

Biodiversity Action Planning in the Falkland Islands

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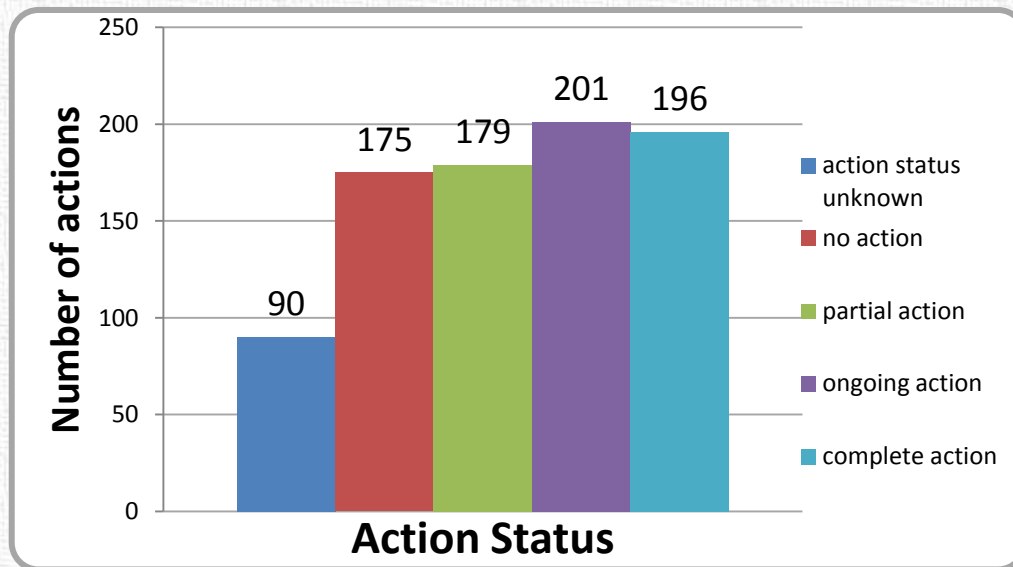
Project Aims

- Review of FI biodiversity action
- Examine current system for managing biodiversity action.
- Provide a method by which to prioritise Actions
- Design an electronic means of hosting action
- Share findings with other UKOTs
- Address outstanding Action Plans



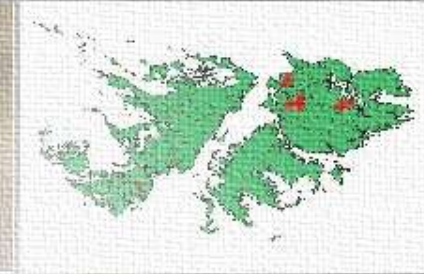
Review

- Collated 1670 actions from 126 documents
- Described Plan characteristics
- Examined current action status

