



Falkland Islands Government

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FIG Environmental Studies Budget 2021/22

FIG's Environmental Studies Budget provides annual funding to help people in the Falkland Islands conduct activities and research which benefit and enhance the natural environment. The Environment Department is responsible for allocating the 'Environmental Studies Budget' (ESB) funds to owners and managers of land, non-governmental organisations, naturalists and local and international scientists in the Falkland Islands for awareness-raising, research or conservation/management activities that benefit the environment of the Falkland Islands and are clearly linked to the priority areas. The Environmental Committee advises on the allocation of ESB funds.

The next deadline for applications is **Friday 27 August 2021**.

Projects eligible for ESB funding must assist in the management or enhancement of biodiversity in the Falkland Islands. Initiatives may include environmental research, on-ground action and education/awareness-raising.

Priority areas

The following are the priority areas for the ESB in 2021/22. Projects which do not meet these priorities risk not receiving any funding. These priorities are:

- Invasive Species and Biosecurity:
 - Projects should target the control of the top 10 invasive species or other priority invasive species where a suitable justification has been provided. These projects should demonstrate how invasive species are controlled or eradicated. Projects can be located anywhere within the Falkland Islands and where the invasive species is controlled a clear link to anticipated biodiversity enhancement of the area should be shown.
 - Projects under this topic can also target the understanding, management and/or control of marine invasive species. Where there are projects under this theme, projects should show a clear link on how this can benefit biosecurity management in the Falkland Islands.
- Habitat Restoration: Celebrating the UN decade on habitat restoration and the importance of this noted in our biodiversity framework. Projects under this theme could aim to provide

physical protection (e.g. fencing) to vulnerable species and/or their habitats or be aimed at restoring vulnerable habitats (eg. tussac planting).

This year, we are also seeking projects that evaluate past restoration activities, providing an ecological evidence-based analysis of where and why restoration efforts have been successful, e.g. mapping past restoration activities for their efficacy and establishing where restoration efforts can be focused, assessing past effectiveness of environmental or planting methods for establishment of native species so that these can be replicated.

- Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation: Climate Change is a key global issue and a threat to biodiversity in the Falkland Islands. Projects can be related to local climate change adaptation or mitigation measures, particularly where these may help to avoid biodiversity (ecosystems, habitats and species) loss. This could also include knowledge generation to support our understanding of climate change in the Falkland Islands and adaptation and mitigation measures, especially where key knowledge gaps exist. Where possible, projects should indicate the anticipated long-term impact of their efforts in adaptation or mitigation and highlight the specific challenges anticipated with climate change that they may be seeking to address. (Renewable energy as a mitigation measure, e.g. installation of solar panels, is not included.)
- Oceans and Coasts: A range of knowledge gaps continue to exist with respect to our marine and coastal ecosystems, including vulnerable habitats or species. Projects could address knowledge gaps with respect to marine ecosystems or demonstrate a benefit or on-the-ground action for biodiversity.
- Blue-sky project: We invite project applications that seek to advance science and innovation, with a clear link to biodiversity and ecosystems. Projects in this category should be innovative and environmentally driven and be led by a Falklands-based organisation or individual. Projects must be completed by June 2022. Note that only one blue-sky project will be funded.

Invitation for proposals

Proposals are invited to conduct research, on-ground action and conservation/management activities on the broad areas noted above which are identified as priorities in the Biodiversity Framework and supporting Strategies. Applications will be reviewed by the Environmental Committee in line with these documents. Projects which do not meet these priorities will not receive any funding.

Project scope

Consideration will be given to single or multi-year projects where justified unless these are for the blue-sky project, which is a one-year initiative. Applicants for research projects are encouraged to demonstrate the good value of the project through additional co-funding from contributing organisations as well as a sound scientific experience to carry out the project. Applicants must identify additional co-funding from external organisations, where applicable.

Project Resources

An important aspect of the project development is to utilise Falklands-based researchers and practitioners to retain knowledge and skills in the Islands during and after the project. Applications from externally-based organisations or individuals will be accepted but must demonstrate strong links with local organisations and practitioners.

Application process

Applicants – who may be landowners, land managers, scientists, individuals, institutions and organisations - are requested to submit the attached application form. Part of this is a written outline of their project and should include clear connections to the priority area/s identified above. Prior to application, applicants are encouraged to discuss proposed projects with the Environmental Officer. Applications should also evidence the long-term benefits of the project to the Falkland Islands.

