Applicant: Stanworth, Andrew Organisation: Falklands Conservation

Funding Sought: £23,729.00

DPLR1\1072

Building farm biodiversity planning and monitoring capacity for sustainable management

Farming is the dominant land-use in the Falkland Islands with 92% (1,135,663ha) of the total land area used for agricultural grazing by 82 farms. In contrast the Falklands has formally protected only 2.9% of its land area for nature conservation, far short of global '30 by 30' aspirations. If wider conservation is to be achieved at a significant landscape scale then biodiversity management and restoration must extend beyond the confines of the protected area network and into the "working" agricultural landscape.

Similarly only 2 of 17 internationally recognized Important Plant Areas, representing just 2.6% (1,853 ha) of the IPA land area are currently under protection. Whereas 11 of the 17 sites or 93% (65,740 ha) of the IPA network is on actively farmed private land. If biodiversity management was adopted this could provide a 35-fold increase in IPA land under dual conservation management.

The Falklands face a drying climate with an estimated 94% of the island's land area now at medium or high risk of erosion. The interests of conservationists and farmers alike coincide as both biodiversity and stock rely upon thriving native pastures and habitats.

The Responsible Wool Standard (RWS) is a global certification scheme that ensures wool growers and producers meet strict best practice guidelines in land management including soil conservation, biodiversity conservation, fertilizer and pesticide use. The RWS sets robust qualifying criteria on participating farms that are assessed through independent verification and auditing. Some standard RWS criteria commitments are in advance of current Falkland Islands legislative protection. In meeting these RWS standards the participating farms can brand their wool as "sustainable" to achieve greater market access and a price premium.

The RWS has recently been initiated in the Falklands by the DoA, who hold the FI Group Certificate. Thirty-eight farms (c.50%) have so far been certified under the scheme In the first year of operation the internal control system auditor found that the draft biodiversity management plans (BMP) and monitoring were regular areas of non-conformity, and that this was an area of the land management requirements where participating farms needed more support and advice.

A farm BMP is an implementation plan for conserving, restoration and enhancement of farm biodiversity value. The BMP sets the objectives and describes the management actions necessary to deliver the desired outcomes, including an ongoing monitoring component. It identifies areas important for biodiversity, including natural ecosystems, native vegetation and protected, threatened or endemic species; and any areas of degraded land.

Guidance materials provided by RWS are global and generic. Without Falklands specific guidance many farmers struggle to meet scheme standards or have the expertise to establish or undertake a monitoring programme.

The current project will provide;

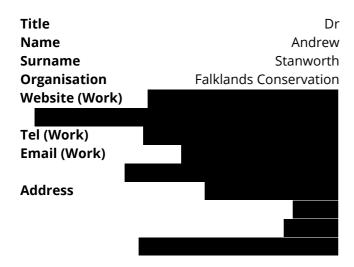
Practical training to improve capacity and skill levels amongst farmers to ensure that plans and monitoring will meet local biodiversity needs and ensure that appropriate, focused and useful biodiversity action occurs at a greater landscape scale on agricultural land across the Falklands.

- 6 Training Workshops attended by 36 farmers (signed attendance sheets)
 Falkland specific literature in updated information pack to allow farmers to better establish an effective farm biodiversity and restoration plan (attendance & circulation lists).
- Improved FBMP template with Falkland-specific information (including protected areas, threatened plants and restoration techniques) distributed to 50 farmers

Darwin Plus Local Round 1

- Standardized biodiversity and habitat monitoring protocols established, allowing comparative data to be collated across all RWS certified farms in the Falklands with practical field instruction.
- Instructional booklet distributed to at least 50 farmers
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CONTACT DETAILS



DPLR1\1072

Building farm biodiversity planning and monitoring capacity for sustainable management

Section 1 - Project Title & Contact Details

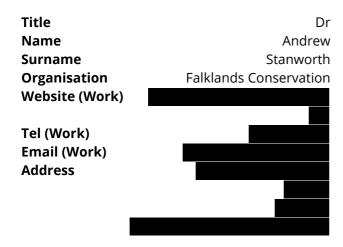
Q1. Project Title

Building farm biodiversity planning and monitoring capacity for sustainable management

