Delivering Sustainable Coasts: Connecting Science and Policy

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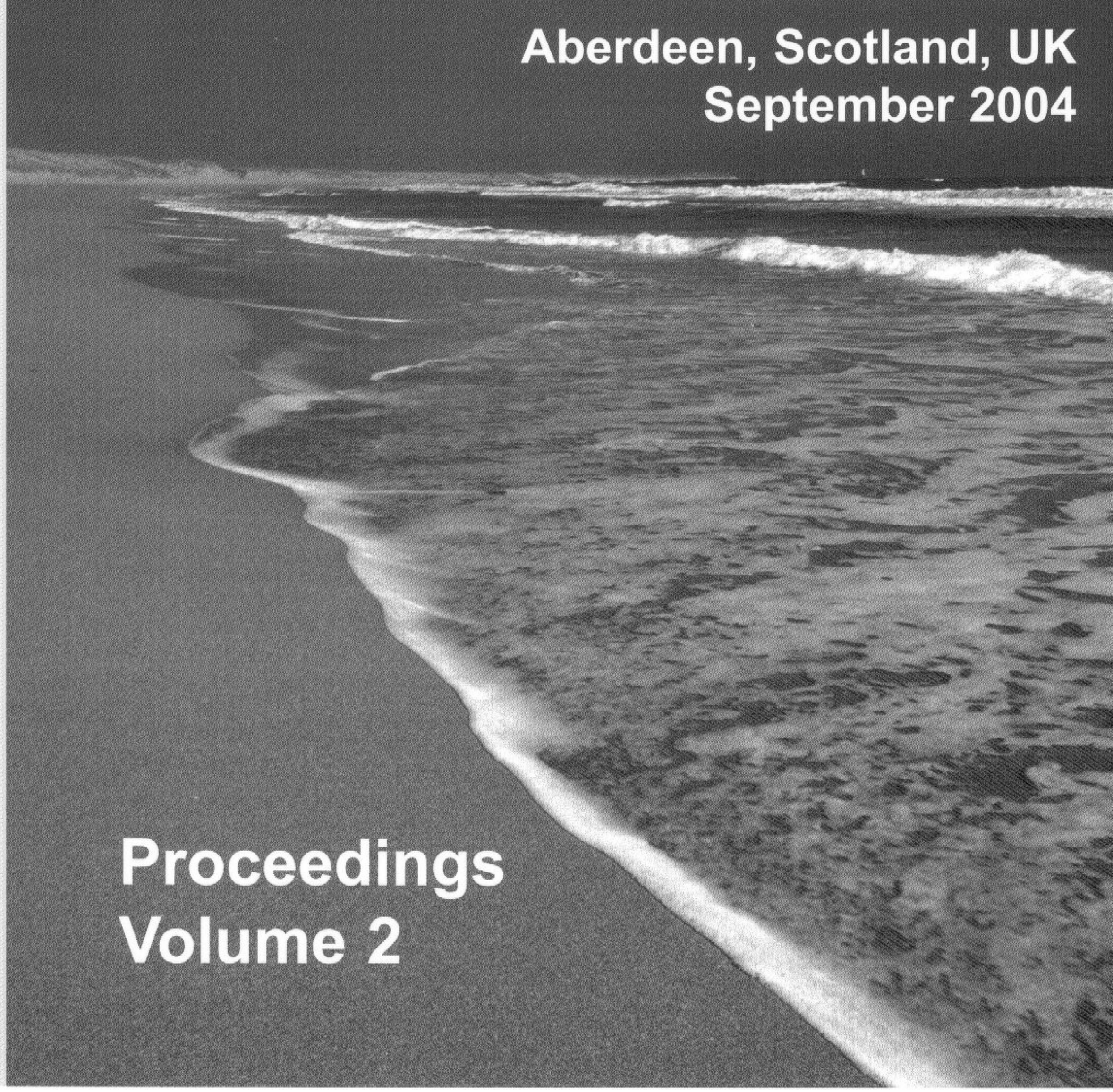

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Web-Based Training on Coastal Management in Germany

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Abstract

We give a short overview on web-based learning modules designed to provide advanced knowledge on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in German and for Germany. The modules are accessible via the internet portal "ikzm-d Lernen" (www.ikzm-d.de) and are meant as a complement to international systems, like CoastLearn. The modules are already intensively and successfully used in teaching.

