

3 Baseline Environment

3.1 Site Description

3.1.1 Site Extent and Location

The site for the Beachcomber Resort Hotel is located at Les Salines in the district of Black River. The site is shown on the 1:25000 regional map of Mauritius in Drawing EIA-001 attached in Appendix E.

The site earmarked for the development has an overall extent of 17ha1177m² comprising of:

- 11.3036ha on freehold land owned by New Mauritius Hotels Limited
- 5.8141ha on Pas Géométriques of Les Salines leased from the Ministry of Housing and Lands.

The project site is located on the Les Salines peninsula as shown in the aerial photograph of Drawing EIA-002 attached in Appendix E.

3.1.2 Site Ownership

The project site is partly on freehold land of an extent of 11ha3036m² belonging to New Mauritius Hotels Limited as evidenced by the Notary Certificate of Ownership drawn before Notary Me. Marie Joseph Bernard d'Hotman de Villiers. A copy of the Notary Certificates of Ownership is attached in Appendix C. It is to be noted that the portion of land of an extent of 1ha5087m² originally earmarked for the construction of the access road to the Pas Géométriques Les Salines has been subject to a land swap of the same extent following the realignment of the public road. This has been agreed between New Mauritius Hotels and the Ministry of Lands and Housing.

The remaining 5ha8141m² is leased from the Ministry of Housing and Lands as evidenced from the Lease Agreement attached in Appendix C.

3.1.3 Site Topography

The Topography Plan, dully signed by Chateau Doger de Spéville Ltd, Sworn land Surveyors is attached in Appendix D in pursuance to Clause 18 (1) (c) (ii) of the EPA (2002).

3.1.4 Site Boundaries and neighbouring properties

With reference to the Land Surveyor Plan attached in Appendix D, the site is bounded by:

- To the north – Land belonging to Trocadero Investissement Ltée
- To the east – Surplus of land belonging to New Mauritius Hotels Ltd

- To the south – Land belonging to Four H Co. Ltd
- To the west - Public Domain (lagoon)

3.2 Regional Description

3.2.1 Population and Settlements

The resident population distribution in the neighbourhood of the Site, as provided in the Census 2011, is given in Figure 5

Village Council Area	Population ⁴	re Site	Distance from Site
Black River District –Rural	53 448	n/a	n/a
Tamarin VCA	3 766	NW	350m
Grande Riviere Noire VCA	2 668	S	2.5km

Figure 5: Resident population distribution around site

3.2.2 Sewerage

From the Figure 6, it can be inferred that the properties in Black River are generally serviced by on-plot septic tanks and absorption pits. No national sewer network has been implemented in the region.

Localities	Population	Flush Toilet connected to		Pit-Latrine	
		Sewerage System	Absorption/Septic Tank	Water Seal	Other
Black River District – Rural	53 448	18	16890	459	545
Tamarin VCA	3 766	-	1513	3	18
Grande Riviere Noire VCA	2 668	-	1013	32	3

Figure 6: Population and types of toilet facilities in the project area⁵

3.2.3 Solid Waste Disposal

The Ministry of Local Government operates 5 transfer stations at La Brasserie, Poudre d'Or, Roche Bois, La Chaumière and La Laura. The project area is served by the La Chaumière station, from where the waste collected is compacted and sent to Mare Chicose, the only operational landfill in Mauritius, situated in the South of the island, 2.5km from Rose Belle.

⁴ Central Statistical Office – Digest of Demographic Statistics 2010: August 2011

⁵ The 2011 Housing and Population Census - Central Statistics Office
http://www.gov.mu/portal/goc/cso/census_11.htm

3.2.4 Local Amenities

3.2.4.1 Public Beaches

The public beaches along the western coast are located in Drawing EIA- 002 attached in Appendix E.

3.2.4.2 Attractions

3.2.4.2.1 Black River Gorges & National Park

Black River Gorges & National Park, the largest protected forest of Mauritius, providing over 50 km of trails, is located at 9km from the proposed residential development.

The National Park spreads over 67 square kilometres and aim at the conservation of the habitat of:

- More than 11 important, endemic, rare and endangered native animals, such as the Mauritian Kestrel, Parrot, Pink Pigeon, etc.
- Over 200 species of very rare and beautiful plants

3.2.4.2.2 Plaine Champagne

Visitors to Plaine Champagne can have:

- A very good idea of the vegetation typical of cooler, rain-fed and wind-beaten high grounds
- Superb panoramic views on the South and West of Mauritius

3.2.4.2.3 Chamarel Coloured Earth

The Chamarel Waterfalls and Coloured Earths are local scenic attractions with their restaurants and visitor's welcome centre.