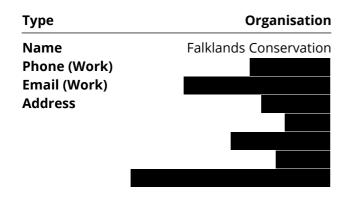
Q2. Please select whether you are applying as an organisation or as an individual (Guidance section 3 and Guidance Glossary)

Organisation

CONTACT DETAILS



GMS ORGANISATION



Section 2 - Overseas Territory(ies)

Q3. Overseas Territory (Guidance section 1.3):

Which UK Overseas Territory(ies) will your project be working in? Please note that in case of a non-permanent resident population you need to demonstrate a clear, meaningful, long-term link to the territory.

☑ Falkland Islands (FI)

* if you have indicated a territory group with an asterisk, please give detail on which territories you are working on here:

No Response

In addition to the UKOT(s) you have indicated, will your project directly benefit any other UK OT(s) or country(ies)?

Yes

Please list these below and describe how they will benefit:

Whilst the conditions and specifics of the developed Biodiversity Management Plan templates will be bespoke to the Falkland Islands and not directly applicable to other UKOTs, the Responsible Wool Standard is a global initiative and may provide a learning case-study to other OTs. Adoption of the scheme is an example of utilizing a commercial initiative and lever to promote and provide greater conservation management and protection. The potential to increase product value and market access may provide a means to mainstreaming dual-use conservation management.

Section 3 - Project Partners

Q4. Project partners (Guidance section 3.2)

In this section, please give details of all the partners involved (including the Lead Partner) and provide a summary of their roles.

Lead Partner name (if applying as an organisation; Guidance section 3.1): Lead Partner Website (if applicable): Is the Lead Partner based in a LIKOT where the	Project Leader name (Guidance section 3.1):	Dr Andrew Stanworth
applicable): www.falklandsconservation.com Is the Lead Partner based	applying as an organisation; Guidance	
	•	www.falklandsconservation.com
project is working (Guidance section 3.1)?	in a UKOT where the project is working	⊙ Yes

Katrina Durham (Director of Agriculture)

Department of Agriculture (Falkland Island Government)

Bypass Road, Stanley, Falkland Islands

Tel: 00500 27355

List other partners involved and where are they based (Guidance section 3.2):

Email: KDurham@naturalresources.gov.fk https://www.falklands.gov.fk/agriculture/

Based and operating in the Falkland Islands. Within the FIG Natural Resources Directorate, the Department of Agriculture (DoA) aims to foster a viable and sustainable agricultural industry through applied research, extension, business skills development and regulatory programmes. DoA is fully based within the Falklands with locally employed staff.

Falklands Conservation.

FC is a membership-based charity rooted in the local community with extensive experience of habitat restoration, site management, and biodiversity monitoring and has an ongoing Darwin+ project focused on peatland habitat survey.

FC will utilise this biodiversity and conservation land management expertise to provide training and skill transfer to the project and adapt generic Responsible Wool Standard (RWS) scheme materials to the Falklands environmental context.

A robust system of project management and financial controls will oversee the project ensuring scheduled activities, outputs and financial reporting timelines are met.

Summary of roles and responsibilities of each partner in the project:

Department of Agriculture.

The DoA is the national group scheme signatory to the international RWS scheme and is responsible for the admittance (and removal) of individual farms from the group scheme. A national level Internal Control Systems Auditor (ICSA) is contracted independently through the DoA to adjudicate the scheme and audit farms for compliance against the scheme standards.

DoA will provide a direct link to participating and interested farms and assist in training and capacity building workshops. The DoA will be responsible for the acceptance of updated Falkland specific guidance established through the workshops for incorporation into the scheme and for dissemination of these materials to RWS participating farms. The time and participation of the DoA staff will be met by DoA as in-kind support as part of their departmental remit.

I confirm that all listed partners are aware of this application and have indicated support:

Checked

Attach a Cover Letter for your application (Guidance section 4.2).

- & Falklands Conservation Cover Letter
- ① 19:03:24
- pdf 589.7 KB

Section 4 - Project Summary & Description

Q5. Project Summary (Guidance section 3.8)

Please provide a brief summary of your project. This may be used in communication activities and/or published online, if your application is successful.

