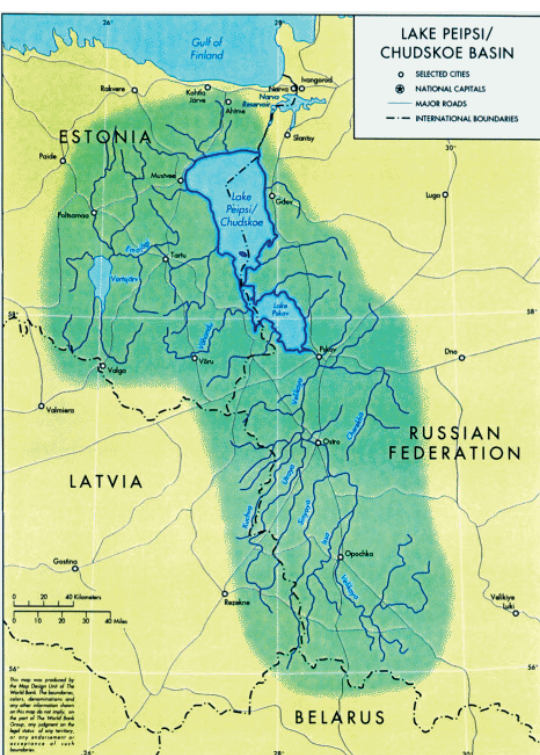
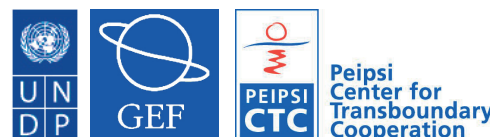


# Development and Implementation of the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe Basin Management Programme

## Overall information of the project implementation in year 2005

Natalia Alexeeva, UNDP/GEF Project Manager



The project is coming to an end, so I could say that year 2005 was full of different activities, leading to successful project finalization. These activities were, as usual, combined under three key project components such as Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe Basin Management Program, national and local institutional capacity strengthening, and environmental education and public awareness programs.

The first project component, of the Management Program, was really actively developing - some of the activities (such as, for example, in the joint

monitoring field or TDA actions) were finalized this year and presented to the audience; others (feasibility studies on eco-tourism and eco-farming) were carried out and reported on. Key actions on the Management Program were performed during all the year – starting from overall content preparation and conceptual arrangements, then leading to the presenting of the short version of the MP to the Joint Commission's working group on water management, and finalized with the full version of the Program to be approved by the Co-Chairmen of the Joint Commission and presented to the stakeholders. It is planned to have a full version of the Management Program, and a shorter one for the general public, so the Program will be widely circulated in the region and presented to all major stakeholders.

The second project component, Capacity Strengthening, was less active than in previous years and more focused on the Management Program, presenting perspective plans of measures. However, some events were aimed at support for the Peipsi Council establishment and functioning, at contributing to transboundary cooperation (Peipsi Forum) etc.; some training sessions were also carried out. The small grants program was implemented, as in the previous years of the project's implementation, and it got a lot of support from

the local stakeholders, able to benefit from such small-scale financial contributions to their grass-root activities.

The Peipsi Museum was opened in Estonia, whereas in Russia it was decided to arrange a virtual museum on the Internet, due to the lack of suitable premises for the museum.

The third component, environmental education and public awareness, gave publications, information dissemination via the project web-site and Peipsi portal, supporting elaboration of the education program and implementation of two pilot projects on eco-tourism (a camp-ground in Estonia and springs' restoration in Russia) in both countries, which will be finalized this year.

The project is also performing its final evaluation, to be started in December this year, aiming at external evaluation of project performance and implementation. Some activities are also left for the beginning of the next year - such as the last Steering Committee meeting, which will be arranged after finalization of the project evaluation procedures. We hope this meeting will provide us with feedback on the project implementation and guide us in the follow-up measures and activities, aimed at implementation of the Management Program.

