

# Seacology

Fall Edition

September/October 2002

## In this Issue:

Seacology Launches  
New Island Projects

Letter from the  
Chairman

2002 Seacology Prize  
Recipient Announced

Report from 2002  
Seacology Fiji  
Expedition

Seacology Announces  
"Island Explorations"

Seacology Welcomes  
New Board Members

Project Updates from  
Alaska and Belize

New Seacology T-  
Shirts Now Available!

## Seacology Board of Directors Approves New Island Projects



*Bali, Indonesia's Tirtagangga Water Palace, where Seacology is funding a wastewater garden.*

### The following projects were approved by Seacology's board of directors at their July 9, 2002 meeting:

**BELIZE – Repair of hurricane damage, Port Honduras Ranger Station.** In December 2000, Seacology supported the Belizean organization Toledo Institute for Development and Environment (TIDE) in constructing a ranger station for the monitoring and patrol of the Port Honduras Marine Reserve. In its short history, the ranger station has led to a dramatic decrease in the illegal poaching of manatees (see project update, page 7). On October 8, 2001, Hurricane Iris, a Category IV storm carrying winds in excess of 140 mph, struck the Toledo District in Southern Belize. The Port Honduras ranger station withstood the storm but suffered some damage. Seacology is assisting TIDE in its efforts by providing materials necessary to repair the damage done to the ranger station, thus ensuring a functioning base of operations for ranger patrols of the Port Honduras Marine Reserve.\*

**FIJI – Water storage tank in exchange for preserving rainforest near Nasigasiga Village, Vanua Levu Island.** Nasigasiga Village is 40 miles from the nearest town. The 228 villagers have below average incomes, even by Fijian standards. The existing 6,500-gallon water tank constructed 15 years ago is now insufficient for the growing population. During the dry season there is no longer sufficient potable water and the use of non-pure water has become a major health issue. In exchange for the village setting aside 332 acres of primary forest to be protected in perpetuity, Seacology is providing a new water tank for the community.

**FIJI – Community center in exchange for the preservation of two islands and the creation of a no-take marine reserve, Yasawa I Rara Village.** Yasawa I Rara is a remote village located in the northern portion of the Yasawa Islands in Fiji's western region. The village holds title to two small islands, Yalewakalou and Yawini Ciri, with a combined land area of 1.8 square miles. The village also has fishing rights to a large 80 square mile area surrounding these islands. Recently, a foreign businessman offered \$700,000 to purchase one of the islands. The villagers have declined the offer. Instead, the village is willing to sign an agreement with Seacology prohibiting development on both islands for a period of 20 years and establishing a no-take fishing reserve on the 80 square mile

*Continued on page 6*

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



## Letter from the Chairman

“Saving the world, one island village at a time.” These words not only constitute the Seacology motto, but also describe the manner in which Seacology protects indigenous island cultures and habitats. Our path to conservation is unique: we deal directly with indigenous peoples at the village level, deferring to the wishes of villagers and their traditional leadership. That is perhaps why Seacology projects have been so successful – control of projects by the villagers ensures support of the project by the villagers. Seacology does not impose solutions from the outside,

but instead seeks to support solutions from the inside. We find that local indigenous communities are the ideal entities for us to engage in order to create permanent solutions to pressing conservation problems on islands.

Our appreciation of local indigenous communities as perhaps the best guarantors of conservation of both culture and habitat has fortunately spread to other entities. The U. S. National Park in American Samoa (which Seacology played a key role in creating) is advised by a council of village chiefs that meets twice a year to help discuss and formulate Park policy with the appropriate Park officials. Recently the villagers on Olosega island – one of the most beautiful islands in the entire South Pacific – petitioned the United States Congress to have their village lands added to the National Park. The measure, introduced by Congressman Eni Faleomavaega, quickly passed the U.S. House of Representatives, and now waits Senate approval.

