

SOIL MAPS – ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE ON FIRST IMPRESSIONS AND FURTHER WORK

SUMMARY REPORT SEPTEMBER 2020 – STEFANIE CARTER



The DPLUS083 Soil Maps were sent to landowners in the Falkland Islands as PDF maps on a memory stick at the end of July 2020 and were accompanied by a printed [Soil Map Interpretation Guide](#). An online survey was prepared and sent to 77 landowners (the number for which we had up-to-date contact details) in mid-August 2020 to find out what the first impressions of the maps were, to understand if their presentation and delivery was fit for purpose and what further work is required. The survey closed mid-September 2020; here we present a summary of the results.

A total of 18 landowners participated in the online questionnaire and 82% of them had been aware of the Soil Mapping Project prior to receiving the maps. The majority of them had viewed their PDF maps before completing the survey and all of them had read the soil map interpretation guide but only one participant had explored the maps on the online webGIS.

Nearly three quarters of all participants considered the maps to be either extraordinary, excellent or good (Figure 1) and over half considered the interpretation guide to be either good or excellent (Figure 2). Out of all landowners participating in the survey half of them thought it is likely that they will make land management decisions based on information obtained from the soil maps. Regarding further assistance with the interpretation and application of the soil maps, just over half believe they will definitely or possibly require further assistance (Figure 3).

One question asked for feedback on how the soil maps can be improved in respect to looks, presentation and content. Overall, participants were satisfied with the maps, some required further study of the maps, one person suggested one-to-one sessions to answer questions and to explain the limitations of the current dataset as a resource for land management and one person would like funding to conduct development on the ground (Figure 4).

The final question asked for suggestions for further work required to tackle land management issues and challenges. The following suggestions were made:

- Indication of carrying capacity of soils and vegetation for livestock and areas which should be rested from agriculture
- Areas & ratio of 'less useful' land (no real grazing value or capacity to be able to be mapped &/or distinguished
- Calafate
- To start with the soil tests being done properly, they have to be more accurate
- Our land is so dry in the summer what help or advice can you give us on this
- Because of our organic status and because it's something we believe in very much, our land restoration revolves around the introducing/encouraging new growth of native plants
- Greater refinement of support programmes required (from all parties) to make better use of this information and the myriad of other information already available, to improve long term farm decision making. Systems approach.
- The relationship between stocking density over time and plant communities, water table, soil erosion, nutrient levels and livestock condition
- Any land development requires time, resources, equipment, money etc. Without this no development will happen no matter what reports or surveys are done. Grant funding is required to see something happen.

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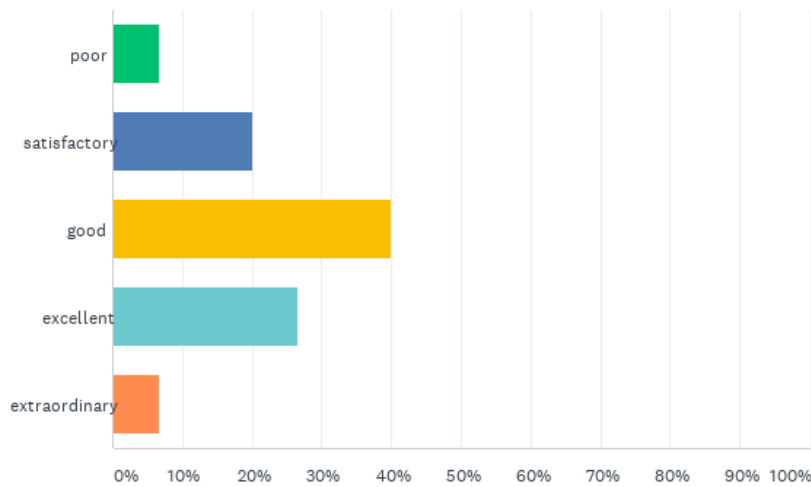


Figure 1: Summary of answers to the question 'If you have looked at your soil maps, what is your overall impression of the soil maps?' Completed by 15 participants.

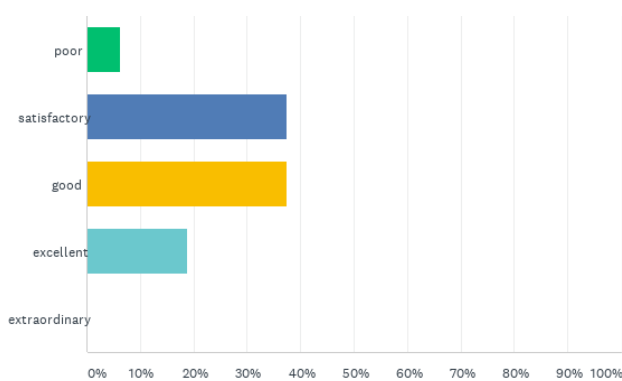


Figure 2: Summary of answers to the question 'What is your overall impression of the soil map interpretation guide?' Completed by 16 participants.

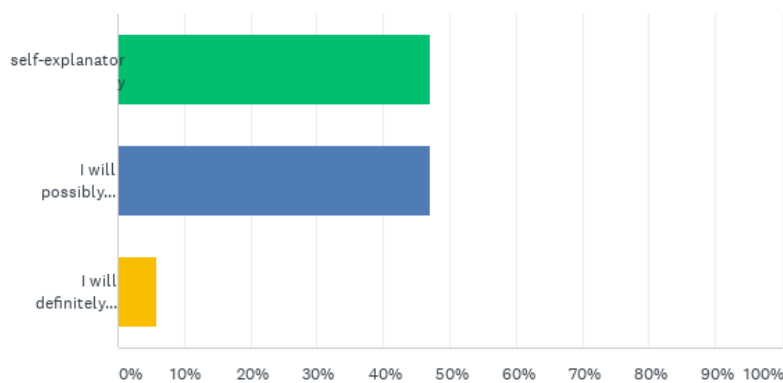


Figure 3: Summary of answers to the question 'Are the soil maps used with the interpretation guide self-explanatory or will you require assistance for their practical application?' Completed by 17 participants.

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#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Nothing to add	9/16/2020 5:11 PM
2	Need to study further before commenting on this..!	9/13/2020 6:43 PM
3	Happy with what the content they provide at present.	9/10/2020 12:39 PM
4	I will need to update farm maps for all involved.	9/7/2020 12:14 PM
5	Some of the info is very poor, I know the test results that I have done in the past are a lot different to these!	9/7/2020 12:04 PM
6	I found them ok	9/4/2020 10:27 PM
7	We need to study the maps more carefully our land management revolves very much around our organic status	9/4/2020 10:36 AM
8	Valuable data set that will add to the pool of information.	9/4/2020 10:19 AM
9	One to one or small group sessions to answer questions and explain the limitations of the current dataset as a resource for land management	9/3/2020 9:42 PM
10	With funding to conduct any development on the ground.	9/3/2020 12:47 PM
11	Not sure yet, need to spend some more time looking at them.	8/18/2020 11:35 AM
12	I like them just the way they are	8/18/2020 10:05 AM

Figure 4: Responses to the question 'How can the soil maps be improved? Please state how they can be made more relevant or accessible to you. This can be in respect to looks, presentation, content, etc.' Completed by 12 participants.