



BOOK REVIEWS

Coastal Dunes, Carter, R.W.G.; Curtis, T.G.F., and Sheehy-Skeffington, M.J., 1992. Rotterdam: Balkema, 533p., \$US 95. ISBN 90-5410-058-3.

Coastal Dunes is a collective title for the Proceedings of the Third European Dune Congress held in Ireland, in 1991, under the auspices of the European Union for Coastal Conservation.

The book is well edited and solidly bound with an attractive hard cover. It is also well printed although sometimes the editors have let pass figures that are too pale (e.g. p. 134, 135, 296). In addition to an exhaustive table of contents, a short preface, and an author index, the book contains 48 papers grouped into five parts. The absence of a list of figures and tables, of a thematic and geographical index and more importantly of an introduction presenting the context and the objectives of the congress and the proceedings must be deplored. By examining attentively the content, these elements can however be inferred in part.

The subject matter is European dunes and, in this sense, the title of the book is misleading. On the other hand, the subtitle "Geomorphology, Ecology and Management for Conservation" translates well the themes addressed, using mainly case studies which form the five parts of the book: (1) geomorphology: processes and history (15 papers), (2) ecological environments (11 papers), (3) ecological management (6 papers), (4) management for dune conservation (12 papers), and (5) prospects for future management (4 papers). Most of the research aspects of dunes are covered.

Papers are quite unequal but have an average of 10 pages (from 5 to 20) and 6 illustrations (from 0 to 12). They cover most of the coastal countries of Western Europe, except for the Scandinavian countries. The most extensively studied countries are the United Kingdom and Ireland (28%), the Netherlands (23%), Germany (13%), France (8%) and, to a lesser extent, Portugal, Denmark, and Spain. A paper deals with Hungary and, curiously, there are two on South Africa! These proportions

correspond approximately to the number of authors although in addition six Americans and one Canadian can be found. The four papers of the last part do not make reference to any country in particular and present concepts and general actions.

Except in rare cases, the authors present their paper on their own country. Hence, they enrich the book with multilingual references (58% of cases) and foreign references surpass the number of references in English in 31% of the papers.

At first glance, the price of the book may appear rather high, but the density of the matter and the general knowledge that can be derived from the majority of papers, and that can be transposed to other areas, are worth the price. Since only part of the world is covered, there remains a doubt in the reader's mind as to this possible transposition, specially in relation with other ecological systems and other management and conservation conditions.

In conclusion, it is a good reference manual for scientists in the field of wind erosion, specially in Western Europe, but remains somewhat expensive for students.

Jean-Marie M. Dubois
Département de géographie et télédétection
Université de Sherbrooke
Sherbrooke, Québec, J1K 2R1, Canada

Cross-Shore Transport During Storm Surges, by H. J. Steetzel. Doctoral thesis for the Technical University of Delft, 1993. Printed and bound by Casparie Zwolle bv. Also published as Delft Hydraulics Communication No. 476 and Report No. CI-93.05 of the Technical Advisory Committee on Water Defense (TAW), 274 p. ISBN 90-9006345-5.

The 20 line abstract of the book gives in a nutshell its contents: