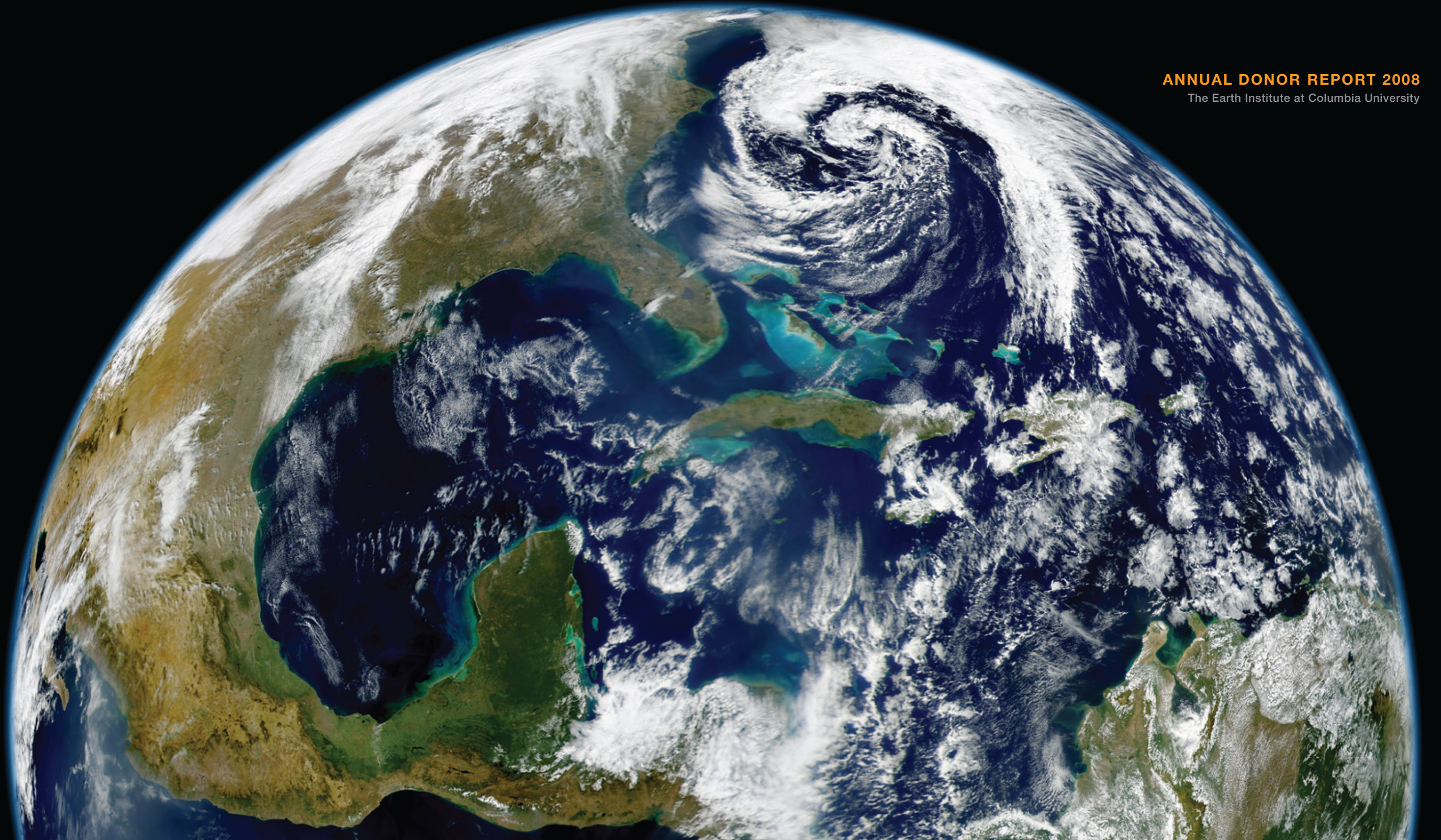


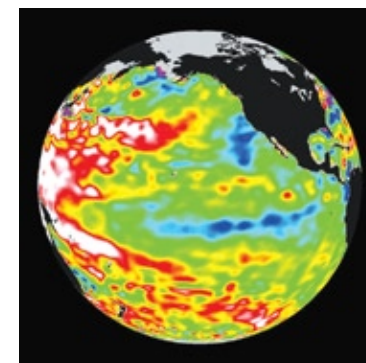
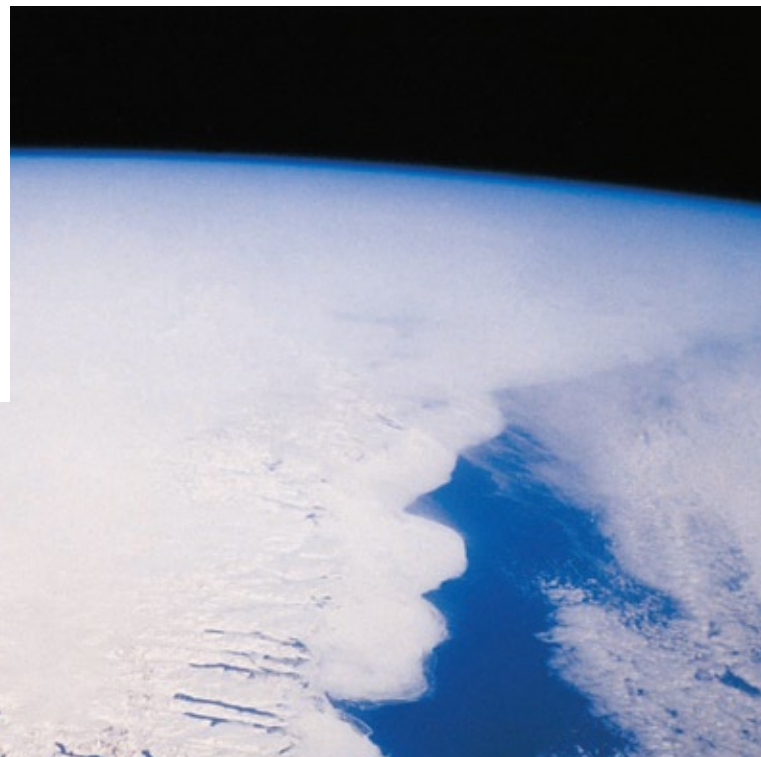
ANNUAL DONOR REPORT 2008

The Earth Institute at Columbia University



The Earth Institute at Columbia University is leading the way to a sustainable Earth by mobilizing the sciences, education and public policy. Research in our 32 centers and programs transcends traditional disciplines to address many of the world's challenges—from climate change to global water issues, from public health to natural disasters. Our academic programs are shaping a new generation of leaders.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

