Acknowledgements

The topic of this book intrigues us. While we have been examining and discussing transnational governance in the making, our interest continues to increase. We are grateful that we have had the opportunity to (hopefully) shed some light on a few important aspects of a rapidly changing global order. The good cooperation and complementary thinking between us two authors have indeed constituted a driving force for our thinking and writing. We have different disciplinary backgrounds: management and sociology. However, such labels are just labels. Good theory has no disciplinary limits, and consequently we share a strong interest in the topic of power, legitimacy, multi-stakeholder work, and organizational processes. We are also convinced that good research follows a genuine interest in the actual phenomenon scrutinized.

We have been highly inspired by our case studies and the large number of practitioners involved in the FSC, MSC and ISO, who generously accepted to be interviewed and observed for our purposes. Of course, this research would not have been possible without the three years of funding from the Swedish Research Council for our joint project Organizing private authority – hidden power struggles in standard setting. The Swedish Research Council has also provided financial support for the language editing of this book, conducted by language editor Nina Colwill who did a tremendous job in making our arguments both understandable and sharper.

The multidisciplinary research environment of the Stockholm Centre for Organizational Research (Score) has been particularly stimulating and fruitful, as the group of management scholars (F-section) affiliated to Score. Several scholars from Södertörn University, where one of the authors has been researching and teaching the last couple of years, has also contributed with good perspectives and stimulating discussions.

There are a number of individuals to whom we wish to give special thanks for their critical and highly constructive comments on earlier versions of the manuscript, in alphabetical order: Andrea Mennicken, Bengt Jacobsson, Catrin Andersson, Ebba Sjögren, Göran Ahme, Göran Sundström, John Meyer, Linda Soneryd, Liv Fries, Matilda Dahl, Nils Brunsson, Sebastian Botzem, Susanna Alexius, Winton Higgins, and Yvette Taminiau. With a grant from the Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation, in 2008, we were able to
organize a small workshop in Rönninge, Sweden, on the topic of transnational governance. With the help of the knowledgeable and generous workshop participants – Andrea, Winton, Matilda, Bengt, Sebastian, Yvette, and Göran A – we considerably advanced our analysis of the legitimacy challenges and power struggles within the FSC, MSC and ISO. Furthermore, we wish to thank Coline Ruwet who at an early stage directed our attention to the problematics of stakeholder categorizations, and Christina Garsten for inviting one of us to a field trip to New York in 2007 within the project Social affairs, funded by the Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation. The Missing Pillar research project, funded by the Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences, and Spatial Planning, covered the costs of some of the FSC interviews and analyses. A special thanks to research assistants Ida Seing and Sara Söderström for conducting most of the MSC and FSC interviews, and for their constructive feedback. We are also grateful to Ann Loftsjö at Score for the help with accounting and reporting.

Finally, we wish to thank our families for endless support and inspiration, including Daniel’s invaluable formatting work. And special thoughts go to our children: Celine, Marvin, Dennis, Isak, Ivar, and Arvid.

Kristina Tamm Hallström and Magnus Boström
Stockholm, October 2009