



**SEACOLOGY**  
**2016**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

# Seacology is dedicated to protecting island environments around the world.

## Why islands?

The extinction crisis facing ecosystems around the world is most threatening on islands, where over half of all animal extinctions in the past 500 years have occurred. From coral reefs to mangrove forests, the world's islands house a multitude of unique habitats and wildlife.

At the same time, island communities are under increased pressure to boost economic development even at the cost of environmental damage. As many of the world's most vulnerable islands are also among the smallest, these ecological gems are often overlooked.

Our win-win approach tackles both environmental threats and humanitarian challenges, creating marine and terrestrial reserves on islands while improving the quality of life for the local communities.

We find solutions by asking islanders to identify a communal need Seacology can provide, such as a school or a freshwater-delivery system. In exchange, the village agrees to protect a nearby marine or terrestrial area.

TABLE OF CONTENTS			
Why Islands?	2	Saving Sri Lanka's Mangroves	9
Personnel	3	Project Updates	12
Message from the Chair	4	New Projects	20
Finances	5	Seacology Prize	24
Supporters	6	Seacology in the News	25
Seacology Around the World	8	Travel	26







## Board of Directors

Donald M. Arntz  
 Michael Burbank, President  
 Paul Alan Cox, Chair  
 Scott S. Halsted  
 Douglas Herst, Vice President  
 Suzanna Jamieson, Treasurer  
 Masayuki Kishimoto  
 Barbara Meyer  
 Ken Murdock, Vice Chair  
 Kimberly Myers Hewlett  
 Shari Sant Plummer, Vice President  
 Peter Read  
 Kristin M. Reed  
 Joseph Scalzo  
 Michael Staffieri  
 Sandie N. Tillotson, Vice President  
 Jake Walker  
 Marsha Garces Williams

## Scientific Advisory Board

Paul Cox, Ph.D.  
 Jared Diamond, Ph.D.  
 Sylvia Earle, Ph.D.  
 Thomas Elmqvist, Ph.D.  
 Robert Jansen, Ph.D.  
 John McCosker, Ph.D.  
 John Ogden, Ph.D.  
 Elizabeth Pierson, Ph.D.  
 William E. Rainey, Ph.D.  
 Peter H. Raven, Ph.D.  
 E.O. Wilson, Ph.D.

## Staff

Duane Silverstein *Executive Director*  
 Kevin Claassen *Accounting Manager*  
 Joseph Clerici *Communications Associate*  
 Christine Mania *Development Associate*  
 Christina Oraftik *Program Assistant*  
 Karen Peterson *Senior Manager of  
 Special Initiatives*  
 Mary Randolph *Program Manager*  
 Aaron Rashba *Development Director*

## Field Representatives

### Africa

Dishon Lionel Murage *East Africa*  
 Harriet Nimmo *Southern Africa*

### The Americas

Mykl Clovis Fuller *Antigua & Barbuda, Anguilla,  
 St. Kitts*  
 Lindsey McCoy *Bahamas*  
 Ian Drysdale *Central America*  
 Claudio Delgado *Chile*  
 Ximena Escovar Fadul *Colombia*  
 Tyrone Buckmire *Grenada*  
 Krishna Desai *Jamaica*  
 Marisol Rueda Flores *Mexico*  
 Enrique Michaud *Peru*

### Indian Ocean

Leela Padmini Batuwitige *Sri Lanka*  
 Vineeta Hoon *India and Bangladesh*  
 Erik Patel *Madagascar*

### Pacific Ocean

Tuaine Tuara *Cook Islands*  
 Pettine Simpson *Fiji*  
 Simon Ellis *Micronesia*  
 Sam Moko *Papua New Guinea*  
 Sione Faka'osi *Tonga*

### Southeast Asia

Iona Soulsby *Indonesia*  
 Irman Meilandi *Indonesia*  
 Christopher Wright *Malaysia*  
 Ferdinand Marcelo *Philippines*

## Affiliates

Seacology Japan  
 Seacology U.K.  
 Seacology Scandanavia  
 Seacology Germany





The Falealupo school in Samoa was built as part of the first Seacology project.



Anuradha Wickramasinghe, Chairwoman of Sudeesa, receives the Seacology Prize in 2001.



The Seacology-Sudeesa Sri Lanka Mangrove Conservation Project is our largest project yet.

In 2016, Seacology had its greatest year since its founding in 1992. This extraordinary year of success was due, in large part, to friends of Seacology like you.

In 1988, I was living with my young family in a remote village in the Samoan islands when a multinational logging company began clear-cutting the village forest. When we discovered that the village had accepted the logging company's offer because it needed money to build a school, we countered with an alternative. If my wife Barbara and I could raise the funds for the school, could the rainforest be saved?

