

Development and Implementation of the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe Basin Management Programme



How the project was started



Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe basin

Peipsi CTC co-ordinates the compilation of the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe basin management programme with the support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and in close co-operation with the Estonian Ministry of the Environment and Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation.

One of the main goals of the water management programme is to plan a long-term reduction of the pollution load of Lake Peipsi so as to guarantee the preservation of the population diversity.

In order to make sure that the water management programme would not simply be a paper but instead, could be implemented in reality, it is necessary to consider the requests and wishes of local governments, citizens' organisations and that of the public.

Taking into account the actual needs of people, we began to prepare the UNDP/GEF project seven years ago. We communicated with very many partners in the Lake Peipsi catchment area, so as to compile a project, the activities of which would be in conformity with the interests of the people living in the Lake Peipsi region. We investigated what are the needs of local people who are in contact with water on a daily basis, associated with water resources and Lake Peipsi. In addition, to what extent they perceive local problems, what are regarded as the shortcomings, whether people have sufficient information in the matters concerning water, etc. The

water management plan is being compiled by consultation companies, which, in the majority of instances, lack time and willingness to interview local people.

Now, after seven years of preparation, we can say with full satisfaction and certainty that this project is not solely the creation of decision-makers but a product of a large-scale joint work. Although the preparatory period was long and complicated, the implementation of the project is currently successful and has provided results, thanks to public participation and a number of people living in the vicinity of Lake Peipsi perceive that they have given their contribution both to the preparation as well as to the implementation of the project.

Ms Gulnara Roll

Chairwoman of the Peipsi CTC,
UNDP/GEF project initiator



**Peipsi
Center for
Transboundary
Cooperation**

Launching the project - challenges and lessons learned

Ms Natalia Alexeeva, UNDP/GEF Project Manager

The UNDP/GEF Project "Development and Implementation of the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe Basin Management Programme", started at the beginning of this year, was like a long-awaited baby. The idea of such a project was born almost 7 years ago, then co-operation on Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe just started on the official level, and Estonian-Russian Joint Commission on Transboundary Waters was established. The need for a co-ordinated water management programme was obvious and preparation of the project proposal was initiated. Preparation of the sound medium-sized regional project (Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe Basin is shared by Estonia and Russia) proposal is always a time-consuming process so all partners endorsed the project at the end of 2002.

The overall objective of the Project is to develop and start implementation of a Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe Basin Management Program including practical recommendations for the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe nutrient load reduction and prevention and the sustainable conservation of habitats and eco-systems in the cross-border region. Having a complex character, the project implementation is organised within the framework of four basic components: preparation and partial implementation of the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe Basin Management Plan, national and local institutional capacity building to implement the Management Plan, environmental education and public awareness programs and the Project management.

The initial phase of the project took three months (January — March 2003) and during this period all administrative arrangements were agreed and formalized and the implementation of all project components started. The Steering Committee of the project, comprising the representatives of Estonian

Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation, UNDP, Ministries of Foreign Affairs from both countries, Ministry of Agriculture of Estonia, Roshydromet, the Estonian-Russian Joint Commission on Transboundary Waters, regional authorities, and NGOs from Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe basin, started work in January and the first SC meeting was held in Pskov, Russia.

During January — September 2003 the main activities were to organize several seminars and trainings for NGOs, municipalities and environmental authorities on basin management plans, eutrophication, public participation etc., courses for nature interpreters, all aimed at capacity building. The Water Management component was implemented through winter sampling organized in Estonia, initiation of infrastructure demonstration project in Rāpina, starting tender procedures for lake state assessment/TDA and Nutrient Reduction Strategy. Information on the project was disseminated through project brochures, creation of the project website, several press releases and interviews in the mass media. More information could be found in short quarterly project reports (www.peipsi.org/gef).

Co-ordination with other ongoing international and national projects in the region was very important in order to avoid any duplication and increase the effectiveness of funding to be spent in the region. Co-operation with other projects was organized through joint events, co-operation agreements, regular meetings among experts and project staff.

