



ANTSAHABERAOKA, MADAGASCAR

Bridging the Gap in Madagascar

"For many, the bridge was a dream they never believed would actually happen," says Erik Patel, Seacology's field representative in Madagascar. But in 2013, construction ended on a 130-foot suspension bridge spanning the river that flows through Antsahaberaoka, a rural village in northeast Madagascar. The bridge makes crossing easy during the rainy season when the river runs high, which is especially helpful to the youngsters, many of whom simply couldn't reach the school out of fear for their safety during that time of year.



When the kids did make it to school, more problems awaited. The old schoolhouse was made from dilapidated wood and had no roof: its dirt floors allowed parasites to burrow into childrens' bare feet.

That's why we also helped the village build a new schoolhouse out of durable materials. Their new school now offers not only a floor and a roof, but new bathrooms, tables, desks, and chairs. Thanks to these upgrades, the regional school district agreed to send a new teacher to Antsahaberaoka.

In exchange, the community of Antsahaberaoka agreed to stop all habitat disturbance for 30 years within a nearby 4,800-acre area of Marojejy National Park, home to one of the largest concentrations of the critically endangered silky sifaka lemur.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Antsahaberaoka kids posing on the village's new suspension bridge; local Teachers Association President signs the community covenant; the new schoolhouse; the river dividing Antsahaberaoka.

IN THIS ISSUE

Letter from the Chairman

Project Updates from
Around the World

6 New Projects Launched

Seacology Trip to Fiji

Seacology Fellows

New Board Member and
Field Reps





Paul Alan Cox, Seacology Chairman

Dear friends,

Each year at Seacology we look forward to awarding the Seacology Prize to an indigenous person who has shown heroism in protecting their environment and culture. In October, we hosted a ceremony honoring our 21st Seacology Prize winner, Marie Saleem, from the Maldives in the Indian Ocean. Ms. Saleem has spent her life protecting the precious reef resources in her island nation, including protecting shark species which were being extirpated from the Maldives by commercial fishermen. As a result of her efforts, the Maldives has passed legislation totally banning shark fishing.

The annual Prize ceremony is a gala affair attended by Seacology's Directors, Fellows, Donors, and other special friends, but the first Prize ceremony started off much more modestly. Samoan Chief Ulu Tafua'asisina had pledged to his dying father to protect his village rainforest. Because Tafua village is close to the vehicular ferry on Savaii island, the logging companies wanted to harvest the 10,000-acre forest. Dr. Thomas Elmquist and I raised funds in Sweden to build a needed school in return for a village covenant to protect the rainforest. Unfortunately, our subsequent efforts to install modern water systems and solar electric power for the village brought Chief Ulu into direct conflict with the Swedish government aid bureaucracy. Dressed in his lavalava and his aloha shirt, Chief Ulu traveled with me in January to Stockholm where, to the shock of the aid officials, he turned down all future funding for his village—which totaled \$750,000—because he felt that strings they attached would damage the village culture.

I was stunned and deeply moved by Chief Ulu's gesture to protect his village. I called my wife Barbara from Stockholm and asked her to commission a small trophy and to invite everyone we knew to our living room in the United States to honor Chief Ulu. We raised \$2,000 which we presented to him for a needed village project.

Since that winter evening in 1992 to this year's Seacology Prize gala, we have annually honored brave indigenous people who often risk their lives to protect precious environments and indigenous cultures. Thank you for supporting Seacology's efforts to recognize these indigenous heroes and to help us save island habitats, one village at a time.

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Chairman



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SEACOLOGY

1623 Solano Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94707 USA
Tel: 510-559-3505
Fax: 510-559-3506
islands@seacology.org
www.seacology.org

Years after opening, Flores Island health clinic part of village life

In April, our field representative in Indonesia visited Benteng Dewa, a village in the hills of southwest Flores Island, to see what kind of medical care locals were getting.

For years, the 1,580 people of Benteng Dewa struggled to get even basic health care. Separated from the nearest health center by a river impassable by vehicles, villagers would often forgo treatment rather than brave the journey on foot.

So when we originally reached out to Benteng Dewa, over five years ago about making a deal to protect the surrounding Mbeliling Forest, village leaders immediately identified accessible health services as their highest priority.

Using Seacology funds, Benteng Dewa purchased basic medical supplies and equipment and built a new health center, opening its doors in 2010. Four years later, our field representative Arnaz Mehta reports that the clinic is staying plenty busy, and making a big difference.

“The existence of the health clinic has been especially helpful for primary care, prenatal



care, and pediatric care for toddlers,” says Mehta. “Over a thousand patients have visited the health clinic since the beginning of 2013, most of them women.”

