

Editors' Preface

This book project started with a series of seminars conducted under the auspices of the Committee for Systems Analysis and IIASA of the Swedish Council for Planning and Coordination of Research (FRN) and was completed with the support of the Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning (Formas) that succeeded the FRN in January 2001. We are grateful for the generous financial support of the project provided by these organizations.

In the period February 2000 – November 2001 the Committee organized ten seminars on recent or ongoing Swedish research employing a systems analytical approach. It was assumed that together these seminars would reflect how systems thinking has been applied in Sweden in recent years, and how it has developed. The Committee invited the authors of the papers presented at these round tables to elaborate their ideas to form chapter contributions of a publication providing an overview of current systems analysis in Sweden. Five members of the Committee itself made additional contributions. The overview of applied systems thinking given in this book should be seen as a sequel to the study *Systemanalys i Sverige* (Systems Analysis in Sweden), authored by Per Molander and published by the FRN in 1981. Special thanks go to all co-authors of the book, not only because they provided highly interesting chapters, but also because they made valuable contributions supporting and guiding the project from the original idea to the completion of the manuscript.

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