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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Carl Mitchell, COTR/USAID, Washington

**COPIES:** Jim Westfield/EPT, Washington  
Mac Brown/EPT, Washington

**FROM:** Jean Shaikh, Deputy Project Director

**DATE:** April 16, 1997

**SUBJECT:** Report of NGO Institutional Strengthening Workshop

Please find attached the report for the above mentioned Workshop:

- **Workshop entitled "Environmental Information" - Delivery Order 11, Task 1.3b - Principles and Practice of Management at a Local Level" conducted by ECOLOGIA under a contract from USAID, Environmental Policy and Technology Project in Vladivostok and Khabarovsk, Russia Far East - for the period of February 27, 1997 to March 5, 1997**

**Attachments**

f:\data\fe\AID Letter - M011, April 1997

CH2M Hill  
CCN-0003-Q-11-3165



Environmental Policy and Technology  
Project Regional Field Office / Moscow

(Managed by CH2M HILL)

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7 April 1997

Alison Sartonov  
Contracting Officer Technical Representative  
Office of Environment and Health  
U.S. Agency for International Development  
Novinsky Boulevard, 19/23  
Moscow 121099, Russia

**Re: Environmental Policy & Technology Project  
Delivery Order 11, Task 1.3b Russian Far East**

Dear Dr. Sartonov:

Enclosed please find a report on the goals, proceedings, and recommendations of the workshop "Environmental Information: Principles and Practice of Management at the Local Level" that was designed and led by the Moscow environmental NGO Ecologia as part of the EPT Project's NGO Institutional Strengthening task. Two sessions of the workshop took place in Vladivostok (27 February-1 March) and Khabarovsk (3-5 March) and attracted, in total, 51 participants. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours  
Environmental Policy & Technology Project

Jerry W. Knapp  
Regional Director--Russia

Enclosure

cc: USAID/Moscow: Lyudmila Vikhrova  
EPT/Washington: Jim Westfield  
Jean Shaikh  
EPT/RFE: Dean Stepanek  
Natasha Donets  
EPT/Moscow: Olga Denissenko

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**Environmental information:  
principles and practice of management at the local level**

The final workshop report prepared by ECOLOGIA

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## Acknowledgments

ECOLOGIA is grateful to all those, who made the environmental information workshop in Vladivostok and Khabarovsk possible, first of all to Natasha Donets, EPT Vladivostok Project Coordinator, who put forwards the very idea of the workshop and played a wonderful host for ECOLOGIA team in Vladivostok and Khabarovsk.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Ann Rubin, who was a beautiful source of inspiration and helped us design quite a special part of the program dealt with natural resources conservation and protected areas designation.

We owe a debt of thanks to Olga Denisenko of US AID Environmental Policy and Technology Project in Moscow, who contributed a lot towards the preparatory period and workshop organization.

Our sincere thanks go to The Wildlife Foundation (Khabarovsk), its chairman A. Kulikov and our hosts Nina Bolshova and Galina Pojidaeva, who made our work and stay in this cold city so warm and nice. Khabarovsk Regional Committee for Nature Protection contributed a lot towards the success of the workshop, we are particularly grateful to Mr. V. Skachkov and Mr. A. Istigichev.

We would like to thank all those individuals and organizations that provided us with materials and documentation for the workshop: Dr. Nickolay Denisov of UNEP GRID-Arendal (Norway), Mr. Mike Flood of Powerful Information (England), Valery Soloviov and Vladimir Dmitriev of the Federal Forest Service (Russia) and many others.

Last but not least we wish to express our gratitude to everybody who found time in their busy working schedules and came to attend the workshop to contribute their ideas to its success.



## Executive summary

The workshop entitled '*Environmental Information: Principles and Practice of Management at a Local Level*' was conducted by ECOLOGIA under a contract from US AID Environmental Policy and Technology Project (EPT Project) in Vladivostok and Khabarovsk, Far East, Russia on February 27 – March 5, 1997.

During the preparatory stage of the workshop, ECOLOGIA contacted a number of Russian and international organizations to identify and obtain a set of materials related to the field of environmental information including the copies of legislative documents, directories of free information sources and lists best environmental publications. Some of these resources were specifically written by ECOLOGIA for the Far East workshop. ECOLOGIA designed and printed a 144–page handout on issues related to environmental information which can be used in similar activities or by environmental information centers elsewhere. ECOLOGIA also made necessary arrangements for a book exhibition and Internet training on–site.

The first part of the workshop was conducted in Vladivostok Youth Center and attracted 28 participants from the government, NGOs, universities, schools, mass–media and the libraries. The workshop panel sessions lasted for two days and included presentations by ECOLOGIA on such issues as

- citizens' right to information;
- environmental information systems,
- independent collection of environmental information,
- environmental impact assessments and public environmental reviews as tools of gathering information at the planning stage of economic activity,
- environmental auditing and monitoring as instruments of obtaining information on the functioning economic sites;
- the principles of the independent information center establishment and development;
- the principles of operation of environmental information center.
- specific features of the information on natural resources and protected landscapes;
- the basics of electronic and on–line environmental information sources;
- the principles of communication and dissemination of environmental information.

Workshop also included participant presentations on problems associated with operation of environmental information systems in the Far East Areas, a role play on public environmental review and closing discussion.

In addition to these workshop activities, ECOLOGIA provided individual and group consultations for the representatives of governmental and non–governmental organizations, universities, schools, libraries, etc.

ECOLOGIA concludes that the environmental information system in Vladivostok could be significantly improved by the development of an 'audience–oriented' user–interface to already existing environmental information of the local and regional level and by improving utilization of national and international environmental information sources using modern cost–effective technologies such as e–mail and access to Internet.

ECOLOGIA recommends that these goals be reached by setting a Public Environmental Information Center that would pool together existing and attract new human and material resources to provide necessary and well interpreted information for the public. Such a Center could be a structure based the 'shared responsibilities' principle, embracing already successfully functioning organizations such as ISAR, 'Eco–Logos', Green Cross, 'Pacifintour', 'Uragus', Academy for Marine Biology and many others.

