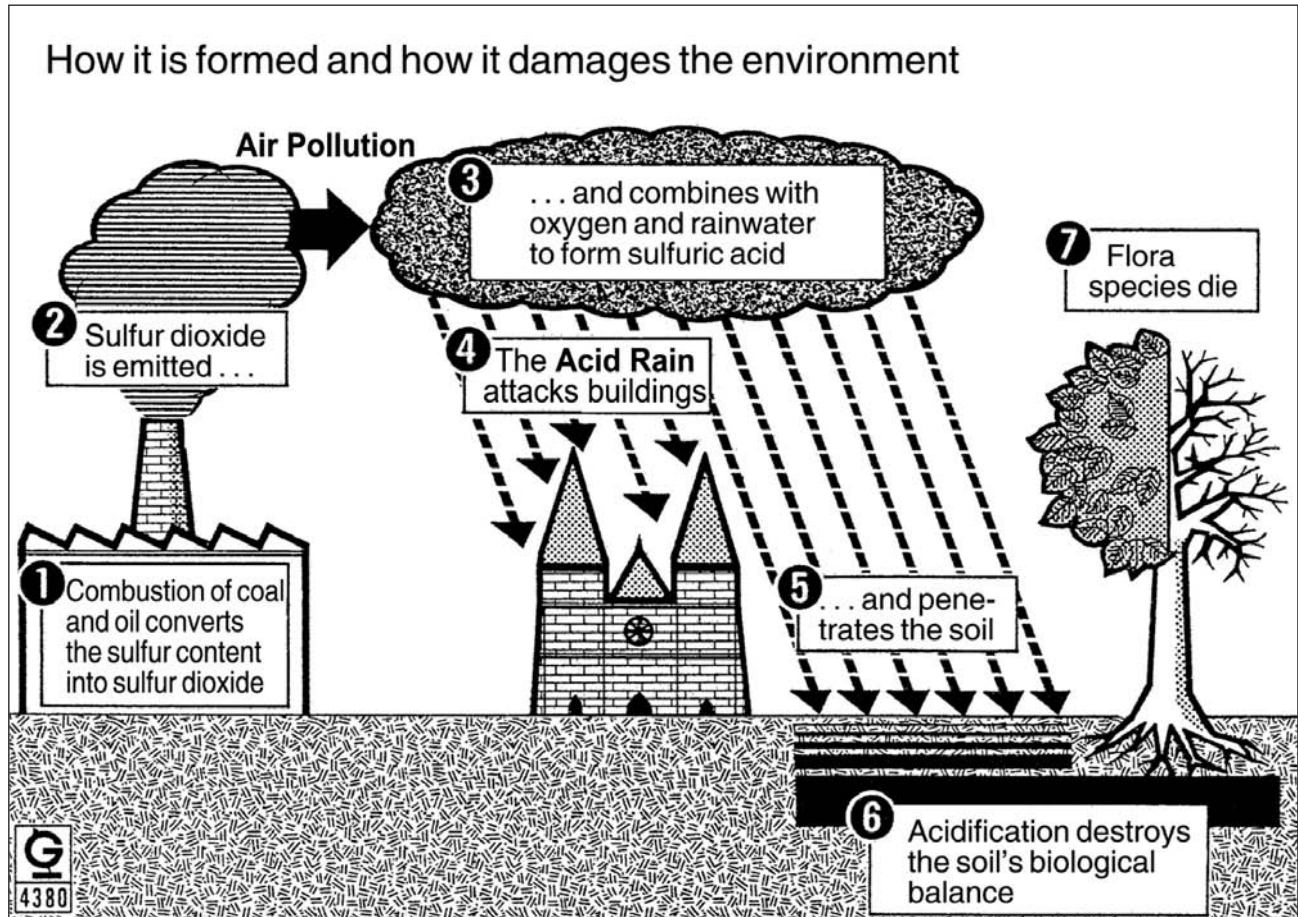


Acid Rain and Air Pollution



The term “Waldsterben” (dying forest) is commonly applied to large forested areas with high percentages of damaged trees. Air pollution and acid rain are considered the main cause of the forest damage – a combination of various interacting air pollutants whose chemical processes in the soil impair tree growth. Intensive farming is considered to be another

reason for the acidity since high concentrations of nitrogen compounds in the soil are caused by heavy fertilization. In 2004, still 31% of all trees in Germany were classified as “heavily damaged” (1997: 59%). Especially beeches and spruces suffer from pollution: 65% of all older beeches and about 50% of older spruces and oaks show heavy damages.