

PROJECT INFORMATION SHEET

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Waste Management for Tourism Destinations of Lake Baikal



Policymakers visit the newly set up collection centre for recyclable materials; (picture: R. Menzel)

Background information

In 1996 Lake Baikal became a UNESCO World Natural Heritage site. The region is a recreational area for local and foreign tourists and at the same time one of the industrial centres in resource-rich Siberia.

On Lake Baikal's island of Olkhon, for which tourism is one of the most important economic sectors, uncontrolled dumping of municipal waste is a serious problem. The lack of systems for separate collection of waste as well as irregular waste collection services have caused coves, coastlines, beaches, recreational spots and villages appear more like landfills. These large illegal dumps not only reduce the tourist appeal of the island but also pollute soil, air and water.

Projekt

The project's goal was to develop a waste management concept for Olkhon in a cooperation between a Russian and a German university.

In the first project phase the project partners collected existing data and information on the legal framework and the present situation in waste management. Together with the results of a quantitative und qualitative waste analysis carried out, this information was used to draw up a first waste management concept. The project partners refined this concept during the next steps of the project e.g. by developing a business plan and setting up a collection centre for recyclable materials.

The project's result, a concept for organised waste collection and disposal, was then presented on Olkhon, with lively interest of the local population and administration and of the print and broadcasting media.

Intensive environmental education and public relations activities were a vital part of the project, broadly disseminating the experiences gained throughout the project.

The project was interesting and convincing enough to reach the regional capital Irkutsk. Policymakers in Irkutsk were highly interested in the project's outcomes and as a result launched first pilot projects for waste management in Irkutsk.

- Funding: Advisory Assistance Programme of the German Federal Environment Ministry
- Project identification: 380 01 139
- Region: Russia
- Duration: 09/2006 - 08/2008
- Project management: Umweltbundesamt
- Project partner Germany: Uni Duisburg-Essen
- Local project partner: TU Irkutsk
- Project website: www.baikalwaste.eu

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