

# Seacology

Saving the World, One Island at a Time

Volume 7, Number 2

Fall Edition October 2005

## Terian, Borneo Micro-Hydro Project Completed and Dedicated



Terian, Borneo, Malaysia: 2004 Seacology Prize recipient and project coordinator Adrian Lasimbang reports that the Seacology-funded micro-hydro energy system for the village of Terian was completed and dedicated in June 2005. The Crocker Range National Park, also called "The Spine of Sabah," covers 540 square miles of remote forest in the Malaysian state of Sabah on the island of Borneo and is one of the most important sanctuaries of biodiversity left in the heavily logged state. Terian Village has agreed to protect a 1,000-acre watershed area in exchange for a micro-hydro energy system, which creates power by harnessing the vertical drop of a stream within the watershed. PACOS Trust, the Borneo Project, Green Empowerment and Tinimungan Popoburu Tulun were partner organizations for the project. According to Lasimbang, "We have proven here that it does not take huge funding to produce a great project; the secret is to empower the people and get more community involvement."

*Left: Community members at the opening of the micro-hydro project. Below: Adrian Lasimbang with the powerhouse turbine. (Photo credits: PACOS Trust.)*

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*Seacology Chairman Dr. Paul Alan Cox and the President of Iceland, Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson.*

Japanese Trustees and Fellows were so moved that on their return to Japan, they shipped needed school supplies to the Namosi school. A group of Scandinavian Seacology donors even provided sufficient funds to completely repaint the school.

In July, I stopped by Iceland to visit two Seacology projects. At Lake Myvatn, laboratory equipment had been provided to the elementary school to allow the children to survey ongoing pollution of the lake. I am pleased to report that the major polluting industry has now withdrawn, largely for economic reasons, but perhaps because they found the research performed by the schoolchildren to be unnerving. Poor weather precluded a flight to examine Seacology signs and interpretation at a national park in northeast Iceland, but I took time to pay courtesy calls to both the current and former presidents of Iceland. Both were deeply impressed with Seacology's efforts.

Seacology continues to show how people of good will from throughout the world can unite to help islanders protect their culture and environment. I particularly thank our Seacology Fellows, whose donations, coupled with the Seacology board, made it possible last year for Seacology to direct 100% of all other donor funds directly to projects. Many thanks also to those Seacology supporters who participated in visits to our island projects - these trips led by Seacology staff are exciting and demonstrate how Seacology has had such a great impact in preserving the environments and cultures of islands throughout the world. Thank you, deeply, for all that you do to help Seacology save the world, one island village at a time.

## Seacology Project Update: Hainan Island, China



The Hainan Gibbon, one of the world's most endangered primates, is found only in the Bawangling Reserve on Hainan Island, China. Working with both the Zoological Society of Shanghai and the Zoological Society of Paris, Seacology is underwriting the costs of scholarships for all 200 primary school age children in the four villages adjacent to the reserve in exchange for the villagers' agreement to forego non-sustainable exploitation of the reserve. A Seacology expedition visited this project in April 2005. 250 families have signed the agreement and are receiving scholarships for their children. There is now an unprecedented level of cooperation between the local villagers and the park rangers. For the first time, villagers are turning in poachers to the park rangers. *Above: Two of the students receiving Seacology-funded scholarships. (Photo credit: Teng Wei.)*



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## Two Seacology Expeditions Open New Projects in Fiji, June 2005

For the past five years, Seacology donors, board members and fellows have had the opportunity to travel to Fiji for a unique visit to Seacology projects in remote villages. In addition to the traditional expedition, in 2005 a group of Seacology's Japanese Trustees and Fellows participated in a trip to Fiji. This group visited Nakalavu Village on Viti Levu Island to officially open a community center funded by Seacology in exchange for the village's commitment to protecting their 2,000-acre ancestral rainforest for a minimum of 20 years. The Japanese delegation also visited Veivatuloa Village. Seacology is funding the connection of Veivatuloa and nearby Lobau and Wailoaloa Villages to the island's power grid in exchange for the establishment of a 1,500-acre forest reserve, and a 4,942-acre marine reserve. The group also distributed the Fijian language version of Paddy Ryan's book *Fiji's Natural Heritage* to schoolchildren in Veivatuloa. Seacology funded the translation of this book, which is the only book on the environment published in the Fijian language, as well as the only book in Fijian in the Veivatuloa school's library. This group of Japanese donors has also raised funds for needed books and supplies for the school.