Establishing close relationships with local villagers can also be tremendously rewarding on a personal level, as almost any participant in a Seacology trip or expedition can attest. Singing, dancing, sharing of smiles, and enjoying together local foods somehow brings down to a very personal level what otherwise might appear as esoteric conservation initiatives. The annual Seacology Prize also gives us an opportunity to recognize and strengthen outstanding local indigenous leaders. Our next Prize ceremony will be held on Nov. 22 in Maui - please come for a marvelous evening if you happen to be visiting Hawaii.

Along those lines, why not consider attending a Seacology trip to visit a Seacology project? Seacology staff have organized some marvelous trips throughout the world. Not only will you have a little adventure and a lot of fun, but you will also be able to make enduring friendships with the indigenous people. I know that the tens of thousands of villagers throughout the world who have seen their habitats, cultures, and lives protected by Seacology would like to thank you personally for your support, just as I want to thank you for your generosity. Thank you for helping us save the world, one island village at a time.



*Angoon, Admiralty Island, Alaska is the location of another Seacology village-level project success story. These schoolchildren work with the Angoon Beautification and Recycling Group! (ABARG!), using equipment funded by Seacology to send recyclable materials to a mainland processing facility. The modest proceeds from the recycling have funded a community garden and this park on Angoon's spectacular waterfront.*



**Seacology**

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Seacology is the world's premier nonprofit environmental organization whose sole and unique purpose is to preserve 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.

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## Indonesian Conservationist to Receive Seacology Prize

Seacology is pleased to announce that Ms. Meity Mongdong of Sulawesi, Indonesia has been selected to receive the 2002 Seacology Prize for her outstanding efforts in coral reef and mangrove conservation. 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. Ms. Mongdong will be awarded the \$5,000 Prize on November 22, 2002 at a ceremony on the Hawaiian island of Maui.



*2002 Seacology Prize Recipient Meity Mongdong of Indonesia.*

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 peoples preserve their environment in the face of a changing world.

Ms. Mongdong has worked tirelessly to save the mangrove forests and coral reefs of her native Bunaken National Marine Park while simultaneously improving park villager livelihoods. As both a founding member of the local marine conservation NGO *Kelola* and as community facilitation specialist for the Natural Resources Management Project in North Sulawesi, she helped develop a 25-year management plan for the park. Since 2000, she has worked closely with fishers and farmers from all 22 villages within the park to form and strengthen the Bunaken National Park Concerned Citizen's Forum (FMPTNB).

Bunaken National Park is a 90,000-hectare marine reserve off the northern tip of the island of Sulawesi in Indonesia. Encompassing five islands and an expansive Sulawesi mainland section, Bunaken is located in the epicenter of global marine biodiversity and supports a wealth of endangered species such as green and hawksbill turtles, dugongs, coelacanths, and sperm whales. Bunaken is world-renowned amongst scuba divers for its stunning drop-off coral reefs teeming with brightly colored fish. Its mangrove forests are among the most diverse in the world and harbor some of the largest mangrove trees in the northern hemisphere. Unfortunately, both Bunaken's reefs and mangrove forests have come under increasing threat over the past decade as destructive fishing practices such as dynamite and cyanide fishing have become commonplace and mangrove cutting for charcoal production has increased.

In response to these threats, Ms. Mongdong has worked very closely with the fisher-farmer communities that live within the park borders to educate them on the importance of sustainable use practices and empower them to improve management policies and enforce the regulations governing the park. Ms. Mongdong helped to forge a joint patrol system between the FMPTNB and park rangers and water police, which has virtually eliminated bomb and cyanide fishing in the park over the last two years. With support from Seacology, Ms. Mongdong and the FMPTNB have also worked with villagers in the park to set aside "no-take" zones where fishing is not allowed in order to provide overexploited fish stocks with an opportunity to recover. A grant from Seacology to one of the villages Ms. Mongdong works with on Bunaken Island is funding the construction of a much-needed community landing dock, which will greatly facilitate daily operations of local fishers while removing intense pressure on the shallow reefs which have faced daily boat groundings and trampling for the past two decades.

