

newsletter

Union Géographique Internationale

International Geographical Union

No. 61, January 2008

Norbert P. Psuty, Editor

Objectives: The Commission on Coastal Systems encourages the study of coastal systems throughout the world. The Commission sponsors and supports activities leading to the exchange of information regarding coastal systems among our members and throughout the IGU at large. The focus of attention is on interactive systems, both human and physical, and the areas of inquiry includes issues such as sea-level rise, land-use changes, estuarine resources coastal tourism and shoreline development, coastal recreation, and coastal zone management. The Commission will make concerted efforts to emphasize issues of Global Change. Copies of our Newsletter and announcements are on our website: <http://www.igu-ccs.org/>

Message from the Chair

We are well into the last year of our four year appointment (2005-2008) as a Commission of the International Geographical Union. It has been a productive period for the Commission on Coastal Systems, and I will be sending a copy of our four-year report in the next week or so. That same document will include a proposal for our continuation for another four years. That period will require new leadership for CCS. **Edward Anthony**, President of the Université du Littoral Côte d'Opale, France, has agreed to be nominated for the position of Chair of the Commission, and **Colin Woodroffe**, Professorial Fellow in the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Wollongong, Australia, has agreed to be nominated for the position of Vice-Chair. It is anticipated that these nominations will be confirmed by the IGU Executive. Our continued success will, as always, depend upon the active participation of you, as a member of our commission. In particular, we request that you seek opportunities to develop and encourage international collaborative efforts that will lead to enhanced understanding of the natural and human components of coastal systems. This includes the organization of paper sessions, workshops, field trips and field symposia. It includes the production of edited books and special issues of journals. There is more than enough work for each of you to make a contribution. If you have an idea suitable for any of these outlets, please use the Newsletter as a means of seeking collaborators, organizing and or publicizing your project. And please make every effort to participate in the upcoming International Congress of the IGU in Tunisia.

DOUG SHERMAN

******COASTAL COMMISSION MEETING******

APRIL 15-19, 2008, BOSTON MASSACHUSETTS, USA
Coastal sessions, Association of American Geographers

Jean Ellis and **Steve Namikas** have developed a suite of sessions focusing on coastal environments at the meeting. These sessions complement others on paleotempestology signatures in coastal sedimentation, coastal cities and global climate change, marine geomorphology and habitats, sea level rise and vulnerability, remote sensing for coastal research, and the student paper competition.

AUGUST 12-15, 2008, TUNIS, TUNISIA
31st International Geographical Congress

CALL FOR PAPERS

31st Congress of the International Geographical Union Tunis, August
12-15, 2008 (<http://www.igc-tunis2008.com>).

IGU Commission on Coastal Systems (TC04.5)

Dear Colleagues,

As Chair of the IGU Commission on Coastal Systems, it is my privilege to invite you to submit abstracts for paper or poster presentations for the 31st International Geographical Congress in Tunis. CCS has proposed paper sessions in three themes: two sessions on Coastal Geomorphology; two sessions on Coastal Resources and Habitats; two sessions on Coastal Conservation, and two sessions for miscellaneous coastal research. Your abstract must be submitted through the Congress website:

http://www.igc-tunis2008.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=74&Itemid=136

When submitting your abstract, please be sure to follow directions closely, and choose "IGU Commission" as "Category" and "TC04.5 Coastal Systems" as "Theme" – failure to do so may mean that your paper is placed in a general paper session rather than one of ours. I also request that you email a copy of your abstract to me after you have submitted to the Congress website. Include your preferred CCS session theme if you have a preference, and indicate if you intend to make an oral presentation or prefer to present a poster. This will help us track papers as we organize the sessions. The deadline for submissions is **May 31, 2008**.

I hope that you will find the time in your busy schedule to join our international gathering of coastal geographers in Tunis. This promises to be an outstanding event. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns about participation.

There is a web site with additional information and an opportunity to file a statement of interest. It is <http://www.agt.org.tn/> A digital flyer, outlining many of the details of the Congress may be found at <http://igu-cge.tamu.edu/tunis.pdf> In addition, there is a general statement about the Congress at: http://www.igu-net.org/uk/news_and_events/brochure_partie_anglaise.pdf

The following is a list of International Year of Planet Earth sessions that will be part of the Tunis Congress. You are invited to submit papers to these sessions.

"Climate change from the geological eras to the 21st century: characteristics, impacts and governance".

This session focuses

on all the features of climate changes in the geological and historical periods and nowadays, not only on their physical but also on their human and societal impacts.