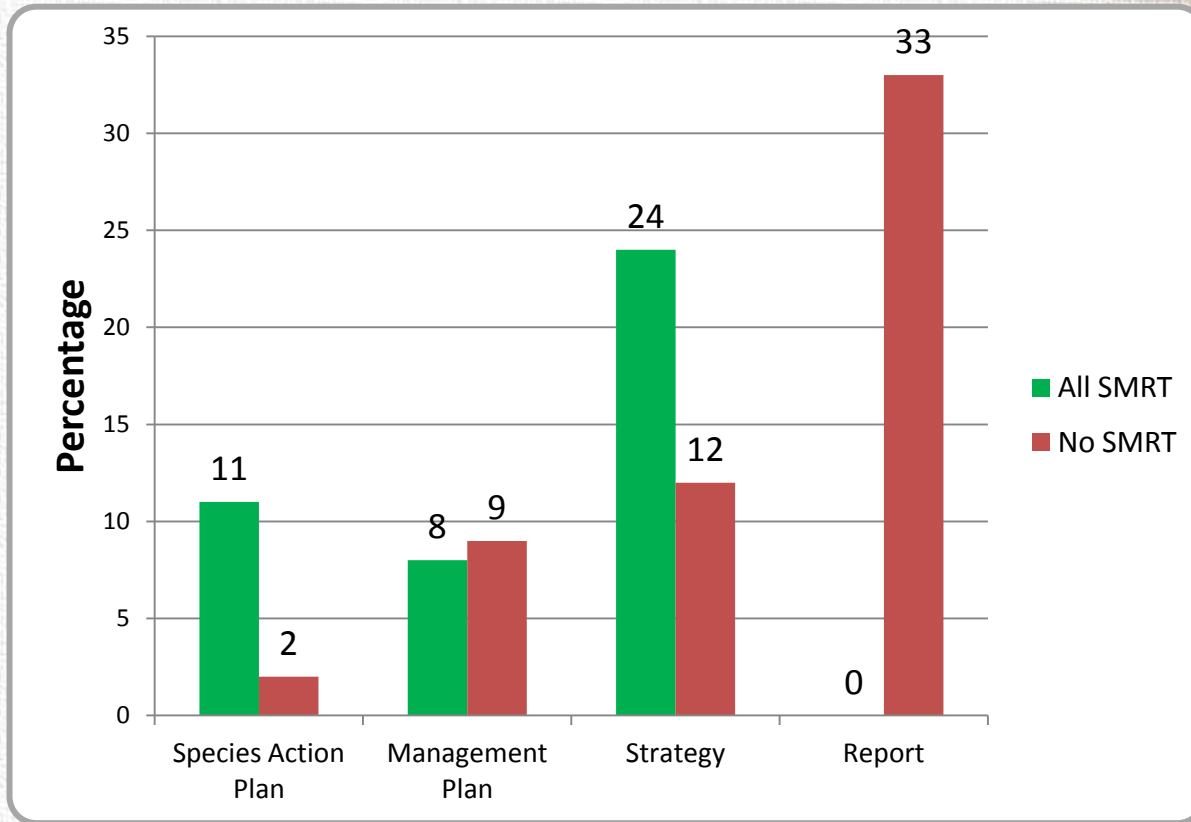


SMARTness

- **S**pecific
- **M**easurable
- **A**chievable
- **R**elevant
- **T**ime-bound



SMRT Review of Actions

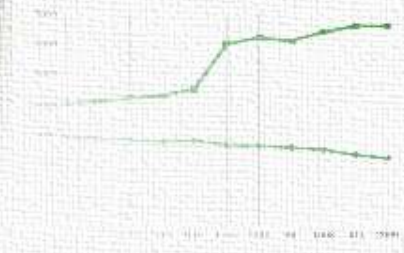


Actions: solutions

- Clearly defined submission process
- Decision group/ co-ordinator
- Submission template
- Guidance
- Standardised Plan format (multiple species)




Actions: solutions



Falkland Island Species Action Plan

Fir Clubmoss
(*Huperzia Fuegiana*,
Lycopodiaceae)

ACTION PLAN COORDINATOR
Falklands Conservation
(Senior)
LAST UPDATED
May 2014



DESCRIPTION
Fir Clubmoss has ascending stems 2-8 cm in height, which are covered in many rows of small, tightly overlapping golden-green leaves. Fir Clubmoss is found in exposed situations without shrub overgrowth, such as rocky ledges, peaty hammocks around boulders and sites where the growth of dwarf shrubs and other vegetation is low and thinned by the presence of shallow underlying rocks.

CURRENT DISTRIBUTION
Fir Clubmoss is limited to Argentina, Tierra del Fuego and the Falkland Islands. In the Falklands it may be under-recorded, however it was not found during the DEBRA Darwin Initiative programme (1999-2001) and only encountered twice in 2007-2009. It may therefore be genuinely rare. There are 3 historical records, one (Whalebone Cove, East Falkland) of which could not be relocated in 2007-2009, one which has been confirmed (Cerroto Rocks, Mt Usborne) and one which needs following up (Mount Vernet). Fir Clubmoss is likely extinct from the Whalebone Cove site from which it was recorded in 1964 as this area is so well surveyed.

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS
Not listed

Falkland Islands
Ordinance
Listed in Wildlife
and Nature
Ordinance

Level of endemism
Native

Population estimate
Global
Unknown

Falkland Islands
<1000 individuals
(Upson, in prep)

Photo credit

Threat
(IUCN category)

Threat	Timing	Severity	Scope	Impact Score
2.3.2 Agriculture & aquaculture → Livestock farming & ranching → Small-holder grazing, ranching or farming	Ongoing	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
7.1.3 Natural system modifications → Fire & fire suppression → Trends UNKNOWN/Unrecorded	Future	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

PREVIOUS ACTION
2012: An identification guide to this species was produced and posted on Falklands Conservation's website. A copy was sent to all landowners involved in the island-wide seabird census of 2010/2012. 2012: the Hornby Mountains and Kappel Island – two locations where Fir Clubmoss has been recently recorded- have been identified as Important Plant Areas (Upson, 2012). 2009-2011: Four of the six records lacking precise geographical locations information were followed up by Falklands Conservation staff. Only one historical record has been confirmed so far.