According to the recommendations worked out by the Vladivostok workshop participants, the above idea is to be discussed at the coming round table of environmentally concerned local and regional organizations.

ECOLOGIA concludes that there are several government agencies and NGOs in the Khabarovsk region involved in collecting, analyzing and providing data on the state of environment and natural resources. Though officially governmental bodies are obliged to cooperate with each other and to exchange information, in the reality information flows remain to be very much narrow and departmental.

Such bodies as The Wildlife Foundation (Khabarovsk), The Pedagogical University, Khabarovsk Regional Committee for Nature Protection, Children Environmental Club and many others should work harder on information interpretation, provision and exchange while keeping to be concentrated on the indicated areas of interest.

ECOLOGIA recommends that at the beginning it would be very important to develop and to start implementing a program for collaboration between state and non-governmental environmental organizations. It's unlikely that at this stage a new structure (as an information center) establishment is appropriate. At the moment joint or interrelated projects and active information exchange are much more important for the development of the information system in the Khabarovsk region.

The above idea was discussed and approved in general on the second day of the Workshop and later on, at the round table in The Wildlife Foundation.

## Preparatory work

The preparatory activities for the workshop were conducted by ECOLOGIA in cooperation with the EPT project, Russian and international environmental organizations.

ECOLOGIA contacted a number of Russian and international organizations (such as Global Resource Information Database (GRID-Arendal) (Norway), Russian Federal Environmental Information Agency (Russia), Powerful Information (United Kingdom), the Center for Public Information of the Ministry of Health (Russia), Federal Forest Service (Russia) and others) to identify and obtain a set of materials related to the field of environmental information to be included in the Environmental Information Handbook to be handed out at the workshop. ECOLOGIA staff has also researched and written up such sections of the handout as the list of environmental publications, the list of free sources of environmental information in Russia and abroad, the citizens' guidelines to public environmental reviews, the list of open information sources on natural resources, and so on. All these materials were compiled in a 144-page workshop handout designed and printed in 60 copies by ECOLOGIA. The handout included the legislative materials related to the access to environmental information, directories of the government agencies responsible for collection and distribution of environmental information, the lists of Russian and international environmental information centers, the lists of the best environmental publications in Russian and English, discussion materials related to Environmental Impact Assessment, State and Public Environmental Reviews, a case study of the Independent Environmental Information Center Establishment and Development in a protected area of the Central Russia, a guide to the natural resources open information sources, etc. ECOLOGIA believes that this handout (Environmental Information Handbook) can be used in similar activities or by environmental information centers and environmental NGOs elsewhere throughout Russia.

ECOLOGIA also made necessary arrangements for a small book exhibition and Internet training on-site.

ECOLOGIA has also designed a pre-test questionnaire to test participants' familiarity with the main issues of access to environmental information.

## Workshop proceedings

### **General information on two Far East Workshops**

The first workshop took place Vladivostok Youth Center. It was attended by **28 participants** from the local authorities, state environmental agencies, NGOs, mass-media, educational institutions, libraries (see the list of participants enclosed). 4 additional participants from the State Committee for Hydrometeorology and local schools attended the workshop consultation day.

The second workshop was organized in Khabarovsk Regional Forest Service Building. It was attended by **26 participants** from the local authorities, regional Committee for Nature Protection, high school establishments, environmental NGOs, mass-media, etc. (see the list of participants enclosed).

In both cities ECOLOGIA set up a small book and environmental articles exhibition. All registered participants of the workshop received ECOLOGIA handouts, information about ECOLOGIA's free services in the field of information, recent ECOLOGIA brochures, and some stationery (notebook, folder, pen) purchased by ECOLOGIA.

To test the participants knowledge in the field of environmental information ECOLOGIA, during the first session of each workshop, distributed and analyzed a pre-test questionnaire. The workshop progress was evaluated during the final discussion and consultations. The Final Questionnaire was designed and distributed by EPT Project Coordinators.

### **Vladivostok Workshop**

#### **Vladivostok, Day 1 (Thursday, February 27)**

#### **Participants introduction**

The organizers of the workshop including representatives of the EPT project, ECOLOGIA and workshop participants briefly introduced themselves and explained their reasons for being at the workshop.

#### **General introduction: the types of environmental information and the structure of the workshop (Marina Khotulyova)**

The main goal of this session was to present a classification of environmental information used by ECOLOGIA in preparing the workshop (environmental information was divided into three types: (1) State of the Environment Information and Information on Natural Resources, (2) Independent Information and (3) Self Collected Information) and the main aspects of its management: collection/access to, processing/systematization and dissemination/communication. The structure of the workshop was designed so as to cover all aspects of dealing with all types of environmental information.

#### **Legislative aspects of the access to environmental information (Marina Khotulyova)**

The goal of this presentation was to address the issue of the *rights* of the public to environmental information and the *responsibilities* of the authorities in this regard. The participants were introduced to the recent Federal Law on Information, Informatization and Protection of Information (1995), the Law on the State Secrets (1993), the Federal Environmental Review Law (1995) and many other legislative acts related to this topic.

#### **Environmental information systems of the Russian Federal government (Tatiana Guseva)**

The presentation addressed the specific mechanisms of managing environmental information at the federal level. The Russian system of collecting environmental data is characterized by a great number of agencies involved, overlapping responsibilities and over-centralized approach.

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Therefore, the participants needed to understand what agencies are involved in collecting data on the state of the environment, air and water emissions, solid waste and so on.

In the following question-and-comment session, the participants indicated that though the general legal requirements on the access of information and the responsibilities of the federal agencies are clearly formulated, there is the lack of regulations, instructions and guidelines that would facilitate collection and distribution of environmental information and information on natural resources at local and regional levels.

### **Environmental information systems in the Primorsky Region: perspectives and constraints (Participants' presentation).**

#### ***Dr. Vladimir Karakin, Pacific Institute of Geography***

Dr. Karakin indicated that though the law requires free distribution of environmental information to all interested citizens the funding of the State Committee of Environment local branches does not provide for any communication activities so that only raw data can be given to population. He also pointed out that the regional specific need for the information on nature resources in general and multibenefit nature resources management is not available for the local communities at all.