The Responsible Wool Standard provides the opportunity to extend biodiversity management at a landscape-scale across the Falklands agricultural sector but is currently hampered by limited expertise capacity to meet the schemes environmental criteria. The project will provide practical workshop training, written Falkland specific guidance, achievable monitoring protocols and improved Biodiversity Management Plan templates to participating farms. With 92% of the Falklands' land area currently farmed and less than 3% protected this will extend biodiversity management beyond the protected area network.

Q6. Description (Guidance section 2.1)

Please provide a description of your project, including:

- the overall objective
- the current situation and the problem the project is trying to address
- what success will look like and how you will measure it

Please be as specific as possible when describing the project, using quantified data and evidence where available. You may wish to consider: what are the specific threats to the environment that the project will attempt to address, and what should we know about these threats? What does your successful project look like? And how will you demonstrate whether and how your project has been successful?

Farming is the dominant land-use in the Falkland Islands with 92% (1,135,663ha) of the total land area used for agricultural grazing by 82 farms. In contrast the Falklands has formally protected only 2.9% of its land area for nature conservation, far short of global '30 by 30' aspirations. If wider conservation is to be achieved at a significant landscape scale then biodiversity management and restoration must extend beyond the confines of the protected area network and into the "working" agricultural landscape. Similarly only 2 of 17 internationally recognized Important Plant Areas, representing just 2.6% (1,853 ha) of the IPA land area are currently under protection. Whereas 11 of the 17 sites or 93% (65,740 ha) of the IPA network is on actively farmed private land. If biodiversity management was adopted this could provide a 35-fold increase in IPA land under dual conservation management.

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(Optional) Please upload any additional and supporting materials or files (such as maps of project sites, etc) below. Maximum of 5 pages:

- © 19:28:48
- pdf 131.03 KB

Section 5 - Project Outcome(s)

Q7. Project Outcome(s) (Guidance section 1.2)

Successful Darwin Plus Local projects must demonstrate measurable outcomes in <u>at least one of the</u> themes of Darwin Plus, either by the end of the project or soon after through a credible plan.

<u>Please tick which theme(s) of Darwin Plus your project underpins:</u>

Checked	Biodiversity: improving and conserving biodiversity, and slowing or reversing biodiversity loss and degradation;
Checked	Climate change: responding to, mitigating and adapting to climate change and its effects on the natural environment and local communities;
Checked	Environmental quality: improving the condition and protection of the natural environment
Checked	Capability and capacity building: enhancing the capacity within OTs, including through community engagement and awareness, to support the environment in the short- and long-term.

Please justify your selection.

RWS membership is independently audited against strict environmental criteria. This provides a level of environmental protection through non-legal financial jeopardy if excluded through non-compliance. Training and updated documentation will enhance capability and capacity amongst FI farmers to establish and implement effective FBMPs and environmental monitoring.

FBMP adoption by farms will extend improved biodiversity and restoration management across >50% of the Falklands farmland, an area many times greater than the current protected area network.

The RWS has a goal of 45% reduction in CO2 emissions by 2030. Improved sustainable land management across globally important Falklands' peatland habitats will contribute to this.

Section 6 - Project Timeline

Q8. Project timeline (Guidance section 2.2)

Please provide anticipated dates for the start and end of your planned project here. Please use the Darwin Plus Local Project Implementation Timetable Template (which can be downloaded below) to provide a list of the individual activities you have planned for this project, a brief description of what each activity entails, and the months in which the activities will be carried out. If the project involves only one activity (e.g. a purchase), please still provide project start and end dates (noting estimated times for procurement). Please note that your project will need to be completed by 31 March 2024.

Start date:	End date:	Duration (e.g. 3 months):
01 May 2023	29 March 2024	11 months

Please upload the completed Darwin Plus Local Project Implementation Timetable template with your proposed project activities below.

- A R1-DPlus-Local-Implementation-Timetable-Fin al-FI Capacity Building
- O 19:41:12
- pdf 437.88 KB

Section 7 - Costs

Q9. Costs (Guidance section 2.2 and please read the Finance Guidance)

Please provide a breakdown of costs to be funded through Darwin Plus Local (in GBP).

