

FOREWORD

Nowadays the importance of coastal regions and their resources, particularly for small island developing States, hardly needs argument. The challenge lies in arriving at enduring solutions to the complex problems facing these unique areas, where considerable ecosystem services and high human population pressure coincide.

In publishing *Applications of Satellite and Airborne Image Data to Coastal Management*, the Seventh Computer-based Learning Module (*Bilko for Windows*), UNESCO's intent is to continue making available, to the user community, a series of interactive lessons designed to explain how to use satellite and airborne remotely sensed imagery as an aid for coastal and small island management.

The first *Bilko* learning module was published by UNESCO in 1989 as No. 70 in the *Marinf* series, sponsored by the former Division of Marine Sciences as part of an effort involving scientists and others in a number of countries. It provided a unique service to the international community by furnishing institutions and individuals with learning materials, free of charge, on the interpretation of image data from satellite, airborne and *in-situ* sensors. These pedagogical materials have evolved over the past decade for the development of human resources and infrastructure, especially in economically less-favoured countries. The Organization's support has been continued as an activity of the endeavour entitled Environment and Development in Coastal Regions and in Small Islands (CSI). Launched in 1996, CSI is designed to serve as a co-operative platform, encouraging inter-sectoral actions that assist Member States towards environmentally sustainable, socially equitable and culturally appropriate development in their coastal areas.

The Coastal Region and Small Island Papers series disseminates information to managers and stakeholders to assist in the search for adequate solutions to coastal problems. This volume was prepared in camera-ready form under the supervision and editorship of Dr. Alasdair J. Edwards, Centre for Tropical Coastal Management Studies of the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, UK. The editor and his colleagues are congratulated for their excellent and diligent work.

Extra copies of this document, as well as a CD-ROM with the present and previous modules, can be obtained, free of charge and within the limit of stocks, by contacting:

UNESCO-Bilko Project Secretariat,
c/o International Institute for Aerospace Survey and Earth Sciences (ITC),
PO Box 6, 7500 AA Enschede, The Netherlands.
Fax: +31-53-4874482
E-mail: module7@unesco.bilko.org
Website: <http://www.unesco.bilko.org/>

DIRK G. TROOST
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