

DAVID EDWARDS

www.guestspeaker.earth

Botswana: Water, Lions and Democracy

I spent three months in the bush as a leader on a youth expedition. There were close encounters with elephants, lions, cheetahs, and hyenas, in a democratic country that has thrived amongst troubled neighbours. Water issues and survival in the Kalahari Desert are contrasted with the lush Okavango Delta. I also stayed with local people and learnt about everyday life, and Botswana's health, political and social challenges. The expedition's patron was the first white first lady of a newly independent African state: a mixed race marriage which institutional racism and South African apartheid tried to stop.



My Exploding World



My work with volcanoes has taken me to Italy, Hawaii (collecting molten lava), Canada (evading grizzlies), Montserrat (evading ash avalanches), Iceland, and New Zealand. In this talk I explain why volcanoes are so important, exciting, and relevant to understanding our world.

Seafloor Environmental Science Exploration

I worked on the exploration drill ship JOIDES Resolution, an international platform for ocean research. It has unlocked many Earth secrets, from climate change to plate tectonics, building on the cold war mapping of the seabed. Visit the last great unexplored wilderness that helps us decipher the story of our planet.



I studied geology at Edinburgh University and then worked as a ranger in the Grand Canyon, as an expedition science leader in Botswana and on a biodiversity survey of Montserrat. While the Royal Geographical Society's Expeditions Advisor, I fell off a mountain and self rescued with broken legs. I have run environmental courses for Edinburgh and Glasgow universities and lectured at the University of Maine. I tutor on the environment and energy for the Open University and guide on field trips to Italy and Iceland. I was awarded Honorary Fellowship of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society in recognition of my communication of geographical subjects. I have written for national journals, and have contributed to Radio 4's *Excess Baggage* travel show.



Talks for schools on geography, volcanoes, energy, sustainability, and the environment

Case study topics from the frontline of geography:

Climate change and proxy data

Challenges of less developed countries

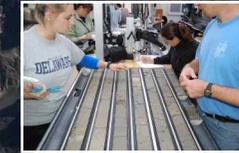
Choices, technology, and ethics of energy



How we value nature

Conserving fragile environments

Sustainable living



Geological stories

Surviving volcanic eruptions

Plate tectonics in action



Glacial environments

Hazard impacts

Managing natural disasters

Environmental ethics



From a speaker who has...

Survived an eruption * Witnessed emergency evacuations * Carried water in the Kalahari Desert * Broken both legs mountaineering and self-rescued * Smuggled himself into a country without a passport * Camped on glaciers * Drilled the Pacific ocean floor * Been charged by elephants * Caught wild animals for a biodiversity survey * Collected molten lava * Worked as a ranger in the Grand Canyon * Caught snakes with his bare hands * Taught environmental science, and energy, at university

Climate change

My university teaching feeds into this talk examining impacts, measuring environmental change, and how evidence is collected and interpreted. The fascinating detective work of proxy data gathering is also looked at.



Living with the Environment



How much of nature are we prepared to sacrifice to maintain our lifestyle? How do we 'cost' the environment and what are the ethics of placing a number on an environmental resource? How do we measure the benefits nature gives us? A talk to generate debate.

Montserrat: Surviving the Volcano

"Volcano threatens to erupt" was the newspaper headline as I arrived for a three month biodiversity survey on the island of Montserrat. I witnessed close up the eruption that triggered the first evacuations and the disruption to this idyllic island. I describe the warning signs in the build-up to the eruption and the subsequent evacuations and hazard management.



Pompeii: Vesuvius' Legacy and Warning



Using my expertise as a guide to Pompeii, Herculaneum and Vesuvius, I look at the history and destruction of Pompeii. Vesuvius last erupted in 1944 and the area is now one of the most densely populated, and threatened, areas of Europe. What will the next eruption bring and will the disaster management plans be effective?

Iceland: Plate Tectonic Wilderness

Iceland is earth science heaven, and a country that shouldn't be there: a part of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge over a mantle plume. Geothermal energy and a range of volcanic processes can be studied in this exciting, alien landscape. Heimaey and its 1973 eruption provides a case study of volcanic impacts on a small society and how the lava flow was successfully battled.



Hawaiian Volcano and Tsunami hazards



Hawaii is the most isolated populated area in the world and a home to great geographical and cultural diversity. An active volcanic chain where none should be ensures fascinating geology but makes it prone to tsunamis sweeping across the



Pacific. I look at the impacts and adaptations, and explore the amazing volcanic landscape of lava tubes, shield volcanoes and lava flows including collecting molten lava (I can bring samples with me).

Our Energy Future

Join me for riots, the overthrowing of governments and deals with oppressive regimes, as we try to ensure that we have access to the energy that allows us to have economic development, high literacy rates, long life expectancy and low infant mortality. Why is energy security so important? What environmental issues should govern our energy choices? Based on my popular university course this topical talk will provide an understanding of the political, ethical, social and practical considerations.



Antarctica: a Continent for Science

With superb images from my recent expedition, I examine why it is so important to us today. It is a touchstone of environmental change and tells us much about our past and our future. Geology, climate, politics, wildlife and personal sacrifice come together in a landscape which has inspired generations.



Montserrat: Impacts and Adaptations



In 1995 I witnessed, dangerously close, Montserrat's eruptions and evacuations. Years later I returned to see how it's faring. With the population having lost two thirds of its land there have been major social shifts, impacts,



adaptations and challenges. See what it is like to live on the new Montserrat. (As featured on Radio 4's 'Excess Baggage' programme)