DEVELOPING A LAND RECOVERY PROGRAMME FOR THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

Consultation Handbook

Falkland Islands Government

2025

FALKLAND ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

World-class agricultural products, unique biodiversity and a vibrant camp community are at the heart of the Falkland Islands' identity and economy. Climatic, environmental, social and economic changes are dramatically altering agricultural productivity and rural communities in the Falklands. At the same time society is increasingly demanding more from our landscapes and land-managers whether that be delivering carbon sequestration, land for recreation and tourism or protecting rare plants and animals. Adapting to these changes is critical to ensure that our land and people are resilient in the face of change.

This consultation will explore the potential to establish a national Land Recovery Programme. Such a programme would aim to engage farmers, and other landowners, in management that assists land to recover from historic degradation, improves productivity, mitigates the effects of a warming and drying climate, and protects biodiversity. A Land Recovery Programme would also compensate farmers and other land-managers for delivering the ecosystem services that our whole community benefits from. A Land Recovery Programme could support farmers to do one or more of the following:

1. Manage or remove grazing to recover agricultural productivity and ecosystem health
2. Set aside or manage areas for biodiversity and conservation
3. Engage in active management measures to stabilise soils, increase soil moisture, restore vegetation cover, enhance wildlife habitat and protect carbon stocks.

Phase One of the consultation – a co-design process

Co-design is a collaborative process where stakeholders actively participate in designing solutions to ensure shared ownership of the final programme. A Land Recovery Programme needs to strike a balance between the priorities and requirements of multiple stakeholders, as well as between agricultural, environmental, and socio-economic outcomes. The first phase of this consultation will focus on gathering insight into our community's preferences and expectations for a programme – what should it do and how could it operate?

This document is designed to provide a baseline for these conversations. It is relatively long and detailed because the decisions facing us could have profound effects on our community, economy and environment. Over the coming months FIG will be reaching out directly to all interested parties and engaging in a detailed period of information gathering and reflection before releasing a draft of any programme's structure. Phase One will include opportunities to respond via questionnaires and to participate in workshops and discussions. Phase Two will involve the development of a draft programme and then refining it to ensure it balances the needs and priorities of all stakeholders.

To initiate the development of a Land Recovery Programme we have identified three key issues and several associated questions that need to be considered carefully.

ISSUE 1: WHAT ARE THE GOALS AND SCALE FOR A RECOVERY PROGRAMME?

1. What should the primary goals of a Land Recovery Programme be?
2. What should be the scale of ambition, in terms of total land area to be covered?
3. What timescale should a programme operate over?

ISSUE 2: WHAT SHOULD THE FUNDING MODEL BE?

1. What payment model(s) would be appropriate?
2. How should payment rate(s) be determined?
3. What is a reasonable level of public funding to provide?
4. Could contributions from private and voluntary sector sources support a programme?

ISSUE 3: WHAT SHOULD THE REQUIREMENTS BE FOR ELIGIBILITY AND ONGOING PARTICIPATION?

1. Who should be eligible to apply for and receive payments?
2. What types of land should be eligible and/or prioritised?
3. How should application and assessment processes work?
4. What conditions should be attached to funding?
5. How should a Land Recovery Programme relate to other funding and certification schemes?

HOW TO RESPOND TO THIS DISCUSSION DOCUMENT

Feedback on the above questions, or any other suggestions and views regarding a potential Land Recovery Programme, are welcome.

Throughout this document you will find "big" critical questions in blue. These are covered in our preliminary survey. We encourage all those with an interest or stake in the programme to consider the information and evidence in this document before completing the survey.

You will also find **a series of more specific discussion questions in gold. These will be addressed in a sequence of community workshops and 1:1 discussions held throughout 2025.**

Submit your feedback, in the following ways:

- Access our survey online
- Download and complete our survey from the DoA website
- Contact the Department of Agriculture to organise a discussion (see below)
- Participate in one of the forthcoming Land Recovery Workshops

Completed forms can be emailed or posted to the contact details below.

Large print versions of this document are available on request

Contact details for information or feedback:
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Bypass Road
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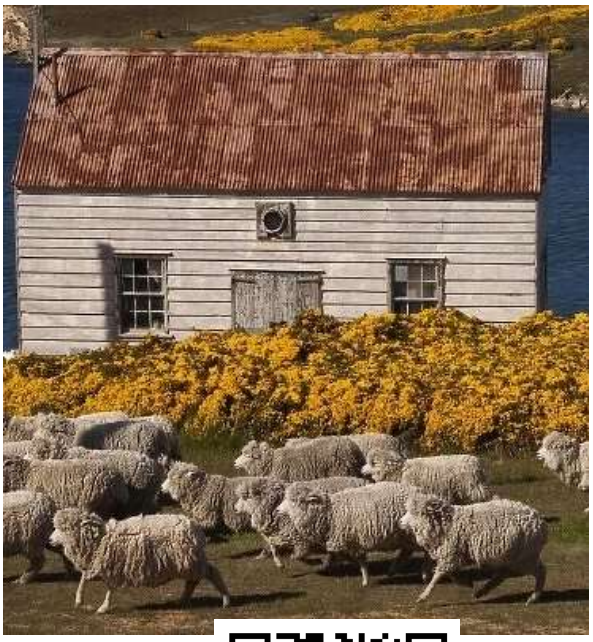
All responses will be confidential.



Survey link
https://qualtricsxm6jtymdmk4.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6WK4l8W14ajmfL8

INTRODUCTION AND RATIONALE

Agriculture, farming communities and care for biodiversity are integral features of the Falkland Islands.

Farmers care for more than 90% of the Falklands' terrestrial ecosystems. All farmers strive to manage their land to support the economy, biodiversity and ecosystem services that are critical to the sustainability of our Islands. All Falkland Islanders benefit from the work farmers do to manage, protect and restore our Islands' landscapes

Camp communities, the agricultural economy and the landscapes of the Falkland Islands face growing challenges from a drying climate, eroding soils, increasing wildfires, a declining availability of labour and volatile international agricultural produce markets.

Urgent action is needed to respond to these threats and to ensure we create a resilient rural economy and environment for current and future generations.

THE PURPOSE AND BENEFITS OF A LAND RECOVERY PROGRAMME

Environmental and economic change in the Falkland Islands

The last decades have seen dramatic changes in the environment and society of rural areas in the Falklands. The population in camp has declined from 653 people in 1986 to around 280 today (Figure 1). Meanwhile, historic management actions such as drainage, burning, and over-grazing have negatively impacted the agricultural productivity and biodiversity of our landscapes. Today's farmers and land-managers are working hard to respond to and address these challenges. Other emerging issues also threaten both agricultural and environmental systems – for example invasive species such as calafate, gorse, mouse-eared hawkweed, foxes, goats and hares significantly impact habitats, pasture and crops. The fragility of the Falklands environment means many areas will struggle to recover without help. Addressing these issues is made challenging as globally-depressed wool prices and demand have severely impacted the economic profitability of farming.

