

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 practises than have the total of all the forest policy recommendations produced by inter-governmental 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.

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