Cities sharing a sea

A PRESENTATION OF SIDA'S ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS AROUND THE BALTIC SEA

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Clean cities – clean sea

There are many cities around the Baltic Sea. Among them there is the fourth largest city in Europe - St Petersburg – as well as the capital cities of Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Sweden and Denmark. Ten years ago, none of the Baltic Sea cities in the Baltic States or Poland had an effective system for waste-water treatment. Today they all have it. Untreated discharges have decreased considerably – in Estonia by 60 per cent, in Latvia by 70 per cent, and in Lithuania by 30 per cent. This means that the goal of halving discharges of phosphorus, established by the Baltic Sea states in 1988, has been achieved.

"Discharges have been halved

The treatment of waste-water from the Baltic cities has been achieved through close cooperation between the countries around the Baltic Sea and international finance institutes. Sweden, via Sida, has participated in the construction of waste-water treatment plants in six of the cities. In a further six, including St Petersburg and Kaliningrad, construction will start in the near future with Swedish participation.

Sida is also working to make the use of energy efficient in the cities around the Baltic Sea. Sida has financed modern plants for district heating in the three largest cities in Estonia. Besides providing more reliable heating for the people living in the cities, these plants also reduce the consumption of energy. This, in turn, reduces emissions of gases that affect the climate and gives cleaner air. Similar activities have been implemented in Riga and Vilnius, and are taking place in Kiev and several Russian cities.

However, the Baltic Sea is also threatened by leakages from landfills in the vicinity of the cities. Sida is participating in a project to change waste management in Latvia. Hitherto, waste has been dumped without any sorting whatsoever. Now sorting, careful storage and the destruction of hazardous waste are being introduced. An enormous pond in Sillamäe in Estonia, which contains radioactive waste, is now being secured with support from Sida. The handling of hazardous waste in St Petersburg shall also be improved.

It is predicted that the Baltic Sea region will be one of the fastest growing regions in the world. The environmental programmes that Sweden and Sida have participated in contribute to improving conditions in the cities around the Baltic Sea prior to the expected economic expansion.

Sida

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COVER PICTURE FROM A CHILDREN'S DRAWING CONTEST IN LIEPAJA, LATVIA.
PHOTO: VICTOR BROTT/ GLOBAL REPORTING

Swedish

The wastewater treatment plant in Haapsalu was built with financing from Sida.

BALTIC SEA

A better environment as well as reforms, transparency and a sound market approach: these are the results of Swedish contributions for water and wastewater treatment in the Baltic States.

● A recent study made by international consultants states that the three projects included in the study – Haapsalu, Liepaja and Klaipeda – have been successful. Sida has participated in these projects and has financed the construction of new, modern treatment plants and the reform of the municipal water companies.

Today, these Baltic cities have effective wastewater treatment which fulfils EU's requirements. The water companies are run efficiently and offer better and more reliable services at reasonable prices. Wastefulness

efforts make a difference

VICTOR BROTT/ GLOBAL REPORTING

MAP: MARTIN EK

has been reduced, since the water is no longer free. The study confirms that the projects have led to a reduction of discharges of effluents into the Baltic Sea, improvements in the quality of drinking water, and a greater awareness of the environment. The projects have also been important as demonstration projects for other Baltic towns.

The three projects have also been of great importance for the Swedish companies and consultants that have worked with them. They have gained important experience, acquired contacts on a previously closed market, and have been given new commissions in other projects. The projects have been showcases that they can show their clients.

"They were the very first projects in these countries with the participation of the West after the fall of the Soviet Union, and there was no experience anywhere," says Lars Eklund, Head of the Environment and Energy Division at Sida-East and one of those who has worked with the projects from the very outset.

Sweden's strategy were to combine the Swedish funds with funds from other major financiers, primarily the World Bank. By doing so, the funds had a greater impact than they would have had if Sweden had gone into the projects alone. At the same time, Sweden has been able to make demands on the design of the projects.

"Initially, the environmental profile of the projects was rather poor," recalls Lars Eklund, "but we learned that we could participate in major projects and influence them."

One important component was to establish cooperation between Swedish municipal water works and water works in the three Baltic States. The intention was that the Swedish water works would act as advisers and driving forces in the transformation of the Baltic water works where market-orientation, service-mindedness and openness were concerned.

One of the most difficult problems was to introduce tariffs for water, which was previously supplied free of charge for consumers.

