

Action Plan for Implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity's Programme of Work on Protected Areas



(GRENADA)

Submitted to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity [13th April, 2012]

Protected area information:

PoWPA Focal Point: (Mr. Aaron Francois, Permanent Secretary)

Lead implementing agency: (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Grenada)

Multi-stakeholder committee: (National Implementation Support Partnership (NISP) committee, Natural, Cultural and Heritage Advisory Committee (NCHAC) and Sustainable Development Council (SDC))

Description of protected area system

National Targets and Vision for Protected Areas

Grenada, at the 8th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 8) recognizing the significance of their natural and cultural diversity and the vulnerability of their ecological, social and economic values from world events and natural disasters, pledged to effectively conserve at least 25% of its near shore marine area and at least 25% of its terrestrial area by 2020 as a means to contribute to the sustainable livelihoods for its people and to contribute to protection of the world's biodiversity.

The gap analysis conducted in 2006 as part of a partnership with The Nature Conservancy on representative marine and terrestrial ecosystems and specified wildlife habitats identified the degree of representation on existing and proposed protected areas and brought a structured and scientific, conservation approach to the selection process. This gap analysis was supported by numerous studies including the Grenada Dove Conservation Program which highlighted representative habitats and features and their degree of inclusion within designated protected areas. It also highlighted those habitats and features with little or no representation, thus providing a focus and target for protected area candidates and attempting to ensure that the system truly meets the biodiversity goals of Grenada.¹

To date, the Gap Analysis assessments have focused on conservation values.

"Comprehensive assessments on heritage, recreation and tourism components of protected areas have been limited and no targets for those components, except for those identified in the OAS system plan and the *Tourism Master Plan*, have been established. To address this limitation and to update the gap analysis, a workshop was held in St. George's in February, 2009 to further refine the selection of protected area candidates."²

The vision for the protected area system is to confirm Grenada's existing protected areas and identify nationally-significant marine and terrestrial environments that meet the criteria as potential protected areas and could be designated, in a phased approach, as protected areas by 2020, thus meeting the goals of the Grenada Declaration.

¹ Grenada Protected Area System Plan Part 1: Identification and Designation of Protected Areas, Turner Mel, July 2009

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Minister's Message

"Grenada is richly endowed with natural and cultural resources that are recognized with pride by all Grenadians. From the elfin forest to the mangroves to the coral reefs, from waterfalls to heritage sites that reflect our culture through time, Grenadians have embraced these resources and shared them with our visitors. Their protection for today and tomorrow is a national goal and an international commitment.

Completion of Grenada's protected area system plan will be a cooperative effort between the Government of Grenada, non-government organizations both home and abroad and, most importantly, Grenadians. The implementation of the plan will require consensus and determination and the recognition of the important contribution that protected areas make to the quality of the environment and the quality of our lives. "

Coverage

Existing Protected Areas and Associated Plans

Grenada currently has a few protected areas designated by legislation:

- Grand Etang Forest Reserve
- Annandale Forest Reserve
- High North Forest Reserve
- Perseverance Protected Area
- Woburn/Clarks Court Bay Marine Protected Area
- Moliniere/Beausejour Marine Protected Area
- Unspecified Crown lands at Pearls are designated as a protected area

Mt. Hartman was established as a national park and protected area in 1996, along with the Perseverance Protected Area, to protect the habitat of the Grenada dove. More recently, the Mt. Hartman National Park and Protected Area was cancelled with the intention to reconfigure the protected area boundaries to accommodate resort development. The protected area has yet to be re-established.

A Cabinet Conclusion was reached to establish Richmond Hill, Grand Bras, Mt. Gazo and Mt. Moritz as forest reserves and Lagoon Road as a park but these areas have yet to be gazetted. Mt. St. Catherine was also the subject of a Cabinet submission but more work needs to be done on land status and negotiation.

In 2001, Grenada established two marine protected areas under the *Fisheries Act*: Woburn/Clarks Court Bay and Moliniere/Beausejour were established as two marine protected areas. Sandy Island/Oyster Bay Marine Protected Area on Carriacou has been recently approved by Cabinet and is also expected to be established shortly.

In 2006, Annandale Forest Reserve was established. Previously, 99 years earlier, High North on Carriacou was established as a Forest Reserve. Under the *National Heritage Protection Act*, unspecified Crown land at Pearls was established as a protected area for Amerindian artefacts.

In total, the existing designated sites account for over 8% of the terrestrial environment and some 1.5% of the near-shore marine environment.