#### ***Dr. Andrei Kubanin, Mr. Lev Kolomyts, 'Eco-Logos' Environmental NGO, Vladivostok***

The main concern of 'Eco-Logos' NGO members is the lack of information that directly relates to the nature resources and protected landscapes. The citizens are to be specifically educated to formulate their needs and to require the desired information. Environmental NGOs work separately and tend to neglect information exchange needs.

#### ***Mr. Pavel Soldatov, Chairman of the Krasnoarmeysky District Nature protection Committee, Novopokrovka, Primorsky Region***

Environmental information is collected and kept by a series of institutions, agencies, even individuals. Official reports on the state of environment form a useful source of information but do not include such aspects as requirements for sustainable management of nature resources, routes and reasons of environmental violations, etc.

### **Independent (non-governmental) sources of environmental information (Marina Khotulyova)**

A definition of *independent* sources of environmental information was given and ways of obtaining independent environmental information about an industrial facility at different stages of the project life-cycle were considered. Particular attention was paid to public environmental reviews, environmental audits with public participation and independent environmental monitoring. Regarding the latter, ECOLOGIA's four-years experience of operating a Citizens' Water Quality Monitoring Network was analyzed.

### **Role play: Environmental Review of a Wood Processing Plant**

The role play was designed by ECOLOGIA to identify the information needs and the mechanisms of access to information about *planned* economic activity and to improve participants' understanding of the issues involved in conducting environmental reviews and environmental impact assessments of new developments in the framework of the recently adopted Russian Federal Environmental Review Law.

The participants were divided in three groups so that a similar proportion of government representatives, scientists and NGOs went to each group. Then, each group was given a script describing a typical environmental planning situation<sup>1</sup> but from different perspectives: (1) local authorities, (2) company-developer and (3) NGO representing citizens' interests. The groups were asked to design the best strategy which would comply with the Russian legislation and best defend their interests and to defend their approach in a "public hearing meeting" facilitated by Dr. Marina Khotulyova from ECOLOGIA.

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<sup>1</sup> A middle-sized city that faces the solid waste management dilemma and is being offered an incinerator project.

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## **Vladivostok, Day 2 (Friday, February 28)**

The participants mistakes in the pre-test questionnaire and in the role-play were then analyzed by Dr. Marina Khotulyova of ECOLOGIA. This analysis provided a motivation to the discussion of environmental reviews and environmental impact assessments as tools of obtaining environmental information.

### **Environmental reviews and environmental impact assessments as tools of obtaining environmental information at a *planning* stage of economic activity (Marina Khotulyova)**

The presentation addressed the details of obtaining and analyzing environmental information within a framework of the procedure of Environmental Reviews (both Public Environmental Reviews (PER) and State Environmental Reviews (SER)) as defined by the Federal Environmental Review Law of 1995. The participants were presented with an original chart displaying the complex procedure of project (plan) approval process and highlighting the documents that should be available to the public. ECOLOGIA experience of assisting in organizing PERs was also analyzed.

### **Environmental Impact Assessment a modern tool of public participation (Marina Khotulyova)**

The main goal of the presentation was to demonstrate how an internationally recognized procedure of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) facilitates gathering and distribution of information about the expected environmental impacts of proposed development. Participants were introduced to the ideas of an 'ideal' EIA process.

### **Principles of the independent information center establishment and development (Tatiana Guseva)**

The presentation was directed towards the perspectives and needs of the independent environmental information center establishment and development. A special emphasis was made on the lessons learnt from the two year work of centers located in large protected landscapes (National Parks) in the Central Russia.

### **Principles of the independent information center establishment and development (Tatiana Guseva)**

The presentation was directed towards the perspectives and needs of the independent environmental information center establishment and development. A special emphasis was made on the lessons learnt from the two year work of centers located in large protected landscapes (National Parks) in the Central Russia.

### **Environmental auditing and impact monitoring as effective instruments for obtaining information on the functioning economic sites (Tatiana Guseva)**

The presentation formed a review of the environmental auditing principles and perspectives for the future development of this specific practice in Russia. Environmental monitoring of impact sources (EMIS) and environmental auditing were considered as specific tools for obtaining adequate information on the functioning economic sites. Public participation in EMIS and public initiation of environmental auditing programs were discussed.

### **Printed information sources and information agencies (Marina Khotulyova)**

The main goal of the presentation was to provide an overview of the governmental and independent sources of environmental information in Russia and of international environmental information sources. The other goal was to characterize, with the reference to the experience of Moscow Open Environmental Library the current state of published environmental information in Russia.

### **Introduction to electronic sources of information and Internet (Marina Khotulyova and Tatiana Guseva)**

The presentation addressed the history and the main principles of the operation of electronic sources of information and the Internet in particular and outlined the options for using Internet for retrieval and dissemination of environmental information. A demonstration of Internet resources using a program developed by ECOLOGIA was shown. As an example of regional information on the Internet the Beringian Heritage International Park Concept was discussed.

### **Communication, interpretation and dissemination of environmental information (Marina Khotulyova)**

The presentation addressed the complex issues involved in communicating technical information to the public having no technical education. Different ethical, psychological and communicational issues were considered. The main principles of communicating environmental information to the mass-media were also addressed. Risk communication principles were discussed.

### **Closing discussion**

The discussion addressed the complex issues dealing with the problem of the Environmental Information Center establishment and development in Primorsky Region. The Workshop participants believe that a Public Environmental Information Center could pool together existing and attract new human and material resources to provide necessary and well interpreted information for the public. Such a Center could be a structure based the 'shared responsibilities' principle, embracing already successfully functioning organizations such as ISAR, 'Eco-Logos', Green Cross, 'Pacifcintour', 'Uragus', Academy for Marine Biology and many others. The above idea is to be discussed at the coming round table of environmentally concerned local and regional organizations.