At that time the following co-organized are planned but the list is not closed:

- "Environment Evolution and Human Activity in Holocene: Geographical Pattern" (**Prof. A. Velichko**),
- "The two last Millennia",
- "Climate in the 21st century",
- "Population Vulnerability and Climate change" (**Prof. A. Findlay** and **Dr A. Geddes**),
- "Coastal Systems and Climate change" (**Prof. D. Sherman**),
- "Geomorphic Challenges and Climate change for the 21st Century" (**Prof. A. Parsons**),
- "Health and the Environment and Climate change" (**Prof. M. Rosenberg**),
- "Urbanisation and climate change" coordinated with the IAUC (International Association on Urban Climate; **Dr M. Roth**) and the CCRG (Climate Change Research Group) of the Association of British Geographers (**Prof. M. Pelling** and **Dr S. Lindley**),
- "Indigenous peoples and Climate change" (**Prof. J. Johnson**),
- "Climate Change and Tourism, Leisure in the 21th century" (**Prof. J. Saarinen**).

Doug Sherman

SUMMER 2010, TEL AVIV, ISRAEL

Regional Meeting, International Geographical Union

Preliminary information is posted at: http://www.igu-net.org/uk/news_and_events/IGU_Conference_2010.pdf

REPORT ON MEETING

JANUARY 16-18, 2008, LILLE, FRANCE

The Littoral: Challenge, Dialogue, Action

An International Multidisciplinary Conference

This international multidisciplinary conference was held in Lille (France) 16, 17, 18 January 2008. This meeting was organized by a team of French researchers (geographers, economists and sociologists) of 3 Universities of the North of France (Université du Littoral Côte d'Opale, Université d'Artois and Université de Lille1). It gathered more than 230 participants from several countries and from various horizons: researchers, such as geographers, sociologists, economists, ecologists, geologists; policy makers; consultants; local and territorial authorities; environmental NGO's... "Challenge, Dialogue, Action" were the watchwords for this conference that contributed to increase the understanding of the closely overlapping social and environmental dimensions of the littoral zone.

During the first two days, 83 communications from representatives of 12 countries were organized in plenary and parallel sessions which themes were *risks and vulnerability, identities and representations, public policies and management, natural spaces, competitions and conflicting interests, Integrated Coastal Zone Management, heritage, social regulations, statement, governance*. The conference also involved workshops on European programs: *COREPOINT (Coastal Research and Policy integration)* and *ENCORA*. The communications sessions were closed by a glance of local elected

representatives that underlined the importance to built bridges between researchers and decision-makers for integrated coastal zone management perspectives.

The third day was devoted to a field trip on the Opale Coast, dealing with urban regeneration around the harbour of Dunkerque, coastal heritage and cliff erosion management at Wimereux and rehabilitation of the national natural site of “Les deux Caps”.



Catherine Muer-Ferec leading the discussion in the field. Photo by Norb Psuty

For the organizers this conference was a success as it fostered dialogue and exchanges among the many researchers, decision-makers and managers participating. All the papers presented during this conference were evaluated by a scientific committee and collected in a CD distributed to the participants at the beginning of the conference. You can retrieve full version of all these papers on the website of the conference at the beginning of February 2008: <http://www.ifresi.univ-lille1.fr>
Submitted by **Catherine Muer-Ferec**

OTHER MEETINGS

MAY 20 – 23, 2008, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, USA International Eco-Geomorphology Conference (MYRES2008) Dynamic Interactions of Life and its Landscape

WHAT? An international workshop for early-career scientists interested in linking physical and biological processes on the Earth's surface. Through a combination of presentations, poster sessions, and extensive discussions, we will formulate a hypothesis-driven framework for examining geomorphic-ecologic feedbacks.

WHERE? MYRES 2008 will take place on the campus of Tulane University in New Orleans, LA, USA.

MYRES will provide all attendees with airfare to New Orleans and lodging at the International House Hotel.

Following the workshop there will be an optional two days of field trips around the Mississippi Delta. Applications will be accepted through January 22nd, 2008.

WHO? All young researchers* interested in pushing forward the science of ecogeomorphology. (*assistant professors, junior lecturers, postdocs, PhD students.)

HOW DO I APPLY? Visit our website to fill out the MYRES 2008 Delegate Application Form here:

<http://www.myres.org/myres3/application.html>

We have recently streamlined our application process. Please contact me (myres2008@gmail.com) if you have any questions or difficulties. Applications will be accepted through January 22nd, 2008.

Please visit our website for more information and to apply online: <http://www.myres.org/myres3/>

Matthew Wolinsky

National Center for Earth-surface Dynamics, USA

MYRES 2008 Organizing Committee

myres2008@gmail.com

May 19-21, 2008 WESSEX INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

COASTAL ENVIRONMENT 2008

Seventh International Conference on Environmental Problems in Coastal Regions including Oil and Chemical Spill Studies

The Coastal Environment Conference deals with problems related to monitoring, analysis and modelling of coastal regions, including sea, land and air phenomena. An important part of the meeting is the discussion of ecological and environmental problems and the issues of water quality. The conference will gather researchers, engineers and professionals involved in the field of Coastal Environmental quality and the related challenges to monitoring and controlling Oil spills. For further information, contact:

<http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2008/coast08/index.html>

MAY 26 - 28, 2008. UNIVERSITY OF PORTO, PORTUGAL

1st PoCoast Seminar on Coastal Research

The Portuguese Network on Coastal Research, PoCoast, will organize in May 2008, at the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto, the 1st PoCoast Seminar on Coastal Research, dedicated to the ENCORA scientific themes. In the European context, the PoCoast network is the national network of ENCORA, the European Network on Coastal Research, a Coordination Action funded under the 6th Framework Programme of the European Union. More information on the ENCORA network at

<http://www.encora.eu> and on the PoCoast network at <http://webpages.fe.up.pt/ihrh/pocoast/>.