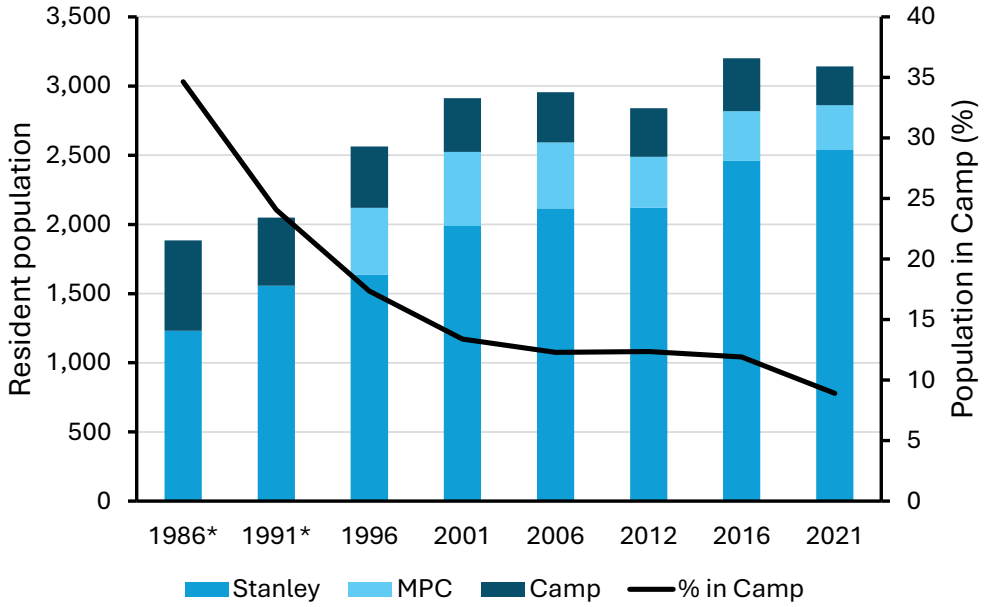


Figure 1: Change in the resident populations in Stanley, Camp and MPC (latter recorded since 1996). The black line shows the declining proportion of our population in camp over time.

The future promises further challenges for rural communities and landscapes in the Falklands. Regional climate change forecasts suggest the potential for average warming of between 1.8 °C and 2.2 °C with rainfall remaining static or declining slightly. We also expect more frequent periods of extreme weather resulting in droughts, rainstorms, greater risk of wildfires and stronger winds. Invasive species may also expand their ranges and populations as the climate continues to change. Such processes can result in widespread impacts on native habitats and animals while also increasing risks of soil erosion. They also impact farmers directly by reducing our land's productivity and meaning ponds, lakes and streams fail to provide adequate water supplies and no longer serve as adequate barriers to livestock. Already many farmers have reduced their livestock numbers, acknowledging that the land can no longer both sustain the numbers we once had and deliver the ecosystem services society requires. While stock reductions may benefit the environment, they put a further strain on farm incomes especially in the context of the repeated "boom-bust" cycles seen experienced in many commodity markets (Figure 2).

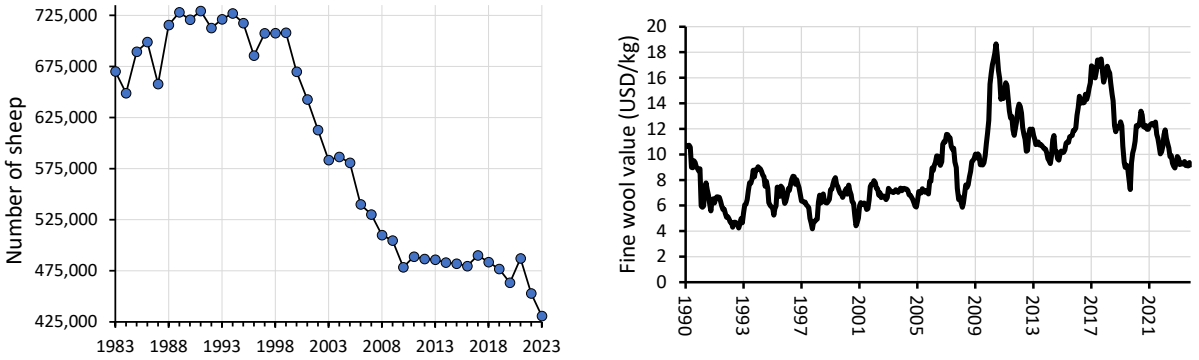


Figure 2: Sheep numbers in the Falkland Islands have declined over the last fifty years (left) while the wool market has shown large variations that expose farmers to severe financial shocks (right)

A Land Recovery Programme aims to acknowledges that:

1) Land and landscapes are at the heart of the Falklands and that we all benefit from the ecosystem services (See Box 1) delivered by well-managed, productive, biodiverse landscapes
2) Securing the future of farming is vital to protect the food and economic security of the Falklands
3) Investing in land recovery could provide a means to offset the impacts on carbon emissions and biodiversity associated with other forms of economic activity.
4) Maintaining land and biodiversity in good condition is critical for other key industries and activities such as tourism and recreation
5) Farmers are currently not compensated for the full range ecosystem services they deliver to our community

BOX 1: Ecosystem services

Ecosystem services describe the benefits humans derive from nature, including provisioning services (like food and water), regulating services (such as climate control and control of water flows), supporting services (e.g., soil nutrient cycling) and cultural services (like recreation and aesthetic value). Ecosystem services sustain life, enhance well-being, and underpin economies and it is the responsibility of society as whole to maintain them for future generations. Most members of society benefit from the tangible and intangible benefits well-managed land and landscapes provide but may only directly compensate land-managers for a small proportion of them.

Payments for Ecosystem Services: Increasingly, agri-environmental policy acknowledges that the benefits communities derive from ecosystem services have value.

Attributing an economic value to some of these services can be challenging but a number of approaches have been developed to do just that[1]. Once value is attributed to services land-managers can be compensated for management that enhances the quality and quantity of their delivery. Costa Rica is an example of a country with a world-leading and successful agri-environmental funding scheme that compensates farmers for the delivery of priority ecosystem services[2]. Funding schemes in the UK implicitly take this approach by paying farmers to engage in practices that enhance ecosystem services.[3]

A Land Recovery Programme could provide financial support to restore the productivity and quality of vulnerable land while supporting the protection of ecosystem services and biodiversity. A programme would supplement a range of existing and developing schemes and policies that aim to enhance the sustainability and productivity of the Falkland Islands' natural environment and rural economy (Appendix 1).

Any Land Recovery Programme **must enhance the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the Falkland Islands** and its farming communities and landscapes.

Examples of potential benefits from a Land Recovery Program could include:

Economic benefits

- Providing farmers with more consistent income, reducing exposure to volatile prices in the international wool market and increasing the resilience of the rural economy.
- Developing opportunities for, and the quality of, nature-based tourism and recreation
- Enhancing and recovering the agricultural productivity of degraded or marginal areas
- Creating diversified income streams for farmers

Social benefits

- Compensating landowners, managers and farmers for delivering and enhancing ecosystem services that benefit the economy and society of the Falkland Islands
- Supporting the camp economy, communities and rural heritage
- Maintaining the intrinsic and aesthetic value of our landscapes and biodiversity

Environmental benefits

- Reclamation and restoration of degraded land
- Enhancing resilience to climate change by stabilising eroding soils and improving soil moisture holding capacity
- Furthering conservation aims by enhancing existing habitats for wildlife and native plants
- Making progress towards international commitments on nature conservation
- Contributing to carbon emissions reduction through protection of soil carbon stocks and enhanced carbon sequestration in vegetation and soil

This discussion document is intended to facilitate discussion and debate. These discussions will allow collaborative development of a proposed scheme.

[1] See Reference to the UK Parliamentary Briefing Note for an overview of valuation methods

[2] Costa Rica's Payments for Environmental Services Program (PES) is a financial mechanism that promotes forest ecosystem conservation and combats land degradation – see references for more information

[3] UK agri-environmental policy is devolved and under review post-Brexit– the references provide links to the developing schemes in Wales, Scotland and England.