3.2.4.2.4 Dolphin Watching

Dolphin watching on the western coast of the island has over the years become a major attraction to foreigners and locals alike. Such attraction helps diversify our tourism product and creates opportunities for the local community.

With the proliferation of 'Dolphin Watching Entrepreneurs' providing such services to go on trips and watching dolphins in the lagoon in an uncontrolled and unsafe manner, the authorities came up with the Dolphin Watching Guidelines in a view to safeguard the dolphin population frequenting our waters.

3.2.4.2.5 Casela Nature & Leisure Park

The Casela Nature & Leisure Park is a tourist attraction for both local and foreign visitors. Situated on the edge of a hill, it covers an area of about 14 hectares rich of tropical vegetation. Casela was at first an animal park and zoo and its collections of animals and plants have been constantly enriched with local species and imported ones. The park presently accommodates some 1500 animals comprising of birds, zebras, giant tortoises, monkeys, lions and antelopes among others are shown to the visiting public by means of the Safaris Bus.

The park also offers a range of activities namely ride in the nature, hiking expeditions on foot, mountain bikes and quads on the slopes of the Rempart Mountain, Mountain climbing with professional guides, walk with lions and the longest zip line circuit in the Indian Ocean. Children are usually fond of the petting farm, the jumping castle or Casela's fishing ponds.

3.2.4.3 Marine & Leisure Activities in Grand Rivière Noire Lagoon

The Grande Rivière Noire lagoon is well known for nautical activities and the following are the main existing facilities:

- Le Morne Anglers Club – Big game fishing and Yacht club. Boat charters departure wharf
- La Balise Marina

The bay itself is used for various activities ranging from line fishing, to water-skiing and sailing.

3.2.5 Industry

Industrial activity in the Black River District is dominated by:

- Cane sugar manufacturing at Médine Sugar Estate, and
- Tourism at Le Morne, Wolmar, Flic-en-Flac

3.2.6 Social Infrastructure

The social infrastructure is concentrated at Grande Rivière Noire, including:

- The St Augustin Catholic Church just opposite side of the A3 Road
- A Primary School
- A Secondary School
- A Post Office
- A Police Station
- A Coast Guard Post
- A Community Health Centre
- A Sports Complex at Tamarin

3.3 Existing Built Environment

3.3.1 Building and Structures

There are no existing buildings or structures within the proposed site.

3.3.2 Access roads and bulk services

The Government of Mauritius, under the egis of Landscope, is currently constructing a new access road and bulk services infrastructure (CWA, CEB and Mauritius Telecom) to serve the various land parcels in the Les Salines peninsular. The new road extends from the A3 Black River Road westwards through the existing salt pans to the Martello Tower, as indicated on Drawing EIA-001 in Appendix E. It is understood that the new public road and infrastructure is planned to be complete in mid-2018.

3.4 Existing Terrestrial Environment

The site is the remnants of an old sand quarry, with levels of between +0.0m AMSL to +0.5m AMSL. All the quarry activities for the extraction of coral sand ceased prior to 1990.

3.4.1 Climatic Conditions

Mauritius, at latitude 20°S and its modest dimensions (60km NS x 45km EW), is submitted to a tropical ocean climate characterised by two alternating main seasons:

- a hot and rainy season from November to May (southern hemisphere summer).
- a relatively mild, dry season from June to October (southern hemisphere winter).

This climatic regime is heavily biased by the wind regimes and orography, which clearly set out two sharply differentiated zones:

- the windward zone to the south and south-east, well exposed to trade winds.

The leeward zone to the west, relatively well sheltered from the trade winds

3.4.1.1 Rainfall

No systematic rainfall gauging exists for the Site and it may therefore be appropriate to use data recorded at Petite Rivière Noire at +3m reMSL:

MONTH	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
MEAN mm	180	174	152	97	58	43	35	25	18	20	41	139	982

Figure 7: Mean rainfall recorded at Petite Rivière Noire (1951-1980) (The Climate of Mauritius, B.M.PADYA, 1984)

The above rainfall data must be completed by extreme or cyclonic rainfall data⁶ which allow an assessment of maximum rainfall intensity expectable on the Island.

