

3 ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE STUDY

The environmental baseline study was carried out so as to understand the existing environmental conditions prior to the development. This process will also help identify the sensitive receptors relating to the site and development. The environmental baseline study also serves to define the focus of the environmental impact analysis and resources that need protection through mitigation.

This section of the report presents the following:

- Site description
- Terrestrial environment:
 - Site Topography
 - Geology and Geomorphology
 - Land Use and Tenure
 - Terrestrial Biodiversity
- Hydrology and Hydrogeology and Water Quality
- Air Quality and Noise
- General Climatic Conditions
- Marine Environment
- Landscape and Visual Environment
- Infrastructure and Traffic.

The establishment of baseline data pertaining to the site is a data collection process via investigations, surveys and review of available data and reports, matrix or checklists.

3.1 Site Description

3.1.1 Site Location

The site earmarked for the proposed development is located at St Francois, along the north-eastern coast of Rodrigues.

It is situated along the longest beach on the island and within walking distances to secluded, renowned pocket beaches such as Anse Ally, Trou d'Argent and Anse Bouteille.

The site is within 30 minutes' drive from the Sir Gaetan Duval Airport (20 km) at Plaine Corail and the port at Port Mathurin (12 km), which is also the capital of Rodrigues.

The nearest major built-up area, Mont Lubin, is at 8 km or fifteen minutes' drive.

The location plan of the site is enclosed in Appendix D as drawing M035/RRL/EV/01.

3.1.2 Site Area

The project site, which comprises two distinct plots, is of a total extent of 31,376 m² and forms part of State Land at St Francois.

The two plots are generally bounded as follows:

Plot 1: 8,040 m²

- Towards the North by a 6m wide reserves to the public road that leads to Cotton Bay northbound and St Francois village southbound
- Towards the East by the surplus of State Land
- Towards the South by the surplus of State Land
- Towards the West by a drain.

Plot 2: 23,336 m²

- Towards the North by the surplus of State Land
- Towards the East partly by a natural drain and partly by the beach
- Towards the South by agricultural plots
- Towards the West by a drain.

The eastern limit of the project site lies beyond 40m from the High Water Mark of the beach at St Francois.

Copy of the site plan of the project site as received from the RRA under cover of letter Ref CO/IND/331 of 4 March 2015 is enclosed in Appendices B and D.

3.1.3 Land Tenure and Land Use

The RRA has already approved the grant of the project site to Rejuvenate Rodrigues Ltd for the implementation of the 4-Star Hotel project vide RRA's letters reference CO/IND/331 dated 31 October 2014 and 4 March 2015, copies of which are enclosed in Appendix B.

The project site, which is currently not being used for any purpose, is bare land, mainly covered with grass and casuarina trees. Access to the site is from the coast road.

3.1.4 Surrounding Environment

The environment within a 1 km radius from the site has been studied. Key features and landmarks within the study area are shown in the context map in drawing M035/RR/EV/03.

The following features have been identified within the surrounding environment to the project site:

- St Francois Public Beach to the east
- Rock outcrops enclosing St Francois Public Beach (Pointe Longue and Pointe Tasman)
- Anse Ally Public Beach to the north east
- River Anse Ally to the north
- Natural drains
- Saint Francois, Patate Theophile, Fumier and Cotton Bay villages
- Montagne Piquant and Montagne Longue
- Tecoma Hotel to the north
- Agricultural lands to the south.

Other identified features/landmarks include:

- Lighthouse south of the project site at Patate Theophile
- Lighthouse west of the project site at St Francois
- Community health centres at Fumier and St Francois.

Other features of interest surveyed but that lie beyond the 1 km radius from the project site are:

- Solid waste dump site at Roche Bon Dieu
- Stone crushing plant adjacent to the dump site
- Cotton Bay Hotel to the north.

The respective distances of the identified features/landmarks from the project site boundary are given in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1 Distance of Features/Landmarks from Project Site

Feature/Landmark	Distance from site (m)
Roche Bon Dieu Solid Waste Dump Site	1700
Cotton Bay Hotel	1180
Cotton Bay Village	1035
Mont Piquant Village	875
Cotton Bay Community Health Centre	600
Fumier Village	270
Riviere Anse Ally	350
St Francois Community Centre	325
Tekoma Hotel	50

St Francois is a small village comprising few houses only. The main activities of the villagers are fishing and agriculture. Lands lying immediately south of the site are used for agricultural purposes. The farmers use water from dug wells located on their premises for irrigation purposes. Maize, onion, water melon, beans and garlic are mainly cultivated on these lands. Coconut and lemon trees are also cultivated.

