

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



## Management program as the main project outcome

Ms Natalia Alexeeva, UNDP/GEF Project Manager



Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe basin

The overall objective of the Project is to develop and start implementation of a Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe Basin Management Program. This includes practical recommendations for the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe nutrient load reduction and prevention, Public Participation Plan and two feasibility studies on eco-farming and ecotourism in the cross-border regional context.

The Program is needed as a basis for joint decisions and actions in the sphere of transboundary water management for Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe and Narva River basins and as a tool for future investments and measures under the Joint Estonian-Russian Commission on Transboundary Waters and at the national level.

Such a Management Program is really a challenge for the region so far as no guidelines for the joint Programs are available at the moment, only national requirements and some provisions in the EU legislation, so the Program will be tailor-made by experts in order to take into account both national and cross-border priorities and demands. Results, from the other projects (EU LIFE — in Estonia and EU TACIS — in Russia), aimed to produce National Water Management Plans for respective parts of the basin, will be extensively used as a base for elaboration of the Joint Program.

All works aimed at development of the Program are conducted according to the project work plan. The starting points were the studies

on the stakeholders' needs and expectations from this Program, than several events were conducted in order to present international and national experience in water planning to the stakeholders, and it was accompanied by trainings in water management aimed to increase the capacity for developing such a Program.

Currently, draft Terms of references for this Program are ready and being discussed with major stakeholders such as the Steering Committee of the Project, project partners, further — with the Joint Estonian-Russian Commission on Transboundary Waters and local stakeholders.

After finalization of the document, the tender procedures would be started and elaboration of the Program should begin in year 2005. Development of the Program is a really complicated process but the project intends to involve local expertise as much as possible in order to use local knowledge and available resources. International experts would be involved on the need basis.

When the Program is ready, it should be widely distributed for comments and revisions; after incorporating all major concerns and contributions, the document will be presented to the project partners (Estonian Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of the Natural Resources of the Russian Federation) and to the Joint Estonian-Russian Commission on Transboundary Waters for adoption.



**Peipsi  
Center for  
Transboundary  
Cooperation**

## Description of the process on development of Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe Basin Management Program

| Year 1 (2003)  | Year 2 (2004)   | Year 3 (2005)  |
|--|---|--|
| Signing cooperation agreements between other projects working on water management planning in the region (EU LIFE, EU TACIS) | Cooperation between projects working on water management planning in the region (EU LIFE, EU TACIS)                                 | Cooperation between projects working on water management planning in the region (EU LIFE, EU TACIS)                    |
| Starting implementation of monitoring component of the project   | Draft report: "Proposals for coordinated monitoring strategy and monitoring program on the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe ozero"              | Final report: "Proposals for coordinated monitoring strategy and monitoring program on the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe ozero" |
| Preparation ToR for Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis  | Report: "Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis"   |  |
| Calling out tender for Nutrient Load Reduction Plan  | Preparation of Nutrient Load Reduction Plan   | Report: "Nutrient Load Reduction Plan"   |
|  | Calling out tender for feasibility study for water- and ecological tourism in the lake region                                       | Report: "Feasibility study for water- and ecological tourism in the lake region"                                       |
|  | Calling out tender for feasibility study for eco-farming in the lake region   | Report: "Feasibility study for eco-farming in the lake region"   |
|  | Preparation of ToR for Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe Basin Management Program  | Report: "Peipsi/Chudskoe Basin Management Program"   |
| Public Participation Plan. Introducing existing water legislation to stakeholders: WFD; Water management planning etc.       | Implementation Public Participation Plan. Introducing first results of preparation of Nutrient Load Reduction Plan to stakeholders. | Implementation Public Participation Plan. Introducing draft Peipsi/Chudskoe Basin Management Program to stakeholders   |

## Mid-term Evaluation of the project:

This project is meeting the key objectives of the project largely due to effective project management team plus a well designed and specified project plan.