A management plan was approved in 2007 for Grand Etang/Annandale Forest Reserves (Turner, 2007) and draft plans have been prepared for Mt. Hartman National Park and Protected Area and Perseverance Protected Area (Jackson, 1998). No management plans have been prepared for the High North Forest Reserve or the Woburn/Clarks Court Bay and Moliniere/Beausejour Marine Protected Areas although zoning has occurred in the marine protected areas as part of their establishment. A management plan was prepared for the proposed Sandy Island/Oyster Bay Marine Protected Area in 2007.

Management plan has been completed for Perseverance-Beausejour which includes approximately 100 acres of crown lands. Beausejour recently received cabinet approval and Mt Hartman received cabinet approval to regazette approximately 154 acres. Both Perseverance – Beausejour and Mt. Hartman received cabinet approval in august 2011 but have not been gazetted.

Description and background

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, the plan proposes three phases to deliver a system of marine and terrestrial protected areas outlined in figure 1 below.

The first phase is for the 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.

The second phase indicates that the 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. This ensures that protected area opportunities are not lost and these proposals should be initiated as soon as possible.

Finally, in an effort to encourage full public consultation and gain public support, the third phase deals with the remaining areas that are not threatened at this time and have been

identified by this plan. These should be studied and assessed along with other land use demands as part of the Physical Planning Unit's local area planning process.

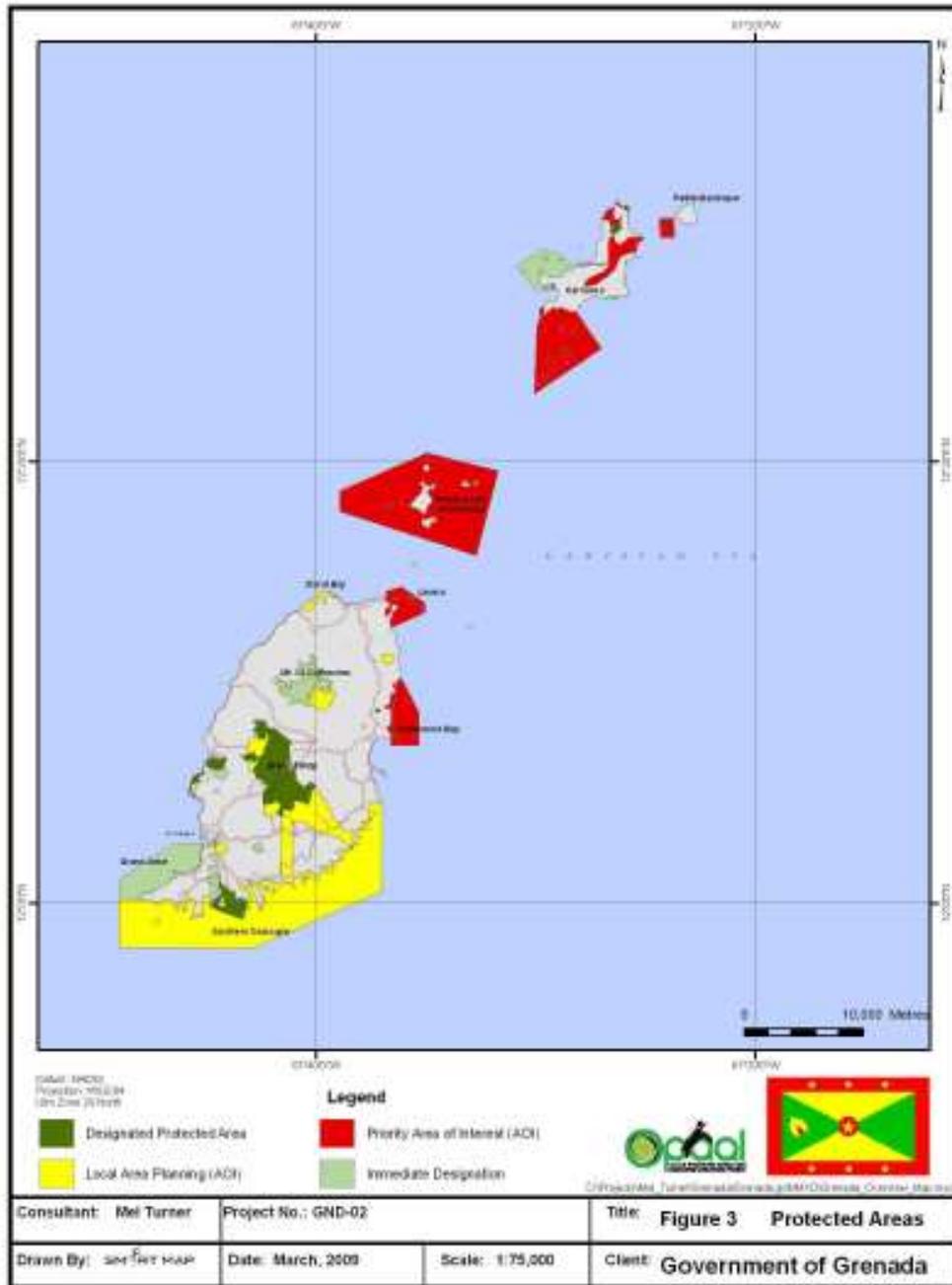


Figure 1 shows the existing and proposed protected areas and study areas of interest.