Rodriguans enjoy the beaches located in this eastern part of the Island, namely Pointe Cotton, Fumier, Anse Ally and St Francois. These beaches are the most frequently used on the island for leisure activities for their sandy coral beaches and swimming areas.

3.2 Terrestrial Environment

3.2.1 Topography

Rodrigues is an island of volcanic origin. Its landform comprises a series of valleys, plateaus and mountain crests and is surrounded by coral reefs. The highest peak is Montagne Limon, which culminates at 398 m.

The terrain in the region of St Francois generally slopes towards the east. River Anse Ally, located to the north of the project site, forms the main valley in the prevailing landform of the area surrounding the site.

The project site comprises two distinct plots; the northern one, Plot 1, is of an extent of 8,040 m² and lies alongside the coast road leading to St Francois village. Plot 1 is located on a plateau. Plot 2, the southern plot, is lower in elevation and has a sea frontage. This plot is of an extent of 23,336 m². Plot 1 has a gentle easterly slope in the range of 4 to 5%. The highest elevation on the project site is 29 m above Mean Sea Level (AMSL) in the vicinity of the coast road. The topography of Plot 2 can be described into three homogeneous parts; the western part with an average gradient of 6.5%, the middle part with an average gradient of 13% and the eastern part having the sea frontage with an average slope of 2.5%.

The topographic map of the project site is enclosed as drawing M035/RRL/EV/02.

3.2.2 Geology

Rodrigues Island is 18.3 km long by 6.5 km wide and has a central ridge which trends east-west. With the exception of calcarenite deposits on the southeast coasts and sand deposits on the beaches, the island is entirely volcanic as shown in Figure 3.1.

According to Upton and Baxter (1977), Rodrigues is believed to consist of a submarine plateau, formed by the erosion of a former shield volcano, on which an elongated and steep-sided volcano was built by successive eruptions of lava.

The formation of Rodrigues started about 10 million years ago and the latest volcanic activities took place at about 1.3 to 1.5 million years ago. The sub-aerial lava deposits can be divided into two distinct units, namely:

1. A 200 m thick lower unit which consists of theolitic basalt flows of 1 to 3 m thick and inter-bedded scoriaceous, pyroclastic and tuffaceous horizons; the thin flows of the lower unit outcrop extensively on the flanks and coasts of the island and in the valley slopes.
2. An upper unit of massive olivine basalt flows which are more than 10 m thick; the massive lavas dominate the higher parts of the island forming the mountains of the interior.

Although the two lava units can be distinguished in the field on the basis of their physical characteristics, there is no apparent chemical distinction between them. The rocks of the lower unit have a higher porosity and lower compressive strength than those of the upper unit.

The erosion of the volcanic deposits giving rise to a system of radial erosional channels and gullies within the rugged mountains has influenced the topography of the island. Steep cliffs of more than 60 m high often border the mountain peaks.

According to the geological map of Rodrigues produced by Giorgi and Borchellini (1998), the upper part of the project site comprises prismatic basaltic flows while the lower part, mainly calcarenite deposits as shown in Figure 3.2.

Outcrops of basalts are visible at several locations at the site. Weathering of the bedrock is very superficial so that the soil cover is less than 1 m thick and is very stony.

From a geotechnical point of view, the basalt bedrock provides competent ground for the foundations of the proposed buildings.

