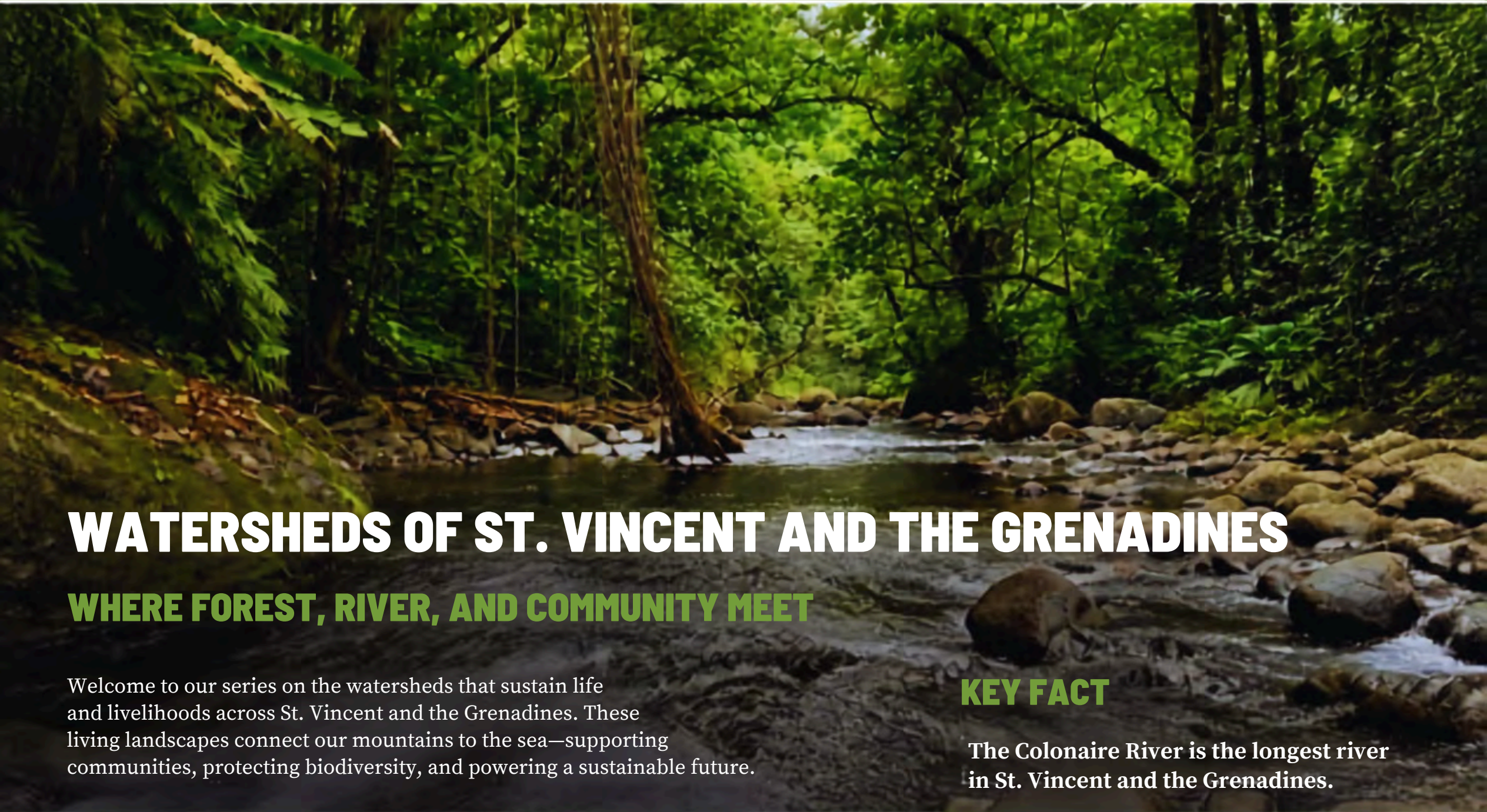




WATERSHEDS OF ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

WHERE FOREST, RIVER, AND COMMUNITY MEET

Welcome to our series on the watersheds that sustain life and livelihoods across St. Vincent and the Grenadines. These living landscapes connect our mountains to the sea—supporting communities, protecting biodiversity, and powering a sustainable future.