### **Vladivostok, Day 3 – Individual Consultations (Saturday, March 1)**

On the third day of the Vladivostok part of the Workshop ECOLOGIA provided individual and group consultations for

- the representatives of the Far East State Technical University and Society for Technical Ecology on modern technical solutions (such as stack gases and waste water treatment methods and equipment);
- the chairman of the Primorsky Committee for Nature Protection Sergei Kolodey on Internet principles and specific problems of the nature protection committee activities in so called 'closed territorial units);
- the representatives of 'Eco-Logos' environmental NGO on principles of network building and operation as well as on the environmental library development and its co-operation with ECOLINE open library;
- Academy for Marine Biology teacher Valentina Kubanina on principles of the information center establishment and operation (at the regional level);
- the supervisor of the children Environmental Center 'Mandarinka' Olga Borisovskaya on the perspectives for the future development of the environmental library for children and teachers;
- the deputy director of the 'Lazovsky' State Nature Reserve Sergei Khokhriakov on the development of alternative environmental monitoring of water bodies in nature reserves ;
- the deputy director of the 'Sikhote-Alin' Environmental Fund Alexander Panichev on the designation of an ethnic and nature park in Bikin and Samarga areas;
- Far East Green Cross representative Natalia Smetanina on the perspectives for the development of environmental tourism in the Primorsky region.

ECOLOGIA is happy with the results of the fruitful discussions with Dr. Vladimir Karakin from the Pacific Institute of Geography and his colleagues and with Dr. Alexy Ustujanin from the State Committee for Hydrometeorology, Vladivostok, who expressed their interests and wishes to collaborate on the environmental information issues and projects in the future.

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## Conclusions and recommendations

### Environmental information systems in the Primorsky Region

Environmental situation in the Primorsky Region is very much different from that of the Central Regions of Russia. Though there undeniably are industrial and agricultural impacts, main concern is the urgent need for the sustainable nature resource management concept. Environmental pollution and is considered to be the secondary problem comparatively to the deterioration of such exclusively important resource as Far East forest.

Due to concentration of environmental protection efforts in the Primorsky region (such as the US AID EPT project, ISAR projects, Green Cross educational programs and other international and national projects) there exists a certain awareness of environmental problems and a significant **demand** for environmental information. Among the **consumers** of environmental information are local community, public interest groups, NGOs, governmental agencies and industries as well as educational institutions.

There is also a number of **providers** of environmental information in the region: the municipal authorities, governmental agencies, several NGOs, mass media, partially, TV station, libraries, etc. The providers of environmental information use information obtained by their own means (enterprises, Roshydromet, SES) and from other sources (mass-media, NGOs, Goskompriroda).

### The constraints in the operation of environmental information systems

Though there are various sources of environmental information, both the government agencies and the local community feel that there exist a number of problems with access to information. The most significant of these problems may be grouped as following (in the order of importance):

1. **Problems associated with dissemination and communication of information to local community.** Most of the local government agencies lack resources (both human and financial) to process environmental data which they collect and to provide it, in a meaningful format, to local recipients.
2. **Lack of available regional and local environmental information and information on natural resources.** There are several factors that determine this situation. First, a former system of environmental data collection and analysis was neither focused on addressing the specifics of local situations (e.g., background monitoring was much more common) nor interpretation and communication of locally collected information to the local level (rather all information used to be centrally collected and analyzed). Second, due to economic difficulties and restructuring of state environmental monitoring services the *local capacity for environmental data collection seems to be reducing*. Third, the most needed information about *planned new developments* that can potentially have significant environmental impacts seems to be not accessible to the local community including even some of the local government agencies.
3. **Lack of guidelines and regulations addressing dissemination and exchange of environmental information.** Though the current legislation contains the provision for openness of environmental information and outlines the responsibilities of government agencies in this respect there is a clear lack of specific regulation both of federal and regional level addressing, for example, such issues as:
  - ◆ the type and amount of environmental information that has to be provided by different governmental agencies to each other;
  - ◆ the type and amount of environmental information to be published by local environmental authorities;
  - ◆ payment for environmental information;
  - ◆ documents to be contained in the *public domain* (the very term seems to be absent from legislation).
4. **Insufficient access to international and national resources of environmental information.** The main constrain was cost and slow speed of international communications. Due to advances of modern telecommunication technologies such as Internet providing access to e-mail and on-line databases the utilization of international environmental information may be greatly improved.

The following recommendations are designed to overcome some of this constraints in a cost-efficient way and relying primarily on local resources.

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## Recommendations

In order to provide adequate and needed environmental information for the community, currently operating information systems should be significantly improved by

- the better cooperation between various information structures functioning at local and regional levels;
- by the optimal subdivision of responsibilities between the functioning structures (it is important to point out the crucial role of communications between government agencies and non-governmental organizations, and within the NGO circle itself).

ECOLOGIA recommends that these goals be reached by setting a Public Environmental Information Center that would pool together existing and attract new human and material resources to provide necessary and well interpreted information for the public. Such a Center could be a structure based the 'shared responsibilities' principle, embracing already successfully functioning organizations such as ISAR, 'Eco-Logos', Green Cross, 'Pacifintour', 'Uragus', Academy for Marine Biology and many others.

According to the recommendations worked out by the Vladivostok workshop participants, the above idea is to be discussed at the coming round table of environmentally concerned local and regional organizations.

The more detailed descriptions are given in the Workshop Resolution (see the enclosed Russian copy).

## ***Khabarovsk Workshop***

### ***Khabarovsk, Day 1 (Monday, March 3)***

#### **Participants introduction**

The organizers of the workshop including representatives of the EPT project, Wild Animals Fund, ECOLOGIA and workshop participants briefly introduced themselves and described particular interests of their organizations.

#### **General introduction: the types of environmental information and the structure of the workshop (Marina Khotulyova)**

The main purpose of this session was to present a classification of environmental information used by ECOLOGIA in preparing the workshop (for more details see Vladivostok Proceedings).

#### **Legislative aspects of the access to environmental information (Marina Khotulyova)**

The goal of this presentation was to address the issue of the *rights* of the public to environmental information and the *responsibilities* of the authorities in this regard. The participants were introduced to the recent Federal Law on Information, Informatization and Protection of Information (1995), the Law on the State Secrets (1993), the Federal Environmental Review Law (1995) and many other legislative acts related to this topic.

