



## Seacology UK

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### **London's Tamara Berber Chosen as Seacology UK's Inaugural Island Scholar**

Seacology UK is delighted to announce that Ms. Tamara Berber (pictured here), a senior at Southbank's International School in London, has been named as Seacology UK's 2010/11 Island Scholar.



Seacology UK's Island Scholar award is a brand-new globally focused environmental service project where successful candidates design and implement an awareness-raising plan around a current Seacology island environmental project. Seacology UK launched this program to encourage UK senior school students (14-18 years) to join us in helping to protect the threatened biodiversity of global island communities.

Over the next year, Tamara has chosen to raise awareness among her classmates at Southbank about the environmental and livelihood needs of the isolated community on Guadalupe Island in Mexico. Isla Guadalupe has one of the best preserved marine environments in Mexico. Yet, as one of Mexico's most remote islands, its small community needs help to access adequate fresh water supplies.

Having lived in Israel for several years, Tamara understands the importance of access to drinkable water and was moved by the struggle of Guadalupe islanders. "Being an islander with little fresh water when surrounded by it, sounds awful. Also, unnecessary considering the advanced current technology available." As part of her island awareness outreach, she will be raising funds for Seacology's purchase of a seawater desalination system on behalf of this community. In exchange for Seacology's help, the Guadalupe community has agreed to protect a 1,235-acre marine reserve for the duration of 10 years.

Since, in her words, "London is a place where water is taken for granted ... both in the households of students, the school facility and in the weather," Tamara felt strongly that her message about Guadalupe Island's fresh water needs would be particularly meaningful to fellow students.

"Tamara has experience as an actor, diver and community activist -- a wonderful combination of skills to bring to our shared efforts to protect the world's island environments," said Seacology UK Chair Lucy Cummings. "We were impressed with her passion for island marine conservation and look forward to helping her harness that passion to benefit both the community and marine environment of Guadalupe Island, Mexico."

*Visit our website to learn more about Seacology UK's Island Scholar award (<http://www.seacology.org.uk>) or Guadalupe project ([http://www.seacology.org/projects/individualprojects/MEXICO\\_guadalupe2010.htm](http://www.seacology.org/projects/individualprojects/MEXICO_guadalupe2010.htm)). For further information, e-mail Dr. Lucy Cummings at [mail@seacology.org.uk](mailto:mail@seacology.org.uk).*