Acknowledgements

The undertaking of this project, with the ultimate goal of writing this book, spanned nine years of field research and analytical thinking about my field experiences, encounters and findings. The experience has been enriched by numerous people and organizations I have associated with throughout the process in many different capacities and different parts of the world. I am very fortunate to have had Elinor Ostrom as my mentor. She read the first draft when it was my doctoral thesis at Indiana University Bloomington. Lin has been a source of intellectual inspiration and provided extraordinary guidance during my graduate study. She constructively contested clarity, direction and purpose of the project throughout the process. I benefited immensely from associations I have had with the Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis as a graduate student and post-doctoral research fellow. It was there at the Workshop, which Lin and her husband Vincent founded in 1973, that the seed of this book to investigate issues, interests and actors beyond the state began to germinate. In this dimension, I must also acknowledge that Vincent Ostrom, with whom I was privileged to have had interactions on numerous occasions, was instrumental in shaping the idea of the polycentric theory that I further developed in this project.

There are several individuals I consider my mentors and friends who contributed to the development of this project. Among other things in life, Patrick O’Meara introduced me to theories and approaches to development. Alfred C. Aman inspired me to critically examine the role of law and globalization in governance. John S. Applegate taught me about the role of international environmental law and the challenges of finding solutions to environmental problems. Lauren Robel, as the Dean of Maurer School of Law at Indiana University, not only supported my graduate study but also funded my postdoctoral fellowship jointly with the Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis. Matthew Auer introduced me to the policy sciences approach. Amos Sayer taught me about the challenges of actually implementing governance, especially in violent conflict zones. Michael McGinnis was always generous with his time in reading my papers and providing constructive comments whenever I asked. And Jeffery Isaac is a special friend and a dedicated professor who taught me to love political
theory in my search to understand foundations of democracy. All of these individuals have provided very productive inputs throughout the process of writing this book. I am grateful to Oran Young for giving me the opportunity to serve as a research fellow for the Institutional Dimensions of Global Environmental Change (IDGEC) project of the International Human Dimensions Program. My experiences in several writing workshops and conferences that IDGEC launched helped me enormously in the area of regime theory and global environmental governance that you will be reading about in Chapter 2.

The research for this work involved numerous field trips to the Mekong and the Rhine river basins. I was only able to conduct these field trips with grants from the Center for the Study of Global Change for the field research in the Mekong and the Office of International Programs at Indiana University for the field research in the Rhine.

During my field research in the Mekong, I was assisted by many people in different capacities. I wish to thank Dr Harvey Demaine and Mr Michael E. Jones of the Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok. I am grateful to Dr Louis Lebel of the Unit for Social and Environmental Research, Dr Chayan Vaddhanaphuti of the Regional Center for Social Sciences and Sustainable Development, and Dean Pong-In Rakariyatham of the Faculty of Social Sciences at Chiang Mai University for their generous assistance with visa applications and logistics and for providing office space during my field research. At the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand, I am grateful to Assistant Director Pramote Chamamahattana and Chief Engineer Wattana Kongtahworn of the Hydro Power Construction Division. I owe a great deal of gratitude to the then Director Chainarong Sretthachua and Assistant Director Pianporn Deetes of the South East Asia Rivers Network for their help with interviews and field trips to Pak Mun Dam in 2002 and 2003. I am also grateful to Ms Sirithon Wairatpanij for her assistance with translation of Thai texts. In addition, I thank the many villagers at the Pak Mun Dam site area and members of the Assembly of the Poor who graciously shared their stories and points of view. I am deeply indebted to each and every one of them for their hospitality and kindness.

During my field research in the Rhine, I received kind assistance from many people. I wish to thank Dr Thomas Bernauer for providing me with an office and logistical support at the Center for International Studies at ETH Zurich, Mr. Raphaël Tschanz for assistance with my research and Dr Simon Mason for his support and friendship during my stay. For their assistance with locating documents and interviews, I am also grateful to the then Secretary J. Harm Oterdoom and Deputy Secretary Anne Schulte-Wülwer-Leidig of the International Commission for the
Protection of the Rhine (ICPR/IKSR) in Koblenz, Germany, Mr Edwin Müller, Deputy Chief of the Swiss Delegation to ICPR, Mr Bob Dekker, Chief of the Dutch Delegation to ICPR, Dr Erik Mostert and Dr Pieter Huisman of the Center for Research on the River Basin Administration at the University of Delft in the Netherlands, Dr Carel Dieprink of the University of Utrecht and Dr Peter Stoks of WRK Water Works in Nieuwegein, the Netherlands. I am also grateful to Dr Edith Wenger of the Flood Plain Institute, Rastatt, Germany, and Ms Reina Kuiper of Stichting Reinwater, Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Without help from all of these individuals, the research in the Rhine River Basin would not have been possible. I am grateful to several individuals I met along the Rhine who shared their life stories and their reflections about the Rhine river pollution and memories of the Sandoz accident that touched their lives. Their generosity with their time and willingness to talk to me while I was traveling back and forth on trains and boats between Switzerland and the Netherlands in summer 2001 is deeply appreciated.

I am grateful for excellent editing skills and thoughtful comments provided by Joanna Broderick. For that, the funding from the Office of the Dean at Carleton College is greatly acknowledged. Any error or incompleteness in this book is mine.

Finally, I am very lucky to have the support of friends and family in Burma and in the United States. My dear wife, Carol, has been a source of love and unconditional support. This book is written for her and to the generation of our daughters Ananda and Aya.

Tun Myint  
Northfield, MN  
21 September, 2011