#### **Environmental information systems of the Russian Federal Government (Tatiana Guseva)**

The presentation addressed the specific mechanisms of managing environmental information at the federal level. The Russian system of collecting environmental data is characterized by a great number of agencies involved, overlapping responsibilities and over-centralized approach.

In the following discussion, the participants agreed with the presented structure, criticized current federal and regional approaches to data collection and pointed out that state agencies of local and regional levels, responsible for collecting and interpreting information, do not have resources to distribute their data and to provide free public access to their information.

## **Environmental information systems in the Khabarovsk Region: perspectives and constraints (Participants' presentation).**

*Mr. Yuri Juravlyov, Regional Committee for Nature Protection, Khabarovsk*

Mr. Juravlyov upraised the state system of environmental information insisting on the exclusive adequacy of the official data comparatively to the information provided by NGOs, mass-media, scientific and technical institutions, etc.

*Mr. Vladimir Desyatov, 'Chemical Safety' Union, Komsomolsk*

To the opinion of Mr. Desyatov, the major constrain in the operation of the information system is the lack of reliable data provided by the official bodies. On the other hand, he pointed out that NGOs are not capable to fill all gaps and to meet all public needs in the field of environmental information.

*Pr. Albina Tikhonova, Pedagogical University, Khabarovsk*

The central point of this presentation was that education establishments needed specific local information on the state of environment and on natural resources to be used for the development of regionally oriented environmental education programs.

*Mr. Dmitry Melnikov, Tourist Club, Komsomolsk*

Due to the specific features of the post-communistic information system, there is a current need for independent environmental information collection and provision. Data on the state of environment should be obtained using reliable and well developed methods. Public environmental monitoring issues were considered.

Later on *independent* sources of environmental information were further discussed. Specific ways of obtaining independent environmental information about industrial facilities at different stages of the project life-cycle were considered. Particular attention was paid to public environmental reviews, environmental audits with public participation and independent environmental monitoring. Regarding the latter, ECOLOGIA's four-years experience of operating a Citizens' Water Quality Monitoring Network was analyzed.

### **Role play: Environmental Review of a Wood Processing Plant**

The detailed description of the role play principles is given above (see Vladivostok, day 2). 'Public hearing meeting' facilitated by Dr. Marina Khotulyova from ECOLOGIA became a very interesting serious discussion. Both the situation and the model industrial site reflected current problems of the region. Roles of the three sectors were very well played and fruitfully discussed later.

The participants mistakes in the pre-test questionnaire and in the role-play were analyzed by Dr. Marina Khotulyova of ECOLOGIA. This analysis provided a motivation to the discussion of environmental reviews and environmental impact assessments as tools of obtaining environmental information.

### ***Khabarovsk, Day 2 (Tuesday, March 4)***

#### **Environmental reviews and environmental impact assessments as tools of obtaining environmental information at a *planning* stage of economic activity (Marina Khotulyova)**

The presentation addressed the details of obtaining and analyzing environmental information within a framework of the procedure of Environmental Reviews (both Public Environmental Reviews (PER) and State Environmental Reviews (SER)) as defined by the Federal Environmental Review Law of 1995. Due to the specific interest of the participants an emphasis was made on such a complicated issue as nuclear power stations and radioactive pollution in general.

### **Environmental Impact Assessment - a modern tool of public participation (Marina Khotulyova)**

The main goal of the presentation was to demonstrate how an internationally recognized procedure of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) facilitates gathering and distribution of information about the expected environmental impacts of proposed development. Participants were introduced to the ideas of an 'ideal' EIA process. Very much experienced persons such as Mr. Yu. Juravlyov and V. Desyatov commented a lot during the presentation which was followed by the locally oriented discussion.

### **Principles of the independent information center establishment and development (Tatiana Guseva)**

The presentation was directed towards the perspectives and needs of the independent environmental information center establishment and development. A special emphasis was made on the collection of data that can be used with educational purposes.

### **Principles of the independent information center establishment and development (Tatiana Guseva)**

The presentation was directed towards the perspectives and needs of the independent environmental information center establishment and development. Requirements for the independent data collection, analysis, interpretation and distribution were underlined.

### **The Wildlife Foundation information work (Nina Bolshova – *the workshop participant*)**

The workshop participant described current activities and areas of interest of the Wildlife Foundation established and operation with the support of EPT project.

### **Environmental auditing and impact monitoring as instruments for obtaining information on the functioning economic sites (Tatiana Guseva)**

The presentation formed a review of the environmental auditing principles and perspectives for the future development of this specific practice in Russia. Environmental monitoring auditing were considered as specific tools for obtaining adequate information on the functioning economic sites. Due to the interest of the audience, a specific emphasis was made on the problem of mercury using sites.

### **Communication, interpretation and dissemination of environmental information (Marina Khotulyova)**

The presentation addressed the complex issues involved in communicating technical information to the public having no technical education. Different ethical, psychological and communicational issues were considered. The main principles of communicating environmental information to the mass-media were also addressed.

### **Closing discussion**

Representatives of The Wildlife Foundation (Khabarovsk), The Pedagogical University, Khabarovsk Regional Committee for Nature Protection, Khabarovsk Regional Administration, Children Environmental Club, Tourist Club (Komsomolsk) expressed their willingness to participate in the regional information exchange.

The general recommendation was that at the beginning it would be very important to develop and to start implementing a program for collaboration between state and non-governmental environmental organizations. It's unlikely that at this stage a new structure (as an information center) establishment is appropriate. At the moment joint or interrelated projects and active information exchange are much more important for the development of the information system in the Khabarovsk region.

Participants asked to support their future affords and expressed a hope that ECOLOGIA could become a consultant for the regional environmental NGOs. Representatives of the state bodies expressed their interest to communicate with regional non-governmental organizations and to consult ECOLOGIA on such issues as public hearings, public participation in environmental reviews, information on industrial impacts, priority pollutants, etc.

