

## Foreword

The fourth volume of the 29th (2018) issue of *Ecological Questions* contains seven science articles. The first four articles present issues related to nature conservation analysed on a large spatial scale, i.e. a region or landscape. The issues discussed are, respectively, as follows: 1 – the fire pattern analysed with respect to the existing vegetation types, tribal population and topography in districts with the highest frequency of fire events in the state Orissa in India, 2 – the causes of mechanical degradation of loess “islands” and their actual vegetation in landscapes distributed in a strip located north of the Desna River of Chernihiv Polesie in Ukraine, 3 – the current distribution and factors conducive to the spread of *H. sosnowskyi*, one of the most dangerous plants for the environment, geosystems, farming and public health in the Rivine Region in western Ukraine, and 4 – effects of flow regulation and river channelization on sandbar bird nesting availability at the Lower Vistula River in the northern part of Poland.

The next two articles present the results of experimental studies conducted on organisms occurring in strongly human-dominated systems. They look into: 5 – pollution of the environment with nitrates, with the special purpose of this research to study morphological features of the myocardium in pregnant rats and their newborn pups exposed to chronic hemic hypoxia induced by sodium nitrite, and 6 – the growth rate of selected species of fungi on some biodegradable polymer materials, i.e. on films composed of poly(lactide), poly( $\epsilon$ -caprolactone) and poly(hydroxybutyrate). The seventh article presents building materials or systems described in the literature and considered ecological, results of the research on the material and construction solutions in dwelling houses of selected organic farms in north-eastern Mazovia and prospecting for the influence of organic farming on dwelling houses.

As in the previous issues of *Ecological Questions*, the results presented in the above-mentioned papers may serve as reference points for comparing the course of similar processes in very similar or different ecological systems.

*Editorial Board*