Improvements

HAAPSALU

Discharges	before	after	reduction
Phosphorus (tons per year)	16	2	88 %
BOD* (tons per year)	346	62	82 %
Nitrogen (tons per year)	50	40	20 %
Water consumption		before	after
(litres per person and day)		400-500	100-200

LIEPAJA

Discharges	before	after	reduction
Phosphorus (tons per year)	95	24	75 %
BOD* (tons per year)	650	180	75 %
Nitrogen (tons per year)	330	120	64 %
Water consumption		before	after
(litres per person and day)		260	180

KLAIPEDA

Discharges	before	after	reduction
Phosphorus (tons per year)	102	35	66 %
BOD* (tons per year)	3727	351	91 %
Nitrogen (tons per year)	770	468	39 %
Water consumption		before	after
(litres per person and day)		311	119

(*substances consuming oxygen)

FACTS

THE POLLUTED BALTIC SEA

In the beginning of the 1990s, the worst sources of pollution around the Baltic Sea were identified. These included the coastal towns of Haapsalu in Estonia, Liepaja in Latvia and Klaipeda in Lithuania.
Some 10 years later, after the implementation of the environmental projects financed by, among others, Sida and the World Bank, the towns have been deleted from the list.

The largest environmental project in Eastern Europe

RUSSIA

The waste-water treatment plant in St Petersburg is the largest environmental project in Eastern Europe since the fall of the Soviet Union.

● The South-west wastewater treatment plant in St Petersburg offers a very important gateway for Swedish companies in Russia. It is planned that this enormous project, with financing amounting to SEK 1.5 billion, will start at the beginning of next year and be completed in 2004. It shall treat sewage from 700 000 residents. Today, their sewage is discharged untreated into the Gulf of Finland.

Construction work was started in the 1980s but came to a standstill in 1995 when the funds ran out. There were many, complicated problems relating to the resumption of construction, and piecing the project together has been an intricate task in which Sida has played an active role. A Swedish-Finnish consortium, with Skanska and NCC from Sweden and YIT from Finland, is contracted for the implementation of the project together with the water and waste-water company in St Petersburg.

"The project is extremely complex and requires many different agreements", says Lars Eklund, Head of the Environment and Energy Division at Sida-East, who has participated in the preparatory work for several years.

Construction of the South-west wastewater treatment plan in St Petersburg was halted in the mid 1990´s. Now it is restarted under surveillance of, among others, Michail Probinskij.

MATS SUNDGREN

One prerequisite for the project has been the reform of St Petersburg's water company, Vodokanal. Here Sweden has played an important role. Sida has invested SEK 12 million in the reform work which has been done with the aid of Stockholm Water in cooperation with colleagues from Finland and England. Apart from the two Swedish companies being included in the consortium that is contracted for the total responsibility for the project, Swedish companies will deliver much of the equipment. This means that Swedish industry will obtain an important showcase for the large Russian market.

FACTS • **FINANCING**

There are eleven financiers behind the construction of the south-west treatment plant. Several are development banks, for example the Nordic Investment Bank (NIB). It is planned that Sida's grant will amount to SEK 100 million, which shall be used for the procurement of equipment in Sweden. But Swedish companies can also compete for delivering equipment to other parts of the project.

Great interest in cooperation with Sweden

ST PETERSBURG "All Russian towns should work in this way." This remark was made by the Governor of St Petersburg, Vladimir Jakovlev, on Sida's cooperation with the city's water company, Vodokanal, when he spoke at a recent conference. The aim of the conference was that St Petersburg should show what they had learnt from cooperation with water companies in Sweden, Britain and Finland and experts in business development. St Petersburg's water company has received extensive international support in the form of grants and credits, and has learned to assume responsibility for this support. Recently the city received the prize for Russia's best water company. The mere participation of both regional and federal agencies raised the status of the conference which attracted 40 water companies form all over Russia as well as bankers and financiers. Stockholm Water, together with Swedish Water Development, has cooperated with St Petersburg's Vodokanal, mainly in questions concerning IT and reductions in water consumption.

First project in Russia

ST PETERSBURG The south-west treatment plant in St Petersburg is the first project to receive support from the partnership for the environment in the Northern Dimension (NDEP). This is a programme of cooperation between the EU Commission, four international financing institutions and Russia, which has the aim of coordinating the improving the efficiency of environmental projects around the Baltic Sea and the Barents Sea. NDEP has drawn up a list of thirteen projects in north-west Russia that shall receive support.