Aim of a
Land Recovery Programme
Enhancing land-condition, resilience to climate change and the economic and environmental sustainability of farming in the Falkland Islands.

To what extent do you agree with the development of a Land Recovery Programme that is designed to enhance agricultural production, protect biodiversity, support the camp economy and restore degraded land areas?

ISSUE 1: WHAT ARE THE GOALS AND SCALE FOR A LAND RECOVERY PROGRAMME?

Deciding on the appropriate goals, extent and timeframe for a programme requires careful consideration of financial costs and the area and time needed for action to make a meaningful impact on both individual farms and the wider sustainability of the Falkland Islands.

Issue 1.1: What are the goals of a Land Recovery Programme?
Issue 1.2: How do we produce large-scale, long-term benefits?
Issue 1.3: How long should a Land Recovery Programme run?

1.1 WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF A LAND RECOVERY PROGRAMME?

FIG's Islands Plan describes a vision to "*respect our globally significant biodiversity and unique environment, taking a proactive and responsible approach to development*" while also ensuring "*that the environment is preserved for future generations*"

FIG's Environment Strategy states that we will "*improve terrestrial … ecosystem integrity … through considering the ecological impact of, and improving, land-management approaches, practices and incentivisation*"[4]

Given the environmental challenges faced in the Falklands (see the Introduction and Rationale section) action is needed to enhance the resilience, biodiversity and productivity of our landscapes. Both trade-offs and win-wins may exist among protecting areas of greater biodiversity/conservation value, facilitating the recovery of degraded land and supporting agricultural production and farm incomes. This occurs as there tends to be a positive relationship between land productivity and biodiversity. If a programme focused only on degraded areas, it could have limited shorter-term benefits for conservation. However, setting aside more biodiverse areas may result in farms losing valuable areas of camp from production further impacting local livelihoods if there is not adequate compensation for reduced incomes or the generation of ecosystem services.

What should the primary focus of a Land Recovery Programme be? For instance, it could prioritise one or more of the following issues: agricultural production, the rural economy, camp community welfare, climate resilience, carbon emissions, grazing management, biodiversity, water management, wildfire risk, soil erosion, cultural heritage, or something else.

What are the potential win-wins or trade-offs for agricultural productivity, biodiversity conservation and restoration from a Land Recovery Programme?

[4] FIG's Environment Strategy does not include any quantitative targets for the amount or proportion of land to be covered. Planned action include establishing additional National Nature Reserves.

1.2 HOW DO WE PRODUCE LARGE-SCALE BENEFITS?

Restoring ecosystem services through sustainable land-management typically requires working at **large spatial scales**. This involves considering entire ecosystems, watersheds, or regions, rather than individual plots or small sites. The appropriate scale for management depends on the specific ecological processes, species, and services one aims to restore:

1. Local Scale (e.g. small habitat patches or individual camps):

- Suitable for addressing specific issues like local soil erosion, reintroducing certain species, or creating microhabitats.
- Limited ability to influence large-scale processes like hydrological cycles or species migrations.

2. Watershed Scale (e.g. individual outlying islands, larger farms or regions such as Lafonia):

- Effective for restoring water flows, connections between habitat patches and local patterns of nutrient cycling.

3. Ecosystem Scale:

- Integrates multiple ecosystems and services (e.g., grasslands, wetlands, rivers) into one comprehensive strategy.
- Enhances biodiversity, carbon storage, and resilience against disturbances like wildfires or climate change.

If the goal of a Land Restoration Programme is to enhance the resilience and sustainability of the Falkland Islands as a whole, what scale should a Land Recovery Programme operate at? The following benchmarks could provide a useful starting point to consider the area involved:

The UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) originally included a target that by 2020 "***at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water conserved*** *through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures*".

30 by 30 is a commitment made by the UK and other governments at the UN biodiversity conference in 2022 to **conserve a minimum of 30% of land and sea for biodiversity** by 2030[5]. This includes conservation both through protected areas and other management schemes that "*achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in situ conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions*".

EU agreement to require member states to **restore at least 20% of their land and seas by 2030**, while restoring at least 30% of degraded habitats by 2040 and 90% by 2050.[6]

For a programme to meet its aims, it would need to be sufficiently ambitious to yield **meaningful benefits for the environment and farmers' livelihoods.** Any scheme should have flexibility to: i) learn from experience; ii) adjust the programme if/as necessary; iii) consider whether or not to extend the ambition in the future.

Early discussions regarding a Land Recovery Programme suggested a target for the scheme to cover **10% of the Falkland Islands (120,000 ha)**. Protecting and enhancing **17% of our land area in a scheme would require 200,000 ha** (17% of our 12,000 km^2). Reaching 30% would require 360,000 ha. The final scope of the scheme would depend on monitoring and evaluation of how well the scheme works in meeting its objectives.

What is the appropriate total land-area to target for a Land Recovery Programme?

What is the appropriate spatial scale at which to plan the selection of enrolled areas?

[5] This has effectively superseded the UN CBD's 17% target. This does not formally apply to the Falkland Islands – but we contribute to the UK's reporting to CBD because they are party to the convention

[6] For context only as, post-Brexit, the law does not apply to the Falkland Islands or the UK.

1.3 HOW LONG SHOULD A LAND RECOVERY PROGRAMME RUN FOR?

Many of the land areas that could be enrolled in a Land Recovery Programme have been significantly impacted by wildfires, drying-out associated with buffalo ditching and drainage, soil erosion, invasive species, plant pathogens (e.g. tussac rust and diddle-dee dieback) and the environmental effects of historic over-grazing. The reduced productivity and biodiversity of such areas, in conjunction with the significant environmental constraints of the Falklands' climate, means passive recovery of enrolled areas may be slow. For comparison, peatland restoration projects enrolled in the "Peatland Code"[7] in the UK require a 30-year commitment from landowners. As a result, a Land Recovery Programme could require:

- Commitments from both landowners and funders over a sufficiently long and defined minimum period.
- Binding contracts on both parties for the length of the agreed period
- Continued funding to be based on conditions of funding being met
- Regular reviews during the life of the programme to assess how well it was working
- Opportunities for management to be adapted to address challenges or opportunities associated with the changing condition of the land over time
- Rules to govern procedures for continuance of funding if a farm is sold or a new tenant takes over its management

What should be the minimum amount of time an enrolled area of land is required to remain in the programme?

Should there be a requirement for agreements to automatically transfer if ownership or management of a farm changes during the agreed enrolment period?

[7] UK Peatland Code https://www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org/peatland-code-0

ISSUE 2: WHAT SHOULD THE FUNDING MODEL BE?

Funding for a Land Recovery Programme will need to be sufficient to attract participants, appropriately compensate them for the ecosystem services provided by land they enrol and to assist with the costs of restoration actions participants complete. Access to funding must be equitable and the scheme should provide good value for public money

Issue 2.1: What payment model(s) are appropriate?
Issue 2.2: How should payment rate(s) be determined?
Issue 2.3: What is a reasonable level of public funding?
Issue 2.4: How could contributions from private and voluntary sector sources be encouraged?

2.1 WHAT PAYMENT MODELS ARE APPROPRIATE?

A Land Recovery scheme could have one or more main types of payments. For example:

Area-based payments compensate farmers for the costs associated with provision of enhanced ecosystem services achieved through agreed changes to livestock grazing.

