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Internet: www.shaker.de • E-Mail: info@shaker.de

Editors and Conference Chairs:

Klaus Greve, Geographisches Institut der Universität Bonn
Armin B. Cremers, Institut für Informatik der Universität Bonn
klaus.greve@uni-bonn.de | abc@iai.uni-bonn.de

Editor staff:

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Mara Voigt, Geographisches Institut der Universität Bonn
Max Stephan, Geographisches Institut der Universität Bonn

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Preface

„Information is the currency of democracy“

Thomas Jefferson is widely associated with this quote¹. In the field of environmental policy/-, planning/ and protection, information is essential. Without reliable information we cannot monitor or describe the state of the environment. For protection and planning we need in-depth knowledge of ecological interdependencies. Beside this, environmental information is a precondition of sustainable environmental policy. The implementation of instruments of environmental policy is linked with costs, inconvenience and restrictions. Therefore environmental policy always needs a special lobby: the well informed public and environmental information becomes the currency of sustainable environmental policy.

Since 1986, the EnviroInfo conferences on Informatics for Environmental Protection focus on concepts, methods and instruments to process, analyse and interpret environmental information and support the discourse on environmental issues. The conference has developed into a mayor platform for interdisciplinary dialogue between experts from science, industry and administration and between information technology specialists and experts in processing, monitoring, analysing and interpreting environmental information. It has a strong tradition to overcome barriers between disciplines and information communities.

After ten years of abstinence, the 24th conference is again held in Bonn, this time under the headline

“Integration of Environmental Information in Europe”

and in cooperation with the Intergeo2010 conference on Geodesy, Geoinformation and Landmanagement in Cologne. Both conferences share a conference day in Cologne, where the Enviroinfo2010 is held as a special track of the Intergeo Conference. In this track, the state of the art of environmental information systems and geospatial infrastructures are given special attention as well as the challenges of the INSPIRE directive of the EU.

The other main themes addressed of the conference are:

- Environmental Information and Reporting Systems
- ICT and Climate Change
- Environmental Management Information Systems
- Environmental Modelling and Simulation
- Health, Quality of Life and Pollution
- The ICT ENSURE Research Programme

¹ Most likely the statement is not from Jefferson. The Jefferson Library has no evidence to confirm that Jefferson ever said or wrote it. Jefferson Library: A Guide to Thomas Jefferson Quotations: Spurious Quotes. URL: <http://www.monticello.org/library/reference/spurious.html> <29.08.2010>. But this makes it not less relevant.

This peer reviewed conference proceedings contain more than 80 papers on the conference main topics' and a broad range of other topics and therewith document many aspects of the state of the art of ICT for environmental protection in an interdisciplinary perspective.

We would like to thank all authors who contributed to this documentation and to the success of the conference. Special thanks are due to the members of programme and the organization committees, for the productive discussions and constructive criticism. Our sincere thanks go out to the members of the team of editors and last not least to the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety that supported the publication of the proceedings with a significant grant.

Bonn, September 2010

The Editors

Table of Contents

Preface
----------------------	--------------

Integration of Environmental Information in Europe	1
---	----------

<i>Blaschke, T., Mittlböck, M., Biberacher, M. Gadocha, S., Vockner, B., Hochwimmer, B. und Lang, S.:</i> The GEOSS - ENERGEO portal: towards an interactive platform to calculate, forecast and monitor the environmental impact of energy carriers	2
---	---

<i>Marsh, J., Maurer, L. und Molinari, F.:</i> Social Validation of INSPIRE Annex III Data Structures in EU Habitats	10
---	----

<i>Steuer, H., Kunert, M., Schulz, M. und Schilcher, Prof. M.:</i> Standards based and automated processing of Forest Spatial Indicators in the context of GMES and INSPIRE	17
--	----

ICT for Environmental Sustainability	22
---	-----------

<i>Becker, J., Maurer, L. und Tochtermann, K.:</i> Web-based Support for Community Building of an European network of experts & professionals of ICT for environmental sustainability	23
--	----

<i>Chiabai, A. und Maurer, L.:</i> Analysis of ICT Research Demand in Environmental Research: A User-Centric Approach	33
--	----

<i>Hřebíček, J. und Pillmann, W.:</i> eEnvironment and the Single Information Space in Europe for the Environment	45
--	----

