

## GLOSSARY

**Absolute Peak Flow (m<sup>3</sup>/s)** : This is the instantaneous peak flow of a river in cubic metres per second given for each month. The rating curves are extrapolated to estimate peak flows at most of the stations.

**Alluvium** : Any clay, silt, sand, pebble or other detrital material deposited by water.

**Aquifer** : Hydrogeologically permeable formation allowing a significant flow of groundwater and economical exploitation of a significant volume of water.

**Caldera** : It is a large volcanic crater resulting from collapse of the central part of a volcano after a major eruption.

**Dynamic Water Level** : It is the influenced depth of water measured from ground level in a well at a given instance during pumping.

**Elevation** : It is defined as a level above the Mean Sea Level.

**Grid Reference** : The datum of the grid system in Mauritius is the longitude 57°31' 18.58" East of Greenwich and the latitude 20° 11' 42.25" South, corresponding to 1000 000 E and 1000 000 N for Mauritius. The six or seven digits represent the coordinates of the location being considered in a Cartesian plane. Its unit of measurement is metres.

**Isohyet** : Line joining the points where the amount of precipitation in a given period is the same

**Long Term Mean (LTM)** : It is the average value of a hydrologic variable for a period exceeding 10 years.

**Maximum Elevation** : It is the level of the highest point in the catchment /sub-catchment of a river above the Mean Sea Level.

**Permeability** : The property of a geological formation, consolidated or not, to be crossed by a fluid under the effect of hydraulic gradient. It expresses the resistance of a medium to a flow of water when being crossed.

**Piezometric Level** : It is the difference between the ground elevation and the depth of groundwater in a well or piezometer.

**Residence Time** : The period during which a substance remains in the concerned water body.

**Static Water Level** : It is the depth of water in a well or piezometer at rest measured from ground level.

**Station code for flow gauging station** : The gauging station code is an alphanumeric reference which serves primarily to identify the station record. The alphabet is an identifier for the catchment – one letter for a major catchment, two letters for a minor catchment, while the following digits give the code number – two digits for river gauging stations, three digits for gauging stations on diversions. These digits are allocated chronologically to the stations situated within the catchment area.

**Transmissivity** : Rate at which water is transmitted through a unit width of the aquifer under a unit hydraulic gradient . It is expressed as the product of the hydraulic conductivity and the thickness of the saturated portion of the aquifer.

## CONVERSION TABLE

### Length

|             |   |                       |
|-------------|---|-----------------------|
| 1 foot (ft) | = | 0.3048 metre (m)      |
| 1 inch (in) | = | 25.4 millimetres (mm) |
| 1 mile (mi) | = | 1,609 metres          |
| 1 toise     | = | 1.949 metres          |

### Area

|                |   |  |
|----------------|---|--|
| 1 acre (ac)    | = | 4,050 square metres (m <sup>2</sup> )  |
| 1 arpent       | = | 4,210 square metres (m <sup>2</sup> )  |
| 1 hectare (ha) | = | 10,000 square metres (m <sup>2</sup> ) |
| 1 perche       | = | 42 square metres (m <sup>2</sup> )     |

### Volume

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1 cubic foot (ft <sup>3</sup> )           | = | 28.3 litres (l)                          |
| 1 cubic foot (ft <sup>3</sup> )           | = | 0.0283 cubic metres (m <sup>3</sup> )    |
| 1 cubic metre (m <sup>3</sup> )           | = | 1,000 litres (l)                         |
| 1 hectolitre (hl)                         | = | 100 litres (l)                           |
| 1 gallon                                  | = | 4.54 litres (l)                          |
| 1 million cubic metres (Mm <sup>3</sup> ) | = | 1,000,000 cubic metres (m <sup>3</sup> ) |
| 1 million cubic feet (Mcf)                | = | 28300 cubic metres (m <sup>3</sup> )     |

### Rate of Discharge

|                               |   |  |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| 1 cubic foot per second (cfs) | = | 0.0283 cubic metres per second (m <sup>3</sup> /s) |
| 1 cubic foot per second (cfs) | = | 2445 cubic metres per day (m <sup>3</sup> /d)      |

## ABBREVIATIONS

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| <b>Max :</b>                 | Maximum   |
| <b>Min :</b>                 | Minimum   |
| <b>a.m.s.l :</b>             | Above Mean Sea Level  |
| <b>m<sup>3</sup>/s Day :</b> | A volume equivalent to a continuous steady flow of 1m <sup>3</sup> /s for a period of 24 hours. |
| <b>WHO :</b>                 | World Health Organisation   |