

*Ynboes* is the term given to the vegetation typical of the south western and southern Cape. The "Cape Floral Kingdom" is one of seven Floristic Regions in the world. Despite the small size of the IRMA BOOYSEN NATURE RESERVE, it supports a highly diverse selection of dune *Ynboes* species, many of which are endemic (restricted to the south-eastern Cape coastline).

On walking through the Reserve the hiker will encounter different regions or zones in which one will observe differing plant communities. These zones are a result of the topography, the underlying soils and the aspect (or direction) in which the zone faces the sun. Generally soils are deep, sandy and poorly consolidated. They are moderately alkaline (hence the build-up of lime and calcium in our kettles and geysers) and poor nutrients by agricultural standards. However the are extremely well suited to dune *Ynboes* which has adapted well to such harsh soil conditions.

The IBNR is dominated by a series of vegetated parallel dunes of varying height which run in a west-east direction, in sympathy with the prevailing wind direction. The dune ridges are the driest and most exposed sites in the landscape; the soils are excessively drained and vegetation cover and organic matter is low.

It is for this reason that the walker will note that the trails tend to avoid such areas. The vegetation in these areas tend to be dwarfed as it is constantly windblown. Fleshy leaved succulents tend to favour this area and it is on the dune ridges that the walker is most likely to encounter the gouskum, (*Carpobrotus deltoideus*) and the phys. ear, (*Cotyledon orbiculata*).

The north-facing dune slopes, tend to have soils marginally better than the ridges. Here the *Ynboes* is more exposed to sunshine, giving rise to plant varieties more adapted to heat and it is here that we find the "finer leaved" specimens (hence the term *Ynboes*). Typical plant species will include, *Buchu*, (*Agathosma apiculata*) the dune olive, (*Olea exasperata*) and the num-num, (*Cassia bispinosa*).

On the cooler, south-facing slopes, vegetation is denser and levels of organic matter are higher than elsewhere on the dunes, this is where the walker will encounter the larger more broad leaved thickets and dune forests. Such areas where the milkwoods, (*Sideroxylon inermis*) and Kershout, (*Procrislastrus truncispidatus*) grow well, are the remnants of the type of forest vegetation that once dominated this area before the alien *rooikrantz*, (*Acacia cyclops*) took over.

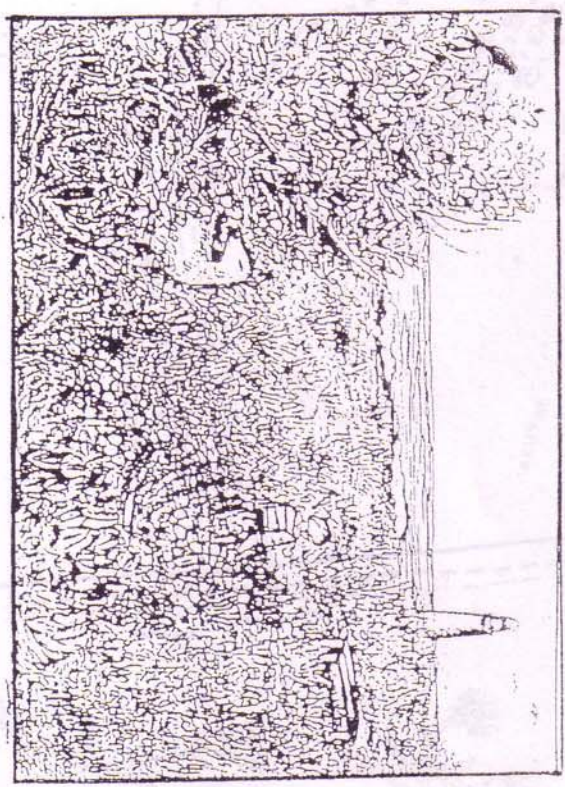
The valleys or slacks between the dunes have the highest levels of soil moisture and organic matter in the entire landscape. This is because they receive runoff (above and below ground) from the dunes and often have impeded drainage resulting in a hardpan below the surface. Where the hardpan is near the surface, vlei conditions occur. In the vlei wetlands species such as *fontanbos*, (*Psoralea pinnata*) and the wild *Ginerana* (*Senecio elegant*) will be found.

The walker should also be on the look out for *teabos*, (*Rhus glauca*) and *blombos*, (*Metastasis munitata*) which occur throughout the Reserve. While the different zones in the Reserve may tend to favour certain vegetation types, the walker must always bear in mind that nature does not restrict and divide. One may therefore encounter a certain plant type in several different areas.

