Dr Yvette Poudjom Djomani has a PhD and a MBA, experience in industry, academia and government and working across the world. Yvette joins the Federal Executive, as the Branch Liaison Officer.

1. **What is your current role?**

   I am a Senior Geophysicist in the Geophysical Acquisition and Processing section at Geoscience Australia (GA). Among other things, I am responsible for the quality control of magnetic and radiometric data acquired in Australia and managed by GA, and delivery to the public.

2. **For how long have you been a geophysicist?**

   I have been a geophysicist for over 25 years. I started off as a research scientist at the University of Leeds (England) and Macquarie university (Sydney), then worked in a private consulting firm (for the mining and petroleum industry) for a couple of years before joining the government.

3. **What's one thing you wish someone had told you when you were at university?**

   Make sure you broaden your learning so you are not too specialised. Also build interpersonal relationships with people and expand your network outside your organisation.

4. **Where was your best sunrise/sunset location?**

   In the Northern Territory (Australia), near Uluru.

5. **What do you do in your spare time?**

   Not sure I really have spare time with a family of five (husband and 3 kids). However when I do have free time, I love watching movies and singing. I lead a small choir in the African community of Canberra, singing gospels in different languages. I absolutely love it!

6. **What is a challenge you have overcome and how did you do so?**

Working in a male-dominated environment has been quite challenging for me. I have had to work really hard, making sure I am judged for my skills and not for who I am. Combining this with resilience and persistence gives positive outcomes 90% of the time.

7. **When you are asked "What's a geophysicist?" or "What does a geophysicist do?" what is your stock answer?**

   It's someone who applies physics to geology. A geophysicist uses instruments to look inside the earth, just like a radiologist uses x-ray to see through one's body.

8. **Given a choice, would you prefer extra mentoring on the science, your career or the how to handle/explain exploration geophysics and its benefits to the community?**

   While mentoring on my career is good, I would favour a mentoring on how to explain *exploration geophysics* to the community. Understanding the benefits of exploration geophysics to a community will be a great way to attract more students to take up geophysics at university.

9. **Do you think AI will take over your job or will the human element remain vital to exploration successes?**

   Although AI and machine learning play an important role in making everyone's work easier and perhaps more efficient, I think the human element remains key to exploration success because it's based on observation. However, AI could be more efficient for processing large datasets and possibly identify some prospects. Time will tell.

10. **What reaction do you mostly get when you tell someone that you are a geophysicist?**

    I'm often asked: "what do you mean?" Obviously, geophysics does not seem to be popular. It all becomes clearer once I give a detailed explanation of what it means.

In the field: Dr Yvette Poudjom-Djomani photographed leaning into the cockpit of an aircraft of an airborne geophysical contractor.