### ***Khabarovsk, Day 3 – Round Table and Individual Consultations (Wednesday, March 5)***

Though only individual consultations were planned to be provided on the third day of the Khabarovsk Workshop, a meeting at The Wildlife Foundation appeared to become a round table discussion on the mercury wastes reprocessing plant problem.

The round table discussion was devoted to the problem of public participation in the open discussion of the perspectives and needs for the development of the mercury wastes reprocessing plant. representatives of government agencies

- Yu. Juravlyov, Regional Committee for Nature Protection (Head of the Environmental Review Section);
- A. Istigichev, Regional Committee for Nature Protection ( Head of the Public Relations Section);
- T. Ejelya, Regional Environmental prosecutor;
- V. Desyatov, Far East Socio-Ecological Union;
- Nina Bolshova and Galina Pojidaeva, The Wildlife Foundation;
- Marina Khotulyova and Tatiana Guseva, ECOLOGIA

As a result of the round table all sides involved agreed that the only realistic way to solve the mercury reprocessing plant problem is to discuss it openly with the local community. ECOLOGIA offered its help and experience and provided Khabarovsk colleagues with a series of information materials, case study descriptions devoted to the problems of mercury and other heavy metals in the environment.

### **Recommendations**

ECOLOGIA concludes that there are several government agencies and NGOs in the Khabarovsk region involved in collecting, analyzing and providing data on the state of environment and natural resources. Though officially governmental bodies are obliged to cooperate with each other and to exchange information, in the reality information flows remain to be very much narrow and departmental.

Such bodies as The Wildlife Foundation (Khabarovsk), The Pedagogical University, Khabarovsk Regional Committee for Nature Protection, Children Environmental Club and many others should work harder on information interpretation, provision and exchange while keeping to be concentrated on the indicated areas of interest.

In order to improve information collection, analysis and distribution in the Khabarovsk region, more attention is to be paid to the preparation and provision of the 'environmental information for the community'. It is undeniably necessary to further develop local and regional regulations in the sphere of environmental impact assessment and in particular, considering public participation in environmental reviews and impact assessment procedures.

Such steps forward as

- the better cooperation between various information structures functioning at local and regional levels;
- the future development of the specialized (educational, wild life trusts, monitoring, etc.) environmental information structures;
- joint projects (involving government agencies and NGOs of the Khabarovsk and other regions);
- the optimal subdivision of responsibilities between the functioning structures (it is important to point out the crucial role of communications between government agencies and non-governmental organizations, and within the NGO circle itself)

can be recommended.

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ECOLOGIA recommends that at the beginning it would be very important to develop and to start implementing a program for collaboration between state and non-governmental environmental organizations. It's unlikely that at this stage a new structure (as an information center) establishment is appropriate. At the moment joint or interrelated projects and active information exchange are much more important for the development of the information system in the Khabarovsk region.

The more detailed descriptions are given in the Workshop Resolution (see the enclosed Russian copy).

# **“Экологическая информация: принципы и практика управления на локальном и региональном уровнях”**

*Итоговый документ семинара*

*Владивосток, 27 февраля - 1 марта 1997 г.*

Семинар-рабочая встреча "Экологическая информация: принципы и практика управления на региональном и локальном уровнях" состоялся в городе Владивостоке 27 февраля - 1 марта 1997 года. Семинар был организован Проектом по природоохранной политике и технологии при участии международной организации ЭКОЛОГИЯ (Москва).

В семинаре приняли участие представители государственных органов охраны природы и лесного хозяйства, гидрометеослужбы, научно-исследовательских институтов, методических объединений и школ, заповедников и неправительственных организаций (Приложение 1).

Участники семинара обсудили проблемы доступности информации об окружающей среде и природных ресурсах, законодательные аспекты и региональную специфику, способы получения независимой экологической информации, информационные аспекты экологической экспертизы, оценки воздействия на окружающую среду и экологического аудирования. Особое внимание было уделено принципам организации информационного центра, проблемам адаптации экологической информации для различных типов аудитории и способам ее распространения. В индивидуальных консультациях большое внимание было уделено обсуждению принципов организации сетей различного уровня, практике сетевой работы на примере сети экологического мониторинга, возможности использования накопленного опыта для организации региональной сети информационных центров.

Участники семинара также познакомились с современными средствами получения экологической информации (такими, как Интернет).

Обсуждая региональные проблемы в области доступности информации о состоянии окружающей среды и природных ресурсов, участники семинара отмечали, что дальневосточный проект ЕРТ внес серьезный вклад в развитие информационного поля в регионе. В рамках проектов ЕРТ поддержано развитие различных информационных структур, таких как Малая академия морской биологии, фонд поддержки экологических инициатив "Эко-Логос", Приморское краевое общество технической экологии, несколько методических, консультативных, образовательных центров. В целом ситуация в области экологической информации на сегодняшний день существенно лучше, чем в начале проекта.

*Вместе с тем, участники семинара констатировали, что в области доступности информации об окружающей среде и природопользовании существует ряд проблем:*

- Специфической проблемой региона является доступность информации о состоянии природных ресурсов, их исчерпании и деградации. Законодательные аспекты доступа к информации о состоянии природных ресурсов значительно сложнее, чем в области информации о загрязнениях.
- Не сформирован рынок экологических информационных услуг, что проявляется в первую очередь в неотрегулированности вопросов стоимости информации, а также в отсутствии культуры платного ее предоставления;
- На уровне региона ощущается недостаток методической и нормативной базы в области экологической экспертизы и оценки воздействия на окружающую среду, недостаточен региональный опыт в этой области;
- Мало методической литературы по вопросам окружающей среды, ориентированной на проблемы региона.
- Проблема недостаточного информационного обмена определяется не только межведомственной разобщенностью. Обмен информацией в регионе затруднен

даже между различными неправительственными организациями. Проблема объясняется рядом причин:

- ⇒ нехваткой ресурсов (материальных и людских) для интерпретации информации и ее распространения;
- ⇒ недостатком опыта адаптации экологической информации для населения;
- ⇒ недостаточной эффективностью информационной работы общественных организаций.

