

FROM BURNT HILLSIDE TO RESTORED FOREST



THE CHALLENGE

PROJECT FACTS

Started: 1990s
Location: Barrouaille
Lead agency: Forestry Department
Focus: soil restoration and coastal dry forest reforestation, fire control, and erosion management.

Before restoration, the hillside above Barrouaille was caught in a cycle of annual fires. Year after year, fires burned off the lemongrass and other ground cover. Only the deeper-rooted trees survived, sending new shoots straight from the soil. When the rains came, there was nothing left to hold the earth — severe erosion and flooding swept down into Barrouaille. Fire crept toward Zion Hill too, stripping it down to bare rock and threatening Kearthons.



FIRE & EROSION CONTROL

ONGOING CONSERVATION WORK

For decades, the Forestry Department has maintained the restored dry forest on Zion Hill, which supports over 100 plant species. Crews manage fire risk and control soil erosion. In recent years, the reforested area has shielded Barrouaille and neighbouring communities from runoff and flooding.

What worked here was persistence. Decades of steady maintenance gave the forest time to recover, and that recovery now shields the communities living below it.



THE RESTORATION RESPONSE

In the 1990s, the Forestry Department launched reforestation efforts with community groups and other institutions to restore the coastal dry forest areas. To break the cycle of recurring fires, a fire trace was cut as a cleared strip to keep fire from spreading to surrounding lands.

Contour trenches were dug to slow runoff and reduce soil erosion. A patrol route was set up for fire monitoring and forest management.