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PERIOD of RECORD	PRECIPITATION Height (mm)
5 min	15
15 min	30
35 min	61
01 hr	82
02 hr	115
03 hr	150
04 hr	180
12 hr	250
24 hr	490

Figure 8: Extreme rainfall intensities

3.4.1.2 Site Wind Regimes

3.4.1.2.1 Trade Winds

The site is situated on the south-western coast of Mauritius and as such it is sheltered by mountains to the east of the site from the dominant easterly to south-easterly winds ranging from 2 to 30 km/h over about 30 to 40% of the time.

The trade winds range typically between 7.5 to 30km/h, with occasional peaks at 40km/h reached at 12h00, particularly during the winter season. The wind speeds fall considerably between 18h00 and 22h00 and remain low during the night, to reinforce again at about 8h00.

3.4.1.2.2 Sea breezes

The site can be under the influence of westerly sea breezes generated by convection effects that are themselves induced by intense solar heating of the island. On the western coast, sea breezes from the West can completely mask the Trade Winds, especially during the summer. These occurrences are relatively low usually less than 50% of time.

⁶ B. M. PADYA: Climate of Mauritius. 1984.

⁷ B. M. PADYA: Climate of Mauritius. 1984.

3.4.1.2.3 Cyclonic Winds

Mauritius is located within the cyclone belt of the south-west Indian Ocean. On average, about 10 cyclone formations occur during the tropical cyclone season of which two or three are classified as intense cyclones. The percentage of occurrence of observed cyclones⁸ are given in Figure 9; the Return Period for hourly winds and peak gusts⁹ are given hereunder in Figure 10.

	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	TOTAL
% Occurrence	18.1	20.8	30.6	18.1	9.7	2.8	100

Figure 9: Monthly % Occurrences of observed cyclones (1960-1983)

RETURN PERIOD (years)	100	50	15	5
HOURLY WINDS (km/h)	125	112	90	72
PEAK GUSTS (km/h)	230	200	160	130

Figure 10: Statistical distribution of wind velocities for cyclones observed at Pamplémousses (1960-1983)

3.4.1.3 Site Wind Data

Since no wind measurements are carried out on site, those made at Médine S. E. on behalf of the Meteorological Services will be adopted as representative of the site wind conditions. The wind roses corresponding to these measurements are centred on the project site overlaid on the 1:25 000 Regional Ordinance Survey Map of Mauritius, as shown in Appendix M.

3.4.1.4 Site Temperature

Daily temperature measurements¹⁰ are made at Médine S. E. Monthly maximum, minimum and average temperatures are given in Figure 11.

MONTH	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YEAR
Maxima Tx	31.1	31.2	30.8	30.0	28.5	26.4	25.8	25.6	26.6	27.8	29.5	30.5	
Minima Tn	22.8	22.5	22.3	20.9	19.1	17.4	16.9	17.1	17.1	18.0	19.8	21.3	
$\frac{1}{2} \{Tx+Tn\}$	26.9	26.9	26.5	25.5	23.8	21.9	21.3	21.3	21.9	22.9	24.7	25.9	24.1

Figure 11: Maximum, Minimum and Average Temperature (°C) at Médine S.E (1960-1983)

3.4.2 Site Geology and Pedology

Soil characteristics are an important parameter in the construction of infrastructure and drainage of a site. For the purpose of describing the soil profile, 6 Nos. boreholes were

⁸ B. M. PADYA: Climate of Mauritius. 1984.

⁹ B. M. PADYA: Climate of Mauritius. 1984.

¹⁰ B. M. PADYA: Climate of Mauritius. 1984.

drilled by rotary drilling techniques and the detailed depth and thickness of the various strata as observed in the boreholes are summarised in Figure 12.

Hole No.	Sand	Clay	Silt	Corals	Cobbles & Gravels	MWB to SWB
BH1	0m – 10.0m					
BH2	0.78m – 2.0m (clayey sand) 3.50m-6.0m (clayey sand) 6.0m – 7.93m	0m – 0.78m (slightly gravelly clay) 7.93m – 10m (very gravelly clay)		2.0m -3.5m		
BH3	0m – 0.36m (slightly clayey sand) 0.36m- 2.0m (clayey sand) 5.08m –8.15m	 8.15m -10.0m (gravelly clay)		2.0m – 5.08m		
BH4	1.50m – 5.0m (slightly gravelly sand)			0m – 1.50m	5.0m – 6.63m	6.63 – 9.40m (MWB) 9.40m – 10m (M to SWB)
BH5	0m – 0.37m (slightly gravelly sand) 0.37m– 2.50m (clayey sand) 2.50m – 7.0m	7.0m – 10m				
BH6	0.60m-9.0m	9.0m-10.0m	0m-0.60m (sandy silt)			