*Участники семинара выработали следующие рекомендации:*

- Для улучшения информационной работы с населением необходимо объединить усилия различных информационных структур регионального и районного уровней. При этом создание дополнительной структуры на уровне региона нецелесообразно.
- В настоящее время для улучшения информационной работы в регионе следует сконцентрировать внимание на распределении обязанностей в области информационной работы между существующими структурами. При этом большое внимание необходимо уделить вопросам коммуникации между различными информационными структурами.
- По результатам обсуждения на семинаре плодотворными кажутся две идеи:
  - ⇒ создание информационного центра на базе нескольких действующих информационных структур с распределением обязанностей (сбор и анализ информации, адаптация ее для различных слоев населения, распространение);
  - ⇒ создание региональной сети информационных центров.
- Для обсуждения конкретных форм взаимодействия действующих структур нужно организовать круглый стол. Предполагаемые сроки его проведения - конец марта.
- В качестве конкретных шагов, направленных на улучшение взаимодействия действующих информационных структур, целесообразно провести инвентаризацию информационных ресурсов в регионе и обсудить возможности создания сети "зеленых" библиотек, в частности - создать объединенный каталог библиотек региона.

## Приложение 1. Список участников

№	Фамилия, имя, отчество	Организация, должность	Контактная информация
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3	Борисовская Ольга Алексеевна	Детская Центральная Библиотека, библиотекарь, Экологический центр "Мандаринка", руководитель центра	690035, Владивосток, ул. Калинина, 21
4	Говорушко Сергей	Тихоокеанский институт географии ДВО РАН Руководитель центра эколого-географической экспертизы	Владивосток
5	Гульбина Анна	Дальневосточный государственный морской	690041 Владивосток, ул. Пальчевского, 17

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		заповедник ИБМ ДВО РАН, зав. Экоцентром в Информационном Центре	
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10	Иванникова Наталья Павловна	ДВГУ, преподаватель экологического права	Владивосток, 257308-каф., 259306-деканат
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14	Коломпец Лев Эрландович	Прим. Краевой обществ. Фонд поддержки экологических инициатив "Эко-Логос", сотрудник	Владивосток, Чапаева 14-107, почт. 690022, Владивосток, а\я 2247, т.314924, akub@glas.apc.org
15	Котляр Андрей Кириллович		692532, г. Уссурийск, ул. Некрасова,19
16	Крис Черч	Клуб по экообразованию "УРАГУС", Волонтер корпуса Мира	Терней
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19	Лебедев Анатолий Викторович	Телевидение, журналист	690000, Владивосток, ул.Уборевича, 17-23, т. 22-09-66
20	Кузнецова Марианна Владимировна	Телевидение, журналист	690000, с ул.Уборевича, 17-23, т. 22-09-66
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22	Мельник Татьяна	Методический консультативный центр "Синяя птица", психолог-консультант	Владивосток
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25	Казаков		
26	Хмель Людмила Ивановна		
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28	Каракин Владимир Павлович	EPT- FAR EAST	

# “Экологическая информация: принципы и практика управления на локальном и региональном уровнях”

Итоговый документ семинара

Хабаровск, 3-5 марта 1997 г.

Семинар-рабочая встреча “Экологическая информация: принципы и практика управления на региональном и локальном уровнях” состоялась в городе Хабаровске с 3 по 5 марта 1997 года. Семинар был организован Проектом по природоохранной политике и технологии при участии международной организации ЭКОЛОГИЯ (Москва).

В семинаре приняли участие представители государственных органов охраны природы и лесного хозяйства, научно-исследовательских институтов, заповедников и неправительственных организаций (Приложение 1).

Участники семинара обсудили проблемы доступности информации об окружающей среде и природных ресурсах, законодательные аспекты и региональную специфику, способы получения независимой экологической информации, информационные аспекты экологической экспертизы, оценки воздействия на окружающую среду и экологического аудирования. Особое внимание было уделено принципам организации информационного центра, критериям эффективности работы информационного центра, проблемам адаптации экологической информации для различных типов аудитории и способам распространения информации.

Обсуждая региональные проблемы в области доступности информации о состоянии окружающей среды и природных ресурсов, участники семинара отмечали, что в регионе действует несколько информационных структур, в основном проблемной ориентации. К числу наиболее эффективных следует отнести Фонд диких животных (Хабаровск), неправительственные организации “Черный дракон”, ряд методических, консультативных, образовательных центров. В целом ситуация в области экологической информации достаточно благоприятна.

Вместе с тем, участники семинара констатировали наличие определенных проблем:

- В регионе явно недостаточен опыт использования методов оценки воздействия на окружающую среду и экологической экспертизы как инструментов общественного участия в принятии экологически значимых решений. Сказывается неадекватность нормативно-методической базы в этой области, недостаточность опыта общественного диалога, в частности, использования таких его форм, как общественные слушания. Яркой иллюстрацией является конфликтная ситуация, сложившаяся вокруг строительства объекта по демеркуризации, необходимость строительства которого признается всеми слоями общества. Эта тема стала предметом обсуждения “за круглым столом”, состоявшегося 5 марта в Фонде диких животных (Приложение 2).
- Не сформирован рынок услуг в области экологической информации, что проявляется в первую очередь в недостаточности оперативной “информации для общественности”, неотрегулированности вопросов стоимости информации, сложившихся этических норм платного ее предоставления;
- Проблема недостаточного информационного обмена определяется не только межведомственной разобщенностью, но и недостаточным опытом информационного обмена. К сожалению, даже между неправительственными организациями информационный обмен недостаточен и носит стихийный характер. Отчасти это объясняется проблемной направленностью большинства центров. В то же время участники семинара отмечали недостаточную “агрессивность” в распространении экологической информации.

