

earthwatch



Annual Report

2021

Message from the CEO



2021 marked another year of progress for Earthwatch as we continue our recovery from the pandemic. In the spring, we cautiously reopened our first five expeditions under new, enhanced health and safety protocols. At the end of the summer, we reopened our first expeditions overseas. Over

260 intrepid volunteers joined these teams, including 14 groups of student, teacher, and corporate fellows who identified and measured trees, recorded bird songs, surveyed crab populations, and collected DNA samples from bees, plants, and pollen.

Earthwatch's community-based science programs are growing. Over 2,000 participants joined Operation Healthy Air to collect years' worth of air quality data, while several new corporate partnerships are educating employees to shape more sustainable companies.

Donor support was another tremendous bright spot during this rebuilding year, with over 1,400 individuals making contributions that helped fuel our returning staff and programs. Through the generosity of funders, Earthwatch is creating opportunities for all students, regardless of background, to have access to hands on science.

Today, Earthwatch feels mostly like its old self again, with all staff back from furloughs and working full-time, albeit now in a largely virtual office. Embracing a fully remote working environment has allowed Earthwatch to downsize to a much smaller physical office, resulting in significant annual reductions in overhead, while expanding our hiring reach across the U.S. Over two-thirds of Earthwatch's long-standing public expeditions have reopened and are actively conducting research and recruiting volunteers for 2022 teams, while staff work to bring back all remaining expeditions.

With the worst of the pandemic behind us, and the wind back in our sails, Earthwatch is once again charting a course for a bigger, bolder future. Earthwatch's mission has never felt more urgent, and we plan to use our recent 50th anniversary milestone as a springboard to launch new global efforts to conserve our shared planet. As we pursue our ambitious vision for the next fifty years, your participation will play a major role in our success. Thank you for your ongoing confidence in us throughout these unprecedented times. We cannot wait to share with you all that we have planned in the coming months!

Gitte Venicx, CEO

U.S. Board of Directors

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Earthwatch Institute
connects people with
scientists worldwide to
conduct environmental
research and empowers
them with the knowledge
they need to conserve
the planet.

Earthwatch Board of Directors

Earthwatch is proud to have strengthened its leadership over the last year with the addition of several distinguished members to its Board of Directors. Earthwatch’s board is responsible for the leadership and governance of the organization, oversees its strategy and direction, and serves as ambassadors for Earthwatch in their daily lives.

GILLIAN BOWSER, PHD

Dr. Bowser focuses on ecological indicators of climate change, and linkages between changing ecological conditions, local community livelihoods and climate. She places special emphasis on sustainability, citizen-scientist engagement, and encouraging more students from under-represented backgrounds to study science. Gillian has worked as a wildlife biologist and ecologist for the U.S. National Park Service and was an AAAS Science and Diplomacy Fellow in 2011. She serves on the board for the Rocky Mountain Sustainability and Science Network, and participated in the U.N. Framework on Climate Change Convention and U.N. Global Environmental Outlook.



CAREN COOPER, PHD

Dr. Cooper is an Associate Professor of Forestry and Environmental Resources at North Carolina State University. She is an advocate for participatory science practices, including public science, citizen science, and community science. Caren pursues scholarly inquiry with a lens of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI). She is dedicated to mentoring students to become public scientists so they can pursue careers that weave science into the fabric of society. Her current projects use geospatial analytics to gain insights into the ecology, evolution and conservation of birds, as well as expose racial and economic inequities in environmental hazards and environmental data.



KYLE NEWELL

Kyle has worked with over 200 enterprises as an investor, entrepreneur and adviser to revolutionize how the world solves critical societal issues in developing countries. Currently, he is a Managing Director at the Aspen Institute where he leads the Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs, managing a global team developing entrepreneurial solutions to climate mitigation and adaptation. Previously, Kyle led impact entrepreneurship for EY Ripples. By partnering with leading corporations and funders including Syngenta, the Gates Foundation, and Unilever, Kyle has shown innovative solutions that improve financial performance and social wellbeing.



HAROLD RICKENBACKER, PHD

Dr. Rickenbacker is an Environmental Engineer in the Office of Transportation and Air Quality at the US EPA, working to reduce diesel pollution and associated health impacts near port communities. Previously, Harold held the role of Clean Air and Innovation Manager at Environmental Defense Fund, where he engaged many sectors to help catalyze the business models and partnerships needed to reduce air pollution in disadvantaged communities. He has served on the Boards of the Group Against Smog and Pollution (GASP) and Black Millennials for Flint (BM4F). He was acknowledged recently by Green Biz’s 30 under 30, and Climate Action Campaign as a Young, Gifted, & Green 40 Under 40.



