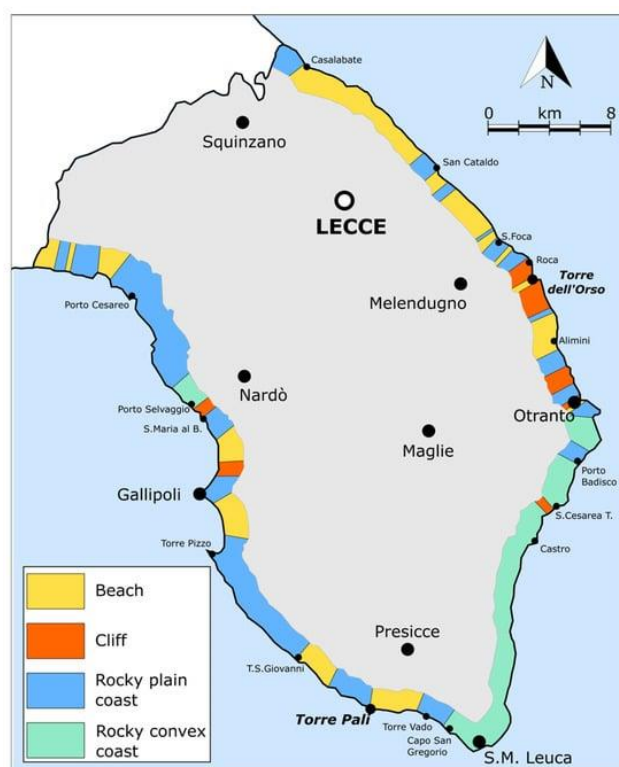


Historical Evolution of the Salento Leccese Coastal Landscape (Southern Apulia, Italy)

Summary

The Salento Leccese coast (southern Apulia, Italy) is marked both by primary and secondary coasts (cliffs and beaches); beaches, in particular, constitute about a quarter of the coastal perimeter. The Salento Leccese coast experienced dramatic change over the last two centuries due to natural and anthropic causes. This change was reconstructed through a geomorphological survey, historical cartography, and an aerial photo analysis. In particular, two case studies are described: the first one stretches along the Adriatic coast of the peninsula (Torre dell'Orso locality), and the second one is located along the Ionian coast (Torre Pali locality). For these coastal tracts, the main geomorphological features and the natural evolution that occurred during the Holocene are described, along with the anthropic modifications induced in the coastal landscape over the last two centuries. This study represents a useful knowledge background for coastal planners and decision makers, which will be utilized by the National Restoration Plans to be implemented in the near future, with the aim of restoring degraded ecosystems according to the recent Nature Restoration Law of the European Commission (2024).



Geographical distribution of main coastal morphological types in the Salento Leccese peninsula. Positions of representative Torre dell'Orso and Torre Pali areas are also reported.

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