

examined our mistakes and oversights critically. Most importantly, we elaborated a strategy for our participation in solving complex ecological problems.

Participants in the seminar conference critically analyzed what they had done and focused their attention on unsolved problems and difficult points. They mapped out a programme for coordinated activity by the law protection and environmental protection bodies.

A major task for the procurators' offices today is to ensure that the laws protecting nature are observed. Recently this has acquired a more aggressive, consistent character. We are forced to adopt this stance as a result of decades of poor management practices. These practices have caused nature to be subjected on an almost daily basis to the harmful effect of industrial and agricultural enterprises and complexes. The ecological situation in many regions continues to worsen. Despite this, however, even with continuing industrial development, priority is given to narrow bureaucratic interests, rather than to nature conservation and public health.

The above is also true of the enterprises under the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry. Verbal statements made by leaders of this industry and official documents issued by the Ministry would suggest that protection of the environment was a top priority for the Ministry. However....

The reality of our statements of principle must be tested in practice. Unfortunately, the action taken to establish the desired relationship with nature in the enterprises under the Ministry's jurisdiction fell far short of what was stated in public. I say frankly: the situation is critical.