

A Chemist off the Beaten Track

Important things you can get up to if you have a background in science & research and enjoy going on a once in a lifetime trip several times per year

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For all manner of reasons, chemistry is undoubtedly a fantastic discipline to have taken the time to get to know so well. I'm happy to have studied it, but it's not always easy to be a happy and contented chemist.

What if your education and early career path were to go as follows:

Undergraduate program. Ph.D. program. Postdoctoral research. Doubt. Indecision. Uncertainty.

And, what if, like me, you are determined to apply your knowledge of chemistry and background in science in the most meaningful way possible but don't feel inclined to follow a traditional path and take up an academic or industrial research position. Surely there are plenty of other options out there?

Conversely, if you are certain, and so planning a university career or identifying prospective employers, you too may benefit from a little inspiration when it comes to finalizing which kind of problems your future efforts will most satisfactorily be directed towards solving.

Either way, you will likely find yourself giving over more time to thinking about your exact career direction than you ever have before.

In my case, post-Postdoc uncertainty has led to a journey which started when taking some time off to see more of this amazing planet, which continued by getting to know a few small West African nations and which has ultimately led to the creation of an entrepreneurial scientific research project of an altogether different kind. A challenging multifaceted and socially-minded initiative designed to bring established and early career scientists and a wide range of international research conferences to some of the world's poorest and least developed regions, that have never before seen the like, is just the start of that project.