FALKLAND ISLANDS

Guiding Principles

For the UK government, for the government of the Falkland Islands and for the people of the Falkland Islands.

1 To recognize that all people need a healthy environment for their well-being and livelihoods and that all can help to conserve and sustain it.
2 To use our natural resources wisely, being fair to present and future generations.
3 To identify environmental opportunities, costs and risks in all policies and strategies.
4 To seek expert advice and consult openly with interested parties on decisions affecting the environment.
5 To aim for solutions which benefit both the environment and development.
6 To contribute towards the protection and improvement of the global environment.
7 To safeguard and restore native species, habitats and landscape features, and create or eradicate invasive species.
8 To encourage activities and technologies that benefit the environment.
9 To control pollution, with the polluter paying for prevention or remedies.
10 To study and celebrate our environmental heritage as a treasure to share with our children.

The government of the Falkland Islands will:

1 Bring together government departments, representatives of local industry and commerce, environment and heritage organisations, the Governor's office, individual environmental champions and community representatives in a forum to formulate a detailed strategy for action (See Annex 1).
2 Ensure the protection and extension of key habitats, species and landscape features through legislation and appropriate management structures and mechanisms, including a protected areas policy, and attempt the control and eradication of invasive species.
3 Ensure that environmental considerations are integrated within social and economic planning processes; promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption within the territory.
4 Ensure that environmental impact assessments are undertaken before major projects and while developing growth management strategies.
5 Commit to open and consultative decision-making on developments and plans which may affect the environment; ensure that environmental impact assessments include consultation with stakeholders.
6 Implement effectively obligations under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements already extended to the Falkland Islands and work towards the extension of other relevant agreements.
7 Review the rings, quality and availability of baseline data for natural resources and biodiversity.
8 Ensure that legislation and policy reflect the principle that the polluter should pay for pollution, and that those who damage the environment are adequately monitored and enforced.
9 Encourage teaching within schools to promote the value of our local environment (natural and built) and to enjoy in it both within the region and the global environment.
10 Promote publication that spread awareness of the special features of the environment in the Falkland Islands, promote within the Falkland Islands the guiding principles set out above.

The government of the Falkland Islands will:

1 Help build capacity to support and implement improved environmental management which is consistent with the Falkland Islands' own plans for sustainable development.
2 Assist the Falkland Islands in reviewing and updating environmental legislation.
3 Facilitate the extension of the UK's ratifications of Multilateral Environmental Agreements to benefit the Falkland Islands and which the Falkland Islands has the capacity to implement.
4 Keep the Falkland Islands informed regarding new developments in relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements and invite the Falkland Islands to participate where appropriate in the UK's delegation to international environmental negotiations and conferences.
5 Help the Falkland Islands to ensure it has the legislation, institutional capacity and mechanisms it needs to meet international obligations.
6 Promote better cooperation and the sharing of experience and expertise between the Falkland Islands, other Overseas Territories and small island states and communities which face similar environmental problems.
7 Use UK regional and local expertise to give advice and improve knowledge of technical and scientific issues. This includes regular consultation with interested non-governmental organizations and networks.
8 Use the existing Environment Fund for the Overseas Territories, and promote access to other sources of public funding for the projects of lasting benefit to the Falkland Islands' environment.
9 Help the Falkland Islands identify further funding patterns for environmental projects, such as donors, the private sector or non-governmental organizations.
10 Recognise the diversity of the challenges facing Overseas Territories in a very different socio-economic and geographical situations.

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FALKLAND ISLANDS
26 September 2001

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26 September 2001

Commitments