The web-based GIS of the paleolimnological project CONTINENT (Lake Baikal, Russia)

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The web-based CONTINENT Geographical Information System GIS was designed for the paleolimnological project 'High-resolution CONTINENTal paleoclimate record in Lake Baikal' (Lake Baikal, Siberia, Russia) to allow the interactive handling of spatial data *(http://dc108.gfz-potsdam.de/website/Baikal/viewer.htm).* The GIS database combines project data (core positions, sample positions, thematic maps) with auxiliary spatial data sets that were downloaded from freely available data sources on the world wide web. The reliability of the external data was evaluated and suitable new spatial datasets were processed according to the scientific questions of the project. GIS analysis of the data was used to assist studies on sediment provenance in Lake Baikal. The refined geodata are returned back to the scientific community by using online data publication portals. Data were made citeable by assigning persistent identifiers (DOI) and were published through the German National Library for Science and Technology (TIB Hannover, Hannover, Germany) under doi:10.1594/GFZ.SDDB.1202.