

Editor's preface

The *Estonian Journal of Ecology*, an international quarterly journal, supersedes the *Biology*Ecology* series of the *Proceedings of the Estonian Academy of Sciences*, published since 1952 and abstracted or indexed in several databases and reference journals. The Estonian Academy of Sciences will issue the *Estonian Journal of Ecology* in collaboration with the University of Tartu, Tallinn University, the Estonian University of Life Sciences, and Tallinn University of Technology.

With the change of the title the journal policy will be adjusted to take into account the prevailing tendencies in the environmental sciences and the intensifying globalization of scientific research. The journal will publish primary and innovative papers that seek to improve our understanding of the relationships between spatial patterns and ecological processes, and which provide guidance and solutions to help develop and maintain sustainable eco- and geosystems. All kinds of problems, scales, processes, and systems involved in ecological studies as well as the ecological levels of organization such as individual, population, community, ecosystem, landscape, global, etc. will be represented. The *Estonian Journal of Ecology* will focus on highly interdisciplinary studies, aggregating expertise from biological, ecological, and earth sciences to explore the formation, dynamics, and consequences of spatial heterogeneity in natural and human-dominated ecosystems and landscapes.

Articles are invited from all over the world. In addition to original peer-reviewed papers, review papers and proceedings of thematic symposia (especially those devoted to ecological problems of the Baltic region) are eligible for publication in the journal.

In order to make our editorial and international reviewing work more efficient and transparent, we have introduced associate editors for the main discipline groups. They will supervise the manuscript editing procedure in their sphere of competence.

I would like to thank here the well-known scientists from different countries for their consent to become members of the Editorial Board. I hope that with their assistance the scientific level and international recognition of this journal will continue to improve.

Jaan-Mati Punning
Editor-in-Chief