KEY FACT

The Colonaire River is the longest river in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.



THE COLONAIRE WATERSHED

The Colonaire Watershed is a connected landscape shaped by mountains, forests, rivers, and the people who call it home.



Mountains that capture rain and feed our rivers



Forests that protect soil, water, and wildlife



Villages and communities nurtured by water and nature



Habitats for unique plants and wildlife



Rich biodiversity and natural beauty that inspire tourism



Clean, renewable energy that powers our future



It originates at the Grand Bonhomme peak



Flows through forests, valleys, and communities



And empties into the Atlantic Ocean

A JOURNEY FROM MOUNTAIN TO SEA THAT SUSTAINS US ALL.



COLONAIRE WATER QUALITY

Healthy rivers are the foundation of vital ecosystems, strong communities, and dependent future.

ABOUT OUR WATERSHED



Located in the central mountain range, the Colonaire Watershed connects South Rivers, Three Rivers, and Colonaire along the river.



The watershed is approximately 11 km long, with an average width of more than 2.5 m.



Historically, the area was used for farming. Over time, farming activities polluted the water.



Residues of paraquat and carbofuran were found in the river, highlighting the impact of past land use on water quality.

WE ARE ALL CONNECTED



Land use
in the watershed



Water quality
in the river



Downstream
communities



Our shared
stewardship

Healthy land leads to healthy water, which supports thriving communities.

WHY WATER QUALITY MATTERS

Clean water is essential for our health, food systems, local economies, and the environment. When water is polluted upstream, the impact flows downstream— affecting families, livelihoods, and ecosystems.



PROTECTING WATER IS PROTECTING LIFE.



TOGETHER, WE CAN RESTORE AND PROTECT THE COLONAIRE WATERSHED FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.

COLONAIRE WATERSHED:

BIODIVERSITY AND ECO-TOURISM

The Colonaire Watershed is a natural treasure that supports life, livelihoods, and learning. Together, we can protect this landscape for today and for generations to come.



RARE SPECIES, RICH HERITAGE



The Colonaire Watershed is home to endangered endemic species such as the Vinegary Parrot (*Amazona gundingi*) and the Blue Hairstreak butterfly. Protect them protect our natural identity.



ONE WATERSHED, ONE HOME



Forests and rivers are not separate—they form our connected habitat. Healthy forests filter our water, sustain wildlife, and keep our watershed thriving.



WATERFALLS THAT INSPIRE



The watershed features three beautiful waterfalls that draw visitors and support ecotourism. Responsible care protects the river, forests, wildlife, and the visitor experience alike.



FORESTRY DEPARTMENT: STEWARDS OF THE WATERSHED

The Forestry Department works year-round to maintain the Colonaire Watershed, coordinating conservation of forests, water, villages, species, waterfalls, and renewable energy infrastructure—through science, partnership, and community engagement, we ensure a resilient watershed for people and nature.