Are you seeking any matched funding for this project? (Please note that this is optional and there is no requirement to seek matched funding for Darwin Plus Local projects).

Yes

How much matched funding are you seeking and where from?

Matched funding is provided in the form of in-kind support from the Falkland Islands Government
Department of Agriculture to the total of comprising
Meeting Costs at Farmers' Week (cost)
Agricultural Assistant & Director - Staff Time (in-kind)
Agronomist Consultancy (in-kind)
ID Guide Booklet & App Development (cost)

Budget line	Explanation	Cost in GBP
Staff costs:	Staff Costs for workshop and farmer scoping and liaison presentations, attendance at practical workshops and training, FBMP template with Falkland specific information, establishment of monitoring protocols and plant identification guide and administrative and logistical support. Incorporating time of Falklands Conservation; Conservation Officer Sites and Restoration Officer Community Outreach Officer Technical Administrative Officer (Accountant) Administrative Officer (Book-keeping)	
	are provided in-kind (not included in figure).	
Overhead costs:	Organizational and Staff Overhead costs are attributed at 40% of FC staff costs. This is equivalent to just under 20% of the total program budget.	
Travel & subsistence costs:	Travel, vehicle and ferry costs for attendance at six 1-day workshops and associated overnight accommodation for x2 FC staff and x2 DoA staff on both East and West Falklands.	

Operating costs:	Meeting costs, room / venue hire costs, and catering costs for six 1-day training workshops. In addition as in-kind support (not included in figure) DoA have committed to initial scoping meetings with farmers at the Annual Farmers' Week and Rural Business Association in Stanley and a further to plant and monitoring identification guide for app development or printing.
Capital equipment:	n/a
Consultancy costs:	The RWS Internal Control Systems Auditor (ICS) is an independent 3rd party contractor responsible for annual review of scheme compliance by participating farms at the national level. If the newly developed scheme materials are to be fit for purpose then they must be reviewed by the ICS and the ICS's attendance at workshops is desirable. This meets 16 days of consultation, review and attendance. In addition the DoA as in-kind support (not included in figure) have committed for a consultant agronomist to assist with plant identification guide and ID workshops.
Total:	

This section provides more information on the budget to help evaluators understand how you will use the funds you are requesting. You do not need to list all costs, but please list and detail costs of more than £1,000 per item below, under the appropriate budget line.

Details of staff costs over £1,000 (if relevant)

62 days of technical staff time have been attributed to the project for material preparation, identification guides and monitoring protocols, etc. (including 2 FC staff at all workshops and presentations)

12 days of support staff time have been attributed to the project

Details of overhead costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

A standardised rate of 40% of staff costs/wages is applied to projects. This is appropriate, reasonable, and justifiable to meet organisation infrastructural costs should be appropriate, reasonable, and justifiable. In terms of total project cost of claimed costs this relates to just under 20% of total claimed costs.

Details of travel and subsistence costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

The project seeks to include all farmers and to enable attendance during the busy summer season mobile workshops will be held on both East and West Falklands. This necessitates travel in two vehicles and the use of a return ferry to West Falkland. Mileage is estimated at 820 miles plus ferry costs. Due to the travel distances and ferry crossing the West Falkland workshops will be run as 1 block and require overnight accommodation for x2 FC staff, x2 DoA staff and x1 ICS for a block of 5 days.

Details of operating costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

No single operating costs surpass £1,000. Costs include; Hire costs for venue meeting room for x6 workshops Printing costs for meeting materials Catering for meeting

Details of capital equipment costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

n/a

Details of consultancy costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

ICS Independent auditor for 16 days to review draft materials and guidance to ensure it meets the requirements and criteria of the scheme and is fit for purpose and to attend training workshops to provide feedback and guidance to stakeholders.

The ICS auditor is independent of both FC and DoA and the additionality of the time commitment is therefore chargeable.

Details of other costs over £1,000 (if relevant)

n/a

If your project budget was prepared in another currency and converted to GBP, please provide the exchange rate, its source, and the date it was accessed:

Other currency:	Exchange rate:	Source of this exchange rate:	Date exchange rate accessed:
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response

Darwin Plus Local has been created to build capacity and contribute to local economies in-territory.

