

Preface

In the development of an international agenda for applied systems analysis Swedish experience, developed over a considerable number of years, embraces a wide range of application domains. One international focal point for the Swedish interest in systems analysis has been IIASA – the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, with its headquarters in Laxenburg outside Vienna. The Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning (Formas) is currently responsible for the Swedish contacts with IIASA. When Formas was established in 2001 it inherited the Swedish national committee for the promotion of IIASA contacts and systems analysis that was originally set up by the Swedish Council for Planning and Coordination of Research (FRN), which was abolished in conjunction with a major reform of the Swedish research financing system.

Within the framework of the IIASA Committee a special project was launched in line with a proposal by Gunnar Sjöstedt dealing with the Swedish experience in systems analysis and thus, indirectly, with themes related to most of IIASA's activities. The project co-ordination and editorial tasks were given to Mats-Olov Olsson and Gunnar Sjöstedt under the direct surveillance of the Committee. Many of the Committee members and their co-workers as well as several other Swedish scholars have contributed to this book.

Several years of work have gone into bringing together Swedish experience in this field, and we hope that the book will be interesting for an international as well as for a Swedish audience.

Special thanks must go to the two editors and to all the authors who have contributed chapters to the book. Thanks are also due to Professor Arne Jernelöv, former Swedish representative on, and Chairman of, the IIASA Council and later Acting Director of the institute, who always promoted Swedish connections to IIASA and systems analysis. Many thanks also to Mrs. Berit Örnevall, for many years the Secretary to the Swedish Committee for Systems Analysis and IIASA, who has contributed substantially to the coordination of the activities making this book possible.

Stockholm, February 2003

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