Preface

This book is a product of a two-day, international seminar convened in August 2000 on 'Environmental change in native and colonial histories of Borneo; Lessons from the past, prospects for the future', held in Leiden, the Netherlands. The inspiration for the seminar came from a number of sources, not least of which was the book, *Paper landscapes; Explorations in the environmental history of Indonesia* (Peter Boomgaard, Freek Colombijn and David Henley, KITLV Press, 1997), a product of the EDEN-project of the Koninklijk Instituut voor Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde (KITLV, Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies). A special focus on one island, Borneo, seemed an appropriate way to build on this earlier work, providing a means of crossing colonial and national boundaries which so often direct scholarship, and building on a concern for linking past histories and present circumstances.

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