

Protecting the unique species, habitats, and cultures of islands worldwide



**DARAM ISLAND, INDONESIA**

## New school opens in Fafanlap

Sixty miles southeast of Indonesia's West Papua province, Daram Island is not only isolated, it's small: just three miles long and less than a mile wide. But the people of Daram control a vast area of pristine ocean, full of coral reefs and seamounts, and in recent years have taken big steps to keep its biodiversity strong. A few years ago, the island worked out an agreement with Misool Ecoresort (on West Papua) to set aside 90,000 acres of marine habitat as "no-take" zones, but according to Papuan tradition, an agreement is only "accepted" when the benefits are spread to everyone in the community.

To help get the people of Daram Island on board with the new reserve, village leaders asked us to provide funds for a kindergarten/community center to be built in Daram's Fafanlap village. In recent months, workers completed the final touches, installing solar panels on the roof that power the building's lights and also its

set of brand-new computers. More than 30 kids are already enrolled.

Meanwhile, local rangers are actively patrolling the marine reserve, making use of three new base camps each stocked with radio equipment and powered by solar panels. To help get the word out, we also provided funds for media equipment and other materials to help rangers inform Daram communities about the reserve and other conservation issues.



*CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: The kindergarten's first students; part of the 90,000-acre marine reserve; Seacology's Executive Director Duane Silverstein, board member Joe Scalzo, and Seacology supporter Barbara Counter teach the kids the hokey-pokey at the kindergarten's opening ceremony; a dolphin escorts a boat to Daram Island. (Photos by Paul Gabbert)*

## IN THIS ISSUE

Letter from the Chairman

Project Updates from  
Around the World

6 New Projects Launched

New Travel Opportunities

2013 Seacology Prize Winner  
Marie Saleem

Island Legacy Society





Paul Alan Cox, Seacology Chairman

## Dear friends,

Each year at Seacology we look forward to awarding the Seacology Prize to an indigenous person who has shown heroism in protecting their environment and culture. In October, we hosted a ceremony honoring our 21<sup>st</sup> Seacology Prize winner, Marie Saleem, from the Maldives in the Indian Ocean. Ms. Saleem has spent her life protecting the precious reef resources in her island nation, including protecting shark species which were being extirpated from the Maldives by commercial fishermen. As a result of her efforts, the Maldives has passed legislation totally banning shark fishing.

The annual Prize ceremony is a gala affair attended by Seacology's Directors, Fellows, Donors, and other special friends, but the first Prize ceremony started off much more modestly. Samoan Chief Ulu Taufu'asisina had pledged to his dying father to protect his village rainforest. Because Tafua village is close to the vehicular ferry on Savaii island, the logging companies were desirous of harvesting the 10,000-acre forest. Dr. Thomas Elmquist and I raised funds in Sweden to build a needed school in return for a village covenant to protect the rainforest. Unfortunately, our subsequent efforts to install modern water systems and solar electric power for the village brought Chief Ulu into direct conflict with the Swedish government aid bureaucracy. Dressed in his lavalava and his aloha shirt, Chief Ulu traveled with me in January to Stockholm where, to the shock of the aid officials, he turned down all future funding for his village—which totaled \$750,000—because he felt that strings they attached would damage the village culture.

I was stunned and deeply moved by Chief Ulu's gesture to protect his village. I called my wife Barbara from Stockholm and asked her to commission a small trophy and to invite everyone we knew to our living room in the United States to honor Chief Ulu. We raised \$2,000 which we presented to him for a needed village project.

Since that winter evening in 1992 to this year's Seacology Prize gala, we have annually honored brave indigenous people who often risk their lives to protect precious environments and indigenous cultures. Thank you for your support of Seacology's efforts to recognize these indigenous heroes and to help us save island habitats, one village at a time.