The main challenges during this period were different requirements and legislation in both countries that sometimes caused difficulties

in implementation of joint project activities so the Project Team has to adjust common rules and standards under the project to existing national requirements in this field. The character of the project (NGO execution) was quite innovative for the region so all project partners (Estonian Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation, UNDP-Russia and Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation) belonging to different kinds of organisations (international organisation, national authorities and NGO) were looking for mutual understanding and close co-operation, which are the key elements for successful implementation of the project.

The main lessons learned were the following:

- as much as possible, people should be informed about the project. Quite often information about the project is not shared even in one organization. For high level officials it should be done using a paper-based form because the Internet is still not very popular as a source of information;
- more public information should be spread out (such as TV programs, radio interviews etc.) for better dissemination of information;
- joint events, organized by several projects, are very useful in terms of co-operation and dissemination of information;
- it is very valuable to study experiences of other international projects, working with Basin Management Plans, to obtain the lessons learned both through participation at international conferences and special events organised by way of the project.

Co-operation in the process of the implementation of the UNDP/GEF project

Ms Aija Kosk, Head of Project Implementation Unit in Tartu, Estonia



On the initiative of the Estonian Ministry of the Environment with the aim of implementing the EU Water Framework Directive for the Lake Peipsi Basin, two projects are being developed: (1) The VIRU-PEIPSI CAMP "Viru-Peipsi Catchment Area Management Program" supported by the EU LIFE-Environment; and (2) "Development and Implementation of the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe Basin Management programme" supported by UNDP/GEF. In addition, the Peipsi CTC is implementing three projects that support development and implementation of the Lake Peipsi Management Plan: (1) MANTRA-East as an international environmental research project supported by the EC; (2) Baltic NGO net-working project, supported by the US EPA/REC; and (3) Tourism development of the Lake Peipsi Region, supported by the US Embassy.

On the value added standpoint it is important that there is no overlapping in different projects. Therefore, "coordination and co-operation" have been the keywords for the first year of implementation of the UNDP/GEF project.

We have very constructive co-operation with leading specialists of the EU LIFE project. The nutrient load reduction plan will be ready in the end of 2004. UNDP/GEF project

supports the compilation of the detailed programme of measures, for the reduction of the pollution load, in the following branches of the economy, which potentially contaminate the lake basin: peat extraction, forest management, and agriculture. In the next year, the Public Participation Plan drafted in the frame of the UNDP/GEF project will be implemented.

In the frame of the project supported by the US Embassy, a tourist I-point as a part of the Lake Peipsi Museum was opened in Kallaste in August 22, 2003. In cooperation with the US EPA/REC project, mapping of the Peipsi region' stakeholders is carried out. Also, there was introduced the idea and content of a water management plan.

It is a great pleasure to mention that cooperation with Peipsi region' stakeholders: environmental departments of counties, local authorities and non-governmental organizations, are becoming closer in the process of implementation of the UNDP/GEF project.

The TACIS project "Water Management in Lake Chudskoe Catchment in Russian Federation"

Contact: Mr Mikko Jokinen,
the EU TACIS Project Team Leader
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The TACIS Russian Federation action program started in January 2003. The main objective of the project is to improve environmental management capacity of the Russian regional environmental authorities by promoting transboundary cooperation and sustainable conservation of the ecosystem. The main partners are the Neva-Ladoga Basin Administration and the Committee of Natural Resources of Pskov oblast and many others. The budget of the project is around 2,000,000 euros and the implementation time is 2 years.

There are two main outcomes expected: 1) nutrient reduction strategy and 2) the water management plan of Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe on the Russian side. One of the special tasks of the project is the development of laboratory and monitoring capacity. Small resource allocations allow implementing 2 small demonstration projects to show how to reduce nutrient load to the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe. Attempts are taken for involving as many local specialists as possible and for the public to participate and to be informed about the question of water management.

