

About the author

Arjen Hoekstra was born in Delft, an attractive old city in the Netherlands, on June 28, 1967. He completed his secondary education (VWO) at Hugo Grotius College, received his Master's degree in civil engineering, *cum laude*, at the Delft University of Technology and worked at Delft Hydraulics for two years. During his studies, he was chairman of the student association "Practische Studie" and councillor at the Faculty of Civil Engineering. His Master's thesis, about improving water monitoring networks in Indonesia, was written in that country. In 1991, he received an award from the Delft University Fund as the best civil engineering student of the year. In 1992, he participated in the Young Scientists' Summer Programme of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) in Laxenburg, Austria. In 1993 he moved to Utrecht and started the research which is reported in this book. He obtained employment at the Delft University of Technology, on detachment to the National Institute of Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), in Bilthoven. During the past four years at RIVM he has been a team member of the Global Dynamics and Sustainable Development Group. The main product of this group has been a book published by Cambridge University Press (Rotmans and De Vries, 1997). Arjen has now begun to work for the Dutch Organization for Scientific Research (NWO), on a project on the sustainability and environmental quality of trans-boundary river basins, carried out at the University of Technology in Delft and the Institute of Environmental Studies, Free University, in Amsterdam. Scattered over the past ten years, Arjen has cycled throughout Europe, from the Netherlands to Greece, Spain, and Poland, lived and hunted with pygmies in Gabon, and gone trekking in countries such as Indonesia, Turkey, Pakistan, India and Bolivia. Most winters, he goes for a week's camping in the Ardennes or Vosges, preferably when there is snow.