## “Lessons learned” in the implementation of the project

Aija Kosk, UNDP/GEF project Estonian coordinator

A main output of the UNDP/GEF project „Development and Implementation of the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe Basin Management Program” is the „Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe Basin Management Program” (MP) as the draft document for the Estonian-Russian Joint Commission on Transboundary Waters to organize their future work. The main input documents for the drafting of MP were “Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis” (TDA) and “Proposals for coordinated monitoring strategy and monitoring programme on the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe ozero according to UN ECE guidelines for monitoring and assessment of transboundary lakes” (Monitoring Programme) worked out by UNDP/GEF project as well as “Viru-Peipsi Catchment Area Management Plan” (Viru-Peipsi CAMP) and “Water Management in the Lake Chudskoe Catchment” (Chudskoe WMP) prepared in the process of implementation of the EU LIFE and TACIS projects.

In the project documents of Viru-Peipsi CAMP and Chudskoe WMP deadline of the projects were end of 2004 and deadline of the UNDP/GEF project was end of 2005. There was planned time for analyzing results of the Viru-Peipsi CAMP and Chudskoe WMP projects for drafting MP. Unfortunately for UNDP/GEF project both our partner project deadlines were prolonged to the end of 2005. Also main aim of the EU TACIS project was changed. As UNDP/GEF project lacked both financial and human resources it was not possible to prolong deadline. Therefore the compilation

of MP started in parallel with drafting of the local water management plans. Due to this situation quality of the MP would be decreased.

At the same time I would like to emphasize as very positive experience co-operation with Estonian and Russian scientists and experts. Local scientists and experts have perfect knowledge on local situation. Also they are ready to help and share their knowledge. At the same time it is impossible to underestimate input of foreign scientist (NIVA) as team leader in the process of preparation TDA. In the cooperation with local scientists they made very good job in collecting information on the local situation, analyzing data and drafting main strategic outlines for the preparation of MP.

For the drafting of Monitoring Programme, 3 joint expeditions were carried out during 2003 - 2004. Also previous joint monitoring results were used for data analyzes. The draft Monitoring Programme was ready in III quarter of 2004. It was sent out to the officials dealing with monitoring as their everyday job as well as to scientists and experts carrying out monitoring expeditions. Despite of fact that the Monitoring Programme was draft with the aim to improve quality of monitoring it was almost impossible to get any constructive comments from officials dealing with monitoring.

My “lessons learned” in the implementation of the UNDP/GEF project „Development and Implementation of the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe Basin

Management Program” are following:

- Be careful in co-operation with other projects as in the implementation process aim and deadline of partner project would change remarkably and affect therefore results of your project;
- Local scientists and experts have perfect knowledge on local situation and their input to the project output would not be underestimated;
- The most important obstacle to reaching project's results is the lack of good will of officials.



# Viru and Peipsi Catchment Area Water Management Plan

Ülo Sults, UNDP/GEF project monitoring expert in Estonia

UNDP/GEF-project was participating in working out the Water Management Plan for River Basin District Viru-Peipsi in Estonia. This River Basin District with 15 761 km<sup>2</sup> is the main part of the East-Estonian River Basin District, which covers more than one third of the Estonian territory.

For preparing the water management plan for the Viru-Peipsi River Basin District, an international project "Viru Peipsi Catchment Area Management Plan" (Viru-Peipsi CAMP) was launched in 2002. The project was financed by the European Union (LIFE- Environment), the French Environmental Fund (Fond Francais pour l'Environnement Mondial), the Estonian Environmental Investment Centre and Estonian Ministry of the Environment.

Population of the project area, with 484 thousand is also one third of the total Estonian Population. There are 5 counties entirely or almost entirely, 5 counties partly, with 19 towns and 70 rural municipalities entirely and 19 rural municipalities partly in the project area.

## Results Achieved

- 1) The final report of the Viru-Peipsi River Basin Management Plan was finished in September 2005;
- 2) Status of rivers, lakes, coastal sea and groundwater has been assessed;
- 3) Delineation of water bodies has been finished;
- 4) The heavily modified water bodies have been appointed;



- 5) The economic analysis concerning cost recovery has been done;
- 6) The directive specific action plans for drinking and waste water have been finished;
- 7) Public discussions have been organized.