Ms. Mongdong has worked particularly closely with those village women who are directly involved in resource-destructive activities such as mangrove harvesting for charcoal production and coral and shell collection for the tourist curio trade. She has worked to educate these women while also developing alternative livelihoods for them.

Seacology congratulates Ms. Mongdong for her exceptional dedication, commitment and leadership.

## Highlights from Seacology's June 2002 Expedition to Fiji



In June of this year, a Seacology expedition visited several Fijian villages which are the sites of Seacology projects. At left, as village chiefs applaud, executive director Duane Silverstein and board member Charles Murphy III officially open the new community center constructed in exchange for the village of Waisomo establishing a "no-take" marine reserve.

Below left, a child in Nadongo Village peeking out from behind a basket of coconuts prepared to celebrate the Seacology visit. In Nadongo, Seacology funded the grading of the only access road to this remote, mountainous village so that in times of rain, the village is no longer cut off from the rest of the world. In exchange, Nadongo established a 2,000-acre rainforest reserve.

Below, the village of Yasawa I Rara, where Seacology is building a community center in exchange for the village's turning down a financially lucrative offer to develop two nearby islands. Development will be prohibited on these pristine islands.



A Seacology group will visit three different villages as part of our next expedition to Fiji, to take place June 21-28, 2003. Once again, we will be staying at the Jean Michel Cousteau Fiji Islands Resort. For more information about this trip, please contact the Seacology office (Tel: 510-559-3505 or email: [islands@seacology.org](mailto:islands@seacology.org)).



(Above photo credit: Robert Heil)

# Seacology Launches “Island Explorations” Environmental Education Project

By *Laura Mabbott, Fifth Grade Teacher, Mountain View, California*

Several years ago an article featuring Seacology founder Dr. Paul Cox came to my attention. Dr. Cox’s message was that together we can make a difference in saving threatened island environments throughout the world. Not only did Seacology sound like they were doing some extraordinary work, it also seemed like an easy way for kids to make a difference. Thus began a very simple and very successful partnership with Seacology.

For the next few years, my fifth grade classes would contribute \$5 per student to Seacology to coordinate with the celebration of Earth Day. Last year, however, my students at Mountain View, California’s Huff School decided we wanted to be “giraffes” and stick our necks out for the community. We worked with Santa Clara County’s abused children, raised money for children in Afghanistan, wrote to fireman and policeman, put on a community play, and raised funds for Seacology while learning about the world’s islands. As a class we set a goal to send \$500 to Seacology for our Earth Day Project, but after a couple of fundraisers we realized we could double our amount and still reach our deadline. As a result, the students of Room 17 at Huff Elementary School in Mountain View, California raised \$1,100 for their Earth Day donation to Seacology.

After the total came in, I contacted the Seacology office to see if a staff member could come down and meet the students who had raised these funds while learning about the environment, geography, history and culture through the study of the world’s islands. Seacology program officer Karen Peterson visited our school, and made a presentation to the classes regarding Seacology’s successful island conservation projects.

“This group of approximately 100 fifth graders was extremely interested in our work to preserve island environments throughout the world,” said Peterson. “They also asked the best questions I’ve ever heard from a group – of adults or children!”

The concept of the Island Explorations program hatched shortly after our check arrived. Via email, Seacology executive director Duane Silverstein and I brainstormed ideas integrating the Seacology motto, “Saving the World One Island At A Time,” into the classroom curriculum and California state standards by connecting Oceanography, Literature, Composition, Geography and Technology to the study of real systems, cultures and ecosystems together with the concept of interdependence with each other, ourselves and the world. This pilot program is being made possible by a generous grant from the Walter & Elise Haas Fund.

