

rains were transformed into torrential run-off, which was carried by the rivers into the Black Sea and Sea of Azov. The habitat deteriorated for valuable species of fishes. The rivers became shallower, since due to the intensive fellings along the banks they had been deprived of their protective forests, and the flow rates of potable water and mineral springs decreased. Added to this were the heavy losses of underwood and the damage inflicted on the soil by the heavy caterpillar treads. A major disaster has been caused by the pursuit of short-term gains.

At an All-Union seminar held to consider this matter at the Guzeripl'skii timber industry enterprise in the Krasnodar Krai, the thought was repeatedly expressed: "Give us environment sparing technology with which to exploit the mountain forests". The emphasis was on the extensive use of aerial cable installations and helicopters instead of the destructive TT-4 tractors. While it was the Krasnodar people who had the most to say in the discussion, they should have been the first to acknowledge that had it not been for the banishment of the harmless aerial cables, they would have had such technology all along. And even today, they might have been harvesting those 4 million cubic metres, as in past years, but without causing damage to the ecology of the Northern Caucasus. A representative from the Ukrainian Ministry of the Timber Industry. I. Davydenko, was the sole speaker in support of the widespread introduction of cable installations on an experimental basis. In the Carpathians, 150 of these units were in operation, with 800,000 cubic metres of timber harvested annually. It was deplorable that throughout the country as a whole, including the Ukraine, only 1,100,000 cubic metres were being obtained by this method.