Figure 12: Summary of strata

The following definitions were considered for weather basalts:

- Moderately Weathered Basalt (MWB): Considerable weathered throughout. Possessing some strength – large pieces cannot be broken by hand, reasonable core recovery. Often limonite stained. Difficult to rip.
- Slightly Weathered Basalt (SWB): Distinctly weathered through much of the rock fabric with slight limonite staining. Strength approaches that of the fresh rock. Highly permeable open joints.

From the geotechnical report attached in Appendix G, based on the soil stratigraphy, it has been observed that the site lies on superficial alluvial and eluvial of the superficial formations Series. These are non-volcanic formations and are mainly located along the western coastal regions of Mauritius.

The general pedology of the region has been mapped according to both the: “Hawaiian” classification¹¹ and to the ORSTOM classification¹²; the project site has been overlaid to both pedological and geological maps of the region as shown in Drawings EIA-016 and EIA-017 attached in Appendix E. The natural strata on the site area consists predominantly of Regosols that have little or no profile development which occurs on deep unconsolidated coral sand. These types of soil are often characterised by A horizon of dark brown sand formed by a mixture of coral sand and organic matter over a light grey, very pale brown coral sand.

3.4.3 Site Hydrology

With reference to Drawing EIA-005 in Appendix E, a general catchment analysis of the region within which the project site is located has been undertaken. The catchment pertaining to the project site is C.D of an area 0.78 km² which is mostly under sparse trees, light bushes and tracks. Catchment C.D extends from the North East at a high point of 55m and slopes gently (3-4%) towards existing salt pans which in the current conditions forms the upstream boundary of the project site.

At present, catchment C.D storm water runoff is being intercepted by a wetland of total area 9.5070 ha. There are 2 existing outlets which discharge excess water from the wetland to the lagoon. The north exit shall be relocated whereas the south exit will remain. The 2 exits are shown on Drawing EIA-005 in Appendix E.

3.4.4 ESA Wetland No.76

The Technical Report on Freshwater Wetlands (June 2009) has mapped the wetland areas of Mauritius and has attributed a conservation value to these wetlands on the basis of four main criteria:

- 1) Biological significance which includes species conservation status (presence of endangered and vulnerable species) and important fossil sites;
- 2) Biological diversity (fauna, flora and total species richness);
- 3) Edge integrity and relative disturbance which we calculated using two separate measures:
 - a. the proportion of the wetland edge that is intact, and
 - b. a cumulative value from the separate scores for land-use-intensity, habitat fragmentation, flooding risk, and backfilling;
- 4) Wetland area.

¹¹ PARRISH & FEILLAFFÉ: Soil Map of Mauritius. M.S.I.R.I. 1962.

¹² P.WILLAIME: Carte Pédologique de L’Ile Maurice. ORSTOM & M.S.I.R.I 1984.

We understand that this report has not formally been made publically available.

The Technical Report on Freshwater Wetlands (June 2009), indicates that the ESA Wetland 76 occupies a significant portion of the site (freehold land), as indicated on Drawing EIA-006 in Appendix E.

The area in question is the remnants of an old sand quarry, with levels of between +0.0 AMSL to +0.5AMSL so that the area which is wet varies with the level of the tide. The area is at the lower end of a rainfall catchment of approximately 0.78km² and provides a buffer for storm water before entering the lagoon.

The 2009 report classifies ESA Wetland 76 as a 'Category I' wetland having High Conservation Value as follows:

“The ranking analysis identified 54 coastal marshlands of high conservation value. Of these, 12 are worthy of special mention because they are associated with significantly higher values than the others. These include marshlands with the numerical identification numbers 39, 76, 99, etc. (Table 7). Wetlands within this classification have high biodiversity and are relatively intact with respect to habitat degradation, often supporting endangered plant species.”

ESA wetland 76, though it was artificially created, serves ecological functions;

- **Biodiversity Habitat:** The first function is its richness in native biodiversity and migrant birds in particular, due partly to its significant un-fragmented length.
- **Water filtration and purification:** The second particularly important function is its storm water filtration role, allowing run-off from the hillside to be effectively cleaned before it reaches the lagoon. This is a particularly important function to be retained particularly if the area to the east of the wetland is developed in the future, thereby protecting the lagoon.