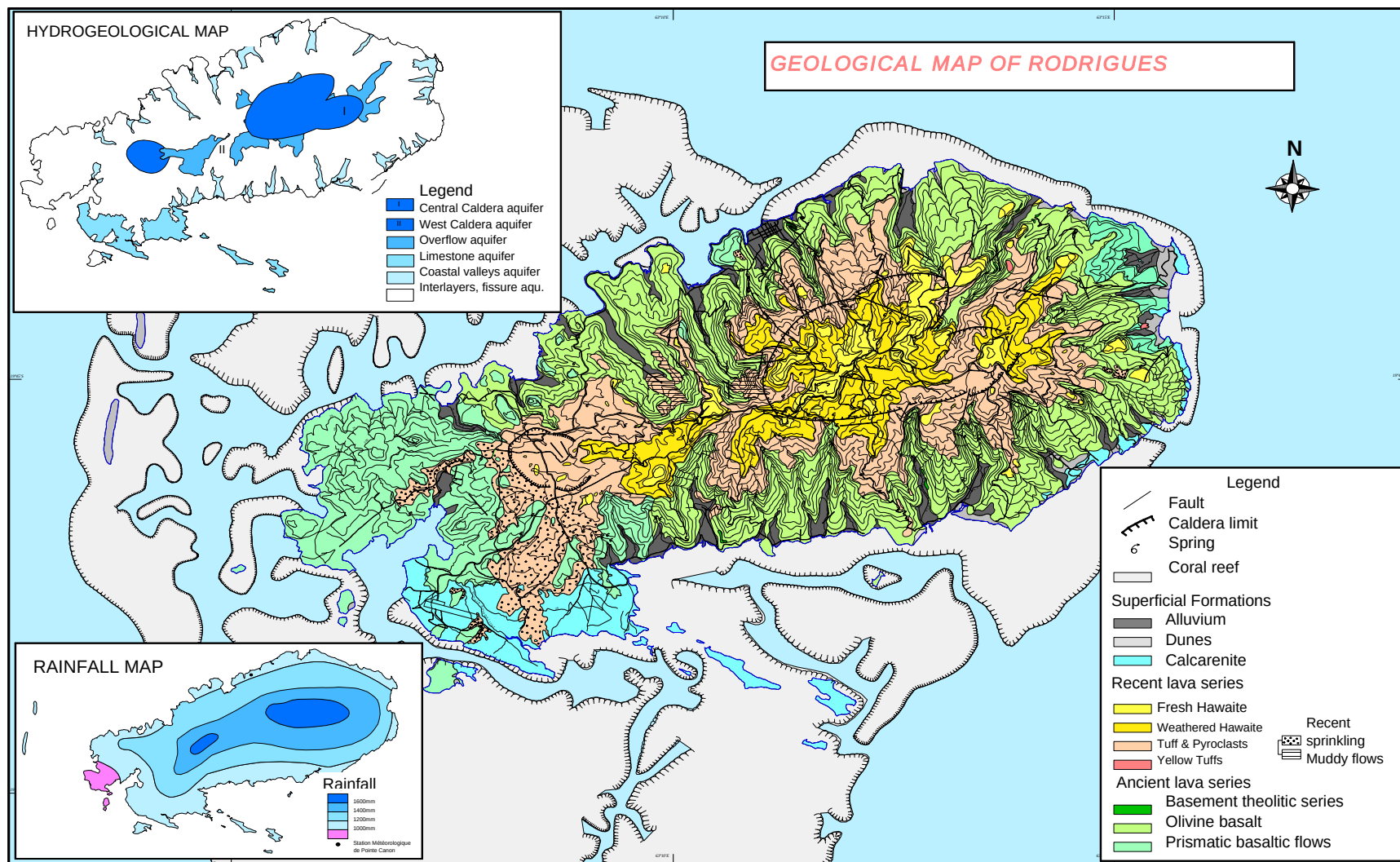


Fig. 7.3 Geological Map of Rodrigues

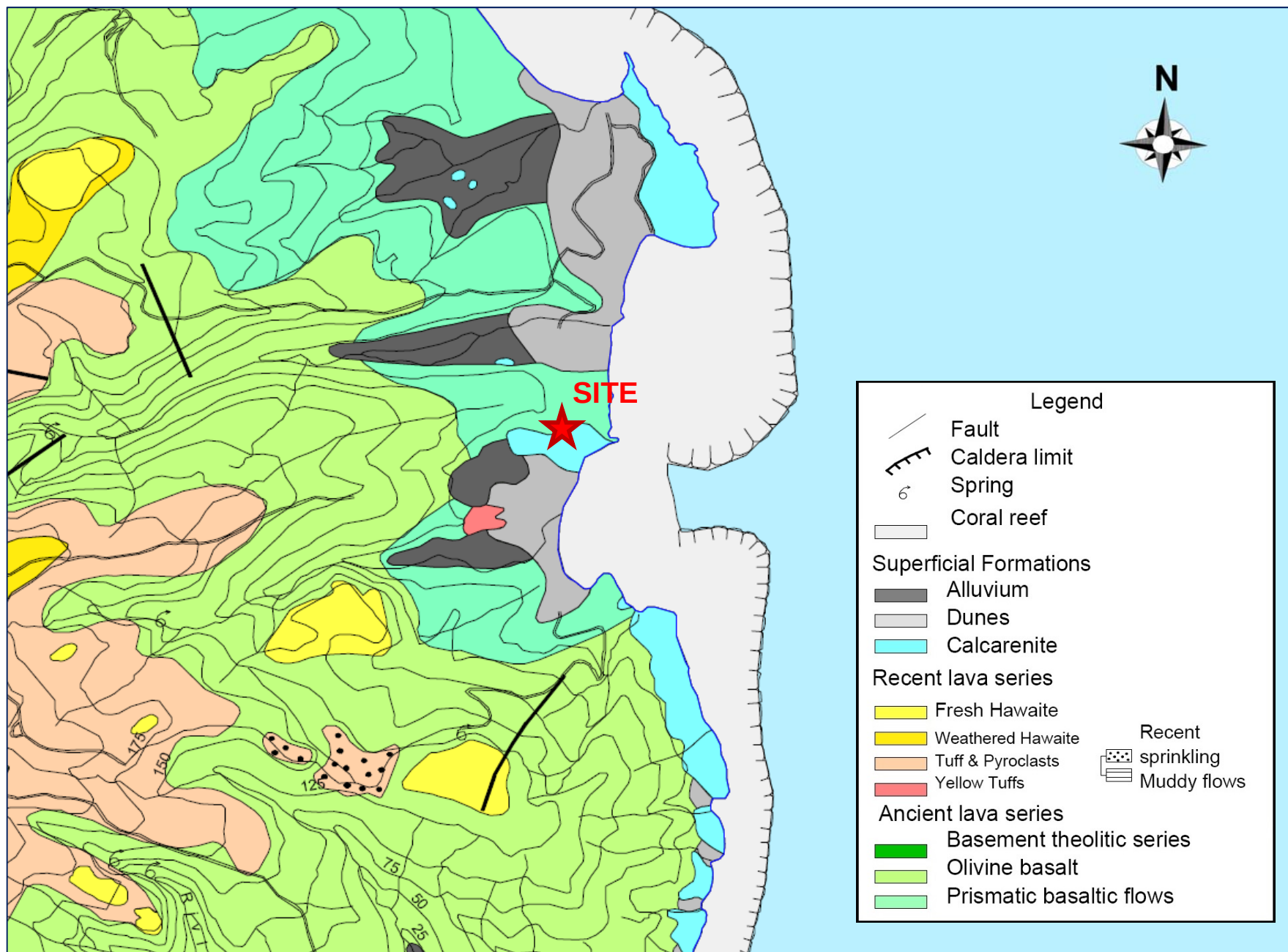


Figure 3.2 - Geological Characteristic of Project Site

3.2.3 Hydrology and Hydrogeology

Hydrology

The Island of Rodrigues has been divided into 20 major river basins and 10 minor ones. The catchment areas vary between 1.08 km² and 6.73 km² as shown in Fig 3.3. The deep cut valleys with steep gradients and the absence of impounding reservoirs in Rodrigues result in most of the rainfall over the island being lost to the sea as high velocity runoff. Due to negligible infiltration to groundwater, base flow of rivers is very low. According to information contained in the Hydrological Data book (Year 2000 - 2005), the flows range from 1.4 l/s in Riviere Grenade to 56.9 l/s in Riviere Baie aux Huitres.

The average annual precipitation in Rodrigues is 1348 mm, which is equivalent to 150 Mm³/yr. The wettest month is February and the driest month is October. Monthly Annual (2001 – 2005) and Long Term Mean (1971 – 2000) rainfall data has been obtained from the nearest station to the site, which is Pointe Cotton.

The rainfall data is given in Table 3.2.