The second Seacology group visited Nacamaki Village to officially open their community center, which was repaired and upgraded by Seacology in exchange for the establishment of a 494,211-acre marine reserve for a minimum duration of 10 years. The group visited the isolated village of Dakuniba to officially open their new community center, constructed by Seacology in exchange for the protection of 763 acres of rainforest for a minimum of 20 years, and 24,711 acres of marine habitat for a minimum of 10 years. This community center was funded in part by the Stephen Erdmann Memorial Fund. Stephen Erdmann's brother Mark and father Omer were on hand for the dedication.



*Above: Children from the Veivatuloa School with the Fijian language version of "Fiji's Natural Heritage." (Photo credit: Dr. Paul Cox.) Below: Seacology Japanese donors during their visit to Nakalavu Village. (Photo credit: Atu Rasea.) Bottom left: Seacology board member Shari Sant Plummer and trip participant Omer Erdmann cut the ribbon to the Dakuniba community center. (Photo credit: Duane Silverstein.) Left: Both groups were hosted with warmth and generosity in all four villages. This banner welcomed the second group to Nacamaki Village. (Photo credit: Bob Epstein.)*



## Papua New Guinea Community Organizer Awarded 2005 Seacology Prize

Seacology is pleased to announce that Patrick Danaya Pate has been selected to receive the 2005 Seacology Prize for his efforts to organize local indigenous communities in the highlands of his native Papua New Guinea. The Prize is awarded annually to an indigenous islander for exceptional achievement in preserving the environment and culture of any of the world's 100,000-plus islands. Mr. Pate will be awarded the \$7,500 Prize on October 25, 2005 at a ceremony in San Francisco, California.

The Seacology Prize is underwritten by Ken Murdock, president of Seacology, in honor of his mother, Lalovi Fish Murdock. Her family's century-long connection with the Samoan Islands, and their love for its people, inspired Murdock's work to help indigenous islanders preserve their environment in the face of a changing world. The Seacology Prize stipend has been raised from \$5,000 to \$7,500 due to the generosity of an anonymous donor. The stipend will be further raised to \$10,000 for the 2006 Seacology Prize.

Patrick Danaya Pate is from one of 28 widely scattered villages in the Mt. Bosavi Region in southern Papua New Guinea. The indigenous residents of the region are intimately dependent upon their environment, which encompasses about 2,000,000 acres of virgin rainforest, and their customs and culture remain very much intact. The ecological and social integrity of the region and surrounding areas have been threatened in recent years by proposals to log over 2.5 million acres of forest.

Pate recognized the importance of the natural environment to his people and their future at an early age. As an advocate of sustainable income generating activities, he taught himself vanilla and butterfly farming and has shared his knowledge with others. Pate worked to establish the Sulamesi Resource Development Foundation and is a community facilitator for the organization. He is also vice president of Kosua Orogo Resource Holders Association (KORA), a community-based organization initiated by Bosavi clan leaders to promote greater awareness of the negative impacts of industrial logging, and to encourage traditional beliefs in the sustainable use of biodiversity. As a result of KORA's influence, community members have committed to rejecting large-scale logging proposals. The communities have agreed to set aside five Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) totaling over 1.25 million acres. In appreciation for this sacrifice, in 2003 Seacology funded a project to build three much-needed resource centers. Pate has coordinated this project, and has worked to promote protection of the WMAs despite threats from surrounding landowners who wish to sell their forests for logging.