3.5 Existing Marine Environment

3.5.1 Bathymetry

The water depth, relative to Mean Sea Level, has been surveyed by measuring the seabed levels within the lagoonal space in front of the proposed Resort Hotel including the zones at and around the location of the proposed jetty and for the 10 Nos. fixed moorings points. The bathymetry is given in Drawing EIA-007 attached in Appendix E.

The depth of water to mean sea level at the end platform of the jetty is 1.0m.

3.5.2 Granulometry

With reference to the biota survey attached in Appendix K, the area is a shoreline of about 1100m long with a sandy beach. The sand close to the shore consist of fine

silty sand that get easily uplifted by small disturbances including small waves thus making the shoreline turbid and reducing visibility. The turbidity decreases along the seagrass beds away from the shoreline.

3.5.3 Tidal Regime and Water Level Fluctuations

Tides in Mauritius are of relatively weak amplitude (*Admiralty Tide Tables*):

- 0.5m in Spring tides, the rise being +0.30m re MSL, with a fall of -0.2m re MSL
- 0.30m in Neap tides.

The tidal period is slightly more than 12h.

To tidal fluctuations, must be added the Inverse Barometric Effect during cyclonic conditions (related to the depression), potentially 1cm rise of sea water level per 1.00m B of depression.

Thus, in the event of a cyclone occurring in a period of High Springs, the total rise in sea level would be, at least:

- Sea level rise due to Inverse Barometric Effect: 0.8m re MSL
- Sea level rise under high springs: 0.3m re MSL
- Total possible sea level rise: 1.10m re MSL

To the Inverse Barometric Effect concurrent with high springs, a piling up of the water at the shore line due to wind and wave effects and the prevailing tidal influence, must be expected. Thus, the swash line will reach rather high up the beach: ~ 1.64m above MSL has been observed at Pointe du Tamarin¹³.

3.5.4 Wave and Current regimes

No facilities exist on Site for wave and/or current monitoring. The assessments presented hereunder of the current fields and of the wave regimes are therefore the results of:

- Local observations of the lagoonar circulation
- Observation of waves around Mauritius made by Voluntary Observing Ships (VOS)¹⁴

Wave height, period and directions are the three basic wave parameters used in coastal engineering. These characteristics of a sea state are functions of the location, wind speed, fetch and duration of the wave generating wind field in Mauritius as

¹³ W.G.McINTYRE & H.J. WALKER(1964): Tropical Cyclones and Coastal Morphology in Mauritius. Am. Ass. Am Geogr.54, 582-596.

¹⁴ South African Data Centre for Oceanography (SADCO).

can be inferred from SOGREAH¹⁵. In as much as the jetty is concerned, what is important is the maximum height to which it can be exposed.

It is known that the maximum sustainable wave height is of the order of 80% of the water depth and therefore depends upon the bathymetry under adverse cyclonic conditions. As described under 3.5.3, the maximum depth would be obtained under concurrent High Astronomic Tide and barometric drop associated with cyclonic conditions in Mauritius as shown in Drawing EIA-008 attached in the Appendix E.

In the light of the above, the jetty may be exposed to wave heights of the order of 1.25m under the extreme conditions described in the foregoing. However, the structure of the jetty will not be impacted upon. The gaps allowed for between the wooden laths will enable the wave surges to pass through the deck and prevent the building up of excessive pressure under the structure.

3.5.5 Marine Fauna

For the purpose of the environmental assessment of the site, marine biota surveys were carried out in June and November 2017 of the area of the lagoon along the alignment of the proposed T-Jetty structure, in the area around the two floating pontoons and at the proposed location for the fixed mooring posts.

3.5.5.1 Flora and Fauna

With reference to the marine biota survey attached in Appendix K, the whole near shore area which was surveyed consisted mostly of seagrass and gets very shallow about 20cm at low tide especially along transects T1 to T3. The flora present mainly consisted of seagrass and secondly of brown macro algae. The main seagrass found were the *Syringodium isoetifolium* and *Halodule* sp. The main brown macroalgae that colonized the hard substratum included rock and rubbles were the *Sargassum* sp. The fauna found during the survey was quite low for such a big area. The fish found were scarce and even the benthic fauna. Transects T7 to T10 were at slightly greater depth up to 1.5m at far end of the transects.

