

Seacology

Saving the World, One Island at a Time

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Seacology Supports Forest Conservation in Papua New Guinea

In September 2004, a Seacology expedition traveled to the remote village of Musala in the Papua New Guinea Highlands. There, the group attended the opening of one of three community resource centers Seacology has funded to help Musala and its neighboring villages protect over 200,000 acres of pristine rainforest.

These centers will be used to train villagers in sustainable income-generating projects such as vanilla and butterfly farming. Timber companies are making their way upriver to the Highlands and often promise to open clinics or hospitals in exchange for agreements to let them log the forests. Once the agreement is signed, the promised clinic is either never built, or shut down shortly after it is opened to save the timber companies some money. The Seacology-funded resource centers are being constructed with the assistance of WWF Kikori, and have special significance, as they are the first buildings ever donated to the Highland villages by an environmental organization.

Right: Seacology expedition members were treated to a singing, a traditional song and dance performance, by Musala Villagers. The newly-opened Seacology funded community center is in the background. (Photo credit: Don Arntz.) Below right: A Musala dancer in costume. (Photo credit: Shari Sant Plummer.)



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and supporters to help these four villages. No administrative costs, salaries, or overhead would be added. Third, in accordance with Seacology's founding philosophy, we would allow the villagers themselves to guide our efforts.

The response from the villagers was rapid and deeply touching. The Sri Lanka mangrove project, in an area which suffered the greatest loss of life, relayed a request from surviving villagers for fishing boats and tackle, so they could feed themselves well into the future. The Thai village, home to our dugong preserve, asked for help in repairing their boats and homes. The Maldives village, which was completely covered by the wave, simply asked Seacology to repair the elementary school we had built, and purchase new trees and plants, as the existing vegetation had been destroyed by the tsunami. And the Andaman Island village asked for one goat and 20 chickens for each village family.

Seacology's careful, principled response - avoiding millions of dollars of government revenues so we could instead carefully focus our own resources on directly assisting villagers - has won Seacology international accolades. This praise comes on top of an almost unprecedented achievement in the not-for-profit world: last year, the Trustees and Fellows of Seacology covered all of Seacology's administrative costs, so 100% of every donated dollar can go directly to Seacology's projects on islands around the world.

Confidence in the fact that Seacology will always make principled decisions in conserving island habitats and cultures with a minimum of administrative costs and red tape is probably the reason that Seacology continues to receive charitable bequests from special donors. If you would like to join Seacology's Island Legacy Society by providing a charitable remainder trust or insurance policy, or by mentioning Seacology in your will, please contact the Seacology office.

The tsunami, while terribly destructive, provided a ray of hope that the world can come together in support of a worthy cause. Seacology certainly has provided such hope to islanders for over a decade. Thank you for helping Seacology save the world, one island village at a time.

The December tsunami not only impacted Southeast Asia but also challenged Seacology's decision-making process. Millions of dollars were suddenly being channeled through not-for-profit organizations for humanitarian relief. Since Seacology had projects in Thailand, Sri Lanka, the Andaman Islands, and Maldives, should Seacology accept these large funds?

Rapid consultations with the Seacology board and staff quickly resulted in three principled decisions. First, Seacology would use existing reserve funds to immediately rebuild our four projects that the wave had destroyed. Second, Seacology would not accept governmental funding for large-scale relief efforts, but would supplement an emergency donation from Nu Skin's Force for Good Foundation with contributions from Seacology board members



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Project Update: Manado Tua, Indonesia

In January 2004, villagers and dive operators in Manado Tua, Indonesia assembled and installed 600 EcoReef modules. These ceramic units mimic branching coral and provide shelter for fish as well as a surface for larval corals to build a new reef. Manado Tua's reefs had been reduced to rubble by blasting activities that took place over 10 years ago. The village has expanded their marine "no-take" zones to include five acres containing the EcoReefs. As of Fall 2004, coral transplants and fish in the EcoReef area were occurring two to three times faster than expected due to strong currents in the area. Up to 56 newly-recruited coral colonies cover each module, and schools of fish numbering in the thousands have returned to the area.

