

# **1 THE PLAN**

### 3.1 Delivering Protected Areas

As addressed in Section 2.5, considerable work has been done over the last two decades to identify and designate potential protected areas. Six areas, Mt. Hartman and Sandy Island/Oyster Bay have been approved by Cabinet and are awaiting designation. Several areas, including Fort Frederick, Fort Matthew and Fort George are actively managed as historic sites. The 1988 OAS system plan, the 1998 land use plan for Carriacou and Petite Martinique and The Nature Conservancy's efforts on conservation gap analysis have all reported on candidates that meet terrestrial and marine protected area criterion.

In some cases, sites such as Grand Etang, Levera, Belair and High North have been recognized by both signage and in tourism promotion as national parks when, in fact, they never have been designated. Some of the sites, such as Fort George and Fort Frederick, are actively managed and considered designated protected areas but they are not. Some of the sites have gone through rigorous land use planning processes but many have not.

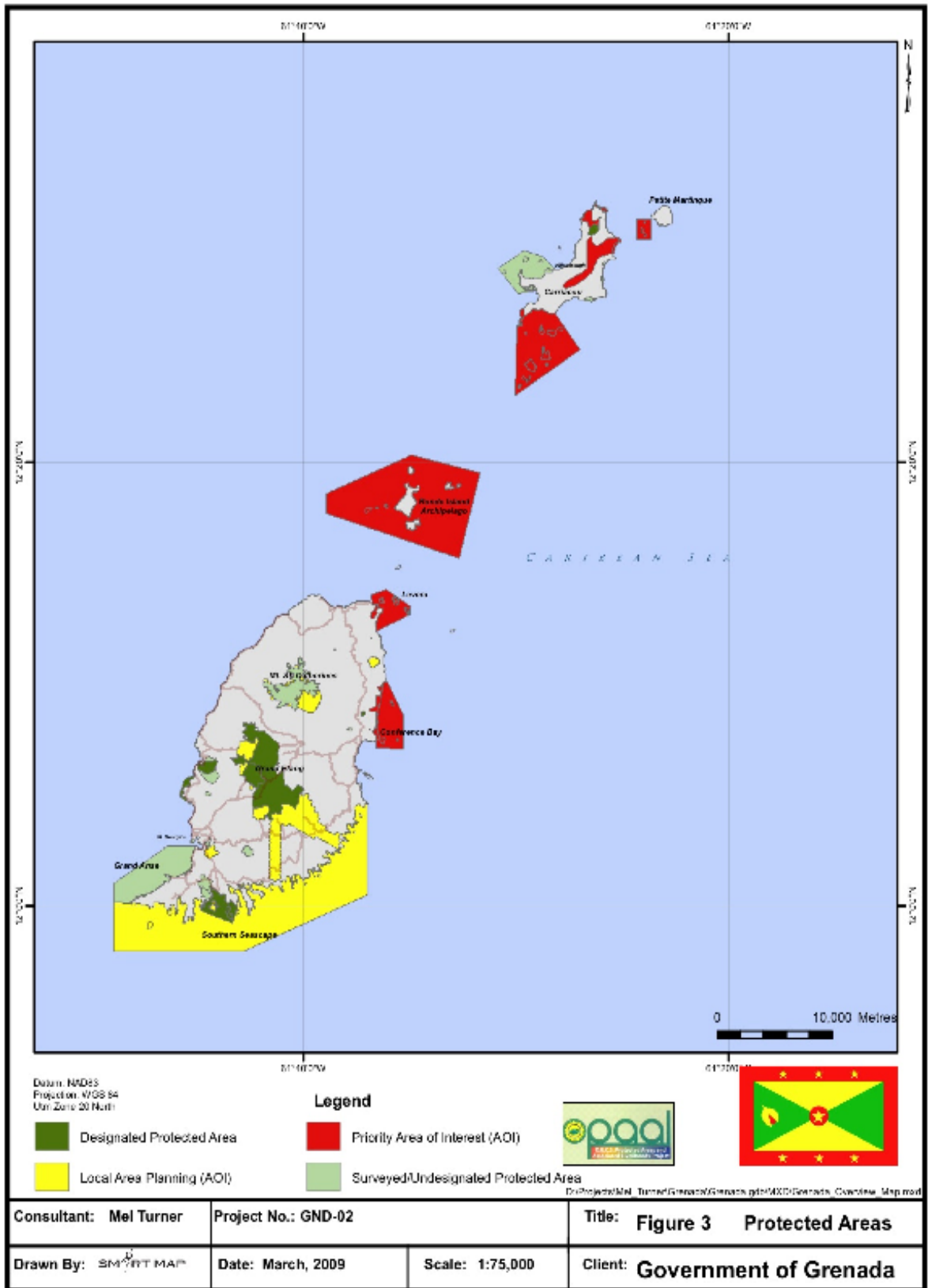
Recognizing the work done to date on the identification of possible protected area candidates by both Department of Forestry and National Parks' and Department of Fisheries' planning and general land use planning, the intention of successive governments on the establishment of protected areas and the belief of Grenadians on what is protected by designation, the plan proposes three phases to deliver a system of marine and terrestrial protected areas..

