Preface and acknowledgements

This book had its origins in a previous Elgar project Transboundary Environmental Governance in Asia: Practice and Prospects with the UNECE Agreements (Marsden and Brandon, 2015). It builds on this earlier book, which focused on the UNECE regional environmental agreements with application in Asia as well as Europe, by evaluating subregional environmental agreements focused specifically on Asia. It develops this previous work by adding international relations and environmental management scholarship to international law, enabling interdisciplinary perspectives to inform the research and findings.

The current project considers nine existing regimes across southwest, central, southeast and northeast Asia, and proposes a tenth regime for the cross-subregion in south and east Asia. In addition to the focus on subregional agreements, two new issues are dealt with that were not addressed in the previous book: the role of China in relation to each of the agreements, and environmental governance of the Third Pole, the Himalayas/Tibetan Plateau. As an Asian subregion lacking in a specific environmental regime, the potential for this based on experiences in the other Asian subregions is analysed, and China’s position is evaluated.

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The manuscript was completed in July 2016 and is dedicated to my two youngest children, Harry and Isabel, from whom I was absent for too long during the work on the book. Thank you also Joseph and Anna – my other two children – for allowing me (mostly) the quiet time needed, and – as always – my partner in all my efforts in life, Liz.