



FIG Environmental Planning Department

Falkland Islands Ecoregions, Habitats, Species and Sites Strategy

2016 - 2020

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1.0 Purpose of this Document

This strategy is intended to guide implementation of the Biodiversity Framework by considering the relevant Aichi Targets and setting out locally appropriate goals and indicators/targets. The relevant Aichi Targets are set out below.

- *Target 11: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscape and seascapes.*
- *Target 12: By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.*
- *Target 13: By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.*
- *Target 15: By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.*

There appears to be little appetite to arbitrarily designate land simply to meet these targets (currently less than 5% of the terrestrial area is designated and there are no marine protected areas). Instead, a locally tailored approach is proposed to proactively implementing a spatial approach to conservation and, in doing so, contribute towards delivery of the Aichi Targets.

2.0 Goal and Indicators

The table below translates the global Aichi targets into locally appropriate goals, with indicators/targets to measure progress.

Table 1: Goals and Indicators

Goal	Mechanism	Indicator/Target
A. All Falkland Islands ecosystems are robust and healthy by 2040	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify ecosystem services/function associated with 'Ecoregions'¹• Produce and implement threat-based Action Plans for the 11 'Ecoregions'• Ensure legal and policy mechanisms are in place to support the Goal²	The Priority Threats to Ecoregions have been significantly decreased by 2020.

¹ Which may include the production of an ecosystems service assessment containing an appropriate level of detail

² Which may include the a review of the Conservation of Wildlife and Nature Ordinance in the short- medium term (subject to wider drafting priorities) to reflect species protection changes (e.g. plant schedule)

Goal	Mechanism	Indicator/Target
B. The level of threat is reduced for all Falkland Islands 'Priority Species' by 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the Priority Species list in 2016. • Produce and implement Action Plans for the 'Priority Species' (unless subsumed in an Ecoregion Action Plan) • Produce a National Redlist to focus criteria for identifying future Falkland Islands Priority Species. • Ensure legal and policy mechanisms are in place to support the Goal 	Percentage of 'Priority Species' for which IUCN threat category has been reduced by 2020
C. The majority of 'Key' sites and areas are conserved by 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree conservation objectives for all key sites³ • Produce site specific management plans for FIG owned protected areas • Support the production of site specific management plans for privately owned protected areas • Incorporate connectivity and climate-change resilience into Key sites and areas strategic management. • Ensure legal and policy mechanisms are in place to support the Goal⁴ 	Percentage of 'Key' sites in 'Favourable' condition has increased by 2020

3.0 Ecoregions

The Biodiversity Framework sets out an ecosystems approach. An ecosystem is a biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environment. The following eleven ecoregions have been identified as being present in the Falkland Islands.

- Deep Sea
- Shelf Break/Slope
- Pelagic Shelf
- Small Offshore Islands
- Near Shore Coastal (Distance/Land Class Definition required)
- Estuarine
- Fresh Water/Riverine
- Fresh Water Ponds/Lakes
- Lowlands
- Montane
- Built Environment

³ Which may include completing the designation process for areas which have been identified as worthy of designation (and where landowner support for designation exists) but where the designation has not yet been finalised is reduced

⁴ Which will include consideration of how best to manage the marine environment in light of the findings of the ongoing Marine Spatial Planning Project

4.0 Habitats and Species

A habitat is the natural home or environment of an animal, plant, or other organism. A species is a group of living organisms consisting of similar individuals capable of exchanging genes or interbreeding.

Ten habitats and species have been identified as being particularly vulnerable. These are listed in appendix 1.

5.0 Key Sites

The IUCN defines a protected area as, "A clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values." This strategy focuses on recognised 'Key Sites', which include legally protected areas and other designations. The following sets out what will be currently regarded as a key site for the purposes of Goal C.

- National Nature Reserves (NNR), National Parks (NP) and Ramsar Sites: The Falkland Islands currently has 19 NNRs (including one awaiting completion of the formal designation process). These areas have been designated in an ad-hoc fashion over a period of more than 50 years. There are currently no NPs, although legislation exists. The Falkland Islands also have 2 Ramsar sites. A number of potential NNRs, NNR and Ramsar sites have been identified but not yet designated. In all cases designations have been with land owner support. A study of the terrestrial protected areas system was carried out in 2014, which included a map and table (appended to this strategy).
- Important Bird Areas (IBA) and Important Plant Areas (IPA): In addition to legally designated sites, a number of IBAs and IPAs have been identified. These are based on the presence of features of biodiversity interest (rather than land owner aspiration) and have no legal status, but are a useful tool for example when carrying out Environmental Impact Assessments.
- Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) Ongoing work is being carried out by BEST to identify KBAs, which may compliment IBAs and IPAs.