Firstly, those areas that have been historically considered and accepted by Grenadians as protected areas, those areas previously approved and surveyed for protected area status, and those existing protected areas with approved management plans recommending other designations, should be designated as soon as possible.

Secondly, protected area proposals should be prepared for those areas that have been identified by other completed and accepted land use studies and by this plan as priority areas of interest due to competing land use pressures. These proposals should be initiated as soon as possible to ensure that protected area opportunities are not lost.

Finally, in an effort to encourage full public consultation and gain public support, the remaining areas that are not threatened at this time and have been identified by this plan should be studied and assessed along with other land use demands as part of the Physical Planning Unit's local area planning process.

Figure 3 shows the existing and proposed protected areas and study areas of interest.



### **3.2 Designation and Categorization of Accepted Sites**

The following sites have been should be considered as accepted sites and the recommended action taken:

Under the *National Parks and Protected Areas Act (1991)*:

- Designate that portion of the Grand Etang and Annandale Forest Reserve identified in the approved management plan (Turner, 2007) as Grand Etang National Park and retain the remnant portion as Grand Etang Forest Reserve and Annandale Forest Reserve
- Revise the boundary of Perseverance Protected Area by deleting the sections currently used for landfill and housing purposes and adding the Crown lands in the Beausejour/Perseverance estates that encompass the Grenada Dove habitat as shown in Figure 4 and change the designation of the revised Perseverance Protected Area to Perseverance National Park
- Re-designate the recently-revised boundaries of Mt. Hartman as a national park (Figure 4)
- Designate Richmond Hill, including the Botanical Gardens, Lagoon Road and the immediate foreshore described as public domain by the Grenada Ports Authority and Fort George, Fort Frederick, Fort Matthew and Annandale Falls as national parks (Figure 4)
- Designate Grand Anse as a national park, including Camerhogne and Quaratine Point and the marine foreshore component from Point Salines to Martins Bay. (Figure 4)

Under the *Fisheries Act*:

- Designate Sandy Island/Oyster Bay Marine Reserve (Figure 5)