- Payments could be designed to compensate farmers for lost income by providing a guaranteed annual return for an agreed period (e.g. 10 years).
- Agreement periods would need to be long enough to yield environmental benefits from management changes - for instance vegetation recovery, carbon accumulation in soil and plants, soil health improvement and increased soil moisture levels.
- Payments could be made on a per hectare basis, reflecting what farmers could otherwise have earned by stocking the land
- Appropriate, but preferably simple, methods would need to be developed to calculate the payment rate. It could, for example, be based on an estimate of long term (e.g. the preceding 10 years) average net or gross returns from wool and meat production

Action-based payments provide financial support for specific land restoration interventions. Such payments could fully or partially meet the actual costs of restoration and/or compensate farmers for the value of the ecosystem services they enhance. Examples of measurements that could be funded include:

- Maintaining an agreed farm management plan and/or maintenance of fences.
- One-off payments for new fencing to manage stocking levels
- Funding for large-scale reclamation or restoration projects e.g. tussac, marram, Sphagnum, or tree planting; blocking buffalo/artificial ditches; stabilisation of eroding soils.

Are Area and/or Action-based payments appropriate for enhancing the environmental and economic sustainability of agricultural landscapes in the Falklands?

Are there priorities for funding or, specific activities that should NOT be funded?

2.2 HOW SHOULD PAYMENT RATE(S) BE DETERMINED?

A number of options could define the basis on which area-based payments are calculated. For instance, a scheme could use one more of the following:

1. A single rate throughout the Falkland Islands based on average farm incomes per hectare
2. Rates that vary per hectare based on previous productivity of the enrolling farm
3. A rate that varies per hectare according to a given farm's historic income levels
4. A rate per hectare based on the extent to which participation in the scheme will result in reductions in stocking at the farm level
5. A rate that varies per hectare according to an assessment of the value of the ecosystem services that land in the programme will produce (see Box 1)

Which, if any, of these payment systems make sense for a Land Recovery Programme in the Falkland Islands?

2.3 ON WHAT BASIS SHOULD PAYMENT RATES BE DETERMINED?

The success of a Land Recovery Programme is dependent on defining fair and sustainable payment rates. Recent studies (see Box 2) have suggested a wide average range of £2.00 - £6.30 per hectare for area-based payments:

- Current studies apply a single figure to the Falklands Islands as a whole and do not take account of differences between farms or camps.
- Figures are based on gross income and do not account for fixed production costs
- Lower payment rates may not take sufficient account of the fixed costs incurred by farmers, irrespective of whether some of their land is taken out of production.
- The figures do not take account of the current or future value of ecosystem services provided by land enrolled in a recovery programme

To be economically sustainable, payment rate(s) may need to:

- Make up for lost income that farmers would otherwise have realised by using land for grazing
- Be high enough to be attractive to a wide range of participants
- Be manageable within government budgets and cost efficient to administer
- Provide demonstrable value for money in the use of public funding
- Maintain consistency with existing returns from agriculture, so as not to distort economic activity or create upward or downward pressures on land prices.

BOX 2: Payment rate case studies

STUDY 1: Falklands Conservation

An analysis commissioned by Falkland Conservation looked at two approaches to compare land value and expected annual farm income:

- The percentage annual return on the investment capital value of the land, drawing on data on land sale prices and assuming a 10% annual rate of return on that investment
- Net taxable revenue per hectare generated by farming enterprises across the rural sector, using aggregated tax data

These approaches suggested an average return from agricultural land in the Falkland Islands of £2.00 - £2.32 per hectare.

STUDY 2: Island LandCare

A study by Island LandCare estimated that that one hectare of land grosses £6 (before deducting operating costs) from wool. This is calculated based on the following:

- 2021-2022 Stock return stated national average for greasy wool is 1.5 kg/ha
- 29 July 2023 AWEX Eastern Market Indicator stated wool is worth 1200 AUS cents per kg = ca, £6/kg clean = ca. £4/kg greasy
- On this basis, land grosses £6 per hectare in terms of wool production i.e. 1.5kg/ha × £4/kg = £6/ha

STUDY 3: Agricultural Statistics

Each year the Department of Agriculture distributes a survey to farmers in which they inventory their livestock, report on their levels of production and indicate their gross income from sales of wool and meat. Gross incomes can be compared to farm area to determine income levels on a per hectare basis. These have fluctuated markedly over time (due to volatility in commodity markets and changes in stocking rates) and differ significantly between farms. The table on the next page reports available information on the ranges in gross income per hectare from the start of recorded data, the last peak in global wool prices and the most recent submissions.

They suggest a national average annual income from wool and meat sales of £6.31/ha.

£/ha from	2001	2019	2023	Average
Wool	0.57 - 12.65	0.13 – 22.35	0.03 – 14.53	4.46
Meat	-	0.00 – 16.23	0.00 – 23.44	1.85

***Note**: Gross incomes do not provide information on farm profitability as they do not account for the very significant costs of production.*

International benchmarks

Many countries and jurisdictions operate support schemes to facilitate environmentally sensitive farming and land restoration. Many of these schemes provide full or matched funding for specific actions to reduce erosion, sequester carbon or enhance biodiversity. Past or ongoing schemes that compensate farmers to retire land from grazing include the Hill Country Erosion Programme in New Zealand, the UK set-aside scheme (1992-2008) and the Grassland Conservation Reserve Programme in the USA. Payments associated may be determined nationally, regionally, locally or, on occasion, through negotiation with individual farmers. With regards to a Falklands Land Recovery Programme, the Grassland CRP represents one close equivalent in terms of aims and structure. Grassland CRP annual payments for semi-arid rangeland systems can include:

- Annual base "rental" payments which generally equate to around 50% of the income that could otherwise be derived from the enrolled area
- Incentive Payments of around twice an area's general income to facilitate meeting initial enrolment requirements and conservation practices
- Cost share assistance payments of up to 50% of the cost of approved conservation practices
- Practice Incentive Payments providing additional support for high-priority conservation practices

What level of payment would encourage and appropriately compensate land-owners for their participation?

Should there be an enrolment bonus to encourage participation and offset up-front costs?

Should payment rates be defined at the camp, farm, national or some other scale?

Should payments be based on the value of ecosystem services delivered (e.g. carbon sequestration, recreational land-use, soil erosion protection)?

2.4 HOW MUCH MIGHT A LAND RECOVERY PROGRAMME COST?

The total budget required for a Land Recovery Programme would depend on the type(s) of funding provided, the payment rate per hectare for area-based payments, the total area of land enrolled in a scheme and the cost of administering the programme. Costs of a programme should be evaluated in the context of the Falkland Islands GDP (2022) of £279 million, FIG's Annual Operating Budget of ca. £104 million and the Department of Agriculture's current annual budget of ca. £ 1.7 million[8].

Area based payment costs: Illustrative costs are provided in Table 1 and are based on the payment rates described in Box 1 and a range of enrolment targets described in Section 1.2. Higher rates would require a proportionately higher budget. The total cost of a ten-year programme would be ten times the values shown in Table 1 plus any costs of uprating rates annually with inflation. Assuming an initial programme enrolled 10% of the Falklands, the annual cost of a programme could approximate between 0.2 % and 1.2 % of FIG's Annual Budget depending on payment rate.

Table 1: The annual cost of area-based payments to farmers/landowners associated with a Land Recovery Scheme and describing three potential payment rates and four potential scales of land coverage across the Falklands.

Payment rate	£2.00/ha	£4.00/ha	£6.00/ha	£10.00/ha
5% of FI land (60,000ha)	£120,000	£240,000	£360,000	£600,000
10% of FI land (120,000ha)	£240,000	£480,000	£720,000	£1,200,000
17% of FI land (200,000ha)	£400,000	£800,000	£1,200,000	£2,000,000
30% of FI land (360,000ha)	£720,000	£1,440,000	£2,160,000	£3,600,000

What level of total annual investment in land recovery would you support?

