



Inventory and assessment of geosites to stimulate regional sustainable management: the northern coast of the state of São Paulo, Brazil

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Manuscript received on May 23, 2018; accepted for publication on August 10, 2018

How to cite: GARCIA MGM, DEL LAMA EA, MARTINS L, MAZOCA CEM AND BOUROTTE CLM. 2019. Inventory and assessment of geosites to stimulate regional sustainable management: the northern coast of the state of São Paulo, Brazil. *An Acad Bras Cienc* 91: e20180514. DOI 10.1590/0001-3765201920180514.

Abstract: The reviewed and integrated geoheritage inventory of the northern coast of the state of São Paulo, Brazil, resulted in 43 geosites distributed in eight geological frameworks. The selected geosites are representative of a geological history from the Neoproterozoic (Brasiliano-Pan African Cycle) to the recent, covering a minimum 700-Ma timespan. Considering the dynamic character of geoheritage inventories, the results presented in this work were based on previous local, town-based surveys, which were reviewed under the light of new geological data and geoconservation methods. Both qualitative and quantitative geosites assessments were used to discuss their geological representativeness and relevance, as well as legal aspects regarding protection and perspectives for future use. This resulted in a detailed inventory that reflects the current geological knowledge in the northern coast of the state of São Paulo, and may be used to make a general diagnosis of the scientific value, state of conservation, risk of degradation and potential use of the geoheritage. Moreover, it reinforces the importance of locally- and regionally-relevant sites for sustainable land management using geoheritage and to direct the decisions related to the conservation and use of this abiotic part of nature in the region.

Key words: Brazil, São Paulo, geological heritage, geoheritage management, inventory, Public policies.

INTRODUCTION

Many of the most significant Brazilian natural attractions, such as the Iguaçu Falls in Foz do Iguaçu or the Sugar Loaf in Rio de Janeiro, constitute remarkable expressions of the geological processes that acted out in the formation of the country's natural scenery. Besides geological relevance, their use as key pieces in national tourism strategies

shows that geological heritage may be highly useful in the sustainable promotion of the territory and in the benefit of the population.

Both sites mentioned above are included in the UNESCO World Heritages Sites and are described in a three-volume book edited by the Brazilian Commission of Geological and Palaeobiological Sites (SIGEP), created in 1997 as a result of the Global Geosites Project (Wimbledon 1996) in Brazil. The SIGEP's methodology is based on ad-hoc proposals, in which geoscientists of several knowledge areas make suggestions about sites

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included in their research works or in known areas. A commission composed of experts evaluates the proposal and, in order to justify its inclusion in a national database, the researcher is invited to write a paper about the scientific relevance of the site. Despite its pioneer and important role, the SIGEP has been discontinued since 2012 and new proposals are not currently accepted.

At the national level, some initiatives involving inventories deserve special mention, such as the Geodiversity and the Geopark projects, of the Geological Survey of Brazil (CPRM). In the state of São Paulo the first initiative to consider geoconservation strategies for geological heritage was the Geological Monuments Project, of the Geological Institute, Department of the Environment (IG/SMA) and, more recently, the inventory of the state of São Paulo was performed characterizing 142 geosites (Garcia et al. 2018). Other local initiatives and a general overview on geoheritage inventories in Brazil may be found in Romão and Garcia (2017).

Geoheritage inventories can be done at different scales, and the choice of a certain geosite depends on the scale and the objectives of the work. At global scale, the recognition of sites with ‘outstanding universal relevance’ that represent global geological history had its roots in the Global Geosites Project (Wimbledon 1996, 2011, Díaz-Martínez et al. 2016). Although formally discontinued, several countries, especially in Europe, have used its methodology to carry out their national inventories. Examples of practical developments of national systematic inventories may be found in several countries, like Portugal (Brilha et al. 2010, 2013, Brilha and Pereira 2014), Spain (García-Cortés et al. 2001, García-Cortés and Carcavilla-Úrqui 2009, Carcavilla et al. 2009) and United Kingdom (Wimbledon et al. 1995, Ellis 2011) – Table I. Other countries, like Switzerland (Berger et al. 2008, 2011, Reynard 2013), Poland (Alexandrowicz and Kozłowski

1999), Italy (ISPRA 2018), France (De Wever et al. 2015), among others, have also carried out their national inventories in recent years and the results are gradually being disseminated.

The facts above show that an inventory alone is not an end, but it should serve as a basis for any future plan related to geoheritage (Cendrero Uceda 2000, Wimbledon 2011). The systematic, detailed knowledge of the geology and geological heritage in a given region is important because it allows a diagnosis of the geological sites available, either for scientific, tourism or educational purposes. Taking the “conservation + use” binomial as the main goal of geoconservation initiatives, the more complete is the knowledge, the more effective its management may be.

In this sense, this research presents the integrated and reviewed results of the geoheritage inventory in the northern coast of São Paulo State, Brazil, which uses local- to internationally relevant geosites as representative record of the geological history of this area. Our broad geosites’ survey is part of a strategy that also includes the identification of geodiversity sites (Arruda et al. 2017b) in order to have a solid diagnosis of the sites of geological interest in the area. Our intention is that these data will be used to guide actions regarding: i) Conservation of geological heritage as the memory of the Earth in Brazil – which involves both its legal protection and its inclusion in territorial planning strategies; ii) Popularization of geoscience – which also denotes a contribution to the general education of the population; and iii) Inclusion of geosciences in tourism and educational activities – which may be part of regional sustainable development plans.

THE IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL INVENTORIES

Because of their scale, national inventories include geosites that are primarily related to national or state frameworks, which may limit the registers of relevant places. Moreover, it can also exclude many

TABLE I
Practical developments related to the use of geosites' data obtained from geoheritage national inventories.

Country	Period	Developments from the inventory
United Kingdom	Since 1977	Results being published in a series of 45 volumes. The sites selected – GCR sites – form the basis of statutory geological and geomorphological site conservation in Britain. The sites also serve as the basis for so-called “Geodiversity Action Plans” and the “Geodiversity Charters”, which define actions to conserve, enhance and promote the geodiversity in several scales.
Spain	Since 1978	Especially in the last fifteen years, the increasing integration of geoconservation into scientific and social themes, associated with the active participation of Spanish geological societies, has greatly influenced the legal system, as is the case of Law 42/2007, which includes conservation of geological heritage as one of its bases.
Portugal	Since 2007	Adaptation of nature conservation laws to include concepts such as geosite and geological heritage (Decree-Law 142/2008), directly influencing management and making issues related to Geoconservation be addressed formally from basic to postgraduate.

sites that, although lacking scientific relevance, may be important in terms of local policies. The recognition of places of geological interest with local relevance is of prime importance because, although most of these sites are not suitable for a national inventory or protection, they might be fundamental to stimulate the participation of people and to increase the self-esteem of local communities. Detailed knowledge of these sites also launches alternatives for different kinds of management and use, depending on the property regime, their relevance regarding the size of the area, and potential uses.

One of the most emblematic examples of the use of locally-relevant geological sites is in the United Kingdom, where more than 3,000 sites have been inventoried, being nearly all of these Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and statutorily protected. However, in order to promote regionally or locally representative sites, the designation of Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS) was created (Nature Conservation Council 1990). RIGS constitute sites that, although not legally protected, are either regionally or locally representative and part of a whole sustainable, conservation plan. Both SSSI and RIGs serve as

bases for the so-called “Geodiversity Action Plans” and “Geodiversity Charters” (Scottish Geodiversity Forum 2013, English Geodiversity Forum 2014) which define actions to conserve, to enhance and to promote geological sites of a particular area, based on governmental organization in various fields. These are intended to provide common guidelines for actions involving these sites, fostering partnerships, and influencing public authorities and funding agencies (Burek and Potter 2003, 2006, DEFRA 2006). In the last fifteen years, these strategies have been guiding the conservation of geologically important sites in the United Kingdom.

In Spain, 3,154 sites of geological interest have already been inventoried, being these sites related to distinct bases, such as the older and the current official IGME (Geological Survey of Spain) inventory, the official inventories of the autonomous communities and those with local importance (IGME 2018). Although not all these sites are included in the national inventory, their recognition has been important to boost regional management using geoheritage (Fuertes-Gutiérrez and Fernández-Martínez 2010, Oms et al. 2012, Pellitero et al. 2011, Martín-Duque et al. 2012).

