

A Note from the Editors

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This book grew out of the Global Environmental Governance Project sponsored by the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy. The project began in 1998 as a dialogue among environmental professionals, government officials, business people, non-governmental organization leaders, and scholars from around the world keenly aware of the magnitude of modern environmental challenges, the inability of existing institutions to respond effectively, and the need for fundamental reforms in the way we manage our global ecological interdependence. A diverse group has continued to gather over the years to push the boundaries of the current debate and to delineate options and opportunities for strengthened global environmental governance.

The World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in Johannesburg in August 2002 provided the impetus for assembling the accumulated collective knowledge into a concise volume aiming to contribute to the policy dialogue with a thoughtful yet rigorous reform agenda. What seemed like an impossible timeframe for a publication became a feasible project with editorial and publicity support from the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies (F&ES). Dean James Gustave Speth contributed visionary leadership, policy guidance, and financial support. Jane Coppock, Assistant Dean and Editor of the Yale F&ES Book Series, ingeniously pulled all the pieces together and made this volume a vibrant part of the School's book series on environmental subjects of current interest.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to the extraordinary group of authors that gave life to this book. The fifteen contributors brought to the project a depth and breadth of expertise, invaluable experience from all social sectors, and a range of national perspectives from Africa, Asia, Latin America, Western and Eastern Europe, and North America. Above all, they offered energy, enthusiasm, and commitment. The authors submitted drafts and revisions under pressing deadlines, quickly and thoughtfully responded to comments, and traveled great distances to enliven the dialogue that this volume reflects.

The truly collaborative nature of this project was manifested in a two-day workshop in New Haven in April 2002 that allowed us to discuss the draft chapters, elaborate the overall analytical framework of the volume, and test preliminary findings. A grant from the Yale Center for the Study of Globalization made this event possible. The broad support, active engagement, and insightful advice of its Director Strobe Talbott helped immeasurably. We are also grateful for the encouragement and assistance of Associate Director Haynie Wheeler.

The commentaries and critiques of two reviewers, Peter Haas of the University of Massachusetts and David Driesen of University of Syracuse Law School, strengthened the book considerably. The valuable comments of Mehjabeen Habidi-Abib of UNDP in Pakistan also helped to bolster several of the chapters.

The analytical framework for this book has greatly benefited from our extensive discussions over a number of years with the participants in the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy's Global Environmental Governance Project (and the recently constituted Global Environmental Mechanism Policy Action Group that grew out of that project). We wish to thank all those who have been part of this process: Mehjabeen Abidi-Habib (Pakistan), Adnan Amin (Kenya), Ali Azimi (Afghanistan), Abimbola Bamidele-Izu (Nigeria), Alicia Bàrcena (Mexico), Johannah Bernstein (Canada), Frank Biermann (Germany), Al Binger (Jamaica), Zbigniew Bochniarz (Poland), Laurence Boisson de Chazournes (Switzerland), Delphine Borione (France), Tom Burke (United Kingdom), James Cameron (United Kingdom), Paulo Henrique Cardoso (Brazil), Daniele Cesano (Italy), Anilla Cherian (India), Nazli Choucri (Egypt), Angela Cropper (Trinidad and Tobago), Carolyn Deere (Australia), Bharat H. Desai (India), Neno Dimov (Bulgaria), Rudolf Dolzer (Germany), Elizabeth Dowdeswell (Canada), Saliem Fakir (South Africa), Janine Ferretti (Canada), Christiana Figueres (Costa Rica), Dan Fleshler (United States), Claude Fussler (Switzerland), Arnaldo Jose Gabaldon (Venezuela), Luis Gomez-Echeverri (Colombia), Pat Gruber (United States), Michael Gucovsky (Israel), Peter Haas (United States), Scott Hajost (United States), Parvez Hassan (Pakistan), Gudrun Henne (Germany), Jim Hickman (United States), T. Christine Hogan (Canada), Joy Hyvarinen (Finland), Jesse Johnson (United States), Ilona Kickbusch (Germany), Maritta Koch-Weser (Germany), Koh Kheng Lian (Singapore), Milwako Kurosaka (Japan), Alexander Likhotal (Russian Federation), Karin Lissakers (United States), Frank

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Jane Coppock, the series editor, and Melissa Goodall, editorial assistant, at the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies deserve special recognition and thanks. Simply said, without them this book would not have been possible. Their contribution to every stage of the process and every page of the volume is invaluable. We are also grateful to Barbara Ruth, Carolyn Deere, and Irina Faion for their assistance at critical moments.

A book is not just about writing. Its ultimate purpose is to convey an idea. In this regard, we are grateful for the use of David Walker's quilt art on the book cover, which communicates the myriad ways in which humanity is interwoven and interrelated. Dottie Scott's resourceful assistance with the page layout was indispensable to the production of the book on a tight schedule. We are also appreciative

of the efforts of the team at Yale's Reprographics and Imaging Services (RIS) where the book was produced. The Yale F&ES book series has used these digital publishing services for many years, and the existence of a facility where books can be designed, printed, bound, and mailed, utilizing the latest in digital technology, has enabled many an author to get ideas into print at a speed that was once considered inconceivable. On this particular project, our thanks go to Maura Gianakos and Peter Johnson for the overall graphic design of the book, and to Joseph Cinquino who, as always, managed the printing and production process with efficiency and grace.

This project could not have gone forward without substantial support from several funders. The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation helped launch the Global Environmental Governance Project in 1998 and has continued to support its activities. Contributions from the Heinrich Böll Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, and the Global Environment and Trade Study (and its funders including the Ford Foundation and the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership) have allowed the project to continue and expand.

Publishing a book is not the end of this sweeping project. While this volume marks a major landmark in the Global Environmental Governance Project, it also denotes the beginning of an expanded policy and outreach effort. Building on its four-year initiative, the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy, in cooperation with the Globus Institute for Globalization and Sustainability in the Netherlands, and the Commission on Globalization, has established a Global Environmental Mechanism (GEM) Policy Action Group. The goals of this Policy Action Group are to: (1) define a thoughtful, yet rigorous agenda for global environmental governance reform; (2) open a "back channel" dialogue among government officials, NGO leaders, academics, and business community representatives on ways to strengthen global environmental institutions; (3) create a constituency for sustained involvement in a reform initiative; and (4) work toward the implementation of the reform agenda.

We hope that, with the publication of this collection of reform visions and options, the group of authors and collaborators can assist decisionmakers around the world in beginning to define ambitious yet feasible ways of converting global environmental governance challenges into opportunities.

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