Ms Sille Talvet, UNDP/GEF Project Advisor

This summer, at mid-point of the project implementation, the project was evaluated in order to provide an overall assessment of the project and give an opportunity to critically assess administrative and technical strategies and issues. Second objective of the evaluation was to give recommendations to improve the potential of the Project to achieve expected outcomes and objectives within the Project timeframe as well as to provide a list of lessons learned/best practices to be continuously used by this project and other projects to ensure effectiveness and sustainability of the projects.

Evaluation was conducted by an Evaluation Team, formed by a range of experts, to provide as objective and comprehensive feedback as possible. For the selection of the Team, an open tender was announced in March 2004.

After thorough review and follow-up interview of all candidates, the Evaluation Team was formed.

### Evaluation Team

**Team Leader: Peter Whalley,**  
Senior Consultant, WRc plc, UK

#### National experts:

**Estonia: Toomas Pallo,**  
Director; Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Environment

**Russia: Evgeny Kurashov,**  
Head of Laboratory of Hydrobiology, Institute of Limnology in St. Petersburg

In general, the Evaluation Team considered project to be successful and meeting or in process of meeting project objectives. The project was classified as **'satisfactory – good'**, which indicated that there are certain aspects of the project implementation that were considered to be well executed or 'good':- such as the project management and the team undertaking the work and some aspects that were considered to be progressing 'satisfactorily': - such as the cross-border co-operation leading to the development and implementation of the management plan which are outside the control of the project team

The project team undertaking the work is considered to have the necessary expertise on both technical issues and project management skills. There are few immediate concerns observed associated with this project which by opinion of Evaluation Team is probably beyond the scope of this project and clearly in the domain of the Governments of Russia and Estonia.

In order to provide more in-detail understanding on findings by the Evaluation Team and allow our readers to obtain an overview of project progress, below is given a selection of most important lessons learnt/best practices as well as issues of concerns/recommendations enlisted by the Team:

## Lessons Learnt/Best Practises

- Stakeholder involvement — there has been a high level of involvement of the stakeholders in this project and this recognized by a range of different stakeholders.
- Public awareness raising - linked to the stakeholder involvement, the project has clearly devoted significant attention to informing the public on the issues surrounding the project. This has involved the production of information packs for schools and other groups, preparation of press releases and the holding of meetings of interest to the general public. ;
- Capacity building through workshops and seminars — a significant number of specific seminars have been held related to this project. The beneficiaries of these training opportunities have been a range of stakeholders, including NGOs (on management issues), nature guides, municipality staff, etc.
- Support for the project from local/regional government — local and national government officials, interviewed for this mid-term evaluation, clearly indicated their support for the project.
- Small grant facility within the project — this has received considerable interest and is considered so far to be very beneficial to, and by, local communities.;
- Web site dissemination: the web site is perceived as an important output from this project by a range of stakeholders interviewed.

## Issues of Concern/Recommendations:

- Agreement on Water Quality Status between Russia and Estonia. This is a potentially serious issue that could lead to the failure of an agreement of a joint management plan for the lake. The problem stems from the differing approaches to monitoring (specifically, sampling and analysis) of water in Russia and Estonia.
  - Agreement is needed on **comparable** monitoring systems. This does not imply the need to use identical methods, but there must be sufficient confidence that the data provided is comparable.
  - Monitoring should be extended to include biological parameters (this is a requirement for Estonia under the WFD).
  - Data collected from the lake (and key tributaries) should be shared as soon as possible after validation.
- Strengthening the role of the Joint Water Commission. As the designated body for implementing the Management Program, this organization should be given greater resources and responsibilities.
- Extent of the Management Program. Various stakeholders have different perceptions towards the Management Program. In the monitoring teams' opinion, for some stakeholders there are too high expectations towards the program. It is too early to provide statements, but for the evaluation team it seems obvious, from the current state of development of the national river basin management plans for Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe, that it would be difficult to comprise extensive and comprehensive common programme, based on those plans. The following was recommended:
- Compilation of basic structure and draft ideas of the Management Program by the CTC and presentation of it for comments and approval to the Joint Water Commission and its key members within the near future.

