



The Falkland Islands Government

Environment Department, Secretariat, Stanley, Falkland Islands
Telephone: (500) 28449
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Environmental Studies Budget grant scheme 2026

The Environmental Studies Budget grant scheme 2026 aims to help Falkland Islanders promote, conserve and protect our globally-significant biodiversity. Grants will support environmental research, direct conservation or management activities, and / or awareness raising activities that benefit the Falklands' environment.

These grants run annually. The grant is open to individuals as well as organisations located within the Falkland Islands.

KEY DATES

The 2026 round of ESB grants open on **Monday 29 June 2026**

The deadline for the 2026 round of ESB grant applications is **Sunday 02 August 2026**

Applications will be decided by Environmental Committee on **Friday 4 September 2026**

All applicants will be notified in writing by **mid-September 2026**

APPLICATION PROCESS

Please apply using a simple application form available on our website or by contacting the Environment Department on +500 28449 or environment@sec.gov.fk or in person at the Secretariat, Stanley. We are here to help and applicants are welcome to discuss their application with us.

PRIORITY AREAS FOR 2026

1. Biodiversity Protection

We are looking for projects that help protect native species and ecosystems in the Falkland Islands. This could include:

- Setting aside or fencing off areas to protect important habitats or species from damage.
 - Research that fills key knowledge gaps—for example, understanding species or habitat status, threats, or ecological trends—especially if this helps inform conservation efforts.
 - Actions that improve environmental management of vulnerable or poorly understood areas or species.
 - Efforts that support the designation of important conservation areas (e.g. IPAs, KBAs, Ramsar sites) or contribute to the establishment or management of protected areas.
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2. Habitat Restoration

We support projects that aim to restore natural ecosystems and improve site health. Examples include:

- Physical habitat restoration (e.g. planting tussac grass or stabilizing eroded areas).
- Growing native plants or organisms for use in restoration projects.
- Testing restoration techniques for peatlands (e.g. reshaping land, controlling erosion, revegetation, or improving water flow with ditch blocking or bunds).

To support the permanence of any restoration work, it may be useful to consider potential risks to the success of these projects (i.e. extreme weather such as drought, wildfire etc.) and how those risks may be mitigated.

3. Invasive Species and Biosecurity

Projects in this area should focus on managing or reducing the impact of invasive species in the Falkland Islands. This includes:

- Direct control or removal of invasive species.
- Monitoring efforts to track where invasive species are and how they are spreading.
- Research that supports or improves methods for controlling invasive species. This research must clearly relate to practical control measures.

4. Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

We are interested in projects that help native species or habitats adapt to climate change, or that use natural solutions to reduce climate change impacts. All projects must have clear biodiversity benefits. Examples include:

- Developing wildfire preparedness and response plans (including necessary equipment).
- Managing freshwater resources (e.g. surveys of water systems, water monitoring tools, grey water collection).
- Long-term environmental monitoring (e.g. weather stations or environmental sensors) with a commitment to continued data collection and use.

Note: Projects focused solely on renewable energy are not eligible under this theme.

5. Pollution and Waste Management

We want to support projects that reduce pollution and improve how waste is handled, with a focus on protecting the environment. This could include:



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- Reducing single-use plastics at home or work.
 - Creating innovative recycling or upcycling initiatives.
 - Organising clean-up events to improve public spaces and reduce litter.
 - Promoting proper waste disposal and resource recovery to prevent pollution.
 - Minimising pollution impacts on wildlife and natural areas.
 - Improving the safe storage and handling of oils, fuels and chemicals to prevent leaks, spills and environmental harm
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6. Innovation

This category is for unique, environmentally-focused ideas that offer new approaches to supporting biodiversity.

- Projects must clearly link to positive outcomes for biodiversity.
 - Only Falkland Islands-based organisations are eligible to lead projects in this category.
 - We welcome creative or experimental approaches that explore new solutions to environmental challenges.
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Please note:

- The six priority areas apply to all Falkland Islands biodiversity: marine, terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems.
- Projects must include either environmental research, direct conservation or management activities, and / or education or awareness raising.
- Applications will be expected to demonstrate that their project will make a positive difference, change or benefit to Falkland Islands biodiversity. Applicants will also be expected to share their project outcomes with the Environment Department.