Separated from the nearest health center by a river impassable by vehicles, villagers would often forgo treatment rather than brave the journey on foot.

Meanwhile, Mehta reports that the village has been working closely with a local environmental group called Burung Indonesia to protect 15,000 acres of Mbeliling forest, maintaining it as a no-take reserve, and conducting regular monitoring sessions. That’s good news for this tropical rainforest, which is home to rare and endemic bird species including the Flores monarch, Flores hanging-parrot, and the leaf lorikeet.

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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP-LEFT: A woman brings her child in for treatment at Benteng Dewa’s health clinic, built in 2010; children being weighed at the health clinic; a leaf lorikeet, one of the many rare birds endemic to Flores Island; Mbeliling Forest, which locals have pledged to protect.



(Serge Melki / CC-BY-SA-2.0)



1



ANTANANDAVA, MADAGASCAR

Villagers in Antanandava, Madagascar grew over 6,000 tree seedlings in preparation for a major replanting effort to replenish clear-cut areas of their forest reserve.

In exchange, we've provided funds to build a library and reading room for Antanandava students. Construction is expected to continue for a few more months.

3

'UIHA ISLAND, TONGA

Seacology approved funds to help the village of Felemea rebuild their town hall, which was wrecked by a hurricane in January.

We had helped Felemeans refurbish their town hall back in 2010, giving the village (one of only two communities on 'Uiha Island) a space for meetings, workshops, youth activities, and preschool. In exchange, Felemeans agreed to actively manage two fish habitat reserves totaling 368 acres.

2



NAMDRIK ATOLL, MARSHALL ISLANDS

On this remote atoll in the Pacific Ocean, a black pearl farming operation we helped launch is up and running, providing Namdrik's 600 residents with a lucrative industry that's also eco-friendly. Cultivating black pearls (also called black Tahitian pearls) involves inserting a "bead" – typically a rounded piece of shell – into a Black-lip pearl oyster and waiting between 2-4 years for a pearl to form around the bead.

In addition to providing pearl farming equipment, we also gave funds for an education and surveillance center to help locals patrol a new 86-acre marine reserve within their pristine atoll.

PROJECT UPDATES

With dozens of active projects around the world, things are happening all the time. Here are just a few highlights of the past several months.

4



QUINCHAO ISLAND, CHILE

A group of Seacology board members and supporters visited Chile's Quinchao Island for the official opening of a new Seacology project: in exchange for Seacology providing funds for a center for local women to sell their handicrafts, the town of Curaco de Velez established a 100-acre reserve for several types of shorebirds who migrate all the way from Alaska.

Featured in local papers, the opening ceremonies for the newly-finished handicraft center featured music and dancing, gift exchanges, traditionally cooked food, and an opportunity to do some shopping. Seacology's Chile field representative Claudio Delgado indicated that this project has ignited a passion in the town to protect the shorebirds.

5



NUSA PENIDA, INDONESIA

A new sea turtle guard post has been finished near Pelilit Village on Indonesia's Nusa Penida Island, which will help villagers keep sea turtle nesting sites safe from poachers. The opening ceremony was attended by Seacology board member Doug Herst and his wife Leni.

Of course, successful conservation requires more than just a guard post. In Pelilit, conservation rules for this beach (as well as for a nearby forest) are enforced by a system of traditional laws known as *awig-awig*.

Though *awig-awig* isn't official Indonesian law, the consequences for breaking its rules are severe: get caught once and you may be fined 100kg of rice and be forced to make a public plea for forgiveness; break the rules multiple times and you risk expulsion from the village.

As for monitoring, the guard post will be staffed according to *ngayah*, the system of obligatory community service work for village members.

6

BOHOL ISLAND, PHILIPPINES

Seacology approved a maintenance grant to repair a boardwalk on Bohol Island damaged by a major earthquake in mid-October.

We originally funded the construction of this 800-meter boardwalk, which winds through a mangrove forest near Bangaray San Vicente, in order to promote ecotourism and support the conservation of the mangroves.

The 7.2 magnitude earthquake hit Bohol Island on October 15, killing 222, injuring 800 more, and displacing 75,000 families. The region was still recovering when Typhoon Haiyan hit just a few weeks later.

7

FLORES ISLAND, INDONESIA

In Cunca Lolos, a village on Indonesia's Flores Island, the water system we helped install in 2010 is doing more than just providing convenient and safe access to potable water, our field representative in Indonesia reports. The project has enabled villagers to establish irrigation systems that support new ventures like growing crops and raising cattle, giving this community of 38 households new avenues for eco-friendly revenue.

