

# Seacology

Saving the World, One Island at a Time

Volume 10, Number 1

Spring Edition April 2008

## Seacology Travels to Manado Tua, Bali and Raja Ampat, Indonesia



*Above: Drummers and villagers holding pitcher plants greet expedition members to Waigeo Island, Raja Ampat. Seacology has funded solar power and radio for Araway Village; solar power for Beo Village; paved footpaths for Go Village, Kabilol Village, Kalitoko Village, Lopintol Village, Waifoy Village and Warimak Village; and public toilet and bathing facilities for Warsamdin Village in support of a 123,553-acre marine protected area. The Araway Village project was supported by Seacology Germany. (Photo credit: Duane Silverstein.)*

In October 2007, a Seacology expedition visited several project sites in Indonesia. The first stop was Pangalingan Village, on Manado Tua Island. Here Seacology funded the construction of a new primary school in exchange for the protection of 118 acres of pristine rainforest and 160 acres of coral reef fringing the island. At the opening, children of the village danced for the Seacology group in front of the newly constructed school. Prior to the construction of this building the children had to attend class in the village headman's office.

The next stop was Waifoy Village in the breathtakingly beautiful Mayalibit Bay on Waigeo Island. Seacology approached all nine villages along this 123,000-acre bay and asked them what they would like in exchange for banning commercial fishing in the bay. Each village asked for something different ranging from paved walking paths to toilets to solar powered radios.

Waifoy Chief Silas Louw stated that, "The government has provided us many things but seldom what we ask for. We are so pleased that Seacology provided us exactly what we want and need, and that you tied it into conservation of our bay which is critical to our future."

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*Above: Deer Village, Deer Island, Kofiau, Raja Ampat. Seacology provided three communities in Kofiau with medical equipment, school books and school equipment in exchange for the creation of a 41,360-acre no-take marine reserve. (Photo credit: Eric Kanowsky.)*



in their respective parts of the world. Though they are each only several months old, Seacology Japan and Seacology Germany have already begun funding projects.

Now that Seacology Germany and Seacology Japan are fully functional, Seacology's ability to save precious habitats has never been greater. Throughout the world, Seacology and its supporters are received with warmth and kindness. Perhaps it is the positive nature of our approach to island leaders and our heartfelt respect for indigenous cultures that results in such kind receptions.

When asked at a recent meeting to identify their favorite aspects of Seacology, board member's responses were heartfelt: "direct interaction with villagers," "saving endangered species," "helping children," "tangible conservation progress," "efficient use of resources," "our win-win approach," "hands-on conservation," "direct contact with island peoples" and "allowing me to make a difference." To a person, each member of Seacology's board expressed how moved they are by our unique partnership with island communities. It gives me a lot of happiness to realize that my modest efforts and donations on behalf of Seacology help build needed schools, medical clinics, water supplies and other critically needed facilities on islands throughout the world in return for preservation of some of this planet's most beautiful and precious habitats. Thank you so much for helping Seacology save the world, one island at a time.

Paul Alan Cox, Chairman

Seacology is unique as a conservation organization because of our innovative approach. We meet directly with village leaders to create deals: if the villagers set aside their forest or reef as a preserve, we will fund a community project of their choice. This approach has been effective in 95 different islands representing 42 different countries. The results are very tangible. The Seacology website shows a unique odometer that rather than portraying miles, instead exhibits total acreage of terrestrial and marine habitats preserved in this manner.

Seacology has already funded over 160 projects on 95 islands in 42 nations throughout the globe. Though we have a very small staff, we are truly an international organization. In the past year, our global presence has increased in another significant way with the creation of Seacology Germany and Seacology Japan. They will increase the visibility of Seacology



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Seacology Executive Director Duane Silverstein recently visited with many Seacology Japan supporters, pictured here in the new Tokyo office of Seacology Japan.

## Seacology Project Updates: Niampak and Ensem Villages, Indonesia



In January 2007, Seacology's board of directors approved funding for two new projects on the island of Karakelang, in Indonesia's Talaud Archipelago. Ensem and Niampak Villages were both formed in the early stages of the spice trade, and the livelihood of residents still revolves around the centuries-old tradition of harvesting nutmeg and cloves, as well as coconuts and other cash crops. Both villages border a rainforest with exceptional biodiversity, including many endemic bird and plant species, and the elusive Talaud Fruit Bat, thought to be extinct for over 100 years and rediscovered in 1999.