ELIGIBILITY

- Grants are open to individuals as well as organisations; however, applications must demonstrate strong links with Falkland Islands' organisations or practitioners.
- Funds for any reasonable costs arising from the activities will be covered.
- We reserve the right to make partial awards.
- The activity should be completed within one year. Consideration will be given to multi-year projects if justified.
- Applicants are advised that funding for multi-year projects cannot be guaranteed for all years and the amount made available in each year may vary.



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- There is no limit to how many grants an applicant can apply for.
- There is no minimum or maximum value that can be requested; however, the majority of previously successful grants have been in the range of £3,000 to £10,000.
- Grantees are required to complete a short report at the end of their project, which may be used for future media and promotion of the ESB grant scheme.

EVALUATION SCHEME

This evaluation scheme ensures fair and transparent assessment of all proposals. Projects will be evaluated on two types of criteria: **Pass/Fail** (mandatory requirements) and **Scored Criteria** (evaluated for quality and alignment with objectives).

Pass/fail criteria

Proposals must meet all **Pass/Fail** criteria to proceed to scoring.

1. Alignment with Priority Areas

- Does the project fit within a specified priority area? *N.B. Only one priority area needs to be met to pass this criterion*

2. Project Focus

- Does the project include environmental research, direct conservation or management activities or awareness-raising initiatives?

3. Previous Funding Requirements (if applicable)

- If previously funded by ESB were all the requirements of the grant scheme met?

Scored Criteria (70 points total)

4. Methodology and Project Planning (10 points)

- Is the methodology clearly outlined and appropriate for achieving project goals?
- Has a detailed project timeline been provided?

5. Local Relevance and Collaboration (15 points)

- Does the applicant/project have links with local organisations or practitioners which may include utilising Falklands-based researchers and practitioners?
- Does the applicant demonstrate how knowledge, skills, equipment and/or resources (data) will be retained in the islands during and after the project?
- Is the project relevant to local policies or obligations?

6. Environmental Benefits (10 points)

- Does the project demonstrate positive benefits for the Falkland Islands' biodiversity?



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- What are the expected long-term impacts and outcomes?

7. Previous Experience (5 points)

- Does the applicant outline previous experience with similar projects?
- Does the applicant outline any guidance of support from skilled individuals?

8. Value for Money (15 points)

- Does the project represent an optimal use of resources to achieve its outcomes?
- Has co-funding or in-kind support (e.g., accommodation, applicant's time, reduced fees) been included to maximize project outputs?
- Before requesting international flight costs, has the applicant considered local researchers or institutions for the work (answered in Q5)?
- Are costs well-detailed, justified, and explained? *N.B. only new costs associated with the project will be funded.*

9. Dependence on Existing FIG Resources

- Inverse scoring (i.e. 15 for projects not receiving funding or benefits in kind from FIG versus 5 for projects receiving large benefits in kind or funding from FIG)
- This is not for prior funding, but relates only to the project that is being considered for funding. E.g. if the project is already being funded or receiving benefits in kind from FIG. This lends weighting to projects that have limited access to other funding. 15 for no funding, 10 for limited funding/resources from FIG, 5 for large amount of funding/resources from FIG.

Scoring Guide

Score	Assessment criteria
5	Excellent: Comprehensive, robust, and detailed response; strong evidence provided with no weaknesses.
3	Good: Clear evidence provided, but minor weaknesses or areas for improvement identified.
1	Limited: Evidence provided is insufficient; major weaknesses or omissions.
0	Unacceptable: No evidence provided or wholly unsatisfactory response.

Rubric for evaluating Environmental Studies Budget proposals. Each of 1 – 9 corresponds to the numbered points above

Question	Criteria	Weighting
1.	Does the project fit within a specified priority area	Pass/Fail
2.	Environmental research/ direct conservation or management activities /awareness raising	Pass/Fail



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3.	If previously funded by ESB were all the requirements of the grant scheme met	Pass/Fail or N/A
4.	Local relevance/links	15
5.	Methodology and project planning	10
6.	Environmental Benefits	10
7.	Experience/project support	5
8.	Value for money	15
9.	Project already resourced by FIG (inverse score)	15