Inventories in geoparks and in protected areas also are examples of local inventories that play an important role in territorial management, such as in Portugal, where the geoheritage inventory of Arouca (Rocha 2008) has been the starting point for the Arouca Geopark and local inventories regarding specific municipalities of the Naturtejo Geopark are essential for the complete knowledge of the territory (Neto de Carvalho et al. 2009, Vilas Boas et al. 2015). Aspiring geopark projects are also based on geoheritage inventories, such as the Viana do Castelo municipality (Carvalhido et al. 2016).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The northern coast of the State of São Paulo, Brazil, extends in NE-SW direction for almost 400 km (Figure 1) and has been the focus of local inventory works since 2011 (Garcia 2012). These inventories are based on four municipalities that compound the region and include three master's dissertations in Ilhabela (Prochoroff 2014), São Sebastião (Reverte 2014, Reverte and Garcia 2016a, b) and Ubatuba (Santos 2014), and a doctoral thesis involving both the inventory of Caraguatatuba and a geotourism mapguide for the whole northern coast (Arruda 2017, Arruda et al. 2017a). Complete descriptions of the sites and of the inventory methods may be found in these research works. As direct products of these local inventories, 35 geosites were originally selected: 10 in Ubatuba, 7 in Caraguatatuba, 9 in São Sebastião, and 9 in Ilhabela, part of which were included in the geoheritage inventory for the state of São Paulo (Garcia et al. 2018). The strategy used was conceived from the methodology described in Brilha (2005) for smaller study areas. Data collection was based on the following steps: i) literature review; ii) consulting with experts in different areas of geosciences; iii) pre-selection of potential geosites; iv) field work; and v) final definition of geosites. These steps are part of a strategy that has

become classic for Geoconservation as a science (Henriques et al. 2011).

In this review, 43 geosites distributed in 8 geological frameworks were defined (Figure 1). The main parameter that directed the choice of the sites was their representativeness, which aims to reliably express the relationship between geosite's significance and its role in the regional geological context. The selection of the geosites was guided on the basis on the following considerations:

- 1) In order to select sites that would represent the geological materials and processes, geomorphological units and events that constitute the record of the geological history of the area, we followed the method described in Mucivuna et al. (2015), with analyses of geological maps and satellite images obtained from Google Earth® to identify the main lithostratigraphic units and regional structures. The main geological basis was the Geological Map of the State of São Paulo, developed by the Geological Survey of Brazil – CPRM - in scale 1:750,000 (Perrotta et al. 2005), with changes made from recent geological mapping (Meira 2014, Barreto 2016, Pires 2017);
- 2) The selection of the geosites in the original works was based on the evolution of the West Gondwana Supercontinent (including both previous and later features and events) to the present. Although described in chronological order, the geosites were not formally distributed among previously defined geological frameworks. Therefore, on the basis of the main units and features in the area, as well as the main geological events, in this review we define eight geological frameworks that intend to summarize the geological history of the region;
- 3) The original inventories of three of the municipalities (Ubatuba, São Sebastião and Ilhabela) were finished before 2014 and the inventory of Caraguatatuba in 2015. After

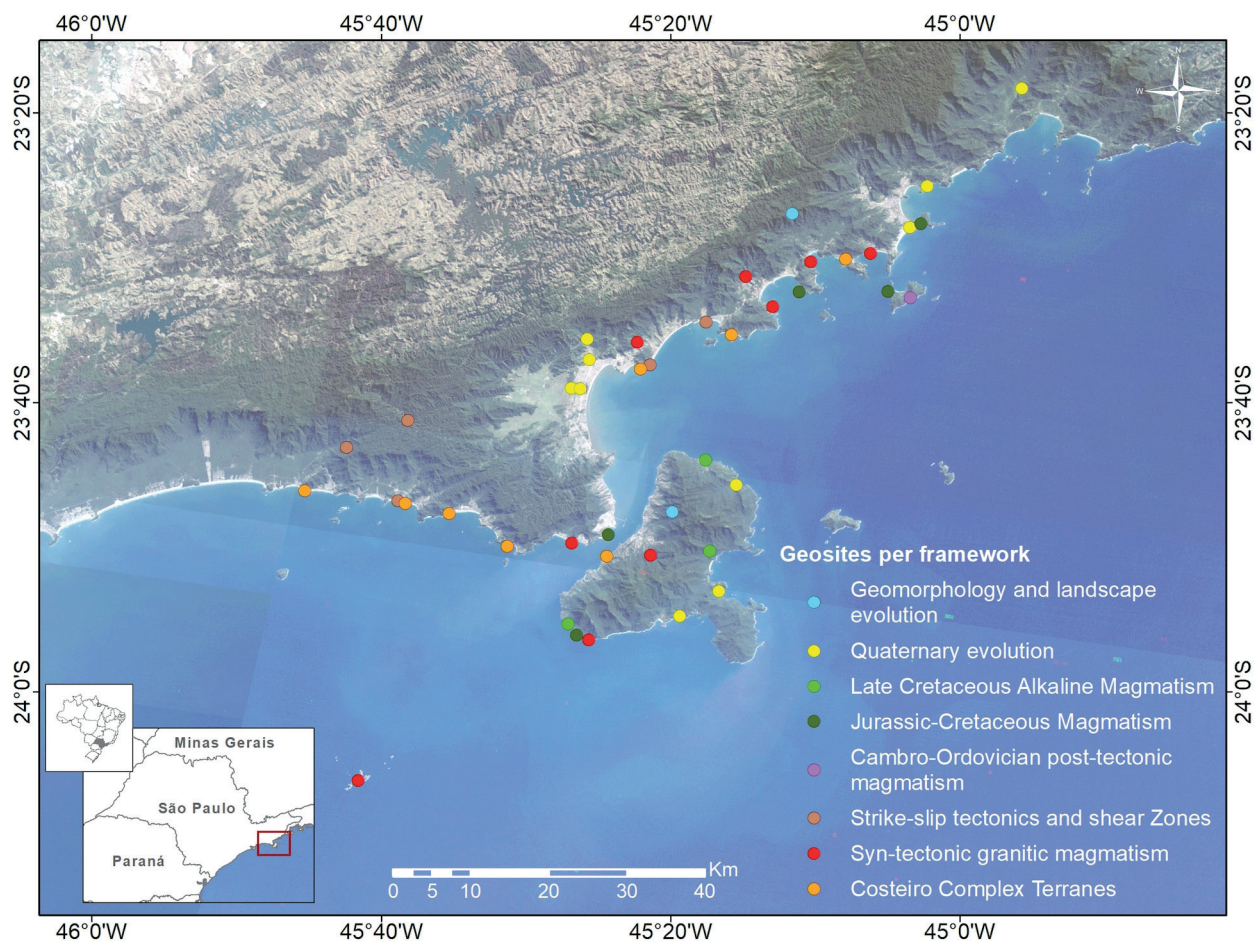


Figure 1 - Map of the northern coast of São Paulo State showing the location of the geosites according to each geological framework.

that, the results related to the inventory of the State of São Paulo (Garcia et al. 2018) were launched, and additional geosites in the area were incorporated by the coordinators. These sites have been included in this review;

- 4) Recent research works have been carried out (Meira 2014, Meira et al. 2015, Barreto 2016, Timich et al. 2016, Pires 2017, Rodrigues 2018), which provided new data to the present knowledge of the area. These works have allowed the definition of new geosites;
- 5) The present review was carried out on the basis of the conception of Brilha (2016), which defines as geosites only the scientifically relevant places (with or without other

associated values) and as geodiversity sites those with mainly tourism or educational relevance. Therefore, some previously defined geosites have been now nominated as geodiversity sites, and vice-versa. A survey of the geodiversity sites carried out on the basis of previous surveys may be found in Arruda et al. (2017b);

- 6) A geosite name must contain short, but precise information about its content (and moreover, about its representativeness) and its location. Many of the geosites previously defined were named after the places where they are located, which does not reflect their content. In this review this aspect was readjusted;

7) Finally, the main criteria used to select a specific geosite was the scientific relevance, which may be conveniently measured by the existence of specialized publications. Most of the sites selected have been, indeed, referred in peer-reviewed papers, book chapters, theses and dissertations. Some of the sites, however, do not appear as the focus of any publication, but constitute representative examples of regionally important geological units and/or of relationships between these units, as well as of features indicative of paleoenvironments, among others.