By early winter our class hopes to “challenge” other classrooms around the Bay Area to pitch in for Earth Day, learn more about the world’s islands and support Seacology. It is our hope that this program will be so successful throughout the Bay Area that it will eventually expand to the national level. Oceanography projects, a classroom newsletter and the classroom curriculum will be up for view on our class web page. We are ready to make a difference... one child at a time.

***Educators interested in the Island Explorations program are invited to visit <http://etc.sccoe.org/i2002/projects/sci/sci.html> for more information, or email [Laura Mabbott \[lmabbott@mwwsd.k12.ca.us\]](mailto:lmabbott@mwwsd.k12.ca.us).***



*Laura Mabbott’s 2001-2002 fifth grade class at Mountain View, California’s Huff School.*

## SEACOLOGY'S NEW ISLAND PROJECTS - Continued from page 1

area surrounding the islands for a period of ten years. In return, Seacology is providing funds for the construction of a critically needed community center.

**INDONESIA – Fish Aggregation Devices for Maratua Island, East Kalimantan.** Maratua Island is one of the six Berau Islands located on the eastern coastal shelf of Indonesian Borneo. One of the world's only salt water lakes is nestled in this region and the white sand beaches of the Berau Islands are one of the largest green turtle nesting sites in Indonesia. The island's four fishing villages, as well as others in the area, depend heavily on marine resources for income and food. Destructive fishing techniques have resulted in overexploitation of several species. Seacology is assisting a local organization, BESTARI, in its efforts to help fishermen become less dependent on reef resources by building Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs). These simple devices attract pelagic fish species, and existing FADs have contributed to local fishermen's income as well as diminished illegal and destructive techniques such as dynamite and cyanide fishing.

**INDONESIA – Community landing dock in exchange for no-take zones around Bunaken Island.** Bunaken Island, the "crown jewel" of Bunaken National Park, encompasses approximately 1,300 hectares (approximately five square miles) of land and reef and is home to over 3,000 native fishers-farmers. It is one of Asia's best-known dive destinations. Unfortunately, despite its national park status, the island's reef and seagrass beds have continued to degrade due to intense resource use pressures. The Bunaken Concerned Citizen's Forum has worked with the Bunaken National Park Office to undertake a local-managed marine conservation plan including no-take zones and areas where only traditional (non-destructive) fishing techniques are allowed. In exchange for this sacrifice, Seacology is providing the community with a landing dock. This dock will help prevent chronic damage to coral reefs and seagrass beds caused by anchoring boats in shallow waters, and will allow for much easier access to and from the village at low tide.

**INDONESIA – Wastewater garden at Tirtagangga Water Palace, Bali.** The island of Bali lies within the archipelagic nation of Indonesia. Over one million foreign tourists visit the "Island of the Gods" each year to see the beauty and unique culture of the island's 3.5 million inhabitants. The local government's waste management services are not adequate to handle the heavy volume of waste generated through tourism. Tirtagangga (Tirta=holy water and Gangga=Ganges river) was built in 1948 by the last king of Karangasem in one of Bali's most beautiful sites. The palace is made up of gardens and spring-fed fountains, ponds and a formal bathing pool. The solid and liquid waste generated by up to 200 visitors a day is negatively impacting the water quality throughout the surrounding area. Seacology is assisting the Planetary Coral Reef Foundation in implementing a wastewater garden system that organically breaks down wastewater and produces a rich habitat for vegetation.\*

**POHNPEI – Construction of a solar-powered multipurpose marine facility/ecotourist hostel to establish a new no-take marine reserve at And Atoll.** Pohnpei, one of the four states of the Federated States of Micronesia, is home to the very successful Seacology-supported Lenger Island Marine Reserve. And Atoll is the most biologically diverse lagoon in Pohnpei. The atoll and large (45 square miles) lagoon is privately owned by a local indigenous family. The family is willing to forgo fishing income and



And Atoll, Pohnpei.

turn And Atoll into a marine protected area if the Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP) will help them earn sustainable alternative income by constructing an ecotourism hostel. Because And Atoll is remote, the building can only be economically powered through solar energy. Seacology is supporting the construction of the building including the installation of the solar energy system. The build-



Bunaken Reef Flat, Bunaken Island, Indonesia.

ing will be used by visitors as well as to house students and government staff to monitor and enforce the reserve.