What % of the total will be spent in the OTs?



If less than 80% of the total project spend is to be spent within the OT(s), please explain why.

n/a

Section 8 - Local and National Priorities

Q10. Local and national priorities

Please explain how this project aligns with local and national priorities? You may wish to consider the project in the context of national environmental laws, objectives, strategies, territory specific agreements, action plans or policies.

The project tackles skill and capacity building within the agricultural community through the RWS scheme which will allow improved sustainable land management with positive outcomes for biodiversity across participating 50% of FI farms. Materials will also be made available to all other non-participating farms to encourage adoption.

This matches the FIG Island Plan and FIG Biodiversity Plan targets which state;

"to continue working towards integrating biodiversity (i.e. considerations of ecosystem integrity) across environmental and economic agendas, acknowledging that the integrity of ecosystems underpins the continued provision of all ecosystem goods and services for current and future generations" "create an agricultural action plan and an agricultural advice framework, which will reflect the ecological principles in the Environment Strategy"

"reduce [biodiversity] loss through tackling threats, mitigating degradation and promote restoration of native ecosystems"

"protection and enhancement of 'Key Sites' including IBA, IPA and KBAs" [specifically prioritised under RWS criteria]

"manage and protect our native terrestrial ecosystems, improve terrestrial ecosystem integrity, investigate the potential for peatland restoration and frameworks around restoration"

"encourage natural habitat restoration and preservation"

The landowners will produce biodiversity management plans, which consider restoration, conservation and habitat/species enhancement measures. This is expected to have long term positive outcomes for biodiversity.

Will the project take place on Government owned land or water?

No

Dick

Section 9 - Project Risks

Q11. Project Risks

Please demonstrate your consideration of any risks involved in this project and how you intend to manage them. Depending on your project, you may wish to consider:

- Biosecurity risks particularly for projects involving external equipment.
- Safeguarding risks particularly for projects involving vulnerable groups such as children, older people or people with disabilities.

Mitigation

KISK	Mitigation
Stakeholder take-up and attendance at planned workshops is below expectations.	The DoA and local RWS ICS Auditor are full partners in the project and will assist and participate in all workshops and will lead sessions and communications to RWS members and the wider farming community. Falklands Conservation have a proven track record in stakeholder and industry engagement and a good working relationship with a wide sector of the community. In a drying climate with increasing erosional risk the aim of farmers and conservationists to protect and sustainably manage healthy native habitat coincides. In the last several years there have been increasing joint initiatives and a drawing together of common aims.

Seasonal timing of project. Farmers are most available during winter low-season for consultation and workshops, however plant flowering occurs in high-season summer months.

There is some conflict in timing between higher farmer availability in winter for training and the need to conduct plant identification and monitoring in summer when flowers and grasses are in bloom.

The project therefore utilises initial scoping and consultation in winter so that materials can be largely confirmed and reviewed over the winter period and limits workshop participation to 1-day attendance (with 3 alternative dates on both East and West Falklands) in summer to ensure with sufficient notification that the maximum number of farmers will be available. Workshops will be mobile and local visiting farm settlements.

Organisational, personnel, attendee and policy risks

Falklands Conservation has a full suite of policy and code of conduct safeguards in place with an online system of tracking to ensure all staff have read and are aware of the documents.

Policy documents cover safeguarding, whistle-blowing, health and safety, biosecurity, vehicle and journey plans, field work procedures, etc. and may be viewed upon request.

FIG documentation, covering the participation of the DoA, is also in place.

FC has robust financial controls in place with fully audited accounting procedures.

Project management systems are utilised.

Do you require more fields?

No

Section 10 - Terms & Conditions

Q12. Terms and conditions (Guidance section 3.10)

By applying for Darwin Plus Local you are adhering in full to the grant Terms and Conditions in full (available at: https://dplus.darwininitiative.org.uk/apply and as referenced in the Guidance at section 3.10). For information, the Terms and Conditions include requirements for all applicants to (amongst other requirements as per the full Terms and Conditions):

- Uphold a zero tolerance for inaction approach to tackling sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment.
- Where appropriate, make all reasonable and adequate efforts to address gender inequality and other power imbalances.
- Notify all cases of fraud and theft (whether proven or suspected) relating to the project to the Grant Administrator as soon as they identified.