New Projects

Shorebirds, pangolin among species protected by our six newest projects, already underway:

Country	Island	Benefit to the community	Benefit to the environment
ARGENTINA	Tierra del Fuego	Fencing, signage, bird watching platforms, and educational materials	Improved protection of the Rio Grande Natural Reserve System
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA	Parem	Water storage and distribution system	New 1,644-acre marine reserve
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA	Pohnpei	Youth development and education center	New 308-acre forest reserve
GRENADA	Grenada	Mangrove nursery	Forest restoration
INDONESIA	Bali	Community building	Support for 1,606 acres of no-take rainforest
TANZANIA	Zanzibar	Water pumps and livestock watering points	Protection of 1,399 acres of the Chaani Indigenous Forest

Upcoming Travel

Join Seacology on one of our exciting trips in 2014. Find more information and travel brochures at Seacology.org/Travel

Fiji

Aug 16-23, 2014

Travel with Seacology and the National Aquarium to the Jean-Michel Cousteau Resort on Vanua Levu Island for seven nights of water, reef and luxury. Visit two nearby villages where Seacology projects have improved the lives of Fijians while protecting surrounding forests and coral reefs.



New Seacology Board Member: Kristin M. Reed

Reed serves as Strategic Advisor to Olazul, leading program strategy and directing program management for the organization. A trained social scientist interested in the nexus between human rights and the environment, Reed directed the University of California Human Rights Fellowship and programs for a variety of conservation and humanitarian organizations. She has taken a leadership role on an array of NGO and research initiatives across Africa (including Angola, Botswana, Kenya, Mozambique and Uganda), campaigns to protect endangered wildlife in Cambodia and Costa Rica, and fisheries development in Papua New Guinea.

Reed earned a PhD in Environmental Science, Policy and Management (concentration in Society and Environment) from the University of California, Berkeley in 2006. Her doctoral research, published by UC Press in 2009 as *Crude Existence: Environment and the Politics of Oil in Northern Angola*, focused on the effects of offshore oil production on artisanal fishing communities. Kristin received a B.S. in Science, Technology and International Affairs and a certificate in African Studies from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service in 1999.

Seacology Fellows

CHIEF ULU FELLOWS (\$25,000 or more)

Anonymous
Argus Fund
Lancy Foundation
Newman and Zeneth Ward Family Foundation

ISLAND FELLOWS (\$10,000-\$24,999)

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Peter and Mimi Buckley
Roy Disney Family Fund
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Phyllis K. Friedman/Friedman Family Fund
Mariposa Fund
Esmond Harmsworth Charitable Foundation
Alison and Arthur Kern
Taka Moriuchi/Axe Taka, Inc.
Jane Napier
Guy and Jeanine Saperstein
Stephen Silberstein
Anne Symchych

FELLOWS (\$2,000-\$9,000)

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Laura Tietz
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Joel and Kathy Tranmer
Cindy and Richard Troop
Todd Werby and Nonie Greene
Herbert and Jan West
Wayne and Julissa Westerman
Gregory and Patti White
Roy Young and Rosa Venezia

Seacology welcomes two new members to our roster of international field representatives

Tuaine Tuara (Cook Islands)



Tuaine Tuara is a conservation advocate from Mangaia. In 1999 she and her husband founded the Mangaia Tanga'eo Environmental Rangers, an award-winning NGO promoting environmental awareness and education among Cook Island children. Trained as a nurse, Tuara manages her family's bakery while continuing to work with local environmental groups as an advisor and mentor to support conservation issues.

Ian Drysdale (Central America)



Born in Guatemala, raised in El Salvador and now residing for over 23 years in Honduras, Ian considers himself truly a Central American. Along with his wife Jenny Myton, Ian has been very active in marine conservation and has resided on the island of Roatán for the past 13 years. He holds an undergraduate degree in Environmental Engineering and is also the Country Coordinator for the Healthy Reefs Initiative. When he's not plotting how to save coral reefs in the Mesoamerican Reef, he can be found photographing his favorite dive site, Cordelia Banks, where he finds inspiration among fields of endangered coral species.



1623 Solano Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94707 USA

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Seacology helps protect island habitats and assists local communities by offering villages a unique deal: if they agree to create a forest or marine reserve, we'll provide funds for something the village needs, like a schoolhouse or health clinic.

Since 1991, Seacology has worked with over

200 villages on **151** islands in **52** countries

helping to protect **over a million acres**

of some of the world's most vulnerable ecosystems.