Which, if any, of the options in Table 1 strike an appropriate balance between costs to the public purse, economic benefits to the agricultural sector and benefits to the environment and society of the Falklands as a whole?

Action-based payment costs: A budget for action-based payments would be additional to the figures in Table 1. Payments could be set at a level that would depend on the range of activities that could be covered, the likely interest/take-up, and the best estimates of the costs of such activities. For reference, the available annual budget for the Department of Agriculture's Farm Improvement Programme[9] for 2024-2025 was £195,000 (less than 0.2% of FIG's annual budget).

A potential hybrid option for action-based payments would be to have two tiers of enrolment in a programme, basic (with a lower per ha rate) and higher (with a higher rate but also associated agreed management plans and actions).

Should action-based payments be provided on a cost recovery basis (e.g. farmers are paid the cost of the work carried out) or at a pre-determined rate based on the type of work?

Programme administration costs: Any new programme will create requirements for advisory, monitoring and verification support and thus additional staff resources within FIG**.** Staff resources would, for example, be needed to:

[8] See Appendix 2: Further Information – FIG Draft Budget and Financial Plans and National Accounts

[9] FIP provides farmers with matched funding to support capital investment, genetic improvements, innovation and agri-environmental works. See References for more information

- Develop the details of the scheme
- Conduct consultations on the development of the scheme
- Consider and approve applications, including conducting initial site visits
- Develop educational and advisory materials to assist with restoration
- Conduct annual site monitoring visits
- Review and evaluate progress

The Department of Agriculture currently employs three agricultural advisors with designated responsibilities related to livestock management, grazing systems and wool and genetics.

An agri-environmental and restoration advisor would help in providing additional support to farmers and collect evidence about what actions are most effective in restoring land condition and productivity. The annual salary cost for a new advisory position would be around £35,000 (plus pension contributions, flights etc.) depending on qualifications and experience.

What level of administrative support would be appropriate to efficiently provide advice, monitoring support and oversight to participants?

2.5 CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE PRIVATE AND VOLUNTARY SECTORS?

Private and voluntary contributions could provide additional revenue streams to support land recovery in the Falkland Islands. Private and voluntary contributors are used in other countries to compensate farmers and landowners for setting aside land for nature conservation. Conservation easements (Box 3) are one mechanism by which this is implemented.

BOX 3: Private investment in land recovery

Conservation easements

A conservation easement is a voluntary legal agreement normally arranged between a landowner and a third-sector organisation (e.g. a conservation charity, trust or corporation). They can also be known as conservation restrictions, covenants or agreements. Conservation easements permanently limit allowable uses of land in order to protect or enhance its conservation values. The landowner entering into the easement normally receives a one-time payment to financially compensate them for removing their land from agriculture. The owner of the easement may be listed on the deed for the relevant areas covered. More information on, and examples of, conservation easements can be found here:
For New Zealand: https://pureadvantage.org/conservation-on-private-land-is-more-common-than-you-think
For the United States: https://www.conservationeasement.us/what-is-a-conservation-easement

Carbon and biodiversity offsetting

Carbon and biodiversity offsetting involve individuals, businesses, or governments providing compensation for environmental damage in order to mitigate the impacts of their activities. Carbon offsets finance projects like renewable energy, peatland restoration, tree planting and managing soil erosion. Biodiversity offsets aim to restore or create new habitats and protect populations of rare species. Funding typically comes from those responsible for carbon emissions or ecological harm (e.g. developers, industry) and aim to achieve net environmental benefits and balance the economic and environmental costs of development. Purchasers of offsets may require validation of, or wish to trade, the benefits from their investments necessitating complex certification and verification schemes

Alternatively, FIG could solicit contributions to fund general or specific land restoration and/or nature conservation action. Carbon and biodiversity offsetting payments (Box 3) originating from, for example, oil and gas production could provide one such source of support.

Should a Land Recovery Scheme be supported by public funding, private investment or a mixture of the two?

What risks or issues exist regarding the use of private funding?

What types of payment (e.g. area-based versus action-based) would best be managed at a governmental versus bilateral agreement level?

Business loans for farm improvements: Land managers and farmers sometimes access funding to invest in infrastructure improvement projects on their properties and/or to improve environmental conditions and productivity on their farms. The Falkland Islands Development Corporation is major funder of loans to farms and business in camp but have traditionally had relatively conservative rules regarding how farm properties are valued (for instance focusing on land area and farm productivity but not capital infrastructure). Participation in a Land Recovery Programme could facilitate improvements in the ecological and economic value of land while also producing funds in its own right.

Would modifications to FIDC's loan criteria to account for land condition provide an incentive for participation in a Land Recovery Programme?

How might participation in a Land Recovery Programme affect the valuation of farm properties?

ISSUE 3: WHAT SHOULD THE REQUIREMENTS BE FOR PARTICIPATION?

A Land Recovery Programme needs to have clear and equitable eligibility criteria that define who can enrol in a programme and who would receive the funding. Application processes need to balance simplicity with provision of sufficient information to allow informed review by programme administrators. Decisions will be needed regarding any conditions attached to ongoing funding.

Issue 3.1: Who should be eligible to receive payments?
Issue 3.2: How should application processes work?
Issue 3.3: What conditions should be attached to payments?
Issue 3.4: How might a programme relate to existing farm certification and support schemes?

3.1 WHAT LAND, AND WHO, SHOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING?

A successful and equitable programme would need to define both who was eligible to receive funding and what areas of land were eligible to enrol in the programme. Any broad principles regarding what land and who was eligible will need to be developed into more detailed but simple criteria in consultation with all interested stakeholders.

Examples of possible land eligibility criteria could include one or more of the following:

1. Land, whether currently grazed or not, subject to or at risk of erosion and/or habitat loss.
2. Existing designated areas such as Ramsar Sites, Important Plant Areas, Important Bird Areas or National Nature Reserves
3. Specific land-cover types such as coastlines, peatlands, wetlands, tussac, mountaintops
4. Areas critical to water security such as streams, rivers, pools and ponds, *Sphagnum* bogs, wetlands and designated buffer areas around them.
5. Areas that could be prioritised for carbon sequestration through planting of trees, shrubs, tussac etc.

One way to maximise the environmental benefits of a programme would be to ensure that as many landowners/managers, and as much land, as possible could be enrolled.

Benefits of maximising eligibility could include:

- Creating a degree of equity in access to the economic, agricultural and environmental benefits from participating in the programme
- Producing a programme that has as wide a geographic spread as possible so that enrolled areas represent a wide range of land cover types across the Islands. In such a scenario a programme might create a network of many widely distributed areas rather than just a few very large areas
- Ensuring a programme would be open to all farms and farmers to apply including those working within the significant area of our Islands owned by Falkland Land Holdings

BOX 4: The concept of “additionality”

Additionality means that financial support leads to management outcomes that would not have occurred otherwise. This ensures that land-management changes are a direct result of funding, rather than actions they would have taken anyway. Additionality prevents funding from only compensating existing efforts and ensures that public or private funds drive genuine environmental benefits beyond what would have naturally happened without intervention.

In the case of a Land Recovery Programme, applying a requirement for additionality could mean that land farmers have already fenced off and ‘set aside’ for restoration or conservation would not be eligible for funding. This would be because allowing its enrolment would not provide any additional benefit from the use of public money. Excluding such land could, however, be seen as unfair to those who have already invested their own funds to encourage land recovery. If “additionality” was a requirement for a programme it could still be possible to compensate landowners for new restoration interventions through action-based payments.

