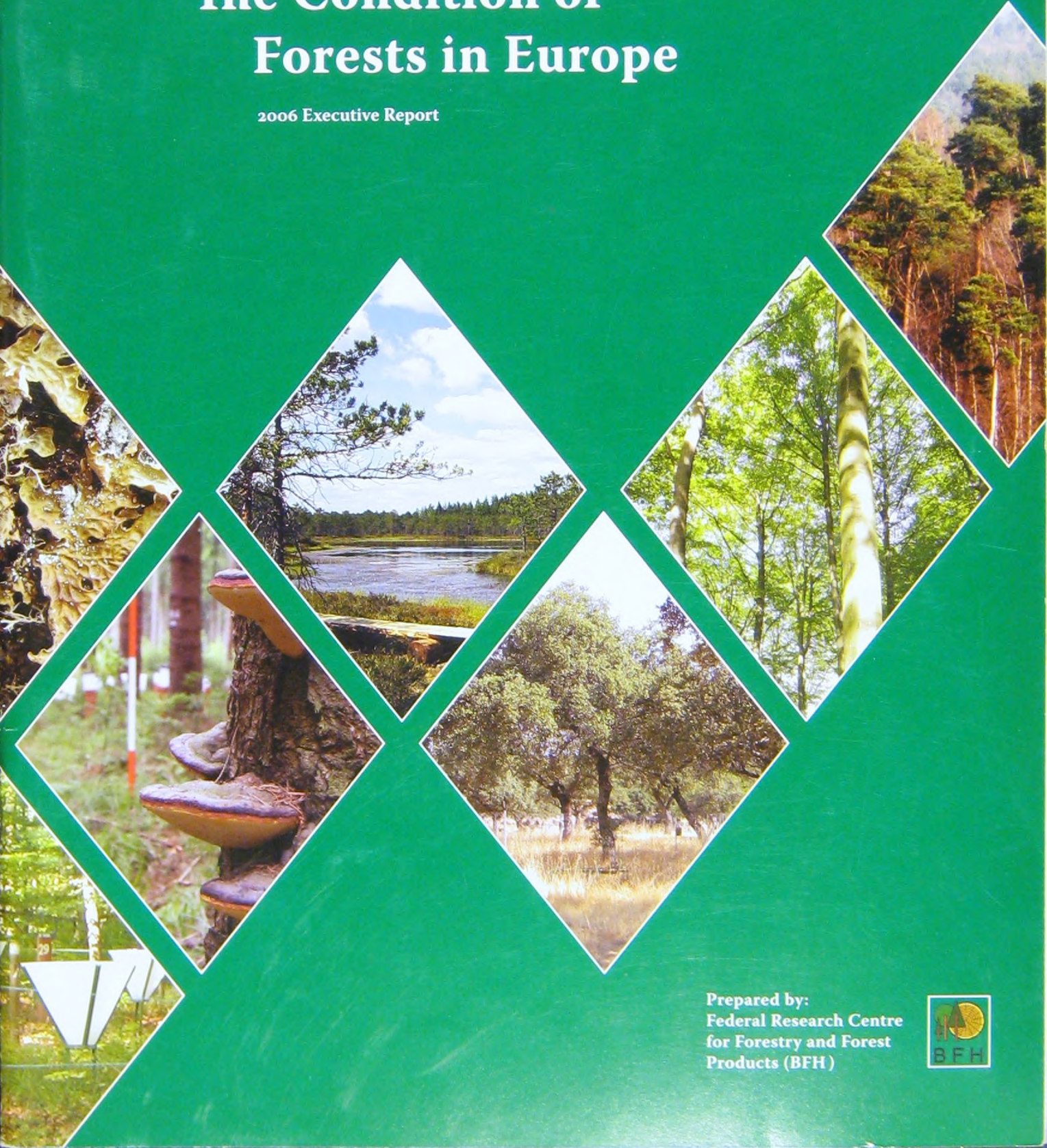


United Nations Economic
Commission for Europe

Convention on Long-range
Transboundary Air Pollution

The Condition of Forests in Europe

2006 Executive Report



Prepared by:
Federal Research Centre
for Forestry and Forest
Products (BFH)



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Working Group on Effects

International Co-operative Programme on Assessment and
Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests (ICP Forests)

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Villu Reiljan

PREFACE

In the early 1980s, already over 20 years ago, Europe was alarmed by the large-scale deterioration of forest condition and the possibility that this was caused by air pollution. Since then, climate change and deterioration of forest biodiversity have also risen up the political agenda.

Trends and development of forest condition and forest damage can be assessed only based on long-term systematic monitoring. Over the years the International Co-operative Programmes on Forests and Integrated Monitoring of Ecosystems (ICP Forests) and the National Focal Centres under the framework of the UN Economic Commission for Europe, in good co-operation with the EC, have provided much relevant information on the large-scale spatial and temporal variation of forest condition. This has been possible by using a European-wide network of Level I plots, as well as studying cause-effect relationships at the ecosystem scale by means of intensive monitoring at Level II plots. At Level II, the nutrient status of soil and trees, increment,

vegetation, deposition, soil solution and other parameters are assessed in addition to crown condition.

Today, 40 countries are participating in the programme. The monitoring programme has contributed many and diverse results as a basis for forest and environmental policy. ICP Forests' well-established infrastructure, multidisciplinary monitoring approach and comprehensive database also allow significant contributions to other processes and programmes of international forest and environmental policies.

The annual results of the surveys are summarized in annual Executive Reports. The methods used, as well as results of individual surveys, are described in the Technical Reports and in special issues. There is some evidence that the forest condition is not only influenced by local and long-range transboundary air pollution, but also by climate interrelated with a complex of other abiotic and biotic factors. In some areas, the forests are in better condition and with larger growth increment than before.

The present report refers to the results of the 2005 large-scale crown condition assessment at Level I as well as to the latest results of the intensive monitoring at Level II, specifically in the fields of deposition and biodiversity.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Villu Reiljan
Minister for the Environment
Estonia