

PROJECT INFORMATION

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Solutions for transboundary problems in the implementation of the EU-WFD Republic of Lithuania - Russian Federation (Kaliningrad Region)



View over the Curonian Lagoon / Picture: R. Bierwirth (HGN)

Background

The sensitive and unique environment of the Curonian Lagoon is heavily polluted by nutrients due to inputs from agriculture and by pollutants from waste water discharges. The EU's Water Framework Directive (WFD) requires all water bodies to achieve good ecological status by 2015. This standard is binding for all EU member states.

Since 2003 the German Federal Ministry for Environment and the German Federal Environment Agency have supported projects to facilitate the implementation of the WFD in Lithuania and the Russian Federation (Kaliningrad region). In this context important measures to support implementation of the WFD were realized focusing on Neman River basin management and the Curonian Lagoon catchment. The projects have also strengthened cross-border cooperation of the countries involved. This cooperation is especially important for the effective protection

of the Curonian Lagoon and the Baltic Sea. Through this project the support is continued.

Project

The project aims to help overcome some obstacles in implementing the WFD. This requires close cooperation between the competent authorities of the two countries. In particular, the following steps will be carried out:

- Detailed investigation of the mechanisms of nutrient input via groundwater into the immediate catchment of the Curonian Lagoon
- Using the results of the investigation to derive cost effective measures to reduce nutrient input
- Updating the evaluation of the ecological status of the Lagoon
- Proposing solutions for the problem of transboundary overexploitation of groundwater from deeper aquifers
- Initiating agreements between Lithuania and the Russian Federation (Kaliningrad Region) on the implementation of the WFD.

- Programme: Advising-assistance programme of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
- Project number: 380 01 174
- Region: Lithuania/Kaliningrad
- Duration: 12/2007 – 11/2008
- Project Management: Federal Environment Agency
- Partner Germany: HGN Hydrogeologie GmbH, Nordhausen; www.wasser-hgn.de
- Partner Lithuania: Environment Ministry of Lithuania and Government of the Kaliningrad Region