# 2021 Annual Report – A Message from the President

This past year marked a major milestone in SkyTruth's history. As we celebrated our 20th anniversary we looked back on our humble beginnings while designing the future we want to see for our organization, our partners, our communities, our planet, future generations, and the stage for transformative growth in SkyTruth capacity — not just in our technical capabilities, but in our outreach to partners and others who share our vision and our values.

We are proud to have spent most of last year at home, but we did manage to get together with some of our partners and friends at our offices in Shepherdstown, WV, and we had a great time! We had a blast at our 20th anniversary celebration, and we had a great time at our annual retreat, where we spent a day and a half with our staff and board of directors, and we had a great time at our annual staff retreat, which was a week-long adventure in the Catoctin Mountains of Maryland. Despite the limitations of technology in those early years, SkyTruth managed to help citizens groups in the Rocky Mountain West fight mountaintop removal mining, we helped the Sierra Club in its campaign to end the use of mercury-containing fluorescent lamps in Mexico, we helped Nature's Nutrition in Nicaragua, and we helped the Nature Conservancy in Belize, Guatemala, and Mexico map the extent of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System. We also helped the Sierra Club in its campaign against the Keystone XL Pipeline, and we helped Greenpeace in its campaign against Gazprom. SFW Inside Nature, Nature and other activities in the world's oceans to provide transparency and accountability for ocean governance, and we helped the Nature Conservancy in its campaign against overfishing off the coast of Belize. Over the past 20 years, we have filed 20 reports and more.

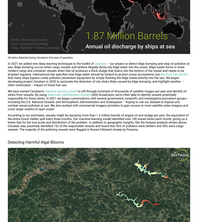
Now, we are poised for even greater impact. As we continue to refine our machine learning capabilities, we can process thousands of satellite images per day, and we are ready to take on the challenge of processing hundreds of thousands, or even millions, of satellite images per day. Our monitoring and success impact goals remained unchanged as we devoted mid-year footing to grow our team, develop our technical capabilities, and refine our strategic plan. We are ready to take on the challenge of ocean governance, climate change, and much more.

With the addition of a Director of Impact and Strategic Partnerships, a Chief Technology Officer, and a Communications Manager in 2021, SkyTruth is well positioned to take the next step in our growth, and realize our vision.

Everyone around the world enjoys a healthy environment and sustainable livelihood because governments, companies, and citizens know what is going on, and they have the incentives to change their practices, and governments are vigorously enforcing environmental protection.

Can vision is bold and SkyTruth is ready! We have taken big steps forward with good success. I hope you'll join us for our next exciting and impactful year!

**Tod Ryan, Executive Director**
Global Energy Monitor



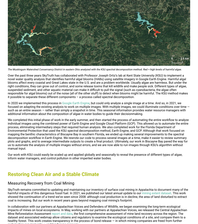

Satellite image of Turtle Mine of the Turtle Mine in Western Australia, from July 2021 Planet Basemap

Over the past two decades, SkyTruth has emerged as one of the most creative and effective organizations in the conservation use of satellite imagery in support of the environment.

**Ted Ryan, Executive Director**
Global Energy Monitor

## 2021 Highlights

- Deployed our machine learning applications for partners and an engaged public to stop oil pollution at sea and illegal gold mining in the Amazon rainforest
- Automated a process for identifying harmful algal blooms
- Published our analysis of landscape recovery and regeneration at ensure of disturbance impacted by mountaintop mining, and published our analysis of mountaintop removal mining in Appalachian region
- Mapped vegetation trends in the Colorado River Basin to help watershed managers protect riparian habitat
- Published our analysis of the environmental impacts of the Keystone XL Pipeline, and supported the environmental coalition opposing an enhanced SkyTruth alerts platform with new features, additional inputs and improved performance
- Strengthened our internship program to continue advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in the fields of conservation and technology




Satellite image of Tea River of the Tea River in Mongolia, from August 2021 Planet Basemap

SkyTruth is the world's leading death of satellite imagery and the leading interpreter of what it means.

