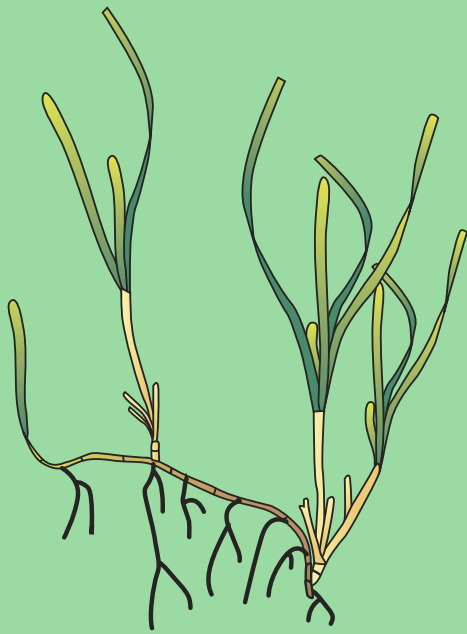
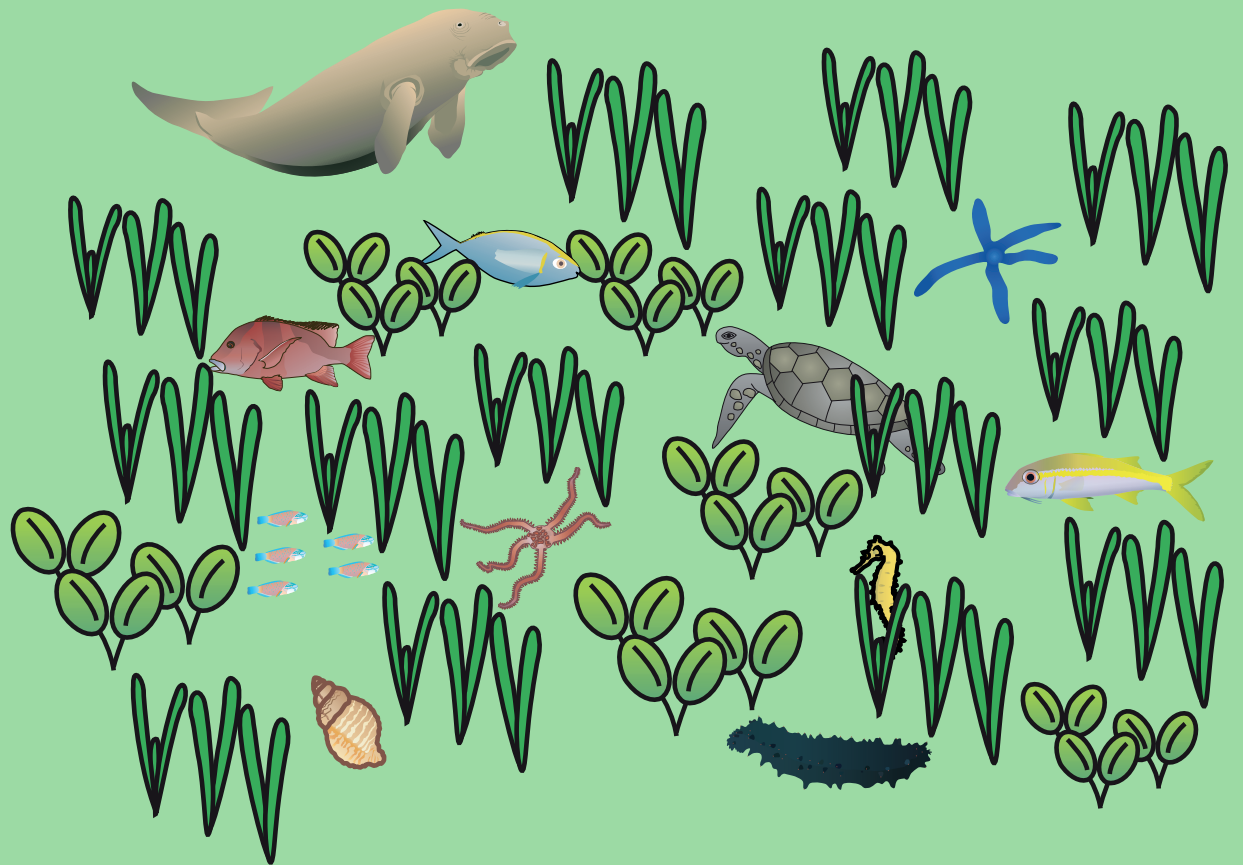


Seagrasses

Seagrasses are flowering plants that live under water in the sea. Their leaves have veins and their roots anchor them in the seabed. They use sunlight to grow and live in shallow water.