Using our own resources together with generous gifts from family members, students, and significant gifts from Verne and Marion Read, Rex Maughan, and Ken Murdock, we were able to halt the logging and build the school. Using that win-win model, Seacology has since struck deals with island villages in 58 different countries for 276 schools, hospitals, water supplies, solar power systems, and other needed community projects in return for village covenants to protect precious terrestrial and marine habitats. Ably led by Seacology Executive Director Duane Silverstein since 1999, and a remarkable Board of Directors, a cohort of Seacology Fellows, and a small but highly gifted staff, Seacology has become adept at negotiating conservation agreements with island villages throughout the world.

One of these, in Kirilakele, Sri Lanka, resulted in the establishment of a mangrove conservation area supported by a visitor center and research library. Completed with funds from NuSkin's Force for Good Foundation, the center included an area in which local coastal women could sell handicrafts to visitors. This successful project gained national attention and brought us into a close working relationship with the Small Fishers Federation of Sri Lanka (Sudeesa), skillfully led by Anuradha Wickramasinghe, who was awarded the Seacology Prize in 2001.

Fast-forward 15 years. Last July, the Seacology Board of Directors met Sri Lanka's President Sirisena and members of the parliament to dedicate the world's first mangrove museum. The nation of Sri Lanka has agreed to protect all of its mangroves; in return, Seacology is providing microloans and training to 15,000 impoverished women. This ambitious project, at a cost of \$4 million, essentially

required us to bet Seacology's reputation and future on a single endeavor. Could we trust our partners in Sri Lanka in such an ambitious step forward?

The answer has been a resounding yes. In an unanticipated move, Sri Lanka tasked its navy with planting and protecting mangroves. In July, I met with the head of the Sri Lankan Navy, who was proud to show me, on his cell phone, photos of mangrove seedlings that he had personally planted. On our side, Board Members Scott Halsted led a careful due diligence effort by our Board. The Board, led by Development Chair Doug Herst, then responded to a generous challenge grant by Director Peter Read. Every Board member and most of our Fellows and supporters reached deep in their pocketbooks to make generous gifts to the project. A significant anonymous gift helped push us over the funding threshold. During the pursuit of this Sri Lanka mangrove project, Seacology has continued developing smaller conservation projects throughout the world.

Seacology has now significantly impacted not only Sri Lanka but islands throughout the world. I invite you to join with us as Seacology continues to protect the world's island habitats and cultures.

Sincerely,

Paul Alan Cox,  
Chair, Seacology Board of Directors



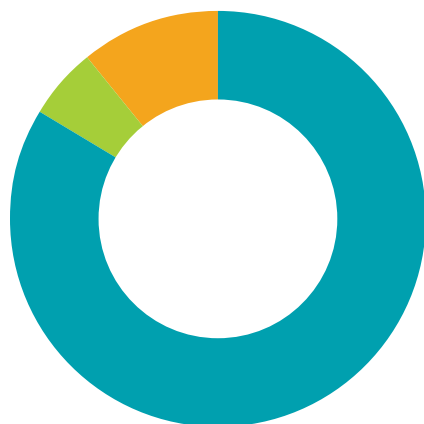


2016 continued the successful trends of the previous year, with Seacology's development team continuing to set fundraising records for the organization. In the summer of 2016 we reached the \$4 million funding target for the Sri Lanka Mangrove Conservation Project—Seacology's largest project to date—thanks in large part to the generous

support of Peter Read, other members of our Board of Directors, and many others.

We continue to operate very efficiently, with approximately 84% of our budget going directly to our conservation work. In 2016, Charity Navigator awarded Seacology four stars, its highest rating for transparency and financial efficiency.

### Expenses



Conservation programs  
Management and General  
Fundraising

### Public Support



Donations and bequests  
Foundation grants  
In-kind contributions

## Statement of Financial Activity

January 1 through December 31, 2016<sup>1</sup>

### Support and Revenue

#### Public Support

Foundation Grants	850,300
Donations and Bequests	2,407,882
In-kind Contributions	820

<b>Total Public Support</b>	<b>3,259,002</b>
-----------------------------	------------------

#### Revenue

Expedition Income, net of expenses	(4,589)
Event Income, net of expenses	-
Interest/Investment Income	139,522
Miscellaneous	77

<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>135,010</b>
----------------------	----------------

<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>3,394,012</b>
----------------------------------	------------------

#### Expenses

Program Services	1,977,446
Management and General	131,361
Fundraising	253,050

<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>2,361,857</b>
-----------------------	------------------

<b>Change in net assets</b>	<b>1,032,155</b>
-----------------------------	------------------

<sup>1</sup>These figures are unaudited. To request copies of previous years' audited financial statements prepared by Doran & Associates, Certified Public Accountants, please contact the Seacology office. The 2016 audited financial statements will be available in June 2017.





