

Oliver Moore

Principal Environmental Consultant



Who am I?

I am a person that loves being outdoors, be that for work or recreation, in a team or alone. I am never happier than when I'm getting out exploring something new or returning to a familiar path. I am fortunate to live by the ocean and issues such as sustainable fisheries are really important to me. The majority of my experience has been in environmental consultancy, where for the past ten years I have been involved in project management and fieldwork, assessing mines, oil & gas fields and hundreds of industrial facilities. In my time away from work I love being outdoors whether that means sailing, triathlons or walking in the countryside (with the obligatory pub lunch).

What do I do at ERM?

I work as a Transaction Services Consultant, conducting Environmental Due Diligence in Sydney, Australia, having previously been based in the ERM London and Manchester offices. When I was at University and even when I started working at ERM, I didn't know what Environmental Due Diligence meant or even that this job existed. My role is to advise businesses on environmental compliance issues and other environmental risks, liabilities and opportunities when they are looking to sell their business or purchase another business.

I have been involved in a variety of projects encompassing everything from assessing the potential impact of climate change on a sugar cane farm in Tanzania, to understanding how the development of a gas pipeline across Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan could have a social impact on local populations. As part of stakeholder engagement, I've interviewed both nomadic tribes in Mongolia and Masai in Africa, two fascinating but very different cultures. I've even assessed crocodile farms in Northern Territory, Australia!

As exciting as this sounds, I am often involved in more routine projects closer to where I live, but all typically involve an important element of fieldwork and are all far removed from the typical office job.

What was my geography education?

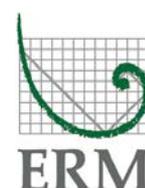
My interest in geography isn't limited to the physical aspects. I am also interested in the human and social aspects, including how the natural world interacts with the movement and growth of populations.

Having completed Geography at GCSE I took a change in direction with Maths, Economics and Physics A-Levels. I soon realised where my real interests and passion lay, and I decided to do what I really loved at University.. I got a place to study Geography (BSc) at Liverpool University which included two very different but equally enjoyable fieldwork assignments: the first was six weeks in Norway doing glacial geomorphology fieldwork and the second was spending three weeks in California in the US, studying lacustrine lithology. These projects really developed my team-working skills outside the comforts of a structured classroom situation.

From there I took some time out from formal education and got an office job. This gave me the time I needed to reflect and explore my next move. I realised that to pursue the career I wanted, I needed to go back and do some further studying. I went to Imperial College, London and completed a MSc in Environmental Technology. This course introduced me to topics such as ecology, environmental law and energy policy, and I specialised in global environmental change and policy, completing a team project on the impacts of sea level rise. Returning to the classroom enabled me to transfer some of the skills and experiences I had accumulated in the field and apply them in a practical project / classroom situation.

**Royal
Geographical
Society**
with IBG

Advancing geography
and geographical learning



Oliver Moore

Principal Environmental Consultant



How do I use fieldwork in the job that I do now?

Fieldwork is truly an essential part of my everyday job. Review of data and documentation in the office can only take me part of the way to the answers & solutions that my client organisation is seeking; whether I visit a site myself or a team member visits a site for me, this fieldwork aspect of the project is essential to understand & verify what's really happening on the ground.

For me, the fieldwork can range from a day visiting an industrial facility to understand the operations and associated environmental aspects and impacts, to a few weeks at a remote location in a new country involving numerous stakeholders, significant logistical plans and detailed health & safety planning.

What inspires me about geography and fieldwork?

I'm delighted to contribute to the protection of our natural environment and the feeling that you can make a difference, however small, to making the world a better place for future generations. Every time I step out of the office and in to a field assignment, I know that each one will be different and will present a new learning opportunity each and every time. The fieldwork projects have enabled me to meet some great people and I have made some good friends along the way,



What has been the most interesting highlight of my career so far?

The opportunity to travel and the rich diversity of places I have visited are all highlights. I would say that visiting Nigeria for a Nigerian owned oil and gas company was one of the more challenging experiences, but an experience I reflect on more so than others, perhaps because of what I learnt from the experience; the level of poverty the local people face on a day to day basis contrasted with the enthusiasm, energy and happiness that they approached life with, and it was a new, thought-provoking experience for me,

What tip would I give to someone thinking of following a geographical-related career?

Take some time to figure out what really interests you about geography and when studying surround yourself with people that share similar passions with contrasting perspectives. Pursue opportunities to volunteer or work on field projects as this will

broaden your outlook, give you the opportunity for new experiences whilst helping you decide on which areas of geography really interest you. It also looks good on your CV!