Table II presents a summary of the 43 geosites defined in this review. The results obtained reflect the current knowledge in the northern coast of the State of São Paulo and may be used to make a general diagnosis of the scientific value, state of conservation, risk of degradation and potential use of the geosites in the area.

GEOSITES AS REPRESENTATIVE RECORD OF THE GEOLOGICAL EVOLUTION OF A REGION

The selection of the geosites in the inventory was based mainly on a framework related to the amalgamation, evolution and fragmentation of the West Gondwana Supercontinent, as well as to later events and processes that culminated with the generation of the South Atlantic Ocean, the formation of the Serra do Mar Mountain Range and the coastal plains.

The regional organization of the landscapes in the studied area results from geological processes that have been active predominantly since the Neoproterozoic, during the Brasiliano-Pan African Cycle, related to the collision between the São Francisco Craton and other plates, microplates and/or island arcs with the Western Congo Craton, between 650-510 Ma (Schmitt et al. 2004, Heilbron et al. 2004, 2008, Tupinambá et al. 2012, Brito Neves et al. 2014). Alternative interpretations

can be found in Meira et al. (2015). The geosites included in this item record the tangential tectonics related to the collision events, and collages that resulted in thrusting and folding from east-southeast to west-northwest (Figure 2a, b). It also includes the syntectonic granitic magmatism related to the thickening of the crust associated to the collisional episodes that caused widespread generation of melts, dated in the interval of 656-610 Ma (Alves et al. 2013, Heilbron et al. 2017) (Figure 2c, d).

Transpressive tectonics resulting from this collision resulted in the formation of a branch of NE-SW-oriented, mainly dextral strike-slip shear zones, which were later affected by several stages of reactivation (Figure 2e). Later, Cambro-Ordovician magmatism also occurred, related to post-collisional magmatism associated to the collapse after the Búzios Orogeny, the youngest convergent record in the Ribeira Belt. These granites are dated ~500 Ma (Figure 2f) and the known occurrence extends to the south of the studied area (Azevedo Sobrinho et al. 2011, Janasi et al. 2012). The orientation of the current coastline of South America is highly controlled by these Precambrian crustal structures.

In the Late Cretaceous (~130 Ma), reactivation of the Brazilian Platform (Almeida 1969) was characterized by extensional processes related to the breakdown of the supercontinent Pangaea, the separation between South America and Africa, and the opening of the South Atlantic Ocean (Mohriak et al. 2008). Intense tholeiitic magmatism occurred associated with the early stages of these processes, giving origin to extensive flood basalt related to the Paraná-Etendeka Igneous Province and dyke swarms (Almeida et al. 1996, Gardá and Schorscher 1996, Coutinho 2008) (Figure 3).

Later, Upper Cretaceous alkaline magmatism associated to alignments of alkaline plutons also occurred. In the region these are represented by the alkaline stocks of Ilhabela and some minor islands (Almeida 1983, Riccomini et al. 2005) – Figure 4.

TABLE II
Synthesis of the geosites of the geoheritage inventory of the northern coast of São Paulo State, Brazil. Coordinates are in decimal degrees and correspond to a medium value within an arbitrary polygon. Main geological interests are based on the GEOSIT platform.

Geosite	Coord. (S/E)	Justification of scientific value	Main interest	Ownership regime	Inventory
Corcovado Peak	-23.44924 -45.19334	Landform associated with the Serra do Mar uplift and with the evolution of the coastline. Viewpoint to the plateaus and highlands and to the coastal zone.	GM	PA	2; 5
Baepi Peak	-23.79324 -45.33181	Landscape representative of one of the Ilhabela syenite batholiths. Viewpoint to the São Sebastião channel and the coastline.	GM	PA	1
Registers of the landslides of Caraguatatuba	-23.59385 -45.42932	Poorly selected sedimentary deposit associated with gravel bars, product of 1967's great landslides that occurred in the town.	GT	PA	4; 5
Meteorite impact structure of Ubatuba	-23.30522 -44.92880	Possible impact crater with 1.1 diameter and 180 meters of calculated depth with likely Pleistocene age.	GM	PB	5
Beachrock of Ubatuba	-23.46550 -45.05803	The only beachrock in the state of São Paulo. Holocene deposits cemented by carbonate with sub-vertical orthogonal joints filled with aeolian sediments (Souza 2013).	PE	NA	5
Pleistocene marine terrace of Vermelha do Norte Beach	-23.41788 -45.03821	Marine terrace of probable Pleistocene age. Evolution related to tectonic conditioning. Acted as a sandy barrier during the Holocene marine transgression.	PE	NA	5
Fluvial terrace of Rio do Ouro	-23.60452 -45.42507	At the base, coarse-grained, channel-type deposits grading to pelitic-type sediments that may indicate abandon of the fluvial channel and filling of the meander (Souza 1990).	PE	PB	6
Holocene beach ridges of Fazenda Serramar	-23.65071 -45.44779	Sand deposit showing distinct beach sedimentary structures representative of regressive phase after the Santos Transgression (5.5 ky B.P.) (Souza 1990).	PE	PV	6
Pleistocene marine terrace of Fazenda Serramar	-23.65109 -45.43778	Homogeneous fine-grained sand deposit with fossile tubes of <i>Callichirus</i> major. Regressive phase after the Cananea Transgression (120 ky B.P.) (Souza 1990).	PE	PV	6
Storm-beach sedimentation of Enchovas Beach	-23.91313 -45.32291	Unique sedimentation with blocks and pebbles of varied composition. Also shows NE-SW-oriented basement promontory and gabbro-porphyrific granite contact.	SD	NA	1
Garnet-bearing sands of Figueira Beach	-23.88435 -45.27791	Intensely reddish sand resulting from degradation of garnet-bearing granodiorite that occur locally in the island and outcrops at the beach (Barreto 2016).	SD	NA	1
Alkaline fluvial sediments of Poço Beach	-23.76169 -45.25782	Beach composed essentially of fine- to coarse-grained fluvial sediments derived from alkaline rocks, with no contribution of marine sedimentation (Rodrigues 2018).	SD	NA	6
Syenite magmatism of Ilhabela	-23.83817 -45.28809	Representative outcrop of the Serraria syenite massif showing mafic dyke intruded in the alkaline rock.	PL	PA	1; 5
Stratiform gabbros of Ilhabela	-23.92239 -45.45140	Alkaline gabbro with igneous layering structure marked by textural variations. Gabbroic enclaves, composite dykes and vuggy structures also occur.	PL	NA	1; 5

TABLE II (continuation)

