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**LAND USE HISTORY OF THE KARELIAN ISTHMUS — A PROJECT
OUTLINE**

Abstract

The research project "Land use history of the Karelian Isthmus and the NW Ladoga region — a palaeoecological and archaeological study" is a direct continuation of the research of palaeoecology and environmental history of eastern Finland that has been conducted at the University of Joensuu since 1973.

The four main objectives of the present study project are:

- 1) To clarify by archaeological methods the cultural changes involved in the transition from Bronze Age hunting-fishing-gathering economy to that of permanent agriculture, and to connect this change with population growth and the development of trading networks in the study area. It is presumed that the development of agriculture started around AD 800, but that the profitable fur trading retarded its early development until the 11th century.
- 2) To study the above hypothesis with palaeoecological methods, and to work out a general outline of the interactions of human populations with their environment from the Bronze Age to the present. Special emphasis will be placed on the interrelationship between slash-and-burn agriculture and the cultivation of permanent fields, as evidenced by pollen analysis.
- 3) To bridge the gap between palaeo- and actuecological knowledge of pollen grain dispersal and deposition.
- 4) To reach a synthesis of the archaeological and palaeoecological evidence, as regards the ecological constraints of human occupation, the historical development of land use practices, and the history of settlements in the study area.

The study will be conducted as a cooperation between scientists from the University of Joensuu, the University of Turku, Finland, and the Institutes of Archaeology and Limnology, Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg.

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