Original papers in the thematic areas of ENCORA network, identified hereafter as seminar scientific themes, are invited. Seminar official languages are Portuguese and English, translation facilities will be provided for both languages.

Seminar Scientific Themes:

- Theme 1: Multifunctionality and valuation
- Theme 2: ICZM Participation and Implementation

- Theme 3: Marine and coastal spatial planning
- Theme 4: Pollution, prevention, detection and mitigation
- Theme 5: Long term coastal geo-morphological change
- Theme 6: Effect of Development and Use on Eco-morphology and Coastal Habitats
- Theme 7: Restoration and preservation of coastal biodiversity
- Theme 8: Sustainable coastal engineering techniques
- Theme 9: Assessment of field observation techniques
- Theme 10: Capacity building, training and education in ICZM
- Theme 11: Coastal Dune Fields

Abstract Submission:

All interested persons are invited to submit abstracts for consideration. All abstracts should be emailed as one word-file attachment to **Prof. Francisco Taveira Pinto** at fpinto@fe.up.pt. Abstracts MUST FILL ONE-FULL-A4, and can be written either in Portuguese or English. **Abstracts are due by January 31, 2008 but please return the Pre-Registration form by December 15.**

Important Dates:

Abstract Submission Deadline: **31.01.2008**

Notification of Acceptance: **15.03.2008**

Full-paper Submission: **30.06.2008**

**MAY 25-29, 2008, VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA
COASTAL ZONE CANADA 2008**

The Conference will be preceded by a Youth Forum on 23-25 May. The agenda will look at the advances and the setbacks in our understanding and management of coastal and ocean systems, both in Canada and globally. The Conference will also establish recommendations and actions for the immediate future and for the next thirty years - http://www.czca-azcc.org/html/conferences/czc08_papers.html.

For information, email: **Kelly Francis** at: francisk@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

**JUNE 2-4, 2008 MALMO, SWEDEN, World Maritime University
Impacts of Climate Change on the Maritime Industry 2008**

The conference will focus on the shipping and port sectors, including fisheries. These sectors are not only of significant socio-economic relevance, but are also associated with the intensive use of marine and coastal environments. Several keynote speakers will address the need for adaptive strategies to meet future challenges and opportunities. Further information is available at: www.iccmi.info

**JULY 2-5, 2008, UNIVERSITY OF BARI, ITALY
2nd International Conference on the Application of Physical Modelling to Port and Coastal Protection**

Topics will include: waves, structures, measuring techniques, erosion/scour, scale effects, and natural hazards assessment. Further information is available at: www.coastlab08.com

**JUNE 5-7 2008 AMQUA BIENNIAL MEETING PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIV.
Quaternary Ice Sheet-Ocean Interactions and Landscape Responses**

Registration and abstract submission are now open for the 2008 AMQUA Biennial Meeting!
Please visit the meeting web site: <http://www.outreach.psu.edu/programs/quaternary/>

Abstracts must be submitted online. The online system facilitates proper formatting and simplifies publication of the abstract volume. Participants are invited to contribute poster abstracts, which can be on any subject related to the Quaternary. The poster sessions are an important forum for scientific exchange and networking.

**AUGUST 5-14, 2008, OSLO, NORWAY
33rd International Geological Congress, <http://www.33igc.org>**

Achim A. Beylich & Scott F. Lamoureux are organising a Symposium on Holocene and present-day sediment budgets in cold environments HPQ-03: Climate change affects all Earth surface systems but with the arguably greatest impact in high-latitude and high-altitude cold environments. In these areas, climate change shapes earth surface processes not just by altering vegetation cover and human activities but also through its impact on frost penetration and duration within the ground surface layers. All of these factors influence patterns of erosion, transport and deposition of sediments and related fluxes (e.g., nutrients, solutes, carbon). It is a challenge to develop a better understanding of how these factors combine to affect sedimentary transfer processes and sediment budgets in cold environments. Our baseline knowledge on the erosion, sedimentary transfer and depositional processes operating within Holocene and present-day climates and as landscape systems evolved and under given vegetation covers, forms our basis for predicting the consequences of predicted future climate change and related vegetation cover changes. However, much of this information is limited in terms of spatial and temporal coverage and needs to be extended and consolidated. Only when we have these reliable models response to landscape and climate change we will have fuller understanding of probable future changes to these regions.