Land owners are the custodians of terrestrial sites and the strategy will facilitate continuing and developing their proactive management of the land. Sites will not be designated as National Nature Reserves, National Parks or Ramsar sites without landowner support.

Action plans for some particularly sensitive sites will be required. This will focus initially on designated National Nature Reserves and FIG-owned biodiversity sites. However, it is therefore noted that a spatial approach is not necessarily limited to designated protected sites and could include identifying other recognised areas for prioritising action/funding.

Legislation exists to designate Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) up to 15 nautical miles from the shore. There are no existing MPAs, although there are some seasonal fishery restrictions to protect spawning grounds and a 3 mile 'no take' zone around the shoreline for commercial fisheries. The ongoing Marine Spatial Planning Project is intended to inform discussions about how best to manage the marine environment, and whether or not MPAs provide a useful tool as part of a broader approach.

Appendix 1: 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:

Adder's-tongue

Antarctic cudweed

Chilean tall-fern

False-plantain

Fir clubmoss

Fuegian violet

Fuegian whitlowgrass

Hairy daisy

Leathery shield-fern

Maidenhair-fern

Moonwort

Moore's plantain

Mudwort

Pale yellow orchid

Skullcap

Spider-flower

Tasselweed

Yellow lady's slipper

Patagonian hawkweed

Rock-cress

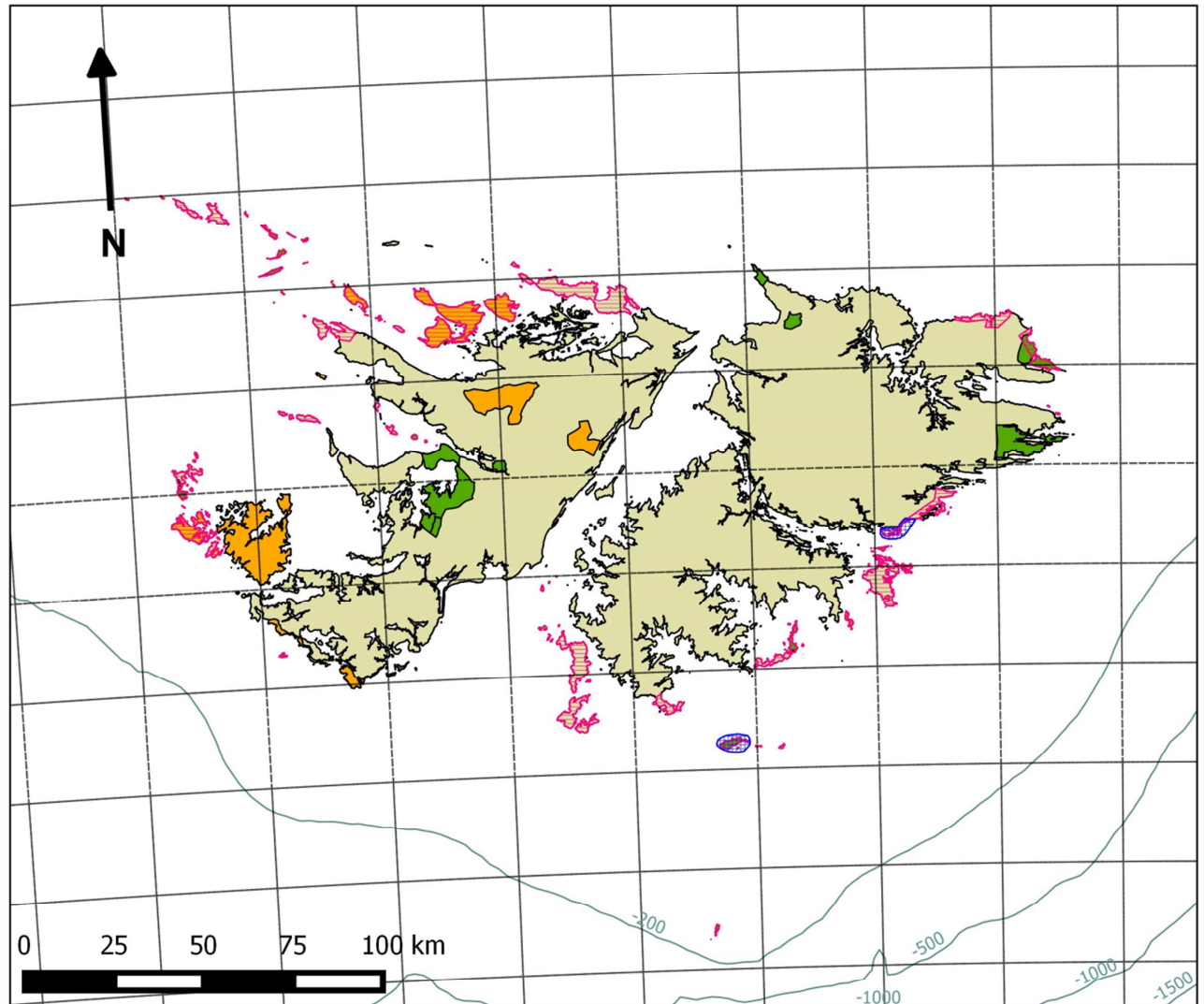
Saxifrage

Shrubby seablite







Appendix 2: Protected and Designated Areas

Note: The map and table in this appendix show areas recognised as Important Plant and/or Bird Areas (IPA/IBA) as well as designated sites. There is no presumption that it will be appropriate to seek designation of IPA/IBA, and in all cases designation will be subject to landowner support.

Map 1: Protected and Designated Areas



Protected and Designated Areas in the Falkland Islands

-  NNRs
-  IPAs
-  IBAs
-  RAMSAR sites
-  Bathymetry
-  Land

Projection: UTM21S

Date: 01/06/2014

Table 2: Protected and Designated Areas

Site	Notes	Ownership	NNR	IPA	IBA	Ramsar	National Park
Albemarle		Private	No	Yes	No	No	
Arch Islands		Governmental	Yes	No	No	No	
Beauchene Island		Governmental	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Beaver Island Group		Private	No	Yes	Yes	No	