As can be seen from above the project and the staff, there still exists the challenge to overcome problems that might affect the success of the project. Many of the recommendations, made by the Evaluation Team, have already been implemented and the rest of them are included in future plans. The valuable information received by the evaluation has served its purpose and will be used on day-to-day implementation.





# Results of the Joint Monitoring Events on Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe

Mr Ülo Sults UNDP/GEF Project Monitoring Expert in Estonia

## A "Lake Life Room"

Ms Virve Tuubel, UNDP/GEF Project Tourism Expert in Estonia

On 21st of August, the first phase of a permanent exhibition, "Lake Life Room", presenting Lake Peipsi and life in the vicinity of the lake, was opened in Kallaste.

The main attraction of the display is the model of the lake, made by "Studio Viridis", indicating the natural and cultural monuments of the eastern and western part of the Lake Peipsi area.

The permanent exhibition of 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 for schoolchildren. If, up until now, museums and exhibitions have primarily focused on culture, be it that of the Old-Believers or of the Seto people, then the current nature-education oriented permanent exhibition in Kallaste, first and foremost, introduces the richness and secrets of the lake as a life environment and habitat. The exhibition has been completed in collaboration between the Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation and Kallaste Town Government. Simultaneously with the opening of the permanent exhibition, the famous onion fair and the Kallaste Days took place. The exposition is located in the building of the Kallaste Town Government .

Monitoring is a very important component in each Water Management Plan and also for the Nutrient Load Reduction Program. The coordination of the monitoring program and monitoring activities in the large transboundary lake, Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe, is hard and complicated work. Political, financial and other aspects must be taken into account there.

The UNDP/GEF-project "Development and Implementation of the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe Basin Management Program" has supported the Estonian-Russian Joint Commission for Transboundary Water Bodies by financing and organizing the joint monitoring expeditions in years 2003 and 2004. Our experts have participated in the discussions on the coordinated monitoring program in several meetings, conferences and working groups.

To implement the UNDP/GEF project, the following activities have been carried out:

- 1 Comparative analysis of the national monitoring systems and systems of organization of monitoring in the two countries;
- 2 The joint expedition (summer 2003) on Lake Peipsi/Pskovskoe ozero and Narva Reservoir;
- 3 Two joint winter monitoring expeditions in March 2003 and in March 2004;
- 4 Meetings to analyze and present results of those expeditions for Estonian and Russian experts and members of the working group for water quality and monitoring of the Joint Commission.

It is a quite difficult task for the Russian Federation to harmonize the State Monitoring Program with the EU Water Framework Directive. The Russian Federation does not have experience in biological monitoring. Estonian experts demonstrated the sampling and analysis routines during summer expeditions in 2003 and 2004, and during the joint winter expedition in 2004.

The main task in water chemistry monitoring has been, and still is, the incomparable data of Estonian and Russian laboratories. Shortcomings in methodology and standards are explained by Mr. William Parr, Halcrow, Ltd., the United Kingdom in his report " Monitoring Strategy for Russian laboratories in Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe Basin" (TACIS-project report, May, 2004).

UNDP/GEF is going on to explain to Russian experts the advantages of UN/ECE and EU guidelines for monitoring. Joint workshops and meetings help Russian monitoring experts to achieve more skills in biological monitoring and quality assurance in laboratories.



## Peipsi Forum IV.

### Estonian–Russian Cross-Border Cooperation: New Challenges after Eastern EU Enlargement

Conference in Pskov, Russia, September 8-9, 2004

Ms Olga Vassilenko, UNDP/GEF Project Pskov PIU Coordinator

On September 8-9 in Pskov, the Peipsi Forum annual international conference was held. Traditionally, the main theme for the Peipsi Forum is to discuss urgent issues of good-neighbor relations and cooperation development in the Peipsi Lake transboundary region. This year's Peipsi Forum IV was dedicated to consider new perspectives of the Russian-Estonian cooperation after the EU enlargement to the East, as well as to determine priority fields and projects for the sustainable development of the Peipsi region, and also to discuss specific mechanisms of cooperation between the authorities, business and NGO sector of the region. The conference was participated in by 100 persons, representing diplomatic structures, state authorities and local self-governments, commercial organizations, NGOs and educational facilities from Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland and the USA.

