Acknowledgements

This book grew out of my interest in the politics of environmental protection in forestry – an issue that has been part of my academic life for roughly a decade. My early work on forest politics investigated the influence of international environmental agreements and forest policy recommendations on Norwegian forest policies and forestry. Through this research, I discovered that non-state forest certification schemes seem to have had a greater impact on forest management and forestry practices than have the total of all the forest policy recommendations produced by intergovernmental bodies. Puzzled by this observation, I was eager to study the emergence and effectiveness of forest certification schemes in greater depth. How do forest certification schemes work? How do these schemes influence behavior? How did certification schemes emerge in the first place? Because it was modeled on forest certification, fisheries certification seemed to be a relevant case for comparison. As I undertook the research that became this book, I realized that transformation of the certification model as it was adopted in the fisheries sector could be a tremendously fruitful area for research. Thus the chapters on fisheries certification focus on knowledge acquired from certification experience gleaned within the forest sector – an understanding that paved the way for the world’s leading wild-capture fisheries certification program. It was through this process that fisheries certification mimicked some of the features of forest certification, while strategically avoiding other features.

This book could not have been written without the help of many people. I am grateful to Arild Underdal and Olav Schram Stokke, who have supported and influenced this book project from its inception. Their encouragement and constructive comments have inspired me and helped me to focus on the key issues. Warm thanks go to Kristin Rosendal, who has stimulated my interest in social science research on environmental protection in forestry. I have also benefited greatly from discussions with and comments from many other colleagues throughout the writing process. Particular thanks go to Graeme Auld, Frank Biermann, Magnus Boström, Ben Cashore, Peter Dauvergne, Katarina Eckerberg, Alf Håkon Hoel, David Humphreys and Connie McDermott.

I am thankful to my colleagues at the Fridtjof Nansen Institute (FNI) for providing me with a stimulating and supportive working environment.
I could not imagine a more sustainable habitat than FNI in which to write a book like this one. But in spite of the nurturing intellectual environment that FNI provides, every researcher can benefit from leaving a safe sanctuary from time to time, in search of new habitats. I benefited tremendously from a six-month research stay as a visiting fellow at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, in the spring semester of 2007. My gratitude goes to Bill Clark and Nancy Dickson, co-directors of the Sustainability Science Program at Harvard’s Center for International Development, for hosting me, commenting on my work and providing me with an excellent working environment. The stay was made possible through a scholarship from the Leiv Eiriksson program of the Research Council of Norway.


I am grateful to Nina Colwill for her careful and professional language editing of the entire manuscript. I extend my thanks to Maryanne Rygg at FNI for her assistance with the editing of the original manuscript. I am also grateful to Felicity Plester and Bob Pickens at Edward Elgar for their support and perseverance and to Virginia Williams for her outstanding copy-editing of the manuscript.

I am indebted to my parents, Elisabeth and Rolf, for their never-ending support and intellectual encouragement. My brother Martin pursued an academic career in mathematics, and although I don’t understand his mathematical proofs, I continue to enjoy our conversations about academic and nonacademic life. And, finally, I am tremendously grateful to Jildou for her love, care and inspiration, given in so many ways. Our son, Simen, made his appearance toward the end of this project. He made finalizing the book manuscript more challenging and more rewarding, and he serves as a constant reminder of our obligation to future generations to find effective ways of resolving global environmental problems.

Lars H. Gulbrandsen
Oslo
December, 2009