The strategy of public involvement and capacity building of local stakeholders on the Russian side of the lake

Ms Olga Vasilenko, NGO "Chudskoye Project", Project Implementation Unit in Pskov, Russia

The priority direction of the PIU on the Russian side in the first year of the project has been defined as information dissemination and public involvement in the planning process of the water management program and training of local stakeholders. We suppose that these people will take an active part in the implementation of the management plan as they actively participate in its development from the very beginning.

At the preliminary stage of the planning we have defined sore points in the region. Besides the lack of finance and professionals, isolation of the specialists and the representatives of local administrations, misunderstanding of the public role in the planning and implementation of water management program and substitution of the notion "participation" with the notion "informing" were specially marked. The results of the sociological survey held within this project have shown that on account of some causes ecological problems are not of high priority for the region. And the only possible way for their solution now is the consolidation of all interested

people and lobbying common interests at all levels.

The common interest that predetermines close cooperation is mutual work in preservation and restoration of ecosystems of the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoye basin. To create "the demand" for mutual cooperation between different organizations is the main and long-term objective. Due to the UNDP/GEF project there appeared the possibility to unite specialists, state and local authorities, businessmen, NGOs to solve the common task. Besides, the project is giving us a chance to exchange ideas and share problems between different organizations, which is important according to the opinions of the participants of held events.

Among representatives of nature protection organizations, ecological NGOs, educational institutions participating in seminars the representatives of municipalities also take part in these events. We would like to thank the heads of municipalities (local authorities of Pskov and Leningrad regions) who firstly, responded to our request to define a representative of the municipality to participate in all project activities and secondly, allowed them to participate in training, seminars, public hearings, round tables no matter how often we met. Designated representatives are people who can and should participate in the decision-making process or emphasize the problem and offer the solution to the superior bodies.

Step by step we are moving towards the designated aim — the involvement of stakeholders and organizations in planning and implementation of the water management program. Assessment questionnaires evaluating every event by the participants have been used to prepare every upcoming

seminar or training. Despite the short implementation period of the project we have received the first results: the participants speak about the necessity of preparation of the common plan and also are ready to participate in its activities.

Such important aspects as visual perception of the lake and the adjacent territories should be noted. The proverb says, "Seeing is believing" and that's why it has become a tradition to hold the events on the territory of districts and not in the district centers. It gives the participants a chance not only to see the beauty of the places but also to become aware of the presence of ecological problems.

The fact that as a rule the representatives of mass media participate in our events makes us hope that the problems discussed are of interest to the wider public and will be depicted in the local mass media in a proper way.

Despite the short implementation period we have received the first results: participants speak about the need for a common plan and are ready to participate.



Training courses on eutrophication in big and small lakes

Mr Ülo Sults, UNDP/GEF project Water expert in Estonia

Eutrophication is defined as the excessive addition of inorganic nutrients, organic matter, and silt to lakes, thereby increasing biological productivity. The key part of this definition is the biological response of the lake to these additions; high phosphorus concentration alone does not determine eutrophication.

Eutrophication is a natural process in water bodies, including coastal waters of the seas and oceans. The progression of natural lake eutrophication through nutrient-poor (oligotrophy) to nutrient-rich (eutrophy or hypereutrophy) usually takes a long time. For Lago di Monterosi (Italy) researchers found, that the lake retained the same trophic status (oligotrophic) for 22,000 years, until the Romans built a road through its watershed in 171 B.C.

People cause cultural eutrophication when their use of the land dramatically increases nutrient, soil,

or organic matter loads to the lake. They can drastically shorten a lake's lifespan by clearing forests, building roads, cultivating fields, developing residential communities, and discharging wastewater — all these activities increase the nutrients and soil that eventually move into the lake. As a rule, reservoirs become eutrophic more rapidly than natural lakes, because most reservoirs receive higher sediment and nutrient loads than do most natural lakes (Managing Lakes and Reservoirs, Third Edition, 2001, prepared by the North American Lake Management Society and Terrene Institute in cooperation with U.S. EPA, pp.41-44)

Those were the main topics of the training course on eutrophication, which was organised by Peipsi CTC in the first half of the year 2003. The first theoretical training course was held in February in Tartu. Seven lessons dealing with the response of the small lakes in Vooremaa Nature Reserve

to the eutrophication processes were held by the limnologists of Võrtsjärv Limnological Station by the Estonian Agricultural University.