Representatives of the Existing System

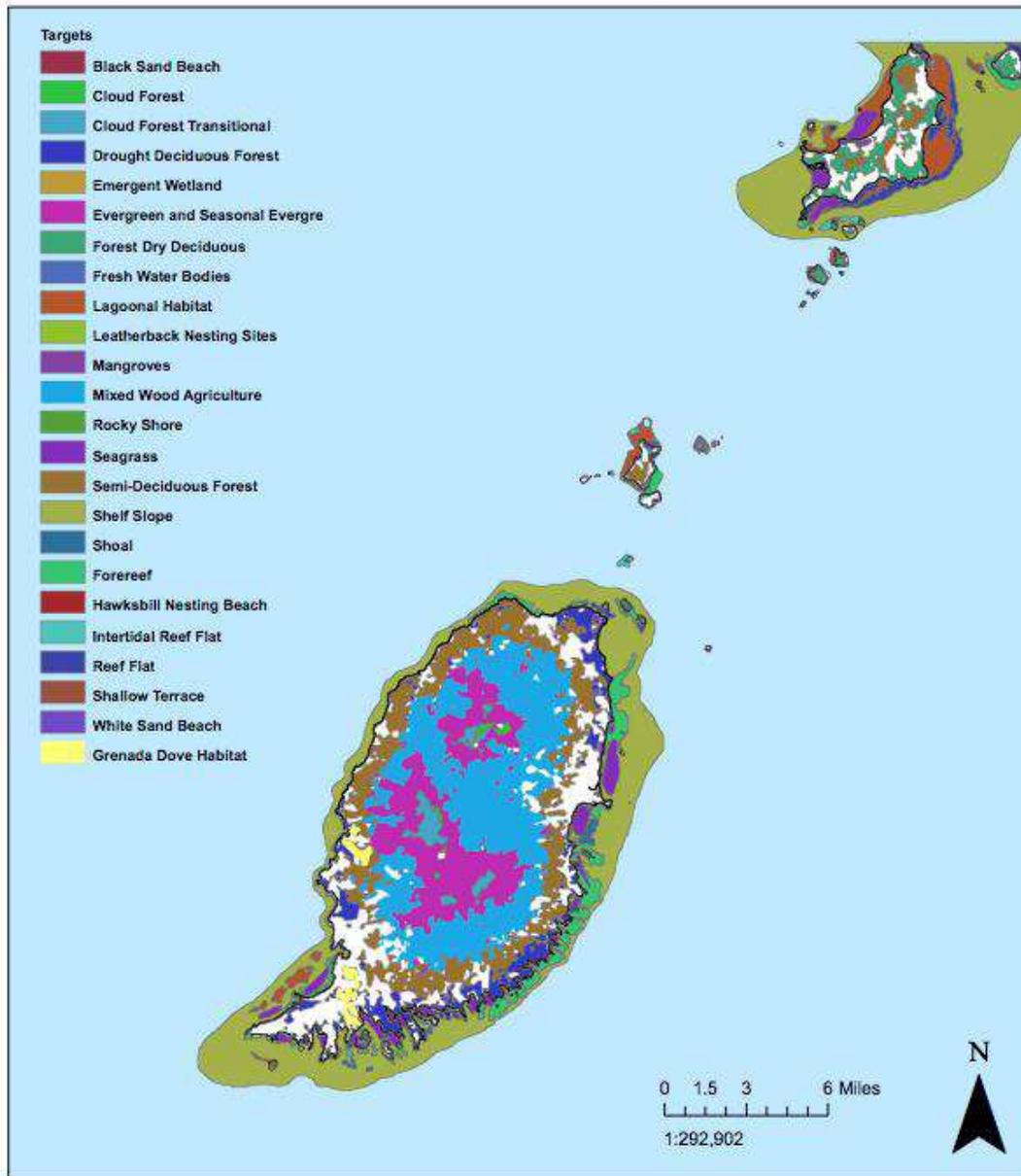
A more complete analysis, focusing on biodiversity as represented by terrestrial vegetation types, near-shore marine environments, freshwater systems and significant habitats, was conducted by The Nature Conservancy in association with a series of protected areas management strategy workshops in 2006 and 2009. Three terrestrial environments (cloud forest, transitional cloud forest and evergreen forest) met the intent of the Grenada Declaration of the 26 environments studied. Representation of the other environments was very limited.