Where possible, some level of co-funding or in-kind costs (e.g. labour, equipment) is desirable. ESB funds can also be used to evidence FIG co-funding when applying to funding bodies in the UK and internationally. All successful applicants should be prepared to provide some local publicity of the work they are carrying out. All funds made available must be accessed by 1 March 2022 at the latest. For multi-year projects applicants are advised that funding *cannot* be guaranteed for all years and the amount made available in each year may vary and is subject to conditions and availability of funds. Where successful, applicants will need to comply with terms and conditions of the funding.

To discuss your application and submit your application form please contact the Environmental Officer on +500 28427 or environmental.officer@sec.gov.fk.

Reporting

Successful applicants will be expected to provide a report on their project, including describing what was achieved at the end of the year. In the case of multi-year projects an annual report on progress and achievements within the year should be provided to the Environment Department.

Decision-making process

Applications will be decided upon by the Environmental Committee based on:

- Relevance to the priority areas outlined above where there is clear relevance to managing and protecting biodiversity and/or the natural environment.
- Links and ties to local organisations or practitioners.
- Long-term benefit and impact for the Falkland Islands
- Capacity of the project/actions, project proponent and budget to meet stated objective(s). This may include the applicant's track record.
- Possibility of sourcing co-funding elsewhere.

All applicants will be informed of the outcome by the end of September in writing.

Appendix 1

Priority invasive species:

Scientific Name	Common Name	Score	Comments/ control status	Timescale
<i>Rattus rattus</i>	Black/Ship rat	20	Control has occurred and is planned. Species only recorded on New Island. Good potential to eradicate species from the Falkland Islands	Eradication 5yrs
<i>Berberis buxifolia</i>	Calafate	19	Large scale control urgently required in large localised areas. Outlier population control programme underway.	Eradication 7yrs
<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	Brown/ Norway rat	19	Successful eradication has occurred on circa 80 small islands in FI and more is planned. Monitoring of small island eradications required. Potential for larger island eradication projects.	Eradication (small islands only) 10 yrs
<i>Berberis darwinii</i>	Darwin's barberry	18	Localised distribution. Remove plants to prevent spread	Eradication 5yrs
<i>Senecio jacobea</i>	European ragwort	18	Localised distribution. Control undertaken and more planned	Eradication 5yrs
<i>Senecio squalidus</i>	Oxford ragwort	18	Localised distribution. Control undertaken and more planned	Eradication 5yrs
<i>Mus musculus</i>	House mouse	17	Small Island eradication has occurred	Eradication (small islands only) 10 yrs
<i>Lycalopex griseus</i>	Patagonian fox	17	Small Island eradication has occurred and is planned. Potential to eradicate species from the Falkland Islands	Eradication 5yrs
<i>Capra hircus</i> *	Goat	17	Eradication of feral herds is a priority.	Eradication 2yrs
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear/Scotch h thistle	16	Agricultural weed. Eradication desired.	Control

Appendix 2: Vulnerable habitats and species

The following ten habitats and species have been identified as being particularly vulnerable.

Mainland tussac
Whitegrass-fachine acid grassland
Fachine scrub
Boxwood scrub
22 threatened plants*
Black-browed albatross
Striated caracara
Southern rockhopper penguin
Cobb's wren
Zebra trout

**22 threatened plants:*

<i>Adder's-tongue</i>	<i>Hairy daisy</i>	<i>Skullcap</i>
<i>Antarctic cudweed</i>	<i>Leathery shield-fern</i>	<i>Spider-flower</i>
<i>Chilean tall-fern</i>	<i>Maidenhair-fern</i>	<i>Tasselweed</i>
<i>False-plantain</i>	<i>Moonwort</i>	<i>Yellow lady's slipper</i>
<i>Fir clubmoss</i>	<i>Moore's plantain</i>	<i>Patagonian hawkweed</i>
<i>Fuegian violet</i>	<i>Mudwort</i>	<i>Rock-cress</i>
<i>Fuegian whitlowgrass</i>	<i>Pale yellow orchid</i>	<i>Saxifrage</i>
		<i>Shrubby seablite</i>