Table 3.2 – Monthly Rainfall Data (mm)

PERIOD	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YEAR
2001	61	72	35	101	102	103	111	30	131	65	61	11	883
2002	127	66	189	62	81	69	76	154	46	63	14	50	997
2003	91	87	365	336	115	61	65	35	69	24	56	16	1320
2004	208	55	110	264	164	66	41	83	56	19	31	37	1134
2005	68	179	143	230	105	125	94	76	96	23	43	47	1229
Long Term Mean 1971-2000	150	185	131	117	78	75	81	59	44	41	71	70	1105

Hydrogeology

The Island of Rodrigues was formed some ten million years ago from a crater of a sea-mount and consisted of theolitic lavas which have been observed as far as the eastern coast of the island. Subsequently, other eruptions consisting of pyroclasts and lavas (prismatic, hawaïtes etc.) contributed to the formation of the present island.

Detailed and systematic geological and hydrogeological studies of Rodrigues were undertaken in 1996 and were completed in 1999. The aquifers of the central caldera, alluvial valleys and the relatively small western caldera account for most of the groundwater resources in Rodrigues. The groundwater production in Rodrigues during normal season has been estimated at 8000 m³/day.

The hydrogeological map of Rodrigues (Source: Hydrological Data Book, Year 2000 - 2005) is illustrated in Figure 3.1. The map identifies the site to lie within a coastal valley aquifer. However, due to the proximity of the site to the sea, the groundwater of the aquifer is likely to contain a high salt content so that the aquifer nearby the site cannot be exploited for potable purposes unless it is being appropriately treated.

3.2.4 Storm Water Drainage

3.2.5 General Site Condition

The prevailing undulating landform in the region within which the project site is located provides several drainage routes for storm water run-off to discharge ultimately to the sea.

During a storm, surface water from the upper part of the site flows to the existing drain that originates from the site itself, as shown in the topographic map in Appendix D. This drain discharges into a main drain immediately east of the site, which then discharges into the sea.

The cultivated land to the south of the project site is crossed by several drains, which also carry storm water to the main drain.

The upper limit of the project site is defined by the coast road, which is located along a ridge. This topographical feature therefore also forms the upper limit of the catchment area of the project site. Accordingly, surface run-off from the higher grounds does not cross or discharge in the drain located on the site.

A grab sample of the water in the main drain, which remains stagnant during normal weather conditions, was analysed to establish the water quality. The test results are enclosed in Appendix C.

River Anse Ally, which forms part of another catchment area, lies at about 550 m north of the project site.

3.2.6 Catchment Characteristics of the Site

The site is located immediately to the southeast of a ridge line defined by the topography of the prevailing terrain. The existing coast road that leads to the village of St Francois and which forms the north-western boundary of the site (a road reserves in between) runs along this ridge and therefore forms the upper limit of the catchment area that contributes to the storm-water runoff across the site.

As a result of the topographic and geomorphic conditions that prevail at the site, there is also no transfer of storm-water runoff from the higher grounds to the site. Consequently, the catchment area dictating storm-water runoff on the site is restricted to the area of the site itself and is therefore minimal as far as run-off is concerned.

3.2.7 Terrestrial Biodiversity

The site does not have a rich biodiversity. Vegetation on the upper part of the site consists only of grasses save an isolated pandanus tree. The lower part of the site is mainly covered with filao trees and grasses, with very sparse undergrowth. 'Batatran' creeper has also been identified to grow along the edge of the drain at the eastern limit of site. Other isolated plant species have also been surveyed.

Plants identified on site are shown in Figure 3.3.



Acacia nilotica (Cassia)



Cassine orientalis (Bois d'olive)



Sporobolus virginicus (Chien-dent)



Premna serratifolia (Bois Sureau)



Casuarina equisetifolia (Filao)



Cordia myxa (Lagomme)



Pandanus eterocarpus



Etrina (Mourouk)



Lantana camara (Vieille fille)



Lacassia



Caesapinia-bondue (Kadok)



Ipomea pes-caprae (Batatran)

Figure 3.3 – Plants Identified on Site

3.3 Air Quality and Noise

3.3.1 Air Quality

There is little published data on ambient air quality in Rodrigues and none in the eastern coastal area. Nevertheless, the site is located in a low activity area with no industrial activities in the surrounding. Accordingly, the prevailing air quality within the project area is expected to reflect the eastern coastal character free from any

atmospheric pollutant.