"Participants marked that developing relations between regions of Estonia and the Pskov Region are positive and practically filled throughout the 4 last years, which corresponds both to the priorities of the Russian foreign and domestic policies, and to the EU priorities. Alongside with this, cooperation is underway on the broad range of issues, including joint use and protection of natural resources, water-management and forestry development, fishery, as well as strengthening the direct contacts between the border areas and local self-governments. And still, among the problems negatively influencing transboundary and cross-border relations, the sides mention visa issues, obscurity of the situation around Pskov-Tartu waterway, the mismatch of legal regulations, and that of local self-governments' activities".

An important constituent of the event was the discussion of specific issues of

cooperation and further work-group interaction fields. This year, the work-group meetings were conducted in three directions: tourism and navigation, culture and education, and environmental protection. Within the frames of the discussions held, the possible mechanisms, to join efforts of various interested parties in order to improve the living standards in the region and to form a positive image of the area, were considered. For the first time, the idea was introduced, of establishing the Peipsi Lake Council as an efficient mechanism for such interactions, for broad public discussion.

The importance and necessity of creating a structure to be capable of ensuring complex and balanced development of the Peipsi Lake catchment area — having considered the transboundary aspect — was already discussed this year on both the Russian and Estonian sides within the UNDP/GEF project.

An important result of the Forum was the approval to initiate the establishment the Peipsi Lake Council and to form work groups.

The Peipsi Lake Council, according to Forum participants, could assist transboundary cooperation through supervising certain activity fields, consulting services to those interested, timely identification of urgent problems, acting adequately, and producing corresponding recommendations. The importance of such functions to the new representative body as assistance

in conducting public hearings, polls, public environmental expert examination and raising public awareness of decision-making was also stressed. The coordinating functions of the Council, at the inception phase, were proposed for delegation to the two organizations on the Russian and Estonian sides — Chudskoye Project NGO and Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation NGO.

The general view has it that the permanent basis of the Peipsi Forum facilitates a more operative and public discussion of transboundary cooperation issues, raises public awareness, is an effective tool for interacting solving problems related to border areas, as well as providing an opportunity to more thoroughly consider issues of economic and political interactions, culture and education, the Peipsi Lake catchment area management and preservation of ecosystems of the transboundary region.

The conference was organized by the Chudskoye Project NGO (Russia) in cooperation with the Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation NGO (Estonia) and supported by the Administration of the Pskov region and the Administration of the City of Pskov. This year, the financial support to the Forum was granted at the expense of the UN Development Program/Global Environmental Foundation (UNDP/GEF), US Consulate General in St. Petersburg (Russian) and Enterprise Estonia Foundation (Estonia).





## Small grants program in Russia

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

The Small Grants Program is a part of the component "National and local institutional capacity building" that is being implemented within the UNDP/GEF project "Development and Implementation of the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe Basin Management Program" on the Russian side since 2004.

The Small Grants Program is aimed at promoting environmental education and supporting water management related projects. The Program is a first attempt of such an activity, that's why a set of documents to support it was developed.

Announcement of the 1st stage took place in April, 2004. Different organizations of Pskov and Leningrad regions were invited to apply. By the end of the application term, 13 different applications were sent to the Russian PIU office in Pskov. Most of them represented Pskov, some were from other places in Pskov region (Ostrov, Gdov, Palkino, Strugi Krasnye).

Among the applicants were the educational organizations, museums, libraries, nature reserves, municipalities, etc.). Getting

acquainted with the projects, it was clear that the quality of the applications was very different. Some of them had no clear goals, structure. Some of them were very well structured and goal-oriented.

