# International African Library 13 General editors: J. D. Y. Peel and David Parkin

### **RAINFOREST RELATIONS**

### International African Library

#### General Editors

#### I. D. Y. Peel and David Parkin

The International African Library is a major monograph series from the International African Institute and complements its quarterly periodical Africa, the premier journal in the field of African studies. Theoretically informed ethnographies, studies of social relations 'on the ground' which are sensitive to local cultural forms, have long been central to the Institute's publications programme. The IAL maintains this strength but extends it into new areas of contemporary concern, both practical and intellectual. It includes works focused on problems of development, especially on the linkages between the local and national levels of society; studies along the interface between the social and environmental sciences; and historical studies, especially those of a social, cultural or interdisciplinary character.

#### Titles in the series:

- 1 Sandra T. Barnes Patrons and power: creating a political community in metropolitan Lagos (Published in the USA by Indiana University Press)
- 2 Jane I. Guyer (ed.) Feeding African cities: essays in social history (Published in the USA by Indiana University Press)
- 3 Paul Spencer The Maasai of Matapato: a study of rituals of rebellion (Published in the USA by Indiana University Press)
- 4 Johan Pottier Migrants no more: settlement and survival in Mambwe villages, Zambia (Published in the USA by Indiana University Press)
- 5 Günther Schlee Identities on the move: clanship and pastoralism in northern Kenva
- 6 Suzette Heald Controlling anger: the sociology of Gisu violence
- 7 Karin Barber I could speak until tomorrow: oriki, women and the past in a Yoruba town (Published in the USA by the Smithsonian Institution Press and in Nigeria by Ibadan University Press)
- 8 Richard Fardon Between God, the dead and the wild: Chamba interpretations of religion and ritual (Published in the USA by the Smithsonian Institution Press and in Zimbabwe by Baobab Press)
- 9 Richard Werbner Tears of the dead: the social biography of an African family (Published in the USA by the Smithsonian Institution Press)
- 10 Colin Murray Black Mountain: land, class and power in the eastern Orange Free State, 1880s to 1980s (Published in the USA by the Smithsonian Institution Press and in South Africa by Witwatersrand University Press)
- 11 J. S. Eades Strangers and traders: Yoruba migrants, markets and the state in northern Ghana (Published in the USA by Africa World Press)
- 12 Isaac Ncube Mazonde Ranching and enterprise in eastern Botswana: a case study of black and white farmers
- 13 Melissa Leach Rainforest relations: gender and resource use among the Mende of Gola, Sierra Leone (Published in the USA by the Smithsonian Institution Press)

#### Editorial Consultants

Kofi Agawu Pierre Bonte John Comaroff Johannes Fabian Paulin Hountondji Ivan Karp Sally Falk Moore

### RAINFOREST RELATIONS

# Gender and Resource Use among the Mende of Gola, Sierra Leone

MELISSA LEACH

EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY PRESS for the International African Institute, London

## This book is dedicated to the villagers living around Sierra Leone's Gola reserves, and to their hopes for a peaceful forest future.

#### © Melissa Leach, 1994

Transferred to digital print 2009

Edinburgh University Press Ltd 22 George Square, Edinburgh

Typeset in Linotronic Plantin by Speedspools, Edinburgh, and printed and bound in Great Britain by CPI Antony Rowe, Chippenham and Eastbourne

A CIP record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN 0 7486 0493 6

ISBN 978 1 4744 7016 2 (EPDF)