Deadline for abstract submission is February 1, 2008. Further information on abstract submission is available at <http://www.33igc.org>
Contact: **Dr. Achim Beylich**, achim.beylich@ngu.no

**SEPTEMBER 14 – 19, 2008, CADIZ, SPAIN
10th Spanish Geomorphological Meeting, <http://www.xreungeomorfcadiz.com/>**

Inscription and electronic abstract submission deadline s February 29, 2007. More information can be found in the congress web page.

Javier Gracia.

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SEPTEMBER 29 – OCTOBER 3, 2008, BAHIA BLANCA, ARGENTINA

Estuarine and Coastal Sciences Association (ECSA) and the Instituto Argentino de Oceanografía (IADO) announce the **ECSA 44 Symposium: *Science and management of estuaries and coasts: A tale of two hemispheres***

The symposium is aimed at promoting a fluid exchange between specialists of different disciplines and from both hemispheres, working on estuarine and coastal issues. It will provide a stimulating frame for comparing results, and for discussing the ongoing scientific and management challenges, highlighting similarities and differences between northern and southern coasts and estuaries.

Deadline for Abstract submission: **May 20, 2008**

Deadline for early full registration: **May 20, 2008**

For more information regarding main meeting topics, abstract submission, registration, please visit the web page <http://ecsa44.criba.edu.ar>

Or make contact at: ecsa44@criba.edu.ar

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<http://iado.criba.edu.ar>

OCTOBER 2008, EUROPEAN CENTER ON LAND USE AND SPATIAL INFORMATION, BARCELONA, SPAIN
Mediterranean Deltas

The European Topic Centre Land Use and Spatial Information ETC-LUSI is an international consortium assisting the **European Environment Agency (EEA)**. This consortium is led by the Autonomous University of Barcelona (**UAB**) from Spain. ETC-LUSI is part of the **European Environmental Information and Observation Network (EIONET)** and a support to other Eionet partners. Our activities have an important component on networking with various experts in the member countries on the harmonisation, quality and exchange of data and in building capacities. ETC-LUSI assist countries in discussing options for improving national information systems related with our topic “land use and spatial information”.

Je vous envoie le programme du séminaire sur les deltas méditerranéens qui aura lieu au mois d'Octobre 2008 a Barcelone. J'espère que le programme vous intéressera et que nous pourrons nous rencontrer à cette occasion. For information contact Françoise Breton or visit the website.

Françoise Breton

ETC/LUSI Deputy Manager

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**OCTOBER 5-9, 2008 GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA AND THE SOIL
SCIENCE SOCIETY OF AMERICA HOUSTON, TEXAS, USA**

Topical Session 2

Coastal and Aeolian Geomorphology Processes and Landforms

This session will showcase contemporary research on coastal and eolian processes and landforms from both natural and modified systems. To encourage discussion about integration and process linkages, research is encouraged from the scale of turbulence and sediment transport to tectonic and global climate scales. Graduate and undergraduate students are encouraged to submit presentations. See website: <http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2008/index.asp>

Field Trip

Coastal Geomorphology and Change along the Upper Texas Coast (Guided by **Jim Gibeaut, Rick Giardino, Doug Sherman, Chris Houser**) This field trip will focus on the geomorphology of the Texas Coast from High Island to Bolivar Peninsula and most of Galveston Island. The trip will start with an examination of the unique Trinity River Delta and the brackish marshes that line the Intracoastal Waterway. Participants will also be able to see the higher elevations of High Island resulting from the surface expression of a salt dome. Morning coffee will then be provided on a section of the coast that is characterized by narrow beaches, a lack of dunes and extreme shoreline erosion. On the way to Bolivar Peninsula, the tour will stop at Rollover Pass to discuss local coastal engineering works and then following the transition from narrow eroding beaches to relatively stable wide beaches with ridge and swale topography. A short ferry ride will bring the tour to Galveston Island, where lunch will be provided on the Jetty at East Beach. The tour will continue along the Galveston seawall and west of Galveston where participants will have an opportunity to examine new development on a section of coast that is narrow and low in elevation, and prone to overwash. Participants will also be able to examine ridge and swale topography along the backbarrier. Following a tour of the heavily industrialized and subsiding Texas City, the tour will visit a drowned coastal stream at Pine Gully and conclude at Baytown where the subsidence has led to entire subdivisions being abandoned.

For more information about the special sessions or the field trip contact Chris Houser (chouser@geog.tamu.edu).

Abstracts may be submitted online at:

<http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2008AM/joint/papers/index.cgi?sessionid=21624>

OCTOBER 11 – 15, 2008, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND, USA
4th National conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration

The Conference, hosted by Restore America's Estuaries, will be held October 11-15, 2008, in Providence, Rhode Island. This is the premiere nationwide forum focused on advancing the science, pace, practice, scale and success of coastal and estuarine habitat restoration. Incorporating the non-profit, government, business, tribal, and academic sectors, the Conference will enable networking and communication throughout this growing movement.