3.3.2 Noise

Noise is probably the most common form of pollution experienced by the majority of a population, and is unfortunately an inevitable by-product of the whole process of industrialisation and urbanisation.

There is little published data on ambient noise quality in the project area as it is neither industrialised nor urbanised. Noise levels in the area are however characteristic of the background natural noise due to wind and waves.

3.4 General Climatic Conditions

The isolation and geographical location of the island generates a micro climate that is specific to Rodrigues.

The climate of Rodrigues is tropical with south-easterly winds throughout nearly the whole year. The average humidity is in the order of 60 to 70%. The period June to October has the least amount of rainfall with temperatures varying between 14°C and 25°C. During the rainy months of December to March, the temperatures can rise up to 30°C.

3.4.1 Wind Regime

Rodrigues Island is exposed to very regular trade winds, with average wind speeds from 7 to 9 m/s. The long term average wind speed (1980 to 1990) at a height about 30m AMSL is about 8 m/s.

3.4.2 Wind Pattern

The prevailing wind pattern in Rodrigues is the South Eastern trade winds, as shown in Figure 3.4.

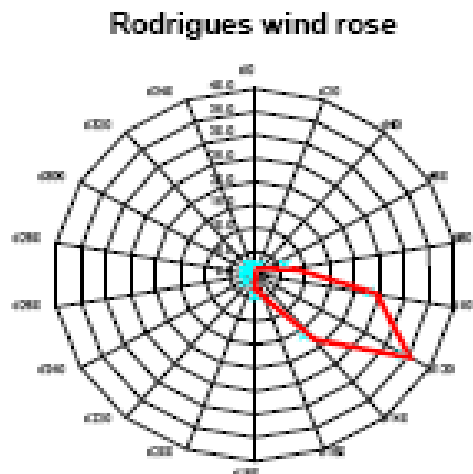


Figure 3.4 – Windrose for Rodrigues

3.4.3 Temperature

Monthly mean of maximum temperature, minimum temperature and the daily average taken as the mean of the maximum and minimum temperature for the Pointe Canon Station for the year 2007 are given in Table 3.3.

Table 3.3 – Monthly Mean, Maximum and Minimum Temperature at Pointe Canon for Year 2007

MONTH	Temperature (°C)			
	Mean Maximum	Difference from Normal	Mean Minimum	Difference From Normal
January	29.9	+0.7	24.3	+0.7
February	28.9	-0.4	23.9	+0.1
March	29.3	-0.1	23.5	-0.2
April	28.6	-0.1	23.1	+0.1
May	27.8	+0.3	22.1	+0.5
June	26.1	+0.1	20	-0.1
July	25.6	+0.6	19.8	+0.7
August	25.4	+0.6	19.2	+0.4
September	25.8	+0.4	19.4	+0.1
October	26.2	-0.1	19.8	-0.3
November	28	+0.6	21.6	+0.3
December	28.6	-0.1	22.7	-0.1

From the Table 3.2, it can be observed that the monthly mean temperature varies from around 22°C in the winter months to around 28°C in the summer months. The mean maximum temperature varies from a low of 25.4°C in August to 29.9°C in January and February whereas the mean minimum temperature vary from 19.2°C in August to 23.9°C in February.

3.4.4 Cyclone and Natural Catastrophes

i. Cyclone

Rodrigues is subject to possible seasonal tropical cyclones during period December to March/April. Cyclones are characterised by low pressure conditions and high wind systems. From records available at the Mauritius Meteorological Services, over the period 1960-70, 39% of cyclones were classified as Weak”, 42% as “Moderate” and 19% as “Strong” with gust speeds over 80 km/h.

Elevations in sea levels caused by cyclones did not exceed 2 m. However, high wind systems over the sea can contribute to formation of occasional waves exceeding this value.

ii. Natural Catastrophes

Rodrigues has been subject to two recent earthquakes on 2 December 2009 and

16 August 2010, having magnitudes of 5.3 and 6.2 respectively. The epicentre of the most recent earthquake was located at about 150 km southeast of Rodrigues.

The island was slightly affected by the Tsunami in December 2004. However, variations in sea levels, recorded from north to east of the island, have not exceeded 2 m.

3.5 Marine Environment

In order to have a general appreciation of the biodiversity of the lagoon at the site, a marine ecological survey was carried out.

