

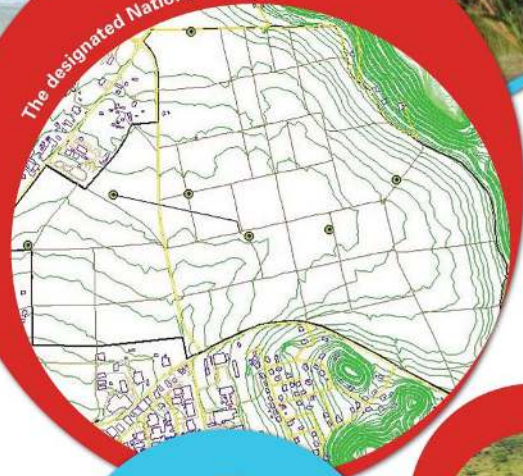
Stakeholders' Consultation



Sign at St. Kitts Demo site



The designated National Park area



# PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS II

## National Park planning

The cornerstone of the project was the establishment of a National Park around the sensitive well-field area. A park management plan was devised to:

- Protect the aquifer
- Restore and maintain a native forest
- Provide green space in an urban setting
- Create a high-valued tourist attraction
- Contribute to socio-economic welfare / development, and
- Serve as an outdoor classroom

### Main findings:

- Inadequate legislation, policies and capacity for protected areas management
- Need for the creation of ONE national system of land and marine protected areas
- Need for sustainable and innovation funding mechanisms
- Need for integrated management policies
- Need for public awareness of the benefits/values of the protected area

An action plan to deal with each of these issues was devised. Research findings and the action plan were presented to Cabinet in March 2010. The National Park is to be declared before the end of the project.

## SUMMARY

This unconfined coastal aquifer needs to be protected through control of activities taking place in the watershed if it is to be a safe and reliable source of fresh water in the future. The study revealed fluctuations in the fresh/salt water interface in response to long-term pumping. This highlights the need for proper well construction, an efficient pumping regime and continuous monitoring of coastal aquifers in small islands where water resources are scarce and vulnerable.

The benefit of establishing a National Park is multifaceted but, importantly, stakeholders contribute to increased socio-economic welfare while protecting the aquifer.

# ST. KITTS & NEVIS