Healthy coasts and estuaries are essential to the very fabric of our lives - the social, economic and ecological well being of humans in the coastal landscape. The Conference will mobilize the restoration community toward a strong national policy and commitment to protecting and restoring our coasts.

We invite you to present your project and/or research in the Student Poster Contest at our 4th National Conference. Cash Prizes will be awarded in several categories:

1. Human Dimensions of Restoration
2. Comprehensive Ecosystem Restoration and Management
3. Best Practices On-the-Ground
4. Measuring and Communicating Results
5. Policy and Funding
6. Education and Outreach
7. Science and Technology
8. Coastal Restoration in the Context of Climate Change

If you would like to participate, please review the Call for Dedicated Sessions, Presentations and Posters, which can be found at [Conference homepage](#). The deadline for submitting a proposal or an abstract is May 31st, 2008.

Financial assistance for students is available, including a discounted student rate and scholarship assistance. Details will be provided in Conference registration materials. Questions? Please contact **Steve Emmett-Mattox** at Restore America's Estuaries, program@estuaries.org, or 303-652-0392..

NOVEMBER 22-27, 2008
CAIRO AND SERABIT EL KHADEM, SOUTHERN SINAI, EGYPT
1st Symposium and Field Workshop, Living with Landscapes

Deadline for abstract submissions is June 30, 2008. For more information, contact:

Magdy Torab

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NOVEMBER 25-28, 2008 LITTORAL 2008, VENICE, ITALY
A Changing Coast: Challenge for Environmental Policies

LITTORAL 2008 is a major and unique European coastal event attracting an international audience of coastal researchers, managers, practitioners and public administrations. This year Littoral 2008 has a unique opportunity to build upon some recent developments in coastal management. In June 2007 the European Commission confirmed that "the response to the EU ICZM Recommendation is part of a slow, but on-going process towards more integrated coastal planning and management"

1. Global changes in the coastal zone: analysis, adaptation and mitigation, downscaling issues and relative to large scale changes
2. The Natura 2000 implementation in coastal zones
3. The Water Framework Directive (WFD) and coastal transitional waters
4. Natural and human interactions in the coastal zone: co-evolution or impact?
5. EU Policies and ICZM implementation in Europe (e.g. EU Maritime Policy, Flooding Directive; INSPIRE Directive; amongst others)
6. Coastal geology: sedimentary processes, Holocene evolution and the impact of sea level rise
7. Circulation and transport modelling
8. Safeguarding cultural heritage, a "new" topic in ICZM

Call for papers

The online submission form is now available. The authors are encouraged to submit papers describing previously unpublished, original research results, not currently under review by another conference or journal.

All the papers will be reviewed and accepted papers will appear in the conference proceedings. Both abstracts and finally full papers must be submitted electronically. The accepted papers will be presented during regular or poster sessions. Camera-ready instructions for authors of accepted papers will be provided later.

Key dates

Abstract submission due: **28th April 2008**

Abstract acceptance notification due: **15th June 2008**

Camera-ready final papers due: **5th September 2008**

Further information is available at: <http://www.littoral2008.corila.it/home.php>

DECEMBER 2008, NATAL, BRAZIL IGCP526 Annual Meeting

For information, please contact **Antonio Klein** klein@univali.br

JULY 7-12, 2009, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA International Geomorphology Conference

Preliminary information is available on the web at: <http://www.geomorphology2009.com>

At this stage the topics of paper sessions are not finalised and we invite expressions of interest in particular specialist topics. These expressions of interest should be sent to the organisers as soon as possible and before the end of March 2008. After that date the final conference program will be confirmed and no further changes will be possible.

Send expressions of interest to Brian Finlayson - brianlf@unimelb.edu.au

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REPORT ON MEETING

COASTGIS07 CONFERENCE REPORT 8th international GIS Coastal Conference – CoastGIS07 Santander, Spain]

On 8-10 October, 2007, around 140 coastal science researchers and coastal environmental managers met on the delightful Cantabrian coast in Santander, Spain, for the 8th in the series of CoastGIS international conferences. The CoastGIS conference series began in 1995 in Cork, Ireland, with subsequent conferences held in Aberdeen, Scotland (1997), Brest, France (1999), Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada (2001), Genoa, Italy (2003), Aberdeen (2005), Wollongong, Australia (2006) and now Spain in 2007. The 2009 conference will be held in Brazil. The conference series focuses mainly on applications of GIS and, more recently, coastal Spatial Data Infrastructure, for the coastal and marine research and management communities, globally.

The full name of the conference series – “GIS and Computer Mapping for Coastal Zone Management” - best describes the emphasis and objectives of this international symposium. The 75 presentations and workshops at this year’s event focused on the use of GIS technology for coastal research and management projects. Since 2003, there has also been a focus on developments in coastal spatial data infrastructure (CSDI).