Paul Alan Cox  
Chairman

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# Microhydro generator powers up mountain village



In June our field rep in the Philippines, Ferdinand Marcelo, hiked into the Tiruray mountains to visit Sitio Lobo, a small community near Lake Sebu, where we funded the installation of a micro hydropower generator in a nearby river. As he details in his blog, it didn't take long for him to notice that things were different:

*"Scarcely had we finished the arduous eight-hour journey up the mountain did we hear television sets and radios from lit homes at Sitio Lobo's outskirts. At their hearths, electric rice cookers had replaced rice pots blackened by wood fire, a sharp contrast to my first visit in 2010 when the few signs of electricity were powered either by a leased solar panel home system or a small gas generator."*

The hydropower generator doesn't just offer clean, renewable energy – it's proving easy access to electricity for an entire community (something that leased solar panels and small gas generators don't come close to doing). So far, 80 of Sitio Lobo's 250 households are hooked

up to the grid, and it's expected that many more will follow once it's proven to work reliably.

The generator, which debuted in May, is run by a management board comprised of locals called Lubo Renewable Energy and Community Development Association (LURECDA). Since then, LURECDA has been working to install meters to connect new people while also managing the micro hydropower generator itself – doing maintenance work and regulating water flow to match the community's fluctuating demand for energy.

But according to Marcelo, this is just the start. "The available water is so plentiful that the potential for expansion is undeniable. Should LURECDA manage their operations and finances well, they may be in a position to supply electricity

*"Scarcely had we finished the arduous eight-hour journey up the mountain did we hear television sets and radios from lit homes at Sitio Lobo's outskirts. At their hearths, electric rice cookers had replaced rice pots blackened by wood fire."*

to neighboring villages in the near future – particularly if they are able to save enough to finance the construction of another microhydro." Already they're talking about how best to expand staff to handle more customers.

We provided funds for the generator plus a fruit tree nursery to support the protection of over six thousand acres of watershed forest in the area. As Marcelo explains, the generator is directly helping this effort:

*"The T'boli and Manobo tribes who reside at the edges of the watershed in the upper reaches of Sitio Lobo are tasked to patrol the forests against poachers and to continue gathering tree seedlings for the nurseries. For their efforts, 10% of the microhydro's monthly net income will be given to them."*



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP-LEFT: Sacks of corn are loaded in Sitio Lobo to sell in the lowland markets; the structure housing the micro-hydro generator; operators must regulate water flow to match fluctuating electricity demand throughout the day; the new fruit tree nursery.



## PROJECT UPDATES

With dozens of active projects around the world, things are happening all the time. Here are just a few highlights of the past several months.

1

### BOHOL ISLAND, PHILIPPINES

A new 800-meter boardwalk through a mangrove forest on Bohol Island, Philippines is nearly complete. Once finished, it will help the village of San Vicente protect not only their forest, but surrounding fishing areas as well.

By funding this boardwalk project, we're helping San Vicente continue a conservation effort that began in 1999 after a report showed that fish traps and deforestation within the mangrove forest were impeding the mangroves' role as a "nursery" for fish species that are eventually caught in traditional fishing grounds nearby. The village raised funds to build a bamboo boardwalk and an information center to facilitate ecotourism and conservationism, but since then, the bamboo structure has degraded, and so San Vicente needed a new boardwalk.

2



### KIWAYU ISLAND, KENYA

Kiwayu Island kicked off a major marine conservation effort in July to protect more than 600 acres of a coral reef ecosystem and to keep Kiwayu's beaches safe for nesting sea turtles. (Pictured above, a government fisheries officer discusses the project at the official launch event.)

To help, we're providing funds to dig a freshwater well and build an office for locals to coordinate conservation activities. (Right now, the island of 4,000 people share just one well.)

Conservation is needed in this area, known for its beautiful beaches and marine life, as its ecosystems are under threat from overfishing and expanding tourism activities, and sea turtles are threatened by illegal egg poaching.

3

### OVAKA ISLAND, TONGA

Ovaka Island's 72 residents will soon have a refurbished community hall which they'll use for meetings, classes, and various events. Our field representative in Tonga reports that workers have already built an extension and painted the walls; next they'll install a sink and plumbing for a kitchen, build a fence, and add tiling to the main hall. The whole project is expected to be completed by November.

We've provided funds for the refurbishment in exchange for the islanders' commitment to actively manage their 531-acre fish habitat reserve, where overfishing, the use of destructive fishing methods, and soil erosion from land disturbance have depleted their fish stock.