Falkland Island Species Action Plan

PROPOSED ACTIONS FOR FIR CLUBMOSS

Review date: 2019

Ref.	Action	Outcome	Agency to assist	Responsible Body	Priority Issue	Status		
R000	Textual description	Yes action(s) achieved(s) no(s) no(s)	No Unknown (None) (None) (None)	unknown	No	planned underway complete discontinued		
R001	Key areas for Fir Clubmoss should be identified and either protected or managed with this species in mind.				EN	Planned		
R002	Hornby Mountain sites with >10 mature individuals should be protected from grazing through fencing the entire IPA.	5	Action	2	Months	FC, PA	EN	Planned
R003	Ensure that landowners and managers remain aware of the presence and importance of preserving this species through annual phone calls for 5 years.	5	Insurance	5	Days	FC	EN	Planned
R004	Revisit areas where the species has been reported, but frequently is unknown, and try to assess the status of these subpopulations.	0	Site	2	Months	FC, PA	EN	Planned
R005	Consider this species when prioritising areas for future botanical survey.				EN	Planned		
R006	Determine the species' precise ecological requirements				EN	Planned		
R007	Investigate the impact of grazing on Fir Clubmoss.				EN	Planned		
R008	Draw attention to the ID guide freely available for download from Falkland Conservation's website through Puffin News article.	1	Insurance	1	Day	FC	EN	Planned

Links with other plans
It could be targeted along with the other threatened species found within the Hornby Mountains and Kappel Island IPAs (Upson, 2012).

Supporting documents
Upson, B. 2012. Table of current known locations of the Fir Clubmoss.
Broughton, D.A. 2002. An action plan for the threatened vascular flora of the Falkland Islands. Falklands Conservation, Stanley.
Broughton, D.A. and McAdam, J.H. 2002. Red Data List for the Falkland Islands vascular flora. Oryx, 36(3): 279-287.
Broughton, D.A. and McAdam, J.H. 2002. The vascular flora of the Falkland Islands: An annotated checklist and atlas. A report to Falkland Conservation University of Belfast, Belfast.



Management: Current

Advantages

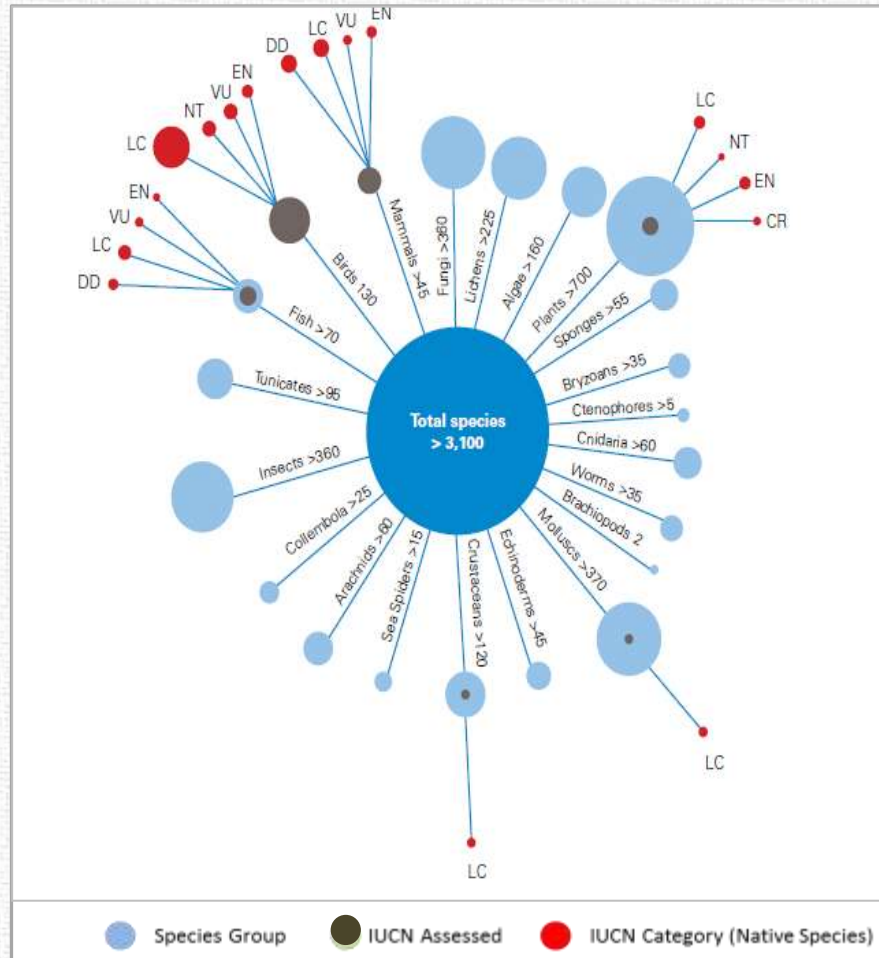
- Captures scope of action planning at multiple scales
- Adaptable