The findings of the marine survey are detailed in Appendix E of this report.

3.6 Landscape and Visual Environment

The visual environment at the site can be described as a mix of bare land, land under filao trees, white sandy beaches and the ocean. Agricultural lands that lie immediately to the south of the site also impact on the visuals of the site.

Westwards, the site also offers a magnificent view over the mountain ranges that form the central ridge of Rodrigues Island.

3.7 Traffic and Infrastructure

3.7.1 Traffic

According to information obtained from the Digest of Statistics on Rodrigues 2013, Statistics Mauritius of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, the number of registered vehicles in Rodrigues as at end December 2013 was around 10,100, out of which 68% is represented by motorcycles.

The average annual growth rate of motor vehicles by category for the period 2009 to 2013 was around 9% for motorcycles, 14% for cars and dual purpose vehicles, 4% for goods vehicles, 8% for buses and 14% for other vehicles including excavators and trailers. However, the level of traffic in Rodrigues can still be considered to be on the very low side. As a result of the low population over the island, this situation is not expected to change significantly in the short to medium terms.

Traffic flow in the vicinity of the project area is minimal and the existing public road serving the site is in fact under-utilised as there are very few commercial/industrial activities in the area, except Cotton Bay Hotel. A slight increase in traffic is experienced during the week end resulting from traffic leading to Cotton Bay and St Francois public beaches. However, this increase does not affect the normal traffic pattern at the project site significantly. It is also to be noted that the road leading to St Francois village and which also provides access to the project site is a dead end and

as such does not generate through traffic.

The proposed development, which is classified as a small hotel, will not generate substantial traffic that will have an adverse impact on the existing traffic flow and the road network in the area or in Rodrigues.

3.8 Existing Infrastructure

3.8.1 Water Supply

The deep cut valleys with steep gradients and the absence of impounding reservoirs in Rodrigues result in most of the rainfall over the island being lost to the sea as high velocity runoff. Due to negligible infiltration to groundwater, base flow of rivers is very low. Accordingly, surface water resources in Rodrigues are very scarce. Run-of-river abstractions, boreholes and a few springs provide the water for all purposes. According to information gathered from the RRA, the actual daily water demand is about 10,000 m³/day while production is around 6,000 m³/day only.

During extended dry spells, production of water goes down drastically. To cater for the potable water demand of Rodrigues, the RRA is presently undertaking the installation of desalination plants over the island.

The nearby villages of Cotton Bay, St Francois and Anse Ally are all connected to the main water distribution network of the RRA. These villages are fed from the Roche Bon Dieu reservoir.

3.8.2 Electricity

Electricity in Rodrigues is produced solely from CEB's thermal power plants located at Port Mathurin and Pointe Monnier.

According to the Integrated Electricity Plan 2013-2022 of the Central Electricity Board, electricity demand in Rodrigues is expected to grow annually by 2.1% and 1.5% for the periods 2013–2017 and 2018–2022, respectively. The forecasted peak demand will reach 8.83 MW by 2022, that is, 38% higher than the peak of 6.39 MW recorded in 2011. To satisfy future demand, a new engine of 2.5 MW will be required by 2018 following the commissioning of the 2.5 MW engine at the Pointe Monnier Power Station in 2012. Further exploitation of renewable energy sources such as wind and solar (with/without storage batteries) is an alternative being seriously contemplated by the CEB for Rodrigues.

The environs to the project site are being supplied with electricity from the grid of the CEB.

3.8.3 Telecommunications

Landline telephone service in the vicinity of the project area is provided by the Mauritius Telecom. The region is also covered with mobile telephone networks serviced by Emtel and Orange.

3.8.4 Sewerage

There are presently no sewerage facilities in Rodrigues. Domestic sewage is presently disposed of through septic tanks or pits. The use of sewage treatment

plants is not common in Rodrigues.

3.8.5 Solid Waste

Solid waste in Rodrigues is collected and disposed of at the Roche Bon Dieu dump site.