1. INTRODUCTION

The coastal zone is a complex system. It links land and sea, is subject to intensive and multiple uses and shows ongoing concentration of population and economic development. At the same time the coastal zone is of outstanding ecological importance and natural beauty. Due to increasing conflicts and problems a sustainable development of coastal zones became a major issue during the last two decades. Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) is devoted to this challenge. ICZM requires a profound scientific knowledge as well as a framework and tools for the management of these systems. Specially educated persons are required, which promote ICZM, serve as regional moderators, and act as links between stakeholders and the population.

ICZM training and education became part of the university curriculum all over Europe. Authori-ties, coastal stakeholders and existing decision makers did not really benefit from this develop-ment. To attract this group and to provide an advanced training, online learning systems, like CoastLearn (www.coastlearn.org), were developed.

2. SHORTCOMINGS OF ONLINE MODULES

The public interest in CoastLearn is sound, but the practical relevance and acceptance still minor. Major reasons are that no officially accepted certificate is linked to it and that CoastLearn is hardly concrete enough to provide a practically and applicable knowledge. Practitioners require background knowledge on the national framework, regulations, planning and legislation for ICZM as well as concrete case studies. Further, the acceptance is higher, when an online learning system is provided in the national language. This is at least true for Germany. Against this background, a national German free of charge and open internet portal for learning and teaching modules in German language, ikzm-d Lernen (www.ikzm-d.de), was established.

Figure 1: The open Internet platform for learning and teaching modules on ICZM in German language, ikzm-d Lernen (www.ikzm-d.de).

3. ICZM-ONLINE LEARNING IN GERMANY

ikzm-d Lernen is a portal, which compiles different modules with relevance for the coast and ICZM. It further provides tools, which allow a fast development and provision of additional modules. For example, existing and successful case studies can be added and linked to modules, which impart knowledge on ICZM basics.

A core module at the moment is ICZM ('Integriertes Küstenzonenmanagement') which was de-veloped for the University of Rostock (http://www.ikzm-d.de/main.php). The online module is free of charge, but as a semi-annual study course with two semester periods per week (including online support, homework, a practical presence weekend in Rostock, final examination and certificate) a registration at Rostock University is necessary and tuition fee is charged. Further, the module ICZM is part of the Master of Arts distance learning study courses 'Environmental protection' and 'Environment and Education' at Rostock University.

The link between online learning modules and traditional educational institutions as well as the possibility to obtain an advanced training certificate already attracts a larger group of students, interested persons and coastal stakeholders. We hope, the modules and the portal 'ikzm-d Lernen' help to promote the ideas of ICZM in Germany

and are a useful supplement to international systems.

Figure 2: The module ICZM is specially designed for students who require training on German coastal issues. It can be regarded as a complement to the international system CoastLearn.

