

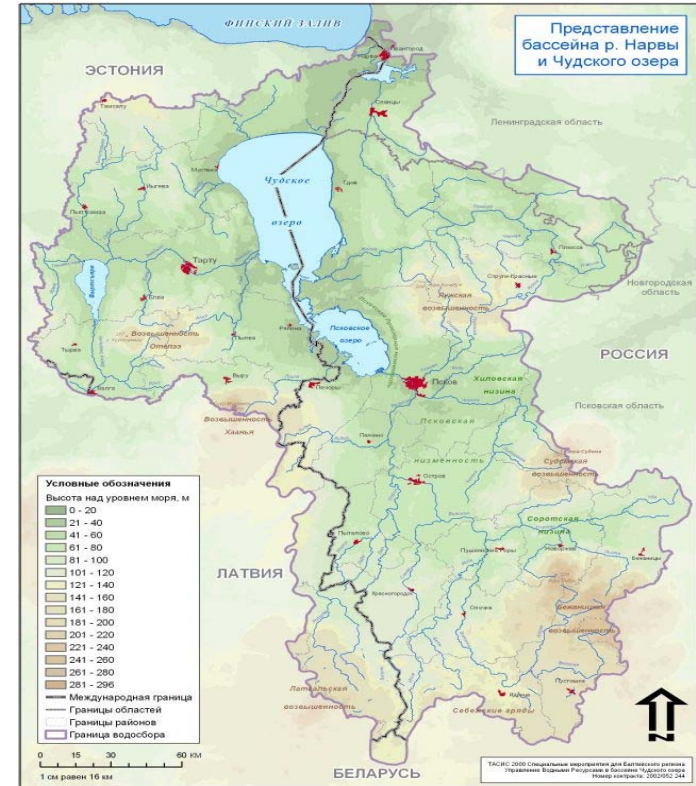


Basin Management to Protect Ecosystem Health - Lessons from Estonia- Russian Cooperation

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MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

General overview



Estonia borders with Russia and Latvia – i.e with non European Union country and European Union country

River Narva basin is a transboundary basin, shared between Estonia and Russia, small areas of it also extend to Latvia and to Belarus



Border between Estonia and Russia

- **Mainly water border:**
 - total length of border is 460.6 km
 - from which sea border 122.0 km (26 %)
 - inland border 338,6 km (74 %)
- **Large part of inland border runs on water:**
 - On Lake Peipsi 124.2 km
 - On River Narva 76.4 km
 - Total on large waterbodies 200.6 km
- **Length of „pure“ inland border**
 - only 138 km,
 - from which on the small waterbodies is 47 km.
- **Inland border**
 - 59 % runs on big waterbodies
 - add small waterbodies and 73 % of inland border runs on waterbodies
- **And if we include sea, then total 80% of border between Estonia and Russia runs on water.**



Important transboundary waters between Estonia and Russia

Lake Peipsi

- Fourth largest lake in Europe
- Largest transboundary lake in Europe
- 44 % of the lake is situated in Estonia and 56 % in Russia
- One of the best fish lake in Europe 6500-6800 T per year, fish resources divided between Estonia and Russia

River Narva

- Energetic importance:
 - on the river there is a hydroenergy plant which belongs to Russia, with total power 125 MW
 - on Estonian side of the river there are two powerful energy plants with total power 2400 MW that use river water for cooling purposes
- Water uptake from river is used for production of drinking water in Narva (which population is 70 000)
- Estonian-Russian water management cooperation is based on the UNECE Water Convention



Water Convention

Aim of the Convention:

To protect and ensure the quantity, quality and sustainable use of transboundary water resources by facilitating and promoting cooperation

The three central obligations of the Convention:

1. Prevent, control and reduce transboundary impacts
2. Ensure reasonable and equitable use
3. Cooperate through agreements and joint bodies

Estonia and Russia joined to that convention already 1993-1995.