The 2007 symposium hosted 10 papers focusing specifically on coastal or marine SDI initiatives, when such initiatives are sadly are still most notable by their absence in national SDI (NSDI) programmes of the 130+ countries that are developing NSDIs. The fact is that most SDI programmes, both national and regional, are still very much grounded in the needs of the terrestrial, topographical and cadastre communities, with less than a handful addressing the special and unique needs for a range of practitioners who work in the coastal zone, where sea meets land. During the two plenary sessions, SDI initiatives at regional and national levels in Spain and coastal SDI development in Catalunya were presented by Antonio Rodriguez Pascual, of IGN Spain (the national mapping agency of Spain), Jordi Guimet of ICC (Cartographic Institute of Catalunya, Barcelona) and Xavier Marti (Generalitat de Catalunya).

Presentations were grouped into sessions on SDI, Earth Observation technologies, risk management, Web services, GIS in support of national and regional (EU-wide) policy development, decision making, modelling, mapping services, and GIS used to better understand coastal processes – the historical focus of the conference series.

In his summary address to the participants, Ron Furness, former Chief of the Australian Hydrographic Office and one of the three co-founders of the CoastGIS conference series, noted how the papers and presentations had evolved over the years from a ‘micro’ view, looking specifically at GIS applications mainly related to better understanding of coastal processes to the ‘macro’ level. Much of the research presented now covered a range of GIS technologies, especially embracing the Internet and web services delivering coastal information not only to decision makers but directly to citizens, in easy to use and understandable forms.

Books and magazine subscriptions were awarded for best student paper, best poster and best presentation at the conference, courtesy of ESRI Press and GEO:connexion International magazine.

*Submitted by **Roger Longhorn**, Editor, GEO:connexion International magazine and Information Policy Advisor, EUCC – The Coastal Union. E-mail: roger@geoconenxion.com*

Grist and Grains

The IGU Commission on Coastal Systems (CCS) has a new web site which can be found at: <http://www.igu-ccs.org/> Contact information for CCS Officers and Steering Committee members can be found on the web site along with past and present newsletters. If you are interested in becoming a member of the CCS, an on-line membership form is available.

- **Pat Doody** announces the publication of the **SAND DUNE INVENTORY OF EUROPE, 2ND EDITION. MARCH 2008.** The Coastal Commission of the International Geographical Union (Union Geographique Internationale) adopted the inventory as a project, publishing details in their newsletters. Thanks to Professor Norb Psuty and other members of the commission for their help. Where these individuals and others have provided additional information there is a note in the individual country accounts. This edition is published as a contribution to the International Sand Dune conference "Changing Perspectives in Coastal Dune Management", 31 March - 3 April 2008, Liverpool, UK. I hope this revised version of the inventory is helpful. Copies are available for a small charge of €20 to cover some of the production costs. Please email me pat.doody@ntlworld.com using PayPal.

- The Geográfica Acadêmica is an electronic journal from Geology and Physical Geography Laboratory of Institute Studies Social-Environment in Universidade Federal de Goiás (UFG) - BRAZIL. The aims is publications about geomorphology, pedology, biogeography, urban geography, climatology, rural geography, environment education, geography oftourism, and cultural geography.

Web address: <http://geograficaacademica.webng.com/ingles/index.html>

You are invited to make a contribution. The second volume will be finished in july of 2008.

For further information, contact: Thiago Morato de Carvalho
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- **Roger Longhorn** provides the following information on the **Caribbean Marine Atlas**

A number of Caribbean countries are embarking on an initiative to develop a **Caribbean Marine Atlas (CMA)**. The purpose of the CMA is to identify, collect and organize available geo-spatial datasets into an atlas of environmental themes for the Caribbean region, under the sponsorship of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission's (IOC) International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE) and Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM) Programmes. The CMA will include geo-spatial data from national and regional projects and programmes, related to the sustainable development and integrated management of marine and coastal areas in the region.

While these areas and their associated living resources are of major importance for the sustainable development of the Caribbean, they are under increasing pressure from a combination of anthropogenic

and natural threats. A major constraint to effective integrated management of these areas has been limited availability of data and information as well as of appropriate data and information tools.

A prototype version of the Caribbean Marine Atlas will be prepared by nine participating countries (Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St Lucia, Trinidad & Tobago and Turks & Caicos). It is expected the prototype Atlas will be released in October 2008. It is planned to extend the Atlas to include other countries in the region. Environmental datasets from organizations in the contributing countries will be collected for presentation in the Atlas.

Data Layers.

The data layers for the Atlas will be:

- Regional Scale Data Layers - These layers cover the complete Atlas area of interest.
- National/Local Scale Data Layers - These layers cover specific countries in the Caribbean. It will be the responsibility of the participating countries to collect and organize data. Some of the data themes that will be included will be provided as "virtual" datasets.
- Virtual Data Layers - These layers will be provided as links to online web map servers (WMS) or web feature servers (WFS) that produce dynamic maps that can be integrated into the Atlas.

Features of the Atlas.