Contact relationships between alkaline rocks of Ilhabela	-23.73336 -45.29322	3-km section between Pacuíba and Jabaquara beaches showing cumulate gabbro, syenite and contact interactions between the two lithotypes (Timich et al. 2016, Rodrigues 2018).	PL	NA	6
Dyke of Bonete Beach	-23.53963 -45.18513	20-30 meters-thick, NE-SW-oriented Mesozoic tholeiitic dyke, intruded in granitic gneiss from the Costeiro Complex (Garda 1995, Pires 2017).	VC	NA	6
Mantle xenoliths of Vermelha do Centro Beach	-23.46118 -45.04507	Lamprophyre dyke with mantle xenoliths formed about 100 km deep. Features interpreted as explosive cones related to lamprophyre magmas also occur.	VC	NA	2; 5
Magmatic breccia of Anchieta Island	-23.53888 -45.08339	Magmatic breccia produced by physical/chemical interaction of basaltic magmas and rocks from the Ubatuba Charnockite Suite and their host rock, of granitic composition.	VC	PA	2; 5
Dykes of Ponta do Araçá	-23.81895 -45.40535	300-meters rock shore section exposing mainly NE-SW-oriented, compositionally distinct dykes intruded in coarse-grained granite gneiss of the Costeiro Complex.	VC	NA	3; 5
Dykes of Ilhabela	-23.93476 -45.44161	Record of complex tectonics of dykes of distinct ages and compositions and crosscut relationships that intrude porphyritic granite.	VC	NA	1; 5
Late post-collisional Ilha Anchieta monzogranite	-23.54609 -45.05737	500-Ma monzogranite with primary stratification related to the last episodes of orogenic magmatism at the end of the Brazilian-Pan African Cycle.	PL	PA	2; 5
Mylonites and cataclasites of Camburu Shear Zone	-23.68743 -45.63591	Very well preserved record of mylonites associated with cataclasites of the Camburu Shear Zone.	TC	PB	2; 5
Geosite	Coord. (S/E)	Justification of scientific value	Main interest	Main interest	Inventory
Mylonites of Tabatinga Beach	-23.57437 -45.29234	Mylonitic porphyritic granitic gneiss showing dextral shear-sense indicators. Probable register of the Camburu Shear Zone.	TC	NA	4
Juqueí Augen Gneiss at the Camburu Shear Zone	-23.71847 -45.70684	Record of the strike-slip tectonics associated with the Camburu Shear Zone affecting the Juqueí Augen Gneiss (Maffra 2000, Meira 2014).	TC	PA	3
Boudins of the Camburizinho Tombolo	-23.77993 -45.64747	Locally mylonitic granitic gneiss with numerous metric, elongated boudins showing internal foliation representative of previous deformation.	TC	NA	3; 5
Pico do Papagaio Granite in Sertão da Quina	-23.52229 -45.24716	Representative outcrop of the Pico do Papagaio Granite, dated at 600 Ma (Pires 2017). In the region the unit compounds peraluminous, foliated medium- to coarse-grained granite.	PL	PB	6
Leucogranite of the Ubatuba suite in Vermelha do Sul Beach	-23.50493 -45.17214	Representative outcrop of the leucogranite related to the Ubatuba Charnockite Suite, dated at 581 Ma (Pires 2017).	PL	NA	6
Mangerite of the Ubatuba suite in Santa Rita Beach	-23.49533 -45.10303	Representative outcrop of the mangerite related to the Ubatuba Charnockite Suite, dated at 591 Ma (Pires 2017).	PL	NA	6
Caçandoca Granite type-locality	-23.55679 -45.21565	Representative outcrop of the Caçandoca Granite, dated at 596 Ma (Pires 2017). The unit includes fine- to medium-grained, locally porphyritic granites, with absence of enclaves.	PL	NA	6
Pico do Papagaio Granite at Massaguaçu Quarry	-23.59753 -45.37152	Representative outcrop of the Pico do Papagaio Granite, dated at 588 Ma (unpubl. data).	PL	PV	6

TABLE II (continuation)

Alcatrazes Granite type-locality	-24.10218 -45.69358	Porphyratic biotite granite in several states of deformation with xenoliths of paragneiss and fine diorite, dated at 560 Ma (Martins et al. 2014, Janasi et al. 2015).	PL	PA	3
Guaecá leucogranite type-locality	-23.82866 -45.44712	Peraluminous, mainly foliated medium- to coarse-grained two-micas leucogranite. U-Pb zircon ages of 562 Ma (Maffra 2000, Meira 2014, Meira et al. 2015).	PL	NA	6
Hornblende-bearing granodiorite of the Ilhabela Batholith	-23.94047 -45.42761	Representative outcrop of the hornblende-bearing granodiorite that compound the Ilhabela Batholith, dated at 573 Ma (Janasi et al. 2015, Barreto 2016).	PL	NA	6
Granodiorite with enclaves of the Ilhabela Batholith	-23.84272 -45.35662	Representative outcrop of the granodiorite unit that constitutes the Ilhabela Batholith - 562 Ma (Hb porphyritic granodiorite) and 571 Ma (diorite enclave) (Barreto 2016).	PL	PA	6
Folded granitic gneiss of Ponta Aguda Beach	-23.58883 -45.13184	Granite to granodiorite gneiss of the Costeiro Complex with extensive folding with mainly NE-SW axes (Pires 2017). The axial plans are parallel to the main regional foliation.	TC	NA	2
Gruta que Chora cave and Syn-plutonic dykes of Sununga Beach	-23.50164 -45.13184	Relationships between the Caçandoca Granite and syn-plutonic dykes with internal folding, and Mesozoic dyke which erosion gave origin to the Gruta que Chora cave.	TC	NA	2
Megaboudin of Lagoa Azul	-23.62358 -45.35710	Decametric, NE-SW-oriented amphibolite boudin in granitic gneiss interpreted as an ancient dyke and representative of the strike-slip tectonics.	TC	NA	4
Orthogneisses and migmatites of Brava Beach	-23.62828 -45.36824	Contact relationships between locally mylonitic granite gneiss and mafic gneiss interpreted as syn-plutonic dykes.	MT	NA	4
Metagabbros with injection features of Juquei	-23.76867 -45.75492	Felsic paragneisses intruded by metagabbro body with extensive pegmatite injections showing complex crosscutting relationships.	TC	NA	3; 5
Metatextitic paragneisses and amphibolites of Boicucanga	-23.78325 -45.63898	Sillimanite-garnet biotite-bearing metatextitic paraderivate gneiss with deformed amphibolite boudins interpreted as ancient dykes.	MT	NA	3; 5
Paragneisses and metatextites of Calhetas Peninsula	-23.83238 -45.52153	Garnet-bearing biotite stromatic metatextite intercalated with granoblastic medium-grained paragneiss with Cryogenian U-Pb provenance pattern (Meira 2014, Meira et al. 2016)	MT	NA	6
Diatexites of Maresias	-23.79461 -45.58869	Coarse-grained biotite-bearing diatexite dated at 584 Ma, interpreted as the age of a metamorphic overgrowth stage (Meira 2014, Meira et al. 2016).	MT	NA	6
Costeiro Complex at Portinho Beach	-23.84384 -45.40722	Representative section showing the relationships between coarse-grained granitic gneiss, banded gneiss and calc-silicate rocks of the Costeiro Complex (Barreto 2012, 2016).	TC	NA	1

GM - Geomorphological, GT - Geotechnical, PE - Paleoenvironmental, SD - Sedimentary, PL - Plutonism, VC - Volcanism, TC - Tectonics, MT - Metamorphism. Ownership regime: PA - Protected area, PB - Public area, NA - Navy area, PV - Private area. Research works where the geosites were defined: 1 - Prochoroff (2014), 2 - Santos (2014), 3 - Reverte (2014), 4 - Arruda et al. (2017a), 5 - Garcia et al. (2018) - State inventory, 6 - This work. Colors in the left column refer to the geological frameworks (see Figure 1).

