

# Falklands Conservation Annual Review July 2019–June 2020

## Governance

Roger Spink (FC Chairman); Henry Robinson (UK Chair); Dr Paul Brewin (FI Vice Chair); Nicola Granger (Hon Treasurer); Keith Biles (FI Hon Treasurer); Thomas Blake; Ross James; Sally Blake; Tim Carr; Jan Cheek; Dr Colin Clubbe; Prof John Croxall; Sally-Ann Wilson; Ian Moncrieff; Duane Evans who resigned in November 2019 and Matthew Bassford (UK Vice Chair).

## People

Dr Esther Bertram (Chief Executive Officer), Dr Andrew Stanworth (Conservation Manager), Sarah Crofts (Conservation Officer), and Dr Katherine Ross (Habitats Officer). Dr Caroline Weir (Cetaceans Project Officer). Peter Wessels (Marine Conservation Officer). Tracey Hellowell (Office Manager) was replaced by Pamela Quilodrán Jelbes in a restructured role (Technical Administrative Officer) in September 2019, Mike Ford as (Community Outreach Officer), Michelle Winnard (Communications and Marketing Officer), Rachel Sotomayor (Administrative Officer) until April 2020 when she was replaced by Shaani Stashynsky. In the UK, Alicia Boyer continued as the UK Administrative Officer. Helen Marsh very kindly continued to provide voluntary support as the Herbarium Curator. With this group of people, together with the assistance of many dedicated volunteers both locally and overseas, we have had a successful year. We thank each and every one of them.

## Premises

Our main office is at Jubilee Villas in Stanley, with a complementary office for our UK Administrative Officer, Alicia Boyer, at The Gatehouse in Sandy, Bedfordshire. We continued working towards our vision of a purpose-built headquarters in Stanley with a dedicated space for Watch Group activities.

## THE YEAR'S ACHIEVEMENTS 2019–20

Our work reflects our mission to work in partnership with the local and international Falkland Islands community to conserve nature. We are a Partner of BirdLife International. We also have a Memorandum of Understanding with the Falkland Islands Government (FIG) whereby we undertake agreed environmental activities on behalf of the Islands' wildlife and people.

### Improving operational effectiveness

We have over 500 members and continued to expand our generous group of corporate supporters. We hosted 150 guests at our Charity Ball in 2019.

### Education and outreach – the Watch Group

With support from Standard Chartered Bank, we maintained our programme of activities to build appreciation and understanding of wildlife for our Watch Group (our junior members). Their activities were recorded in the quarterly Rocky's News newsletter.

### Supporting environmental education within the islands' schools

We continued to provide information and staff support to environmental education lessons, field trips and assemblies within schools and to support work experience students.

Our Small Grants Scheme provides financial support to local community conservation initiatives. We continue to support community events including Stanley clean up, the Careers Fair and provide opportunities for volunteers to

carry out practical conservation activities. The volunteer Herbarium Curator ensures the herbarium is available to all on request.

### Influencing, advising and engagement

We continued to provide environmental advice to government, industry and other stakeholders in the Falklands and abroad through the Falkland Islands Offshore Hydrocarbons Environmental Forum, the Seabird Bycatch Committee, the Environment Committee, the Forum for the Conservation of the Patagonian Sea, and ensured Falklands Wildlife had a high profile at the UK's annual BirdFair.

The charity successfully cares for and releases a low number of oiled penguins each year. We also contribute information and advice as part of the Wildlife Disease Working Group.

### Strengthening biosecurity policy and practice

We worked closely with the Environment Officer, Biosecurity Officers, Island Landcare, and the MoD to support and learn from their biosecurity work and promote their biosecurity messages and learning through social media and practical events.

### Ensuring leading practice in onshore and offshore development

We helped shape the developing oil industry regulatory framework, for the benefit of the environment.