The CMA will be a digital atlas comprising easily downloadable data on various key themes relevant to the marine and coastal environment of the Caribbean. Among these themes are coastal habitats, fisheries, environmental quality, climate change and sea level rise, oceanography, as well as socio-economic aspects. The Atlas will also contain dataset descriptions (metadata) and links to the source data. It is intended both to provide necessary datasets directly to concerned scientists, coastal zone management practitioners, and natural resource managers, and will set the stage for the development of decision-makers' toolkits that rely on geo-spatial information.

The CMA will play an important role in informing decision-makers on issues relating to the marine and coastal environment and it is envisaged the Atlas will become the main entry point for anyone interested in finding information on the coastal and marine environment of the Caribbean.

The development of the CMA will also provide a tool to assist community building and collaboration in the region. It will draw on national human resources to identify issues of concern, define appropriate indicators and locate datasets that can be used in the atlas. In addition, data gaps that require additional resources will be identified. As part of the Atlas development, the IODE programme will provide the necessary training to the relevant persons from each country. The CMA will be built using open source technologies and will be based on international standards to enable the sharing of technological knowledge and resources. The Atlas will encourage the wide dissemination of key datasets by providing access and visualization of these data.

A CMA training workshop was held within the IOC-IODE's Ocean Teacher programme at the IODE Project Office in Oostende, Belgium, in February 2008. Videos of all lectures from the 6 day programme can be downloaded from <http://www.oceanteacher.org/CMA%201.html>.

Contact:

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URL: <http://www.iode.org/cma>

Antonio Klein announces that the Proceedings of the 8th International Coastal Symposium (ICS 2004) and now available. They are published as Special Issue No 39 of the Journal of Coastal Research. Further information on this publication is available at: <http://siaiacad09.univali.br/ics2004>

- **Samuel ETIENNE** informs us of the publication of the following book:

Samuel ETIENNE & Raphaël PARIS (editors) - **Les littoraux volcaniques : une approche environnementale**. Coll. Volcaniques, PUBP, Clermont-Ferrand, 226p.

Introduction

Samuel Etienne et Raphaël Paris - Intérêt et spécificité des littoraux volcaniques en géographie environnementale.

Première partie - Géomorphologie des littoraux volcaniques

Guy Caniaux - Morphologie des littoraux aux Açores (Portugal).

Samuel Etienne - Les plates-formes d'érosion marine des littoraux volcaniques.

Hervé Regnaud, J.R. Goff, S.L. Nichol, C. Chagué-Goff et Jean-Noël Proust - Littoraux et volcanisme en Nouvelle-Zélande : du forçage direct au contrôle en relais.

Catherine Lefaure - Etude géomorphologique du littoral de l'Etna.

Deuxième partie - Crises et risques sur les littoraux volcaniques

Guillaume Marie - Conséquences morphologiques des tempêtes et tsunamis sur les côtes volcaniques de l'île d'Hawaï : genèse de plates-formes de haute mer et dépôts de blocs.

Raphaël Paris, Franck Lavigne et Patrick Wassmer - Risques et impacts des tsunamis sur les littoraux des îles volcaniques.

Françoise Pagney Benito Espinal - Les risques associés aux perturbations tropicales sur les littoraux des Petites Antilles volcaniques.

Troisième partie - Impacts anthropiques et aménagements des littoraux volcaniques

Pascal Saffache et Didier Moulet - Martinique et Guadeloupe : des écosystèmes côtiers en sursis.

Emma Pérez Chacón Espino, Luis Hernández Calvento, Ignacio Alonso Bilbao, Amalia Yáñez

Luque - Transformaciones humanas y consecuencias sobre los litorales de las Islas Canarias.

Z.M.A.N Leão, Jérôme Fournier - Contribution à l'étude biogéomorphologique d'un archipel d'origine volcanique : une synthèse sur le complexe récifal d'Abrolhos (Bahia, Brésil).

More information : <http://blog.ifrance.com/coasts>

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- *The Coastal and Marine Wiki*

The Coastal and Marine Wiki, is a spin-off from a European Community project "ENCORA", which aimed to improve sharing of coastal knowledge and experience within Europe. The design of ENCORA is set to help overcome the fragmentation of coastal expertise. In all European coastal states, many institutions are engaged in coastal and marine studies related to science, practice or policy. Together these institutions constitute a huge resource of knowledge and experience. However, the resource is not fully exploited, because of the lack of a rapid and easy means of communication.