## Results of the assessment of the status of 50 main rivers in the sub-catchment:

- 36 rivers of 50 have **good chemical status**;
- 28 rivers have **good ecological status**;
- **bad or moderate status** for 12 rivers of 14 was caused by high phosphorus content;
- The ecological status was classified as **moderate or poor** for 22 rivers for the following reasons:
  - 10 rivers – water quality;
  - 7 rivers – dams and land improvement;
  - 5 rivers – both, either water quality or impounding dams

## Heavily modified water bodies.

"Heavily modified water body" means a body of surface water, which as a result of physical alterations by human activity is substantially changed in character and therefore cannot reach good ecological status. In Estonia, the main causes of physical modification are dredging and straightening of rivers and streams, and creation of impounding dams and man-made lakes.



Rivers were identified as heavily modified in cases where their fish fauna has significantly changed due to the above mentioned reasons, and the achievement of the type specific good ecological status was not possible without removing the alterations.

**Lakes.** There are 747 lakes altogether in Viru-Peipsi region. Majority of those are small lakes. 112 lakes have surface area 10-50 ha, and 30 lakes over 50 ha. Of the 103 small lakes assessed: 9% belong to **high**, 48% to **good**, 39% to **moderate** and 4% to **poor** quality class. Moderate or poor status of lakes is caused by: *point pollution* in 11 cases, *agricultural pollution* in 4 cases, *lowering of water level* in 3 cases, *combined causes* in 3 cases. The very important task for future is the conservation of the following lakes: L Saadjärv, Kurtina Lakes, Rõuge Lakes and Kooraste Lakes in **good ecological status**.

**Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe and Lake Pihkva/Pskovskoe.** Different international projects have formulated the following joint expert judgement on the ecological status of those lakes:

- Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe is in a **moderate** status,
- The status of Lake Pihkva/Pskovskoe and Lake Lämmijärv/Teploe varies between **moderate** and **poor**.

The most effective way of stopping eutrophication would be to decrease the inflow of phosphorus into the lake.

**Groundwater bodies in Viru-Peipsi catchment area.** In cooperation with the experts of the French Geological Survey, 13 groundwater bodies were distinguished in the region. All groundwater bodies falling within the territory of the Viru-Peipsi region are in a **good** qualitative and quantitative status, except the *Ordovician groundwater body* of Ida-Viru oil shale basin. All groundwater bodies, except the *Ordovician-Cambrian* and the *Silurian-Ordovician* groundwater body beneath *Devonian* layers, belong to the "risk group".

**Coastal waters.** There are two types of coastal waters in Viru-Peipsi catchment area:

- type I – *Oligohaline open coastal water* (Narva Bay),
- type II – *mesohaline open coastal water* (western part of the Gulf of Finland).

Most of assessments suggest the **good ecological status** class of those coastal waters.

**Water Management Plan.** The draft water management plan for the Viru-Peipsi area in cooperation of French Geological Survey -BRGM (France), Maves, Ltd., Maa ja Vesi, Ltd. (Estonia) was compiled and discussed in the several open meetings. The cost-recovery analysis have been performed. The implementation of that WMP needs comparison and co-ordinated activities with Russian institutions according the Water Management Plan for Russian sub-basin of Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe and Lake Pihkva/Pskovskoe, which would be carried on by TACIS- project team by the end of year 2005.





## Research activities on the Russian side of lake Peipsi

**Olga Vasilenko**, UNDP/GEF project Pskov PIU coordinator

The project UNDP/GEF "Development and Implementation of the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoye Basin Management Program" has this year supported two research projects on the Russian side of Lake Peipsi: (1) on development of tourism and preparation of the concept of water and ecological tourism development, and (2) on the impact that agriculture has on the basin of Lake Peipsi and preparation of the Concept of ecological farming on the Russian side of the region.

Despite the different topics of the research activities, both are aimed at defining potential ways for Lake Peipsi development, through ecological and water tourism or ecological farming. The choice of topics is not random. Lake Peipsi is not only a binding element of the whole region, but also the most important resource of its development, which possesses rich natural, cultural-historic and recreational potential. Agricultural and

tourist factors of the development have sustainable pre-conditions in the region but are in need of monitoring and elaboration of strategies for rational use, taking into account a minimal negative impact on the environment. The latter was the aim for carrying out this research.