MAP: KAJSA FREDHOLM

Sida helps Lviv clean up effluents

UKRAINE Recently, an agreement was signed between Sida and Ukraine on a water and waste-water project in the city of Lviv, in the west of Ukraine. It is the first development cooperation project in Ukraine in the water and waste water sector, and one of the largest in Eastern Europe. Sida's contribution is a grant of SEK 48 million.

Lviv, with almost one million inhabitants, is the only city in Ukraine whose sewage reaches the Baltic Sea, and the project will result in considerable reductions in discharges of effluents. The water and waste water system in Lviv is in an advanced state of disrepair. There is a great risk that the system will collapse.

The project is being implemented in cooperation with the World Bank and preparations have taken a long time.

One of the World Bank's conditions is that the state of Ukraine participates as a guarantor and it has been very difficult to achieve political consensus on this in Ukraine. Finally, the World Bank presented an ultimatum. There would be no more projects in Ukraine if the state did not participate as a guarantor. Now it is hoped that the project will be a model for similar initiatives in the country.

FACTS • **BALTIC SEA**

Lviv is on the list of so-called "hot spots", i.e. places that discharge environmentally hazardous effluents into the Baltic Sea and listed on the action programme of the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM). Lviv is the eleventh hot spot around the Baltic Sea in which Sida is involved.

In order save energy public buildings like this day care center will be inventoried and rebuilt. JOHAN WINGBORG

No overcoats indoors when Kiev saves energy

UKRAINE

In the Soviet Union energy was cheap and nobody considered saving. Now the economy is in a crisis and to save energy is a way to improve the city's finances. In Kiev a programme supported by Sida is reducing the energy consumption in public buildings.

● At Day Care Centre 560 the indoor temperature was 13 degrees during last years winter.

"This is jerry-built" says manager Natalya Samoylova. "The windows are too big and not properly sealed. We can't open two doors because they would just fall apart. The roof is flat and leaky. Plus that all our heat goes straight up and out as we have neither attic or insulation."

"Those of us who still work here must be crazy" she adds. "Child care and primary school haven't received a red cent for the last ten years."

She tells us enthusiastically about the children and the personnel who still continue in spite of the fact that their salary is only one third of the Ukrainian average. This day care centre is also a weekly care home. Some children, mostly those with single mothers, arrive early on Monday morning and are not fetched until Friday evening. Human warmth levels are high but the indoor temperature leaves a little to be desired.

But now Day Care Centre 560 is one of the first ten buildings to be included in the energy inventory. It is part of a Sida-financed project to save energy in the Ukrainian capital. Swedish consultants in management energy inventories and financial control train Ukrainian technicians. Bo Björk from the consultant Hifab thinks it is fantastic to be able to work with Ukrainians in the project.

"They are well educated and motivated. It is a tragedy that these people worked for so long without being able to learn from the expertise available outside the Soviet Bloc."

Sida has insisted that the energy saving project must prioritise social areas such as day care centres, schools and hospitals. A total of 1 300 buildings in Kiev will be inventoried and rebuilt in order to stop the waste of energy.

TINA LUNDH

Watching children play and learning to swim in one of Gatchina's indoor swimming pools on a cold winter day makes you realize the imp

Preciou

GATCHINA – RUSSIA'S N

RUSSIA

Gatchina, some 40 kilometres south of St Petersburg, is a leading town in the environmental field. Thanks to innovative thinking and external impulses, and with the support of Sweden, among others, Gatchina was recently selected as Russia's best kept town.

● With the aid of Sweden, Gatchina is in the course of reorganising its energy system. By increasing fees and installing modern equipment, water and heating, which previously consumed over half of the town's budget, only account for 17 per cent today.

"Lowering costs in the energy sector has had the effect that we can concentrate more on the social sector," says the Mayor of Gatchina, Stanislav Bogdanov.

Gatchina is the first Russian town to install modern Swedish district heating piping with the latest technology, which minimises leakages and reduces costs. With Swedish assistance, local district heating centres are being installed in Gatchina. These centres will better adapt heating in the apartments to prevailing conditions.

Thirty thousand people, a third of the town's inhabi-

portance of water.