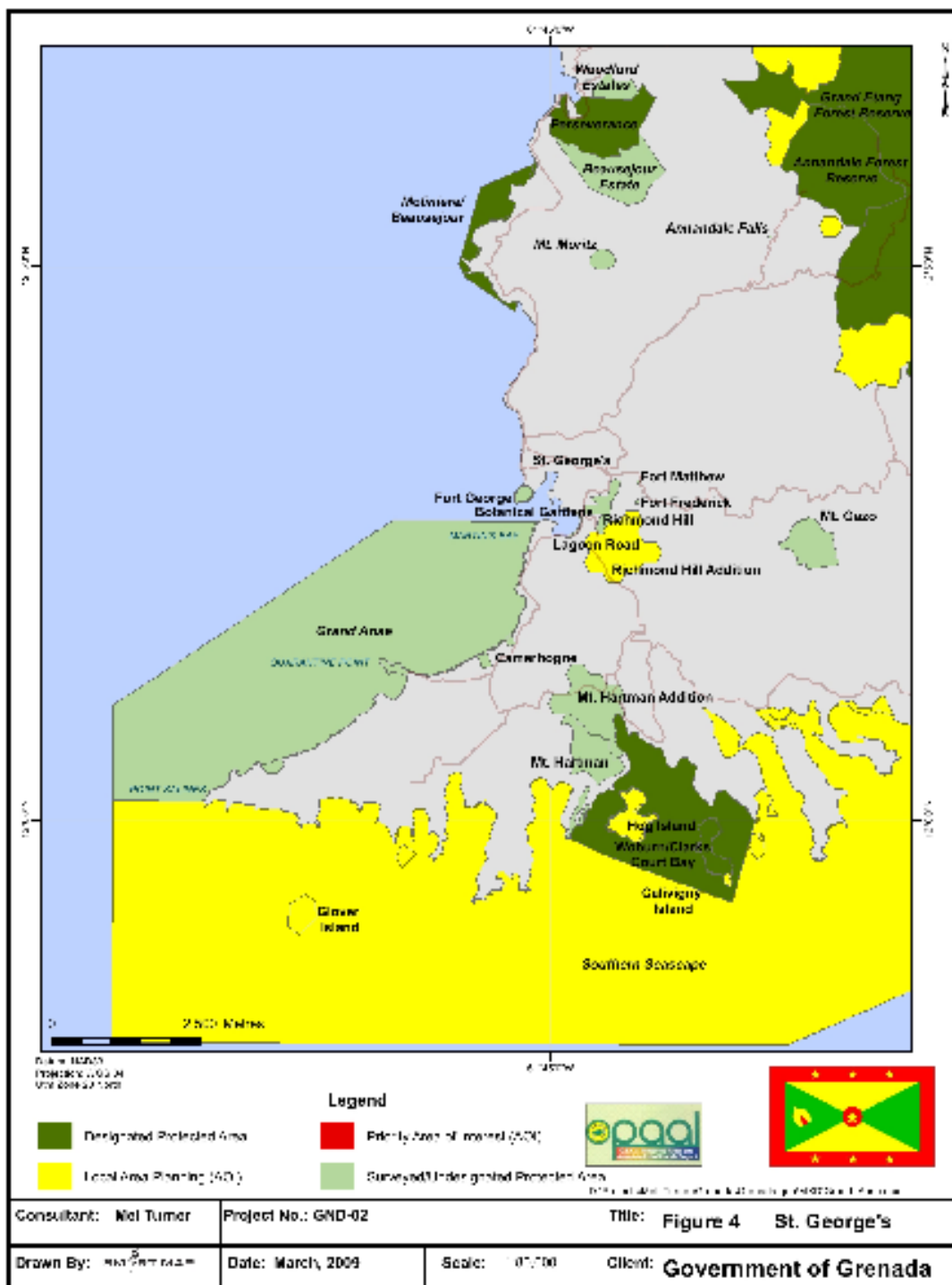
Under the *Forest Soil and Water Conservation Act*:

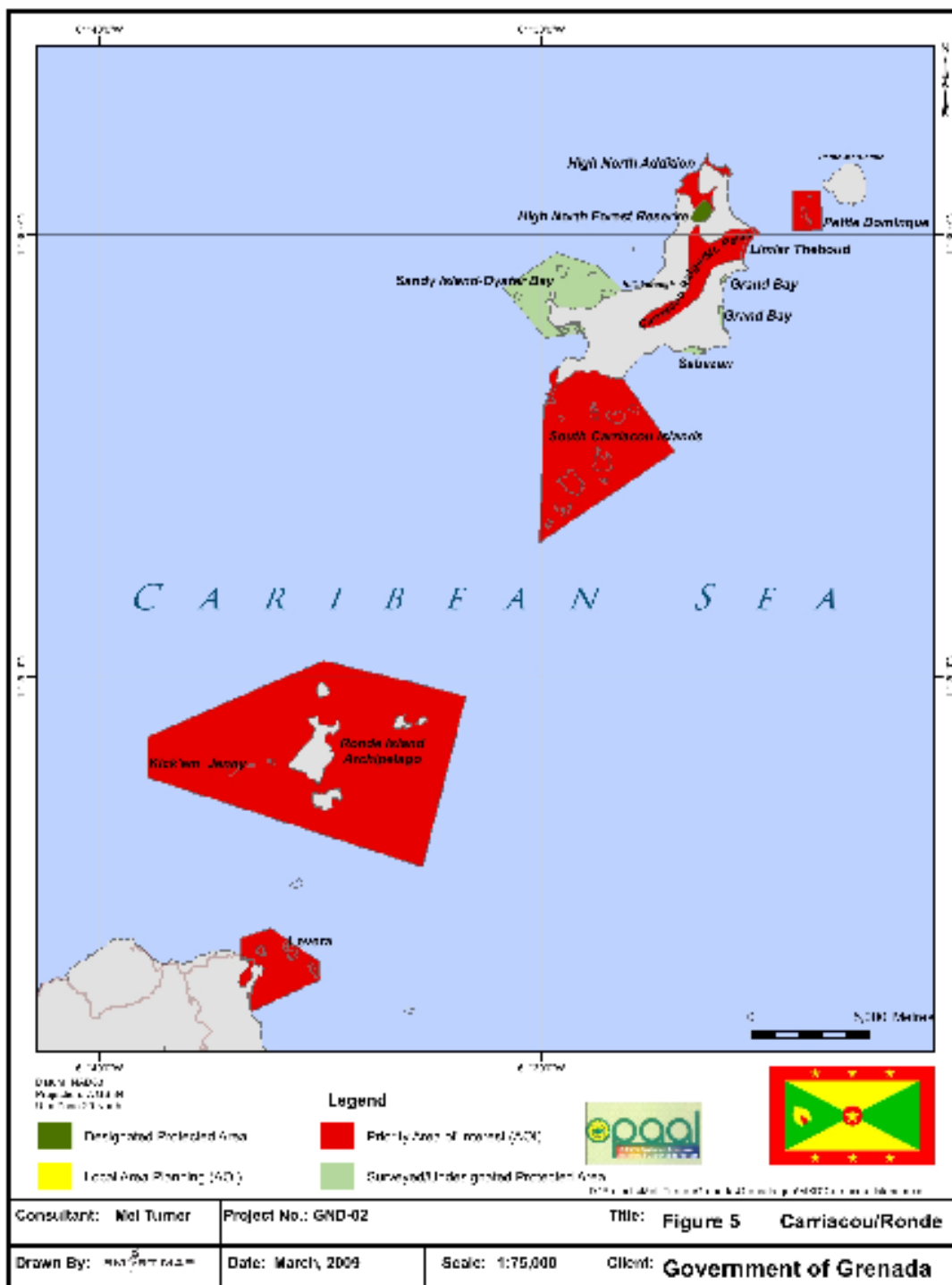
- Complete the designation of Mt. St. Catherine, Mt. Gazo, Grand Bras and Mt. Moritz as forest reserves (Figure 6)

Once management plans have been prepared and approved for these forest reserves as well as High North Forest Reserve on Carriacou, all or portions of these forest reserves not proposed for the commercial development of forest and non-forest products could be considered for re-designation as national parks.

Three other sites, all privately owned, merit immediate attention.

Firstly, discussions should occur with the Roman Catholic Church in an effort to reach an agreement to establish Caribs' Leap as a national park.