The transfer of scientific knowledge occurs mainly among fellow experts; scientific publications focus on specific disciplinary aspects and are almost inaccessible to non-expert coastal and marine professionals. Existing publications are not always appropriate for passing on new insight to management practice. The Coastal and Marine Wiki is an Internet encyclopaedia, which so far has 880 information pages written for and by coastal professionals providing up-to-date high quality Coastal and Marine information. The Wiki can be accessed @ http://www.encora.eu/coastalwiki/Main_Page. Note that the Coastal and Marine Wiki does not follow exactly the same concepts as the Wikipedia. An important difference is that it is not possible to edit anonymously. All contributors have an identity, allowing discussion to take place between those submitting articles on similar subjects. This also promotes informed debate, should differences occur in the interpretation of information. Another difference is that in the Coastal Wiki, terms are defined in separate, individual definition-pages. Those attending the International Sand Dune conference "Changing Perspectives in Coastal Dune Management", 31st March - 3rd April 2008, Liverpool, UK received a copy of a revised "Sand Dune Inventory of Europe" on CD. However, it became clear that there was great scope for the individual country reports to be improved. Several people suggested importing individual chapters into the 'Coastal Wiki'. This would allow individuals to add to, revise and update the contributions on an ongoing basis. As a result, **Pat Doody** has begun the process of importing country reports to the Coastal Wiki. It is hoped this example will encourage others to use the functionality of the web site to share a wide range of information on our coasts.

Please email pat.doody@ntlworld.com with any queries or comments.

- The ENCORA project has been initiated to improve sharing of knowledge and experience within Europe, in two respects:
- Overcome existing fragmentation of coastal expertise. In all European coastal states many institutions are engaged in coastal and marine studies related to science, practice or policy. Together these institutions constitute a huge resource of knowledge and experience. However, as much work is done in isolation, this resource is not fully exploited.
- Better exploit scientific knowledge in practice. Scientific knowledge is communicated mainly among fellow experts; scientific publications focus on specific disciplinary aspects and are almost inaccessible to non-expert coastal and marine professionals. Existing publication practices are not appropriate for passing on new insight to practice.

Therefore ENCORA organises a number of services enabling coastal professionals to take better advantage of existing knowledge resources in Europe, for tackling the challenges posed by the future of our coasts. These services are being implemented by Coordination Offices, which have been established in 18 European countries and rely on National Networks, Thematic Networks and Affiliated Networks. Visit ENCORA at: <http://www.encora.eu/>

- CANADA AND THE CHANGING CLIMATE

The assessment report entitled "From Impacts to Adaptation: Canada in a Changing Climate 2007" discusses current and future risks and opportunities that climate change presents to Canada, with a focus on human and managed systems. The current state of understanding is presented, and key knowledge gaps are identified - http://adaptation.nrcan.gc.ca/assess/2007/index_e.php.

- 2007 US OCEAN POLICY REPORT CARD

The Joint Ocean Commission Initiative is a collaborative effort of the US Commission on Ocean Policy

and the Pew Oceans Commission to catalyze ocean policy reform. The 2007 Report Card, the 3rd in the series released by the Joint Initiative, concludes that while US state and regional initiatives continue to move forward on ocean governance reform, the lack of significant progress at the federal level hinders national improvement - <http://www.jointoceancommission.org>.

- - **The North American Environmental Atlas**, a new information tool from the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC), features maps, data, interactive map layers, and links to other related materials - <http://www.cec.org/naatlas>.

- **The Proposed New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2008** contains objectives and policies to achieve the purpose of the Resource Management Act 1991 in relation to New Zealand's coastal environment - <http://www.doc.govt.nz/templates/MultiPageDocumentTOC.aspx?id=45970>.

- NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management has released a report which discusses some of the most prominent coastal management issues addressed by state Coastal Zone Management programs and National Estuarine Research Reserves in recent years - <http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/success/media/312summaryreport2006.pdf>.

- The US National Research Council report entitled "**Earth Observations from Space: The First 50 Years of Scientific Achievements**" describes how the ability to view the entire globe from satellite observations has impacted on earth studies and multidisciplinary sciences. In particular, the frequent gathering of satellite images has led to an improvement in the understanding of earth's dynamic processes. The report, including animations and images, is available at <http://dels.nas.edu/basc/earthobservations/>.

- The book entitled "**Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)**" is organized according to interrelated themes and topics, including: global to local scales of ICZM, human dimensions and social, physical and biological aspects, biodiversity conservation, hazards and risk management, the impact of climate change, and the application of remote sensing and geospatial technologies. Ordering information is available at <http://www.rpsonline.com.sg/books/iczm.html>.

- **Antonio Klein (BRAZIL)** announces that the Brazilian Journal of Aquatic Science and Technology (www.univali.br/bjast) will devote a special issue to "risks and hazards in the aquatic zone", including coasts of lakes, lagoons, estuaries and the ocean environments. He is asking that those interested in contributing manuscripts please contact him: klein@univali.br Antonio is serving as one of the co-editors. The deadline for receipt of manuscripts is May 30, 2008. Publication is intended to be in the second half off 2008.

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The IGU Commission on Coastal Systems (CCS) web site at:

<http://www.igu-ccs.org/>

Contact information for CCS Officers and Steering Committee members can be found on the web site along with past and present newsletters. If you are interested in becoming a member of the CCS, an on-line membership form is available.

BECOME A CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE IGU COMMISSION ON COASTAL SYSTEMS

The membership dues consist of your involvement in the activities in the Commission and/or your contributions to the Newsletter. The absence of participation will cause your membership to lapse.

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Thank you for your cooperation. NORB PSUTY

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