Environmental Science Without Borders

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(1) envisioned by Adeyemi Adebiyi, an immigrant and postdoctoral researcher at UCLA, and was created by early career scientists, staff, and faculty. Our goal is to foster dialogue about teaching, research, and career development, and to help support, nurture and encourage scientific leaders of the future, without borders. Regular discussions center on four main areas: (1) mentorship, (2) education and outreach, (3) research and career development, and (4) networking. These occur through a series of bi-monthly video conferences and breakaway sessions, along with messaging and file-sharing via an application (Slack). Topics for our annual program include: research design, software and breakaway sessions, along with messaging and file-sharing via an application (Slack).

ESWB has two types of bi-monthly video conferencing sessions. All Participants Workshops - A general topic is the focus of discussion, and each topic is identified from the initial survey results. Meetings take place monthly via zoom. Topics for workshops include:

- **Breakout Sessions**
  - Opportunities for disciplinary groups to meet via zoom
  - More in-depth discussion
  - Questions and comments addressed
  - Allows for discussion of the topic as relates to field of study

- **Additional outcomes**
  - Career Development:
    - Opportunities for individual mentorship and personalized feedback from peer mentors
    - Scholarship/fellowship application feedback and support
  - Education and Outreach:
    - Circulate information about webinars, workshops, regional events
    - Communication via social media platforms to facilitate peers answering questions
  - Research and Development:
    - Promote regional research groups
    - Explore environmental challenges in different regions
  - Networking:
    - Identify speakers for conference and seminars
    - Develop a global online database of students/ professionals in geoscience and environmental science

ESWB members are broken into two teams, each comprised of Organizers and Participants. Organizers are researchers, students, and faculty amongst:

- University of California, Los Angeles
- Nelson Mandela University
- Congo Basin Institute, Cameroon
- Université Grenoble Alpes
- Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
- UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre
- Center for International Forestry Research
- California State University, Northridge
- Nelson Mandela University
- Congo Basin Institute, Cameroon

Participants are students from:

- University of California, Los Angeles
- Nelson Mandela University
- Congo Basin Institute, Cameroon

**GOALS:**

- Mentorship & Career Development
- Education & Outreach
- Networking among students & professionals

**PROGRAM:**

- 48 participants who are geoscientists and environmental scientists, with from UCLA, nnn from Nelson Mandela Univ., and nn from CBI.
- Began planning in 2017 and early 2018
- Initial survey to assess needs of participants and collect demographic information
- Began with 39 survey participants from UCLA, NMU, & CBI, including 5 undergraduates and 35 graduate professional researchers. Most seek research/career support or moral support.

**OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAM**

1. Initial survey to assess needs of participants and collect demographic information
2. Began planning in 2017 and early 2018
3. Began with 39 survey participants from UCLA, NMU, & CBI, including 5 undergraduates and 35 graduate professional researchers. Most seek research/career support or moral support.

**STRUCTURE OF PEER MENTORING GROUPS:**

- ESWB members are broken into two teams, each comprised of Organizers and Participants.
- Participants are students from:
  - University of California, Los Angeles
  - Nelson Mandela University
  - Congo Basin Institute, Cameroon
- Organizers are researchers, students, and faculty amongst:
  - University of California, Los Angeles
  - Nelson Mandela University
  - Congo Basin Institute, Cameroon
  - Université Grenoble Alpes
  - Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
  - UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre
  - Center for International Forestry Research
  - California State University, Northridge
  - Nelson Mandela University
  - Congo Basin Institute, Cameroon

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Breakout Sessions
  - Opportunities for disciplinary groups to meet via zoom
  - More in-depth discussion
  - Questions and comments addressed
  - Allows for discussion of the topic as relates to field of study

- Additional outcomes
  - Career Development:
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**REFERENCES**

This is our inaugural year, and we are building this program from the ground up. We hope that one outcome from this year is to have created connections between peer-mentors within institutions and between research institutions. We also hope the networks created from the program will provide examples of role models, promote skill development, and retention.

**FIGURE 1.** (above) 39 survey participants from UCLA, NMU, & CBI, including 5 undergraduates and 35 graduate professional researchers. Most seek research/career support or moral support.

**FIGURE 2.** Demographic Information of Organizers and Participants.

**FIGURE 3.** Groups are based on disciplinary interests of participants and organizers.

**FIGURE 4.** Slides from an "All-Participants Conference presentation (courtesy of Kevin Njabo, CBI), and survey feedback which prompted this particular topic for the workshop.