### Land management, habitat restoration and outreach

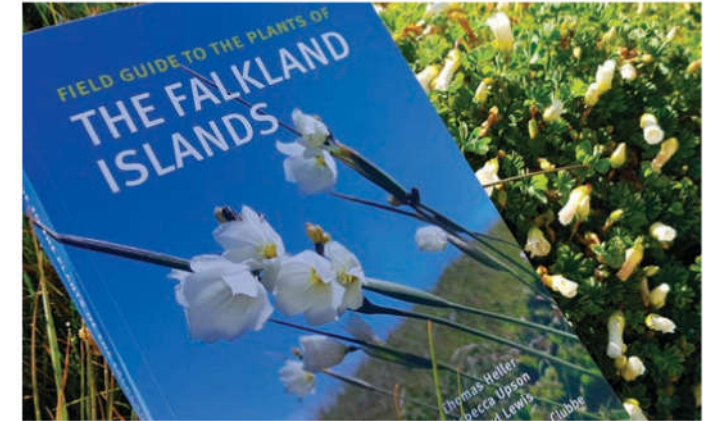
Much of this work is to support and encourage land owners in their own restoration projects and to share learning as well as to work as good custodians for our own landholdings.

### Marine management

Our four main focus areas for marine management this year included: Continued work on a Darwin Plus supported project which aims to advance the understanding of sei whales and other baleen species usage of candidate Key Biodiversity Areas to inform area management decisions. This work was complimented by support from the RSPB to employ a Marine Conservation Officer, to take forward findings on Key Biodiversity Areas, and inform the broader Marine Spatial Planning process in the islands. The Annual Seabird Monitoring Programme continued into its 31st year.



July 2019: FC chosen as the school charity Coppers For Conservation.



December 2019: Falkland Islands plant guide launched.



January 2020: Falkland Islands National Herbarium website launched.



September 2019: Watch Group tussac planting at Saladero.



July 2019: Developing a strong relationship with the British Forces South Atlantic Islands (BFSAI) group – Middle Island tussac planting.



October 2019: The Watch Group learned how to propagate native boxwood from horticulturist Jeremy Poncet.

December 2019: Surveys on North Island found what is likely the archipelago's largest population of Falkland rock-cress (inset) as well as lots of nationally vulnerable bluegrass.





# Plans for the Future

**We will continue working towards our vision of achieving a well-functioning natural environment managed by those living closest to it through our new Five Year Vision and the goals and targets set out in our delivery strategies.**

## Partnerships and community - Falklands Conservation's Effectiveness

Falklands Conservation's defining principle is to deliver our mission by working closely with our members and partners. In order to achieve our charity objectives our strategy must have a strong focus on the health of the organisation. This will include healthy finances, well-supported and trained staff, cutting edge communications and engagement – collectively what we call Falklands Conservation's Effectiveness. This will support an ambitious Conservation Programme.

Falklands Conservation will work to increase our financial stability with help from our partners, supporters and donors. We will invest in our staff to develop their skills and our new headquarters will ensure they have purpose built facilities. Our large body of trustees will ensure good governance and adherence to Charity Commission requirements. Without solid financial, governance and staff support – we would not be able to achieve all we plan to do on the ground.

The Falklands local community are not only dependent on Falklands' nature, but also key to its successful management. Falklands Conservation will work to support ambitious community led initiatives that benefit nature. Our National Herbarium and citizen science activities will allow the community to gain a greater understanding of the natural world. We will work to inspire the next generation to be ambassadors for nature through our youth membership known as the Watch Group.

We will ensure that social and media communications on specific conservation topics inform and inspire our key audiences and work to underpin our fundraising.

## A well-functioning, well managed natural environment

Falklands' habitats are amongst some of the finest in the world. Falklands Conservation will support ambitious private landowners to not only conserve, but enhance their natural habitats. We will encourage and work with government to ensure public lands are well managed and restored. As a significant private landowner ourselves, we will show leadership through a coherent programme to preserve and restore our islands and reserves. A unique

opportunity for doing this comes with the acquisition of New Island in July 2020.