The territory of the research is the Russian part of Lake Peipsi region and consists of 7 municipalities of 2 regions of the Russian Federation – Pskov and Leningrad: Gdov, Kingisepp, Pechory, Pskov, Slantsy districts and the cities of Pskov and Ivan-gorod.

At the beginning of 2005, research was carried out on the level of tourism development and elaboration of the concept of ecological and water tourism.

Within the limits of the research, carried out by the Pskov Center for Tourism Development, (the organization, which developed the work), there was

also conducted the analysis of the development of water and ecological tourism on the Russian side of Lake Peipsi region. The general description of water bodies located in the region was done and their ecological status was defined. The inventory of natural and landscape objects, of cultural and historical importance, and of water transport objects, was made and their condition was determined. In the framework of the research, the work on information about cultural, sports and mass events in the municipalities, in 2005, was the basis for the creation of the 'Calendar of Events'. The final variant of the Calendar was disseminated among the representatives of tourism companies, administrations of border districts, as well as the Administration of the Pskov region and aimed at attracting tourists to Lake Peipsi region.

Elaboration of the strategic document – the concept of development of water and ecological tourism, on the Russian side of the Chudskoye Lake region – was the substantial result of the research made. The following eight mainstreams of tourism development provided a basis for the concept: (1) improvement of tourist infrastructure, (2) fundraising activities, (3) service development from the clients' perspective, (4) increase of security and comfort of tourists, (5) marketing and advertising of tourist products, (6) provision of high standards of hygiene and sanitation, (7) promotion of entrepreneurship in tourist services, (8) use of the geopolitical position of the region in tourism – its location on the Russian-EU border.



On the basis of this concept, which is an independent document for the Russian part of the region, and on material from Estonian specialists, the joint Estonian-Russian concept, of the development of ecological tourism around Lake Peipsi, is being prepared now. This joint concept will be included into the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoye Basin Management Program, being designed in the context of the UNDP/GEF project.

The aim of the second research activity was the assessment of the impact of agriculture on the Lake Peipsi basin and development of the concept of ecological farming on the Russian side of the region. The person responsible for the research was Velikie Luki, State Agricultural Academy (Velikie Luki, the Pskov region).

The research was mainly carried out in three directions:

- 1) Defining the condition of agriculture in the basin of Lake Peipsi;
- 2) Determining the impact of this condition on the water body and;
- 3) Designing of the concept of the development of ecological farming in the region.

The full analysis of the available land was done in the framework of the first direction of the research. There was also reflected the condition, and the utilization of agricultural lands at this moment; there was determined the level of development of plant cultivation and cattle breeding; research took place on the level of utilization of chemicals in districts; analysis of forest reserves was conducted; the general characteristics of water resources of the region were given and showed the potential sources of pollution of the Peipsi Lake water; also presented were the conditions for agricultural landscape optimization.

The work performed showed that the facts, of agricultural eutrophication of the Peipsi basin, cannot be tracked in

reality because of the collapse of the majority of agricultural enterprises, reduction of planted areas and the decrease in the assortment of cultivated crops.

The analysis, of the conditions in the agricultural region, showed that the existing situation is worth using for the development of ecological farming and this will enable the mastering of perspective technologies of farming and cattle breeding and the entering of new markets. For that, first of all, it is necessary to develop and implement the mechanism of certification of ecological agricultural production in the region under research, even more so that, because of negligible use of mineral fertilizers existing nowadays, agricultural production is anyway considered, de-facto, to be ecologically clean. It is important to secure this on the legislative level. To stabilize the situation, and to provide the sustainable development of farms, it is necessary to constantly conduct the monitoring of farms' activities, to analyze their position in the region, to form appropriate informational databases/banks. The main consumer, of ecologically clean agricultural products, might be the industry of production of food for children.