Based on the convention:

- In 1997 Agreement Between Republic of Estonia and Russian Federation on the Protection and Sustainable Use of Transboundary Watercourses
- Since the same year Estonian-Russian joint commission on transboundary waters

Under the joint commission two working groups:

- Working group on integrated water resources management
- Working group on monitoring, assessment and research



Joint commission

- Organizes exchange of monitoring data between the parties in accordance with the agreed monitoring program
- Defines priority directions and programs of scientific studies on protection and sustainable use of transboundary waters
- Agrees on common indicators of quality for transboundary waters, methods of water testing and conducting analyses;
- Facilitates cooperation between agencies of executive power, local governments, scientific and public interest organizations, as well as other institutions in the field of sustainable development and protection of transboundary waters
- Ensures publicity of discussions of questions related to the use and protection of the transboundary waters



Working group on integrated water resources management

- Questions about organisation of water management, elaboration and implementation of water management plans and water protection programs
- Analyse and assessment of situation in water management
- Questions related to hydrotechnical installations
- Inventory of water pollution sources
- Elaboration of action plan for extraordinary situations and liquidation results of accidents
- Exchange of information
- Ensure public participation



Working group on monitoring, assessment and research

- Elaboration of joint monitoring programmes and co-ordination of joint monitoring works
- Elaboration of agreed standpoints for transboundary waters load, water quality and situation assessment
- Analyse and assessment of water quality
- Harmonisation of monitoring programs and methods for water users.
- Organisation of scientific studies
- Elaboration of joint databases
- Information of public and counties about status of transboundary waters
- Organising parallel sampling of laboratories



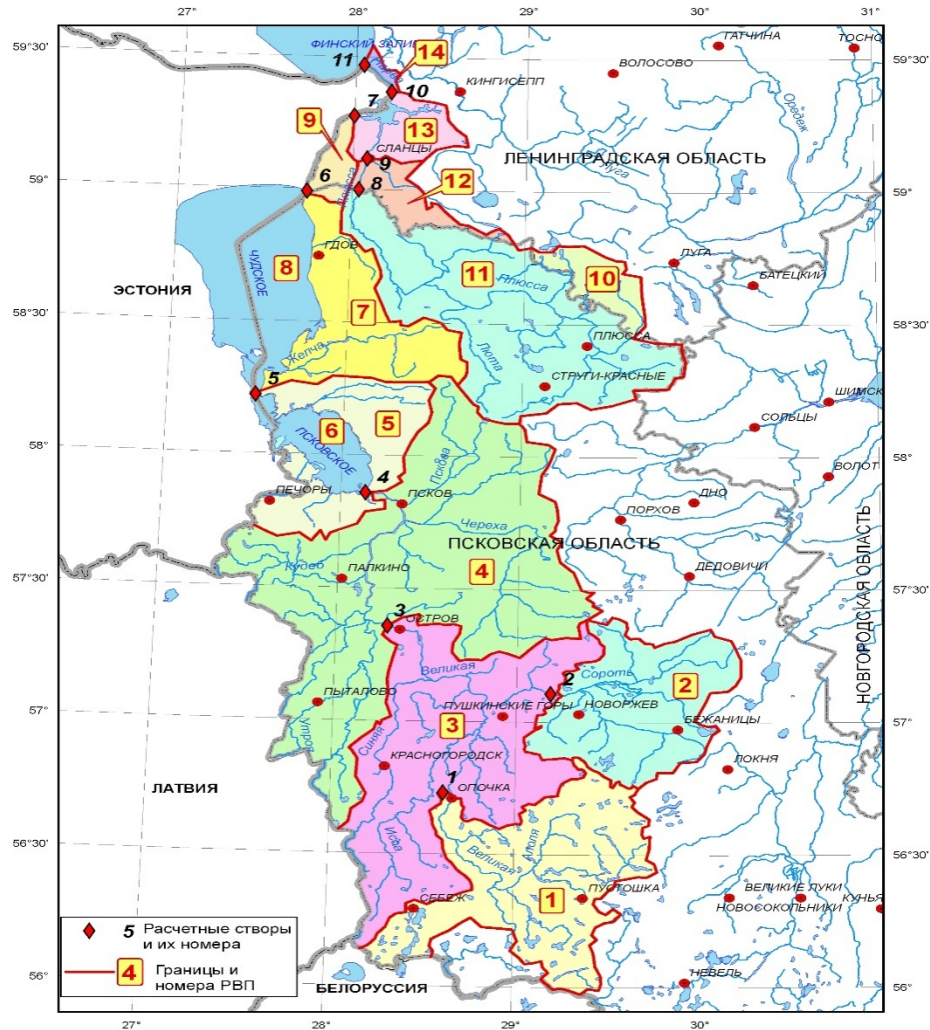
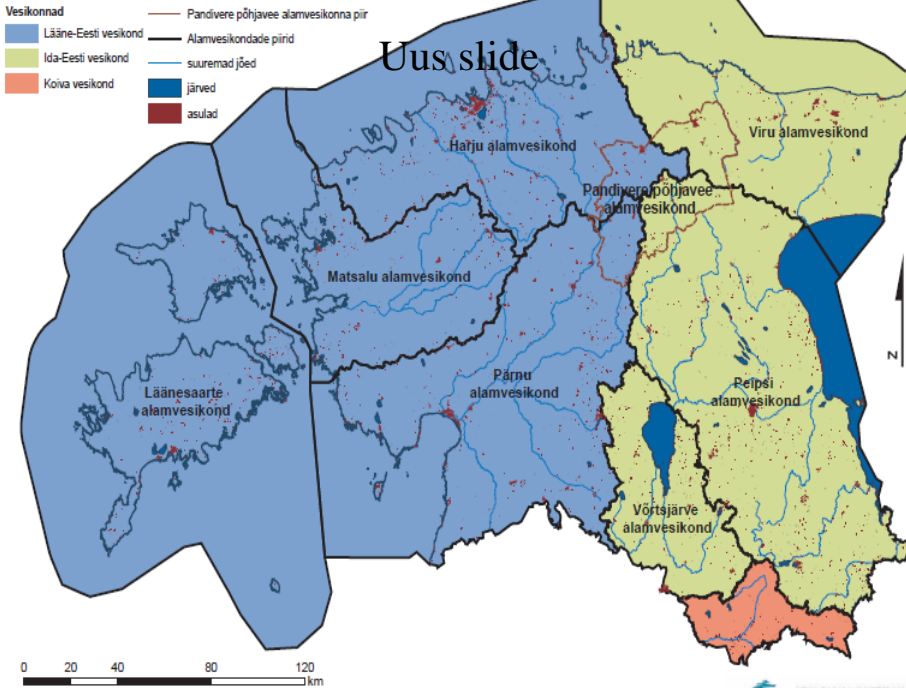
Important aspects to Basin Management in Estonian-Russian cooperation

