Imèn Meliane

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Tunis, Tunisia

Profile

Impact-driven professional with a proven track record in biodiversity and ocean conservation and climate change adaptation. Passionate about bridging cutting-edge science, grassroots efforts, and high-level policymaking to advance global sustainability and resilience.

Extensive experience supporting 80+ developing countries. Deep expertise in international environmental policy, climate finance, and sustainable development frameworks. Adept at building and leading strategic partnerships, engaging diverse stakeholders to drive meaningful, impactful change. Skilled communicator with demonstrated ability to influence and inspire action across sectors and geographies.

Education

-   Social Sector Emerging Leadership Program (May 2012); Thunderbird School of Global Management, Arizona, USA.

-   M.Sc. in Marine Sciences (Dec. 2002); University of Alicante, Spain.

-   Engineer's Degree in Management of Marine Environment and Resources (July 1998); National Institute of Agronomy, Tunisia.

Languages

Arabic (Native), French (Fully proficient), English (Fully proficient), Spanish (Fully proficient), Italian (Fair), Portuguese (Basic).

Experience

Senior Climate Change Specialist and Advisor to the Manager - Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat, Washington, DC. 2023 - 2025

Sabbatical - Shouf Biosphere Reserve, Lebanon. 2019

International Consultant - UNDP, UNEP, UNDRR, FAO, Adaptation Fund. 2015 - 2022

Director, International Marine Policy - The Nature Conservancy, Arlington, VA. 2009 - 2014

Marine Policy Coordinator - IUCN, Global Marine Programme. 2002- 2009 (based in Spain, Ecuador and Costa Rica)

Affiliation and Board experiences

Vice President and Councillor – International Union for the Conservation of Nature. September 2021-Present

Vice-Chair - World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA). February 2016 – February 2022

Selected publications

Woodley S., Baillie J.E. M., Dudley N., Hockings M., Kingston N., Laffoley D., Locke H., Lubchenco J., MacKinnon K., Meliane I., Sala E., and M. Spalding. 2019. A bold successor to Aichi Target 11. Science, volume 365, issue 6454, pages 649-650 (2019).

Reguero B.G, M.W. Beck, D.N. Bresch, J. Calil and I. Meliane. 2018. Comparing the cost effectiveness of nature-based and coastal adaptation: A case study from the Gulf Coast of the United States. PLoS ONE 13(4): e0192132. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0192132.

Spalding M., I. Meliane, N. Bennet, P. Dearden, P. Patil, and R. Brumbaugh. 2016. Building towards the marine conservation end-game: consolidating the role of MPAs in a future ocean. Aquatic Conservation (2016). DOI: 10.1002/aqc.2686.

Meliane I., M. Spalding, B. van Wesenbeck, B. G. Reguero, Z. Ferdana, and I. Losada. 2014. The Role of Ecosystems in Reducing Risk: Advances and Opportunities in Risk Assessment and Risk Management. Proceedings of Understanding Risk Forum 2014. World Bank - Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction.