

## Year in Review 2016

### Early Career Group

**Co-Chairs: Michelle Lim, Nicholas Bryner**

The highlights of Early Career Group (ECG) activities for 2016 center around IUCN's World Environmental Law Congress held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in April and the World Conservation Congress held in Honolulu, Hawai'i in September 2016. The ECG has also strengthened ties with the Future Earth Network of Networks, contributed to the "IUCN World Declaration on the Environmental Rule of Law", developed (and implemented) the WCEL Social Media Strategy, and continued to build on activities initiated in the previous reporting period such as the WCEL blog and the book project: [Charting Environmental Law Futures in the Anthropocene](#). In 2016, the ECG published submissions on its blog on topics such as the deep sea bed authority and environmental protection of the deep sea bed; renewable energy; green purchasing and securities disclosure; and judicial networks and climate governance across Asia. This series of essays by members is planned for forthcoming publication.

The inaugural "IUCN WCEL Global Colloquium of Early Career Environmental Law Experts: Legal Tools for Sustainable Futures in the Anthropocene" was held on the 27 April 2016 as a pre-Congress event of the World Environmental Law Congress. The Colloquium brought together early-career environmental lawyers from around the world to identify the legal tools and governance transformations required for shaping sustainable futures in the Anthropocene. The colloquium included presentations by 25 emerging scholars from around the world. The inclusion of pre-recorded video presentations from experts who were unable to attend in person enhanced the richness of the discussion by enabling contributions from multiple parts of the globe. Opening remarks for the Colloquium were provided by Inger Andersen (IUCN Director General) and Justice Antonio Benjamin (National High Court of Brazil – and WCEL Chair); with closing remarks from Prof. Ben Boer (WCEL Deputy Chair). A video recording of the Colloquium and individual video presentations is [available online](#). Findings from the workshop were presented at the final plenary session of the World Environmental Law Congress and were incorporated in the "IUCN World Declaration on the Environmental Rule of Law". The ECG played an important role in ensuring that issues of intergenerational equity and emerging ecological concepts such as resilience were included in the Declaration.

At the IUCN World Conservation Congress held in Hawai'i in September 2016, ECG Co-Chairs, Michelle Lim and Nick Bryner (UCLA) organised the [“Emerging Leaders and the Future of Environmental Law”](#) side event in conjunction with Prof. Denise Antolini, University of Hawai'i and the Supreme Court of Hawai'i. As part of the “Environmental Law Journey” the event brought together an international group of emerging environmental law scholars and practitioners, and was well attended by local and international early career environmental lawyers. It was also supported by a large group of established environmental law experts including Supreme Court justices from Hawai'i and Brazil, and members of WCEL and the IUCN Academy of Environmental law.

The ECG also jointly organised a workshop with the IUCN Environmental Law Centre asking the question: “Is there a place for law in the future of conservation?” The workshop convened an eminent panel of speakers from a range of sectors and disciplines. Panellists comprised: Prof. Nilufer Oral (Chair, IUCN Academy of Environmental Law), Elizabeth Mrema (Director, UNEP Division of Environmental Law and Conventions (DELIC)); Justice Antonio Herman Benjamin; Trevor Sandwith (Director, IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme); Ida Kubiczweski (Australian National University); and Deric Quaile (Manager, Environmentally Sensitive Areas, Shell). [A video](#) was a key output of the workshop.