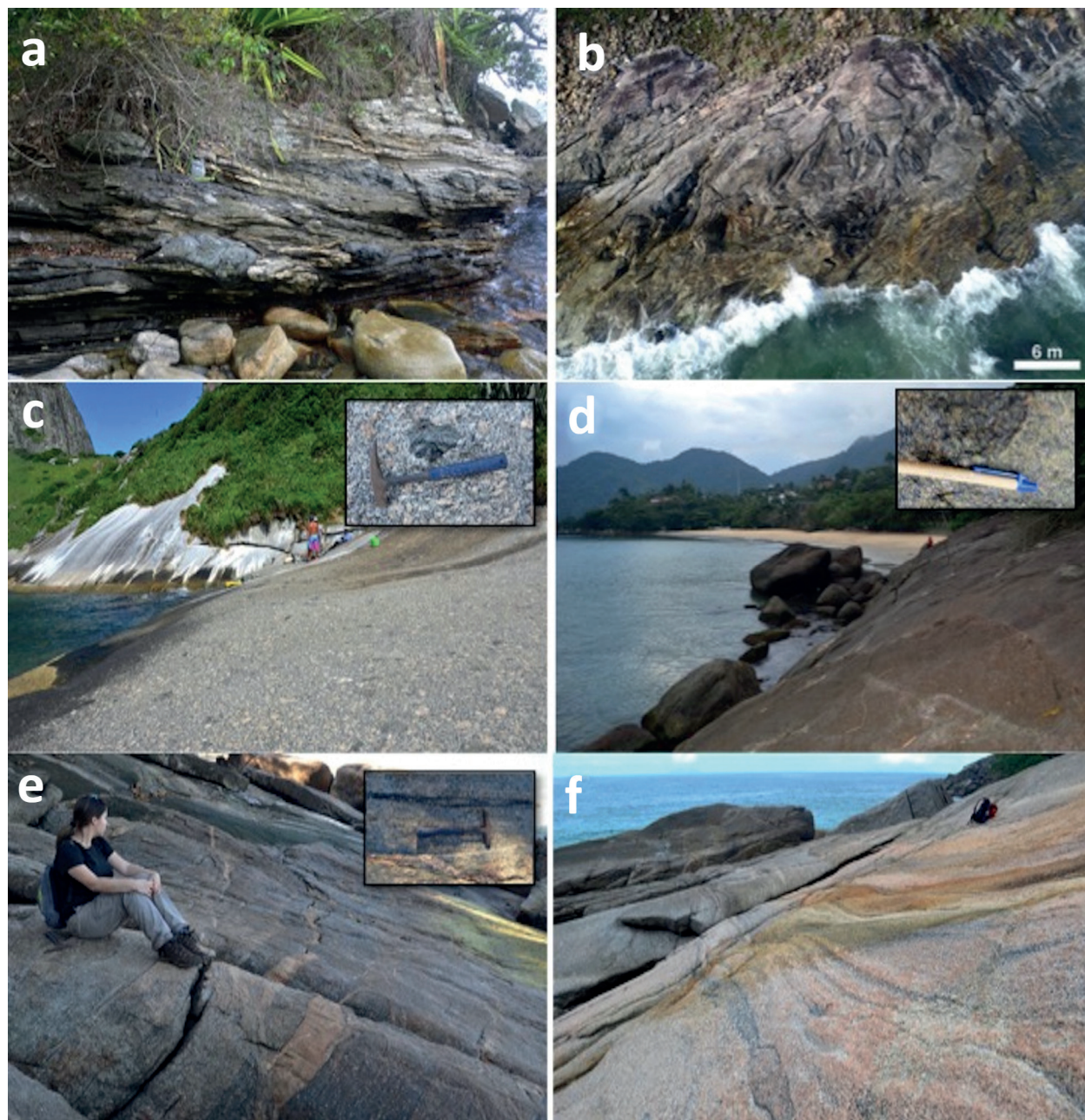


Figure 2 - Representative geosites of the geological frameworks (GF) related to the Brasiliano-Pan African Cycle (Neoproterozoic-Cambrian). GF Costeiro Complex Terranes: **a)** Geosite “Costeiro Complex at Portinho Beach”. This site consists of a section showing complex relationships between lithotypes from the basement and calc-silicate rocks; **b)** Geosite “Metatextitic paragneisses and amphibolites of Boiçucanga”. Sillimanite –garnet-bearing metatextitic biotite gneisses associated to amphibolite boudins; GF Syntectonic granitic magmatism: **c)** Geosite “Alcatrazes Granite type-locality”. **d)** Geosite “Mangerite of the Ubatuba suite in Santa Rita Beach”. Similar ages were obtained by other authors - 582 Ma - Janasi et al. (2015), Tassinari et al. (2008); GF Strike-slip tectonics and shear zones: **e)** Geosite “Mylonites of Tabatinga Beach and Tamanduá Island”. An example of the strike-slip shear zones that result from the escape tectonics that gave origin to transpressive, linear domains in the Southeast of Brazil. Similar mylonitic foliations are observed both in the continent and in the island; GF Cambro-Ordovician post-tectonic magmatism: **f)** Geosite “Ilha Anchieta Monzogranite”. This 500-Ma monzogranite outcrop represents the collapse stage of the Brasiliano-Pan African Orogeny and shows pervasive igneous planar structures that represent primary layering.



Figure 3 - Representative geosites related to the GF Jurassic-Cretaceous magmatism. **a)** Geosite “Dykes of Ilhabela”. An excellent example of the Jurassic-Cretaceous volcanic events associated to the first stages of Gondwana breakup. Granitic gneisses from the basement are crosscut by both lamprophyre and basic dykes that show important chronological information related to the stress field associated to the opening of the south Atlantic Ocean; **b)** Geosite “Mantle xenoliths of Vermelha do Centro Beach”. Lamprophyre dyke with mantle xenoliths formed about 100 km deep. Features interpreted as explosive cones related to lamprophyre magmas also occur.

The sequence of events previously described consisted of geological, geomorphological, and climatic processes that controlled the evolution of the current coastal physiography. During the Quaternary, climatic variations and sea-level fluctuations gave origin to marine-beach deposits associated to both continental and transition-type sediments (Suguio and Martin 1978), which compose coastal plains that vary from large ones, like the Caraguatatuba Plain, to small bays separated by rocky spurs of basement rock, forming

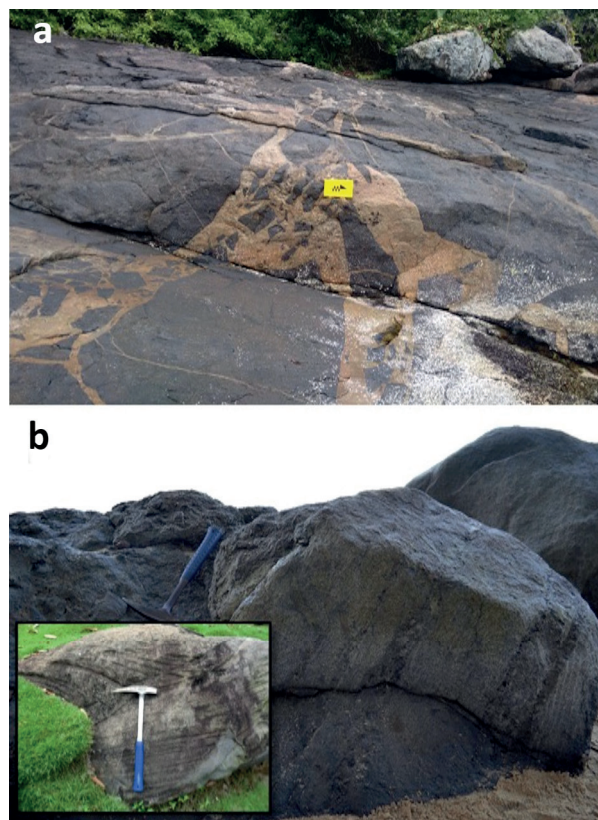


Figure 4 - Representative geosites related to the GF Late Cretaceous Alkaline Magmatism. Geosite “Contact relationships between alkaline rocks of Ilhabela”. **a)** Syenite and gabbro in the Jabaquara Beach. Photo: M. Timich; **b)** Magmatic compositional layering in cumulate gabbro in Pacuíba Beach. In the detail, “cross bedding” layering (Photo: F. Rodrigues).

pocket-beaches. Coastal dynamic processes are represented by rare Pleistocene marine terraces (Figure 5a) and modern sedimentation processes (Figure 5b).

During the Paleogene, the reactivation of older, Precambrian discontinuities under a left-lateral transtensional stress field was responsible for intracontinental rifting and both elevation and subsidence of adjacent blocks (Almeida and Carneiro 1998, Riccomini et al. 2005, Hiruma et al. 2010, Cogné et al. 2013). The lower block is represented by the coastal-margin Santos Basin. The elevated blocks formed the Serra do Mar and Mantiqueira mountain ranges, the first one being



Figure 5 - Representative geosites related to the GF Quaternary Evolution. **a)** Geosite “Storm-beach sedimentation of Enchovas Beach”. An exceptional example of this type of coastal dynamics presenting linear, zoned areas composed of heavy minerals and centimeter-size pebbles deposits; **b)** Geosite “Pleistocene terraces of Vermelha do Norte Beach”. Marine terrace that crops out next to a modern beach, with tectonic influence and which acted as a sandy barrier during Holocene marine transgression. Photo: Google Earth.

the most conspicuous morphological feature of the Southeastern coast of Brazil, forming the structural escarpment at the edge of the Atlantic Plateau. Another remarkable relief feature is related to the alkaline magmatic rocks of Late Cretaceous age and is related to the Cabo Frio Alignment, being represented in the area at Ilhabela and other minor islands (Figure 6a, b).

