

Seacology

Saving the World, One Island at a Time

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Seacology's Community Center Opens in Felemea, Tonga

In August, the Tongan village of Felemea completed the renovation of its community hall, and a Seacology expedition paid a visit for the opening ceremony.

Felemeans are known for their intricate weavings as well as their prowess in fishing, but on this day the Felemeans made their mark as people who know how to throw a party. The cutting of the ceremonial ribbon to officially open the community center soon gave way to a conga line, but the party was just getting started. In addition to traditional Tongan songs and dances, the Felemeans had a few surprises in store - notably, a pair of grandmothers who donned boxing gloves and staged a mock boxing match to everyone's considerable amusement.

Seacology funded the renovation of the community center (which they'll be able to use for village meetings, pre-school activities, and training workshops - not just for dancing!) in exchange for the protection of 368 acres of nearby marine habitat. This will allow the once-robust populations of fish, clams, sea slugs, crab, and lobster to recover from years of overfishing. ♦

See more photos from Seacology's trip to Tonga on page 3.



Photo by Bob Epstein

ABOVE: Seacology representatives dance with Felemeans in their brand-new community center. The village will use the center for civic meetings, pre-school activities, training workshops, and other community functions. BELOW: A Felemean woman dances and shows off her non-traditional adornment of balloons.

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Photo by Bob Epstein



Hironobu Sugawara, mayor of Oshima Island

This past August on my way to do ethnobotanical research in Okinawa, I stopped in Honshu to meet with several board members of Seacology Japan and my daughter Jane. Together we drove to the tsunami disaster area and made our way via ferry to tiny Oshima island.

The scale of destruction there is staggering. At one narrow point on this island, the tsunami waves from two different directions collided. Houses were ripped from their foundation, and the inter-island ferry crashed into the little town. Large fuel tanks for the fishing fleet in the nearby port of Kesennuma were sent tumbling on the waves. When they ruptured, the spilt gasoline and diesel ignited, catching the entire sea on fire.

The island mayor, Hironobu Sugawara (pictured), was shocked to see the sea flames ignite their precious forest. With twenty-one villagers lost in the waves, no firefighting equipment, and no outside support, he and the villagers decided to try to quench the flames by beating them with their own clothing. Shira Hata, who had just lost his wife in the waves, joined in the desperate attempt as did Hiroshi Murakami, who had just seen his grandmother swept away in his house. Together with Takeshi Komatsu, they made their way through the flames to the last remaining water tank on the hill and released the impounded water. They fought all day and all night, and succeeded in saving their forest.

Mr. Sugawara and his colleagues all wear shirts emblazoned with the kanji characters for "Team Stupid." "We were just too stupid to know that you can't stop a forest fire by beating it with your shirt," Mr. Sugawara told me. "So we call ourselves 'Team Stupid.'"

All around the world, island peoples take heroic actions to protect their precious habitats and culture. You can be proud that Seacology stands with these islanders, wherever they are. Thank you for joining with me in helping these villagers save the world, one island at a time.

Cordially,

Paul Alan Cox

Seacology Project Update:
Babeldaob Island, Ngardmau State, Palau

Photo by Palau Conservation Society



Hikers walk along the new boardwalk in Palau to reach the Ngardmau Waterfall. Before the boardwalk was built, hikers had to bog through muddy stretches and ford a stream, which eroded the soil and deposited silt in a nearby river, disrupting marine habitats.



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Seacology Project Update - Banjar Anyar, Bali, Indonesia

High up on the slope of Bali's Mount Batukaru is the small farming village of Banjar Anyar, where most of the 380 residents grow small plots of coffee, cacao, fruit, and rice. The surrounding forest is dense and verdant, and home to the leaf monkey and armadillo-like pangolin. The people of Banjar Anyar traditionally have been the guardians of the almost 2,000-acre area of forest accessible only through their village, in which they restrict hunting and tree-cutting.

In exchange for their continued stewardship, Seacology provided the funds for a central community building as a space for activities like civic meetings, gamelan practice, and Balinese dance.

Workers began laying the foundation last October but faced delays due to an unexpectedly heavy rainy season. By summer they had managed to lay the concrete and install the roof. All that's left to do are the finishing touches: painting, tiling, and wood carving.

