Preface

There has been considerable institutional innovation in pursuit of sustainable natural resource management. Organizations at many different levels, tiers and scales have been combined in more or less complex networks to tackle the thorny problem of how to promote collective action for such resource management. Our book presents a detailed analysis based on original fieldwork in an attempt to understand how such institutional arrangements work. The origins of the work lie in a conversation between Inge-Lise Saglie of the Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research (NIBR) and Yvonne Rydin of the London School of Economics (LSE) during a visit by the former to London in 2001. Inge-Lise saw the potential of expanding some of Yvonne's work on social capital to understand the more general problem of collective action for resource management. A research grant application to the Norwegian Research Council ensued, based around three in-depth cases studies in Norway. Having successfully secured the Norwegian part of the project, a parallel application went into the UK Economic and Social Research Council for a project based on three UK cases. Work on the joint project began in Norway in 2002, with the fieldwork concluding in England in 2004.

The three Norwegian and three English cases form the major part of the following book. Two cases in each country look at the combined goals of landscape protection and nature conservation with an emphasis on the former in Setesdal Vesthei-Ryfylkeheiane and Cannock Chase, and the latter in Rondane and New Forest. It proved difficult to parallel the Norwegian case concerning the wild reindeer herds; the New Forest ponies were the closest we could manage. Two further cases considered aspects of water management in Morsa and the Lake District. All case studies were undertaken within a collaborative research framework, which established a common theoretical approach using the concepts of social capital and institutional capacity and a broadly applicable common methodology. The details of this methodology are given in the Appendix; it allowed for some variations to fit with specific local circumstances and to take advantage of related projects based in the case studies. The six cases thus formed a coherent whole.

We believe that general lessons about institution-building for resource management can be learnt from this Anglo-Norwegian comparison. But to

widen the scope of the analysis, we invited three other researchers who had been working on resource management within closely related theoretical frameworks to contribute to this book. Drawing on their doctoral studies, these researchers contributed further water management and further landscape/nature conservation studies. This has also expanded the geographical coverage to cover Sweden and Spain within Europe and, a quite different context, Zimbabwe in Africa. Our conclusions are therefore able to synthesize and test out the results from our original Anglo-Norwegian project with the challenge of these additional cases. We hope that this both strengthens and broadens the appeal of our analysis.

There are a number of thanks we would like to express. First, there is our debt to the funders of our joint research project, the Norwegian Research Council and the UK Economic and Social Research Council. In addition, the LSE Nordic Travel Fund supported the original visit to the LSE by Inge-Lise Saglie. Then we would like to thank all the many people who gave up their time to be interviewed and to respond to our requests for information. The research would not have been possible without them. Special thanks are due to the three researchers – Victor Galaz (University of Göteborg, Sweden), Elena Lopez-Gunn (LSE) and Everisto Mapedza (LSE) – who agreed to contribute chapters based on their own work and who generously reconsidered and rewrote their empirical fieldwork in the light of the themes of our research project. More generally, we would like to thank our respective institutions – the London School of Economics, the Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research and the Eastern Norway Research Institute (ENRI) – for the supportive contexts that they provide. A rather special context for working on the project was provided by Jönnhalt Seter in Rondane, Norway and the Mortal Man Inn, Troutbeck, Cumbria! A special thanks to the LSE Design Unit for drawing the maps. Finally, thank you to Catherine Elgar for her support in securing publication of the book.

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