



# SNR FACT SHEET

## SEAGRASS BEDS

Adjacent to Steenbok Nature Reserve & Kingfisher Creek

### What are they?

Seagrass is not a type of grass, but rather flowering plants, usually with grass-like leaves, that are able to live in sea water.

### Why are they important?

Seagrass meadows – like coral reefs – are centres of great biodiversity, are highly productive and currently disappearing from the planet at an alarmingly fast rate. Seagrass beds filter nutrient and various chemical inputs out of the water; they stabilize sediments and most importantly provide a nursery area for commercially-important species of prawns and fish, later to be caught in deeper water and offshore.



### Who lives in seagrass?

A wide variety of creatures, many very small and most hidden from sight, live on or just below the surface. These include crustaceans, sea-snails, worms, sea-slugs, sea-cucumbers and many others. Some of these creatures are of national or international significance.



### Why are they vulnerable?

Bait collecting for mud-prawns and blood worm could eventually destroy the seagrass, which is very sensitive to trampling and trenching. Please respect the SA National Parks Board Bait Reserve – which is there to ensure that there will be food for future generations.



The full text of 'Seagrass Beds of Knysna' by eminent marine biologist, Dr Richard Barnes, is available at [www.steenboknaturereserve.org.za](http://www.steenboknaturereserve.org.za)

Photographs by Margaret Richards

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