

Mario Ruivo: A life worth living

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One of the first books Mario offered me was *Odyssey of Homer*. Looking back, I realise the points of contact between this epic and Mario's long "navigation", defying obstacles, from his early work as a marine biologist to his lifelong striving for science and sustainable development of the Ocean (in the singular, not the plural, as he used to underline). In leadership roles at the UN and in Portugal Mario combined idealism and pragmatism, energy and empathy, political engagement and a holistic, strategic vision, which has inspired successive generations of ocean scientists and policy-makers.