

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Maria Carmen de Mello Lemos, Ph.D., professor of environment and sustainability, School for Environment and Sustainability, and professor of environment, Program in the Environment, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and School for Environment and Sustainability, retired from active faculty status on August 31, 2025.


Maria Carmen de Mello Lemos received her B.S. degree in economics (1983) from the Universidade Federal de Juiz de Fora (Brazil). She received her M.Sc. and Ph.D. in political science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1990 and 1995 respectively. After appointments at the University of Arizona, she joined the faculty at the University of Michigan in 2002, as an assistant professor of natural resources and environment, in the School of Natural Resources and Environment, now the School for Environment and Sustainability (SEAS), adding a joint appointment in the Program of the Environment in 2003. She was promoted to associate professor in 2006, then to professor in 2012.

Professor Lemos' broad research interests are related to climate adaptation and the role of knowledge in building adaptive capacity. She is particularly interested in understanding: the co-production of science and decision-making and the creation of actionable knowledge; the intersection between development and climate, especially concerning the relationship between anti-poverty programs and risk management; the use of climate information in building adaptive capacity in different sectors (e.g. drought planning, water management, agriculture and urban planning); and the impact of technocratic decision-making on issues of democracy and equity.

Professor Lemos has served the university and SNRE/SEAS in many capacities, notably as co-director of the Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and Assessments (GLISA), SEAS Executive Committee, Graham Environmental Sustainability Institute Executive Committee, Promotion and Tenure committee multiple times most recently as chair, the SEAS Dean Search Committee, UM Eisenberg Civic Engagement Committee, and the associate dean for research and engagement 2015-2020. Professor Lemos was a lead author of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC-AR5) and the Fourth U.S. National Climate Assessment (NCA4), contribute to IPCC-AR4, and has served in a number of the U.S. National Research Council of the National Academies of Sciences committees. In May 2023, she was elected to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Maria Carmen de Mello Lemos, professor emerita of environment and sustainability**.

Requested by:



Jon Kinsey
Vice President and Secretary of the University

September 2025