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Introduction

These proceedings comprise papers presented during the conference on Remote Sensing and Modeling of Ecosystems for Sustainability IV, which was held in San Diego, California, USA, 28–29 August 2007, as part of SPIE's annual international symposium, Optics and Photonics. This conference was designed to focus on ecosystem remote sensing and modeling theory, techniques, and applications. We also held a special session: Ecological Remote Sensing and Modeling in China. More than 70 presentations were delivered in the sessions of oral presentations and poster presentations. This conference provided a great opportunity for scientists from different countries to exchange scientific ideas and discuss their latest research.

Papers were reviewed and edited by conference chairs and conference program committee members, with help from: Drs. Xinli Wang, John Davis, Zhiqiang Gao, and Wanli Wu; USDA UV-B supporting staff Rita Deike; and SPIE editorial staff. Special thanks go to the USDA UV-B Monitoring and Research Program and Center of Remote Sensing and Modeling for Agricultural Sustainability, Natural Resource Ecology Laboratory (NREL) at Colorado State University, the International Center for Desert Affairs—Research for Sustainable Development in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands/Urumqi, and the Institute of Remote Sensing and GIS, Beijing University, which served as cooperating organizations. The conference owes its success to the diligent efforts of the SPIE technical staff, and Dr. Daniel Schmoldt, Project Manager of USDA/CSREES, for their continued guidance and support.

We would like to extend our appreciation to the outstanding program committee, the session chairs, and especially the authors for their contributions to this successful conference.

> Wei Gao Susan L. Ustin