

COVER PHOTOGRAPH AND FRONT MATTER: DIAZ BEACH, CAPE POINT, SOUTH AFRICA

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH



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Diaz Beach, Cape Point, South Africa. Diaz Beach, a pocket beach in the Cape Point nature reserve at the tip of the South African Cape Peninsula, lies about 60 km southwest of Cape Town between the Atlantic Ocean and False Bay. The Cape Point Natural World Heritage Site occurs in Table Mountain National Park and includes over 7750 ha of varied flora and fauna. The natural vegetation of the area, fynbos, comprises the smallest but richest of the world's six floral kingdoms with more than 9000 plant species found here. Cape Point is known for its buck, baboons, the Cape Hyrax (*Procapra capensis*), the Cape Mountain Zebra (*Equus zebra zebra*), and more than 250 species of birds. One of the Global Atmosphere Watch's atmospheric research stations is also found at this location.

The two main rock formations at Cape Point include the late-Precambrian Malmesbury Group (metamorphic rock) and the Peninsula Granite batholith that intruded the Malmesbury Group about 630 million years ago. Table Mountain Group sandstones, which come from stream channels and tidal flats that extended across the region, were deposited about 450 million years ago on the eroded granite and metamorphic rock surfaces. Cape Point rock ledges generally contain a near vertical dip, which is visible above Diaz Beach in the backbeach cliffs between the rocky headlands. Diaz Beach was named after the Portuguese explorer, Bartolomeu Dias, who was the first to navigate the dangerous Cape Peninsula in 1488, giving it the distinction of being the 'Cape of Storms.' Several rip heads are visible beyond the surf zone in this low-tide view along the coast. (Photograph taken 21 April 2014 by Christopher Makowski, Coastal Education and Research Foundation [CERF], and caption by Christopher Makowski and Charles W. Finkl, Coastal Education and Research Foundation [CERF].)

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Because CERF is concerned with broad environmental issues, our efforts concentrate on significant problems such as maintenance of good quality (potable) water with adequate supply, and hazards associated with potential beach erosion, flooding, and susceptibility of developed shorelines to storm surge and wave attack. By focusing attention on these potential man-made and natural hazards, it is hoped that our research efforts will help others improve the quality of life in diverse coastal areas. CERF thus aims to stimulate awareness of coastal (marine and freshwater shorelines) land and water problems; initiate and foster research and innovation to promote long-term coastal productivity; establish an educational forum for the debate of contentious coastal issues; and develop new principles and approaches for enlightened coastal management, and encourage their adoption and use.



Dr. Charles W. Finkl is President and Executive Director of the Coastal Education & Research Foundation [CERF], publisher of the JCR. Charlie, a founding editor of the *Journal of Coastal Research*, has served as Editor-in-Chief for the past 30 years. He is a Research Professor in the Department of Geosciences at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida. He received his Bachelor and Master of Science degrees from Oregon State University and the Ph.D. from the University of Western Australia. He is a member of more than 20 professional societies and has published more than 200 professional papers, books, and reports. He is a Chartered Marine Scientist (CMarSci) [Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology], Certified Professional Geological Scientist (CPGS) [American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG)], Certified Professional Soil Scientist (CPSSc) [American Registry of Certified Professionals in Agronomy, Crops, and Soils], and a Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS) [Society of Wetland Scientists]. Charlie has field experience in parts of the USA, Caribbean area, Brazil, Honduras, Russia, South Africa, Western Europe, Australasia, and South Pacific islands. He is also the Series Editor of the Encyclopedia of Earth Sciences Series that is published by Springer (Germany). There are more than twenty-eight volumes in the Series and about twenty-five are available online. Charlie also serves on the Editorial Board of the *International Journal of Environmental Studies* (Routledge) and is an occasional peer reviewer for many other professional journals.

Charlie has interests and expertise in the general areas of surficial geology, coastal and marine geomorphology (including coastal classification), coastal/marine biophysical environments, exploration geochemistry, soils and weathering (regolith geology), coastal zone management and engineering applications or impacts on natural systems (including erosion control and shore protection), coastal hydrology including submarine freshwater and mineralized seeps, subaerial and marine structural geology, natural hazard mitigation in coastal zones, marine environments and coastal wetland protection and restoration, and remote sensing (*e.g.* land cover classification in coastal wetlands, advection-diffusion turbidity plumes in coastal waters, delineation of bottom types and sand resources), effluent disposal and pollution of wetlands and estuaries, water resources mapping and conservation, time series studies of wetland hydroperiod and soil moisture.

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The journal encourages the dissemination of knowledge and understanding of the coastal zone by promoting cooperation and communication between specialists in different disciplines. Natural scientists, for example, are encouraged to collaborate with professionals in other fields to prepare contributions relating to the coastal zone that foster increased appreciation of coastal environments and processes. By means of this journal, with its scholarly and professional papers, systematic review articles, book and symposia reviews, communications and news, and special topical issues, an international forum for the development of integrated coastal research is provided.

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