Table 1 below shows the relative representation of terrestrial and near-shore marine environments and conservation targets in existing protected areas while Figure 2 shows the geographical representation of these environments in Grenada.

Table 1 - Representation Environments in Protected Areas

Terrestrial Environments	% Representation
Transitional Cloud Forest	66
Cloud Forest	27
Evergreen Forest	25
Emergent Wetlands	22
Grenada dove habitat	11
Dry Deciduous Forest	1
Semideciduous Forest	2
Drought Deciduous Forest	1
Mixed Wood agriculture	1
Streams	5
Rivers	1
Fresh Water bodies	1
Marine Environment	%
Seagrass	10
Intertidal reef flat	5
Rocky shore	4
White sand beach	2
Shelf structure	2
Mangroves	1
Reef flat	1
Fore reef	2
Leatherback nesting site	0
Hawksbill nesting site	0
Black sand beach	0
Lagoonal habitat	0
Shallow terrace	0
Shoal	0

Table 1 does not include the 154 acres of dry forest protected at Mt Hartman since the plan was written, as well as the 100 acres of a mix of dry and semi deciduous forest at Beausejour.



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 Caribbean GIS (S. W. Margles)
 Map Projection: UTM Zone 20N
 Geodetic Reference System: WGS 1984
 Source: Grenada Dove Habitat, TNC

Figure 2 shows the geographical representation of these environments in Grenada

Governance types

Existing Legislation

Acts / regulations	Description
National Parks and Protected Areas Act (1991)	<i>Act</i> grants authority for the Governor-General to proclaim government land, leased or purchased land or donated land, as a national park
the Fisheries Act 1986	This act allows the Minister of Agriculture, to declare any area of fisheries waters and any adjacent or surrounding land as a marine reserve
the 2001 Fisheries (Marine Protected Areas) Regulations	This regulation further defines a marine reserve as a marine protected area. The <i>Regulations</i> allow a part of a marine protected area to be established as a marine historical site (contains structures, artefacts or human remains and which needs to be protected for its historical or cultural value), a marine park (reserved for public recreation), a marine reserve (special management for the purpose of protecting the natural resources) and a marine sanctuary (open only for the purpose of scientific research) or a combination of any.
the 1947 Forest, Soil and Water Conservation Act	This act allows Crown land to be established as a forest reserve.
the 1990 National Heritage Protection Act	Deals with the protection of Amerindian and pre-Columbian artefacts and allows for designation of a protected area to restrict extraction and disturbance.
the 2002 Physical Planning and Development Control Act	Protect and conserve the natural and cultural heritage of Grenada. The Minister responsible for the <i>Act</i> may give general policy direction to national or community plans to achieve that objective by designating a heritage conservation area or an environmental area.

Table2 below shows the relationship between the IUCN and the Grenada Protected Area Legislation.

Table 2 - Comparison of IUCN categories with Grenada Protected Area Legislation

IUCN CATEGORY ⁵	GRENADA PROTECTED AREA CATEGORY
Ia Strict Nature Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Protected Area-marine sanctuary • National Park • Protected Area-preservation for scientific importance
Ib Wilderness Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Park
II National Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Park • Marine Protected Area-marine park
III Natural Monument or Feature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Protected Area-marine historical site • Heritage Conservation Area • Protected Area-preserving a historic event or historic or cultural object
IV Habitat/Species Management Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Protected Area-marine reserve • Protected Area-preserving natural beauty
V Protected Landscape/Seascape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Protected Area-marine park • Protected Area-preserving natural beauty • Protected Area-creating a recreation area
VI Protected Area with sustainable use of natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Protected Area-marine park • Marine Protected Area-marine reserve • Forest Reserve

Key threats

Previous OPAAL reports (Parsram, 2007; Gardner, 2006) have noted that threats to the efficient management of the Reserves include lack of coordination among agencies responsible for elements of protected area management and lack of enforcement of existing laws.

Some of the threats that affect the protected areas (marine and terrestrial) are as follow:

- Inadequate government support for both policy and financial needs since a management plan must have political support and attendant funding to be effective
- Failure to implement components of the existing legislation
- Lack of enforcement of existing regulations
- Denial of funds for operational and capital needs which hampers the effectiveness of a management plan and the goals it has outlined to achieve
- Duplication and uncertainty of management responsibility brought about by the relevant Ministries involved since they all have a management role
- Lack of formal agreements between entities responsible for protected area management
- Lack of or limited knowledge about the biophysical resources of the Forest Reserves and water supply needs for Grenada
- Lack of an adequate database and information management
- Limited scientific knowledge about the protected areas inhibits the development of management options to address concerns associated with the protected areas and to assess the environmental impacts
- Habitat fragmentation in protected areas
- Over-hunting, the introduction of bamboo as an invasive species, harvesting of produce without permits and grazing of animals in the protected areas
- Lack of public support influences government support
- Lack of or inadequate financing for protected areas is also a threat
- Pollution and predation associated with garbage disposal practices.