Much of the labor is being done voluntarily by village men who rotate in and out of construction duty from tending their crops. ♦



Photo by Anuz Mehta

Construction is nearly complete on Banyar Anyar's new community center, which will be used for civic meetings and as a practice space for Balinese dance and gamelan.

More Photos from Seacology's Trip to Tonga!

Photo by Bob Epstein



ABOVE: Seacology expedition member swimming with Humpback whales off the shores of Tonga. RIGHT: Seacology's Executive Director Duane Silverstein with Tonga's HRH Princess Mele Siuilikutapu Kalaniwala Fotofili.

Photo by Bob Epstein



Species-ology! Spotlight on the San Salvador Iguana

By Henry Jones

In Christopher Columbus' voyage across the Atlantic in 1492, the first land he and his men encountered was a small island in the Bahamas known as Guanahani, the natives' word for "iguana." The name Guanahani is long gone; Columbus re-named it "San Salvador," which is the name that stuck. But you can still find the iguanas - so long as you know where to look.

These are not the common Green iguanas found in abundance throughout Latin America. These are smaller and often sport a bright red hue. They're known simply as the San Salvador iguana on account of not being found anywhere else in the world. In fact, the entire population of 500 is found in and around their namesake island spread across just six cays - small, low-lying islets made of sand or coral. It's no surprise that the San Salvador iguana is considered critically endangered.

Their habitat range once included the mainland, but with the arrival of domestic cats and dogs (the scourge of small, fleshy island creatures throughout modern history) the island's surrounding cays proved to be the only sanctuaries the iguanas could find to traipse about eating cacti

and other vegetation in peace. Though the populations are basically stable, there are still serious dangers. Heavy storms can disrupt a cay's fragile ecosystem, for instance. Sea level increases are certainly not good. Meanwhile, the latest threat comes from, of all things, a species of moth whose larvae consume the prickly-pear cactus preferred by the iguanas on several cays.

Just being isolated can take its toll. Diminishing numbers mean a diminishing gene pool, especially when the already small popula-

tion is split among discrete cays too far away to allow commingling.

Here at Seacology, we learned about the plight of the San Salvador iguana from members of the island's Gerace Research Center (GRC), and this summer we agreed to help fund the creation of a "headstarting facility" where the GRC will be able to help replenish the island's wild iguana population through a careful breeding program. These iguanas need our help or else the name Guanahani will truly become obsolete. ♦



Photo by Dr. William Hayes

Just 500 San Salvador Iguanas are left in the wild and can only be found on six cays around San Salvador Island.

Seacology Welcomes New Development Director:

Aaron Rashba

Aaron's first job out of college took him to the Caribbean for three years - as a teacher and administrator in Jamaica, Trinidad, and Puerto Rico. He realized then how special islands are - for their natural beauty, unique biodiversity, and incredible cultures and peoples. Aaron earned an M.B.A. from the University of Toronto, but has spent most of his career in non-profit fundraising.

With the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, he focused on getting sponsorship and riders for the Northern California chapter's Waves to Wine bike tour. Most recently, he was Major Gifts Officer with the San Francisco Food Bank.

Aaron replaces Seacology's previous Development Director, Susan Racanelli, who has relocated to Baltimore and is now Seacology's first East Coast-based development officer.



Seacology Project Update: Tetepare Island, Solomon Islands

At 75 square miles, Tetepare is the South Pacific's largest uninhabited island, and in the 150 years since islanders abandoned it, the verdant forest and rich marine habitats have been left essentially untouched.

That hasn't been by accident. Tetepare is managed by the Tetepare Descendants Association (TDA), a group representing roughly 3,000 islanders whose forebears once called the island home. The TDA is determined to preserve the island's old growth forest rather than to allow loggers to cut it down (as has happened elsewhere in the Solomon Islands).

But to do this job well the TDA needed a dormitory on site for park rangers to use, which would allow them to work multiple-week shifts maintaining the park and enforcing its no-take zones. Seacology provided much of the funds for this dormitory, which was completed in June.