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Участники семинара выработали следующие рекомендации:

- Развитие региональной эколого-информационной системы необходимо осуществлять поэтапно.
- Для улучшения информационной работы в области экологической информации нужна программа сотрудничества общественных и государственных центров. Особое внимание следует уделить вопросам интерпретации и распространения информации.
- Создание единого информационного центра на первом этапе нецелесообразно. Более рациональным представляется использование возможностей действующих структур, в том числе - проблемно ориентированных. Необходимо продолжать развитие таких центров и проектов, уделяя особое внимание их взаимодействию между собой.
- Наилучший путь развития сотрудничества между различными центрами в регионе - совместные проекты.
- Разумным шагом представляется инвентаризация информационных ресурсов в регионе, как государственных, так и негосударственных.
- В перспективе создание регионального информационного центра весьма желательно. Такой центр должен быть общественной организацией, пользующейся доверием широких слоев населения и поддержкой администрации.

ПРИЛОЖЕНИЕ 1.

СПИСОК УЧАСТНИКОВ СЕМИНАРА.

N	Фамилия Имя Отчество	Место работы Должность	Контактная информация
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5	Мельников Дмитрий Александрович	Детский туристический центр "Экзотур"	681027, Комсомольск-на-Амуре, Пионерская, 6313-25, т. 42196, mel@exotur. bnkdp.khabarovsk.su
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9	Большова Н.В.	ФДЖ	
10	Куликов В.	ФДЖ	
11	Юбка Надежда Ивановна	ДЭЦ "Касатка"	680014, Хабаровск, Дос, 45-21
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13	Чинарева Тамара Федоровна	пресс-секретарь ЕРТ	
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15	Скачков Виктор Борисович	Краевой комитет по экологии	680067, Хабаровск, П. Комарова, 2-47, т. 211106
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19	Спиридонов Сергей Васильевич	Большехехцирский заповедник, директор	682302, п. Бычиха Хабаровского края, Юбилейная, 8, т. 974438, 974883, spiridon@reserye.khy.ru
20	Яхонтов Юрий Всеволодович	Большехехцирский заповедник, отдел экологического просвещения	682302, п. Бычиха Хабаровского края, Юбилейная, 8, т. 974872
22	Арутюнян Маргарита Павловна	Хабаровский краевой Институт переподготовки учителей	680030, Хабаровск, Ленина, 65-12
23	Тихонова Альбина Евгеньевна	Хабаровский государственный педагогический университет, кафедра ботаники	680021, Хабаровск, Панькова, 31-80, т. 713208
24	Громак Татьяна Платоновна	Городской методический информационный центр	680000, Хабаровск, Дзержинского, 8-44
25	Крикливый Андрей Иванович	Приамурский округ Гостехнадзора России	680030, Хабаровск, Мухина, 13-112, т. 339183
26	Ефимов Николай Николаевич	Управление природными ресурсами администрации края	Хабаровск, п. Соснов., ул. Геологов, 4-2
27	Би Джей Чизхолм	ИСАР	
28	Пожидаева	ФДЖ	
29	Лисичкин Геннадий Митрофанович	Телерадиокомпания "Деловой мир"	680000, Хабаровск, Уссурийский б., 29, т. 398032
30	Донец Н.	ЕРТ	
31	Денисенко Ольга	ЕРТ	
32	Хотулева Марина Владиленовна	ведущая семинара	
33	Гусева Татьяна Валерьяновна	ведущая семинара	

34	Морина Ольга Михайловна	КДЮБЦ	680022, Хабаровск, Вяземская, 8-389, т. 351740
35	Бурмистрова Людмила Ивановна	Хабаровский детский краевой экологический центр	680020, Хабаровск, Ладожская, 21-60

## ПРИЛОЖЕНИЕ 2.

### Проблема утилизации ртуть-содержащих отходов в Хабаровском крае. Дискуссия "за круглым столом".

5 марта 1997 г., Хабаровск.

Дискуссия по проблеме строительства цеха демеркуризации в г. Хабаровске состоялась на семинаре "Экологическая информация: принципы и практика управления на локальном и региональном уровне". В дискуссии возникшей стихийно в рамках индивидуальных консультаций, приняли участие:

- 1) Ю.И.Журавлев, начальник отдела государственной экологической экспертизы Хабаровского края;
- 2) А.Г.Истигичев, Крайкомприрода
- 3) В.М.Десятов, Дальневосточное отделение СОЭС
- 4) Я.Г. Покуца, Дальневосточное отделение ВООП
- 5) Т.И. Ежеля, природоохранная прокуратура
- 6) Н.В. Большова, ФДЖ
- 7) И.А. Данилов, ДЦЭБ "Натуралист"
- 8) Т.В.Гусева, ЭКОЛОГИЯ, Москва;
- 9) М.В.Хотулева, ЭКОЛОГИЯ, Москва.

Все участники дискуссии констатировали следующее:

- Проблема строительства объекта по демеркуризации бытовых отходов чрезвычайно актуальна для региона. Строительство такого объекта позволит поставить под контроль проблему ртутного загрязнения и будет способствовать улучшению экологической ситуации в населенных пунктах;
- Предметом разногласий между местным населением и региональными властями является выбор площадки для сооружения объекта;
- В процессе принятия решения о строительстве цеха по демеркуризации были допущены серьезные нарушения. В частности, проект не был согласован с местным населением. Тем самым нарушено Положение об оценке воздействия на окружающую среду в Российской Федерации. В результате начатое строительство заморожено по распоряжению Главы Администрации Хабаровского края.

Для того, чтобы исчерпать ситуацию и избежать дальнейшей конфронтации между органами государственной власти и охраны природы и местным населением, необходимо грамотно организовать общественный диалог. Идеальным инструментом для этого являются общественные слушания.

Для того, чтобы слушания прошли эффективно, необходимо предпринять следующие шаги:

- Выявить очаги ртутного загрязнения в г. Хабаровске. Работу целесообразно поручить структурам, располагающим необходимыми навыками и полевым оборудованием (список прилагается).
- Провести необходимые исследования загрязнений вблизи планируемого объекта;
- Собрать информацию об экологических последствиях функционирования аналогичных установок в других регионах (Чебоксары);
- Организовать просветительскую работу с населением (информирование через СМИ и по линии общественных организаций, подготовка информационных материалов различного уровня, специализированные уроки в школах). В этой работе методическую помощь может оказать ЭКОЛАЙН;
- В подготовке общественных слушаний активное участие должны принять Комитет по экологии Хабаровского края и общественные организации.