Seacology Board of Directors Approves New Island Projects

The following projects were approved by Seacology's Board of Directors at their January 14, 2005 meeting:

CHUUK, MICRONESIA, Ununo, Fongen and Onongoch Villages, Fefen Island - Upgrading and improvement of water systems in exchange for the establishment of the Oroor Forest Reserve. The Ununo, Fongen and Onongoch communities on Fefen Island want the Oroor watershed forest and surrounding marine areas to be officially recognized as a conservation area, with a total of 500 acres. In exchange, Seacology will fund the upgrading and improvement of water delivery, water storage and sewage systems.

FIJI, Vuna Village, Taveuni Island - Construction of a kindergarten in exchange for the establishment of a 4,752-acre forest preserve and two marine protected areas totaling 3,010 acres. Taveuni is known as the garden island of Fiji due to its abundant flora. Vuna Village has agreed to preserve 4,752 acres of dense forest for a minimum of ten years and establish two no-take marine conservation areas totaling 3,010 acres. In exchange, Seacology is providing funds for the construction of a new kindergarten and adjacent administrative office.

INDONESIA, Arborek Village, Gam Island, Papua - Village-wide solar power in exchange for the establishment of 25,600 acres of no-take reef and rainforests. Arborek Village is willing to establish no-take zones including about 9,600 acres of rainforest on four islands, about 16,000 acres of fringing reef, and a bay with mangrove forest which is feeding grounds for endangered leatherback turtles. In exchange, Seacology will provide solar power systems for each house and the village church, as well as a VHF radio unit for communication with family members on the mainland and assistance when bomb-fishing boats enter their area. *



Above: Children at the Kaibolafin, Indonesia school, which Seacology will repair in exchange for the protection of 500 acres of forest. (Photo credit: Father Widi.)

INDONESIA, Kaibolafin Village, Kola Island, Maluku - Upgrading village rainwater collection system and school reconstruction in exchange for the establishment of a 500-acre no-take forest reserve. Kaibolafin consists of 55 fishing families who are in great need of a reliable, clean water source as well as repairs to the village's elementary school. Seacology will provide a new rainwater catchment system and fund the rebuilding of the school in exchange for the creation of a 500-acre permanent no-take forest reserve.*

INDONESIA, Popo Village, North Sulawesi - Village-scale fresh well water system in exchange for the establishment of a 500-acre no-take forest reserve. The small coastal community of Popo is desperate for a reliable fresh groundwater



Left: Wayag Island, near the new Arborek, Indonesia Marine Protected Area. (Photo credit: Mark Erdmann.)

supply. Seacology is providing Popo Village with a new village-scale fresh water system in exchange for the establishment of a 500-acre permanent no-take forest reserve. The forest is directly adjacent to the protected forests recently created by neighboring Kumu and Teling Villages (both supported by Seacology).*

INDONESIA, Teling Village, North Sulawesi - Upgrading and repairing an existing fresh water system in exchange for the establishment of a 250-acre no-take forest reserve. In exchange for an upgraded fresh water system, Teling Village is willing to set aside an additional 250 acres of intact hill forest as a permanent no-take zone through the expansion of an existing village ordinance that currently protects 200 acres of forest. The newly protected forest will connect to the no-take zone recently created by neighboring Kumu and Popo Villages (both supported by Seacology).*

PAPUA NEW GUINEA, Kimbe Bay, West New Britain Island - Re-roofing of buildings housing local community marine conservation NGO for the expansion of a network of Locally Managed Marine Areas. Seacology is funding urgently needed repairs for local NGO Mahonia Na Dari's buildings in exchange for their work with four local communities in setting aside two additional reef systems totaling 75 acres adjacent to existing closed reefs. They will be added to the Kimbe Bay Locally Managed Marine Areas program, the largest of its kind in PNG, to make a total of 23 protected areas covering some 1,050 acres.

