

DPLUS116 Falkland Wetlands PMG meeting
Skype
15 April 2021

Attendees: Denise Blake (DB) (FIG), Steffi Carter (SC) (SAERI), Chris Evans (CE) (CEH), Roger Flower (RF) (Independent & UCL), Tara Pelembe (TP) (SAERI), David Stroud (DS) (Independent), Julian Thompson (JT) (UCL)

Apologies: Al Baylis (AB) (SAERI)

Time: 10.00am – 11.30am (Falklands) / 14.00 – 14.30 (UK)

Minute taker: Steffi Carter

AGENDA

1. Update Fieldwork and Labwork

SC provided the PMG with an update on fieldwork and labwork. SC visited a total of 36 waterbodies across six sites during the fieldwork, on average four to five individual locations are possible per full day in the field. The filtering kit did not arrive until after the first field trip, therefore no water samples for lab work could be collected during the first field trip. Three logger stations were deployed. The biggest challenge was the filtering. The majority of ponds and lakes were so turbid so that only small amounts could be filtered. Some of the water samples for the lab company had to be sent off unfiltered. CE noted that pre-filtering with a coarser filter might be helpful. RF noted that 500 ml of deionised water could be added to 500 ml of filtered water to make the 1 l for the lab company, the results could then be doubled.

SC adjusted the sampling protocol for invertebrates to take into account the varying properties of waterbodies, meaning that two additional sample types for invertebrates were collected. SC also mentioned the possibility to sample with the 250 um net instead of the current 1 mm net, but the former would collect much more debris, which would make it more difficult to detect specimen and move them to vials.

SC also stated that labwork between fieldwork is very time consuming. She currently is able to carry out labwork for POM/POC, alkalinity and filters samples for later chlorophyll analyses.

2. Project Admin

- Annual report: SC will circulate a draft version on 20 April and will incorporate everyone's feedback on 30 April to produce the final version.
- Literature Review: SC has completed the review, which will be available on the website. She would also appreciate everyone's comments in due course to produce an updated version.
- Other documents: M&E Plan and project scope will be uploaded to the project website. SC asked CE and JT to enquire about the progress of the signing of the research agreements.

- DB reported that the project's paper presented to the Environment Committee received positive feedback and generated good discussions on drainage. Although out of the remit of the project, the PMG is considering summarising the UK experience and possibly presenting this as part of the Project Year 2 Symposium.

3. Upcoming fieldwork season

SC enquired about everyone's thoughts on international travel for the upcoming austral summer. The consensus was that it is too difficult to tell what the situation will be. The PMG decided to make more specific plans in the next PMG meeting in July 2021. SC suggested that it would be best for fieldwork arrangements if project partners came out individually rather than all together; is this were to be happening that way then the Symposium would have to take place partially online.

4. eDNA

SC updated the group that she will schedule a meeting with researchers from Swansea University soon in order to progress with the eDNA side of the project.

5. Other matters

- SC suggested a meeting with interested project partners to talk through the fieldwork data. She will organise this once all of the data have been entered into relevant spreadsheets.
- SC will have a meeting with FIG's Head of Environment on 19 April to discuss options for progressing with Ramsar designations.