Please indicate you have read, and understood, and will adhere to the Terms and Conditions.

Checked

If your application is successful: If your project application is successful, the Fund Administrator (NIRAS) will ask you to provide some financial evidence for due diligence checks before you receive your project grant. (Please see section 3.3 of the Darwin Plus Local Finance Guidance). Please be ready to provide this evidence promptly.

Financial evidence for organisations: Year-end financial statements, the latest management accounts or audited accounts (if you have these).

Financial evidence for individuals: Proof of identity such as a passport, ID card or driving licence and solvency (such as bank statements) and a police check.

Section 11 - Certification

Certification

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the statements made in this application are true and the information provided is correct.

Checked

I have the authority to submit an application on behalf of my organisation.

Checked

Name:	Dr Andrew Stanworth						
Position in the organisation: (if applicable)	Conservation Officer						
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 ♣ andrew stanworth signature ★ 14/02/2023 ◆ 21:48:39 ♣ jpg 4.34 KB 						
Date:	14 February 2023						

Section 12 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

Check

I have read the Guidance documents, including the "Darwin Plus Local Guidance" and the "Darwin Plus Local Finance Guidance".	Checked
If my proposed project takes place on public lands or water, I have uploaded a Letter of Support from Government.	Unchecked
I have uploaded a cover letter that details the information requested in the guidance (Guidance section 4.2 has information on what this cover letter should include).	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.	Checked
I have provided actual start and end dates for the project.	Checked
I have provided my summary budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP in the application form.	Checked
I have uploaded my project implementation timetable using the specific template provided.	Checked
(If copying and pasting into Flexi-Grant) I have checked that all my responses have been successfully copied into the online application form.	Checked
The application has been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	Checked
I have checked the Darwin Plus website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.	Checked
I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on the Darwin Plus website.	Checked

We would like to keep in touch!

Please check this box if you would be happy for the lead applicant (Flexi-Grant Account Holder) and project leader (if different) to be added to our mailing list. Through our mailing list we share updates on upcoming and current application rounds under Darwin Plus. We also provide occasional updates on other UK Government activities related to biodiversity conservation and share project news. You are free to unsubscribe at any time.

Checked

Data protection and use of personal data

Information supplied in the application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the **Privacy Notice**, available from the <u>Forms and Guidance Portal</u>.

This **Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals** whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information may be used when publicising Darwin Plus including project details (usually title, lead partner, project leader, location, and total grant value).

Project Title: Building farm biodiversity planning and monitoring capacity for sustainable management Falkland Islands

Darwin Plus Local - Project Implementation Timetable

		No. of	UK Financial Year 2023/24												
Activity #	Description (max 25 words)	months	s Calendar Year 2023									Calendar Year 2024			
			Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	
Stakeholder scoping and liaison	Production of scoping documents prior to annual "Farmer's Week" to introduce concepts of Biodiversity Management and Monitoring.	2													
	Workshop session at annual "Farmer's Week" to inform current time capacity and skill / knowledge deficit to implement biodiversity management and monitoring.	1													
Updated draft Falkland- specific scheme materials Pasture & Peatlands biodiversity scoring matrix	Update of scheme materials to incorporate specific Falkland biodiversity detail into a Farm Biodiversity Plan template.	4													
	Adaptation and development of a practical farm biodiversity monitoring scheme with selected indicator species appropriate in scope to available personnel time and skill capacities.	4													
	Plant identification guide incorporating native pasture grasses and indicator species in pdf/smart-phone format for use in field.	4													
Capacity building training workshop	Preparation and printing of workshop information packs.	1													
	Six 1-day training workshops held across the Falklands with indoor sessions on biodiversity management planning and practical outdoor training in plant identification and monitoring techniques.	2													

Project Title: Building farm biodiversity planning and monitoring capacity for sustainable management Falkland Islands

		No. of	UK Financial Year 2023/24											
Activity #	Description (max 25 words)	months		Calendar Year 2023 Calendar Year 20						2024				
			Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
updated	Utilising any feedback from workshops and practical training fine-tune the materials to provide a new FBMP template and FI-wide biodiversity monitoring protocols for the RWS scheme.													