Consultant: Neil Turner

Project No.: GND-02

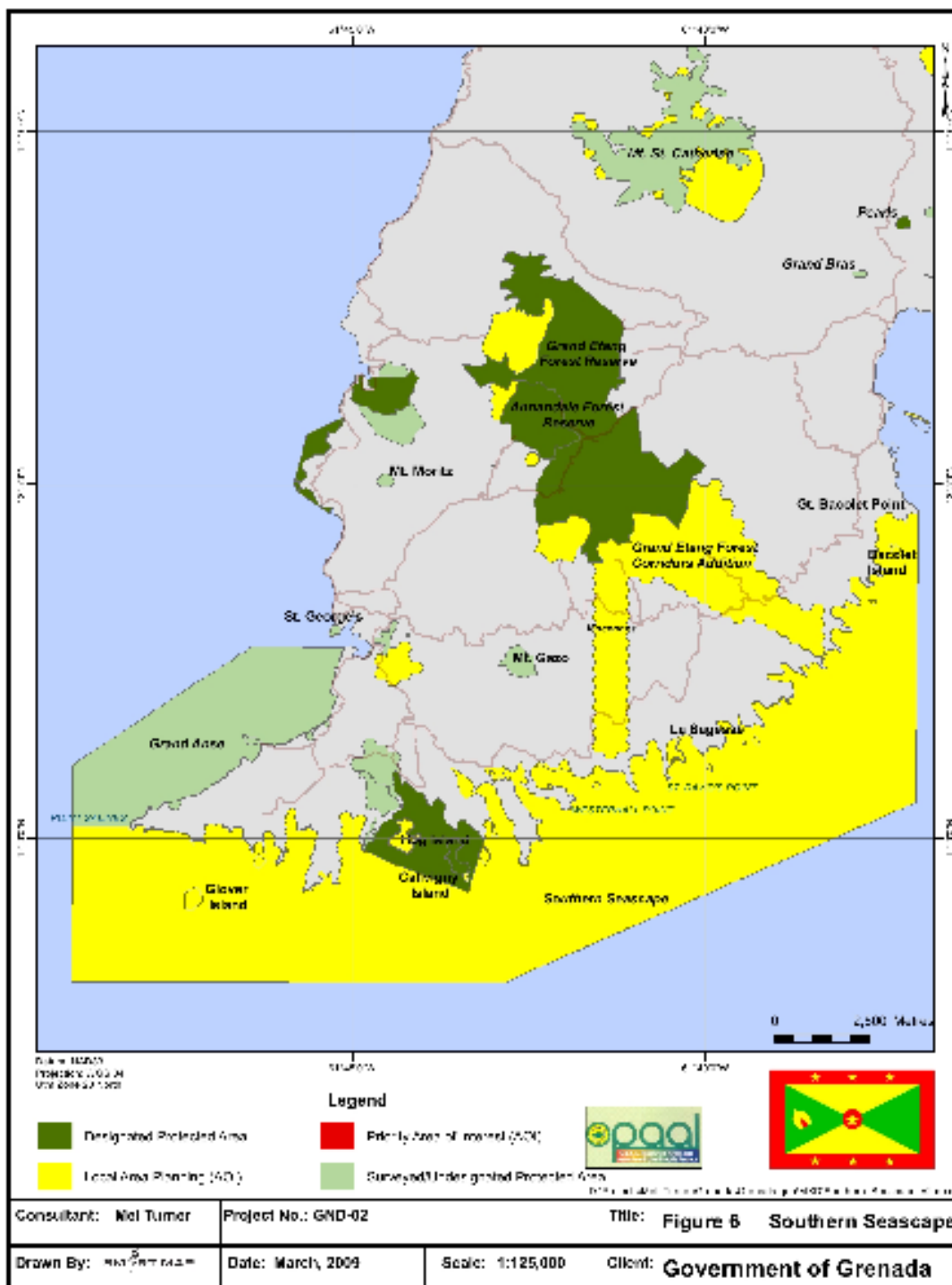
Title: Figure 5 Carriacou/Rondele

Drawn By: Neil Turner

Date: March, 2009

Scale: 1:75,000

Client: Government of Grenada



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**Legend**

- Designated Protected Area
- Local Area Planning (LAP)

- Surveyed/Under-granted Protected Area
- Priority Area of Interest (PAOI)



PAAL is a joint initiative of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB).

Consultant: Neil Turner

Project No.: GND-02

Title: Figure 5 Southern Seascapes

Drawn By: Neil Turner

Date: March, 2009

Scale: 1:125,000

Client: Government of Grenada

Secondly, discussions should occur with private landowners within the Beausejour/Perseverance estates and the Woodford estate area of interest, Figure 4, as well as the Mt. Hartman Addition area of interest, Figure 4, in an effort to reach agreements that would add habitat for the Grenada Dove to the existing Perseverance Protected Area (proposed Perseverance National Park) and the proposed Mt. Hartman National Park. Finally, negotiations should commence with the owners of the archaeological and fossil sites at Grand Bay and the archaeological site at Sabazan on Carriacou, Figure 5, with the intent of establishing these significant sites as national parks.

