# Greenworks: Science, Role-Playing, and Community Transformation

Lev Horodyskyj<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Halikuddin Umasangaji<sup>4</sup>, Lily Ishak<sup>4</sup>, Roberto Greco<sup>5</sup>, Tara Lennon<sup>6</sup> <sup>1</sup>Science Voices, <sup>2</sup>Blue Marble Space Institute of Science, <sup>3</sup>University of the Virgin Islands, <sup>4</sup>Universitas Khairun, <sup>5</sup>Universidade Estadual de Campinas, <sup>6</sup>Arizona State University

## **About Greenworks**

Greenworks is a Global North-South partnership program where university students take part in a five week curriculum focused on governance, environmental science, and diplomacy.

Students participate as part of courses or independent study at their university. Science Voices facilitates collaborations and provides tools for running the game world and its scenarios.

### Gamemasters (Spring 2021 Cohort)









Indonesia **Khairun University** 

Brazil Universidade Estadual de Campinas



Slack acts as the central communication channel for the experience with private country channels and public negotiation channels. Students negotiate on Slack and private channels, then post diplomatic agreements on Google Sites for gamemaster review.



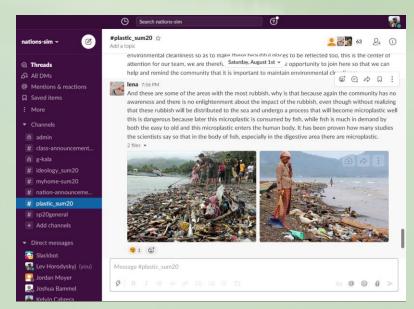
Week 1 Game Intro **Meet-and-Greet** 

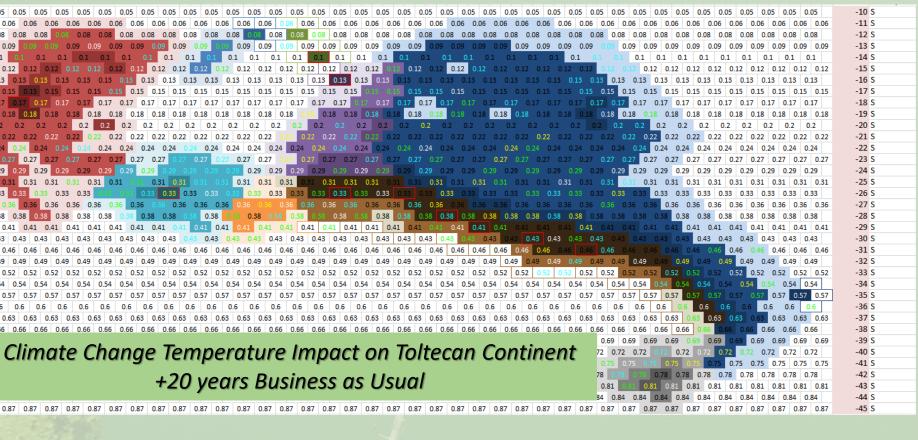


levh@sciencevoices.org | Tara.Lennon@asu.edu | www.sciencevoices.org/greenworks

# **Environmental Diplomacy Game**

Students play in teams, each role-playing as different а fictional country. Countries different have governance systems, ideologies, and resources, allowing students to explore constraints on decisions.





**Control** spreadsheets with simple scientific models allow the gamemasters to determine country resource distribution, budgets, and impacts of various events.

#### Spring 2021 Events

Week 2 **Country Exploration Trade Relations** 

Week 3 **Climate Change** (result: failure to mitigate emissions)