After discussion, five projects were supported. They are:

**"Town is a Garden"** (Pervotsvet Club under Gdov Historical Museum, branch of the Pskov Museum);

**"Annotated Directory "Ecological Problems of the Chudskoe Lake Basin""** (Pskov Regional Youth Library named after A.S.Pushkin);

**"Our Care for Our Lake"** (Educational Department of Palkino District Administration);

**"Searching for Clean Water"** (Pskov Secondary School — 20);

**"Complex Analysis of the Versha and the Sinyaya Rivers as Objects of Nature in the Frame of the Research of Small Rivers in the Chudskoe Lake Basin"** (Home of Children Arts in Ostrov)

"...The fact that Pskov non-governmental organization has become the small grants distributor can be considered to be a sensation, but why not just be happy about that, due to the NGO "Chudskoe project" different organizations of the region will find each other and assistants, and will be able to enter into joint work on the implementation of the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe Management Program. And, possibly, next time some of them will announce new small grant programs." (A.Zamaraeva, newspaper "Sterkh, May 5, 2004)

The projects were carried out in the period of June — September, 2004. After the completion the results of them were presented to a wider public through different local and city newspapers.

After the end of the 1st stage of the Program, seeing the results of the Program it is possible to say that it is very useful for many organizations. Due to this possibility ecological, non-governmental and municipal organizations of the region can join their efforts in implementation of the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe Management Programme.



## Peipsi Council

Ms Eilika Mölder, UNDP/GEF project Information Expert and Webmaster in Estonia

Peipsi Council is a multi-stakeholder board dealing with major questions and challenges related to the transboundary cooperation in the Estonian-Russian border area and developing proposals and recommendations to respective authorities on the national and local levels in the Estonian – Russian transboundary area as well as international organizations for the activities and projects that would promote sustainable development and cooperation in the transboundary region.

In order to analyze Peipsi regional local stakeholders need for the Peipsi Council in Estonian side there were held several meetings with local government and NGO representatives. Also the working mechanism of the

council and concrete possible joint Estonian-Russian project ideas were discussed. All participants agreed that there is great interest to cooperate with Russia and solve the community problems jointly.

The working mechanism of Council was suggested:

- **Secretariat:** at first in Peipsi CTC, but eventually Peipsi Council should be independently working board
- **Working group** (environment; culture and education; tourism development and water traffic) meetings in both side of the Lake Peipsi.
- Once a year is held **Peipsi Forum** that could be the main event of the Council

Peipsi Council functions:

- To work out suggestions for Peipsi region priorities and trends for development
- Make suggestions for Peipsi regional politics for the most useful way
- Predispose cooperation between different sectors (LG, NGO, Bus.) and regions (municipalities)
- Helps to coordinate and prepare big regional development-, infrastructure-, environmental etc. projects that include the whole Peipsi region

## Water management seminars for Estonian local governments of Peipsi region

Ms Angelika Rehema, UNDP/GEF Project Capacity Building Expert in Estonia

Among other capacity building events, Peipsi CTC organized three water management seminars. The two-day seminars took place from May to June this year in Jõgeva, Tartu and Põlva counties. The aim of the seminars was to discuss different water management issues with local water experts. Altogether 48 local water management specialists from 35 different parishes participated in the events. We tried to keep the groups small in order to encourage discussion between local specialists and ministry officials and to avoid too formal an event.

Experts from the Environmental Ministry, Peipsi CTC, VIRU-PEIPSI project and environmental departments spoke on different water

management issues in Lake Peipsi region and new state policies.

We also had quite a large interest from the local level because all local authorities have to produce a development plan for sewage and water systems (DWG) in the near future and they needed information on how to do this. In addition to theoretical lectures, we also organized practical exercises where groups had to produce their own DWG model under the guidance of an expert. This was very much welcomed by the participants and they found it most useful for their future work.

Another current water management issue, at the local level, is the new state initiative to combine water management enterprises of different parishes. The rationale is that

current enterprises are too small. Combined enterprises would have more resources and therefore could acquire machines/labor that current enterprises aren't capable of. It would also mean more effective resource use. Not all parishes are happy with this policy. All three seminars had heated discussions on this topic.