POHNPEI, Kahlap Village, Mwoakilloa Atoll - Cement water catchments, two kayaks for monitoring turtle nesting areas, and new batteries for solar power units in exchange for the establishment of three protected nesting sites and surrounding marine protected areas. The three islands of Mwandohn, Uhrek and Kahlap are important Green Sea and Hawksbill Turtle nesting sites. Residents of Kahlap, the only of the three islands that is inhabited, are setting aside approximately 100 acres of beach and marine areas as protected. In exchange, Seacology is providing water catchments, two kayaks for monitoring the protected areas, and new batteries for village solar units.*

SOLOMON ISLANDS, Mbili Village, Mijanga Island - School in exchange for the protection of 21 acres of marine reserves. Mbili Village is located on Mijanga Island, home to Marovo Lagoon, the world's largest lagoon with a double barrier reef and a celebrated dive destination. In exchange for funds for the construction of a new primary school building, the village is willing to protect the entirety of a 12-acre uninhabited island and two marine areas totaling nine acres for a minimum of ten years.

VANUATU, Espiritu Santo - Construction of a community center in exchange for the protection of a 6,735-acre forest reserve. Espiritu Santo is Vanuatu's largest island. The largest remaining forest on the plains of Vanuatu is the 6,735-acre Vatthe Conservation Area (VCA). The local villages are willing to extend the duration of the protected area for another 20 years. In exchange for the local communities' ongoing sacrifice in setting aside the VCA, Seacology is constructing a much-needed community center.

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

Malaysian Community Organizer Awarded 2004 Seacology Prize

Adrian Lasimbang, a self-taught engineer who has organized local communities and introduced innovative alternative energy systems in remote areas of his home country of Borneo, was awarded the 2004 Seacology Prize at a ceremony in San Francisco on October 12, 2004. The \$5,000 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. The Prize is sponsored by Seacology President Ken Murdock in honor of his mother, Lalovi Fish Murdock.

Possessed with a great love of nature and the local communities of his native Sabah, Mr. Lasimbang has spent his career organizing rural communities to develop their own resource management plans. As coordinator of the Community Resource Management Program of Malaysia's Partners for Community Organizations (PACOS Trust), Mr. Lasimbang has worked with all levels of state and local government, international organizations and funders, and squadrons of volunteers. He has served as lead coordinator and facilitator of microhydro energy projects in three indigenous communities in Sarawak and Sabah. This technology harnesses the power of small streams that have significant vertical drop to generate electricity. Two of these projects at Long Lawen and Terian, Borneo have been coordinated by U.S.-based organi-

zations the Borneo Project and Green Empowerment with support from Seacology.

"I am truly honored for being chosen to receive the Seacology Prize for 2004," said Mr. Lasimbang. "This will greatly boost our motivation to continue our work effectively in communities in Borneo and the rest of Asia as a whole. I take this prize not just for my work but also for the indigenous communities in Borneo for their efforts to conserve the environment from the intense threat from logging and massive expansion of oil palm plantations in our beautiful island called Borneo."

A Seacology expedition to Borneo is being planned for 2006. Expedition members will visit the project at Long Lawen as well as view spectacular wildlife including the endangered orangutan. For more information on this trip or on the Seacology Prize, please contact the Seacology office (Tel: 510-559-3505 or email islands@seacology.org).

Right: 2004 Seacology Prize recipient Adrian Lasimbang of Borneo (center) with Seacology President and Prize sponsor Ken Murdock (left) and Seacology Chairman Dr. Paul Cox (right). (Photo credit: Karen Peterson, Seacology.)



School Groups Raise Funds for Projects, Tsunami Relief

Among our caring donors are hundreds of school children who have sold t-shirts, held bake sales, asked for donations in lieu of birthday gifts and raised funds in other innovative ways in order to assist Seacology. In 2005, Laura Mabbott's fifth grade class at Mountain View, California's Huff School is once again raising funds for Seacology. This year, 100 percent of funds raised will go toward Seacology's Tsunami Relief Fund (see article on facing page). Elsewhere in California, students from San Francisco's University High School and Bridgeville's Bridgeville School have also generously donated funds for tsunami relief.