ANDERS GUNNARTZ

s water

UMBER ONE GREEN CITY

tants, now receive their hot water and heating via Swedish district heating centres.

Sida has helped to reform Gatchina's municipal energy company and to introduce a new way of thinking. Swedish consultants and technology, as well as impressions gained in Gatchina's twin town in Sweden, Eskilstuna, have inspired an economical energy system. The company now makes its regular payments without any problems.

Public subsidies for water have come to an end in Russia. The consumers must now pay for their water consumption, but it is difficult for those in power to raise the fees. People suffer and protest.

Gatchina's water company is now being reorganised on the basis of a Swedish model. It can charge fees for its services, bear its own costs and, at the same time, improve its services.

"The projects that have been implemented in Gatchina with Swedish support have been very successful."

This comment was made at a recent seminar by Leonid Tjernysjov, deputy ministry for building and municipal services in Russia. The point of departure of the seminar were the district heating projects supported by Sida in Gatchina.

Energy savings are in the region of 20 per cent and are expected to be higher when the centres are finely tuned. No extensive modernisation programme of this type has been implemented anywhere else in Russia.

At Krasnyj Bor all of St Petersburg's toxic waste is dumped without treatment. MATS SUNDGREN

Toxic waste since 30 years

ST PETERSBURG

Sida are financing emergency measures to safeguard the management of hazardous waste in the St Petersburg region.

● The project includes securing the tailing dams in Krasnyj Bor, 30 kilometres outside St Petersburg. Environmentally hazardous and toxic waste has been stored here for 30 years. Most of the waste has been dumped in open dams that overflow periodically and are in danger of collapsing.

The dams shall be drained and covered. In addition a treatment plant shall be built for leached water. Registration and classification of waste shall be introduced and effects on the environment shall be measured and followed up.

Another part of the project is to help St Petersburg to obtain a greater degree of control over waste disposal. After the fall of the Soviet Union, the lack of inspections have had the effect that several industries illegally discharge untreated oil waste, solvents, paint and varnish waste and heavy metals in the sewage system. They are then transported further into the Baltic Sea.

Today, there is no capacity to receive and treat toxic and environmentally hazardous waste in a safe way. In the new system that shall be introduced, the city and the waste company will be able to exercise control over the amounts of waste, and producers of waste shall pay enough to cover the cost of running activities.

Sida is investing almost SEK 9 million in the project. The funds shall be used for equipment and consulting support from Sweden. Other Nordic countries, the European Development Bank and the EU are also participating in the project, which has a total cost of over SEK 100 million.

Seepage is poisoning the Gulf of Finland.

Hazardous waste cleaned up in Sillamäe

ESTONIA The most dangerous environmental bomb in the Baltic Sea will be disarmed in a project supported by Sida.

The tailing pond in Sillamäe is a cynical monument to the Soviet Union. Here, waste was deposited for forty years from environmentally hazardous operations in Estonia and neighbouring areas – all mixed up in one great mess. All in all, there is twelve million tons of waste here and a large proportion of this waste contains uranium. Uranium was produced for military purposes in the adjacent processing plan, for example for submarines. The

The leakage is stopped

LATVIA

Leakages from landfills in the Baltic States constitute a threat to the Baltic Sea, drinking water and the climate. Sida is participating in the construction of environmentally sustainable methods to take care of waste.

At the landfill in Skede scavengers are looking for something of value. But that is the only separation of waste that takes place. MATS SUNDGREN

● At the landfill in Skede, outside Liepaja in Latvia, there is a great deal of activity as soon as a refuse collection truck empties its load. Refuse separators – people living on the absolute fringe of society – gather around the rubbish and quickly sort out those things that can be re-used or sold. But this is the only separation of waste that takes place and, at tips like these, the waste is mixed in an enormous mess. The result is that toxic water is leached into the ground water, and probably also into the sea which is only one kilometre from the tip.

The landfill in Skede is one of thirty around Liepaja, the second largest city in Latvia with its 120 000 inhabitants. They discharge great amounts of substances that are harmful to the environment into the ground, air and water. However, last year, work started on building up one single environment-friendly landfill for the entire city of Liepaja. Sida is one of the financiers and Swedish environmental companies are playing important roles in the project.

It is intended that existing landfills will be secured, i.e. they will not leak any more toxic water and greenhouse gases. Then they will be covered and closed. By inserting pipes into the landfills, it will be possible to obtain biogas which will be converted into electricity.

