

# Environmental Studies Budget 2024-25 Project Summary

## 1. Summary:

For the financial year 2024/25, the FIG Environmental Studies Budget (ESB) supports 26 different projects from organisations and individuals across the Falkland Islands and internationally. Six of these multi-year projects are continued effort from previous years' work and 19 of the projects are new projects, with some spanning over multiple years.

## 2. Multi-year Projects continuing in 2024/25:

Recipient	Project Title and Background
SAERI	<b>Invasive European earwigs in the Falkland Islands: How big is the threat – PhD Studentship</b>  The PhD will address a number of priority areas with respect to earwigs. It will create an assessment of earwig abundance and distribution, aim to understand the impacts of earwigs on insects and plants and provide an informed assessment of earwig invasion ecology.  Funding started 2022/23 ending in 2025/26
Sedge Island Bird Research	<b>Cape Pembroke Breeding Bird Survey (Inland)</b>  This project will carry out systematic breeding bird surveys on Cape Pembroke in the summer. This is a survey of inland birds and focuses on waders/shorebirds, wildfowl and passerines.  This is a multi-year project with funding ending in 2024/25
Giselle Hazell	<b>Restoring eroded peat soils and Tussac habitats on Dyke Island</b>  This practical on-the-ground project aims to restore 60 hectares of bare and eroding soil on Dyke Island. Restoration will involve planting of native grasses, using key species such as tussac, bluegrass and boxwood.  This is a multi-year project with funding ending in 2025/26
South Atlantic Detection Dogs	<b>Improving inter-island rodent biosecurity</b>  This project aims to enhance the protection measures in place to prevent invasion/re-invasion of rodent free islands in the Falkland Islands using rodent detector dogs. The project also raises awareness about rodents and their impact on native habitats and ecosystems. This is a five-year programme with consistent cargo checks throughout and a rolling programme of island surveys.  This is a multi-year project with funding ending in 2027/28
Kicki Ericson & Thies Matzen	<b>Restore fence to prevent grazing in south of West Point to help wildlife and vegetation</b>

	<p>This project aims to reinstate 1.7 km of fence which will exclude grazing from Misery Paddock, the southern end of West Point Island. The area is ~550 acres. The area will be allowed to regenerate naturally as well as restoration of areas with bare soil with appropriate vegetation.</p> <p>This is a multi-year project with funding ending in 2024/25</p>
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**Island LandCare**

**Long-term coastal bird monitoring of Stanley Harbour and Cape Pembroke National Nature Reserve**

This project will carry out bi-annual (winter and summer) coastal bird surveys along the coastlines of Stanley Harbour and Cape Pembroke National Nature Reserve. The surveys record birds 100 m out to sea and within 20 m of the shoreline and their breeding status.

This is a multi-year project with funding ending in 2027/28

### 3. New projects for 2024/25:

Recipient	Project name/ Background
<b>Paulo Catry</b>	<p><b>A long-term study of Black-browed Albatrosses as a tool for conservation and environmental monitoring</b></p> <p>This project is part of a long-term monitoring effort for Black-browed Albatrosses. The project has been monitoring breeding success of the birds and has been carrying out and supporting research into the animals..</p> <p>This is a multi-year project with funding ending in 2026/27</p>
<b>Island Landcare</b>	<p><b>National Purple Thistle Control Programme 2024-2027</b></p> <p>This project continues successful ongoing invasive purple thistle control programmes in areas across the Falkland Islands, reducing spear and creeping thistles, and reducing risk of spread to new vulnerable areas.</p> <p>This is a multi-year project with funding ending in 2026/27</p>
<b>Bleaker Island Ltd</b>	<p><b>Continued Habitat Restoration of Bleaker Island</b></p> <p>This practical on-the-ground project will carry out planting of native blue grass, Fuegian couch, swordgrass, and boxwood along coastlines on of Bleaker Island, building on previous restoration and planting.</p>
<b>Hope Harbour, Dunbar Farm</b>	<p><b>Restoration of a newly set aside paddock with native plant seedlings</b></p> <p>This practical on-the-ground project will carry out planting of native seedlings such as boxwood and cinnamon grass in a newly set-aside from grazing paddock area.</p>