<i>Maurer, L., Marsh, J. und Tochtermann, K.:</i> Limitations and Potential of Information and Communication Technologies for Environmental Sustainability	56
---	----

<i>Stehlíková, M.:</i> Czech and Slovak Research Programmes in the Field of ICT for Environmental Sustainability	64
---	----

<i>Carrara, P.:</i> The Italian Survey on ICT in Environmental and Sustainability Research within ICT-ENSURE: Experiences and Lessons Learned	73
--	----

<i>Ribeiro, A.B. und Fonseca, A.:</i> A Glance on ICT Programmes and Projects in the Field of Sustainable Development in Portugal.....	82
---	----

<i>Schneider, H., Geiger, W. und Lutz, R.:</i> National European Research Programmes in the Field of ICT for Environmental Sustainability	93
--	----

<i>Lutz, R., Geiger, W., Schmitt, C. und Schreiber, M.:</i> Information System on Literature in the Field of ICT for Environmental Sustainability	104
--	-----

Modeling ICT for Environmental Sustainability..... 112

Pillmann, W. und Simon, K.-H.:

Meta-Modeling as a Tool to Access the European Environmental Information Space113

Isenmann, R.:

Modeling environmental information relevant for industry in the European information space123

Fleissner, P.:

Inserting the Economy into the Environmental Meta-Model136

Gnauck, A. und Pillmann, W.:

A Meta-model for Water Quantity and Water Quality.....148

ICT and Climate Change 155

Manh, V.V., Hoang, T.M. und Van, P.T.:

Using environmental niche model to study the distribution of Tonkin snub-nosed monkey (Rhinopithecus avunculus) in the Northeastern Vietnam under some climate change scenarios156

Michel, F. und Steffen, D.:

Visualization for Climate Change Adaptation in SUDPLAN165

Storch, H., Downes, N. und Rujner, H.:

The Challenge of Spatial Information Management for Adaptation to Climate Change in Ho Chi Minh City169

Zapico, J.L., Kjelkerud, D., Berggren, H., Turpeinen, M. und Brandt, N.:

Carbon.to: improving the understanding of carbon dioxide information177

Environmental Management Information- and Decision Support Systems 186

Rezgui, A. und Naana, M.:

Improving of environmental management accounting system for support the environmental information management.....187

Allam, N., Junker, H. und Gómez, J.M.:

Collaborative corporate environmental management information systems197

Giesen, N., Haak, L. und Gómez, J.M.:

DEEBIS-Net: Doctoral Education in Environmental and Business Information Systems - Bi-national PhD-Programme with Cuba205

Arndt, H.-K. und Jacob, S.:

Ein Konzept zur Steuerung von Organisationen bei unklaren Zieldefinitionen unter Berücksichtigung von ökologischen Forderungen mit Hilfe von semantischen Netzen.....212

Jamous, N., Kassem, G., Gómez, J.M. und Dumke, R.:

Proposed Light-Weight Composite Environmental Performance Indicators (LWC-EPI) Model222