BirdLife Indonesia has worked with the villages to create a 60,958-acre rainforest reserve. Niampak Village has 38 pre-school children who were using a dilapidated building for their kindergarten. Ensem Village was in desperate need of a medical clinic. Seacology funded both the renovation of Niampak Village's kindergarten and the addition of wash facilities. For Ensem, Seacology funded a new medical clinic. Both projects were funded in support of the communities' commitments to preserve their rainforest for a minimum duration of 20 years.

As of December 2007 the Ensem clinic was completed, and an opening ceremony was held. The building has two inpatient rooms, a medical supply room, an exam room, an administration room, an emergency room, a waiting room, a guest room, a kitchen and two bathrooms. The building was under budget, so extra funds were used to build a fence, storm drain, and the kitchen, and to purchase mattresses, pillows, linens, curtains, and a flagstaff and flag. The Niampak kindergarten has also been completed. The last phase was started in November, which included installing electricity, building furniture and shelves, installing a playground and planting.

The organization running the project, BirdLife Indonesia, is moving out of the area and focusing on North Sulawesi in early 2008, but will arrange for a local leader to keep in contact with Seacology Indonesia Field Representative Arnaz Mehta to provide updates. Both Ensem and Niampak villagers are working with the forestry department on a national forest rehabilitation project as well as with a conservation group to develop a long term plan with the local government for future growth and management of the protected areas and the communities' needs for economic well-being.

### Project Update: Mangoro Region, Madagascar



Above: A sign at one of 11 schools that are being renovated with Seacology funds in the Mangoro region of Madagascar. Seacology funded this project in exchange for community agreements to protect ten forest fragments totaling 321 acres, vital roosts for the Madagascar Flying Fox (bat). An education component of the project is taking place this spring, with conservation awareness sessions regarding the importance of the flying foxes. The children will receive drawing materials to create a four-panel comic sketch depicting flying fox conservation. The best five entries will be awarded prizes by members of the May 2008 Seacology expedition to Madagascar. (Photo credit: Dr. Richard Jenkins.)

Above left: Children in Niampak Village play on their new Seacology-funded playground equipment. Below: The newly-completed Ensem medical clinic. Both facilities were built in support of the communities' commitments to preserve their 60,958-acre rainforest for a minimum duration of 20 years. (Credit both photos: Arnaz Mehta.)



## Species-ology! Spotlight on: The Greater Bamboo Lemur



By Seacology Development  
Director Susan Racanelli.

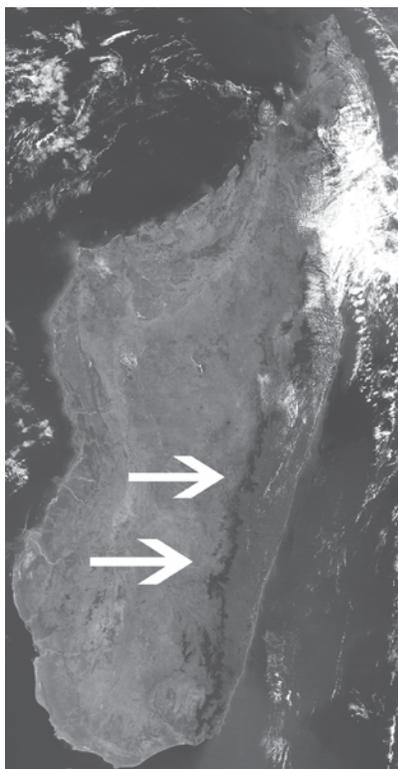
As most of our Seacology supporters know, islands are now – and have been for the last 500 years – home to more species extinctions than all of the great continents combined. In our efforts to keep you informed of all things island-related, we are beginning a new series of island species profiles in our newsletters. Since our next Seacology

project expedition takes us to Madagascar this spring, we would like to highlight an interesting creature on the “Red Island,” the greater bamboo lemur (pictured above left: photo credit Jukka Fernvall).

Our planet’s fourth largest island is home to some of the most startlingly unique flora and fauna in the world. Madagascar hosts 32 species of lemurs, the cat-like primate with the notoriously long tail, eerie call and playful demeanor. In this group, the greater bamboo lemur is one of rarest mammals in the world, the most endangered lemur, and listed as one of the top 25 most endangered primates globally.