*Above: Patrick Pate (in headdress) and other Mt. Bosavi area villagers talk with Executive Director Duane Silverstein during a September 2004 Seacology expedition to Papua New Guinea. (Photo credit: Jon Stansbury.)*

According to Pate, "It is a great honor for me to be the recipient of the 2005 Seacology Prize. It is a recognition for the hard work we all put to conserve the natural environment of Mt Bosavi, Papua New Guinea. This prize that I am receiving is not just for my work but the efforts of many others that have contributed their ideas and tremendous support towards conserving the environment against the existing threat from intensive logging. I feel that this prize has encouraged and sharpened me to continuing to work harder with my people, the Bosavians, in our struggles and effort to protect our environment for future generations. This prize is for the recognition of the efforts and struggles by Bosavi people. "Together we stand, divided we fall."

For more information about the October 25 Seacology Prize ceremony, please call Susan Racanelli at 510-559-3505 or email [susan@seacology.org](mailto:susan@seacology.org).

## Seacology Project Update: The Ngermasech Marine Conservation Area, Palau



*A Seacology-funded "floating conservation station." (Photo credit: PCS.)*

The state of Ngardmau on the western coast of Palau's largest island, Babeldaob, created the 618-acre Ngermasech Marine Conservation Area. Though the area was officially designated in 1998, Palauan law specifies that the area does not officially become a conservation area until it is demarcated. In 2003, Seacology assisted the Palau Conservation Society (PCS) with the official establishment of this marine reserve by providing equipment for demarcation buoys, as well as educational materials regarding the reserve for the local community. Current legislation has recently passed to extend the Ngermasech Conservation Area until 2010. Community interest in conservation has increased as demarcation within the conservation area has become more visible and the presence of conservation officers has increased. Surrounding communities have begun to discuss the possibility of creating a new conservation area to the north to protect a critical mangrove area. There remains full support for the Ngermasech Conservation Area from the Governor of Ngardmau, legislators, local chiefs and community members. The MPA has also launched new "floating conservation stations," constructed to give staff more flexibility and coverage within the reserve.

## Indian Mangrove Conservationist to Receive Lifetime Achievement Award

This year, a special Seacology Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to Dr. Felix Sugirtharaj of India for his dedication to protecting the mangrove forests and livelihoods of fishers in the Andaman Islands, and particularly for his tireless work coordinating relief efforts in the wake of the devastating December 26, 2004 tsunami. Dr. Sugirtharaj will be honored at the October 25, 2005 Seacology Prize ceremony, and will receive \$7,500. The award is being underwritten by the Nu Skin Enterprises Force for Good Foundation.



again rededicate my mission to the poor people who live around mangrove swamps to ensure food security with legal entitlement to land, water and forests."

Seacology is proud to honor the tireless efforts of both 2005 Seacology Prize recipient Patrick Danaya Pate, and special Seacology Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Dr. Felix Sugirtharaj.

*Left: Dr. Felix Sugirtharaj (center) with the COPDANET staff. Below: The new Seacology-funded Mangrove Resource Centre in India's Andaman Islands. (Photo credits: COPDANET.)*

Dr. Sugirtharaj is director of the Coastal Poor Development Action Network (COPDANET), and has been a longtime advocate of mangrove protection coupled with sustainable livelihoods for fisherpeople. Most recently, he has coordinated the establishment of a Seacology-funded mangrove resource center and replanting project on India's Andaman Islands.

After the devastating December 26, 2004 tsunami struck the Indian Ocean region, Dr. Felix immediately went into action, assessing damage to the mangrove center under construction, as well as the hard-hit nearby communities. The foundation of the mangrove center washed away during the tsunami, and the walls of the building collapsed due to 105 tremors that occurred in the week following the disaster. Seacology immediately provided COPDANET with funds from the Nu Skin Enterprises Force for Good Foundation to repair the building. In addition, with financial support from Seacology's Tsunami Relief Fund, Dr. Felix and COPDANET distributed goats and chickens to local families, provided sewing machines to generate future income, and supervised the rebuilding of local homes.