The TDA hopes the island can become a destination for ecotourism and scientific research. It's home to a variety of animals, including the Solomon Islands skink (the biggest of all the skinks, reaching almost three feet long!), the coconut crab (the largest land-living arthropod!), and the manatee's Pacific Ocean cousin, the dugong. Leatherback turtles also come to Tetepare to lay their eggs. ♦



Photo by Tetepare Descendants Association

ABOVE: The island of Tetepare has been uninhabited for 150 years. BELOW: Endangered leatherback turtles come to Tetepare to lay their eggs. BELOW-LEFT: Tetepare's completed ranger station.



Photo by Tetepare Descendants Association



Photo by Alejandro Linares Garcia

Seacology Welcomes New Field Representative for the Cook Islands:

Jaime Short

Jaime works for the Cook Island's National Environment Service as the Hazardous Substances Projects officer; she is also a member of the Rarotonga-based Muri Environment Care Group, an environmental NGO with the goal of improving the Muri Lagoon.

She is of New Zealand and Cook Island descent, and her father's family is known in the Cook Islands for being prominent community, political, traditional and religious leaders. (Her grandfather, Sir Apenera Short, served as Deputy Prime Minister for the Cook Islands, and later became the Head of State.) Jaime holds Bachelor's Degrees from Auckland University in both Physical Geography and Anthropological Science.

As a Field Representative Jaime will be our "eyes and ears" in the Cook Islands, helping to identify and monitor our island conservation efforts.



Take a Trip with Seacology!

Mozambique Odyssey with visits to Tanzania & South Africa March 4-21, 2012

This 18-day trip hosted by Zegrahm Expeditions will take us along the coast of southeastern Africa, including stops in Tanzania, Mozambique, and South Africa. Photographers, snorkelers, divers, naturalists, and history buffs will revel in this glorious voyage aboard the 110-passenger Clipper Odyssey—the perfect expedition vessel for this coastal African journey.

Highlights of the trip include visiting a World Heritage Site in Zanzibar’s Stone Town; searching for the endemic Pemba flying fox and Pemba white-eye in Ngezi Forest; seeing a Seacology-funded conservation project on Pemba Island; snorkeling or diving in the Mozambique channel; and visiting the hippos, crocodiles, and birds in St. Lucia/iSimangaliso Wetland Park.

For rates and other info, see the brochure at <http://www.Seacology.org/Travel>



Photo courtesy of Zegrahm Expeditions

The Bahamas May 5-12, 2012

For anyone hoping for a Seacology trip close to home, we present this seven-day diving tour of the Bahamas. On board a luxury diving vessel, we’ll spend a week touring some of the Bahamas’ best diving spots, including the deep reefs of Mayaguana, the coral pillars of Samana Cay, and even a shipwreck off of Conception Island.

We’ll also take a break from diving to stop by San Salvador Island where we’ll visit a Seacology-funded breeding facility for the critically endangered San Salvador iguana. Due to habitat destruction, only 500 of these iguanas remain in the wild. (See “Species-ology!” on page 4 for more info on the San Salvador iguana.)

For rates and other info, see the brochure at <http://www.Seacology.org/Travel>

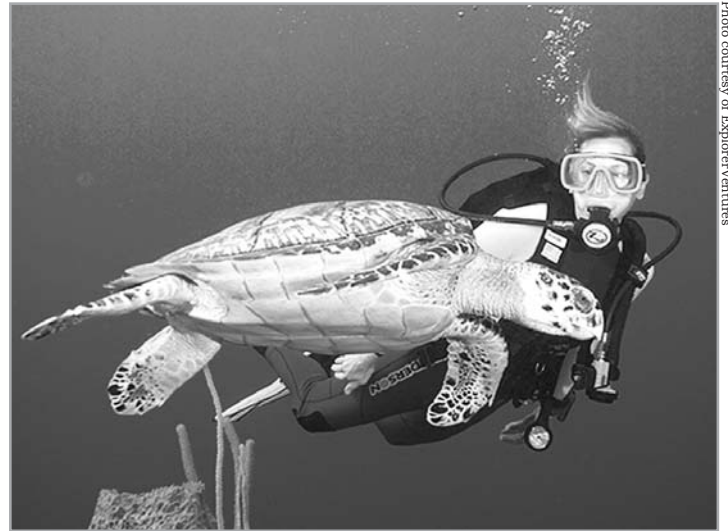


Photo courtesy of ExploreVentures

Seacology Welcomes New Communications Assisitant:

Henry Jones

Henry was born and raised in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and came to California as an undergrad at UC Santa Cruz. He wrote for newspapers and magazines in the Bay Area and ended up at UC Berkeley earning master’s degrees in Journalism and International and Area Studies.