Falklands' waters are globally important for nature. While much good work has been done, our national practices do not yet live up to conserving our marine natural heritage. Falklands Conservation will work to find positive solutions. The introduction of non-native species can be, and is, economically costly and very damaging. Falklands Conservation will work to ensure that Falklands' nature is safeguarded from new and existing introductions. The Falklands face critical decisions in onshore and offshore industries including industrial salmon farming and offshore oil development; these have the potential to alter the natural character of the islands forever. Falklands Conservation will be part of finding a sustainable solution to these challenges. The impacts of climate change puts further pressure on Falklands' nature, and Falklands Conservation will work to address this challenge through cutting edge carbon storage and mitigation initiatives.

*We are all part of the solution for achieving a bright future for Falklands' nature, and we look forward to continuing to work together.*

To find out more about what your support can help us achieve, including donations, legacies, and membership, contact [marketing@conservation.org.fk](mailto:marketing@conservation.org.fk)

## Thanks & Acknowledgements

### We could not have achieved so much in 2019–20 without everyone listed below.

The New Island Conservation Trust, Forum for the Conservation of the Patagonian Sea, the Royal Botanic Gardens KEW and the Millennium Seed Bank, Wildlife Conservation Society, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Detroit Zoological Society, the British Antarctic Survey, Oxford University, the International Network for Seed-based Restoration, IUCN Peatland Program, Quark, Aiuká, the South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute, Island LandCare, the Elephant Seal Research Group, the Falkland Islands Development Corporation, the Rural Business Association, the Department of Agriculture, Shallow Marine Surveys Group, the UK Ministry of Defence, Air Tanker, the NAAFI, Trant Construction, Stanley Nurseries, and Cape Dolphin Farm.

**We would like to highlight our corporate supporters:** Wild Falklands Ltd, the Pale Maiden B&B, Bleaker Island, International Tours & Travel, JD Robertson, Pebble Island Lodge, Morrison Falklands Ltd, The Malvina House Hotel, Falkland Islands Holidays, Darwin Lodge, Falkland

Islands Tours & Travel, and Colonial Equipment. We are very grateful for your collaboration.

**Major supporters of our project work (in terms of funds, help or advice – often all three) in the past year were** the Falkland Islands Government, UK's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, including their Darwin Plus programmes, the RSPB, Standard Chartered Bank, the Falkland Islands Development Corporation, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Wild Planet Trust and the SeaLife Centre.

**Major supporters of our core activities were** Detroit Zoological Society, Birdlife International, Dingle Oceanworld Aquarium, Thrigby Hall Wildlife Gardens, Drusillas Park, Cotswold Wildlife Park and Gardens, the John Ellerman Foundation, Springcreek Conservation and Steve Spring. For substantial donations in kind, we thank Stanley Services Ltd.

**Charity Ball 2019:** We would like to thank our longest standing sponsor, Consolidated Fisheries Ltd, and additional sponsors: Falkland Islands Development Corporation, South American Atlantic Services, the Falkland

Islands Company, Falkland Islands Tours and Travel and RBC Limited, for their generous contributions. Thanks also go to Lindblad Expeditions for contributions to the raffle, and to Seafish Chandlery, The Malvina House Hotel, and many other individuals and volunteers for their support of this successful event.

**For substantial donations to the Building for the Future fundraising campaign to date,** we would like to thank Standard Chartered Bank, Falkland Islands Government, Premier Oil, Noble Energy, JK Marine, Caribbean Alliance, John & Tracey Hellowell, Henry Kenner (Arrowgrass), Cotswold Wildlife Park and Gardens, Morrison Construction, and Frits W Olivier. We would also like to thank the H.B. Allen Charitable Trust – long-term supporters of our core activities, who have now completed their funding to us with a generous donation to our proposed new headquarters. We are very grateful.

*Of course, none of our work would be possible without our members, penguin adopters, volunteers and sponsors. We wish to thank you all.*

Planting native boxwood on Falklands Conservation owned Ship Island.



The Falkland Islands Big Seaweed Search, a citizen science programme, was launched in June 2020.