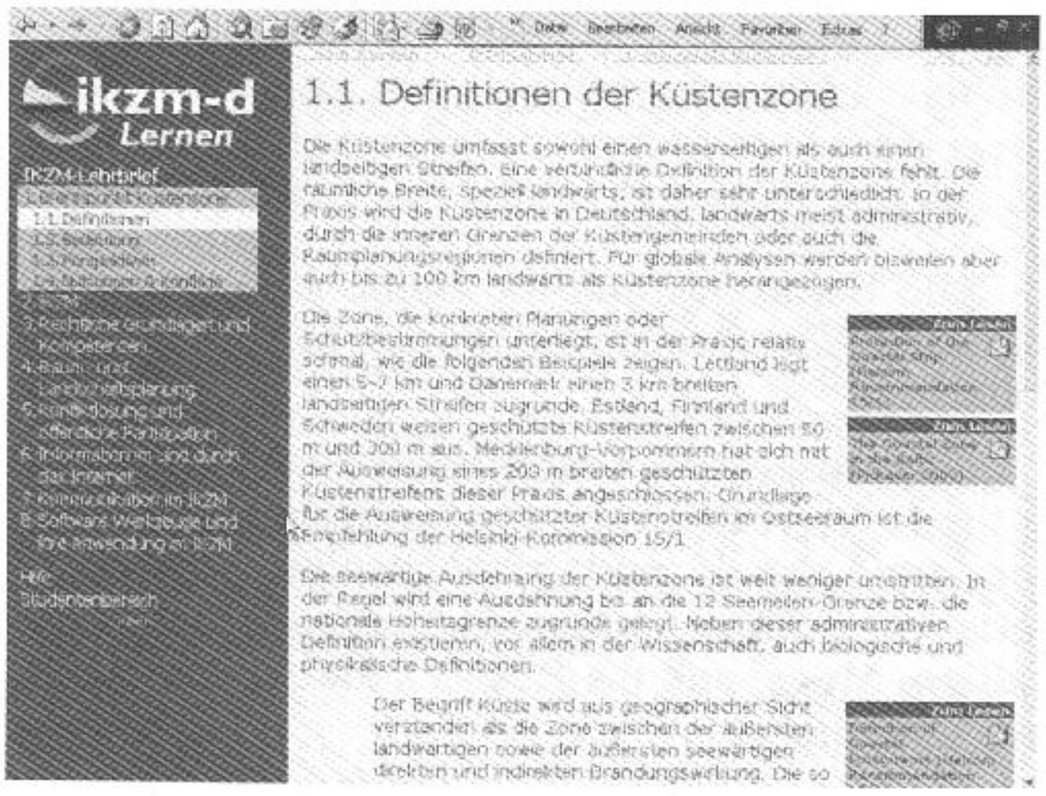

Figure 3: The system offers a number of simple tools, which enable authors to modify or create modules without knowledge of html-programming.

At the moment several additional modules are under development, like "dune and beach management in Warnemünde", "Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Oder Estuary Region" and "Integrated Coastal Protection Management in Timmendorf". These modules are based on concrete case studies and shall provide best practise examples.

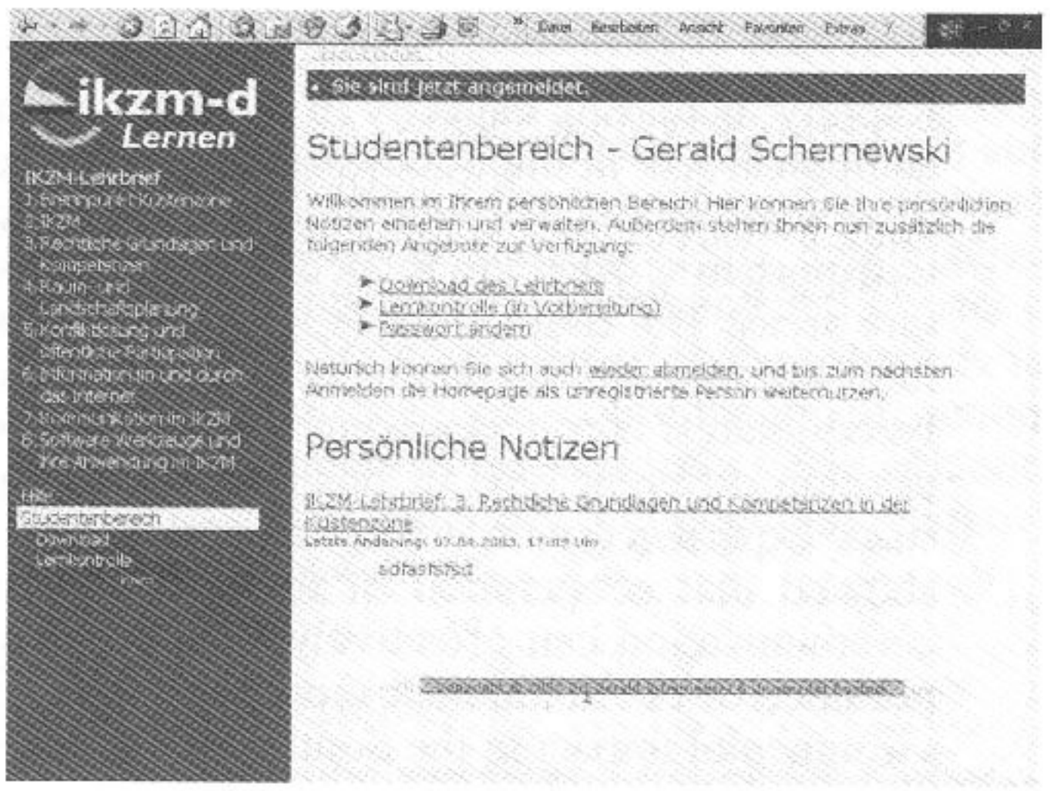

Figure 4: Registered students have additional access to a student page. It offers the download of a printed version, a test and evaluation system and students can add personal notes to the module.

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