<i>Junker, H.:</i> Die Beliebigkeit betrieblicher Umweltinformationssysteme – eine Polemik	232
<i>Krehahn, P., Wohlgemuth, V. und Meyer, H.A.:</i> UxLab: Usability Optimization Case Study of a Environmental Management Information System (EMIS) using Eyetracking Studies	248
<i>Rudolf, H.:</i> Umweltmanagement mit envVision: Eine nachhaltige GIS-gestützte Lösung für die Umsetzung der EU-Umgebungsärm- und Luftqualitätsrichtlinie	258
<i>Meyer, S., Pollman, O., Raschke, S., Blumenstein, O., van Rensburg, L. und Tobler, H.:</i> Decision support systems for environmental problems: Scientific approach, requirements of structure and data on specific purpose types	269
<i>Möller, A.:</i> About the Sense of Useless Software	279
<i>Pehlken, A., Rolbiecki, M., Decker, A. und Thoben, K.-D.:</i> Contribution of Material Flow Assessment in Recycling Processes to Environmental Management Information Systems (EMIS)	288
<i>Pontikakos, C. und Tsiligiridis, T.:</i> Location aware system for olive fruit fly spray	295
<i>Ziep, T., Krehahn, P. und Wohlgemuth, V.:</i> Mobile Applications for Industrial Environmental Protection	306
Betriebliche Umweltinformationssysteme	314
<i>Stranz, S., Finkbeiner, M. und Ackermann, R.:</i> INSPIRE-Daten für die Ökologische Risikoanalyse	315
<i>Arndt, H.-K. und Jacob, S.:</i> EnviroMaps – Eine Modellierungsvorschrift zur Abbildung von Umweltkennzahlensystemen mit Topic Maps	326
<i>Arndt, H.-K. und Tietz, S.:</i> IT-Lösungen zur Freigabe und Dokumentation von Gefahrstoffen in einem Großunternehmen der Automobilindustrie	337
<i>Bachmann, E.:</i> Product Compliance Business Network – Be connected with your business partner to increase your product know-how	347
<i>Joschko, P., Page, B., Schmitz, C. und Denz, N.:</i> Implementation eines Workflow-basierten IT-Assistenten für Anlagenbetreiber im europäischen Emissionshandel	355
<i>Kowalewski, B., Senn, A. und Jäger, A.:</i> GIS-basiertes Altlasteninformationssystem im Gesamtkontext eines Unternehmens	365

<i>Möller, A.:</i> Software-Unterstützung für Routine im betrieblichen Umweltschutz	375
<i>Personn, N., Krehahn, P., Ziep, T. und Wohlgemuth, V.:</i> Prototypische Umsetzung einer mobilen open-source Applikation zur Material Stream Mapping Methode	383
<i>Zabel, M., Schiemann, L. und Wohlgemuth, V.:</i> RESEFI Netzwerk und internetbasierte Plattform zur Ressourceneffizienz als Lern- und Anwendungsmittel	393
<i>Boehnke, B. und Wohlgemuth, V.:</i> Transparenz schon im Planungsprozess schaffen durch Energie- und Stoffstrommanagement	402
<i>Witte, S., Boehnke, B. und Wohlgemuth, V.:</i> Analyse der Materialströme einer idealisierten Automobillackiererei mit Hilfe eines parametrisierten benutzergeführten Simulationsmodells	410
Environmental Information and Reporting Systems	419
<i>Feiden, K. und Kruse, F.:</i> The GS SOIL portal prototype and its integrated network	420
<i>Fischer-Stabel, P., Mattern, M. und Schäfer, K.:</i> An Information Portal for the Research in Nature Reserves: The UNESCO MaB Biosphere Reserve Bliesgau	429
<i>Giesen, N., Jürgens, P., Gómez, J.M. und Omumi, H.:</i> ProPlaNET – Web 2.0 based Sustainable Project Planning	436
<i>Granke, O., Hosenfeld, F., Rinker, A., Schnack, K. und Mues, V.:</i> European Forest Monitoring Information System Data management for EU project FutMon	446
<i>Knol, O.:</i> Successful Biodiversity Monitoring in the Netherlands: The Network Ecological Monitoring (NEM)	457
<i>Lukacs, G. und Kazakos, W.:</i> Semantic Search over Structured Environmental and Geographic Data	462
<i>Rüther, M., Fock, J. und Hübener, J.:</i> Linked Environment Data	470
<i>Süpke, D.:</i> Reference Architecture for Dialogue-Based Sustainability Reporting	480
<i>Rudolf, H.:</i> Umweltschutz – Wasserrechte digital: Eine Datenbank-Applikation und ihre Komponenten	488
<i>Michels, H. und Mauè, P.:</i> Semantics for notifying events in the affecting environment	501