3.9 Built Environment

3.9.1 General

The island of Rodrigues is a constituency of the Republic of Mauritius and is dependent on the latter. In year 2001, the Mauritius National Assembly unanimously adopted two laws giving Rodrigues its autonomy, creating a decentralised government system. This new legislation has allowed the implementation of a regional assembly in Rodrigues constituting of 18 members and an executive council headed by a Chief Commissioner. The council meets every week to make decisions, draw up laws and manage the budget. The Chief Commissioner has the main task of informing the Mauritian Prime Minister of the management of the island's concerns.

Most of the information given in this sub-sections that follow have been extracted from the Digest of Statistics on Rodrigues 2013 prepared by Statistics Mauritius of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development.

3.9.2 Zoning

Rodrigues is divided into 14 zones as shown in Table 3.4. For statistical purposes, the zones are further subdivided into some 182 localities.

Table 3.4 –Zones in Rodrigues

Zone No	Zone Name
1	Piments-Baie Topaze
2	La Ferme
3	Baie Malgache
4	Oyster Bay
5	Port Mathurin
6	Grand Baie-Montagne Goyaves
7	Roche Bon Dieu-Trèfles
8	Lataniers-Mont Lubin
9	Petit Gabriel
10	Mangues-Quatre Vents
11	Plaine Corail-La Fouche Corail
12	Rivière Cocos
13	Port Sud-Est
14	Coromandel-Graviers

Figure 3.5 overleaf shows the geographical distribution of these 14 zones.

3.9.3 Demography

According to the Digest of Statistics on Rodrigues 2013, the population estimate (as of 31 December 2013) for the island of Rodrigues was 41,504 with a density of 399 persons per sq km and comprising 49% of the male sex. It is projected that the resident population of Rodrigues will reach nearly 50,000 by 2053.

As shown in the zoning map in Figure 3.5, the project site is located in Zone 14: Coromandel-Graviers. The population in this zone represents only about 6% of the total population of Rodrigues.

3.9.4 Economy and Employment

The economy of Rodrigues is mostly dependent upon Mauritius. The main sources of income and economic activities are tourism, fishing, cultivation of vegetables (especially onions, garlic, red beans and chili), and animal rearing. The handicraft industry has proven to be beneficial to the economy of the island. However, the income derived from the export of sea products, cattle, and food crops is smaller than the costs of imported products, creating a deficit.

As far as public finance is concerned, expense and acquisition of non-financial assets for the Island of Rodrigues amounted to MUR 1,974 million for year 2013.

Employment in all sectors of the economy as end 2013 stood at 17,700. The sectors that provide the greater percentage of employment are Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing. Employment in these sectors amounts to 6,000. Public Administration and Defence, which encompass all departments of the RRA, is the second largest employment sector with some 2,577 employments.

Accommodation and food service activities, which include the tourist sector, provided some 967 employments as at end 2013. The total value of sales of hotels and restaurants in Rodrigues represented 15% of the total gross output of all industrial activities, the largest one being the construction industry, with a gross output of MUR 473.1 million or a representative percentage of 35%.

3.9.5 Culture

Music

The traditional music of the island is known as Segha Tambour. The music has an accentuated beat, usually accompanied by an accordion, clapping and the use of improvised percussion instruments like bamboo. The folk dance music is similar to polkas, quadrilles, waltzes and Scottish reels.

Cuisine

One highlight of a visit to Rodrigues is the magnificent mixture of cuisines on offer. The most common varieties are Créole, European, Chinese and Indian, with a huge selection of seafood.



Figure 3.5 – Rodrigues Zoning Map

The secret of the Rodrigues cuisine lies in the freshness of the ingredients, the expertise handed over from the past generations and the local flavours and aromas of well-preserved culinary traditions. A typical Rodrigues buffet might include creole-style pork sausages, chinese pork dishes, chicken curry, creole roast beef and vegetables french-style.

Specialties are the octopus curry, chicken curry, honey glazed pork, cono-cono salad, mussel gratin, corn-fed chicken salad with ginger, sauteed crab, steamed fish, smoked ham and the 'piments limon', which are small pickled green lemons ground and mixed with chilies.

Common dishes include rougaille, a mediterranean dish of tomatoes, garlic, onions, meat, fish and octopus stew. Boiled rice mixed with ground maize is served with almost all dishes.

Local pastries and cakes include a rich selection of papaya or pineapple pies with freshly grated coconut or flavoured with cinnamon and maize pudding. Also, there are the local delights of the sweet potato cakes and the cassava cakes.