According to Dr. Felix, "These people, having suffered at the beginning of this year by Tsunami and a series of earthquakes, have the ability and capacity to laugh at themselves and sublimate personal grief to a concern for humanity at large by saving the culture of rich biodiversity as precious as their lives. I once



## Travel to Baja and Guadalupe Island, Mexico with Seacology!

We are pleased to invite you on Seacology's first-ever expedition to Baja, Mexico from February 20-26, 2006. Each year, the California Gray Whale migrates from above the Arctic Circle to the warm waters of Baja to mate and calve. This trip will offer opportunities to see these "friendly whales" up close. Participants will also have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to visit a Seacology project on Guadalupe Island, 150 miles off the coast of Baja.

After meeting in San Diego, the group will travel to the famous Scammons Lagoon to observe California Gray Whales as they move along their annual migration. The group will then travel to the Las Animas Wilderness Retreat on the Sea of Cortez, home to an incredible array of marine plants, animals and birds. Twenty-three species of whales and dolphins have been sighted in the area. Trip participants will also have the very rare opportunity to travel to Guadalupe Island, home to a Seacology project to protect endangered plant species. Guadalupe Island is not typically open to the public; however, the Seacology group will have the unique opportunity to fly to the island for a day tour by the staff of Island Conservation & Ecology Group, coordinators of the Seacology-funded project to keep invasive goats off the most sensitive areas of the island.

The outfitter for this trip is Baja AirVentures ([www.bajairventures.com](http://www.bajairventures.com)), a fly-in adventure travel company specializing in Baja, Mexico. Seacology Program Officer Karen Peterson will lead the trip. The cost for this trip is \$3,160 per person based

on double occupancy. An additional \$500 donation to Seacology is requested from each trip participant. Reservations can only be made with a \$1,000 per person deposit to Seacology. For more information on this unique adventure, please contact Karen Peterson ([karen@seacology.org](mailto:karen@seacology.org), Tel: 510-559-3505).



*Above: A group of Baja AirVentures trip participants have a close encounter with a California Gray Whale. (Photo credit: Baja AirVentures.)*

## Seacology Board of Directors Approves New Island Projects

The following projects were approved by Seacology's Board of Directors at their July 9, 2005 meeting:

**INDONESIA, Iboih Village, Weh Island, Sumatra – Coral reef clean-up and mangrove restoration in exchange for the establishment of a 35-acre permanent no-take mangrove forest reserve.** Weh Island was spared from serious devastation by the December 2004 tsunami, but debris was deposited on nearby reefs, and a large swath of mangroves was destroyed. Seacology will provide funding to replant 14,400 mangrove seedlings and clean up the debris that is suffocating the reefs and remaining mangrove forest. In exchange, the people of Iboih Village will create a 35-acre permanent no-take mangrove forest reserve.\*

**INDONESIA, Kawangkoan Village, North Sulawesi – Elementary school reconstruction and school furniture in exchange for the establishment of a 75-acre permanent no-take forest reserve.** Kawangkoan is a large village in the Minahasa highlands of North Sulawesi. Kawangkoan's elementary school is severely dilapidated with no funding available for renovations. The village government will create at least 75 acres of permanent no-take rainforest in exchange for Seacology funding the rehabilitation of their elementary school.