The concept of the development of ecological farming, on the Russian side of Lake Peipsi, designed in the frames of the UNDP/GEF project, creates an opportunity to get recommended information, starting with the first steps of finding opportunities to transfer to this kind of production, under definite conditions and analyzing the organizational and economic situation, finishing with the basic stages of certification of ecological farms.

Thus, the research has allowed the carrying out of overall monitoring of existing ways of the Lake Peipsi region's development (ecological tourism and ecological farming) as well as

giving the possibility to prepare concrete steps in the implementation of these spheres.

It is important to notice that both research projects were carried out and implemented with the help of NGOs' experts, who performed as independent think tanks, capable of developing strategic documents for the regional level.

The brief results of the research are available at the web-site of the project in the section "Results" at the address [www.peipsi.org/gef](http://www.peipsi.org/gef).

## Lake Life Room – nature education-related permanent exhibition in Kallaste

Virve Tuubel, UNDP/GEF Project Tourism Expert in Estonia

A number of projects implemented by the Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation (CTC) have been enhancing tourism and nature education in the Lake Peipsi region. Likewise, booklets on the birds and fish of Lake Peipsi and human activities on the lakeshore were completed within the framework of the given project. The largest contribution, however, is opening of a permanent exhibition "Lake Life Room". The display was completed in two phases in the course of three years and was opened finally on the 30th of June, 2005.

The permanent exhibition about Lake Peipsi is one of a kind in the vicinity of the lake and should definitely be of interest for tourists and all nature lovers, particularly schoolchildren. Whilst other museums and expositions in the region have primarily focused on culture, be it that of the Old-Believers' or the Setus, the nature-educational permanent exhibition in Kallaste is, first of all, introducing the riches and

secrets of the lake as a natural habitat – one can become familiar with the biological diversity of this location, peculiarities of the local landscapes, lake biota and the role of people in the latter. The largest exhibit is the interactive model of the lake, making it possible to observe the bottom relief of the lake and get to know the relevant natural and cultural places of interest in the region.

In addition, museums and accommodation possibilities in the area have also been depicted on the model. The making of plaster molds of all the fish in the lake, in order to shape accurate models, was undoubtedly the most labor-intensive undertaking. The plants and algae of the lake are presented graphically. It is also possible to observe the development cycle of fish roe and to determine the age of fish according to its scale type.

The exhibition was completed in cooperation between the Peipsi CTC and Kallaste Town Government. Financial support was provided by the Global Environment Facility and the UN Development Program and also the US Embassy in Estonia. The exposition, from conceptual design to completion, was realised by Studio Viridis. Regarding the Peipsi CTC, the relevant work was coordinated



by Kärt Leppik in 2003, and later, by Virve Tuubel. Besides, there were also several important assistants from the Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation, Tartu County Environmental Service, Alatskivi Nature Centre, Kallaste town and the nearby area.

The exhibition is located at Keskväljak 1, in the building of Kallaste Town Government, and, together with the tourism information point, which was completed at the same time, provides diverse services for guests. The display is indeed open but, however, several interesting ideas remained unrealized. We do hope that these can be implemented in the near future and that the nature education-related permanent exhibition facilitates the promotion of the region and helps everyone who would like to better get to know this large and interesting lake.





## Elaboration of the elective course “Ecosystem of Pskovsko – Chudskoye Lake”

Elena Bystrova, UNDP/GEF Project Capacity Building Expert in Russia

Since January 2003, Pskov oblast NGO “Chudskoye Project” has been taking part in the realization of the UNDP/GEF project “Development and Implementation of the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoye Basin Management Program”. One of the components of this project is environmental education and public participation. In the frames of this component, the interactive regional web-site ([www.peipsi.org](http://www.peipsi.org)) is being developed, brochures and press-releases are being published on a regular basis and the educational program, on preservation of water resources, is being designed. The issue of the development of the above mentioned educational program was raised at several seminars and round tables and some of them were specially meant at discussing possible needs and different variants of the elaboration of such a program. In connection with the educational reform, which is presently being implemented in the Russian Federation, the place of environmental disciplines at schools is changing. Nowadays, environmental education is provided mainly through extracurricular activities such as expeditions, different events/lessons conducted by ecological-biological centers, separate classes in schools. In spite of the fact that all these activities/events are aimed at studying water resources of the Lake Pskovsko-Chudskoye basin, each organization, when conducting them, is designing its own programs or plans and this inevitably leads to duplication.