The Earth Institute is constantly developing strategies and projects that channel innovative research into specific programs ready for implementation.

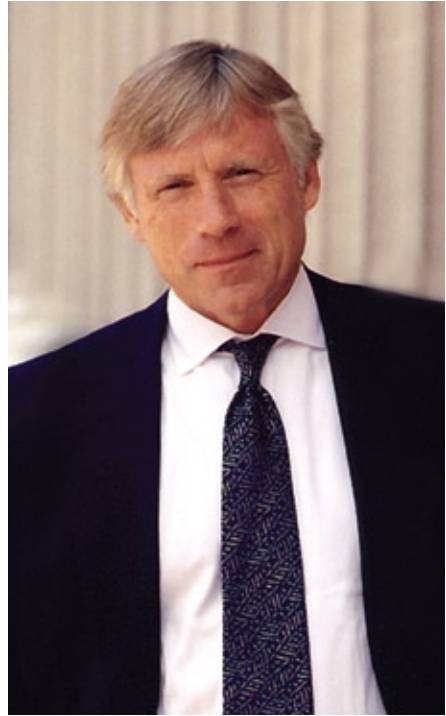


Photo: Eileen Baranco

As much as we cherish the contemplative spaces of our university, we also have profound respect for those in our community who translate knowledge derived here into instruments for improving life around the world. It was precisely the sense of urgency in identifying and formulating solutions to global crises that served as the impetus for the creation of the Earth Institute at Columbia University.