- Systematic exchange of information about situation in water management and water quality
Joint monitoring and comparison of results, joint monitoring program
- Three years cooperation action program, renewed periodically
- River basin management plans on both sides of the border, implementation of those plans, adequate investments on whole basin area.
- Investments on both side for wastewater treatment
- Emergency information exchange

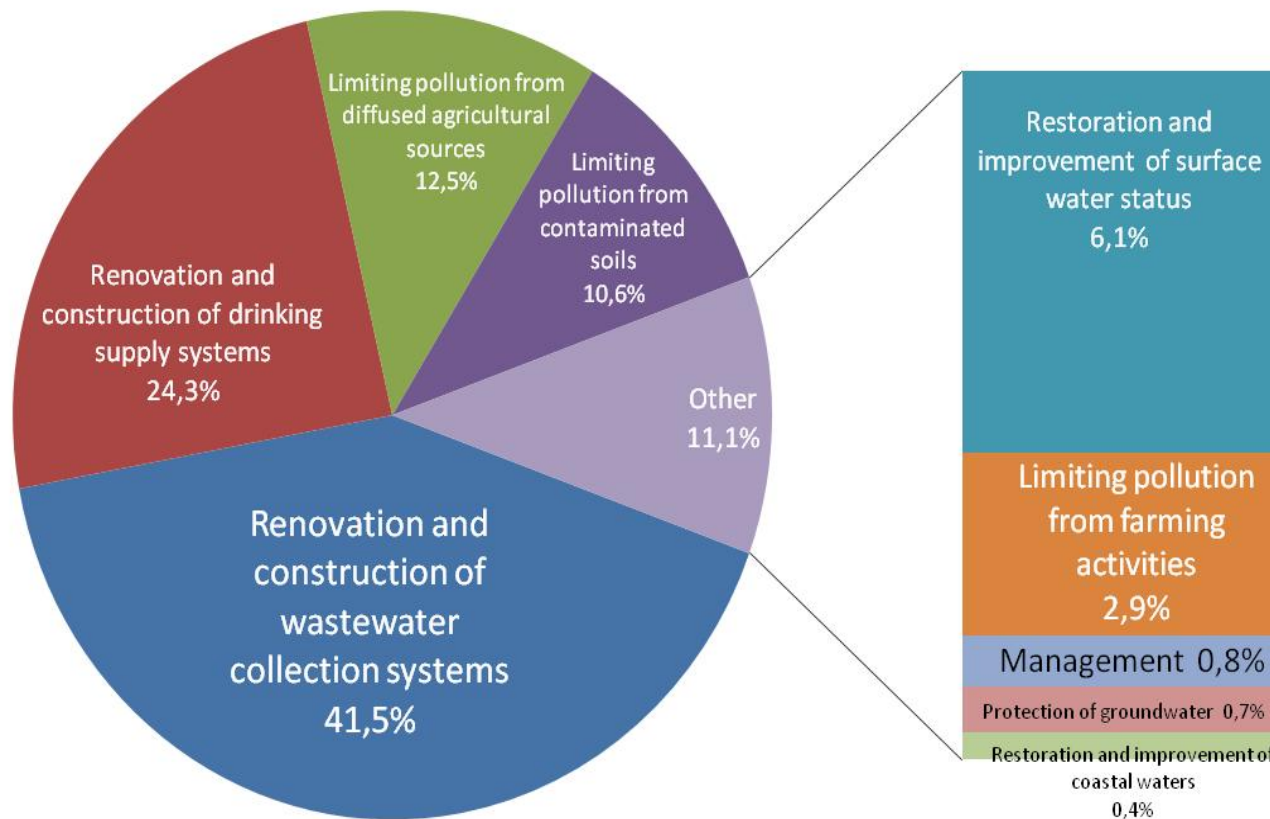
River basin districts

River Narva basin in Estonian side falls into 1 river basin district and 6 sub river basin districts and on Russian side 4 river basin district and 14 sub river basin districts

Eesti vesikonnad ja alamvesikonnad



WFD costs





Most frequent measures implemented

