



EMEA WEBINARS FALL CYCLE

BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE:

Lessons for the Mediterranean Sea

Thursday 17 September 2020 15:00- 17:30 CET

Moderator:

Prof. Rym Ayadi
President, Euro-Mediterranea Economists
Association (EMEA)

Discussant:

Alessandra Sensi
Head of Sector Environment and Blue Economy,
Water and Environment Division, Union for the
Mediterranean

Speakers:

Sylvia Earle
Oceanographer and explorer known for her
research on marine algae and her books and
documentaries, USA

Patricia Morales
CEO Foundation Meri, Chile

Ralph Chami
Assistant Director in the Institute for Capacity
Development (ICD), at the International Monetary
Fund, Member of the Advisory Board, EMEA

Yara Saab
Coordinator of Operations of SCP/RAC of UNEP
Mediterranean Action Plan



Human activity has impacted unprecedentedly natural ecosystems. According to the latest UN Report 2020, around 1 million of animal and plant species on the planet are threatened with extinction. The rate of species' extinction is accelerating, leading to a deterioration of the health of ecosystems. For example, land-based habitats have shrunk by at least 20% since 1900, amphibian by more than 40%, and 33% of reef-forming corals and 33% of marine mammals are threatened, not to forget the 10% of the insects species that are under threat. The increasing loss in biodiversity will have a grave impact on our economies due to the impact on food security, health, and livelihoods.

Oceans and seas are essential for the Biosphere to support life on Earth. All the main cycles are linked to them, but unfortunately, they are severely impacted by human activity. In the Mediterranean, climate change, fishing activity and plastic pollution are some of the main hazards for living beings under the Sea. It is therefore necessary to understand the value of biodiversity and their ecosystem services, their contribution to oxygen production and carbon sequestration.

The second of the EMEA Webinars Fall Cycle on **"Biodiversity and Climate Change: Lessons for the Mediterranean Sea"** aims to dive into a dialogue between **economics and natural ecosystems** in order to bring out a new perspective to the so-called **"Blue economy"**. For that reason, we are honoured to count on the participation of relevant experts linked to the marine biology and economics, to share their visions from a scientific to philanthropic point of view.

The webinar will be moderated by the Founder and President of EMEA, Prof. Rym Ayadi, with the participation of Sylvia Earle, well known Oceanographer who will explain to us her vision as Biologist about the oceans as a "life support system". Ralph Chami will explain the recent approach to analysing the economic value of whales and marine mammals. Patricia Morales will explain the experience of Foundation Meri with the protection of Whales in Chile's shore. Yara Saab will provide the legal approach and Alessandra Sensi will talk about the "UfM Environment and Blue Economy Agendas".

EMEA launches, with this webinar, a new research initiative related to bio-economics and its integration into Mediterranean Blue Economy policies.



Moderator:



Rym Ayadi

President and co-Founder Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association

Professor Rym Ayadi is the Founder and President of the Euro – Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA). She is Founder and Director of the Euro-Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies (EMNES). She is Senior Advisor at the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS); Professor at the Business School, City University of London; and Member of the Centre for Banking Research (CBR); Chair of the European Banking Authority – Banking Stakeholders Group (EBA- BSG). She is also Associated Scholar at the Centre for Relationship Banking and Economics (CERBE) at LUMSA University in Rome.

Discussant:



Alessandra Sensi

Head of Sector, Environment and Blue Economy, at WEBE – the Water, Environment and Blue Economy Division Union for the Mediterranean

Alessandra Sensi has a University Degree in Political Science and a master's degree in management and Economics of Energy and Environment. She is Head of Sector, Environment and Blue Economy, at WEBE – the Water, Environment and Blue Economy Division of the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean since March 2013. She was Programme Manager of the environment/green economy/climate change portfolio at the European Commission, EuropeAid, between 2009 and 2012. Before, she worked for FAO, Rome (2007-2009); for UNEP/GEF in Nairobi and Geneva (2001-2006); for the Development Cooperation Office of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Hanoi, Vietnam (1999-2000); and for Eurostat - the Statistical office of the EU, Luxembourg (1996-1999).

Speakers:



Sylvia Earle

Oceanographer and Explorer in Residence at the National Geographic Society

Sylvia A. Earle is Explorer in Residence at the National Geographic Society, Founder of Mission Blue, Founder of Deep Ocean Exploration and Research, a Founding Ocean Elder, Honorary Chair of the Advisory Council for the Harte Research Institute and former Chief Scientist of NOAA. Author of more than 230 publications, leader of more than 100 expeditions with 7500 hours underwater, she is a graduate of Florida State University with MA and PhD degrees from Duke University and 33 honorary doctorates. Her research concerns the ecology and conservation of marine ecosystems and development of technology for access to the deep sea. She has given presentations in more than 90 countries, was featured in the Netflix film, Mission Blue, was named Time Magazine's first Hero for the Planet and a Living Legend by the Library of Congress. She is the recipient of more than 150 honors and awards including the Netherlands Order of the Golden Ark, the 2018 Princess of Asturias Prize for Concord (Peace), the TED Prize, the Explorers Club Medal, Royal Geographic Society's Patron's Medal and the National Geographic's Hubbard Medal.



Ralph Chami

Assistant Director in the Institute for Capacity Development (ICD), at the International Monetary Fund, Member of the Advisory Board, EMEA

Ralph Chami oversees the development and implementation of the internal economics training program for all IMF economists as well as the revamping of the Institute's external training program for officials from member countries. Most recently, he was Assistant Director and Division Chief in the Middle East and Central Asia Department where he oversaw surveillance and program work on fragile states: Egypt, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, and Yemen, and was Mission Chief for Libya and Somalia. He is the recipient of the 2014 IMF Operational Excellence Award for his work on fragile states. His areas of specialization are climate, fragile states, remittances, banking regulation and supervision, and financial markets. His hobbies include music and yoga. Ralph is a semi-professional guitarist for over 40 years
<https://youtu.be/C-1foUit8Gg>



Yara Saab

Coordinator of Operations of SCP/RAC of UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan

International law specialist with experience in intergovernmental organizations, government, and international judicial bodies. She enjoys expertise in regional and international governance regimes, SDG implementation, international organizations and their procedures, with hands on experience in project management. Previous posts include legal adviser of The Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations in New York, legal officer at the International Tribunal for the Law of Sea, and consultant on development issues at the UN economic and social commission for Western Asia. PhD candidate at the faculty of law of Universidad Pompeu Fabra. Fluent in Arabic, French, English and Spanish.



Patricia Morales

CEO Foundation Meri, Chile

Economist at the Catholic University of Louvain (Belgium). Master of Arts in Economics, from the Paris School of Economics (France), with university teaching experience in International Economics and Econometrics. She has extensive experience in the direction and management of projects, as well as in the design, assessment, and implementation of public policies, in matters related to economic and social development. She has been a panellist on radio and other forums, as well as being awarded the Mujer Opina 2017 award, for promoting the role of women in public spaces and politics. Since 2017, she has served as General Manager of Filantropía Cortés.

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Regional Integration post COVID-19.