After two days of discussion, local experts had a better vision on how to put together DSW and also a better idea about the future of local water enterprises. It can be said that all three seminars turned out successfully and achieved their goal.

# Informational Activities Within the UNDP/GEF Project “Development and Implementation of the Peipsi/Chudskoye Lake Basin Area Management Program” on the Russian side

Daria Postnova, Information Expert and Website supporter of the UNDP/GEF project in Russia

The informational component of the process is one of the success factors for any activity. To have something done is just a part of the process. It is no less important to bring the information to the consumer, to get him involved.

One of the goals of the UNDP/GEF project “Development and Implementation of the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoye Basin Management Program” is to set up information exchange and create networks in the transboundary region of the Peipsi/Chudskoye Lake. Some constituents of this component have been completed and are functioning, although they do require permanent technical support. A system of continuous distribution of information and raising public awareness has been set up and includes various channels and formats for information transfer.

Amongst the top priorities of the activities it is necessary to mention the adjustment of efficient mechanisms of cooperation with local and regional mass media. To ensure distribution of correct and up-to-date information on the course of

the project implementation the strategy of establishing personal relations with journalists of the leading papers, TV and radio stations, with the heads and employees of Mass Media Committees of regional and municipal administrations has been chosen.

At present, due to the UNDP/GEF project implementation, in the Russian project area a circle of journalists formed uniting those who can work with project documentation properly, which, in its turn, substantially increased the volume of the materials presented and strengthened the impact on the local community. It is also important to be said that journalists themselves take active part in the debate within the framework of events conducted. The most positive dynamics are typical of the cooperation with the representatives of TV and radio companies (TV and Radio Station “Pskov”, City TV “Telekom”), journalists from press periodicals (STERKH, NOVOSTY PSKOVA, and district papers), as well as with the various information agents (Pskov Information Agency, Pskov

News Line, NOTA BENE Non-profit Informational Agency, Ecological North West Line) and the press-centers of the Administration of the Pskov region and the Administration of the City of Pskov. Due to this, it is possible to thoroughly cover phases and outcomes of project implementation and to bring the essence of what it is all about to broader ranges of population.

Extensive use of digital communication and publishing has become another important field for informational activities, and to some groups of population — the only source of necessary data. Therefore, the trilingual — English, Russian and Estonian — constantly maintained web-site of the project at [www.peipsi.org/gef](http://www.peipsi.org/gef) is a valuable tool for information exchange. The digitally posted materials are regularly updated, which allows those who are interested in the real-time project monitoring, project report analysis, and introduction to the materials posted, perspective events, and tenders for sub-project implementation.

Within the UNDP/GEF project, the interactive information portal of the Peipsi/Chudskoye Lake region has been developed and is maintained at [www.peipsi.org](http://www.peipsi.org). With its help, the local stakeholders and international community are receiving expert and scientific information on the Peipsi/Chudskoye Lake, which is received through the project implementation. At the portal one can find causal ecological information on the transboundary catchment area of the Peipsi/Chudskoye Lake, as well as information regarding the geographical location of a spot on the map you are interested in. The portal is regularly updated by the transboundary region day-to-day news coming from Russian and Estonian information agencies.

## Draft version of project finances

in the period January-October 2004

US\$

|                                   | 2004   | Total  | Est    | Rus   |
|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Local Consultants                 | 21999  | 16450  | 11500  | 4950  |
| Contractual Services -Individuals | 76842  | 51090  | 31200  | 19890 |
| Travel                            | 36509  | 18978  | 9119   | 9859  |
| Contractual Services- Companies   | 196547 | 87431  | 74709  | 12722 |
| Equipment and Furniture           | 24718  | 22966  | 19822  | 3144  |
| Materials and Goods               | 26810  | 22107  | 14075  | 8032  |
| Communication and Audio Visual E  | 11159  | 9400   | 5880   | 3520  |
| Supplies                          | 5620   | 1190   | 535    | 655   |
| Audio Visual and Print Prod CO    | 31800  | 9174   | 3596   | 5578  |
| Professional Services             | 1352   | 681    | 681    |       |
| Audit Fees                        | 2000   | 732    | 732    |       |
| Legal Fees                        | 28531  | 11460  | 8456   | 3004  |
| Miscellaneous Expenses            | 12587  | 32892  | 18833  | 14059 |
| Total US\$                        | 476474 | 284551 | 199138 | 85413 |