The greater bamboo lemur is a medium-large stout lemur, the largest of the three bamboo lemur species. It sports distinctive white ear-tufts, reaches 18 inches in height and can weigh up to six pounds. Found in primary rainforests of Southeastern Madagascar along with giant bamboo, it is currently believed to be restricted to a few small patches of rainforest near the coast in the Ranomafana and Andringitra National Park regions. Giant bamboo makes up 95 percent of its diet and it consumes every part, depending on the season. Amazingly, these lemurs eat cyanogenic parts (containing cyanide poison) of young bamboo shoots in amounts that would be lethal to humans and most mammals, with no adverse effects. They are active around dawn, dusk and into the night. Groups range in number from four to 12 and are often found on the ground, while other lemur species are rarely seen there. This species may be the only lemur in which the male is dominant. One young is born each year to gestating females and, like human babies, these lemur infants suck their thumbs!

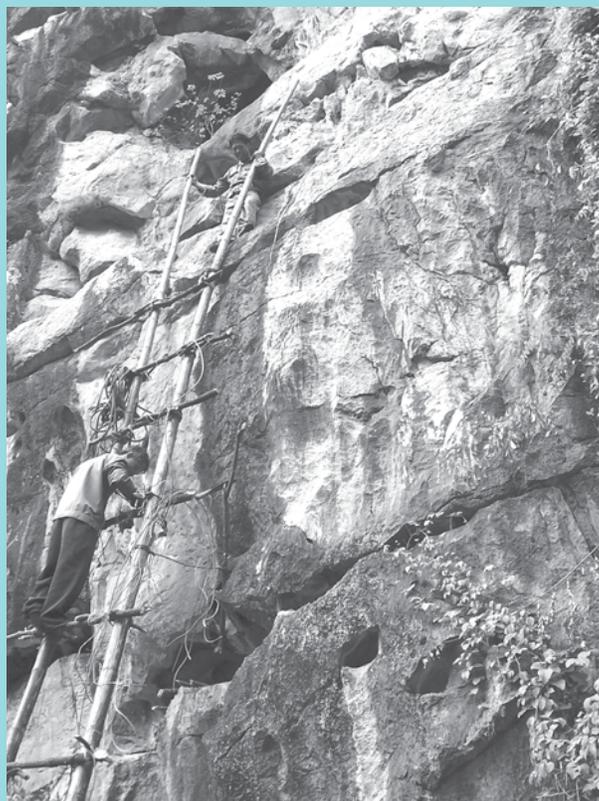
Bamboo is fast growing and relies directly on rain to grow and reproduce. As Madagascar’s climate has been drying out due to fires, habitat destruction, soil erosion, logging and climate



Right: A satellite image of Madagascar, the world’s fourth largest island. It is home to five percent of the earth’s species, 80 percent of which are found nowhere else on the planet. Arrows indicate the primary habitat of the greater bamboo lemur.

change, bamboo disappears along with the animals that rely on it for food. An additional threat to the survival of the greater bamboo lemur includes hunting by slingshot for bush meat. Raptors and the endemic Fossa, Madagascar’s largest carnivorous mammal (an endangered species in its own right, numbering under 2,500), are its only predators, other than humans. The World Conservation Union estimates the greater bamboo lemur’s current population to be less than 1,000 individuals and declining. Still, it’s not too late for the greater bamboo lemur. Bamboo is fast-growing, so the habitat for these lemurs can be restored within a few years if fires can be prevented. Because Seacology creates win-win agreements with indigenous islanders to preserve and restore island habitats, it is our continuing hope and passion to reverse the trend toward extinction of island species worldwide, including this important primate.