Barriers for effective implementation

Some of the key barriers for effective implementation are listed below.

- Inadequate financial resources
- Inadequate or lack of political support
- Inadequate technical support
- Human resource
- Lack of community support
- Lack of enforcement
- Capacity building and Institutional strengthening
- Inadequate public awareness

Status, priority and timeline for key actions of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas

Status of key actions of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas

Status of key actions of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas	Status
• Progress on assessing gaps in the protected area network (1.1)	4
• Progress in assessing protected area integration (1.2)	1
• Progress in establishing transboundary protected areas and regional networks (1.3)	3
• Progress in developing site-level management plans (1.4)	2
• Progress in assessing threats and opportunities for restoration (1.5)	1
• Progress in assessing equitable sharing of benefits (2.1)	1
• Progress in assessing protected area governance (2.1)	2
• Progress in assessing the participation of indigenous and local communities in key protected area decisions (2.2)	0
• Progress in assessing the policy environment for establishing and managing protected areas (3.1)	3
• Progress in assessing the values of protected areas (3.1)	3
• Progress in assessing protected area capacity needs (3.2)	3
• Progress in assessing the appropriate technology needs (3.3)	0
• Progress in assessing protected area sustainable finance needs (3.4)	3
• Progress in conducting public awareness campaigns (3.5)	2
• Progress in developing best practices and minimum standards (4.1)	2
• Progress in assessing management effectiveness (4.2)	0
• Progress in establishing an effective PA monitoring system (4.3)	0
• Progress in developing a research program for protected areas (4.4)	0
• Progress in assessing opportunities for marine protection	1
• Progress in incorporating climate change aspects into protected areas	1

Status: 0 = no work, 1 = just started, 2 = partially complete, 3 = nearly complete, 4 = complete

Priority actions for fully implementing the Programme of Work on Protected Areas:

Develop action plan to implement protected area system plan, and proposed areas within different categories in the plan.

There are some critical areas identified for immediate designation and these are listed below.

National Parks and Protected Areas Act (1991):

- To designate the 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
- To change the designation of the revised Perseverance Protected Area to Perseverance National Park
- To re-designate the recently-revised boundaries of Mt. Hartman as a national park
- To designate Richmond Hill, including the Botanical Gardens, Lagoon Park and the immediate foreshore and Fort George, Fort Frederick, Fort Matthew and Annandale Falls as national parks
- To designate Grand Anse, including Camerhogne, Quarantine Point, other adjacent significant Crown lands and the marine foreshore component from Point Salines to Martins Bay as a national park.

The Fisheries Act:

- To designate Sandy Island/Oyster Bay Marine Reserve

Under the Forest Soil and Water Conservation Act:

- To complete the designation of Mt. St. Catherine, Mt. Gazo, Grand Bras and Mt. Moritz as forest reserves.

Timeline for completion of key actions

To meet the obligation of the Caribbean Challenge and the Grenada Declaration, implement the System Plan and all the key actions listed by 2020.

Action Plans for completing priority actions of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas

Action 1: (Describe action) *Progress in assessing protected area integration (1.2)*

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible parties	Indicative budget \$US
Establishment of Charter (with roles and responsibilities for committee members) for the National Implementation Support Partnership (NISP) Committee	2012	Ministry of the Environment	GOG
Inter-sartorial planning, implementation and coordination	2013	Ministry of the Environment	\$150,000.00
Coherent policy, legislation and Statutory Rules and Orders (SRO's) consistent with Protected Areas management.	2013-14	Ministry of Agriculture	\$100,0000.00
Sustainable Financing Mechanisms and management	2013	Ministry of Finance	\$150,000.00
Research, holistic monitoring and evaluation systems	2014	Ministry of Agriculture	\$500,000.00

Action 2: (Describe action) *establishing transboundary protected areas and regional networks (1.3)*

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible parties	Indicative budget
Support and collaborate with NGO on regional networking and transboundary initiatives.	2013	Ministry of Agriculture & Foreign Affairs	\$200,000.00
Establishment of appropriate policy and legislation to address transboundary initiatives.	2013	Foreign Affairs	\$300,000.00

Establish/strengthen intergovernmental synergies.	2014	Ministry of the Environment	\$175,000.00
Strengthened awareness / participation	2013	Ministry of Agriculture and Environment	\$100,000.00
Capacity building	2013	Ministry of Environment and Agriculture	\$400,000.00

Action 3: (Describe action) Progress in developing site-level management plans (1.4)