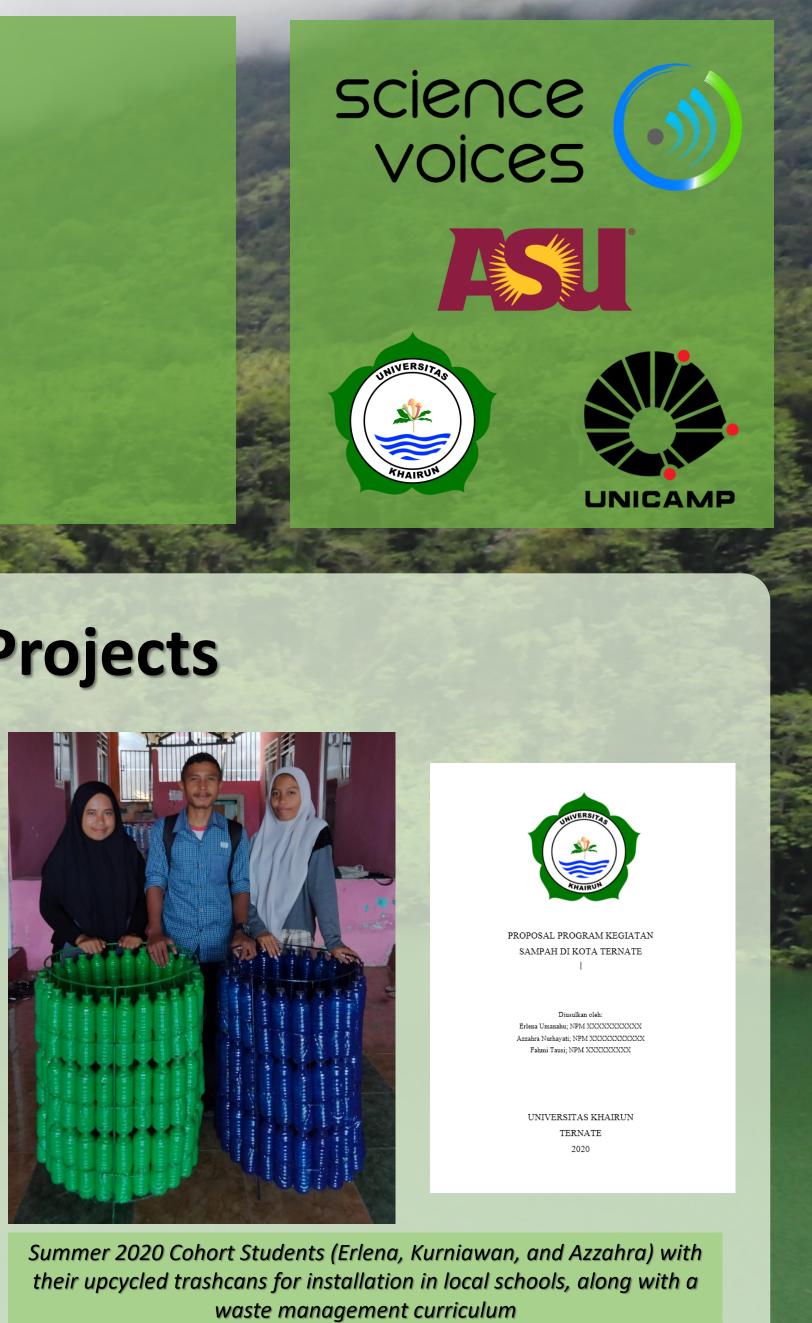
Week 4 **Plastic Pollution** (result: global pact to mitigate plastics)

Week 5 Deforestation (result: food security prioritized)

# **Student Projects**

Non-US students who complete the five week environmental diplomacy game and associated curriculum are able to propose a community project to address an important local environmental issue.

Science Voices helps students develop their proposal so that it is sustainable and impactful. When funding is available, Science Voices funds student projects and monitors impacts.



#### Summary

The Spring 2021 Cohort included 48 US students in a political science course, 10 Indonesian students in independent study, and 6 Brazilian students in a geography course. Students negotiated to establish trade relations between countries, attempt to mitigate climate change, deal with plastic pollution, and tackle deforestation.

US and Brazilian students were very engaged. Indonesian students had more difficulty engaging due to language barrier and unfamiliarity with active learning classrooms. Indonesian students who successfully completed the curriculum will build on the upcycled trashcan project, with compositing and plastic reuse projects.

Goals for the next games (July 2021) include formalizing collaborations between universities, training Indonesian students in active learning, developing an interactive online version of game world, and securing funding for Brazilian student projects.