The new landfill will be built in Grobina, in an area that, up to ten years ago, was used by the Soviet army for ramps for rockets aimed at Sweden. It is far from water courses and houses and the ground consists of a thick layer of clay that will prevent leakages of water.

The new landfill will meet all the requirements laid down by the EU for waste management. Twenty-six employees shall ensure that the waste that arrives at the landfill is sorted and stored in suitable places.

Today Latvia is working actively to meet EU's requirements for modern waste management. New legislation has been produced in a relatively short period of time. Of the country's 500 waste tips, only ten will remain in operation when the strategy has been implemented by the year 2010.

The newly established municipal waste company in Liepaja shall receive support from Swedish specialists in waste management in order to develop its capacity. To make the environmental improvements permanent, their costs must be covered and they must be backed up by an effective organisation. The objective is that the municipal waste company shall pay its way and be run in a modern, open and cost-efficient way.

FAKTA • **WASTE MANAGEMENT**

Sida is participating in the financing of several waste projects in the Baltic region. The contributions of Swedish municipalities, consultants and entrepreneurs are of decisive importance in these projects. The basic idea is that as much waste as possible shall be recycled and that remaining waste shall be used as a raw material for the production of energy.

plant was top secret and Sillamäe was a closed town until 1990. Through seepage, several tons of toxic pollutants flow out each day into the Gulf of Finland.

But there are much more serious threats than this. The dam of the tailing pond is unstable. It is sliding slowly towards the sea and is in danger of disintegrating.

Moreover, the sea is aggressive and the dam is being eroded by heavy storms.

"A drainage trench shall be excavated and the dam shall be covered to prevent water seeping through the slope out into the sea", says Raimo Jaaksoo, who is leading the project to secure the dam. "We hope to be able to stop 95 per cent of the water."

Raimo Jaaksoo.

Breakwaters shall be built on the beach. The dam shall be stabilised by driving 18 meter piles into the slope at three-metre intervals.

"We are investing in long-term safety", says Raimo Jaaksoo. "We expect the dam to hold for at least a thousand years."

New technology can reduce the energy consumption in Warsaw by up to ten percent.

ANDERS GUNNARTZ

Saving energy in big towns

DEMOEAST Pellets for environment-friendly heating in Estonia, small-scale hydropower in Latvia and the optimisation of energy production in Poland. These are some of the projects that received support via DemoEast. Sida provides part-financing of up to 50 per cent of the cost of Swedish environmental and energy equipment.

By supporting demonstration projects, Sida helps partner countries to obtain access to better technology and Swedish companies to obtain greater opportunities to sell their systems.

DemoEast is being financed by the Baltic Sea Programme in which SEK 1 billion has been allocated for the development of trade and industry in the Baltic Sea region. "The projects given support are good for two reasons, they are environment-friendly and they have a market potential," says Ulf Bojö, managing the programme.

The project in Poland is a typical DemoEast project. Optimising energy production involves using a computer system that includes all the variables that can influence needs of energy in a city. It thus makes it possible to adapt production to needs. The system is used in Sweden, for example in Helsingborg. In Warsaw, where it shall now be introduced, it is estimated that it could save between five and ten per cent of current energy consumption.

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Heating -

LITHUANIA

New technology saves money and the environment when Sida helps to modernise the heating system in Vilnius.

● In a three-storey building on a typical 1960s' estate on the outskirts of Vilnius, Polina Skalinovskaja is busy making her windows draughtproof. The new heating technology is now being used in her house and, since Polina is the caretaker of the building, she receives the hot water meter readings made by her neighbours in their apartments. The total is then compared with the meter in the cellar. The figures do not always tally, which has led to some grumbles. The tenants are asking why the new system is not cheaper.

At the district heating plant in Vilnius, modern automatic control equipment has recently been installed. Previously the burners were either run at full power or were switched off, there was no in-between position. This had the result that it was often so hot in the apartments in the winter that the tenants had have their windows open all the time to let the heat out. There were no plans to adjust the supply of heating since energy was so cheap during the Soviet era. Oil cost one per cent of the world market price.

Just as in other places in Eastern Europe, the increases in the prices of oil and coal after independence came as a shock to Lithuanians. Moreover, Lithuania has its own nuclear power station, Ignalina, which, in the mind of the general public, produced electricity completely free of charge. Many people were so severely affected by the drastic price increases that their entire wages were spent on heating their apartments.