4



### VANUA LEVU, FIJI

Forest restoration continued this month in Fiji's Qumusea district, as schoolkids chipped in to help plant 6,000 new trees.

The replanting will help prevent erosion, which can hurt nearby coral reefs, and provide protection from major storm surges.

But 6,000 trees is just the start: the plan is to plant 50,000 new trees over the next 20 years.

In exchange for forest restoration and preservation, we provided funds for a new kindergarten classroom.

6

### ESCUDO DE VERAGUAS ISLAND, PANAMA

Twenty-five "HotPot" solar stoves arrived in Panama, our field representative in the region reports, and locals near Escudo de Veraguas Island are being trained in how to use them. (Fifty Vesto firewood-efficient stoves have been ordered but have yet to arrive.)

We're funding the stoves, plus signage and mooring buoys around Escudo de Veraguas Island, to help protect the red mangrove habitat of the critically-endangered pygmy sloth. With more people using the stoves, fewer people will cut down the red mangroves to use as fuel.

Habitat loss has devastated the pygmy sloth, which is endemic to the island, and recent surveys peg their total population at fewer than 100 individuals.

5

### SUNDARBANS, INDIA

Workers in northeast India began restoration on a boat that will be used by conservationists to spread the word in the Sundarbans about the importance of protecting mangrove forests in this massive delta.

Why a boat? It's just the easiest way to get around: the Sundarbans is comprised of countless islands, and the force of the rivers and tides continuously shifts the soils (which means maps of the area are never completely accurate). So not only are communities in the Sundarbans in remote locations, there's little transportation infrastructure to help people get around.

In exchange for the boat, the Association for Conservation & Tourism will organize mangrove planting totaling 123 acres and carry out environmental education and awareness programs around the Sundarbans. Renown for its biodiversity, the Sundarbans is a national park, tiger reserve, UNESCO Biosphere reserve, and World Heritage Site.

7



### FOWL CAYS, BAHAMAS

This month, workers in the Bahamas' Fowl Cays National Park (FCNP) successfully rebuilt a cabana that was destroyed by a hurricane late last year.

The cabana is part of our project to help Bahamas National Trust manage two of the country's national parks. We provided funds for cabanas and signage to be installed in FCNP and Pelican Cays Land and Sea Park, with the cabanas to be used by visitors as a rest stop and information center.

# New Projects

Lemurs, dugongs, and an endemic bird of paradise are among the species protected by our six newest projects, already underway:

Country	Location	Benefit to the community	Benefit to the environment
BANGLADESH	St. Martin's Island	New school	Protection of 1,200 acres of coral habitat
INDONESIA	Halamahera Island	Community center	Protection of 2,000 hectares of forest, home to the Standardwing bird of paradise
KENYA	Wasini Island & Pate Island	Sustainable fishing program utilizing modified traditional fish traps with escape gaps	Support of a 1,532-acre sustainable fishing area
MADAGASCAR	Ranobe	Ecotourist welcome center, restrooms, guardian hut, cooking hut, and signage	Protection for 20 years of 4,448 acres of threatened southwestern dry spiny forest, home to eight species of lemur
PHILIPPINES	Palawan Island	Seventy-one mooring buoys	Support for 1,287 acres within Marine Protected Areas in Bacquit Bay
TANZANIA	Kwale Island	Construction of a 150,000 gallon water cistern	Protection of endangered sea turtle species and conservation of 741 acres of mangrove forest, an important habitat for dugongs

## Upcoming Travel: Join Seacology on one of our exciting trips in 2014. Find more information and travel brochures at [Seacology.org/Travel](http://Seacology.org/Travel)

### Kenya

July 25 - Aug 3, 2014

Join Seacology in Kenya for an unforgettable eco-safari in the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy and the Maasai Mara where you will have the chance to witness the Great Migration. Visit Seacology's mangrove restoration project on Wasini Island.



### Fiji

Aug 16-23, 2014

Travel with Seacology and the National Aquarium to the Jean-Michel Cousteau Resort on Vanua Levu Island for seven nights of water, reef and luxury. Visit two nearby villages where Seacology projects have improved the lives of Fijians while protecting surrounding forests and coral reefs.