Seagrass beds are habitat for many different species of animals.

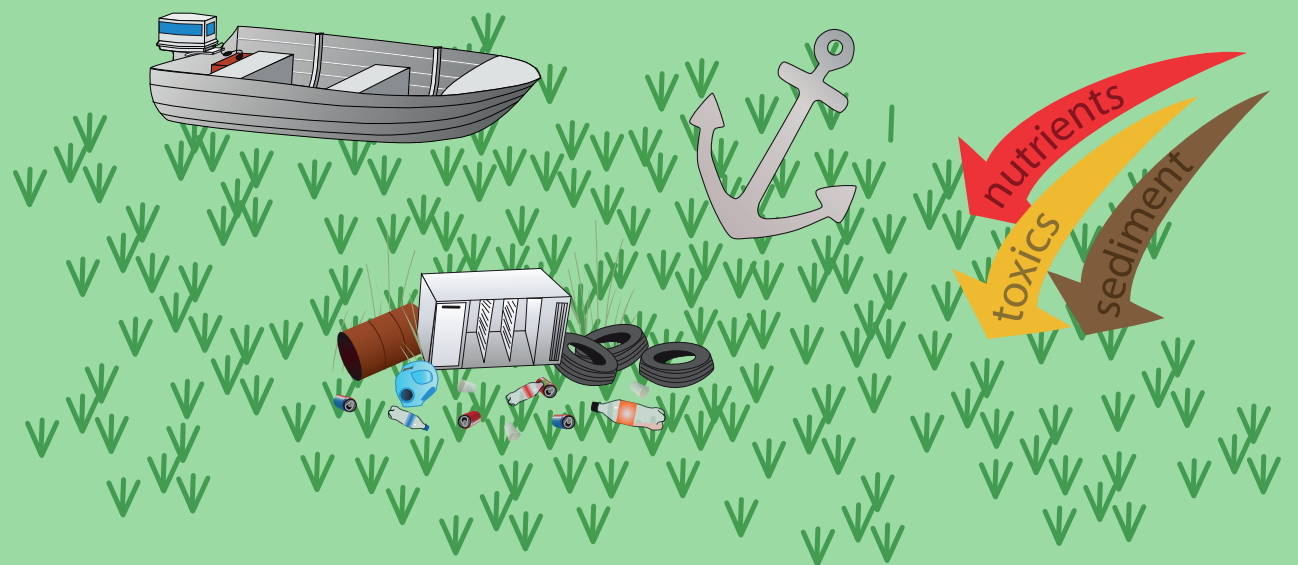


Seagrass beds have many benefits

- Provide food and shelter for fish, shellfish, dugongs, green turtles, sea cucumbers and seahorses: animals that we eat or that tourists like to see
- Create nurseries for juvenile shellfish and fish
- Work together with mangroves and coral reefs to cycle nutrients and to protect our coastlines against storm surges, cyclones and erosion
- Oxygenate and filter sea water
- Take in carbon dioxide, which helps to reduce the effects of climate change including ocean acidification

Threats to Seagrass beds

- Activities that reduce water clarity and increase the amount of sediment in the water. e.g. from run-off, dredging, coastal clearing and land reclamation.
- Physical damage from boat propellers, anchors and trawling.
- Sewage, litter and other waste products.
- Cyclones and floods



We can help keep Seagrass beds healthy by:

- Reducing run-off of sediments and pollutants from land into the sea
- Keeping beaches and the sea free from litter
- Looking after mangroves and coral reefs
- Taking care when driving boats over seagrass beds
- Not anchoring in seagrass beds
- Monitoring seagrass beds to ensure they are staying healthy

