



# IUCN AEL Colloquium 2023

## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

### 20th Annual Colloquium of the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law Future-Proofing Law in a Time of Environmental Emergency

The Centre for Climate Change Environmental Law at the University of Eastern Finland (UEF) is proud to host the 20th Annual Colloquium of the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law on **31 July–4 August 2023, at the UEF Law Faculty, Joensuu, Finland.**

We are inviting abstract submissions for paper presentations at the Colloquium by **17 February 2023.**

The theme of the 20th Colloquium is **Future-Proofing Law in a Time of Environmental Emergency.** This theme draws attention to the need of ensuring that law is able to respond to the scientific, socio-economic, and political uncertainties associated with contemporary environmental challenges, i.e. making environmental law 'future-proof'. The theme also raises the question whether existing approaches in environmental law are enough to overcome the environmental emergency, or whether new and more radical approaches are needed.

The Colloquium will be organised in sub-themes that elaborate on this overarching theme:

- ***How can environmental law be future-proofed?*** Environmental law has in many instances been reactive, responding to new environmental problems following the accumulation of scientific knowledge. However, the scale of the problems we are facing now and their potential impacts in the long run require a proactive response that deals with the uncertainties inherent to contemporary environmental challenges. Under this sub-theme, papers could address the extent to which regulation is able to provide such a proactive response through the integration of science; monitoring, evaluation, and review systems; and provisions for stocktaking, updating, and amendment. Papers could also examine concepts and theoretical approaches to help future-proof environmental law and governance, such as adaptive law, polycentricity, and experimentalist governance, or explore how environmental law could employ tools and methods to better anticipate future developments, such as scenario exercises and visioning.

- ***Is environmental law equipped to deal with emerging technologies?*** Rapid advances in technologies, such as synthetic biology, nanotechnologies, and climate engineering, raise a host of new questions for environmental regulators at all levels: are existing definitions sufficiently broad to cover such technologies; how are ongoing scientific uncertainties regulated, and what is the role of the precautionary principle in this regard; and how can different socio-economic and environmental benefits and risks be balanced in the deployment of these technologies? Papers under this sub-theme could explore these and other questions arising from the development and possible use of emerging technologies.
- ***Towards a more radical environmental law?*** Mounting frustration with the lack of progress in tackling environmental challenges can be witnessed across the world, as evidenced by movements like Extinction Rebellion and school strikes for the climate, or policy proposals such as the Green New Deal. These developments suggest a dissatisfaction with the existing, largely incremental approach to environmental law, in which problems are tackled one step at a time, depending largely on their political saliency. Papers under this sub-theme could put forward the case for – or against – more radical approaches to environmental law, and sketch the contours of radical environmental law approaches in light of concrete environmental problems.

We welcome submissions focused on the broad theme of the Colloquium, as well as on any other topics relevant to environmental law.

## Guidelines for abstracts

- Abstracts must be written in English, complete with title, author(s) name(s), and institutional affiliation.
- Abstracts should be 300 words maximum.
- Abstracts should contain the aim of the paper, main points and a brief conclusion. Abstracts should not contain tables, graphs, drawings, etc.
- Abstracts should be submitted [via the submission site](#).
- If several abstracts are submitted as part of a proposed panel, there is space in the abstract submission form to indicate this. In this case, please clearly indicate the name of the panel.
- Abstracts should be submitted by **17 February 2023**.



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ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL LAW