypsy Cove and Yorke Bay are actively managed through a warden programme and issuance of guidelines.

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## **SCIENCE AND INNOVATION**

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

**Status:** Ongoing

**Who:** Environment, SAERI

Environmental data management practices have continued to evolve through a Memorandum of Understanding between the Falkland Islands Government and SAERI for the Environmental Data Services (EDS) Centre. This agreement, in place until June 2027 (with the option to extend), provides a framework for coordinated data management across the Islands. Key components include the central online data portal, curated spatial databases, secure data archiving, and support through the research licencing process. FIG departments are supported by the EDS through training, access to data, and ongoing technical assistance.

Ongoing work includes the download and visualisation of weather station data, and acquisition and archiving of relevant datasets for FIG and, where appropriate, external users.

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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.

**Status:** Ongoing

**Who:** Environment, Agriculture, SAERI

Community engagement, particularly during Farmer's Week, has reinforced the demand for access to real-time environmental information to support decision-making. In response, FIG promotes cross-sector collaboration and has improved internal processes for collecting and retaining data from local research projects, ensuring that more environmental information remains available within the Falkland Islands. These efforts also support broader goals of enhancing understanding of ecosystem responses to climate change and promoting evidence-based land management.

Sharing data and information has included public engagement, outreach in person and online, local publications (such as the Wool Press), and participation in events, conferences, and publications in scientific journals.

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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

**Status:** Implemented

**Who:** Environment, IT

Long-term climate data for the Falkland Islands have been collated from various historical sources, including rainfall data for Stanley dating back to 1874 and temperature records from 1923. Additional weather data from multiple locations across the Islands have also been archived.

An analysis of these datasets was commissioned to develop future projections for temperature, precipitation, and wind speed under a “middle of the road” climate scenario. This analysis has helped establish a baseline for understanding the impacts of climate change.

A network of 19 weather stations has been installed across the Islands which are managed by FIG. The information collected is useful for day-to-day operations, long-term climate monitoring, and, once enough data are available, the development of locally relevant climate projections. A monthly summary from the Stanley station is shared on the FIG website.

Enabling as many weather stations as possible to upload data in real time will improve the resilience of data collection, provide public access to live weather information, and support applications such as wildfire risk and water scarcity mapping.

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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)

**Status:** Not started

**Who:** Responsibility to be assigned

No update currently.

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

**Status:** Not started

**Who:** Responsibility to be assigned

No update currently.

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## **COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION**

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

**Status:** Started

**Who:** Education, Environment

Environment Department has delivered education programmes with FICs and IJS that included: weather and climate, climate change, waste and recycling, habitat restoration, carbon sequestration, recycling, and water. Wildlife trips for IJS pupils to Kidney Island are sponsored by FIG. At IJS, pupils took part in campaigns for a battery recycling and an air pollution awareness.

Beyond school programmes, the Environment Department carried out community activities such as clean-up events in Stanley and along beaches to raise awareness of litter, and tussac planting days on Stanley Common.

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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)

**Status:** ongoing

**Who:** Environment, Agriculture, RBA

A variety of information campaigns have been delivered to promote positive environmental behaviours and increase community awareness. Topics have included energy saving, wise water use, anti-idling for vehicles, battery recycling, biosecurity and animal disease awareness, and the Countryside Code.

Notably, a joint climate change workshop was held during Farmer's Week, focusing on the risks to the natural environment, people, infrastructure, and rural businesses, with support from the Rural Business Association and several organisations.

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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

**Status:** Ongoing

**Who:** Environment, Falklands Conservation, SAERI

The Falkland Islands Government has partnered on a number of projects with the private sector.

Examples include projects funded through the Environmental Studies Budget, where more than 150 projects have been supported across a wide range of themes including invasive species, climate change, biodiversity, research, and youth engagement in science.

Projects funded by Darwin Plus often include collaborations between FIG and private sector. The long-running Falkland Islands Seabird monitoring Programme (led by FC) and the long-term collection of marine scientific data for the Marine Managed Areas project (led by SAERI), are two examples of collaboration between FIG and the private sector.

These partnerships reflect a growing interest in shared environmental stewardship, and FIG continues to explore new opportunities to collaborate with local businesses, NGOs, researchers, and landowners to address pressing environmental challenges in line with the Strategy.

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## **CONCLUSION**

The progress achieved so far under the Environment Strategy reflects a growing commitment across government departments, the private sector, stakeholders and the community to embed environmental considerations into decision-making and daily operations. While some actions have been fully completed, many others are ongoing and will continue to evolve in response to new challenges, opportunities, and the dynamic nature of environmental work. The collaborative efforts highlighted in this report demonstrate the importance of cross-sector coordination and the value of a strategic, long-term approach to safeguarding the natural environment of the Falkland Islands.

This report serves not only as a record of progress but also as a reminder of the shared commitment to safeguarding the Islands' unique natural environment for future generations.

Appreciation is extended to all individuals and organisations who have contributed towards this work. The achievements captured in this report reflect the contributions of many individuals and teams across government, the private sector and the community. Future updates will build on the insights gathered here, helping to track progress, identify gaps, and ensure the Strategy remains responsive to changing environmental conditions and emerging priorities.

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Environment Department  
Secretariat  
Stanley  
Falkland Islands  
2025