The concrete topics under discussion were development of the macrophytes, algae, zooplankton, benthic invertebrates communities, and fish stock in eutrophic and hypereutrophic lakes; the different types of lakes in Estonia; the lake restoration methods, used in Estonia and in Finland and Sweden; the changes in habitats of amphibians, birds and crayfish as a result of eutrophication.

More than 40 interested people from local administrations, from universities and NGO's took part in the training courses. The second, so-called fieldwork stadium, was held in 23rd of September 2003 in Jõgeva County on the Elistvere and Prossa lakes.

The EU LIFE-Environment project "Viru-Peipsi CAMP"

Contact: Dr Ain Lääne, the EU LIFE Project Manager, www.envir.ee/viru.peipsi

The aim of the project is to elaborate a water management plan for the Viru and Peipsi region according to the requirements of the EC Water Framework Directive. The project is financed by the EU LIFE-Environment Program (500,000 euros), the French Environmental Fund (1,000,000 euros) and the Estonian Ministry of Environment and Estonian Environmental Investment Centre (200,000 euros) and many other partners.

Project objectives are defined as following:

- Collect and compile existing data regarding the status of water bodies and groundwater;
- Elaboration of a geographical information system (GIS);
- Implementation of a complementary sampling program;
- Assessment and classification of the status of groundwater, coastal waters, rivers and lakes; Complementing of the national monitoring program;
- Elaboration of the program of measures based on economic analysis to achieve at least a good status of water bodies and groundwater and to supply inhabitants with good quality drinking water;
- Strengthening the institutional capacity of Estonian environmental authorities.

Learning by playing

Mr Peeter Unt, Public Participation expert in Estonia

Peipsi CTC, in co-operation with Tartu Kivilinna Gymnasium, published an environmental education table game "A trip from Lake Võrtsjärv to Lake Peipsi along the Emajõgi River". In 2002, the idea of the game was entered in the children's creative competition "World of Water through the Eyes of Children" and received an award. At the present moment, the idea has been realised in the form of a large-scale (1.5 m x 0.5 m) plastic-covered board game with an artist, Epp Margna, contributing to its design. The game, which follows the typical table game rules, is made special by the multiple choice questions players have to answer while playing. The questions are compiled by Tartu Kivilinna Gymnasium students and cover a large array of subjects concerning the two lakes and the Emajõgi River. For example, local fauna and flora, cultural heritage, water quality, population and physical geography.

The environmentally educational game aims at providing the students with information, in an attractive manner, with regard to Lake Võrtsjärv, River Emajõgi, Lake Peipsi and the city of Tartu and also at increasing the children's interest towards the nature of their home area and local lore.

The game is primarily meant for basic and secondary school students, and the ideal number of players is four to six - and as the creator of the idea of the game, chemistry teacher Helgi Muoni from Tartu Kivilinna Gymnasium said, "next year we hope to organize a tournament of the game for small teams to be held at our school."

Meanwhile copies of the game will be distributed among the schools in the region.

The printing of the game was supported by the UNDP/GEF project.



The EU MANTRA-East project

Contact: Dr. Per Stalnacke, the EU MANTRA-East project Coordinator, www.mantraeast.org

The project MANTRA-East - "Integrated Strategies for the Management of Transboundary Waters on the European fringe - the pilot study of Lake Peipsi and its drainage basin" is a co-operation of 13 research institutions with EU, non-EU and Russian partners. The project period is 2001-2004 and it is supported by the EC under the 5th Framework Programme

The aim of the project is to analyze and develop strategic planning methodologies and scientific tools for the integrated water management in transboundary watersheds located on the existing and future borders of the European Union. In accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive, the project develops recommendations for institutional mechanisms and policy instruments for decision making on water management of transboundary watercourses and international lakes located on the fringes of the European Union.

The knowledge obtained from the MANTRA-East project will be transferred and developed within the UNDP/GEF project, the support and cooperation between two projects has been strong even from the preparation phase.