Bertha's Beach		Governmental	No	No	Yes	Yes	
Bird Island		Governmental	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Bleaker Island Group		Private	Part	No	Yes	No	
Bull Point		Governmental	No	No	Yes	No	
Cape Dolphin		Private	Yes	No	No	No	
Carcass Island Group		Private	No	Yes	No	No	
Channel Island	Part of Beaver Island Group IBA	Private	No	Yes	Yes	No	
Cross Island		Private	No	Yes	No	No	
East Bay		Private	Yes	No	No	No	
Elephant Cays		Private	No	No	Yes	No	
Hill Cove Mountains		Governmental	No	Yes	No	No	proposed
Hope Harbour		Private	No	No	Yes	No	
Hornby Mountains		Private	No	Yes	No	No	
Hummock Island Group	Includes Middle Island NNR	Private/ Governmental	Part	No	Yes	No	
Jason Islands Group		Governmental/ NGO	Part	No	Yes	No	
Keppel Island		Private	No	Yes	Yes	No	
Kidney Island Group	Comprises Kidney and Cochon Islands NNR	Governmental	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Lively Island Group	Includes Middle Island IPA and Motley Island IPA	Private	No	Part	Yes	No	
Low Island	Part of West Point Islands Group	Private	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Middle Island	Part of Lively Island Group IBA	NGO	No	Yes	Yes	No	
Middle Island	King George Bay, part of Hummock Islands Group	Governmental	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Moss Side (Elephant Beach Ponds)		Private	Yes	No	No	No	
Motley Island	Part of Lively Island Group IBA	NGO	No	Yes	Yes	No	
New Island Group		NGO	Part	No	Yes	No	
Passage Islands Group		Private	No	No	Yes	No	

Site	Notes	Ownership	NNR	IPA	IBA	Ramsar	National Park
Patricia Luxton National Nature Reserve		Private	Yes	Yes	No	No	
Pebble Island Group		Private	No	No	Yes	No	
Port Stephens		Private	No	Yes	No	No	
Saunders Island		Private	No	Yes	Yes	No	
Sea Dog Island		Governmental	Yes	No	No	No	
Sea Lion Island Group		Governmental	Part	No	Yes	Yes	
Seal Bay		Private	No	No	Yes	No	
Speedwell Island Group		Private	No	No	Yes	No	
Split Island		Private	No	Yes	No	No	
Stanley Common		Governmental	Yes	Yes	No	No	
Tea Island		Private	No	Yes	No	No	
The Narrows		Private	Yes	No	No	No	
The Twins Islands	Part of West Point Islands Group	NGO	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Volunteer Point and Cow Bay		Private	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Weddell Island		Private	No	Yes	No	No	
West Point Island Group	Includes The Twins Islands NNR and Low Island NNR	Private	Part	No	Yes	No	
Wickham Heights		Governmental	No	No	No	No	proposed