**PRINCIPE – Rebuilding of three colonial-era public bath facilities and protection of the nesting grounds of marine birds and sea turtles.** The beautiful archipelago of Sao Tome & Principe straddles the equator and is located in the Gulf of Guinea about 180 miles off the coast of the West African country of Gabon. The island of Principe, the smaller of the two main islands, has an area of about 84 square miles and a population of about 6,000 people, whose main economic activities are small-scale agriculture and fishing. The beaches of Principe are important nesting grounds for five species of sea turtles, now threatened because local people, unaware of their importance, are harvesting the eggs. The islets of Pedras Tinhosas just off the coast of Principe are nesting grounds for a variety of sea birds, which are also threatened. In exchange for Seacology's assistance in rebuilding three public bathing facilities, the local organization Association to Protect the Environment (ASPROMA) has obtained an agreement from the local communities to end the practice of collecting sea turtle eggs, and to have the fisherfolk stay off the islets of Pedras Tinhosas.

**SAMOA – Tower/walkway construction for the Falealupo Rainforest Preserve.** In 1993, Seacology co-founder and chairman Paul Cox discovered that the pristine rainforests surrounding the village of Falealupo, Samoa were to be logged as a way to fund a badly-needed school in the community. Cox worked with the village chiefs and promised to raise the funds for the school in exchange for a covenant protecting the 30,000-acre rainforest. Through the generosity of Seacology president Ken Murdock, the Falealupo Rainforest School was constructed, and since that time Seacology has had a close relationship with the village. In 1997 the Falealupo Rainforest Canopy Aerial Walkway was dedicated. Seacology funded the walkway in order to help the community generate revenues from eco-tourism, with monthly tourist revenues from the aerial canopy walkway used to fund a modest retirement fund for village elders. The original canopy walkway was recently removed due to safety concerns regarding the anchoring tree. Seacology is supporting the construction of a new tower and aerial walkway to link into existing observation platforms.\*

**SRI LANKA – Construction and furnishing of a store to sell mangrove products at the Kiralakele mangrove center.** The Seacology-supported Kiralakele Mangrove Center, constructed in 2000, is fast becoming a major ecotourism destination and hosts several thousand schoolchildren per year. In addition, the local community has planted 50,000 mangrove seedlings. Due in part to his dedication to this project, Seacology awarded the 2001 Seacology Prize to Small Fishers Federation of Lanka (SFFL) director Anuradha Wickramasinghe. Seacology will assist SFFL with the construction of a sales center to sell fruit, juice and honey collected from the mangrove forest, as well as locally-made handicrafts. This store will provide a livelihood to young women from the local community who have dropped out of school.\*

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

## Seacology Welcomes New Board Members

*The strength and vision of a nonprofit organization is reflected in its board of directors. Seacology is pleased to introduce the newest members of our board.*

**Donald M. Arntz** is a Bay Area native. He graduated from California State University, Chico, with a degree in business administration. After graduation, Don joined Arntz Builders, a family business which he currently runs with his brothers. Arntz Builders specializes in public works projects such as the recently completed Berkeley Public Library. He currently lives in Novato with his wife Adrian and his children Chris and Martina. He is also a director of the Arntz Family Foundation.

