Acknowledgments

I have always been interested in concepts, ideas, and institutions that help to unite people in a meaningful, sustainable and just fashion. The international community is still emerging from and grappling with trends that confirm rivalry as the dominant operating matrix for most transnational actors. In this context, abstract and open-textured norms like environmental principles are often viewed as tools for various actors to exact in different circumstances. My intuitions however suggested that these principles were also effective in uniting people to consult and engage in a discourse that ultimately contributed to important developments for the governance of the natural environment and resource consumption. I started this project to try and confirm or disprove my intuitions.

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Some of this work has already been published elsewhere. In particular
chapters 6, 7 and 8 are respectively based on these publications:
– ‘Power, Environmental Principles and the International Court of
– ‘The Global Compact, Environmental Principles, and Change in
International Environmental Politics’ (2010) 38(2) Denver Journal of
International Law and Policy 101.

Some of the material in Chapter 8 was (first) presented at the Centre
for International and Public Law (CIPL) – Australian Centre for
Environmental Law (ACEL) workshop, 13–15 August 2009, Environmental
Discourses in International and Public Law at the Australian National
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Brad Jessup (eds) (2010), Environmental Discourses in International and
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