**INDONESIA, Pinasungkulan Village, North Sulawesi – Fresh water well system in exchange for the establishment of a 191-acre no-take rainforest reserve and a 98-acre no-take mangrove and coral reef reserve.** In cooperation with the Bunaken National Park Concerned Citizen's Forum, this small coastal community is creating two permanent no-take reserves. In exchange for this sacrifice, Seacology will provide a much-needed new well system for the village. The protected rainforest will be a new addition to the Seacology-supported contiguous no-take reserves already created by Kumu, Teling and Poopoh Villages. \*

**MADAGASCAR, Mangoro Region – Repair to 20 primary schools and seven municipal offices in exchange for the protection of ten Madagascar Flying Fox roosts totaling 321 acres.** Seven communities in the Mangoro region are working with local organizations Arongam-panihy – Culture, Communication and Environment, and Lamin'asa Fiarovana Ramanavy sy Fanigy to implement a *dina*, or social contract, to protect multiple roosts holding up to 4,000 threatened Madagascar Flying Foxes. In exchange for this agreement, Seacology will provide funding for badly-needed repairs to each of the seven community municipal offices and 20 primary schools near the roosts. \*

**PALAU, Hatohobei State – Construction of a community dispensary in support of the conservation of 64,742 acres of reef, lagoon, atoll and territorial waters.** Helen Island is Palau's largest community-designated Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) and one of the Pacific's most biologically outstanding atoll complexes. The people of Hatohobei (Tobi) Island, located 40 miles away from Helen Reef, have declared the entire Helen Reef as a community protected area. Seacology will provide funding for a much-needed community dispensary in support of the conservation of Helen Reef in perpetuity. \*

*Right: Local volunteers collect sea turtle data at the Nguna-Pele Marine Protected Area, Vanuatu, where Seacology is providing critically-needed infrastructure for the reserve. (Photo credit: Nguna-Pele staff.)*



*Above: In the Mangoro region of Madagascar, a volunteer bat monitoring team takes a break from monitoring Madagascar Flying Fox roosts. Seacology is funding repairs to 20 primary schools and seven community municipal offices in exchange for an agreement to protect multiple roosts totaling 321 acres. (Photo credit: Dr. Richard Jenkins.)*

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA, Mt. Elimbari, Chimbu Province – Construction of a literacy school for the Gaigibi community in support of the establishment of a 25-acre highlands forest conservation area.** The Gaigibi community, who live on the slopes of the 9,020-foot Mt. Elimbari, has set aside 25 acres of forest as a community conservation project. To support this conservation area, Seacology will provide funding for the construction and furnishing of a school building to be used for adult and child literacy teaching for 19 surrounding villages. \*

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA, Sariba Island, Milne Bay Province – School buildings for the community of Sawasawaga in exchange for the establishment of a 50-acre coastal conservation area.** The area surrounding the Sawasawaga community has exceptionally high marine biodiversity. Seacology will provide funding to construct a new school and rehabilitate three dilapidated teachers' houses. In exchange, the community will set up a minimum 50-acre protected area (encompassing an area of coral reefs, open sea, seagrass, mangrove and forest) for a minimum of 10 years. \*

**VANUATU, Nguna and Pele Islands – Infrastructure and equipment for the Nguna-Pele Marine Protected Area.** The Nguna-Pele Marine Protected Area (MPA) is operated by a local organization made up of nine island communities. The total area of protected reefs, seagrass beds, mangrove forests and intertidal lagoon now exceeds 7,413 acres. In support of the Nguna-Pele MPA, Seacology will provide funding for construction, furnishing and a solar power system for a new base office.

**YAP, Kanif Village, Dalipebinaw – Construction of the Kanif Women's Center and rebuilding of a protective sea wall in exchange for the 5.5-acre Kanif Mangrove Reserve.** The 75-acre Dalipebinaw Forest Reserve was established by the village of Kanif in 2002 in exchange for Seacology's support of the restoration of the ancient Tamilyog Stone Path. The community has decided to protect another vital ecosystem in perpetuity: the 5.5-acre Kanif-Magaf mangrove forest and river channel. In exchange, Seacology will help fund the construction of the Kanif Women's Center and the reconstruction of the sea wall protecting the area. \*

*\*Support for asterisked projects is generously provided by the Nu Skin Enterprises Force for Good Foundation.*

## Leading Island Broker to Support Seacology

Cheyenne Morrison, recently mentioned in *Conde Nast Traveler*, *Forbes* and *Fortune* magazines as one of the world's leading island brokers, has announced that he will contribute a percentage of commission on every island sale to Seacology. In addition to being one of the leading brokers of private islands throughout the globe, Morrison is also a life long island expert and lover of islands. He is such a staunch advocate of protecting the fragile environment of islands that, according to Morrison, "In many instances I have refused to help buyers if I deemed their plans harmful to the environment of small tropical islands."

