

## The Emily Webster Memorial Award

When we gather, we think we see the next year again – but that is not always the case. We have lost a member of our community this past year: Dr. Emily Webster. For Emily, the IUCN academy was a home ground. She will be remembered of her excellent scholarship and of her inspirational teaching but also, of her collegiality. Emily was exceptionally supporting colleague to many. Inspired by this, we at the AEL Board took steps to secure this legacy of hers will not be forgotten.

**In memory of the late Emily Webster, a cherished member of our community whose spirit continues to inspire us, the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law is proud to reintroduce the tradition of recognising outstanding contributions in our community with the Emily Webster Memorial Award.**

**This prestigious accolade celebrates a colleague who embodies the essence of hope, positivity, and resilience in the face of environmental challenges.** The recipient of this award is someone who stands as a beacon of support within our community. They are known for their ability to listen empathetically, allowing others to be truly heard and seen. Their approach is characterised by a mix of positive encouragement, unwavering support, and a delightful touch of mischievousness that brings joy and lightness to serious endeavours.

**This award not only commemorates Emily's impactful presence but also addresses our collective struggle against the cycles of negativity and despair** in the battle against climate change and environmental degradation. By shining a spotlight on individuals who actively combat these issues with a spirit of optimism and camaraderie we aim to bolster our community's resolve and commitment.

The selection criteria for this award focuses on the intangible yet crucial qualities of warmth, encouragement, and positive influence that a colleague can have – **at their home institution, national or regional societies, or elsewhere where an environmental law scholar is part of a community.**

This annual award is a reminder of the power of human connection and support in our quest for environmental stewardship. It represents the core values of the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law emphasising the importance of nurturing and supporting each other in our respective journeys towards a sustainable and hopeful future.

**The Emily Webster Memorial Award will be presented for the first time at the 2025 Colloquium in Lima, Peru.** The call will open, and more information will be shared in the coming academic year for you to nominate your deserving colleague to be the first recipient of the Emily Webster Memorial Award. **Please act when the call opens.**

Together we can keep Emily's legacy alive: in outstanding scholarship, inspiring teaching, and positive encouragement of one another.