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.

This book is based on my PhD thesis which was accepted in 2009. Professor Donald Rothwell was my supervisor and a long time mentor, and has always provided me with wise and insightful comments, criticisms and moral support throughout my academic career. I sincerely appreciate his help and friendship. I have also been fortunate over the years to have a number of friends and colleagues who have shaped how I work with international law. In particular Professors Emeritus Ben Boer and Ivan Shearer, and Professor Martin Tsamenyi have played an important role in developing my early activities as a scholar. My association with the Socio-Legal Research Centre at the Griffith Law School has fuelled my passion for interdisciplinary studies, not only because of the excellent colleagues I have been fortunate to have but also the scholars who have visited us over the years from all around the world. I developed and strengthened my appreciation of constructivism in international relations during discussions with Alexander Wendt, who at that time was at the Department of Political Science at the University of Chicago.

Members of my immediate family have been very patient and supportive during the time it took for me to complete this work. The love and support of my wife, Nikki, and our two children, Lachlan and Zoe, was most valuable during the project. I cannot thank them enough for everything they did to accommodate the hours I spent away from them while completing this work.
Some of this work has already been published elsewhere. In particular chapters 6, 7 and 8 are respectively based on these publications:


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 University and is also being developed separately for Kim Rubenstein and Brad Jessup (eds) (2010), *Environmental Discourses in International and Public Law*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

During the early stages of the editing process I received very useful support from Fiona Lubbett. Finally, the staff at Edward Elgar have been incredibly helpful during every stage of the production of this book. I sincerely thank them for their efficient, thorough and friendly assistance. In particular, I want to thank Georgiana Appelgate, Alex Pettifer and David Fairclough.

The law and web pages referred to are current as at January 2010.