Challenges from maximising eligibility could include:

- The potential for payments not to provide additional benefits if areas already removed from production are enrolled (see Box 4)
- Maximising benefits for biodiversity and ecosystem services – if all land is eligible, it could encourage only land in the worst condition to be enrolled.

Developing equitable requirements for minimum and maximum total areas of land per application. Minimum areas could ensure a programme delivers landscape level change. Upper limits could ensure more landowners are able to participate given constraints on programme funding levels.

It is likely that most areas of land enrolled in a programme would require stock-proof fencing. Installation and maintenance costs associated with fencing are extremely high (see Box 5). Financially, it would be most cost-effective to use existing fence lines as much as possible. A case can be made to utilise action-based payments to cover the costs of fencing an area where there is particularly high potential for land resilience and/or biodiversity, or where there are good reasons why using existing fence lines would not be feasible or appropriate. The maintenance of fences could be funded by building it into the overall rate per hectare, or by being applied for when needed (as an action-based payment). Including the cost of fencing would be likely to significantly increase the cost of the programme but could also provide greater environmental benefits and widen the scope of areas that could feasibly be enrolled.

Should participants and/or landowners have to be actively involved in agricultural production in order to enroll in Land Recovery Programme?

Should land have to be being actively used for agricultural production in order to be enrolled in Land Recovery Programme?

Are there areas or types of land that should be prioritised by a programme?

Are there types of landowner that either should, or should not, be covered by a programme?

Should enrolled areas be required to have existing fencing and/or should funding for fencing be built into a programme?

In the case of tenant farmers, should it be the farmer or the landowner who is eligible to apply to and/or receive funding from a programme

3.2 HOW SHOULD APPLICATION AND APPROVAL PROCESSES WORK?

Participation in a Land Recovery Programme could be voluntary or mandatory with farmers and/or landowners applying to enrol specific areas of land. A clear application process would be needed that ensures the funders have confidence in the delivery of land resilience and public benefits. An application process should provide assistance and advice to those considering enrolling, but it should not create an undue burden for applicants or programme administrators. Separate but linked application processes would likely be needed for area-based and action-based payments (see Section 2.4).

An application process for area-based funding could, for instance, consist of

1. Initial site visits and consultations
2. Submission of a formal application

Initial site visits would facilitate a conversation between the farmer and FIG, with the land to be covered being agreed between them after an on-site qualification and monitoring assessment. Qualification assessments would need to be carried out by a designated programme officer while

monitoring and mapping could be completed collaboratively by the programme officer and applicant.

Formal applications could, for example, require applicants to

- Clearly identify and map the land area(s) proposed to be covered
- Provide evidence that the land:
    1. Is at risk from current or potential future erosion and/or habitat loss/degradation *AND/OR*
    2. Has specific biodiversity or ecosystem values that could be enhanced by enrolment in the programme
- Demonstrate that the land is, or could be, protected from grazing by fencing to stock-proof standard or by natural barriers (such as being an island).

Applications for action-based funding might need to provide additional specific information on the nature of the activities/projects proposed and their estimated costs. A programme could allow applicants to innovate responses they see as benefiting their land, or select from a list of pre-determined, prioritised actions.

A programme officer could provide applicants with support for proposal planning and development. Required information could include:

1. A description of the proposed project and its benefits for land resilience
2. A map of the area targeted by the proposal
3. Specific information on the area of land treated and the activities completed (e.g. number of hectares seeded, metres of ditches blocked, number of tussac planted)
4. A timeline for project implementation
5. A monitoring and/or end of project report plan

Similar requirement already exist for the Department of Agriculture's Farm Improvement Programme and the Environment Department's Environmental Studies Budget. Requirements and processes could be adopted from these existing schemes or alternatively action-based payments could be handled through one or both of these existing mechanisms.

BOX 5: The cost of fencing

Fencing is a very significant financial, labour and time investment for landowners. Secure, quality fencing, and regular fence maintenance is critical for livestock management. New fencing required to protect areas as part of a Land Recovery Programme could represent a significant cost to landowners

Indicative costs of fencing for private landowners

- Average farm size in the Falklands (excluding Falkland Land Holdings properties) = 9,700 ha (97 km^2)
- 10 % of average farm area = 9.7 km^2
- Assuming a square camp, fencing an area of 10% of the average farm requires 12.5 km of fencing
- Average cost of materials for fencing in 2024 Farm Improvement Programme applications = £2,290/km
- Average cost of labour for fencing = £763/km
- Assume that new fencing can tie into an existing camp boundary on at least one side
- **The cost to fence three sides of an area covering 10% of the average farm area = £29,780**

What types of information should be required in applications for areas-based and action-based payments?

What types and levels of support should be provided to landowners who are preparing applications?

Does the Department of Agriculture's Farm Improvement Programme application process represent a suitable structure for developing an action-based payment process?

What should be the future for Farm Improvement Programme and Environmental Studies Budget funding if we initiated a Land Recovery Programme?

3.3 WHAT CONDITIONS SHOULD BE ATTACHED TO PAYMENTS?

Funding could be provided subject to certain performance and/or reporting conditions being met. This would aim to ensure that a scheme meets it objectives and maximises value for money. Any conditions would need to strike an appropriate balance between the benefits received from funding, and the costs (including logistical and time costs) for farmers in meeting the requirements and demonstrating success.

Basic conditions for areas-based payments could, for example, include one or more of the following:

1. Rest all enrolled land for the period of the scheme (whether 10 years or another period selected) by removing livestock and maintaining a livestock-free management system.
2. Adhering to an agreed livestock management and stocking level plan
3. Maintaining fences to stock-proof standard
4. Working with DoA to demonstrate any displaced stock do not over-graze camps that remain in production
5. Producing a wildfire management plan
6. Participating in an annual collaborative monitoring visit by a programme officer
7. Ensuring timely and accurate submission of agricultural returns
8. In-depth full reviews/audits at key points (e.g. if it were a 10-year agreement, the reviews might be at the 5 year and 8 year points)

What forms of monitoring would be sufficient and appropriate to demonstrate compliance with programme requirements?

What assistance should be provided to enrolled farmers to initiate and complete environmental monitoring requirements associated with the programme?

Any programme that encourages or requires a reduction or removal of livestock in some areas may need to consider and address the following complexities:

Displacement of livestock from enrolled areas could create impacts elsewhere

- It would be an undesirable side effect of a programme if there were increased pressure on areas of land that are not enrolled. This could occur if the same stock numbers are concentrated within a smaller land area such that stocking rates exceed the sustainable capacity of some or all of those areas of land.
- If the areas of land eligible for, or enrolled in, the programme are significantly degraded and unproductive it arguably might not matter if total stock numbers are not reduced.

Should participation in a programme always require removal of stock from enrolled land regardless of its condition or land-cover type?

What level of payment would be needed to ensure any required reductions in total stock numbers do not undermine the economic sustainability of farms?

A blanket requirement for the total removal of livestock from enrolled areas may not provide the best outcome for land recovery in all circumstances

While simple, and therefore cheap, to administer and manage, complete removal of livestock can sometimes create ecological challenges. For instance, carefully targeted grazing is used by farmers and restoration managers in many ecosystems to control invasive species, manage the accumulation of fuel for wildfires and enhance the diversity of plant communities where a small number of species otherwise dominate. An alternative to total stock removal could be to work with farmers to agree stocking rates within enrolled areas and for programme funding to be proportional to the extent of stock reduction. Challenges associated with a variable stocking rate scheme include:

- A more nuanced programme could be more complex to finalise and operate
- A variable stocking rate programme might be less clear for applicants but could better mitigate any potential economic impacts of participation for farmers
- Annual monitoring visits might be critical in providing the evidence to assess whether the programme was delivering land recovery and agreed stocking rates were being maintained.