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The Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation has supported launching of the project implementation as far as international cooperation on transboundary waters is one of the priority areas of the Ministerial activities. Development of the Basin Management Plans for individual water basins, such as Narva river basin, is very challenging and this project will contribute to the fulfilment of the more global aim — development and implementation of the Management Programme for the Russian part of the Baltic Sea Basin, which is to be prepared by Neva-Ladoga Water Basin Administration. Creation of such program started in 2003 as well.

I wish the project to reach all its aims and objectives!

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Mr Budarin Vladimir Fedorovich,

Co-chairman of the Project Steering Committee.

Head of Neva-Ladoga Water Basin Administration,
Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation.

Trainings addressed to better public participation

Mr Erkki Vedder, UNDP/GEF project Capacity building expert in Estonia

It has been a busy year full of ranges of different events aimed at capacity building of the national and local institutions on the Estonian side. These events can be categorized into two main groups aimed at investigating weaknesses and shortcomings of the local population and institutions in the context of implementation of the Lake Peipsi management plan and secondly raising the capacity of the institutions according to the needs appearing from the studies.

The first group of activities contains studies, roundtables, research activities etc.

- The representatives of Environmental Departments of four counties around Lake Peipsi were

gathered for a roundtable to specify training needs in the region;

- Group interviews are being conducted to get feedback from local stakeholders on water management related issues;
- Information on the project was disseminated in a number of seminars and there feedback was also received.

This kind of information gathering activities will be completed in the first year of the project as a preparation work for the covering of real needs.

But within the 6 months already a number of events were organized aimed mainly at capacity strengthening:

- A two-phase training on eutrophication issues was organized. The first purely theoretical stage took place in March (see article by Ülo Sults). The second stage took place in September and included practical work on Lake Elistvere;
- Number of trainings on NGO laws, taxation, bookkeeping etc. were organized in the first half of the year in order to promote the NGOs in the region;
- Various seminars, round-tables, conferences were held on ecotourism, biological farming, environmental co-operation etc.

Strategies for Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe should tackle phosphorus emissions

Dr Per Stålnacke, NIVA, Norway (MANTRA-East Project coordinator).
Dr Tiina Nöges, Tartu University. Prof Enn Loigu, Tallinn Technical University

For adequate implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive and subsequent River Basin Management Plans, information on the past, present, and future riverine pollutant loads is essential for decision makers to identify priorities for water management, and evaluate the effect of various developments.

In the project MANTRA-East, a number of future scenarios have been constructed, to provide indications of how future developments on the Estonian-Russian border may occur. These scenarios were then translated into quantitative GIS-layers. A nutrient transport model was then used to calculate the nutrient emissions, as well as transport and retention and the resulting nutrient loads into the lake.

The model results from the scenarios suggest that change of the amount of

arable land will be the major factor controlling the future nutrient loads to Lake Peipsi. The results also show that the riverine loads of nutrient loads will change surprisingly little even under extreme future changes. At present there is a clear decrease in the N:P ratios, at least in the Estonian rivers, which most likely is the reason for increased observations of Cyanobacterial blooms in the lake in recent years. Model calculations show that decreased phosphorus loads will decrease the risk of water blooms in L. Peipsi. As the main proportion of phosphorus is coming through the two major rivers Velikaya and Emajõgi, the main attention should be paid to these two rivers. Connection to wastewater treatment plants and improved P-removal will give an immediate decrease especially for point sources in close proximity to

the lake (e.g. Pskov city) and solve hygienic problems locally but long-term future strategies for nutrient load reduction should mainly focus on not increasing the agricultural nutrient runoff. Today, agriculture is responsible for the largest portion of the total loading to the lake even though the losses from agriculture per unit area (e.g. kg/km²), is at a very low international level. So the future loadings will heavily depend on how the agricultural land will be used in future, e.g. how much of the present set-aside and abandoned land will be used in future and the intensity in the agricultural sector?

