

## NOTE ON ANONYMITY

To ensure confidentiality and protect the privacy of people whose lives have provided the basis for this book's argument, I use fictive names for all the men and women appearing in these pages. I also use a pseudonym—CTI or Congolese Timber Industries—to refer to the Congolese branch of the European company that operated the logging concession where fieldwork happened. Yet, notwithstanding my use of generic names for sites that are specifically linked to CTI's presence (e.g., forest camp, river camp), I had no choice but to refer to neighboring villages and towns by their actual names. Undoubtedly, this makes the logging concession identifiable to insiders. A more watertight guarantee on anonymity would, however, make every reference to a wider context impossible and thus create an image of the concession as an isolated world artificially cut off from its specific region and history. Balancing concerns for contextualization and anonymity, the following chapters propose a particularized and concrete ethnography that nevertheless protects people's privacy and respects the trust they bestowed on me.