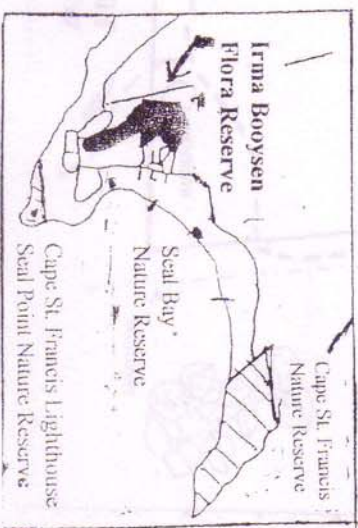
All told the IBNR includes at least 195 species of higher plants of which only 12 species are not indigenous. This is an extremely rich flora for such a small area. 14 species are endemic to the south-western portion of the Eastern Cape and 45 species may be classified as rare (having populations in the reserve of less than 10 individuals). Thus the IBNR represents an important conservation site for the plant species at a Global level.

# IRMA BOOYSEN FLORA RESERVE

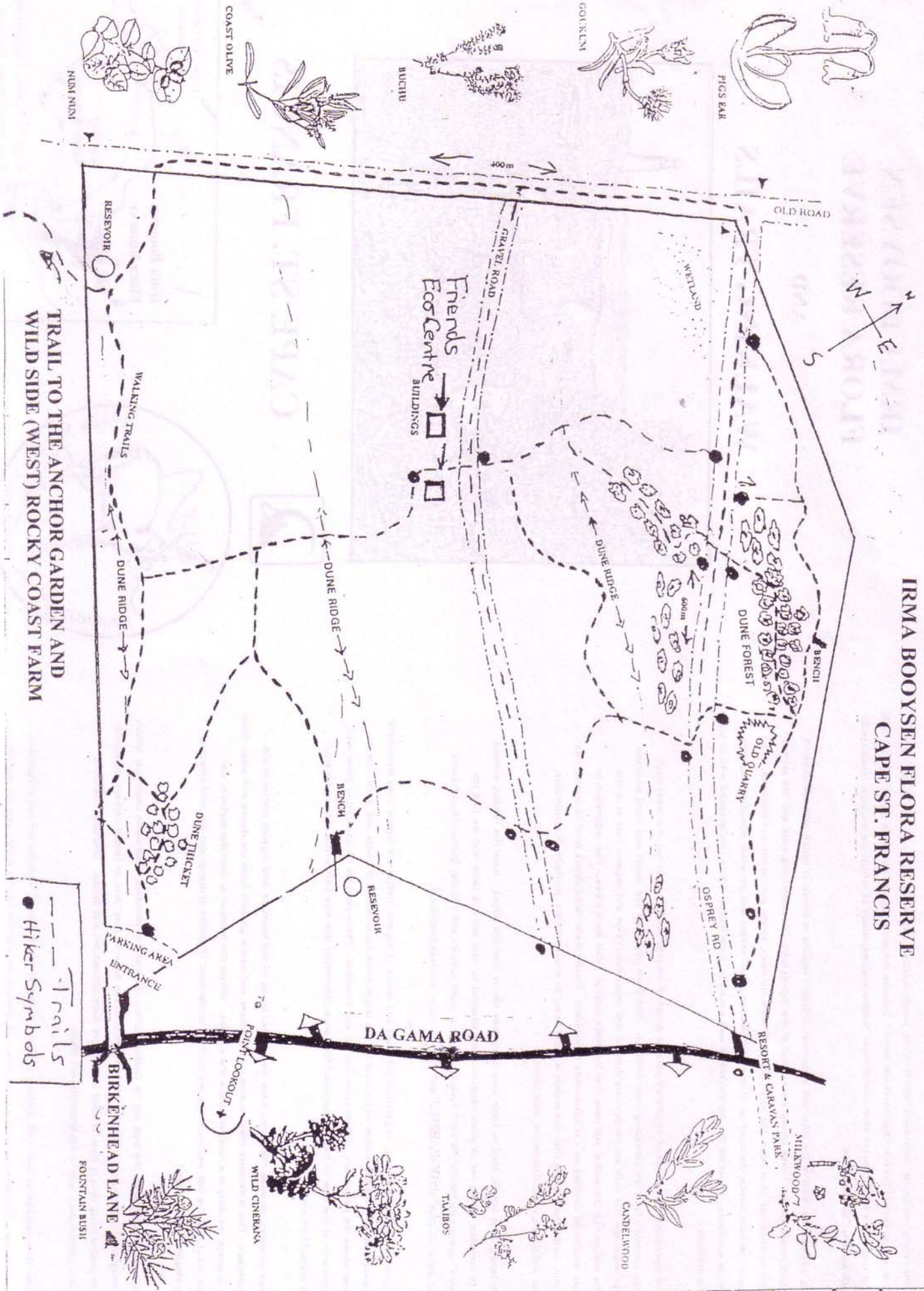
## AND WALKING TRAILS



### CAPE ST. FRANCIS



IRMA BOOYSEN FLORA RESERVE  
CAPE ST. FRANCIS



TRAIL TO THE ANCHOR GARDEN AND  
WILD SIDE (WEST) ROCKY COAST FARM

Trails  
Hiker Symbols