Now the burners have been replaced and automatic control equipment has been installed at the heating station which provides 80 per cent of the 500 000 people living in Vilnius with district heating. According to the plans, the heating station shall meet the electricity needs of all the people in Vilnius in the future. Then there will be an alternative source of the energy that is produced today in the nuclear power station, Ignalina.

TEXT: TINA LUNDH

– a hot issue in Vilnius

Polina Skalinovskaja is making her windows draughtproof. The new heating technology is now being used in her house. JOHAN WINGBORG

Nuclear power station closes

Less extravagance with energy is essential to enable Lithuania to close the nuclear power station in Ignalina, which has been criticised severely for its low safety levels. As a result of strong pressure from the EU, the government of Lithuania has decided that one of the reactors will be closed in 2005. One major question concerns the future of the more than 30 000 people that live around Ignalina and are completely dependent on the nuclear power station for employment. All of them are ethnic Russians and it will be difficult to integrate them into the Lithuanian labour market. Sida has made a study of the social consequences of closing the power station and has decided to contribute in helping people to find alternative employment.

FACTS
ENERGY IN THE BALTIC REGION

The energy sector in the Baltic States is undergoing a crisis. During recent years, a large and growing proportion of municipal and regional budgets has been allocated for the heating of houses and apartments and other buildings. The expenditure on heating leaves little money available for other urgent needs, not least in the social sector.

An energy system in which the person who consumes the energy is also the person who pays for it, is of central importance for a long-term development in the Baltic States.

Therefore, Sida is participating in the reform of the energy sector in the Baltic States.

“We keep on saying that environment is important”

BALTIC SEA

Independence involved a tremendous boost for the environment in the three Baltic States.
The Baltic States have now adapted their environmental policies to EU requirements. But there is still no strong interest in the environment in Russia.

● The environmental movement played a strong role in the struggle for independence and the first international context in which the Baltic States participated as independent states was in the negotiations on the Helcom action programme for the Baltic Sea in the beginning of the 1990s. Becoming engaged in international work had an important symbolic value for the Baltic States, and participating in making the Baltic Sea cleaner offered an opportunity of this very type.

“The Baltic States opened up their borders and it was easier for visitors from other countries to come and discuss these issues,” recalls Lars Eklund, Head of the Division for Energy and the Environment at Sida East. “The door was open and interest was strong. It was simply a matter of pressing the button and getting started.”

Subsequently, other matters came into focus and there was competition for funds and interest. But, by this stage, the countries had already succeeded in building up a certain amount of capacity for handling environmental issues.

The first phase of the environmental work consisted of large projects that required relatively large resources, both international and local. The second phase is more a case of getting the countries to stand on their own feet. This process takes a longer time but they have received a great deal of money from the EU to enable them to adapt to the EU’s environmental requirements.

Providing rapid assistance. Lars Eklund, Head of the Division for Energy and the Environment at Sida East. MATS SUNDGREN

Initially, the problems appeared to be insurmountable, and Sweden’s role was to provide rapid assistance in order to produce examples of projects that proved it was possible to achieve something and that the costs were not unreasonable.

“It was important that people could see that things were happening,” recalls Lars Eklund. “We also ensured that the environmental profile of the projects was raised. A water supply project is no help to the environment unless water consumption is reduced and the proportion of treated waste-water is increased. That’s what we spent our energy on.”

Russia is one phase behind the Baltic States. Russia did not have the driving force that independence meant to the Baltic States, and the prospect of international contacts was not equally attractive.

Very little has changed where attitudes to the environment are concerned. It still has low status at the political level. Locally, it is possible to discern popular support for environmental work, but there has never been a strong environmental movement. Nor have the Russians had the same feeling for the Baltic Sea, which is only a very small part of Russia’s territory.

Where water supply and energy are concerned, Russian politicians are driven by other forces than consideration of the environment. Costs must be reduced and one way is to reduce wastefulness. It is difficult to allocate funds to projects that merely concern the environment.

”Russia has limited resources, but that is why we are there - to persuade them nonetheless to invest some of their resources in the environment,” says Lars Eklund. ”Since we continually persist in talking about the environment in all our contacts at all levels, the Russians understand that environmental issues are of great importance in international relations and they must be given just as much priority as economic growth. We show this concretely by contributing our funds for investments in the environment.”