Regular coverage of project events on both sides of the border happens via e-mail newsletter and info-leaflet subscription. Such messages reflect the current state of the project implementation by all sides involved in the process, as well as contain information on partner-organizations' activities aimed at the balanced Peipsi/Chudskoye Lake transboundary region development, and are a convenient format to receive data on the UNDP/GEF project implementation units' activities. As is clear from the experience, the messages are multiplied both by the regional and All-Russian and international digital media, thus raising public awareness of the project.

Valuable sources of up-to-date information, on the Peipsi/Chudskoye Lake, are the publications posted under the project. A large number of thematic articles are regularly published in the regional press, a newsletter dedicated to the water resources of the Pskov Region (Pskov, 2003) has been designed and published, and publication of a set of materials of the international public scientific conference "Northwest Russia and Belarus: issues of environment, history and public geography" (Pskov, 2003) has been supported. Within the Small Grants Program of the UNDP/GEF project in September 2004 the bibliographical annotated index on the "Environmental Problems of Peipsi/Chudskoye Lake Catchment Area" has been published. Dissemination of these publications showed urgent demand for them among the local population, and the necessity of continuity of this activity.

Besides, the materials on the project and created in the course of the project are regularly distributed at various seminars, international conferences, exhibitions and forums.

In particular, an extended presentation of the project was conducted at the exhibition "City and Citizens", which was held in Pskov in January 2004. According to information agencies, the exhibition was visited by over 50 thousand Pskovites and guests of the city.

In conclusion, it is worth noting that the various channels and formats to distribute information do not exist separately, but harmoniously contribute to each other, forming a stable information field of the UNDP/GEF project in the Peipsi/Chudskoye Lake transboundary region.



## Training for the team leaders of voluntary nature monitoring

Ms Aija Kosk, UNDP/GEF Project Coordinator in Estonia

The UNDP/GEF project decided to support the voluntary nature monitoring on the small rivers and streams in the Lake Peipsi basin, the waters of which, directly or indirectly, finally flow into the lake. The objects selected for voluntary nature monitoring are macro-invertebrates or, in other words, the beetles, worms, leeches, snails, etc. living on the bottom of water bodies. The population of macro-invertebrates makes it possible to estimate the degree of purity of water bodies.

Two training sessions, for the group leaders of voluntary nature monitoring, took place in the spring and autumn of this year. The training was completed by the teachers and senior students of the schools located within the Lake Peipsi basin.

In addition to the theoretical seminars in Tartu and Võrtsjärv Limnological Center, practical assignments were carried out on the streams in the vicinity of Tartu. Peipsi CTC also

equipped the participants with all necessary equipment (hand nets, tweezers, magnifying glasses, etc.) for the subsequent independent work to be carried out in the home area.

During the practical assignments, both the students and the teachers enjoyed the exploration and discovery of the environment, which otherwise stays hidden from our eyes and quietly lives its everyday life. The fact that local friends of nature take samples on the rivers and streams of their home area and share the results with others cannot be underestimated in the point of view of environmental education. In addition, this kind of nature observation may provide an essential contribution to the general environmental assessment of the basin area.

The Global Environmental Facility, the United Nations Development Program, the Global Nature Fund and US Embassy in Tallinn supported the training day of voluntary nature monitoring.

## 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.

### Contact information:

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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: US\$ 1,000,000  
Global Environment Facility

Starting Date: January 2003

Duration: 36 months

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