FORESTS



WATER



WILLAGES



SPECIES



WATERFALLS



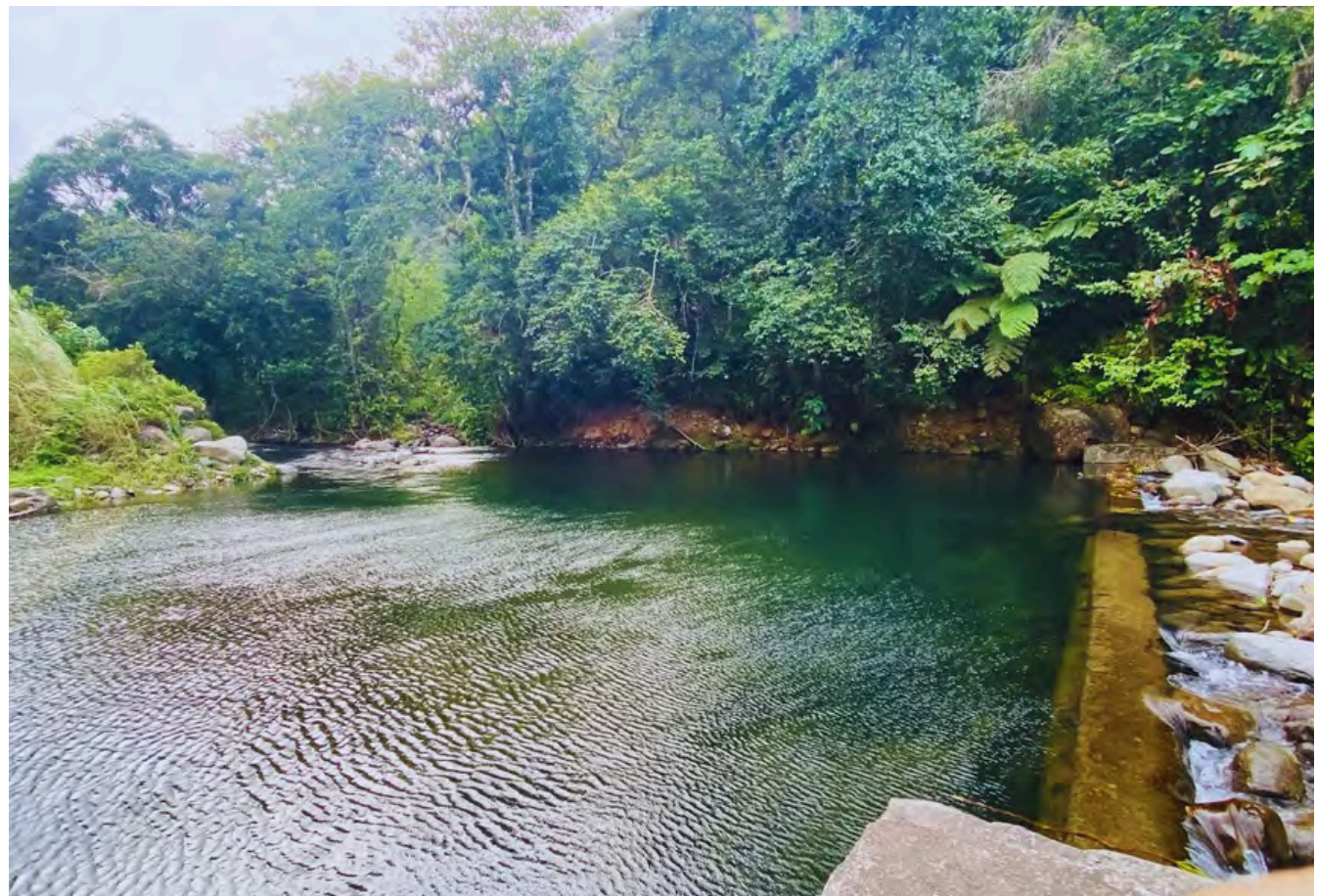
RENEWABLE
ENERGY

COLONAIRE WATERSHED: RENEWABLE ENERGY AND CONSERVATION PRIORITIES



St. Vincent Electricity Services operates one hydro reservoir within the Colonaire Watershed.

This renewable energy resource supports our commitment to a cleaner future while connecting environmental health, community well-being, tourism opportunities, and reliable energy.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Healthy rivers and forests sustain water quality, habitats, and biodiversity.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Strong partnerships and local stewardship protect our shared resources.



TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES

Clean landscapes and scenic waterways attract visitors and support livelihoods.



RENEWABLE ENERGY

Hydroelectric power from our reservoir provides clean, reliable energy.



A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Balanced conservation and responsible use today, for generations tomorrow.

CONSERVATION PRIORITIES



Protect the river and surrounding watershed



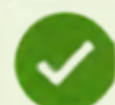
Reduce agricultural pollution risks



Safeguard endemic species



Support responsible eco-tourism



Recognize connected community and energy needs



WORKING TOGETHER FOR OUR WATERSHED

By protecting the Colonaire Watershed, we protect our environment, strengthen our communities, and power a cleaner tomorrow.

WHY THE COLONAIRE WATERSHED MATTERS

A shared landscape. A vital lifeline. A sustainable future.



ENVIRONMENTAL

The Colonaire River is the longest river in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, flowing from the central mountains to the sea. Its watershed is a **lush, mountainous landscape** home to three major waterfalls and a rich diversity of wildlife, including many rare and endemic species found nowhere else in the world.



