

Foreword

Aerial and satellite remote sensing represents an important source of information and is more and more commonly used in environmental studies. The resulting products of remote data acquisition – aerial and satellite images combined with the capacity of modern tools, especially when integrated into Geographic Information Systems, facilitate multi-layered analysis related to the conditions and functioning of the environment, including both its components and their mutual relations and interrelations. The aforementioned issues are discussed in papers included in the 17th volume of *Ecological Questions*.

The volume consists of 10 chapters which present examples of remote-sensing data application in environmental studies. Authors of each paper represent the leading Polish scientific centres responsible for processing of aerial and satellite images in various environmental aspects. Biotic elements – vegetation as well as selected vegetation and landscape indices calculated on the basis of remote-sensing data are dealt with in more than half of the presented articles. Two papers deal with soil mapping using aerial photographs and data on anthropogenic denudation, and one paper deals with theoretical issues related to the adaptation algorithm used for filtration of high-resolution images with the spectrometric method. Another issue discussed in this volume is the use of remote sensing for monitoring the environmental conditions in terms of crop yield and agricultural production. The two other papers concern the innovative research on forest formations with the use of unmanned aerial vehicle – at present, one of the most intensively developed resources of data acquisition.

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