

Foreword

The first issue of *Ecological Questions* of vol. 29 (2018) contains 11 papers. The first two papers present the functioning of thallophytes, i.e. cyanobacteria and lichen biota in the conditions of interactions with vascular plants in the Arctic tundra of Spitsbergen and heaths of the suburban zone of Toruń, respectively. The next two papers deal with modelling of vascular plant population dynamics in natural and disturbed oak-hornbeam communities of Knyszyńska Forest in NE Poland. The software Stella was used to build the models.

The analyses presented in four other papers were carried out at a larger spatial scale, and some of them also over a longer period, in the region of Kashubia [Kaszuby] on the Baltic Coast. Two of these studies describe the diversity of coastal ecosystems on the Gdańsk shore (particularly meadows with halophytes) and present river valleys in the Pomerania Province as a system of ecological corridors that play an important role in the protection of natural resources. Two other papers present changes in the land use and land cover in the landscape of Kashubian Lakeland and in one of the most populated and urbanized areas in Poland – the Tri-City metropolis comprising the cities of Gdańsk, Gdynia and Sopot and their immediate vicinity. Particular attention was paid to the impact of the ongoing processes of urbanization on semi-natural ecosystems and protected landscape of the metropolitan area.

The ninth paper of this *Ecological Questions* issue is devoted to ecosystem services provided by parks of the large city of Łódź and the protection of green urban areas, and the tenth paper presents bioindication evaluation of air condition in the city of Rivne in western part of Ukraine.

The last paper relates to economic mechanisms in environmental protection. It shows the growth of green banking and the importance of the ecological financial market in Poland.

We hope that the results of the presented research will be helpful in the development of efficient landscape and nature conservation management plans in the studied areas. The presented results may be also a good reference point for many readers when making comparisons in time and space.

Editorial Board