

Classification of the Cilento, Vallo Diano and Alburni National Park - European Geopark Coastland, Italy

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In order to address innovative approaches for best conservation practices and sustainable use of marine and coastal geosites, this paper proposes a classification scheme and distinctive evolutionary model for representative carbonate, terrigenous and clastic rocky coast and marine nearshore geosites of the Cilento, Vallo Diano and Alburni National Park-European, based on original analysis and international standards (e.g., UNESCO, IUCN Protocol, Council of Europe). This proposal is possible as the Cilento has one of the most fascinating and appreciated coastlands in the Mediterranean countries, and thus contains many coastal and marine geosites. Nonetheless in the last decades, this coastland has suffered an increasing human pressure due to civil settlements as well as tourist infrastructures, resulting in a hazard for humans, in damaged habitats, and in losses for the landscape heritage. In addition, Global (Climate) Change and related level sea variation induce further disturbance in a very large space-time span. All the previous considerations help in a better understanding of the coastal system in order to perform appropriate actions for coast protection, conservation, sustainable mitigation and remediation. In this direction, major efforts have been lavished by scientific and public institutions in research and intervention on shorelines, and beach erosion remediation, because of their great economic importance in tourism and recreation. Particular attention has been given here instead to the rocky and cliff coast, for their spatial extension, hazardous characters and scenery relevance. Rocky coastlands constitute relevant areas of the network of protected areas as Marine Reserves. Assessment of rocky coast landscape characters, natural ecosystem resources, and specific hazardous areas has become more essential to increase studies and research in rocky coast environments.

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