The John Gray Recyclers is a high school environmental club on the Caribbean island of Grand Cayman. Last year, the group donated funds to Seacology for the construction of a new kindergarten and dispensary for Naikorokoro Village, Fiji, in exchange for the village's creation of a 10,880-acre marine reserve. This year, they are adopting a sea turtle conservation project in Pohnpei. "As you know we are very busy helping to protect our turtles and environment over here and to be able to help in another part of the world, and to be involved in a Seacology project, is absolutely brilliant," said John Gray Recyclers Faculty Advisor Christine Whitehead. In 2004, first and second grade students at the Williston, Vermont Central School held a change drive to benefit Seacology. In New York City, students at the Rodeph Sholom Day School raised enough funds to fund an entire mooring buoy project on Chumbe Island, Tanzania (see item on page 7).

We at Seacology are grateful to the many young people who are showing compassion for island villagers and concern for island environments throughout the world through support of Seacology projects and Seacology's Tsunami Relief Fund.



Above: Members of Grand Cayman's John Gray Recyclers, a high school environmental group, at the dedication of the Naikorokoro, Fiji kindergarten in 2004. The club was instrumental in providing funding for the school, which was built in exchange for the creation of a 10,880-acre marine reserve. This year the club is supporting a sea turtle conservation project in Pohnpei. (Photo credit: Atu Rasea.)

Seacology Establishes a Different Kind of Tsunami Relief Fund

In response to the devastating tsunami that struck Asia on December 26, Seacology has established a Tsunami Relief Fund to directly aid four communities in the region impacted by the natural disaster. One hundred percent of funds raised will go toward relief efforts in Kiralakele, Sri Lanka; Kendhoo Island, the Maldives; Trang Province, Thailand; and Kadachang Village, the Andaman Islands where Seacology has experience, expertise and highly regarded locally based volunteer coordinators.

Unlike other relief funds, Seacology chose to target four villages where its locally based volunteers live and work to ensure all money raised will go directly to assist victims of the tsunami. The Seacology Tsunami Relief Fund is aimed at rebuilding the local economies and infrastructures of these four villages. "The only thing I ask for is a fishing net," said A.G. Nuwan of Sri Lanka. "We are poor people living for the day. We have no savings and need to get back to making money."

Seacology believes that it is very important to stand by and repair or replace the organization's projects that are damaged and destroyed by natural disasters. Out of Seacology's 100 projects on islands throughout the world, four were damaged by the recent tsunami.

In Sri Lanka, Seacology has funded a Mangrove Resource Center, Mangrove Products Store and library. On Kendhoo Island, the Maldives, Seacology funded the construction of a kindergarten in exchange for the village's commitment to banning the harvesting of sea turtle eggs.

In Trang Province, Thailand, Seacology has supported dugong conservation and habitat protection projects. In the village of Kadachang on India's Andaman Islands, Seacology is constructing a Mangrove Resource Center based on the success of the Sri Lanka project. In addition to other relief efforts, Seacology will repair or replace all of these damaged projects with the generous support of the Nu Skin Force for Good Foundation.

To aid the villages beyond repairing the damaged projects, in typical Seacology fashion, on-the-ground representatives were contacted and asked to determine what local residents affected by the tsunami wanted to help reconstruct their lives and livelihoods. In the Andaman Islands, villagers requested chickens and goats.

In Sri Lanka, Seacology is providing fishing nets and boats so that local people can once again earn a living. In the Maldives, seedlings are needed, as the salt



Above: Recognizing that villagers affected by the December 26, 2004 tsunami need to earn a living beyond the immediate reconstruction period, Seacology is providing sewing machines to families in the Andaman Islands. (Photo credit: Dr. Felix Sugirtharaj.)

water that swept over the atoll destroyed virtually all plant life. In Thailand, basic structural repair is most urgently needed.