**Peter Kalmus**
Personal Campaign Spain News

## Program Updates

### Secping Healthy Waters and Oceans

Stopping Oil Pollution at Sea with Cerulean

In 2021 we advanced our machine learning approaches to the tasks of detecting oil slicks and projects to derive ships leaving and also of pollution at sea. We also made significant progress in our work to detect and map the extent of harmful algal blooms, which can deplete oxygen and consumer toxins when fish or shellfish ingest them, and we published our latest analysis of the harmful algal bloom in Lake Erie

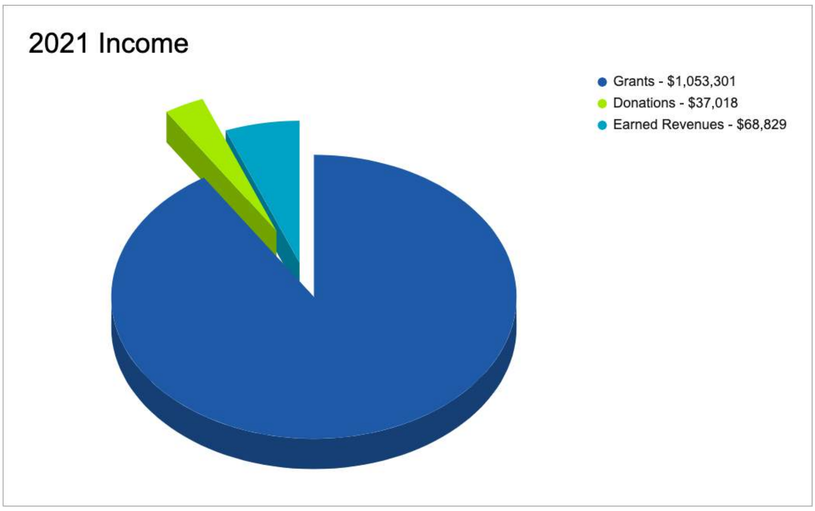
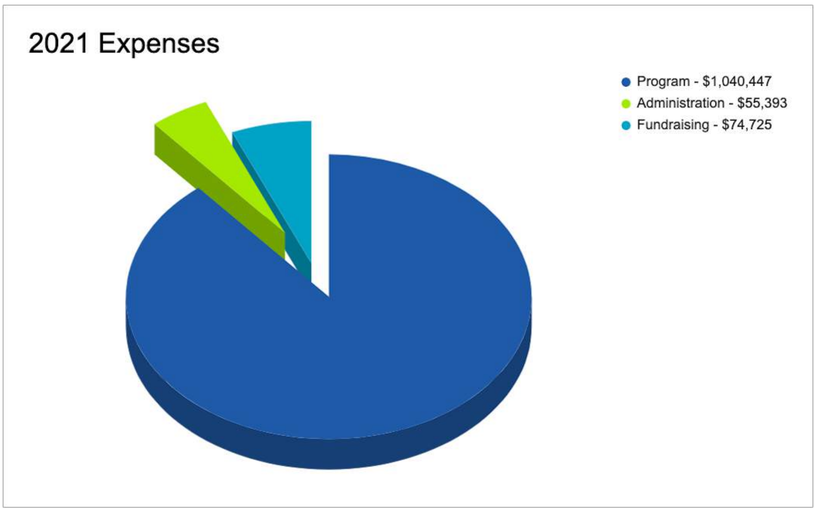
David Shearer – Board Science Ambassador
Chief Executive Officer, Co-founder, Full Circle Biochar

Hank Willard
President, Agronomy Air

Paul Woods
Chief Innovation Officer, Global Fishing Watch

*Satellite image in SkyTruth Alerts of the Permian Basin (southeastern New Mexico), from March 2021 Planet Basemap.*

Cerulean will enable regulators and anyone concerned about the health of our oceans to identify releases of oil from ships, drilling platforms and other sources. This will put important information into the hands of the public who can advocate for stronger regulation and enforcement of existing laws to hold polluters accountable. SkyTruth's new tool should help protect our oceans and coastal environments from the devastating impacts of oil spills.

**Jennifer Gleason, Law Program Director**
Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (ELAW)

## Financials