### Seacology Project Update: Vietnam

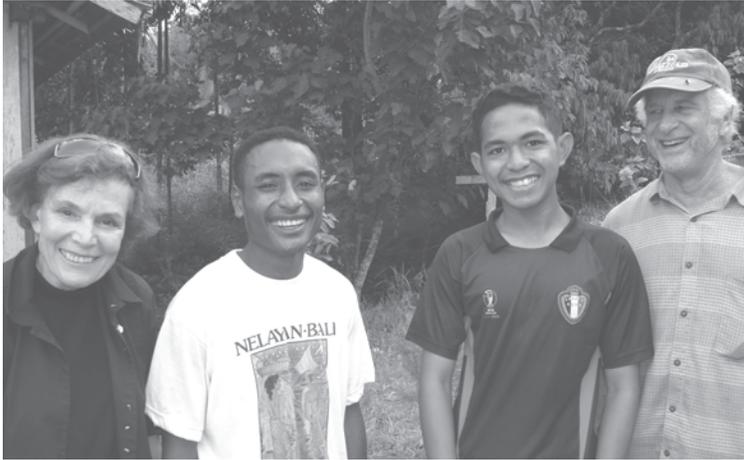


In 2002, Seacology first funded the Zoological Society for the Conservation of Species and Populations’ (ZGAP) efforts to protect the Cat Ba, or Golden-Headed, langur. This first project was in support of a community guarding program to protect these incredibly rare primates. In 2003, Seacology provided funding for a fast boat to assist the langur guardians’ ability to protect the creatures. Population numbers rose significantly, from 53 langurs in 2000 to 62 individuals in 2005. In 2007, with the generous support of Seacology Japan, Seacology funded a project to relocate three female langurs that have been isolated on a small island. Above, langur guardians investigate access to a sleeping cave used by the langurs (and believed to be the best place to trap them for relocation), located 40 feet off the ground. (Photo credit: ZGAP.)

## Seacology Travels to Manado Tua, Bali and Raja Ampat, Indonesia (continued from page 1)

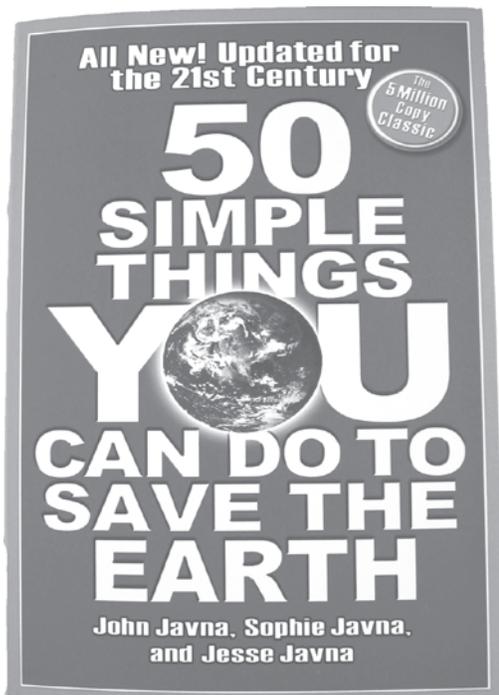
Seacology also worked with three villages on Kofiau Island. We provided medical equipment and school supplies in exchange for a commitment to protect 41,360 acres of marine area.

Our final site visit took place in Sarinbuana Village, Bali. Here Seacology funded the construction of a new building for music and dance performances and computer instruction in exchange for a 2,000-acre forest reserve.



Above: Seacology Fellow Kris Billeter, Executive Director Duane Silverstein, the Sarinbuana Village headman and Seacology Field Representative Arnaz Mehta unveiling the plaque commemorating the opening of the Sarinbuana School. The plaque reads, "Donated by Seacology and Jeffrey and Carole Hays to the People of Sarinbuana Village for Their Great Generosity in Supporting a 1,975-Acre Forest Reserve." Left: Seacology Scientific Advisory Board Member Dr. Sylvia Earle and Seacology Board Member Doug Herst (far right) with two Waifoy villagers. (Photo credit: Sylvia Earle.)

## Seacology in New 50 Simple Things You Can Do to Save the Earth® Book



We are very proud to announce that Seacology is featured as one of 50 partner organizations in a new book, *50 Simple Things You Can Do to Save the Earth®*. The book, written by John Javna, Sophie Javna and Jesse Javna, features fifty new ways we can protect our planet from current environmental threats. The original *50 Simple Things®*, written by John Javna and published in 1990, hit number one on *The New York Times* bestseller list multiple weeks in a row, and is one of the best-selling environmental books of all time. The new book, co-written by John Javna and his two teenage children, encourages readers to pick one or two causes that inspire them and then get involved in the bigger, broader action.

In an effort to take the book's mission one step further, Javna partnered with 50 prestigious environmental organizations, including Seacology. Javna's extensive website ([www.50simplethings.com](http://www.50simplethings.com)) will also act as a community for those using this book to help save the Earth.