ASSESSMENT

Both qualitative and quantitative assessment was performed in order to identify the main

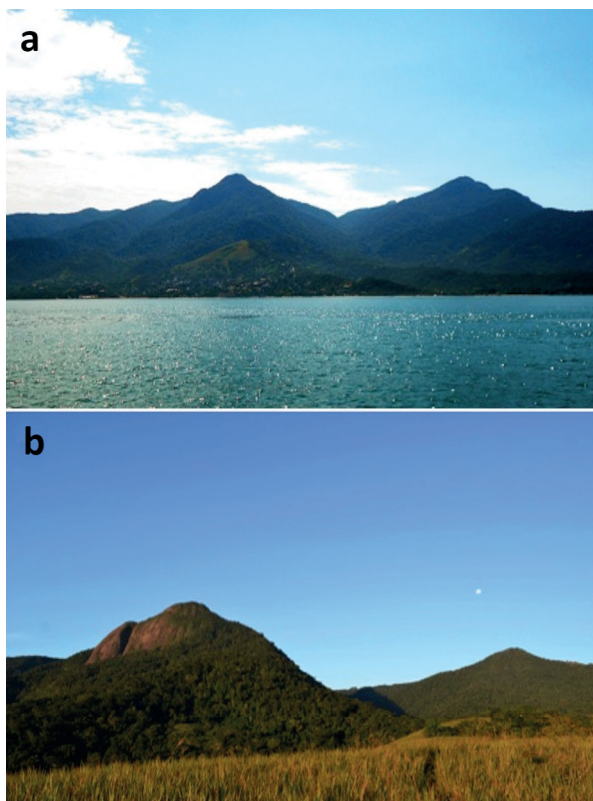


Figure 6 - Representative geosite related to the GF Geomorphology and Landscape Evolution. Geosite “Baepi Peak” - Landform developed on Late Cretaceous alkaline magmatic rocks. **a)** General view of the relief formed on alkaline batholiths. Baepi Peak on the left side. (Photo: E. Santos); **b)** Detail of the peak showing E-W fracturing.

characteristics of the geosites. The assessment was carried out following two main lines of investigation:

- 1) The representativeness of the geosites according to geological history;
- 2) The priorities for conservation and use of the geosites.

The evaluation of the representativeness of the selected geosites is important because it may guide the actions related both to future research - i.e. their scientific use – and to their interpretation – aiming at popularization of geoscience. The analysis was based on the geological frameworks that, together, tell the geological history of the selected area. The geological frameworks are represented in different

ways in each town (Figure 7a), a result of a combination of factors such as geological context, geographical conditions and minor anthropic influence. The oldest event recorded by the geosites is related to compressive features such as the folding patterns of the Geosite “Folded granite gneiss of Ponta Aguda Beach”, although similar features can also be found locally in the Geosite “Boudins of Camburizinho Tombolo”. Recent geological events are represented mainly at the Geosite “Storm-beach sedimentation of Enchovas Beach”, which reflects modern coastal processes.

The geological characteristic of the area are fully represented by the analysis of the main geological interests defined for each geosite (Figure 7b). About 60% of the geosites present as main interests the following topics: plutonic, tectonic and metamorphism, a fact that reflects the geological nature of the area, composed of crystalline rocks related to collision-type tectonics. Other kinds of interests, such as paleoenvironmental, are also important in the area, especially because of the information they keep about sea level variations.

In order to obtain information on priorities both for conservation and use, two criteria were used to assess the geosites: scientific value and degradation risk. Quantitative evaluation was carried out using GEOSSIT, which is the national

application for sites of geological interest developed by the Geological Survey of Brazil – Rocha et al. (2016). The application uses as its basis the works of García-Cortés and Carcavilla (2009) and Brilha (2016).

Figure 8 illustrates the quantitative assessment of the geosites comparing the values for scientific value and degradation risk. The scientific value ranges from 200 to 370. Seven geosites were classified with international relevance. The main factors that influenced these values were rarity, representativeness and quality of the publications related to the site.

The values obtained for degradation risk range from 45 to 365. Approximately 25% of the geosites present very low values (<100), which correspond to those with geomorphological character and those included in protected areas. The geosites presenting low (100-200) or medium risk (200-300) are located at rocky shores and the main factor that controls the results is their accessibility. Six geosites were classified with high degradation risk. As expected, five of these are composed of geologically fragile rocks and sediments. The only exception is the Geosite “Mantle xenoliths of Vermelha do Centro Beach”, which corresponds to very small features that could be easily destroyed by anthropic action.

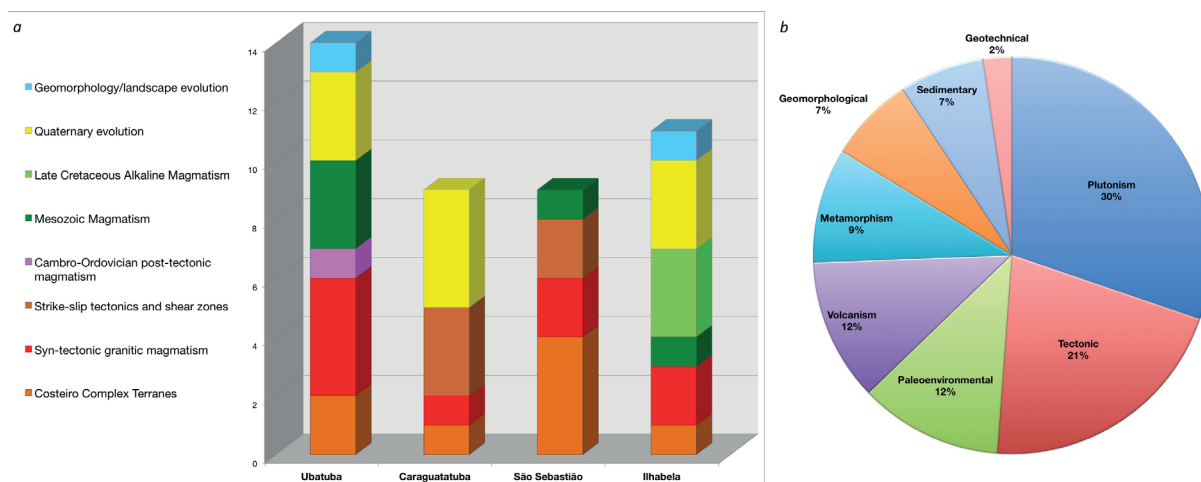


Figure 7 - a) Representativeness of the geological frameworks in each town; **b)** Main geological interests.