Are there additional costs or benefits associated with programmes that require stock removal versus agreed stocking rates?

3.4 RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER FARM CERTIFICATION SCHEMES

Farmers in the Falklands can voluntarily participate in a number of existing schemes that are designed to enhance their market position or add value to their products. Such schemes include the Responsible Wool Standard, Quality Falklands Wool and organic certification.

Nearly half the farms in the Falklands participate in the Responsible Wool Standard (RWS) scheme. RWS is a comparatively new, independently verified accreditation scheme that provides wool buyers and consumers with a guarantee that wool has been produced according to strict animal welfare and environmental sustainability standards. A Land Recovery Programme could incentivise and reward participation in sustainable agriculture actions such as RWS.

Development of a Land Recovery Programme could add to the bureaucratic burden farmers face from participating in multiple sustainability schemes. Farmers participating in RWS must comply with a regular auditing processand are required to develop a Biodiversity Management Plan and to monitor and manage soil compaction, soil erosion, pasture composition and invasive species.

How could a Land Recovery Programme avoid duplicating, or adding to, the reporting and monitoring requirements associated with RWS?

Would it be worthwhile instituting a formal certification or accreditation scheme for farms participating in a Land Recovery Programme?

APPENDIX 1: LINKAGES WITH OTHER RELEVANT ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES

A proposed programme would aim to both support the rural economy and to promote nature conservation and a healthy environment. These are two critical strategic issues for the Falkland Islands, and a proposed programme could complement a range of other activities, initiatives and programmes:

- The existing **Farm Improvement Programme** which assists land managers in the Falkland Islands with improvement to the farm business including land management, Examples of how the funding has been utilised include support for fencing materials (to better manage and graze land); Electronic Identification Devices; water management; crop trials (including fertilisers); improved winter nutrition for stock; and improving genetics. Annual funding to in 2023-2024 averaged £7,400 across 26 applying farms.
- The existing **Responsible Wool Standard** programme, in which many Falkland Islands farms participate. RWS provides traceability for wool produced to strict animal welfare, environmental and labour requirements. Any new scheme would need to be aligned with RWS in order to minimise the administrative burden on both farmers and FIG.
- The existing **Environmental Studies Budget** which aims to help Falkland Islanders promote, conserve and protect our globally-significant biodiversity. Priority areas include biodiversity protection, habitat restoration, invasive species management, climate change adaptation and waste management. The majority of successful grants have provided funding in the range of £3,000 to £10,000.
- **National Parks and National Nature Reserves** – to protect areas of greatest biodiversity value. FIG will continue to create National Nature Reserves - where appropriate - using the established processes and legislation (the Wildlife and Nature Ordinance 1999). These may be established on FIG land or on private land, with the agreement of the landowner. It may, for example, be an appropriate way to ensure the long-term protection of 'pristine' islands which have never (or rarely, or not recently) been grazed.
- **Conservation easements** – In many parts of the world, landowners have sold 'easements' over parts of their land, which give the purchaser enforceable rights over that land to ensure that certain activities cannot be undertaken on the land (depending on context, this may prevent housebuilding development, or prevent or limit grazing or cultivation) or ensure that certain activities must be undertaken (e.g. active conservation measures to fence off areas of land or restore habitats). The purchasers may be government agencies, environmental 'not-for-profits' or philanthropic donors. A legal agreement is entered into, and that agreement specifies each parties' legal obligations, sets out who pays for active conservation measures, and describes how those obligations will be monitored and enforced. Agreements are typically entered into in perpetuity (or sometimes for a long period of time) and are registered as part of the title to the land, i.e. they bind any future owner of that land. FIG will advise and support if landowners and farmers wish to work with environmental agencies or philanthropic organisations on this basis.
- **Other relevant funding programmes** such as the FIG Environmental Studies Budget grants, Darwin+ Local, FIDC Developing Camp Water Systems Grants, FIDC Grant and Loan Schemes to support businesses and households (including the new FIDC Green Business Programme), and FITB Tourism Business Grant Schemes.

A new Land Recovery Programme should not create any difficulties in relation to bank mortgages (or FIDC loans) over agricultural land. FIG would work with SCB and FIDC to ensure that this remains the case.

APPENDIX 2: FURTHER INFORMATION

Falkland Islands Government Publications

- Falkland Islands Government - Department of Agriculture Farm Improvement Programme
  - https://www.falklands.gov.fk/agriculture/doa/services/farm-improvement-programme
- Falkland Islands Government - Department of Agriculture Organic Certification
  - https://www.falklands.gov.fk/agriculture/doa/services/organics
- Falkland Islands Government – Draft Budget and Financial Plans for 2025/25 and beyond
  - https://assembly.gov.fk/jdownloads/Executive%20Council/Executive%20Council%20Papers/2024/05%2004%20June%202024/105-24P.pdf
- Falkland Islands Government - Environment Strategy
  - https://www.falklands.gov.fk/policy/environment/environment-strategy
- Falkland Islands Government - Environmental Studies Budget
  - https://www.falklands.gov.fk/policy/environment/environmental-studies-budget
- Falkland Islands Government – National Accounts 2021 & 2022
  - https://assembly.gov.fk/jdownloads/Executive%20Council/Executive%20Council%20Papers/2024/05%2004%20June%202024/105-24P.pdf
- Falkland Islands Government - The Islands Plan 2022-2026
  - https://assembly.fig.gov.fk/legislative-assembly/the-islands-plan

Other relevant background information

- Falkland Islands Development Company - Green Business Programme
  - https://fidc.co.fk/green-business/green-business-programme
- IUCN Peatland Code
  - https://www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org/peatland-code-0
- Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology – Ecosystem Service Valuation
  - https://www.parliament.uk/globalassets/documents/post/postpn_378-Ecosystem-Service-Valuation.pdf
- Textile Exchange Responsible Wool Standard
  - https://textileexchange.org/responsible-wool-standard
- UK agri-environment funding schemes
  - Wales: https://www.gov.wales/sustainable-farming-scheme-proposed-scheme-outline-2024-html
  - Scotland: https://www.ruralpayments.org/topics/all-schemes/agri-environment-climate-scheme/agri-environment-climate-scheme-full-guidance-menu/
  - England: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/sustainable-farming-incentive-guidance
- UK Environment Agency - Carbon offsetting: reviewing the evidence
  - https://environmentagency.blog.gov.uk/2021/05/10/carbon-offsetting-reviewing-the-evidence/
- UNFCC - Payments for Environmental Services Program - Costa Rica
  - https://unfccc.int/climate-action/momentum-for-change/financing-for-climate-friendly-investment/payments-for-environmental-services-program

LAND RECOVERY PROGRAMME SURVEY

Consultation and co-design phase 1

SURVEY INSTRUCTIONS

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this survey. Your input is invaluable in shaping the Land Recovery Programme to ensure it reflects our community's priorities.

This survey can be completed online or are you are welcome to complete and tear out this cope and return it to the Department of Agriculture

A Land Recovery Programme has been proposed that could compensate land-owners for management actions that could, for example, rehabilitate degraded lands, enhance agricultural productivity or support biodiversity. Such a programme would provide a new source of income that enhances the resilience of camp communities to environmental and economic change. The initiative prioritises environmental restoration, economic opportunities for local communities, and long-term ecological sustainability. Key issues to address in the development of a programme include public perceptions of land use, support for restoration activities, payment mechanisms, and community engagement preferences.