Renovation and expansion of wastewater collection systems and replacement of wastewater treatment plants in agglomerations less than 2000 p.e.

Renovation of water supply systems and drinking water treatment plants in municipalities with less than 2000 inhabitants

Elimination of past pollution and soil remediation of an old oil storage

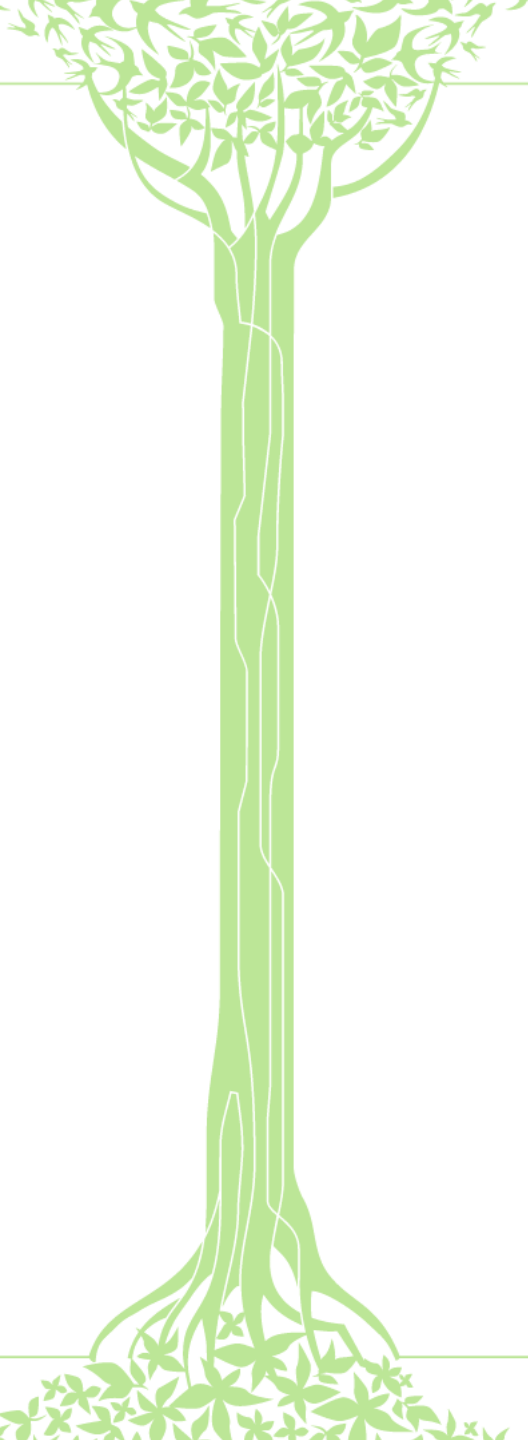
Elimination of obstacles and old dams from rivers

Restoration of natural river habitats for fish migration

Lake restoration by partial sediment removal and/or removal of water plants

Restoration of reservoirs or artificial lakes for recreational purposes, water storage

Establishing new manure storages, renovation of farm houses



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