

## Editorial

The current issue of *Studia Quaternaria* contains contributions that were presented during the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference *Natural resources of border areas under a changing climate* (NARBAC 2018), held at the University of Słupsk and in headquarters of the Słowiński National Park from 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 (Fig. 1).

The conference was organized in response to the growing need for a cyclic and interdisciplinary international meeting dedicated to protection of natural resources in context of a global climate change. Past and present climate changes and their impact on natural environment reflected in socio-economic transformations of border areas, including the borders of states, provinces, cities, ecologically protected areas as well as water and land ecosystems, are important current issues not only from the point of view of modern human societies but also of future generations and their existence in terms of sustainable development.

The first edition of the conference was organized in the Ukraine in 2017 and the idea of its time-schedule is based on annual meetings organized in turn in Poland and in the Ukraine. The NARBAC conference is aimed at an interdisciplinary group of scientists, employees of protected areas, representatives of municipal administration, economic sector and residents. Discussion in such a wide range of attendants allows for an assessment of dynamics of changes in border ecosystems under varied conditions concerning the world and for the exchange of local experiences.

During the 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference NARBAC 2018, 58 participants actively participated representing 6 international and 14 national research and teaching centers, including Department of Hydrological Monitoring and National Academy of Sciences in Minsk (Belarus), National University of Kharkov (Ukraine), and Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw, Regional Directorate of State Forests



**Fig. 1.** Participants of the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference *Natural resources of border areas under a changing climate* (NARBAC 2018) in the Słowiński National Park (photo: Marek Majewski).

in Zielona Góra, Jagiellonian University in Cracow, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, University of Gdańsk, University of Szczecin, Provincial Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management in Gdańsk, Museum of the Central Pomerania and Museum of Swołowo and representatives of the local socio-economic environment – Wodociągi Słupsk Sp. z o.o. and Przetwórstwo Rybne Łosoś Sp. z o.o. in Poland. There were 38 presentations closely related to the scope of the conference and divided into thematic issues including plant succession and forests in changing climate conditions, environmental conditions of the Baltic Sea and its coastal zone, hydrographic, hydrobiological and physicochemical studies of lakes and rivers, protected areas, recording of the climate change in geographic environment and environmental, tourist and socio-economic research according to climate change.

In this volume of *Studia Quaternaria*, articles refer to the issues presented during the conference. The topics related to changes in vegetation succession occurring as a result of climatic changes both within wild and protected communities are widely presented. Subsequent contributions present impact of climate change in areas subjected

to agricultural and rural anthropopressure and transformation of protected areas caused by human activities. Also noteworthy is the paper that presents possibilities of using modern ICT in monitoring and environmental protection of border areas. We would like to thank Professor Zbigniew Sobisz and Professor Tomasz Hetmański for help in preparing this issue of *Studia Quaternaria*.

The Conference was organized by the Pomeranian University in Słupsk – Institute of Geography and Regional Studies and Institute of Biology and Environmental Protection, Słowiński National Park and Chernihiv National Pedagogical University. The organizers sincerely thank to all those who contributed to the realization of the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference *Natural resources of border areas under a changing climate* (NARBAC 2018), as well as the participants for presentations of interesting issues, abstracts of which can be found at <https://narbac.apsl.edu.pl/pl>

Chairman of the Organizing Committee,  
Assoc. Prof. Aleksander Astel

Guest Editor, Assoc. Prof. Monika Niska