The purpose of this Survey is to understand people's initial preferences regarding a Land Recovery Programme. The goal of the survey is to develop a baseline from which to initiate a *co-design process*. Co-design is a collaborative approach that involves stakeholders in the design and development of initiatives, ensuring their needs, ideas, and experiences are integrated into decision-making. Your input will help shape the programme to reflect community priorities and foster shared ownership of its outcomes. This survey relates to the consultation document outlining the proposed Land Recovery Programme.

Please refer to the following documents available from the Department of Agriculture website

- Consultation Summary
- Full Consultation Document

This survey can also be completed online at the link below or by scanning the QR below:
https://qualtricsxm6jtymdmk4.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6WK4l8W14ajmfL8

Survey participation information
The survey will take approximately 10–15 minutes to complete. Participation is voluntary. You may complete all or part of the survey. Responses are anonymous unless you choose to provide contact details for further discussion or follow-up. Data will be analysed in aggregate, and a summary of results may be published. No personal information or personally identifiable statements or responses will be released.

Informed Consent By completing this survey, you consent to the use of your responses for research, programme evaluation, and the co-design process.

Returning this survey
Hand delivered or post to: Department of Agriculture, Bypass Road, Stanley, Falkland Islands, FIQQ 1ZZ
Fax to: Department of Agriculture +500 27352
Scan or photograph and email to: mdavies@naturalresources.gov.fk

Scan to complete survey online

The Land Recovery Programme premise

To what extent do you agree with the development of a Land Recovery Programme that is designed to support agricultural productivity, enhance the camp economy, protect biodiversity, and restore degraded land areas?

Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
○	○	○	○	○

1. What should be the goals and scale of a Land Recovery Programme?

1.1 How important do you think the following potential goals are for a Land Recovery Programme?

	Not at all important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important
Enhancing agricultural productivity	○	○	○	○	○
Protecting biodiversity	○	○	○	○	○
Protecting cultural heritage	○	○	○	○	○
Restoring degraded land areas	○	○	○	○	○
Supporting rural/camp economy	○	○	○	○	○

Are there any other goals it is important for a Land Recovery Programme to consider?

1.2 In terms of the **total land area of the Falklands**, what do you think is the appropriate area to target for enrollment a Land Recovery Programme? When choosing your answer consider that roughly 90% of the Falklands' land area is currently used for agricultural purposes

Proportion (%) of the Falkland Islands land area to include in a programme	0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100

○ Don't know

1.3 What proportion of any single farm or property would ideally be enrolled in a Land Recovery programme?

Proportion (%) of any single farm's area that could be enrolled in a Land Recovery Programme	0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100

○ Don't know

1.3 Please explain the preferred Land Recovery Programme enrollment targets you provided in your previous answers

2. How should Land Recovery Programme payments work?

2.1 **Area-based payments** could provide participants with a payment based on the area of their land they enroll in a Land Recovery Programme. Enrolling land might, for example, require participants to reduce or remove livestock in the enrolled area with compensation provided for the lost income. To what extent do you agree that area-based payments should be included as part of a Land Recovery Programme

Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
○	○	○	○	○

2.2 **Active-management payments** could fully or partially compensate participants to engage in specific, approved land-management actions (for example installing fencing, planting native species). To what extent do you agree that active-management payments be included as part of a Land Recovery Programme?

Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
○	○	○	○	○

2.3 What total amount of public funds (in FKP/£) would you be willing to see invested in a Land Recovery Programme each year?

0 100,000 200,000 300,000 400,000 500,000 600,000 700,000 800,000 900,000 1,000,000

○ Don't know

○ Other (please define)

2.4 **Area-based payments** could be calculated based on a number of criteria including, for example, how much income farmers might lose if some areas are removed from production, or the conservation value of areas of land enrolled in a programme.

Please rank the importance of the following issues for deciding how payment rates should be set for enrolled areas. 1 = Very important; 5 = Least important.

_____ Compensating for reductions in farm income from reduced stocking rates
_____ The potential for biodiversity to increase in the enrolled areas
_____ The potential for degraded land in the enrolled area to be restored
_____ The current importance of the enrolled area for conservation
_____ The potential to improve agricultural productivity in the enrolled area

2.5 What, if any, additional types of funding or funding issues should be considered?

3. What should the requirements for eligibility and participation be?

3.1 Participants and/or landowners must be actively involved in agricultural production in order to participate in Land Recovery Programme

Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
○	○	○	○	○

3.2 Only areas of land being actively used for agricultural production should be allowed to be enrolled in a programme (e.g. any areas already set -aside from agriculture would not be eligible).

Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
○	○	○	○	○

3.3 A Land Recovery Programme should require **all stock** to be removed from any enrolled areas

Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
○	○	○	○	○

3.4 A Land Recovery Programme should require a reduction in **total** farm stocking levels (i.e. whether or not stock are removed from enrolled areas)

Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
○	○	○	○	○

3.4 A Land Recovery Programme could prioritize certain types of land. Evaluate the following types of land in terms of their potential priority. Place an X in the relevant box to indicate how you would prioritize each type of land

- If you are unsure about a certain land cover type you may select “not sure”
- You are free to suggest as many alternative land area types as you would like

Land Area	High priority	Priority	Not a priority	Not sure
Habitat and land-cover types				
1. Coasts and islands				
2. Deep peat				
3. Native vegetation				
4. Springs and wetlands				
5. Streams, rivers and ponds				
6. Tussac habitats (1)				
Designated conservation or protected areas				
7. Important Plant Areas				
8. Important Bird Areas				
9. National Nature Reserves				
Impacted or degraded areas				
10. Areas that have been drained				
11. Areas burned by wildfire				
12. Eroding areas or clay patches				
Other areas (please describe)				
13.				
14.				
15.				

3.5 Participants in a Land Recovery Programme should be required to monitor their land to ensure they are meeting their enrolment goals

Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
○	○	○	○	○

3.6 Participants in a Land Recovery Programme should be audited to ensure they are meeting the terms of an enrolment agreement

Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
○	○	○	○	○

4. Any other feedback

4.0 If you have any other suggestions of important things to consider when developing a Land Recovery Programme please describe them here

5. About you

5.1 Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of a Government Department or non-governmental organisation?

Individual	○
Government Department	○
Non-governmental organisation or private company	○

5.2 If you are responding on behalf of a Government Department, non-governmental organisation or private company please identify them here

5.3 Are you actively involved in farming or do you primarily work in the agricultural sector?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

5.4 What is your status in the Falkland Islands?

- ○ Hold Falkland Islands Status
- ○ Permanent Resident
- ○ Contractor or Work Permit Holder
- ○ Visitor or tourist
- ○ Not resident or ordinarily based in the Falkland Islands

5.5 If you are from, or live/work in the Falklands, where do you reside for the majority of the year?

- ○ Stanley
- ○ Camp (West Falkland)
- ○ Camp (East Falkland)
- ○ Outlying island
- ○ Outside the Falklands

5.6 If you are not ordinarily resident in the Falkland Islands have you visited in the last 5 years?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

5.7 I would be interested in participating in a programme development workshop or 1:1 consultation

- ○ No
- ○ Maybe
- ○ Yes

5.8 If you wish to be contacted to discuss the Land Recovery Programme further, including to participate in a formal 1:1 consultation, you may provide your email address or phone number here

Thank you for completing this survey – please return it to the Department of Agriculture

Survey link:
https://qualtricsxm6jtymdmk4.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6WK4l8W14ajmfL8

Falkland Islands Government
2025