The area surveyed closer to the deeper water channels far from the shoreline had live corals and more brown macroalgae. More fish were also found in the area with a mild water current encountered that continuously flushes the area. No seagrass was present along the sea floor.

3.5.5.2 Fish Diversity

A large number of fish were to be found along the near shoreline transects especially between T7 and T10 where 17 species were found in November compared to 11 in June 2017. Eight species were not common between the two surveys in this area. T1 to T6 had a lower number of fish where 7 species of fish were found in November 2017 and 9 species were found at transects Oa1 and Oa2, 4 species were

¹⁵ SOGREAH: Preparation of a Master Plan for the Development of the Northern Tourist Zone and the Protection of its Seaboard. Report 5.2104 R3 prepared for the Ministry of Housing, Land and Environment, Mauritius.1991

found at transects Ob1 to Ob2 and 10 species were found along the transect Oc1 and Oc2.

3.5.5.3 Corals

More corals were to be found along the transects close to the deep water channels. The zone between transect T1 to T6 had only a few *Porites* coral colonies of two species. In contrast, the shoreline transects T7 to T10 has 6 species of coral but still represented a low percentage cover of less than 1%.

Ten different species of coral were found along Transects Oa1 and Oa2 and eleven species of coral were found along Ob1 and Ob2.

The highest percentage cover between 4 to 5% were recorded at the Transects Oc1 and Oc2.

3.5.5.4 Benthic Organisms

The abundance of benthic organisms was low. Few organisms found during the survey are shown. The detailed marine biota survey is attached in Appendix K.



Plate 1: Filter feeder amongst *Halodule* seagrass bed – *Euphorbia* sp.



Plate 2: *Holothuria leucospilota* with *H. ovalis* seagrass bed



Plate 3: Brown sponge partly embedded in sandy bottom harbouring *Cypreae annulus*.



Plate 4: *Echinometra mathaei*



Plate 5: Stomatopod partly in burrow



Plate 6: Sea star

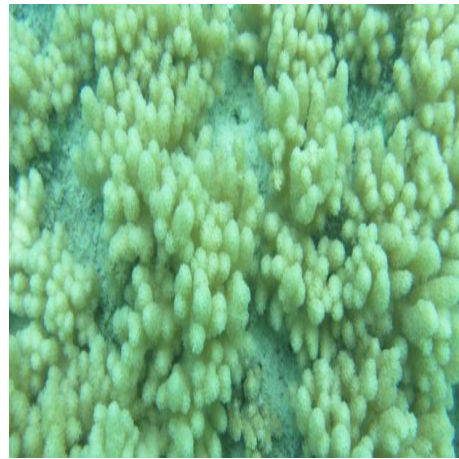


Plate 7: Polychaete worm encrusted into massive *Porites* coral colony

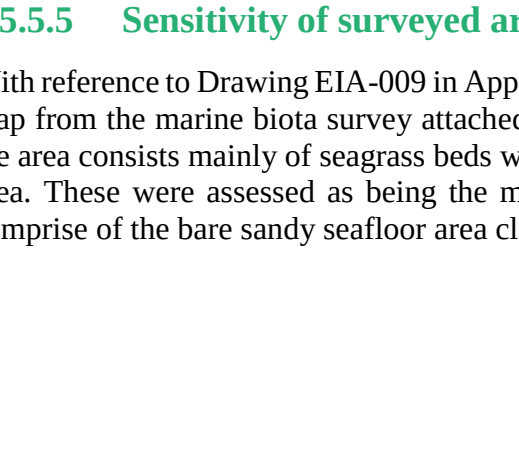
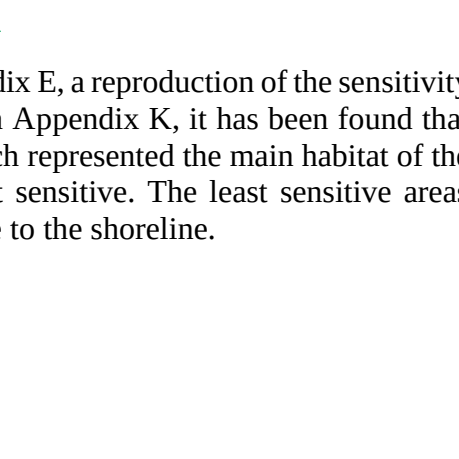


Plate 8: Soft coral colony



3.5.5.5 Sensitivity of surveyed area

With reference to Drawing EIA-009 in Appendix E, a reproduction of the sensitivity map from the marine biota survey attached in Appendix K, it has been found that the area consists mainly of seagrass beds which represented the main habitat of the area. These were assessed as being the most sensitive. The least sensitive areas comprise of the bare sandy seafloor area close to the shoreline.