Once established, the boundaries of the sites should be placed on all government maps.

Designation of these sites would see the amount of terrestrial area under protected area status reach 10% and the area under marine protected area status reach 15%.

### **3.3 Priority Areas of Interest**

Previous land and marine use studies have been conducted, at considerable country and donor expense, over the last decade and enjoy general government support. Although these studies, collectively, have identified areas of nationally-significant protected area potential, little action has been taken and existing land use pressures from residential, tourism and industrial development have the potential to threaten future protected area designation and conservation opportunities that can be lost forever. To address that concern, voiced many times in discussions with individuals and groups during the preparation of this system plan, these areas can now be subject to land status and the preparation of a detailed protected area proposal with both a defined purpose and boundary.

Three areas fall into this category: Carriacou, Conference Bay and Levera.

Table 3 lists the priority areas of interest.

In Carriacou, the 1998 *Planning for Sustainable Development* plan, supported by the 1988 OAS system plan for protected areas and the 1997 *Tourism Master Plan*, contributed to the identification of significant conservation, heritage and recreation values in both the terrestrial and marine environments. Efforts should now focus on the preparation of individual national park, marine protected area and forest reserve proposals for each of the identified protected area candidates as well as the Ronde Island Archipelago, including Kick'em Jenny (Figure 5).



Table 3 PRIORITY AREAS OF INTEREST

AREA OF INTEREST	PARISH	PROPOSED DESIGNATION
Levera	St. Patrick	National Park
Conference Bay	St. Andrew	National Park
Ronde Island Archipelago		Marine Protected Area
High North Addition	Carriacou	Forest Reserve Addition
Carriacou Ridge/ Mt. Pelea	Carriacou	Forest Reserve
Limlair Theboud	Carriacou	National Park
Petite Dominique	Carriacou	Marine Protected Area
South Carriacou Islands	Carriacou	Marine Protected Area

In Grenada, the *Greater Grenville Area Land Use Plan* prepared by the Physical Planning Unit has identified that some 150 hectares of Conference Bay seafront from Telescope Point north to Artiste Point should be dedicated for conservation purposes. This recommendation represents the southern component of the OAS system plan’s Northern Seascape proposal. The proposed protected area should now be subject of a land status and negotiations should occur with respective owners leading to designation of lands as a national park. The foreshore component, some 1500 hectares, should also be incorporated into the proposed national park and the overall proposal, once completed, should be forwarded for approval and designation.

“Levera National Park” is found in almost every tourism publication yet it does not exist. Although the Government embarked on a land assembly of the private lands adjoining the lake and fronting the beach, as well as Bathway Beach, some time ago, the park was never established and the land remains in private ownership. In an effort to bring closure to this long-standing initiative, the Government should conclude negotiations with the

adjacent owners, both of which support the establishment of a national park surrounding the lake and fronting Levera Beach, and designate the area, as well as Bathway Beach and the immediate foreshore, as a national park.

Both of these proposals are shown in Figure 7.

As with the forest reserves identified in Section 3.2, upon approval of management plans, some areas of forest reserve, such as Belair or High North, could be considered for designation as national park or protected area.

Depending on the final boundaries of the protected area proposals, completion of this phase should see the terrestrial area reach 13% and the marine area reach 32%.

### **3.4 Study of Areas of Interest**

The Physical Planning Unit's program for the preparation of local area plans, now completed for Greater Grenville and currently underway for Greater Sauteurs, will guide the establishment of future terrestrial and marine protected areas.

Although the focus of the local area planning process is on land use, the process itself considered the near-shore marine resources and, in the current planning process underway for Greater Sauteurs, identifies a marine protected area at Levera. This relationship of the marine environment with adjacent land use in the terrestrial environment should continue to be addressed and the areas proposed by this plan as marine protected areas should continue to be considered and addressed by the local area planning process. In review of both the *Greater Grenville Local Area Plan* and the draft local area plan for Greater Sauteurs, the areas recommended for both marine and terrestrial protected area status mirrored those previously identified by the OAS' system plan, the *Tourism Master Plan* and the work done by The Nature Conservancy and others, thus confirming the process for both identification and for generating community support.