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible parties	Indicative budget
Survey and /or map all existing and protected areas.	2014	Ministry of Agriculture	\$600,000.00
Gazette of all sites identified in Protected Areas System plan	2014	Ministry of Agriculture	\$20,000.00
Community consultation and participation	2013	Ministry of Agriculture	\$700,000.00
Sourcing of necessary funding			

Action 4: (Describe action) Progress in assessing threats and opportunities for restoration (1.5)

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible parties	Indicative budget
Stakeholder consultation	2013	Ministry of Agriculture	\$400,000.00
Identification and categorization of threats and opportunities for restoration	2013	Ministry of Agriculture	\$400,000.00

Action 6: (Describe action) Progress in assessing equitable sharing of benefits (2.1)

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible parties	Indicative budget
Strengthen collaboration with resource users in key ecosystems.	2013	Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment	\$700,000.00
Participatory data collection and analysis	2014	Ministry of Agriculture and Environment	\$800,000.00
Participatory monitoring and evaluation of resources	2014	Ministry of Agriculture and Environment	\$700,000.00

Action 7: (Describe action) Progress in assessing protected area governance (2.1)

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible parties	Indicative budget
Adoption of results from the willingness to pay survey	2013	Ministry of Tourism and Finance	\$100,000.00
Adaptation and application of results from the valuing of nature's goods and service assessments	2013	Ministry of Tourism and Finance	\$100,000.00
Implementation of the Protected Areas Trust Fund	2013	Ministry of Finance	\$125,000.00

Action 8: (Describe action) Progress in assessing the participation of indigenous and local communities in key protected area decisions (2.2)

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible parties	Indicative budget
Strengthen community consultation (particularly with resource users)	2015	Forestry and Fisheries department	\$75,000.00

		and NGO's and CBO's	
Inclusion of stakeholders views into management and action plans for protected areas	2015	Forestry & Fisheries department	\$50,000.00

Action 9: (Describe action) *Progress in assessing the policy environment for establishing and managing protected areas (3.1)*

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible parties	Indicative budget
Consultation with institutions that have the mandate to manage Protected Areas to address policy issues	2014	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries department	\$25,000.00
Public awareness and consultation of key stakeholders	2014	Forestry & Fisheries department	\$25,000.00
Review, update and amalgamation of all protected areas legislation.	2015	Ministry of Legal affairs and Forestry & Fisheries department	\$75,000.00
Development of appropriate Statutory Rules and Orders (SRO's) to enforce the Protected Areas legislation	2015	Ministry of Legal Affairs and Forestry & Fisheries department	\$150,000.00

Action 10: (Describe action) *Progress in assessing the values of protected areas (3.1)*

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible parties	Indicative budget
Willingness to pay survey	2013	Ministry of Environment and Forestry department	\$150'000.00
Valuing natures goods and services	2013	Ministry of Environment	\$125.000.00

Action 11: (Describe action) *Progress in assessing protected area capacity needs (3.2)*

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible parties	Indicative budget
Development of site specific management plans within protected areas	2014	Forestry & Fisheries department	\$150'000.00

Action 12: (Describe action) *Progress in assessing the appropriate technology needs (3.3)*

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible parties	Indicative budget
Consultation with key stakeholders to assess technology needs	2015	Forestry & Fisheries department	\$50,000.00
Development of tool for assessing technology needs	2015	Forestry & Fisheries department	\$75,000.00
Implementation of technological assessment needs analysis	2016	Forestry & Fisheries department	\$100.000.00

Prioritization of technological needs	2014	Forestry & Fisheries department	\$25,000.00
Identification of appropriate technology needs	2015	Forestry & Fisheries department	\$75,000.00

Action 13: (Describe action) *Progress in assessing protected area sustainable finance needs (3.4)*

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible parties	Indicative budget
Sustainable financial gap analysis (by TNC)	Complete for Terrestrial 2015	Fisheries department	\$75,000.00
Financial assessment of protected areas for sustainable livelihoods (OPAAL)	Complete for terrestrial PA 2015	Forestry & Fisheries department	\$100,000.00

Action 14: (Describe action) *Progress in conducting public awareness campaigns (3.5)*

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible parties	Indicative budget
National Protected Areas Awareness Plan (by OPAAL)	2011	Forestry & Fisheries department	\$50,000.00

Action 15: (Describe action) Progress in developing *best practices and minimum standards (4.1)*

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible parties	Indicative budget
Established Management Plans	2016	Forestry & Fisheries department	\$200,000.00
Management Plans to be establish	2016	Forestry & Fisheries department	\$150,000.00
System Plan for Protected Areas	2011	Forestry & Fisheries department	4150.000.00
Provision of technical support to stakeholders	2018	Forestry and Fisheries department , CBO's and NGO's	\$ 45,000.00
Use of participatory approaches /field demonstrations with stakeholders	2015	Forestry and Fisheries department and CBO's	\$100,000.00