CULTURAL

For centuries, the watershed has been the heart of our communities and traditions. From the historic settlements and farms in the headwaters to the coast, the river brings life to the communities of South Rivers, Three Rivers, Park Hill, Belle Vue, and Colonaire—united by water, heritage, and a common responsibility to protect this precious resource.



ECONOMIC

The watershed supports livelihoods and local development. It supplies clean water, powers hydro projects, supports agriculture, and reservoir operated by St. Vincent Electricity Services, and attracts eco-tourism with its natural beauty. A healthy watershed means a stronger economy and brighter opportunities for current and future generations.



IN CONCLUSION

The Colonaire watershed is more than a river—it is an interconnected environmental, cultural, and economic resource. By working together to protect it, we protect our communities and secure a sustainable future for St. Vincent and the Grenadines.



MONTREAL WATERSHED: A PRIME CONSERVATION AREA

Where conservation, people, and nature thrive—together.

The Montreal Watershed is a vital conservation area where reforestation, biodiversity, water-quality protection, research, education, ecotourism, and forestry come together to create a healthier, more resilient future for all.



CONSERVATION AT A GLANCE



Conservation efforts began in 2004.



33.45 acres recovered under the Integrated Forest Management and Development project. 149.34 acres under the Wider Restoration Effort



The area is home to three identified endemic species: black snake, whistling warbler, and whistling frog.



CONSERVATION SUCCESS



One conservation success involved getting the farmers to agree to practise “no farming” beyond a defined line—helping protect forests, water sources, and the ecological balance of the watershed.



MONTREAL WATERSHED: USES, COMMUNITY, AND WATER QUALITY

The Montreal Watershed supports healthy ecosystems and strong communities through responsible uses and collaboration. Together, we safeguard the land and the water for today and for generations to come.



USES OF THE MONTREAL WATERSHED

	STUDY	Supports academic and environmental studies that deepen understanding of our ecosystems.
	RESEARCH	Provides opportunities for scientific research that informs better decisions for our future.
	EDUCATION	Offers outdoor learning experiences that inspire stewardship and build knowledge.
	ECOTOURISM	Welcomes visitors to enjoy nature responsibly, supporting local livelihoods and conservation.
	COMMERCIAL FORESTRY	Involves the sale of trees and the conversion of lumber to support sustainable forestry and local economies.



THE MINERAL SPA

The Montreal Watershed boasts one of the mineral spas.



COMMUNITY COORDINATION AND UPSTREAM WATER QUALITY

Local officers and stakeholders worked together to stop harmful farming practices and protect water quality originating upstream.

Through collaboration, planning, and shared commitment, the watershed remains a healthy source of life for people and nature alike.



MANAGEMENT TRANSITION

When land management changed hands, some farmers initially resisted. There were threats and complaints as the new management approach was introduced. Over time, continued engagement and clear communication helped build understanding and move the community forward.





MONTREAL WATERSHED: LESSONS FOR CONSERVATION

Through collaborative action, planning, and stewardship, the Montreal Watershed program produced measurable improvements in watershed protection and restoration.



PROGRAM OUTCOMES

The Montreal Watershed program has led to meaningful progress in protecting and restoring our natural resources. The combined efforts of partners, communities, and stakeholders have strengthened the health of our forests, rivers, and ecosystems.



KEY LESSONS AND CONSERVATION PRIORITIES

- ✓ Continue reforestation supported through IFMDP
- ✓ Build on farmer agreements, including no farming beyond a defined line.
- ✓ Maintain coordination to protect upstream water quality.
- ✓ Keep the black snake, -whistling warbler, and -whistling frog in view as identified endemic species.
- ✓ Support study, research, and education.
- ✓ Recognize ecotourism and the mineral spa.
- ✓ Connect commercial forestry with careful stewardship while recognizing the sale of trees and conversion of lumber.



CONCLUSION

The Montreal Watershed is environmentally significant through watershed protection, restoration, and endemic species; educational through study, research, and education; recreational through ecotourism and its mineral spa; and economically significant through commercial forestry.