This system plan recommends that 13 areas of interest be considered based on analysis conducted on natural and cultural resources from previous planning studies and current reviews. In an effort though to ensure that all land use options have been considered in a recognized and community-supported planning process, these areas of interest should be reviewed in the context of best land use and the local area planning process.

Table 4 outlines the Areas of Interest that should be subject to the Physical Planning Unit's local area planning process.



TABLE 4 STUDY AREAS of INTEREST for LOCAL AREA PLANNING

AREA OF INTEREST	PARISH	PROPOSED DESIGNATION
Richmond Hill Addition	St. George	St. George's National Park addition
Mt. St. Catherine Addition	St. Mark St. Andrew St. John	Mt. St. Catherine Forest Reserve Addition
Concord Watershed	St. David	Grand Etang Forest Reserve Addition
Annandale Addition	St. George	Annandale Forest Reserve Addition
Mt. Hartman Addition	St. George	Mt. Hartman National Park Addition
Southern Seascape	St. David St. George	Marine Protected Area
Chemin Watershed	St. David	Grand Etang Forest Reserve Addition
Marquis Island	St. Andrew	National Park
Mt. Rich	St. Patrick	National Park
Grand Etang Forest Corridors	St. David	Forest Reserve
La Sagesse	St. David	National Park
Lake Antoine	St. Patrick	National Park
River Sallee	St. Patrick	National Park

The natural and cultural resource values of existing protected areas, the accepted sites considered as protected and the priority areas of interest have all been well documented in management plans, the OAS system plan, the *Planning for Sustainable Development: Carriacou and Petite Martinique* and the *Greater Grenville Local Area Plan* and further defined in TNC gap analysis. However, the values of the 13 sites proposed for consideration as protected areas through the Physical Planning Unit's local area planning process need further identification. Brief profiles, outlining each of these site's natural and cultural resource values, have been created to assist in the future local area planning processes. These profiles are in Appendix 1.

Once areas of interest have been considered for protected area status as part of the overall local area planning process, a detailed protected area proposal should be prepared for each recommended site and presented for approval.

The local area planning process is expected to be completed in 2015. To ensure opportunities are not lost prior to and during the initiation of any local area plan, notations of interest should be established on Crown lands within the identified areas of interest.

Should designation of these areas occur after acceptance as part of the local area planning process, and combined with the accepted and priority sites identified in Sections 3.2 and 3.3, representation of terrestrial and near-shore marine environments a shown in Table 1 would grow to representations shown in Table 5. Depending on the final areas selected as part of the outcomes of the planning process, the terrestrial area in protected area designation should reach 25% and the marine protected areas, X%.

Table 5 Representation of Terrestrial and Near-shore Marine Environments in Protected Areas

Terrestrial Environments	Existing % Representation	Proposed % Representation
Transitional Cloud Forest	66	100
Cloud Forest	27	99
Evergreen Forest	25	49
Emergent Wetlands	20	47
Grenada dove habitat	11	100
Dry Deciduous Forest	1	27
Semideciduous Forest	2	14
Drought Deciduous Forest	1	16
Mixed Wood agriculture	1	9
Streams	5	17
Rivers	1	5
Fresh Water bodies	1	74

Marine Environment	%	
Seagrass	10	59
Mangroves	1	44
Intertidal reef flat	5	77
Leatherback nesting site	0	51
White sand beach	2	30
Rocky shore	4	43
Reef flat	1	22
Hawksbill nesting site	0	42
Shelf structure	2	21
Fore reef	1	26
Black sand beach	0	68
Lagoonal habitat	0	37
Shallow terrace	0	35
Shoal	0	11

The establishment of a system of terrestrial and marine protected areas as recommended in this plan will substantially meet the commitments that Grenada made to its international partners, and more importantly, to Grenadians and their livelihoods.

But more is still needed. Although most of the environments identified in the gap analysis will be represented in excess of the Grenada Declaration as shown in Table 5, the contribution of existing and proposed protected areas to the protection of habitats of threatened species identified on the IUCN red list is not known due to the lack of inventory of those habitats and the uncertainty of the list itself.

Prior to the review of the system plan, studies need to be conducted on those species, their habitats identified and the coverage of those habitats within the protected area system evaluated.