Action 16: (Describe action) Progress in assessing *management effectiveness(4.2)*

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible parties	Indicative budget
Establishment of mechanisms for feedback from stakeholders on protected areas management effectiveness	2015	Forestry & Fisheries department	\$50,000.00
Departmental monitoring and evaluation of protected areas activities	2015	Forestry & Fisheries department	\$75,000.00

Development and implementation of Intersect oral mechanisms for assessing protected areas management effectiveness.	2015	Forestry & Fisheries department	\$50,000.00
Evaluation of country led protected areas initiatives and their consistency with MEA's, national policies, strategic and corporate plans.	2014	Forestry and Fisheries department and Ministry of Environment	\$50,000.00
Capacity development to ensure readiness for effective management.	2015	Forestry & Fisheries department	\$2014

Action 17: (Describe action) *Progress in establishing an effective PA monitoring system (4.3)*

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible parties	Indicative budget
Establishment of a participatory monitoring and evaluation system to include all key stakeholders (including resource users).	2015	Forestry and Fisheries department	\$75,000.00
Development of a holistic approach for the collection, storage, analysis and use of data on accomplishments on protected areas activities. (can take into consideration national, regional and international monitoring levels)	2016	Forestry and Fisheries department	\$50,000.00
Training to ensure effective monitoring of protected areas activities.	2015	Forestry and Fisheries department	\$100,000.00

Action 18: (Describe action)Progress in developing a **research program** for protected areas

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible parties	Indicative budget
Identification and prioritization of national research needs for protected areas	2015	Forestry and Fisheries department	\$50,000.00
Capacity development	2016	Forestry and Fisheries department	\$200,000.00
Implementation of research initiatives	2016	Forestry and Fisheries department	\$150,000.00
Monitoring and evaluation of research programmers	2018	Forestry and Fisheries department	\$75,000.00
Establishment of an appropriate central system for collecting, storing, analyzing and disseminating of research information.	2015	Forestry and Fisheries department	\$150,000.00

Action 19: (Describe action)Progress in assessing opportunities for **marine** protection

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible parties	Indicative budget
Progress in developing a research program for protected areas (4.4)	2015	Forestry and Fisheries department	\$50,000.00

Action 20: (Describe action)progress in incorporating **climate change** aspects into protected areas

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible parties	Indicative budget
Progress in assessing opportunities for marine protection	2014	Fisheries	\$150,000.00
Development of a System Plan for Protected Areas.	2010	Forestry and Fisheries department	\$150,000.00

Inclusion of crown lands as Protected Areas	2011	Forestry department	\$50,000.00
Commencement of process to become acceded by the Ramsar Convention.	2013	Forestry and Fisheries department	\$150,000.00
Integrated watershed management project under the PPCR (in pipe line for implementation)	2013	Forestry department	4100,000.00
National reforestation and community tree planting programmers / initiatives	2013	Forestry department	\$150,000.00
GIZ initiative with climate change adaptation components (in pipe line for implementation).	2014	Forestry department	\$200,000.00

Key assessment results

Ecological gap assessment

The Grenada Protected Areas System GAP Analysis consisted of a series of three workshops to guide and approve the analysis. The first workshop was held in March 2006 for the purpose of determining the goals of the analysis, selecting biodiversity targets, and assessing management effectiveness of the existing protected areas. The second workshop was held in August 2006 to examine the threats and human activity information which was incorporated into the analysis. The final workshop was held in February 2007 and focused on finalizing the results and developing strategies to fill and prioritize the gaps that were identified.

Sustainable finance assessment

The tri-island state of Grenada, located in the South Eastern Caribbean, has set a goal of protecting 25% of its terrestrial and marine habitats by 2020. This is more than double the Convention on Biological Diversity's target of 10% protection of terrestrial and marine habitats. In order to achieve this goal however, Grenada faces many challenges in terms of legislation, management and financing.

Grenada's protected areas legislation and management systems are both in need of restructuring. Certain laws have never been implemented while the management system operates understaffed with resources spread thinly across three different government agencies: the Ministry of Tourism, and the Fisheries and Forestry Departments in the Ministry of Agriculture.

In 2005, the latest year for official figures, the government of Grenada spent about EC\$2.00 million on protected areas. This was spent on recurrent costs. Capital expenditures have historically been, and continue to be, funded by external donors. In 2006, this totaled around EC\$1.3 million. Funding from

external donors has historically been volatile requiring the need for diversification of funding sources. A needs assessment showed that the system currently needs EC\$7.9 million per year, leaving a current gap of EC\$4.6 million per year.

