

The Response of a Small Island State to 1.5°C Climate Change – The Example of The Falkland Islands



Jim McAdam, Queen's University Belfast.
 Michael Poole, MLA Falkland Islands Government
 Nick Rendell, Environmental Planning Dept, FIG.



12,000km², 52°S, pop 2,800

Climate

Cool (2-10°C) **Dry**: 640mm
Windy: mean 8.5 m/s
Exposure Index -9.8
 (cf Shetland Is 9.2; Orkney Is 7.3)

Climate change predictions (100yrs)

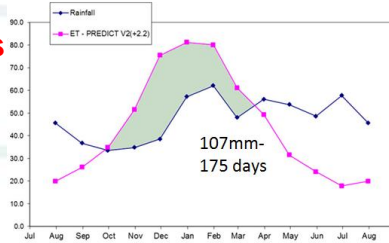
Temp: 1.3-2.2°C increase
Rainfall: No change but more sporadic and intense
Wind: More stormy?



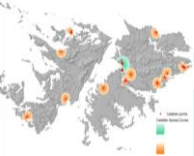
Small oceanic islands are particularly vulnerable to climate change given their isolation, biodiversity and self-reliance

Following research, key risks identified were: changes in soil moisture and drying; changes to invasive plants, pests and diseases; plants unable to shift ranges; increased fire risk; changes in soil organic carbon; changes in yield and quality of forage species planted

Evapotranspiration



Invasive species



Soil erosion

Major investment in renewables



Even though it is a small country, the Falklands is recognising its global obligations to climate change mitigation by adopting best evidence-based practice.