### Tonga

Aug 25-Sept 5, 2014

Spend ten nights on a liveaboard in Tonga's Ha'apai Islands, snorkeling with humpback whales. This is a truly rare opportunity to be in the water swimming with these massive but friendly creatures.



## Island Legacy Society

The Island Legacy Society was created to recognize and honor individuals who treasure Seacology's mission and have expressed their commitment to ensure that our important work continues. Additionally, the Island Legacy Society is intended to encourage others to consider similar gifts that will allow future generations to benefit from our commitment to island conservation.

### We are pleased to honor the following members of the Island Legacy Society

Frank W. and Margaret B. Adelstein Fund (deceased)  
 Anonymous (3)  
 Marie-Louise Ansak  
 Donald Arntz  
 Larry Barelis  
 Michael Burbank & Cindy Roberts  
 Kimo Campbell (deceased)  
 Paul and Barbara Cox  
 Rosalind Douglas Trust (deceased)  
 Graham Farrar Living Trust  
 Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence Feigenbaum (deceased)  
 Paul and Dianne Felton  
 Kathryn Fox-Winokur  
 Eliot Girsang & Richard Wilson

Kathleen Goetten (deceased)  
 Hank and Jane Goichman  
 Morgan Griffin  
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 Michael N. Hofman and Janet Moyer  
 Carlton A. Hubbell Trust (deceased)  
 Suzanna Jamieson  
 Sara Katz  
 Masayuki Kishimoto  
 Cathy Klema  
 Ken Murdock  
 Matsuno Kuhara Patrick  
 Peter Pistor  
 Shari Sant Plummer

John C. and Susan C. Racanelli  
 Gordon Radley  
 James and Gretchen Sandler  
 Guy & Jeanine Saperstein  
 Joseph and Catherine Scalzo  
 Duane Silverstein  
 Rose and Arthur Silverstein Memorial Fund (deceased)  
 Michael and Marilyn Staffieri Family Trust  
 Cindy and Richard Troop  
 Eric and Sharlene van Boer  
 James L. Walker, IV  
 Erin West  
 Herbert A. West  
 Greg and Pat White  
 Windfall Foundation

Here's how to join:

- Make a gift to Seacology in your estate plan with your accounting or investment professional.
- Contact Development Director Aaron Rashba at (510) 559-3505 or [islands@seacology.org](mailto:islands@seacology.org) and we will provide a Letter of Intent for you to fill out.

We will acknowledge your gift by giving you recognition (with your permission) on our website and periodically in our newsletters, as well as invitations to Seacology events throughout the year. For more information on the kind of gifts you may want to make, please speak with your accounting or investment professional. In addition, our Development Department is available to help you with this simple process.

### 2013 SEACOLOGY PRIZE WINNER

## MARIE SALEEM

Each year, we award the Seacology Prize to an indigenous islander for exceptional achievement in preserving the environment and culture of his or her home island. Winners receive \$10,000 and are brought to the United States for an award ceremony in October.

Our 2013 Seacology Prize goes to Marie Saleem, a leading environmental conservation advocate whose research and activism have helped protect marine species in her home country of the Maldives.

Her study of shark populations led to a nationwide ban on shark fishing and the trade of shark products beginning in 2010. Most recently, she helped gain special protection measures for several shark and manta species under the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES).

She also regularly conducts environment awareness classes for children, works with several island communities on waste management, and participates in coral mitigation programs. She and her husband founded an environmental consultancy through which they run "marine discovery centers" for Four Seasons resorts in the Maldives.

"I am honored and overwhelmed to be recognized for the humbling work I have done with the communities and the environment," Saleem says. "The Maldives, being a small island state, is dependent on the pristine nature of its natural environment and I believe that it is only with the holistic intertwining of the peoples' lives with nature that we can help the environment."

*The Seacology Prize is underwritten by Seacology's President Ken Murdock, in honor of his mother, Lalovi Fish Murdock*





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Seacology helps protect island habitats and assists local communities by offering villages a unique deal: if they agree to create a forest or marine reserve, we'll provide funds for something the village needs, like a schoolhouse or health clinic.

Since 1991, Seacology has worked with over

**200** villages on **149** islands in **51** countries

helping to protect **nearly 2 million acres**

of some of the world's most vulnerable ecosystems.