When discussing the current situation of the environmental education

in the region, the staff of educational and cultural organizations, as well as the representatives of nature preserving organizations, pointed out that they lack the time necessary for preparing, organizing and conducting such events/activities. In addition, it was mentioned that theoretical material, about water resources of the Pskov oblast and about their condition, is of poor quality; that educational institutions, in general, lack the necessary equipment and that in the rural area – in villages, settlements and other communities of the oblast, there exists little timely and essential information on the topic.

Taking into account the experience of teaching environmental subjects and needs of the schools of the region, it was decided to elaborate the educational program on preservation of water resources and to develop it on the basis of local material. This syllabus can be used by educational institutions for a profound study of subjects included into the federal component of the basic curriculum, for introduction of new subjects, electives, additional educational modules, special courses, practical training and etc. The preliminary title of the materials to be prepared, in the frames of the project, is “Teaching and methodical set for the elective course “Ecosystem of the Pskovsko-Chudskoye water body”.

The material consists of the following topics: 1) Water as substance; 2) Water as a habitat; 3) Water bodies of the Pskov oblast (types and peculiarities); 4) Ecological groups of water organ-

isms; 5) Problems of water resources - recreational usage; 6) Methods of research of water resources; 7) Measures on preservation of water bodies (practical activities of students). Each of the topics contains variants of questions and tasks that can be used by the teacher during the class activities, as well as elective tasks for schoolchildren.

It is important to say that, during the elaboration of such a course, representatives of nature-protected, educational and administrative organizations take part.

We hope that this course will be used by schools and other educational institutions and will become an important component in the system of ecological education of the Pskov region.



## International Cooperation Forum. From cross-border to transnational cooperation

**Eilika Mölder**, Information Expert and Website supporter of the UNDP/GEF project in Estonia



On September 9 –10 Peipsi CTC together with Forum Balticum and Estonian Foreign Policy Institute organized conference “International Cooperation Forum. From cross-border to transnational cooperation.” Conference had 3 main aims:

- (1) To discuss European and Estonian government policies on as well as instruments available to Estonian organizations for international cooperation activities;
  - (2) To reflect on the experiences of international cooperation projects implemented in Estonia and other European countries that allows drafting ideas for the future in terms of types of projects, geographic focus, as well as best practices.
- Thematic priorities that were addressed within the Forum were environmental protection and water management, cultural and scientific cooperation, community development, NGO capacity building, and promotion of democratic development through international cooperation activities;
- (3) To develop specific recommendations for good practices of international cooperation and possible future cooperation projects in Estonia and on a larger scale - in the enlarged European Union within the thematic areas outlined in (2).

The first session of the conference focused on European and Estonian government international cooperation policies. Presentations were made by members of European Parliament Tunne Kelam and Toomas Savi; Margus Rava from Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In last session of the conference and also in the group discussions, great attention was drawn to sharing previous cooperation experiences. Michael Kuhn from Bremen University concentrated his presentation on practical scientific cooperation experiences from Europe; Vladimir Zubov from Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Pskov Region talked about tourism cooperation between Estonia and Russia etc.

To develop better overview of participating organization's international cooperation experiences and hopes for future, organizers asked participants to fill in questionnaires. Eventually database will be evolved out of collected information that will be on available through website for all organizations and institutions that are interested in finding good partner from foreign countries.

The Forum was supported by United Nation Development Program and Global Environmental Facility; Konrad Adenauer Foundation; Estonian Foreign Policy Institute and Open Estonia Foundation East-East Program.

## 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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[www.peipsi.org/gef](http://www.peipsi.org/gef)

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Project Number: RER/02/G35/A/1G/72

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

Project Budget: USD 1,000,000  
Global Environment Facility

Starting Date: January 2003

Duration: 36 months

Project Site: The Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe Basin, Russian Federation, Estonia