


Dunes are large mounds of sand accumulated and sculpted by the wind; they are an integral part of an ecosystem in symbiosis with beaches, wetlands behind the dunes and 'Posidonia oceanica' (sea grass) beds. They are a natural source of sediment for beaches and provide a physical barrier that protects lagoons, coastal lakes and marshes. Together they constitute a single and particularly fragile system of great importance to the coast's environment, landscape and economy.

Their stability depends on the balance of a series of natural phenomena, but human activity and abuse can cause irreparable damage to this equilibrium.


Remember that local laws forbid trampling over dunes and the vegetation that grows on and around them.

## The dunes are in danger



**The dunes**

- Do not walk on the dunes; use walkways where available or otherwise follow already trodden paths
- Do not cross the dunes with cars or any motorised vehicle
- Do not damage vegetation; juniper bushes and other plants on the dunes serve to protect the beach from the action of the wind and the sea



**The sand**

- Shake your towels, rinse any equipment you may have and clean feet and shoes before leaving the beach
- Do not leave objects of any kind on the beach (newspapers, plastic plates, food wrappers etc). The wind will pick them up and they will end up as refuse deposited on the dunes and in the sea.

# Dedicated to those who love the sea

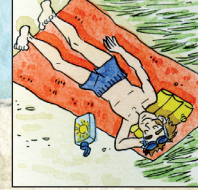
Consciousness raising campaign to safeguard Sardinia's beaches



## Beaches are common property and should be accessible to everyone


Beaches are part of the land and sea, being coastal deposits consisting of sand, pebbles and shingle, which change in form over time due to the incessant action of the wind, wave motion and rivers. They are transformed by earth and sea sediments that are transported and altered by the energy of the sea. Their colour, shape and sounds make them a unique example of nature at work.

The strip of coastline - 5 m from the shore - can be accessed and is an area of transit for all. In order to safeguard the coastal environment, do not use any motorised forms of transport on beaches or sand dunes.



**Sun cream and Protection**

- Use a sun-cream that is water resistant: a mere drop of sun oil can pollute the same amount of water as found in a full bath tub
- Avoid exposure to sun in the hottest hours of the day and cover your head, (children especially)



**What you can do**

- Keep the beach clean and take all rubbish away with you
- If you smoke, collect your cigarette butts and take them with you
- The sand, shells and pebbles belong to the beach: please do not remove them
- Inform the Forestry Corps (1515) if you see someone taking away sand in bottles or buckets etc. Removing sand contributes to coastal erosion, and is considered as serious theft

**Sardinia's Regional Coastal Conservation Agency is the first local agency set up to encourage the sustainable development of coastal areas throughout the Mediterranean**

The aims and responsibilities of the Agency are: safeguard, protect and exploit the economic potential of coastal ecosystems and the integrated management of coastal areas of scenic beauty and environmental importance.


Specific areas of competence are as follows:

- The acquisition of coastal assets of scenic beauty and environmental importance
- The conservation, increasing in value and the bringing up to standard safety requirements of property assets entrusted to the Agency
- Coordinating and planning the integrated management of coastal areas, in collaboration with the Regional government administration, local communal authorities and other organisations involved in managing protected areas or other areas and sites of community interest
- Promoting and sensitising public opinion on the subject of landscape and environmental protection

## Posidonia beds prevent erosion


Commonly known as seaweed, Posidonia is an endemic sea grass of the Mediterranean protected by the Habitats Directive. It forms vast underwater beds, which perform an important ecological function, producing oxygen and providing food for many organisms. It also prevents sand from the beaches from drifting away from the coast and out to sea.

During autumn, the plant sheds its leaves, which are transported to the shore by waves. Then they pile up in large blocks which diminish the energy of the waves and protect the beach from erosion.



**Posidonia**

- Accept that the beach must stay in its natural state: Posidonia is not a refuse; it is a fundamental part of the ecosystem
- Remember that if you remove piles of Posidonia it will lead to much sand being lost and will contribute to more rapid erosion



**Buoys and anchoring**

- Use the areas marked out by buoys or otherwise be careful to anchor your boat on sandy sea beds
- always weigh anchors with caution: the furrows left by anchors dragged through Posidonia beds are among the causes of its disappearance



- Initiatives undertaken by the Coastal Conservation Agency**
- Coordinating the 'CAMP' programme through measures aimed to stop coastal erosion, and promote the integrated management of fishing and sustainable tourism
  - Restoration and transformation for tourist purposes of 13 Spanish Coastal Towers in the communal areas of Cagliari, Domus de Maria, Teulada, San Vero Milis, Alghero and Baunei
  - Bringing the peninsula of 'Is Mortorius' (Comune of Quartu) and the area of Mangiabarche (Comune of Calasetta) up to standard safety requirements
  - Increase the economic potential of the Region's natural heritage, specifically the island of Asinara: building of a sailing centre at Trabuccato and regeneration of the area around Cala d'Oliva etc
  - Creation of the first eco-hostel in Sardinia in the town of Buggerru
  - Integrated management of coastal forest land in Castiadas, Porto Conte - Baratz lake, Berchida-Bidderosa and Tresnuraghes, in collaboration with the Forestry Agency
  - General public awareness raising campaign on all issues concerning the safeguarding of coastlines "Dedicated to those who love the sea", "Visions of the Coast", "Coast Day", ...
  - Environmental education in junior high schools by means of projects and competitions such as "Adopt a beach"



**REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA**  
AGENZIA CONSERVATORIA DELLE COSTE

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To report any abuses contact: 1515 (Forestry Corp) - 1530 (Port Authority)

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