# SEAGRASS BEDS

Seagrass beds are **underwater meadows**: they are formed by **marine phanerogams**, **flowering plants** adapted to the salty environment. They are differentiated from **algae** by the presence of **roots**, **stems**, **leaves**, **flowers** and **fruits**. In the **Caribbean**, seagrass beds cover about 66 000 km<sup>2</sup>, making up between **10 and 20% of the world's underwater meadows**.

A high diversity of species use the seagrass beds as shelter, feeding and/or spawning areas, and thus depend on them for their survival.

## FUNCTIONS AGAINST NATURAL HAZARDS



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CaribCoast

Andlee grass

#### **Coastal protection**

Office National des Forêts

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The seagrass beds **slow down the swell**: their leaves and stems absorb the wave's energy.

#### Mitigation of erosion

Seagrass beds **trap suspended particles** and **fix large volumes of sediments**. The **stabilization** and **accretion** of sediments **supply** our beaches with **sand**.



### **Climate regulation**

Seagrass beds **absorb** and **store atmospheric carbon dioxide** in their sediments through photosynthesis. They are important **carbon sinks** and help **mitigate climate change**.





Climate change



The invasive alien species (IAS)



Overfishing



Human activities Coastal development,



Natural hazards Cyclones, sargassum, eutrophication...



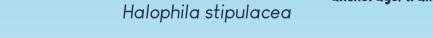


Protection: Protected areas, regulations, eco-anchorage, tishing management...



Rehabilitation: Fight against climate change, control of IAS/ sargassum, wastewater management,

Restoration: Transplantation.





seeding, micropropagation.

regeneration enclosure...