His work in the nonprofit world includes an internship with the AjA Project, an organization bringing art education to refugee youth in San Diego, and volunteering at the human rights-related book series *Voice of Witness*. In his free time, Henry enjoys riding bikes, reading books, and drinking coffee.



Seacology Board of Directors Approves New Island Projects

The following projects were approved by Seacology's Board of Directors at their June 8, 2011 meeting:

INDONESIA - Community center/kindergarten in support of a newly-created 99,583 acre no-take marine area for a minimum duration of 14 years in Fafanlap Village, Daram Island, Misool, Raja Ampat, Papua Barat. *

INDONESIA - Funding for planting 33,900 tree saplings and construction of a turtle guard post in exchange for the creation of 83 acres of no-take forest and a 1.2 acre no-take turtle-nesting beach for a duration of 10 years in Pelilit Village, Nusa Penida Island, Bali.

JAMAICA - Establishing a furnished field office and providing equipment for the enforcement of the 150 acre Oracabessa Bay Fish Sanctuary.

MEXICO - Cabin for ecotourists, surfers, and scuba divers in exchange for the protection of a 1,120-acre area, including three islets, for a minimum duration of 10 years at Isla Natividad, Baja California.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA (pictured right) - Permanent classroom facility in exchange for an increase in size of existing forest conservation area, from 2,718 acres to 5,436 acres for a duration of 25 years in the Wanang community. *

THE PHILIPPINES - Construction of a boardwalk and viewing deck in support of a 180-acre mangrove area for a duration of 15 years in Barangay Malhiao, Municipality of Badian, Province of Cebu.

TANZANIA - Info and training center, support for alternative livelihood projects, and rehabilitation of degraded sites in exchange for the conservation and restoration of a 1,507-acre mangrove forest for a minimum duration of 14 years in Bumbwini-Mkokotoni Bay, Unguja Island, Zanzibar.

* Support for asterisked projects is provided fully or in part by the Nu Skin Enterprises Force for Good Foundation.



Photo by Dr. George Weidman

The children of the Wanang community in Papua New Guinea are in need of a new school building. Currently 150 students and four teachers must use classrooms made of temporary bush materials.

Seacology Island Legacy Society

If you are a Seacology Fellow, a longtime Seacology supporter, or are new to our cause and feel a great affinity for our purpose, perhaps now is the time for you to join the 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. Here's how to join:

- Make a gift to Seacology in your estate plan with your accounting or investment professional.
- Contact Carynne in Seacology's Development Department at (510) 559-3505 or carynne@seacology.org and we will send you a Letter of Intent to fill out and return to us.

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. We look forward to welcoming you into the Island Legacy Society soon. You will join the following dedicated members whose gifts will permanently help preserve the world's islands and their historic cultures for future generations.

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
Larry Barels

Michael Burbank & Cindy Roberts
Kimo Campbell

Paul and Barbara Cox
Rosalind Douglas Trust (deceased)
Graham Farrar Living Trust

Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence Feigenbaum

Paul and Dianne Felton
Eliot Girsang & Richard Wilson

Hank and Jane Goichman

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Craig Grube

Scott Halsted

Douglas Herst

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

Duane Silverstein

Rose and Arthur Silverstein Memorial Fund (deceased)

Michael and Marilyn Staffieri Family Trust

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Seacology is Protecting:	Seacology Has Launched:
864,512 acres of island terrestrial habitat	222 projects on
959,708 acres of coral reef and other marine habitat	121 islands in
	46 countries across
	6 continents

Seacology is the world's premier nonprofit environmental organization with the sole and unique purpose of preserving the environments and cultures of islands throughout the globe. From Fiji in the South Pacific to Madagascar off the coast of Africa, from islands in the Arctic Circle to tropical islands of Southeast Asia, from Bali to Micronesia and from Polynesia to Iceland, Seacology launches projects to help preserve island environments and cultures.