Any sustained effort by Columbia's scientific community to address these issues would not be possible, however, without the support and commitment of those who share a sense of responsibility for the daunting problems confronting our planet. During the past year, the work of the Earth Institute has been advanced through the incredible generosity of foundations and individual donors such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Gerry Lenfest, and the Institute's professors, students and fellows.

Since its inception, the Earth Institute has helped galvanize Columbia's broader mission to shape the impact of globalization on our planet. By fostering intense dialogue between scientists from multiple disciplines, it has also expanded opportunities to innovate and then implement robust solutions to two of the most pressing problems of our time: global climate change and acute poverty. In an ever-more interdependent world community, we are confronted with a moral and ethical responsibility to mitigate—and one day erase—the severe poverty, disease and environmental degradation that threaten so many societies.

The Earth Institute is constantly developing strategies and projects that channel innovative research into specific programs ready for implementation. Among other issues, this year the Earth Institute examined climate change, increasing water scarcity, and how these changes affect local economies, health issues, agriculture and water sustainability around the world. Some of the phenomena investigated have included the melting of glaciers; the influence of climate change on the oceans, their currents, and air-sea exchange; changing patterns of drought and flooding and their impact on agriculture; the spread of disease; and improving methods of water sustainability and management.

The need for continued progress is stronger than ever at this urgent moment for our planet, and your support of the Earth Institute at Columbia University has a direct and meaningful impact. Under Jeffrey Sachs' strong leadership, the Earth Institute will, with the help of donors, partners and friends, remain at the vanguard of this monumental challenge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lee C. Bollinger".

Lee C. Bollinger

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE EARTH INSTITUTE

As our exciting work continues to move forward in the area of sustainable development, we remain committed to solving the world's most pressing needs.

The defining challenge of the 21st century will be to understand that we all share a common fate on a crowded planet. There are currently 6.7 billion people living in an interconnected global economy, producing an astounding \$65 trillion of output each year. Continuing on our current course, the world is likely to experience growing conflicts, intensifying environmental catastrophes, and downturns in living standards caused by interlocking crises of energy, water, food and violent conflict.

In the past 20 years world leaders have achieved some important successes, confronting these great challenges with considerable public support, which can provide a foothold for a sustainable future. We have adopted a global treaty for climate change, pledged to protect biodiversity, and committed globally to fighting the encroachment of deserts in today's conflict-ridden drylands of Africa, the Middle East and Asia. And the world has adopted the Millennium Development Goals to cut extreme poverty, hunger and disease by 2015. The challenge is to turn those fragile and unfulfilled global commitments into real solutions.

This year, among the many challenges the Earth Institute worked to solve were scarcity of fresh water and climate change. The PepsiCo Foundation supported our work on water sustainability in four countries, and a project funded by the JM Eagle Corporation enabled our team of water specialists to plan and install a piped water system that will enhance distribution of fresh water in our Millennium Village site in Potou, Senegal. Thanks to a generous gift from the Comer Science and Education Foundation, we were able to build the Gary C. Comer Geochemistry Building, which provided us with a new home for our state-of-the-art work in earth science.

The heroic labors of scientists such as climate expert Wallace Broecker illuminate the risks and repercussions of the vast consumption of fossil fuels the world now faces as well as the choices our global society must make in order to ensure the well-being of future generations.

The Earth Institute is training the next generation of thought and practice leaders who will help guide our fate and our understanding of how we live in the 21st century, with all the stresses and strains it presents.

As our exciting work continues to move forward in the area of sustainable development, we remain committed to solving the world's most pressing needs. The immense generosity, leadership and vision of our donors allow us to remain the world's leading academic center confronting the practical challenges of sustainable development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Sachs".

Jeffrey D. Sachs



Photo: Bruce Gilbert