
COASTAL PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDREW MORANG



PHOTO 55. Barrier beach west of Cienaga de la Tesa, Colombia. This is part of the barrier beach complex which separates a large coastal lagoon (seen in the upper left) from the Caribbean Sea. Part of the barrier is well established and is anchored with shrubs and trees, while the seaward face is low and subject to rapid change by wind and waves. The steep approach angle of the waves has produced westward-flowing longshore currents (left to right in the picture), resulting in the westward growth of the prominent sand spit. Note that a drainage outlet from the pond also swings to the west, in response to older sand spits which are not beach ridges. The mouth of the drainage outlet is almost blocked by the new barrier spit, and a breakthrough is likely to occur, especially after a rainstorm when the lagoon is full. View looking south, taken from about 1,500 feet altitude. Distance from surf to lagoon is about one kilometer. Date: February, 1981. (Photograph by Andrew Morang, U.S. Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station, Coastal Engineering Research Center, Vicksburg, MS 39180.)