Since relocating his business to Australia, Morrison has been looking for a worthy charity to support. "I am thrilled to be able to support Seacology, as it is the world's premier nonprofit organization with the sole focus of preserving the environments and cultures of islands throughout the globe," said Morrison.

In addition to his financial contributions, as he travels throughout the world Mr. Morrison will be advising Seacology of islands with fragile ecosystems that are at imminent risk. "We are thrilled to receive financial support from Cheyenne Morrison and Coldwell

Banker's Morrison's Private Islands," says Duane Silverstein, executive director of Seacology. "His island expertise will also be a big help in enabling us to act quickly to preserve endangered island ecosystems throughout the world. This is an excellent example of the business and nonprofit community working together for the common good."

Cheyenne Morrison can be contacted via email at [private\\_islands@yahoo.com](mailto:private_islands@yahoo.com). His website is [www.tropical-island.org](http://www.tropical-island.org).

### Will islands go the way of the Tasmanian Tiger?

In the past 400 years most of the world's extinctions, like that of the Tasmanian Tiger, or Thylacine, have taken place on islands.

Do you want to help protect island environments and cultures forever?

You can - by remembering Seacology in your estate plan.

Seacology has recently established the Island Legacy Society to honor those that have included Seacology in their estate plans. The Society was created to ensure that coral reefs, tropical rainforests and island cultures are here for future generations. You can make a contribution in any amount in any of the following ways: bequest in your will; gift of real estate, securities or other property; charitable trust; life insurance policy; retirement plan beneficiary designation; or in some other way you choose. Contact Susan Racanelli about the many ways that you can help (tel: 510-559-3505 or email: [susan@seacology.org](mailto:susan@seacology.org)).



THE TASMANIAN TIGER  
(Thylacine)

### Island Legacy Society Members

Frank and Margaret Adelstein (*deceased*)

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Larry Barel

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## Seacology Project Update: Guadalupe Island, Mexico



Join Seacology on a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Baja and Guadalupe Island, Mexico in February 2006! (See page 5 of this newsletter for details.) In addition to viewing California Gray Whales and myriad other whales, dolphins, marine mammals, birds and plants, trip participants will also have the opportunity to visit Guadalupe Island, which is normally off-limits to the public. In December 2000, Seacology provided funding to the Island Conservation and Ecology Group (ICEG) to construct numerous fenced exclosures to keep goats out of fragile areas. Since that time, there has been a dramatic change inside the exclosures and there are over 150 new Guadalupe Pine seedlings. These could become the first pines on Guadalupe to reach maturity in over 100 years. Seacology has also funded maintenance of these fences to ensure protection of the regenerating plant species. As of May 2005 almost all goats are off the island and natural restoration of endemic plants is underway. Because goats are almost completely eradicated, the rest of the island is starting to catch up to the exclosures. All the Guadalupe Island pines inside the exclosures continue to grow. Six plants that were thought to be extinct have already been found and the population of one of the endemic trees has gone from less than 200 adults to well over 2000 seedlings and saplings. In April 2005 Mexican President Fox signed a decree making Guadalupe and the surrounding waters a biosphere reserve. During the February 2006 expedition, participants will fly to Guadalupe Island for the day to meet with ICEG staff and view the island's incredible regeneration. For more information, contact Seacology Program Officer Karen Peterson ([karen@seacology.org](mailto:karen@seacology.org)).

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.