**Scott Halsted** received an A.B. in biomechanical engineering from Dartmouth College, a B.E. from the Thayer School of Engineering at Dartmouth, and an M.M. from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University. He joined Morgan Stanley Venture Partners in 1987 and is a managing member of their health care group. Scott serves on the board of directors of several health care companies. He grew up cruising on sailboats and it is there that he developed his appreciation for islands and their unique biodiversity and cultures. Along with his wife Lisa and four children, he continues to make regular visits to the islands of the South Pacific, Caribbean, Mexico and the United States.

**Douglas Herst** is Vice President and General Manager of Peerless Lighting, an Acuity Brands Company. He's a pioneer of indirect lighting systems for schools and offices and holds over 20 utility patents and 45 design patents in the field of illumination in the U.S., and 10 patents in other countries. Doug received a B.S. in business administration from the University of California at Berkeley. He serves on the board of directors of the Northern California Chapter of the World Presidents' Organization and is a past chairman. Doug has served as officer/board member with the YPO Barbary Coast Chapter, YPO Northern California Chapter, and the Golden Gate Chapter of the Illuminating Engineering Society of Northern California. He has a keen interest in the environment and enjoys being in and around nature as an avid hiker, swimmer and scuba diver.

**Cathy Klema** has been in healthcare investment banking for 15 years at SG Cowen, Furman Selz and Lehman Brothers and has focused in the areas of the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, clinical laboratory and healthcare information industries. In 2001, she formed her own business, Nettleton Advisors. Cathy serves on the boards of Pharmaceutical Product Development, a public company services to pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies; 300 Central Park West Apartments Corporation and the Nettleton Hollow Association. She received an AB in History from Princeton University and a JD from the University of Chicago Law School. She lives in New York City with her husband, David Resnick, and their two children.

**C. Richard Lemon** has practiced law for 32 years, the last 22 with Dickenson Peatman & Fogerty of Napa, California. He devotes his practice primarily to the wine and food industries, including mergers and acquisitions of wineries and natural food producers, financings for vineyards and wineries, and general corporate and real estate work. Dick founded and is a member of the board of directors of Napa National Bank. He is president of Temecula Vineyards, Inc. He is a partner in Silverado Partners, a mergers and acquisitions consultant to the wine industry. Dick founded and is president of Chamber Music in Napa Valley. Besides an active interest in art, music and the environment, Dick is an avid runner.

**Michael Lindheim** is President and CEO of Schwartz and Lindheim, Inc. an electrical contracting firm based in Oakland, California. He sits as chairman of the Electrical Contracting Foundation, a national foundation funding research projects to advance the electrical industry. Michael is also a board member of the Northern California Chapter of the National Electrical Contractor's Association, is the President's Forum Chair of the Barbary Coast Chapter of the Young Presidents' Organization, and is a past chairman of Federated Electrical Contractors. Michael, a Bay Area native, is a graduate of the University of California at Davis with a Bachelors of Science degree. He is an avid scuba diver and swimmer.



### Seacology Project Update: Belize

*In December 2000, Seacology supported the Belizean organization Toledo Institute for Development and Environment (TIDE) in constructing a ranger station for the monitoring and patrol of the Port Honduras Marine Reserve. Seacology is now helping TIDE repair hurricane damage to the ranger station (see cover story). Wil Maheia, director of TIDE, recently sent this email to the Seacology office:*

"Once again I want to thank you for the dollars for the station. This station is something you can be proud of. As a result of this station I believe that our Manatee poaching has completely stopped. That's an amazing fact. I could assure you that without the station and the presence of the rangers Manatees would have been poached to extinction in this area. Thanks guys! Every one of you all out there who help us should be proud - your dollars are really making a difference."



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If you wish to use your credit card to purchase your t-shirt, contact Seacology via email [islands@seacology.org](mailto:islands@seacology.org) or telephone (510-559-3505).

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All donations are tax-deductible. Seacology works with a very small staff with no red tape or bureaucracy; a portion of your donation will go towards modest yet essential administrative expenses. If you would prefer 100 percent of your donation to go toward island projects, please check here: \_\_\_\_\_

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