

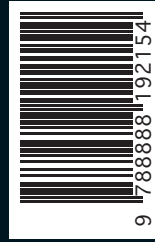
In a country like Italy - a long peninsula stretching into the Mediterranean, with two large and many small islands - coastal cliffs are essential habitats, with a multitude of locally differing characteristics.

Only plants and land animals, which are specifically adapted to peculiar soil and climatic conditions, can live on rugged, steep, coastal contours and still withstand the unceasing motion of waves and other physical phenomena.



Species which can tolerate constant environmental variations populate a thin, albeit well-defined, seaward transitional belt, which marks the passage to an underwater world covered by lush algal vegetation and inhabited by a variety of colourful animals.

On one hand, low coasts are easily damaged by tourism and tourists in all their manifestations, and are now disfigured by widespread impoverishment and environmental degradation. On the other hand, less accessible high coastlines have been better able to preserve their original features. Acknowledgement of their particular natural value may preserve them from even further damage by man, but they still require - and deserve - proper conservation and management.



Sea cliffs and rocky coastlines

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Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio
Museo Friulano di Storia Naturale