<i>Velthorst, A.H.:</i> Can changes in nitrogen deposition be detected in vegetation composition using Ellenberg indicator values? A study using ten years of data from the National Monitoring Network Flora for Environmental Quality	508
<i>Wongergem, J. und Klein, P.:</i> The Netherlands Environmental Data Compendium (EDC): Key factors for Communication of Environmental Information	513
Environmental Information Infrastructure	517
<i>Klenke, M., Kruse, F. und Schenk, F.:</i> OpenSearch - Simple formats to share environmental information	518
<i>Schade, S. und Craglia, M.:</i> A Future Sensor Web for the Environment in Europe	529
<i>Schenk, F., Kruse, F. und Klenke, M.:</i> From Simple Data Sources to a Complex Information System: Integrating Heterogeneous Data Models into an Information Infrastructure for the Public Administration	540
<i>Schäffler, U., Moraru, D., Heier, C., Spies, K.-H. und Schilcher, M.:</i> Interpolation of Precipitation Sensor Measurements using OGC Web Services	549
<i>Lukács, G. und Cseh, M.:</i> An Information Search and Filtering Engine for a Sustainable Consumption Portal	556
Environmental Health, Quality of Life and Pollution Management	563
<i>Arndt, H.-K. und Tietz, S.:</i> IT-solutions for Occupational Safety and Health Management Systems: A Knowledge Management-based approach	564
<i>Clune, W.H.:</i> An Incentives-Based Analysis Of Pollution Prevention Regulation in The United States	574
<i>Armen, S., Lilit, S., Shushanik, A., Meline, A. und Vahagn, M.:</i> Development of remote sensing methods for assessment of heavy metal soil pollution near the city of Kajaran	582
<i>Hearl, F., Tisdale-Pardi, J., Blosser, F., Lum, M., Sublet, V. und Howard, J.:</i> The NIOSH Science Blog: Social Media Dissemination of Occupational Safety and Health Information	589
<i>Lakes, T., Leser, U. und Senf, C.:</i> An urban health risk analysis for Berlin: exploration and integration of spatio-temporal information on the urban environment	593
<i>Thin, N.X., Müller, B., Terne, F. und Holfeld, M.:</i> Methodology and application development for monitoring quality of life in Dresden	604

<i>Kusmierz, R., Voigt, K. und Scherb, H.:</i> Is the human sex odds at birth distorted in the vicinity of nuclear facilities (NF)? A preliminary geo-spatial-temporal approach	616
---	-----

Environmental Modelling and Simulation 627

<i>Bauböck, R.:</i> BioSTAR: A simple crop model for the assessment of agricultural biomass potentials in Lower Saxony, Germany	628
---	-----

<i>Caponigro, R. und Iannucci, C.:</i> Dynamical modeling for data collection and reporting: a system view of DPSIR	641
--	-----

<i>Niklaus, M., Tum, M. und Günther, K.P.:</i> Modeling Carbon Sinks and Sources in semi-arid Environments for a Land Degradation Assessment Approach	648
---	-----

<i>Rapp, B., Bremer, J. und Sonnenschein, M.:</i> Simulating the transport performance of online traded biomass	657
--	-----

<i>Soukapavá, J. und Hřebíček, J.:</i> Environmental-Economic Modelling Municipal Solid Waste Management System of the Czech Republic	667
---	-----

<i>Theisselmann, F., Kühnlenz, F., Krüger, C., Fischer, J. und Lakes, T.:</i> How to reuse and modify an existing land use change model? Exploring the benefits of language- centered tool support	678
--	-----

<i>Tum, M., Niklaus, M., Günther, K.P. und Kappas, M.:</i> A new validation approach to assess the quality of modeled agricultural biomass potentials using BETHY/DLR	689
---	-----

Software Tools and Databases 700

<i>Bock, M., Glowinski, R. und Voß, S.:</i> Entwicklung eines Artenkatasters für die Freie und Hansestadt Hamburg	701
--	-----

<i>Dick, M. und Naumann, S.:</i> Enhancing Software Engineering Processes towards Sustainable Software Product Design	706
--	-----

<i>Fischer, J., Naumann, S. und Dick, M.:</i> Enhancing Sustainability of the Software Life Cycle via a Generic Knowledge Base	716
---	-----

<i>Epitropou, V., Karatzas, K. und Bassoukos, A.:</i> Open tools and services for INSPIRE related environmental data and metadata: reporting on experiences gained in GS SOIL	726
---	-----

<i>Lünsdorf, O. und Sonnenschein, M.:</i> A pooling based load shift strategy for household appliances	734
---	-----

Waldvogel, B., Wotruba, L., Müller, K. und Bischof, S.:
Drowning in Geospatial Point Data: A Pattern Based Approach744

Zapico, J.L., Turpeinen, M. und Brandt, N.:
Greenalytics: a tool for mash-up life cycle assessment of websites754

Author Index 764