More information about the results can be found on www.mantraeast.org

Trainings and seminars on eutrophication, its causes and consequences held in Pskov region

Ms Elena Bystrova, UNDP/GEF project Capacity building expert in Russia

In the framework of the UNDP/GEF project several events were held in Pskov. The main topics of the events were eutrophication and related issues such as public participation in water management and ways of improving the ecological situation. All events were held in different forms (round-tables, seminars and trainings) and in different districts of the region.

The first event took place in March and was named as “Public Participation in water management in the Pskov region”. The main aim of the workshop was to define the role of the public in water management and ways of co-operation between

different stakeholders’ groups. All the participants stated the importance of public participation in water management. It was decided to continue the discussion during the upcoming training and seminar.

The events that took place in May were devoted to the topics of water management and the stakeholders group participation in the development and implementation of water management plans. Water management issues were important as most of the participants were interested in hearing about the structure of water management in the country at all levels (from federal to local). Presentation about the

structure made clear the interaction and its difficulties between the organizations at different levels. The implementation of the water management program is inseparable from public participation in the latter. The participants worked in groups where they discussed the following: defining stakeholders’ groups and their informing about the ecological problems, and participation in the water management plan.

The training “Eutrophication — causes and consequences. The ways of solving the problems of Pskov Chudskoye Lake” (took place in June) was about eutrophication and its consequences. The reports covered such topics as eutrophication and its influence on water bodies, monitoring, federal and local control of contamination, measures of Pskovvodkanal in reducing the droppings into the Velikaya river. The speakers underlined the important role of the public in keeping rivers and springs clean especially small rivers and lakes. During the seminar several ideas were proposed such as the development of the program of priority directions in environmental protection, monitoring of small lakes in the region, the study of white fish, and the publication of the brochure about fish of the Pskov region.

All of the events showed the importance of addressing the topics of eutrophication and public participation in the water management plan. The participants, both state, municipal bodies and NGOs, highly evaluated the events and expressed their willingness to participate in the upcoming events of the project to improve the ecological situation in the Pskov region.

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Unlikely other UNDP projects, this project was launched without any delay, in spite of the usual difficulties associated with the beginning of a complex project involving different stakeholders. Taking into consideration that the partners speak different languages both in the true sense (it is an international project) and in a figurative sense, it is worth wondering how fast the project team overcame “transitional age” and became a mature project implementation group. Among the other UNDP\GEF projects, this project has some peculiarities. First of all, the problem of development and implementation of a Management Plan for a big transboundary water body is relatively new in environmental policy and practice. For the first time, an international NGO — Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation — was entrusted to solve this problem. Moreover, linking the interests of national authorities, water users, science and the local population from both sides of Estonian-Russian border will require from all partners flexibility, wisdom and self-devoted application.

It is too early to make some conclusions, because the project is on the first stage of implementation. However, I hope, that thanks to this bulletin, all stakeholders and parties interested in the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe region will get the possibility to look through project materials and to make any comments or give advice regarding its pages.

Comments and criticism are willingly accepted.

I, personally, believe in the project team and I wish the team successful waters!

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Ms Elena Armand,
Head of Environmental Unit, UNDP Russia.

Forthcoming events

September

- September 17 Training on eutrophication issues named "Town and water body" in Pskov, Russia.
- September 23 A seminar on the eutrophication of lakes in Kuremaa, Estonia.
- September 29-30 Seminar on ecological tourism in Pskov, Russia.
- September 30 Study tour to Rembdovsky Reserve, Ramsar site, in Gdov district, Russia.

October

- October 5-6 Meeting of the Estonian-Russian Joint Commission on Transboundary Waters, Pskov, Russia.
- October 15-16 Seminar "Water management in Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe basin – existing practices and future development" in St Petersburg, Russia.
- October 22 Nature tourism training in Izborsk, Russia.
- October 30 Round-table on Peipsi ecotourism in Tartu, Estonia.