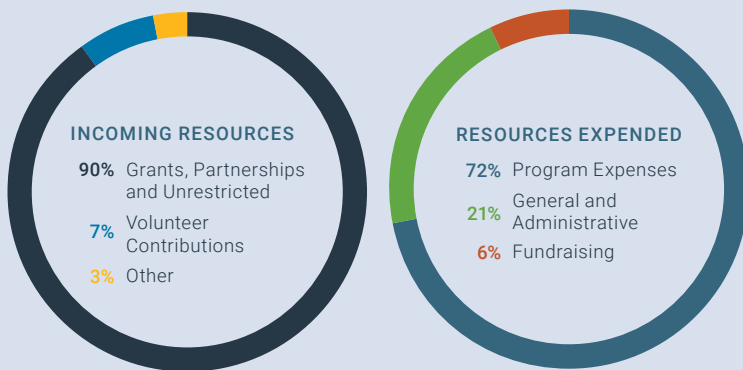
U.S.
Council

Kevin J. Anton	Alexandra (Alix) Goelet Sandell	Merrill Magowan	Dr. Arthur D. Riggs	Victoria Stack
Eileen Arbues	Gary Goldring	Bill Martens	Dr. Daniel I. Rubenstein	Amy Ziff
Diana Barrett	Gaye Hill	Lawrence Mason	Ruth Scheer	
Mark Cappellano	Jeffrey Jakubiak	Dr. Wallace J. Nichols	Christine Bata Schmidt	
Mark Carthy	Whitney L. Johnson	Thomas H. Nicholson	Leslie Smith	
George Eberstadt		Catherine Nierras	Betsy Snow	



Financial Summary

This Annual Report contains the U.S.-based 2021 financial results of the 501(c)(3) Earthwatch Institute (Oct. 1, 2020—Sep. 30, 2021). In addition to the financials outlined here, Earthwatch has licensee operations in the U.K., Japan, and Australia, which report their financials according to local requirements. Affiliate annual reports may be viewed on our website at earthwatch.org/about/annual-report, along with U.S. Audited Financial Statements and U.S. Form 990.



Earthwatch Institute Tax ID: #23-7168440

Operating Revenue and Expenses for Earthwatch U.S.		
	FY 2021 (US\$)	FY 2020 (US\$)
Incoming Resources*	4,757,430	4,382,766
Resources Expended	3,625,072	4,311,410
Program Expenses	2,612,685	3,192,973
General and Administrative	761,230	852,763
Fundraising	251,157	265,674
Net (Incoming Resources)	1,132,358	71,356
End of Year Net Assets	6,672,834	3,880,733

* Includes \$1,331,333 in government contributions from the Paycheck Protection Program, and the Employee Retention Credit, as established by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES).

Leaving Your Legacy

Today's environmental threats have been building for decades, and will take many years to undo. Earthwatch is committed to carrying on the fight for a sustainable future for as long as it takes.

Pledge your support for generations to come by remembering Earthwatch in your estate plans. The most common estate gift is a bequest, which can be established simply by adding a sentence or two in your will.

Another easy but impactful form of giving occurs when you name Earthwatch as a beneficiary of a retirement fund, life insurance policy, savings account, donor advised fund, or trust fund. To name Earthwatch as a beneficiary, simply contact your financial institution with our name and **Federal Tax I.D. number: Earthwatch Institute, 23-7168440.**

Individuals who include Earthwatch in their will or estate plans are invited to join the Legacy Society. Membership is voluntary, and you are not required to disclose the details of your gift. To join the Legacy Society, or to request additional information on making a gift, return the enclosed envelope, or contact **Heather Wilcox**, *Director of Annual Giving & Planned Giving*, at hwilcox@earthwatch.org or 978-450-1208.



GEORGE BENSON

George was born in the North of England in 1927. He first emigrated to Canada with his brother-in-law, and was later joined by his wife, Bette, who was a proud member of the Women's Land Army. After relocating once more for a job opportunity in San Francisco, the couple eventually settled in the states. George studied horticulture and started his own business shipping boxes of fresh fruit using a special paper packaging that kept the produce from spoiling in transit. One of these special packages would arrive at Earthwatch around the holidays each year, filled with sweet treats for the staff. George had great patience and attention to detail, and loved to tinker. He built paper model airplanes and was known for his witty and fun sayings, affectionately known as "George-isms."

After losing his beloved Bette much too soon in life, George became depressed; however, a chance discovery of Earthwatch through a commercial on NPR helped him find new motivation to travel, explore, and give back. George joined his first expedition in 1998 to study bees and orchids in Brazil, and completed his final expedition with Earthwatch to the Canadian Rockies in 2016—at the impressive age of 88! George's love of travel, adventure, and wildlife inspired him to complete 37 expeditions around the world before his passing at the age of 94. His generous bequest will ensure that future volunteers have the same opportunity to fill their longing for adventure and service as part of an Earthwatch expedition for many years to come.

A Life Remembered

Earthwatch was saddened to say goodbye to a special long-time volunteer and donor. We are honored to help his legacy live on through his generous bequest to Earthwatch.



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Newton, MA 02458

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Earthwatch 2021 Annual Report

Join Us to Reduce Global Pollinator Decline

Pollinator insect populations are declining globally at rapid and alarming rates, putting food production and human health at risk.

Join Earthwatch's Global Pollinator Watch, a home-based citizen science program, to collect observation data on pollinators and help reduce their decline.



Wear Your Support!

Show off your support for pollinators and the planet with the latest Earthwatch clothing and accessories, available in Earthwatch's online store.

earthwatch.org/global-pollinator-watch

earthwatch.threadless.com/