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dynamics; References; Part I Coastal Wetlands as Ecosystems; Chapter 2 The Morphology and Development of Tropical Coastal Wetlands 1 Introduction 2 Mangrove and Associated Wetlands; 3 Sedimentation and the Development of Wetlands; 4 Sea-Level Controls on Wetland Development; 5 Sea-Level Change and the Diversification of West Indian Mangroves; 6 Sea-Level Change and the Evolution of Mangrove Habitats in the IWP; 7 Impact of Future Climate and Sea-Level Change; 8 Summary and Concluding Remarks; References; Chapter 3 Temperate Coastal Wetlands: Morphology, Sediment Processes, and Plant Communities; 1 Introduction; 2 Factors Controlling Sediment Dynamics; 2.1 The "ramp" model of salt marsh accretion 2.2 The "creek" model of salt marsh accretion 2.3 Storms and salt marsh erosion; 3 Factors Controlling Patterns of Vegetation; 3.1 Zonation of vegetation; 3.2 Ecological development; 4 Geographic Variation; 4.1 Northern Europe; 4.2 Eastern North America; 4.3 Western North America; 4.4 Mediterranean; 4.5 Eastern Asia; 4.6 Australasia; 4.7 South America; 5 Human Impact and Climate Change; 5.1 Human impact; 5.2 Climate and sea-level change; 6 Summary; References; Chapter 4 Polar Coastal Wetlands: Development, Structure, and Land use; 1 Introduction; 2 Geology/Geomorphology; 3 Oceanography 4 Climate 5 Structure of Coastal Wetlands; 6 Vegetation of Polar Coastal Wetlands; 7 Fauna of Polar Coastal Wetlands; 7.1 Invertebrate fauna; 7.2 Vertebrate fauna using coastal wetlands; 8 Environmental Hazards; 9 Conclusions and Research Priorities; References; Part II Physical Processes; Chapter 5 Intertidal Eco-Geomorphological Dynamics and Hydrodynamic Circulation; 1 Introduction; 2 Intertidal Eco-Geomorphological Evolution; 2.1 Poisson hydrodynamic model; 2.2 Model of channel network early development; 2.3 Model of marsh platform evolution; 3 Results; 4 Discussion; 5 Conclusions Acknowledgments

Sommario/riassunto

Coastal wetlands are under a great deal of pressure from the dual forces of rising sea level and the intervention of human populations both along the estuary and in the river catchment. Direct impacts are direct such as the destruction or degradation of wetlands from land reclamation and infrastructures and indirect such as the impact of pollutants and changes in the river water and sediment discharge from land clearing and dams. As sea level rises, coastal wetlands in most areas of the world migrate landward to occupy former uplands. The competition of these lands from human development is