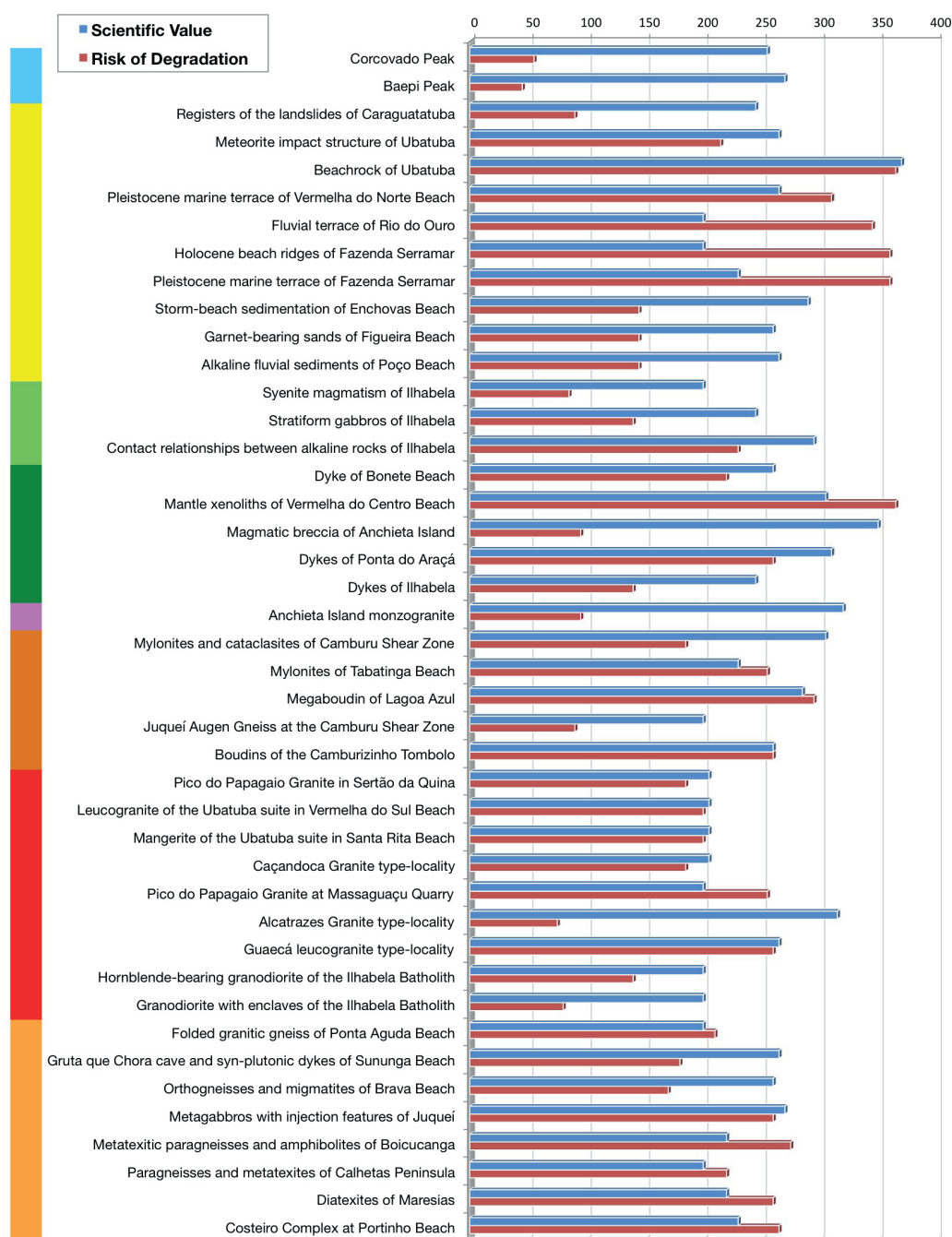


Figure 8 - Quantitative assessment related to the Scientific Value and Degradation Risk. Dashed lines correspond to key values for both criteria. According to GEOSSIT, sites with scientific value above 200 are considered geosites (200 and 300 - national relevance; > 300 - international relevance). Below 200, it would be named a geodiversity site. According to Brilha (2016), degradation risk values can be classified as low (< 200), moderate (200-300) and high (>300).

DISCUSSION

The successful implementation of geoconservation plans depends on proper interaction between (a) the scientific knowledge, which provides the bases for the recognition of geologically relevant sites; (b) the government authorities, responsible for the management of geoheritage; and (c) interpretation, to promote the dissemination of information to different audiences. The inventories constitute the most reliable way to identify those places that better represent the geological context, and are an essential tool to assess both quality and quantity of sites of geological interest in a given area. The information obtained in these surveys must precede any implementation of geoconservation strategies, which includes either starting a management plan or subsidizing government territorial plans. The data obtained in the inventories may, in addition to the obvious scientific contribution, provide subsidies for administrative bodies at different scales to use the geological information in the management of the territory. Moreover, when integrated with other aspects, such as the cultural heritage of the region, they can help to establish sustainable tourism plans that take into account local specificities and contribute to the development of sustainable activities.

Since the prime aim of this project is to use these data in ongoing and future initiatives of nature conservation, popularization of geoscience and sustainable development actions, we evaluate these geosites regarding their representativeness and potential uses, as well as the perspectives for territorial planning and public policies.

RESULTS OF THE REVIEW

In spite of its proximity to the capital city and to geology universities and research institutes, the northern coast of the State of São Paulo lacks detailed geological mapping, possibly due to the extensive Atlantic Forest cover and to the roughness of the Serra do Mar mountain range. Figure 9 illustrates

the sources from where the sites were selected to compose an initial list of potential geosites. The inclusion of geosites that are not properly studied and that were not the focus of official publications is only possible because the original inventories were carried out in restricted areas. Notice that 22% of the geosites were defined after field works, i.e. constitute new geosites with no references in the literature. A good example of this situation is the geosite “Folded gneiss of Ponta Aguda Beach”, which constitute one of the few basement outcrops that show extensive folding. The geosite “Storm-beach sedimentation of Enchovas Beach” can also be included in this scenario and also represents a rare, modern sedimentation feature in the region. Along with field work, some suggestions were taken from local residents, such as the geosite “Boudins of Camburizinho Tombolo”, which is an amazing example of the strike-slip tectonics acting on both orthogneisses and mafic intrusions forming 3D, metric boudins. Nearly 60% of the geosites were nominated by means of literature review and consulting with experts, as expected in a scientific-based inventory. Some items in the potential list constitute traditional tourist attractions and were chosen after qualitative evaluation. In this category we may mention the geosites “Syenite magmatism of Ilhabela”, located in Cachoeira do Gato, one of the most visited waterfalls in the island, and “Syn-plutonic dykes of Gruta que Chora and Sununga Beach”, a small and popular cave visited by many tourists. Another geosite that is already used for tourism purposes is the “Mangerite of Ubatuba Suite in Santa Rita Beach”, which is also known as the “Bell Stone of Ubatuba”, thanks to the metallic sound they emit when hit with a hammer.

The use of the concept of geosite as proposed by Brilha (2016) has revealed to be useful to identify those sites with scientific relevance that should be protected for future research works and those with relevance related to their importance as promoters of sustainable actions and dissemination



Figure 9 - Sources used to select the geosites.

of geoscience, for example. Geosites such as “Dykes of Ponta do Araçá” and “Mantle xenoliths of Vermelha do Centro Beach” constitute examples of sites that are highly used in field trips for geology students due their representativeness regarding both tholeiitic and alkaline magmatism in the region. An evaluation of the values of tourism and educational potential uses is being carried out, and it will not be discussed in this paper.

Among the 43 geosites, 16 are included in the state inventory (Garcia et al. 2018) and distributed in the following geological frameworks: Precambrian terranes, Shear zones, Granitic rocks, Mesozoic magmatism, Geomorphological units and landforms, and Continental and coastal Neogene and Quaternary evolution. This fact demonstrates the great representativeness of the selected geosites. Also, new geosites such as “Mangerite of Ubatuba Suite in Santa Rita Beach” or “Contact relationships between alkaline rocks of Ilhabela”, both defined in the present work, are good candidates to be included in the state inventory, either to replace another one with similar characteristics or because they record a part of the national and/or regional geological history not yet represented.

LEGAL ASPECTS AND CONSERVATION OF GEOSITES

Since 1937, with the creation of the Itatiaia National Park, significant advances in environmental protection policies have been occurring in Brazil, which include an entire chapter dedicated to the theme in the 1988 constitution, and various environmental crimes and environmental management laws (Pereira et al. 2008, Ferreira 2016). Most of these laws, however, are focused on biodiversity management. Ferreira (2016) argues that in addition to the Decree-Law 25/1937, related with the Protection of Historical Heritage, there are specific laws that deal with the paleontological and speleological heritage. However, the advance in the protection of geological heritage is greatly complicated by the lack of geological knowledge and of adequate research that allow the recognition of national geodiversity and geological heritage. Similar to archaeological or biological heritage, sites of geological interest can and should be included in territorial planning, thus promoting the development of adequate laws to protect geological heritage. Moreover, the inclusion of geoheritage in plans that deal with nature conservation and the recognition of geodiversity as an integral part of the natural environment is fundamental for the maintenance of ecosystems and in modern, political issues such as climate change (Gray et al. 2013).

In this sense, the assessment of the legal situation of the geosites is fundamental. Among the selected geosites, 9 are in protected areas: 3 in Ilhabela State Park, 2 in Anchieta Island State Park, 3 in Serra do Mar State Park and 1 in Tupinambás Ecological Station. Other 3 geosites are located in private domains, and the great majority (30) is located in public areas, being 25 in the so-called Navy Lands, one of the assets of the Federal Government (Figure 10a). These areas correspond to a 33-meters strip from the Line of Average High Tide (which considers the maximum

tides of the year 1831) towards the mainland or the interior of the coastal islands with headquarters of the municipality. In addition to the areas along the coast, riverbanks and lagoons that are influenced by tides are also included.

The size of the geosite also plays an important role in its conservation. In this sense, the practical approach described by Fuertes-Gutiérrez and Fernández-Martínez (2010), which classified the geosites on the Leon Province in five typologies, can be useful to evaluate the situation of each site (Figure 10b). The geomorphological geosites “Corcovado Peak” and “Baepi Peak” were classified as areas, although they are also used as viewpoints. This approach was preferred due to the specific characteristics of viewpoints, in which the relevant geological features are included in the normally large areas that constitute the “view”, and not in the point that serves as an observatory (normally the place from where the best view is obtained). This makes their assessment and management quite confusing and difficult. On the other extreme are the majority of the geosites, classified as points (i.e., less than 1 ha). Three of the geosites are classified as sections: “Contact relationships between alkaline rocks of Ilhabela” - ~3 km, “Dykes of Ponta do Araçá” - 300 meters - and “Costeiro Complex at Portinho Beach” - 100 meters. Especially for the first one of them, we understand that such a large geosite may be a barrier for conservation. However, this section is composed of important and rare records of the alkaline magmatism in Ilhabela, which includes, from NW to SE: i) Boulders and blocks of cumulate gabbros at the Pacuíba Beach that show unique magmatic structures; ii) Contact relationships between mafic and syenitic alkaline rocks; and iii) Syenite body (Lima 2001, Timich et al. 2016). The northwestern part of the geosite (Pacuíba Beach) is already used for educational purposes for Geology students. For these reasons, we believe it should be included in its totality.

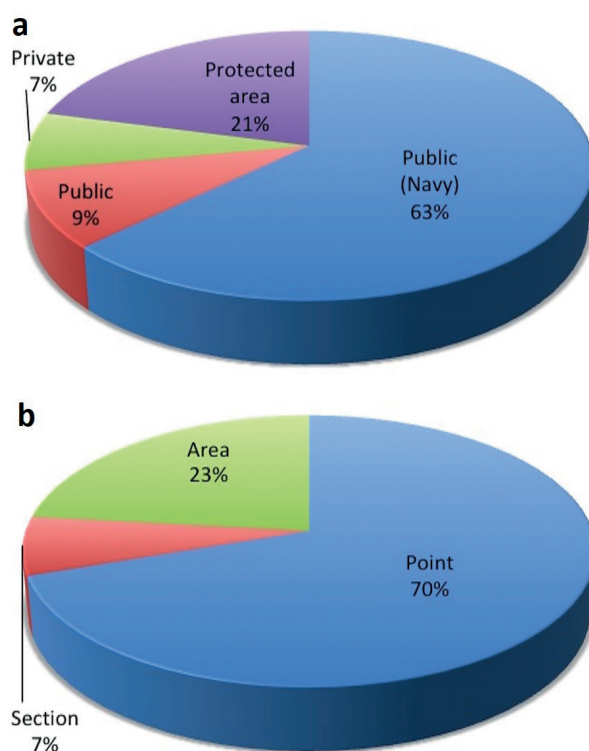


Figure 10 - Assessment of the geosites. **a)** Relative magnitude of the geosites in relation to the ownership regime; **b)** Relative magnitude of the geosites in relation to typology in the sense of Fuertes-Gutiérrez and Fernández-Martínez (2010).

Examples of sites in the State of São Paulo where the scientific use is currently complicated or even impossible mainly due to an intense urban development are shown in Garcia et al. (2018) and Reverte et al. (in press). In the coastal region, management may be difficult due to illegal constructions and big enterprises that are common in the coast of Brazil. In the area under investigation, the population has doubled in the last decade (IBGE 2018) due to different reasons, from the construction of a pipeline and a natural gas treatment unit, to the expansion of the main highway linking the coast to the consumer markets, as well as the prospect of expansion of the São Sebastião Harbor. Particularly, the expansion plan includes the construction of a platform that will cover the Araçá Mangrove, in an enterprise whose completion will directly affect one of the

most significant geosites in the region, the “Dykes of Ponta do Araçá”. In this geosite, about twenty dykes of distinct compositions are distributed along 300 meters along the coast, showing different interactions that hold important information about the stress regimes and the volcanic activities during the opening of the South Atlantic Ocean.

Due to the large and rapid population growth, issues such as illegal occupation of forest areas, slopes with landslide risks and riverbanks became very common and some potential geosites were definitely lost. This is especially true for a set of very fragile, sedimentary deposits studied by Souza (1990, 1992) and that constitute complete records of important sea-level variations during the Holocene and the Pleistocene that could be used as scientific material and as tools for environmental education. One of these sites was already destroyed by excessive, unplanned urbanization, and two others (the geosites “Holocene beach ridges of Fazenda Serramar” and “Pleistocene marine terrace of Fazenda Serramar”) are in extreme danger due to the new Economic-Ecological Zoning for the region, which intends to turn part of the area into an industrial complex (State Decree n 62.913, 08/11/2017).

PERSPECTIVES FOR SUSTAINABLE USE OF GEOSITES

Since the beginning of geoheritage inventories in the region, many geoconservation actions have been carried out. These actions include the study of the relationship between natural and cultural heritage, the implementation of interpretive panels that convey local geological history, social learning involving participatory methodologies as tools to elaborate geoconservation strategies, confection of workbooks with educational activities based on local geological materials and landscapes, interpretation of the geology along ecotourism trails, and geosciences courses for environmental guides (Garcia et al. 2017). A geotourism mapguide

built on the basis of the inventoried geosites and geodiversity sites, also including sites of built heritage, is also being elaborated (Arruda 2017).

However, up until now, these actions have been carried out with little participation of local and regional actors, such as authorities and government, members of social organizations, and legal institutions that deal with conservation, among others. This is important because it brings credibility to the management plan that will be able to include social and economic needs of local populations, as well as protection of the landscape in which they live, and conservation of their cultural identity. In this regard, one of the main challenges of this survey is to work effectively as a practical basis from where political decisions can rely on.

CONCLUSIONS

The integration and revision of previous local inventories in the northern coast of the State of São Paulo resulted in 43 geosites, distributed in eight geological frameworks that tell the geological history of the area since the Neoproterozoic to the recent, covering about a 700 Ma timespan.

Of the 43 geosites, 16 are included in the State of São Paulo inventory, which reinforces their representativeness as record of regional geological history. With the exception of the Geosite “Alcatrazes Granite type-locality”, all the geosites classified as internationally relevant are included in the State inventory and are potential candidates to be included in a national inventory. In this sense, the quantitative assessment proved to be effective in selecting the most representative ones. Surprisingly, although the inventories have been made in town-based manner, even within the same geological framework the geosites present unique features. When taken as a whole, the set of geosites are able to tell many details about each event they represent. Therefore, with the exception of a few very fragile geosites and those with low tourism

or educational use, they can serve as a basis for the elaboration of local strategies of sustainable tourism in the region.

Taking these examples into account, we believe that the detailed results obtained in the present inventory constitute a precious instrument to direct the decisions related to the conservation and use of this abiotic part of nature in the region. The sites of geological interest may serve both for future research – in the sense that we have also identified the “lacks” on the geological record – and as alternative, new natural sites for which innovative activities and uses can be discovered. Moreover, being a systematic inventory that follows the main principles of the Global Geosites Project, it may contribute to its original objectives of recognizing and managing globally relevant sites (Wimbledon et al. 1996, 1999, Díaz-Martínez et al. 2016), such as the recently approved Geoheritage Map of South America, which will be coordinated by the Geological Survey of Brazil.

The next steps on this project include the integration of data obtained from ongoing geosites and geodiversity sites surveys in the whole coastal region of São Paulo, as well as other information, to build a wide, solid foundation for a future Strategy and Action Plan for Geodiversity in the region.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

To the Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado de São Paulo (FAPESP) - Processes 2011/17261-6 and 2016/18652-2 - and to the Dean's Office for Research of the University of São Paulo, by the Program of Incentive to Research that allowed the creation of the Center for Research Support on Geological Heritage and Geotourism. To E. Díaz-Martínez for his contribution to clarify the text. We also thank the staff of Serra do Mar (Picinguaba, Caraguatatuba and São Sebastião), Ilhabela and Ilha Anchieta State Parks for their valuable help during field work.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

MGM Garcia - Inventory, assessment and discussions;
EA Del Lama - Discussions and characterization of geosites;
L Martins - Geological context and characterization of geosites;
CEM Mazoca - Discussion and images;
CLM Bourotte - Discussion and geosites data.

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