

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE LAND RECOVERY PROGRAMME

Consultation Summary

Falkland Islands Government
2025



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THE FALKLAND ISLANDS LAND RECOVERY PROGRAMME CONSULTATION – PHASE ONE

LAND RECOVERY PROGRAMME GOALS

The programme's goals could include:

1. Helping land recover from historic degradation through management or removal of grazing
2. Setting aside areas for biodiversity and conservation
3. Encouraging land management and restoration practices that stabilise soils and increase water retention



AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHAPE A LAND RECOVERY PROGRAMME

The Falkland Islands Government (FIG) is seeking input from the public, landowners, and other stakeholders to shape a proposed Land Recovery Programme. This initiative is designed to address environmental, economic, and social challenges affecting rural landscapes and communities in the Falklands. By focusing on restoring degraded land, improving agricultural productivity, and protecting biodiversity, the programme aims to support sustainable farming and the overall well-being of the camp community.

KEY ISSUES AND QUESTIONS

Three major programme design challenges exist each with important questions we need to answer:

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

What is Land Recovery? Land recovery seeks to increase our land's ability to withstand climate change and grazing and to recover from challenges such as erosion, drainage or drought. Land recovery ensures we maintain sustainable farming, healthy ecosystems, and benefits like food and wool production, water, and biodiversity.

- **What should the main goals of the programme be?**
Should the focus be on maintaining agricultural productivity, enhancing biodiversity, species conservation supporting rural communities, or a combination of these goals?
Stakeholders are encouraged to consider trade-offs between conservation and agricultural needs.
- **How ambitious should the programme be?**
An initial proposal suggests covering 10% of the Falklands (approximately 120,000 hectares), with the potential to expand to 30% over time.
Questions include whether this scale is realistic and how much land is needed to achieve meaningful environmental and economic benefits.
- **How long should the programme run?**
Land recovery can take years, participants may need to commit to multi-decade agreements. The consultation seeks views on the appropriate length of time for land to remain in the programme and whether agreements should transfer automatically to new owners if land is sold.

2. WHAT SHOULD THE FUNDING MODEL BE?

A programme requires sustainable funding to attract participants and deliver benefits. Key questions include:

1. What types of payment should be provided?

Options include:

- **Area-based payments:** Landowners could be compensated for removing, or reducing, grazing based on the size of the area involved and/or the associated income they forgo.
- **Action-based payments:** Financial support could be provided for specific restoration activities, such as planting vegetation, building fences, or controlling invasive species.

2. What are appropriate payment rates?

Proposed rates for area-based payments have ranged from £2 to £6 per hectare annually. Action-based funding could need to private additional funding beyond this. A balance must be struck between affordability for the government and fair compensation for participants.

3. Can private and voluntary sector funding contribute?

Mechanisms like conservation easements (legal agreements to limit land use for conservation purposes) or payments from businesses for carbon or biodiversity offsets could supplement government funding.

4. How much should the programme cost overall?

Depending on the scale and payment rates, annual costs could range from £240,000 to £3.6 million, representing up to 3.8% of the Falkland Islands Government's annual budget.

3. WHAT SHOULD THE REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION BE?

The consultation asks stakeholders to consider who should be eligible to participate and what conditions should apply. Key topics include:

- **Eligibility criteria:**

- Should a programme prioritise degraded areas, biodiverse habitats, or both? Should any specific types of land (e.g., wetlands, peatlands, tussac grass, eroding areas) be prioritised?
- Should participation require active use of land for farming, or could land already withdrawn from agricultural use be eligible?

- **Application process:**

Participation would be voluntary, but a programme must balance simplicity with accountability. Suggested processes include site visits, mapping land areas, and submitting proposals for funding.

- **Conditions for funding:**

- Landowners may need to meet certain requirements in enrolled areas, such as reducing or stopping grazing, maintaining fences, or participating in monitoring and reviews.
- The consultation seeks input on whether stock removal or reduced grazing is a better approach, whether conditions like wildfire management plans should be mandatory and if there should be upper and lower limits on the total area an individual land-owner can enroll.

- **Alignment with existing schemes:**

Many farmers already participate in the Responsible Wool Standard (RWS) and other certification programmes. The Land Recovery Programme should avoid creating additional administrative burdens while potentially incentivising participation in these schemes.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS



A Land Recovery Programme could deliver a range of benefits across economic, social, and environmental areas:

Economic:

- More consistent and diversified income streams for landowners.
- Improved resilience to global market fluctuations, especially in the wool industry.

Social:

- Support for rural communities and preservation of the Falkland Islands cultural heritage.
- Fair compensation for landowners' efforts in delivering ecosystem benefits to society.

Environmental:

- Recovery of degraded land and protection and enhancement of biodiversity.
- Improved soil health, reduced soil erosion, water retention, and offsetting of national carbon emissions.
- Reduced wildfire risks and enhanced ecosystem resilience to climate change.

NEXT STEPS

The consultation process is divided into two phases:

1. **Initial Consultation:** FIG will gather feedback through questionnaires, workshops, and discussions.
2. **Programme Development:** Insights from Phase One will inform the creation of a draft programme, which will be refined following further consultation.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Your feedback will help ensure a programme is tailored to the Falkland Islands' unique needs, balancing agricultural, environmental, and community priorities.

You can access a copy of the full consultation document on the [FIG](#) and [Department of Agriculture](#) websites or by calling the DoA to request a paper copy

Consultation responses can be submitted using:

- Survey forms downloaded from the [Department of Agriculture website](#) or available in our offices
- Using the [online survey](#) – also available via the adjacent QR code:
- Discussions with the Department of Agriculture – call or email to arrange a meeting
- Participation in workshops and 1:1 meetings with stakeholders throughout 2025.



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