<b>Ross James, South Atlantic Biosecurity Dogs, Island Landcare</b>	<b>Conserving Cape Pembroke's Sooty Shearwaters</b> <p>This project builds on a previous pilot study, with the aim of conserving the Cape Pembroke Sooty Shearwater colony through data collection monitoring, feral cat control and understanding, and raising awareness.</p> <p>This is a multi-year project with funding ending in 2025/26.</p>
<b>Habitat Restoration Services, Keppell Island</b>	<b>Keppell Island Habitat Restoration</b> <p>This practical on-the-ground project will carry out planting of eroded peat with tussac tillers in a fenced area on Keppell Island.</p>
<b>Habitat Restoration Services, A&amp;D Gould Pebble Island</b>	<b>Pebble Island Group Restoration</b> <p>This project will carry out planting of tussac tillers across six areas identified as in need of habitat restoration (Rabbit Island, Broken Island West, Broken Island South, Broken Island East, Dockyard Island North, Dockyard Island South).</p>
<b>Hope Cottage Farm, Atlantic Harvest</b>	<b>Phillips Point Set-Aside and Restoration</b> <p>The restoration for Phillips Point will include planting out 6500 native seedlings of varying species on the fenced off peninsula, with measures such as mesh netting and seedling treatment to ensure protection in the establishment stage.</p>
<b>Erebus Canine</b>	<b>Use of biosecurity dogs to detect and interdict invasive invertebrate populations throughout the Falkland Islands</b> <p>This project builds on previous successful project in training a detection dog to detect invasive invertebrates including earwigs, and continues the training with an efficient team.</p> <p>This is a multi-year project with funding ending in 2025/26.</p>
<b>SAERI, University of Aberdeen</b>	<b>Impact of Environmental Variability on Southern Rockhopper Penguin Population Trends and Foraging Behaviour</b> <p>This project will investigate how environmental variability influences the behaviour and demography in the Southern Rockhopper Penguins at key breeding colonies.</p> <p>This is a multi-year project with funding ending in 2025/26.</p>
<b>South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute</b>	<b>Diddle-dee dieback - developing remote sensing solutions to quantify and understand areas at risk</b> <p>This project aims to provide proof-of-concept for remote sensing imagery as a tool to monitor and track diddle-dee dieback, with objectives to: i) evaluate the current extent of dieback at</p>

	select site/s by ground-truthing remote sensing indices; ii) characterize links between areas experiencing dieback and underlying environmental and agricultural condition.
<b>Habitat Restoration Services, Keppel Island</b>	<b>Fencing off three important areas of biodiversity</b> <p>This project aims to fence off three key areas for biodiversity and habitat restoration on Keppel Island, including areas of Sword Grass, Dusen's Moonwort, and at Albatross Rookery North.</p>
<b>Wild Falklands Ltd</b>	<b>Remote cameras for monitoring seabirds and fire damaged habitat at Sea Lion Island</b> <p>This project is to replace and update newer remote cameras with solar charging capacity to reduce battery waste, to monitor seabirds and fire damaged habitats on Sea Lion island, to provide a continuous and cost-effective method for monitoring with a life of up to 10 years in conjunction with other camera equipment.</p>
<b>Atlantic Harvest</b>	<b>New House Lake</b> <p>This project aims to create a lake area of approximately 1.5 Hectares in order to address issues of reduced rainfall; islands and lake margin will be planted with native pond plants such as the California Club Rush.</p>
<b>Falkland Islands Film Company</b>	<b>Dyke Island Film Proposal</b> <p>This project aims to create a film for sharing documenting the outcomes of the Dyke Island Restoration project, to celebrate the efforts to encourage, and inspire future similar projects.</p>
<b>Weddell Island</b>	<b>Support ongoing Patagonian Grey Fox reduction with imported FoxOff bait</b> <p>This project aims to decrease and control the number of introduced Patagonian Grey Foxes on Weddell Island.</p>
<b>Shallow Marine Survey Group</b>	<b>Enhancing underwater photographic capacity for marine biodiversity surveys and advanced habitat mapping</b> <p>This SMSG project will replace underwater camera equipment, updating the scope of survey methods for understanding marine ecosystems in the Falkland Islands.</p>
<b>Weddell Island</b>	<b>Tussac restoration, erosion and peatland conservation at Weddell Island</b> <p>This project will undertake monitoring of an enclosure area by researchers, including a peat depth survey, and a vegetation survey.</p>

**Rural Bossiness  
Association**

**Land restoration, recovery and climate resilience programme  
workshop**

This project is a collaborative 2-day workshop on land recovery, and resilience in the face of climate change will be held, with a number of stakeholders such as landowners, scientists and local bodies.