

A close-up portrait of Cedric David, a man with a beard and mustache, wearing a dark baseball cap and a blue collared shirt. He is smiling slightly and looking off-camera to the right. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with greenery.

The People Behind SWOT: **CEDRIC DAVID**



Jet Propulsion Laboratory
California Institute of Technology

1
00:00:04,550 --> 00:00:02,110

[Music]

2
00:00:06,470 --> 00:00:04,560

there is something about the environment

3
00:00:08,930 --> 00:00:06,480

that's just incredibly cool

4
00:00:11,330 --> 00:00:08,940

a lot of what we do as scientists is

5
00:00:13,490 --> 00:00:11,340

we're just curious and so anybody who's

6
00:00:15,589 --> 00:00:13,500

a curious person ought to be a scientist

7
00:00:17,510 --> 00:00:15,599

in my opinion you can think of the

8
00:00:19,970 --> 00:00:17,520

world's Rivers as Earth's arteries

9
00:00:21,710 --> 00:00:19,980

because they're essential to life I'm

10
00:00:22,780 --> 00:00:21,720

Cedric David and I study the world's

11
00:00:36,190 --> 00:00:22,790

Rivers

12
00:00:39,650 --> 00:00:36,200

[Music]

13
00:00:42,470 --> 00:00:39,660

SWAT is a mission that is specifically

14

00:00:45,290 --> 00:00:42,480

designed in part to observe rivers and

15

00:00:47,750 --> 00:00:45,300

it's also being designed jointly by NASA

16

00:00:49,610 --> 00:00:47,760

and the french-based agency I was born

17

00:00:52,910 --> 00:00:49,620

in France but I've lived in the U.S for

18

00:00:54,410 --> 00:00:52,920

18 years now and I study Rivers so SWA

19

00:00:56,869 --> 00:00:54,420

is a little bit of a match made in

20

00:00:58,189 --> 00:00:56,879

heaven for me the kind of science that

21

00:01:00,709 --> 00:00:58,199

I'm interested in is trying to

22

00:01:02,510 --> 00:01:00,719

understand how how much water flows down

23

00:01:04,609 --> 00:01:02,520

the rivers of the world and SWAT will be

24

00:01:06,770 --> 00:01:04,619

able to make one such measurement for

25

00:01:10,730 --> 00:01:06,780

all the largest rivers of the world so

26

00:01:12,649 --> 00:01:10,740

we'll be able to get a global unified a

27

00:01:15,050 --> 00:01:12,659

picture of surface waters from space

28

00:01:17,210 --> 00:01:15,060

this in itself will be a scientific

29

00:01:20,210 --> 00:01:17,220

revolution I think that's going to have

30

00:01:22,190 --> 00:01:20,220

a big impact on Water Management

31

00:01:24,830 --> 00:01:22,200

I like to say that water is my friend

32

00:01:27,350 --> 00:01:24,840

water is my happy place

33

00:01:30,469 --> 00:01:27,360

I was born with a physical disability

34

00:01:32,929 --> 00:01:30,479

that affected both of my legs

35

00:01:34,670 --> 00:01:32,939

being able to walk now was not a done

36

00:01:37,130 --> 00:01:34,680

deal at Birth

37

00:01:39,289 --> 00:01:37,140

and it still involves a significant

38

00:01:42,890 --> 00:01:39,299

amount of discomfort and is a constant

39

00:01:45,590 --> 00:01:42,900

reminder of having been born different

40

00:01:47,270 --> 00:01:45,600

for as long as I can remember water has

41

00:01:49,370 --> 00:01:47,280

been the only place where I felt

42

00:01:50,810 --> 00:01:49,380

comfortable where I felt normal where I

43

00:01:53,389 --> 00:01:50,820

felt like I couldn't do things like

44

00:01:55,130 --> 00:01:53,399

everybody else when I get in the water

45

00:01:56,389 --> 00:01:55,140

is just like I mean you're floating when

46

00:01:57,649 --> 00:01:56,399

you're floating it's just like all the

47

00:01:59,330 --> 00:01:57,659

pain goes away

48

00:02:00,830 --> 00:01:59,340

as a kid my parents would take my

49

00:02:02,749 --> 00:02:00,840

brother and I all the time to jump in

50

00:02:06,350 --> 00:02:02,759

the Mediterranean but to this day we

51
00:02:08,930 --> 00:02:06,360
still do it on New Year's Day every year

52
00:02:11,290 --> 00:02:08,940
I think for future Generations requires

53
00:02:13,790 --> 00:02:11,300
us understanding how much water we have

54
00:02:16,430 --> 00:02:13,800
and her SWAT will be able to provide

55
00:02:18,710 --> 00:02:16,440
that global view of the world's fresh

56
00:02:21,350 --> 00:02:18,720
waters and in my opinion it might very

57
00:02:23,630 --> 00:02:21,360
well become the key that unlocks surface

58
00:02:26,270 --> 00:02:23,640
water observations around the world and

59
00:02:27,890 --> 00:02:26,280
unleashes surface water management so it

60
00:02:30,710 --> 00:02:27,900
might help us make sure that everybody

61
00:02:32,750 --> 00:02:30,720
gets access to fresh water now more than

62
00:02:34,970 --> 00:02:32,760
ever it's important to recognize that

63
00:02:37,729 --> 00:02:34,980

water connects us all and it might be