As this newsletter goes to press, Seacology has raised over \$245,000 for tsunami relief. One hundred percent of these funds will go toward the aforementioned needs. Additional funds will be distributed to adjacent villages to assist in recovering from the disaster. For more information regarding Seacology's Tsunami Relief Fund, contact Development Director Susan Racanelli at 510-559-3505 or susan@seacology.org.



Above: Seacology's Tsunami Relief Fund is providing boats and fishing nets to villagers in Sri Lanka. (Photo credit: Anuradha Wickramasinge.) Right: Chickens and goats provided to villagers in Kadachang, the Andaman Islands, will provide both short-term nutrition and longer-term economic opportunities. (Photo credit: Dr. Felix Sugirtharaj.)





Seacology Project Update: Sri Lanka

The southern coast of Sri Lanka, home to the Seacology-funded Kiralakele Mangrove Resource Centre, was especially hard-hit by the devastating December 26, 2004 tsunami. The sturdy mangrove centre building itself suffered minimal damage, in large part due to the intact mangrove forests in the area. The contents of the building, including the Seacology-funded library, were destroyed in the flooding. However, nearby villages were subject to heavy damage, and the human toll, especially of children, was devastating.

With the generosity of Nu Skin's Force for Good Foundation, Seacology immediately provided funds to repair the centre and replace its contents. The centre was re-dedicated during a March ceremony. At left, a local woman lights a candle in memory of those who perished in the tsunami. Kiralakele Mangrove Resource Centre Director and 2001 Seacology Prize recipient Anuradha Wickramasinghe has coordinated Seacology Tsunami Relief Fund efforts in the Kiralakele area. (Photo credit: Anuradha Wickramasinghe.)

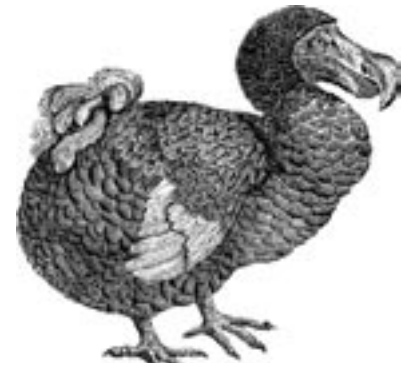
Will islands go the way of the dodo?

In the past 400 years most of the world's extinctions, like that of the dodo bird, 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).



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Seacology Project Update: Tanzania

Chumbe Island is a 55-acre coral island eight miles off of Zanzibar. The island's Reef Sanctuary is a no-take area that extends 1,000 feet from the high water mark along the western stretch of fringing coral reef. This park is unique in that it is the only privately managed marine protected area in this part of the world. Local fishers, who fish from traditional fishing boats with outriggers, are very supportive of the sanctuary as they are seeing increased catches in the adjacent reefs as a result of the 'spillover effect' from the no-take reserve. Seacology, with the support of students from New York's Rodeph Sholom Day School, funded the installation of mooring buoys along the borders of the marine sanctuary for use in emergencies and severe weather. The mooring buoys were installed in September 2004 (left). (Photo credit: Carol Daniels.)



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Seacology Project Update: Indonesia

World-renowned for its fantastic coral reef diversity, the 89,000-hectare Bunaken National Marine Park is home to over 30,000 fisher/farmers. In exchange for the formalization of four no-take marine reserves totaling 160 acres, Seacology has funded a 200 seat outdoor cultural amphitheater for Molas, Meras, Tongkeina and Bahowo Villages to be used for traditional dance performances. Construction of the theater was completed in December 2004. The Bunaken Concerned Citizen's Forum has worked with cultural groups from around the area to prepare a six-month performance schedule that began in January. Performances are targeted at both local domestic visitors to Bunaken National Park as well as international guests, and are held primarily on Saturdays and Sundays for maximum attendance. The performances not only provide a critical source of income, but also reinvigorate some colorful but rapidly fading Sangir and Bantik traditional performances - including the "Mas Samper" a capella singing contests between village men's groups, the "Cakalele" war dances (which include men and women), and the "Pato-Pato" women's dance. Left: The theater under construction. (Photo credit: Arnaz Mehta/Mark Erdmann.)

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.