To fulfill the goal of 25% habitat protection, the current financial needs were projected forward and it was found that in 2020, the protected areas system would need approximately EC\$14 million per year. To meet such an ambitious goal, a variety of financing mechanisms were evaluated. A feasibility analysis was conducted and differentiated between potential revenue generating activities that could be implemented now and others that could possibly be implemented in the future. Two financial mechanisms with high feasibility are the creation of a conservation trust fund capitalized by the United Nations Global Environment Facility and the establishment of a nationwide uniform user fee system.

Despite the potential for increased funding sources, and even with a 7% increase over 14 years of the government's financial commitment to the protected areas system, there will be a gap in financing of about EC\$4.6 million if Grenada wants to achieve its 25% protection goal. This implies that external funding sources will have to increase greatly and the future potential financing mechanisms would have to be implemented. A simple cost benefit analysis shows that the value of conserving 25% of Grenada's habitat provides 16 times more value than the cost of protection indicating that protection of habitat is good financial as well as environmental policy.

Capacity needs assessment

During the Seventh Conference of the Parties of the Convention for Biological Diversity (COP-7) held in Malaysia in February 2004, the signatories reached a historical agreement to promote the establishment and management of national systems for protected areas. The agreement is articulated within a Program of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) that includes a series of specific activities that the signatories, as well as the Governments of Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, are committed to implementing within clearly defined time frames. As a signatory to the Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD), Grenada has committed to protecting 10% of its terrestrial area by the year 2010 and 10% of its near-shore marine areas by the year 2012. In March of 2006 at the Convention for Biological Diversity (COP-8) held in Rio, Grenada went even further by publicly committing to effective management of 25% of its near-shore marine and 25% of its terrestrial natural resources by the year 2020. **The Capacity Development Plan details the internal structures and processes required by the Protected Areas System to meet this commitment.**

In 2006 a Management Effectiveness Assessment was conducted to determine critical management challenges for Grenada's Protected Areas System. Assessment results were reviewed and revised by members of the National Implementation Support Program (NISP), then used in conjunction with the results of the 2007 Ecological Gap Analysis as the foundation for creation of this Capacity Development Plan. To complement the Management Effectiveness Assessment, a literature review was also conducted to ensure all capacity related areas were considered. **This document details the Capacity Development Plan, including prioritized strategic directions, goals, objectives and actions to guide implementation by in-country agencies.** It also provides a brief overview of the Management

Effectiveness Assessment results, including the challenges faced by Grenada's Protected Areas at both the site and system levels.

The Capacity Development Plan addresses establishing the processes and structures required to address the 13 critical strategic directions identified for effective protected areas management in Grenada. All efforts are predicated on the premise of acquiring sufficient funding and staffing, in conjunction with coordination between the seven primary agencies and three Ministries involved in protected areas management. This directly correlates with highest priority being assigned to strategic directions addressing Inter-sectoral Integration, Human Resource Management, Sustainable Financing, and Government Policy.

The 13 critical management capacity strategic directions were determined to be:

- *Inter-sectoral Integration* - Establishing formalized processes to coordinate work between agencies involved in protected areas management, including joint work planning and budgeting, defining agencies roles and responsibilities, and complementary implementation actions between agencies.
- *Government Policy* – Garnering widespread government support, evidenced through provision of resources required for implementation of current and future protected areas plans (work plans, management plans, etc.).
- *Human Resources* - Establishing appropriate staffing levels for protected areas management.
- *Sustainable Financing* - Implementing the Sustainable Finance Plan to generate EC\$4.6M in additional funding/year for protected areas management.
- *Management Planning* - Establishing site specific management plans to address priority threats and guide work at the site level. Six management plans will be developed for priority sites by 2012, with remaining sites establishing management plans by 2020.
- *Law Enforcement* - Establishing capacity to effectively curb infractions in the protected areas, including training for enforcement officials, adequately equipping enforcement personnel, researching community or volunteer lead enforcement, and improving awareness within the general public.
- *Research and Monitoring* – Developing and implementing a research and monitoring programme, including an electronic information database, hard copy library, and global information system to better guide decision making.
- *Resilience* – Develop and implement a plan to improve the protected areas' ability to withstand natural disasters.
- *Integrated Coastal Zone Management* - Promoting development and implementation of an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan to curb development threats and negative impacts on the protected areas.
- *Land Use Policy* – Establishing recommendations to be integrated into the national Land Use Policy to maximize environmental, social and economic benefits through sustainable use of the protected areas.
- *Legislation Review* – Conducting a review of existing legislation and making recommendations for revisions to legislation to improve overall management of the protected areas system

- *Protected Areas Designation* – Documenting the procedural process of establishing protected areas, and establishing four new protected areas.
- *Promoting Public Awareness and Advocacy* - Promoting public involvement in protected areas management at the public, private, organizational and individual levels.