Disadvantages

- Difficult to review – document-based approach
- No guidance, templates or restrictions
- Inconsistent placement of actions
- Repetition
- No standardised prioritisation system
- Stakeholders are allocated autonomously by specific plans



Management: Future



Birds: 130 species
 = 10 Plans
 All: >3130 species
 = 240 Plans

Based on the current mean number of actions per plan...

7740 Actions for Species Actions Plans...
1 per day for 21 years

Churchyard et al (2014), RSPB



Management: Stakeholder Input

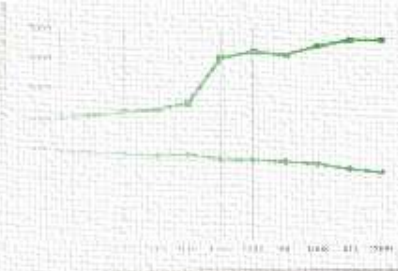
- Just under half thought it best to keep all actions.
- Some support though for within document prioritisation and theming.
- Over half supported reducing action volume by:
 1. Number of actions in Plans
 2. Qualifying criteria
 3. Theming



Actions: solutions

‘One of the common dangers when developing an action plan is that the potential implementing agencies may seek to use the action plan as a means of seeking funding for pre-existing proposals for which they have not been able to find funding in the past. It is critical that the action plan not become an extensive wish list of old and new proposals’

BPSP: A Guide for Countries Preparing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (R. Hagan)



Management Solutions

- Utilise most suited framework (goals and actions)
- Implement Action Control (submission and management systems)
- Digital system
- Prioritisation
- Review

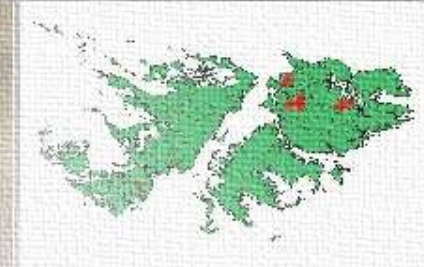


Prioritising Action

‘Most conservation planners would be comfortable saying that they are prioritizing species, habitats, or locations. We argue that only actions can be legitimately prioritized.’

‘prioritization is about resource-allocation decisions. Places, species, and habitats do not use the resources of conservation organizations and agencies— actions use resources.’

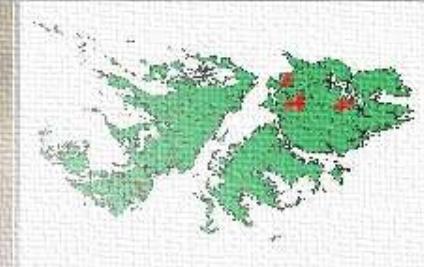
Game et al 2013. Six common mistakes in Conservation Priority Setting.



Prioritisation System

Based on MCDA and addresses Actions

- Define Criteria and relationships
- Score
- Weight
- Conduct Sensitivity Analysis



Weighting

Criteria	Relating to	Tier	Consensus?
Environmental value	Maintain or improve biodiversity and ecosystem services	1	Yes
Economic value	Contribute to FI economy	2	No (5 T1, 10 T2)
Social value	Contribute to FI social fabric	3	Yes
Multiple benefit	Have cross-sectoral benefits	2	No (5 T1, 8 T2, 1 T3)
Threat	National / international IUCN level; or a measure of the imminence, magnitude and distribution of the threat (urgency)	1	Yes
Probability of success	Considering people involved, scale, people / skills required, sustainability of action	1	Yes
Cost	Monetary cost of action	1	Yes
Resourcing	Magnitude of support and collaboration, evidence of partnerships and whether there will be in-kind resources available	1	No (6 T1, 4 T2)
Political support	Political and public support and will to enact – is the action likely to be popular?	2	Yes
Obligation	There is legal or policy obligation to enacting the action	1	No (10 T1, 5 T2)

Tiers: 1 = highest / most important.



Summary

- Actions (format, submission)
- Management (framework, system, responsibilities)
- Prioritisation (proactive)
- Workshop Document
- Feed into 2015 FI Biodiversity Strategy Review