November

- November 1 Implementation of the environmental small grants program in Estonia.
- November 4 Conference on environmental legislation and public participation issues, Pskov, Russia.
- November 11 Distribution of environmental games supported by UNDP/GEF project for Emajõgi river schools.
- November 12 Seminar on biological farming in Estonia.
- November 27-28 Scientific Conference on nature protection of the Pskov region, Pskov, Russia.

December

- December 7-14 Study tour from GEF supported Lake Chad basin project to Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe in Estonia and Russia.
- December 16 Estonian-Russian meeting of water monitoring experts in Estonia.
- December Study tour to a biological farming enterprise for representatives of local authorities, stakeholders and NGOs on Russian side of the Lake.

January 2004

- January Publication of Estonian-Russian report on the state of the environment in the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe basin.

February

- February The third Steering Commission meeting in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Publications

- Brochure '**Peipsi Guide: Birds at Peipsi and on the Shore Landscapes of the Lake**'
- The project introductory brochure.
- Working Paper: **Use of Water Resources and Associated Problems in Rural Municipalities at Lake Peipsi**
- Working Paper: **Management of Transboundary Waters on EU External Border in Northern Europe**, Proceedings of an Inter-national Workshop held on 27 May 2003 in Tartu, Estonia
- Newsletter on eutrophication issues for local stakeholders in Estonian and Russian.
- Newsletter on Pskov region water resources issues.
- Brochure '**Peipsi guide: Fish in Lake Peipsi**'



Peipsi info-portal is a regional web site to communicate expert and scientific information about Lake Peipsi to local stakeholders and international public developed within the UNDP/GEF project.

In this portal you can search for:

- cause-effect related environmental information about the Lake Peipsi transboundary water basin.
- Information relevant to a geographical location of your interest on the Map.

Project summary

The aim of the project:

The development objective of the project is to prepare, adopt and launch the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe Basin Management Programme for the nutrient load reduction and the sustainable development of the cross-border region.

The main project outputs can be summarized as follows:

- 1 **Management Programme** (Strategy Document) and **Action Plan** prepared and approved by all relevant Russian and Estonian authorities;
- 2 **Strengthened capacity** of key regional stakeholders (including environmental monitoring infrastructure and data collection and maintenance system);
- 3 **Networking and information exchange** established;
- 4 **Two pilot projects** implemented in Estonia: one on eutrophication reduction through planning water systems in a small community and the second one on ecotourism and nature protection (ecological route).

Project implementation:

UNDP Russia is delegated the authority to implement the project on behalf of UNDP, one of the GEF Implementing Agencies. UNDP Russia will therefore be responsible for monitoring, supervision and evaluation of the project during the project's lifetime.

The project will be executed by an international non-governmental organization **Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation (Peipsi CTC)** that works to promote sustainable development and cross-border co-operation in the border areas of the Baltic States and the New Independent States (NIS). The project will be implemented through **project implementation units** Lake Chudskoe Project, located in Pskov, Russia, and Peipsi CTC, Tartu, Estonia.

The Project Steering Committee consists of representatives of the Estonian Ministry of Environment, Russian Ministry of Natural Resources, UNDP, the Estonian-Russian Transboundary Water Commission,

regional authorities, NGOs from the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe basin, and the UNDP/GEF Project Manager. The Committee monitors and evaluates the project's course, particularly as regards its management aspects. The Committee meets once a year.

The Project Manager will be responsible for the project management and co-ordination of the project activities with the TACIS and other international projects in the region and relevant international organizations.

Sub-contracts: The Peipsi CTC in consultation with UNDP, will sub-contract designated activities as required for the delivery of project outputs. The project would engage expertise from other institutions to assist project staff and project participants, who include government and local communities, to achieve the purposes of the project.

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Project Budget:	US\$ 1,000,000 Global Environment Facility
Starting Date:	January 2003
Duration:	36 months
Project Site:	The Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe Basin, Russian Federation, Estonia

Project finances

in the period January-June 2003

	Estonia	Russia	US\$ Total
Administrative support	9,950	4,580	14,530
Duty travel	5,046	3,227	8,273
Project implementation	65,939	29,911	95,850
Total Expenditure	80,935	37,718	118,653