Seacology's chapter, number five in the book, focuses on how to save the world's threatened coral reefs. Readers are urged to protect their own reef by contributing to a *50 Simple Things®* Fund. One hundred percent of donations to this fund will go toward saving 470 acres of threatened coral reef and an additional 2,410 acres of mangrove forests on Palawan Island, the Philippines for a duration of 25 years. In return, Seacology will provide funds to the community for two guardhouses, patrol boats, marker buoys and signs to enforce the no-fishing reserve, as well as equipment for the community's fledgling cashew industry. The total project cost is \$33,000 and the goal is to have 100 percent of this project funded by readers of *50 Simple Things®*.

For more information on how to purchase the book, please visit [www.50simplethings.com](http://www.50simplethings.com). For information on Seacology's *50 Simple Things®* project, and to contribute, please visit [www.seacology.org](http://www.seacology.org) and click on the *50 Simple Things®* button.

## Seacology Board of Directors Approves New Island Projects

The following projects were approved by Seacology's Board of Directors at their January 21, 2008 meeting. For more information about these projects, please visit [www.seacology.org/projects](http://www.seacology.org/projects):

**COOK ISLANDS, Mitiaro Island** – Renovation of eight community water tanks, purchase of 60 household waste bins and construction of paths and hand rails in exchange for the establishment of a 2,965-acre forest protected area for a duration of 10 years.

**EGYPT, Wadi El Gemal National Park Area, Southern Red Sea** – Installation and implementation of mooring buoy network.

**FIJI, Levukai Daku Village, Matuku Island, Lau Group** – Community center in exchange for the establishment of a 19,200-acre no-take marine reserve for a duration of 10 years.

**FIJI, Nakaunasele Village, Kadavu** – Flush toilets and community center renovation in exchange for the establishment of an 8,320-acre marine protected area for a duration of 10 years. *Funded by Seacology Japan.*

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA, Karu, New Ireland Province** - Village agriculture project in exchange for the establishment of a 297-acre no-take coastal marine conservation area.

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA, West Manus, southwestern Manus Province** - Village water and school supplies project in exchange for the establishment of a 49,421-acre coastal forest conservation area. \*

**PHILIPPINES, Barangay Manamoc, Municipality of Cuyo, Northeastern Palawan** - Solar power supply systems for schools and health centers in support of a 267-acre marine protected area. *Funded in part by Seacology Germany.*

**PHILIPPINES, Municipality of Murcia, Negros Occidental** - Hydraulic ram pump water system in support of the protection of 4,942 acres of forest. \*

**VANUATU, Nasawa Community, Maewo Island** - Renovation of three historical school buildings in exchange for the protection of all bird species and hardwood trees in a 1,339-acre area, as well as a 62-acre no-take marine reserve for a duration of 15 years. \*

**VANUATU, Sunae Village, Moso Island, Northwest Efate** - Provision of a water supply and solar pump in exchange for the establishment of a 92-acre no-take marine reserve and a seven-acre mangrove reserve for a minimum of 11 years. \*

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

### Seacology Island Legacy Society

The Seacology Island Legacy Society was created to recognize and honor individuals who treasure Seacology's mission and have expressed their commitment to ensure 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. Then, contact Seacology's development department 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 annual report, and periodically in our newsletters, as well as invitations to Seacology events throughout the year. For more information on the kind of gifts you may want to make, please speak with your accounting or investment professional. In addition, our development department is available to help you with this simple process. We can be contacted by email at [ellen@seacology.org](mailto:ellen@seacology.org), or by phone at 510.559.3505, ext. 307.

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.

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Above: Waterfall in the Buenavista watershed, Municipality of Murcia, Philippines, where Seacology is providing a hydraulic ram pump system in support of the protection of 4,942 acres of forest. (Photo credit: Ferdie Marcelo.)

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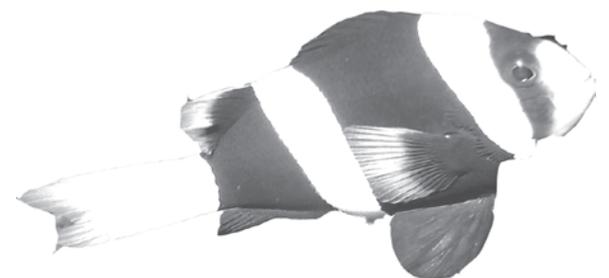
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<b>1,808,452</b> acres of coral reef and other marine habitat	<b>26</b> scholarship programs, vital medical services and supplies, and other crucial support for island communities.

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.