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Geomorphological hazards in coastal tourist areas: the case of Portofino Park (Italy)

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In the studied coastal park area there are many paths used by tourists either for trekking or as access to small villages and to the beach. It is intended to charcterize the geomorphological hazards and tourist vulnerability, as a support for land management and planning. In particular we have defined the geomorphological features of the slopes and cliff, also taking into account the typology and state of preservation of the tracks in relationship to the precipitation that could increase difficulties of passage. It is also intended to study the beaches consisting of large, poorly reworked pebbles that lie immediately below the rocky cliff faces and are subject to frequent erosive phenomena and rockfall. An operative model has been applied: it is based on an inventory and the quantification of geomorphological hazards and tourist vulnerability. The model is backed up by a set of data forms serving for an analysis of the geomorphological hazards in a strict sense - described, quantified and classified according to the processes and forms/deposits involved - and of the morphological and environmental elements in the area that could be hazardous for visitors who may have a few knowledge of the area, or are not prepared physically or are without appropriate equipment for such endeavors. At the same time, data collection also includes information on vulnerability in tourist areas, including the degree of utilization by tourists and existing facilities and infrastructures.