3.6 Cultural Heritage Structures – Batterie de l’Harmonie

Overlooking the Rivière Noire Bay, the battery supported the Baron l’Hermitte in 1799 where permanent barracks were constructed in 1811. On the site, there were two 24-powder guns mounted in 1835 in the battery on iron traversing platforms.

In the 1950’s a house was built on the battery wall partly displacing the north wall following which the site was controlled under the aegis of the Ministry of Arts and Culture. Subject to severe vandalism through the years, the 20th century building found in the List of National Heritage was restored by the Government and used as a retreat for artists ¹⁶.

The Batterie de l’Harmonie is located at 63m N of the Development Site.

3.7 The Socio-Economic Profile of the Les Salines Inhabitants

In view of setting up its Beachcomber Resort Hotel at Les Salines, Beachcomber has analysed the social needs of the region by using publications of Statistics Mauritius and data from other sources, and by meeting social actors in the region. The main findings of this exercise are:

Demography

- The population of Grande Rivière Noire VCA increased from 2,042 to 2,668 between 2000 and 2011.
- The ethnic mix in 2011 comprised of foreigners 6%, Christians 74%, Marathi 15%

Economy

- In Black-River district agriculture is declining but fishing remains a meaningful activity in Grande Riviere Noire.
- Tourism is on the rise with 21 hotels, mostly in Flic-en-Flac.
- The region around Tamarin and Grande Riviere Noire has witnessed numerous up-market residential developments.

3.7.1 Social needs and social programme of Beachcomber

Further to an assessment of the socio-economic profile of the region and meetings with the major stakeholders of Grande Rivière Noire, Beachcomber shall set up a social programme that shall address the social needs of the inhabitants as summarised in Figure 13. The detailed social assessment report is attached in Appendix N.

¹⁶ Source: Government of Mauritius – National Heritage Website

Item	Social needs	Social program
1	Education	
1.1	10% of the population is illiterate	PEJ Jeune contains literacy training Finance NGOs doing literacy training
1.2	47% of youths aged 15-19 abandon school	Program with NGOs to prevent school drop-outs Projet Employabilité Jeunes (PEJ) to integrate these youths into mainstream employment
1.3	7% of 20-25 continue their studies	Scholarship scheme to promote tertiary studies
2	Housing	
2.1	In 2011, 500 persons living in overcrowded housing units 132 households rented their housing unit Median rent almost 7 times higher than for overall Mauritius	Participation in the social housing program of the Government Collaboration with NGOs for emergency support to families when required
3	Employment	
3.1	Some 50 job seekers in Grande Riviere Noire 50 job offers for Black-River in Nov-2016	PEJ for first job seekers The hotel will offer employment opportunities
3.2	250 housewives	Local Hands will offer them to do and sell handicraft on a part-time basis and working from home, thus enabling them to get an additional income
4	Sports and leisure	
4.1	The major public sports and leisure infrastructure are the football ground and the village hall College St Esprit and St Augustin parish open their grounds to children and sports teams	Create a sports and leisure complex inside Les Salines open to the inhabitants Collaborate with local sports teams and NGOs to promote sports and leisure activities
4.2	Successful sportspersons, artists, etc. needed as role models for the youths of the region to show that sports, music, etc. can be a way out of poverty	Partnerships with sportspersons, artists, etc.
4.3	The social fabric can be woven around sports, music, etc.	Connect with the inhabitants through sports, music Open the sports and leisure complex to both the tourists and the inhabitants
5	Social players	
5.1	State related institutions: college, hospital, police, village council NGOs grouped in Kolektif Rivier Nwar (KRN), among which Caritas, Le Pont du Tamarinier, NGOs running educational facilities	Operational partnerships with state related institutions, NGOs and sports clubs Contribution in cash or in kind to the NGOs activities

	Two football teams	
6	Beachcomber presence	
6.1	Communication with the inhabitants	Employment of a community coordinator who will liaise with the inhabitants Setting up of a FED Les Salines committee comprising of the employees of the hotel living in the region

Figure 13: Social needs and proposed social programme of Beachcomber