#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In 2016, all Seacology Board members made generous personal gifts. Board contributions represent a significant portion of Seacology's total fundraising. We are most grateful for the generosity and leadership of each Seacology Board member.

#### CHIEF ULU FELLOWS

(\$25,000 or more)

Anonymous  
Argus Fund  
Robert Epstein and Amy Roth  
Maja Kristin  
Alice and Leslie E. Lancy Foundation  
William and Eva Price  
Suriyakumar Family Trust  
Nadine Tang and Bruce Smith  
Newman and Zeneth Ward Family Foundation

#### ISLAND FELLOWS

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

Anonymous  
Albert Chao  
Robert Dion and Mary O'Malley  
Friedman Family Foundation  
Robert and Rosemary Heil  
Arthur Kern  
Mariposa Fund  
Anne Symchych  
Paul and Leigh Tischler

#### SEACOLOGY FELLOWS

\$2,000-\$9,999

Anonymous  
Yvonne Adams and Jeremy Green  
John and Betty Ann Altman  
Larry and Wendy Barels  
Linda Benge  
Renee Boicourt  
Iain Boltin  
Pete and Ginny Boyce  
Peter and Mimi Buckley  
Craig and Nana Chiappone  
David Davis  
Virginia and Peter Dimsey  
Glenn and Bettina Duval  
Gordon Firestein and Doris Lang  
Kathryn Fox-Winokur  
Robert and Michelle Friend  
Markus Fromherz and Heike Schmitz  
Theodore and Frances Geballe  
Ian Glascock  
John and Marcia Goldman  
Nan Guslander  
Esmond Harmsworth Charitable Foundation  
Terri Hearsh  
Wolcott Henry  
Thomas and Bonnie Herman  
Michael Hofman and Janet Moyer

John Hunting  
Reed Kathrein  
Murray and Jeanie Kilgour  
John and Janet Kister  
Lang Foundation  
Annette Leckie  
David and Valerie London  
Mary Love May and Paul Gabrielson  
Brian and Caroline Lurie  
Mel McCombie and Harris Friedberg  
Allen and Kim Meredith  
Taka Moriuchi/Axe Taka, Inc.  
Mark Murzin and Kris Knoernschild  
Michael Neidorf  
Patagonia.com  
Matsuno Kuhara Patrick  
Buffy Redsecker and Alan Chung  
Wen Rosencrance and Eugene Crocilla  
John and Pauline Ryan  
Rand and Carol Selig  
Ruth Shapiro  
Duane Silverstein and Marcia Stewart  
Gilda and Warren Sprung  
Barbara Sweet  
Christine Symchych and James McNulty  
Maria Taft

Cherri and Randall Tom  
Jake Warner and Toni Ihara  
Todd Werby and Nonie Greene  
Wayne and Julissa Westerman  
Gregory and Patti White  
Scott Wilson and Lucy Cummings

*Seacology is fortunate to receive many gifts under \$2,000. Space limitations prevent us from listing the name of each donor, but we deeply appreciate every contribution to Seacology. Each gift we receive is important to our efforts to protect the world's islands.*





**SEACOLOGY ISLAND LEGACY SOCIETY**

*We are pleased to honor the following members of the Island Legacy Society:*

Anonymous	Masayuki Kishimoto
Frank W. and Margaret B. Adelstein Fund*	Mr. Raleigh Klein
Marie-Louise Ansak	Ken Murdock
Larry and Wendy Barels Charitable Remainder Trust	Mark Murzin and Krista Knoernschild
Michael Burbank & Cindy Roberts	Dana Nojima and Elaine Lyford-Nojima
Kimo Campbell*	Matsuno Kuhara Patrick
Paul and Barbara Cox	Mickey Petersen Charitable Fund*
Rosalind Douglas Trust*	Peter Pistor
Graham Farrar Living Trust	Shari Sant Plummer
Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence Feigenbaum*	John C. and Susan C. Racanelli
Kathryn Fox-Winokur	Gordon Radley
Susan Friedman	James and Gretchen Sandler
Christy Gavitt	Guy and Jeanine Saperstein
Eliot Girsang & Richard Wilson	Joseph and Catherine Scalzo
Kathleen Goetten*	Mr. and Mrs. Randolph Selig
Hank and Jane Goichman	Duane Silverstein and Marcia Stewart
Mr. G. Morgan Griffin	Rose & Arthur Silverstein Memorial Fund*
Craig Grube	Mr. Lindley S. Sloan
Scott Halsted	Michael and Marilyn Staffieri Family Trust
Doug and Leni Herst	Sandie N. Tillotson Foundation
Michael N. Hofman and Janet Moyer	Cindy and Richard Troop
Hotham Family Trust	James L. Walker, IV
Cynthia Hubach, in memory of Richard A. Hubach	Alex Weinstein, MD and Betty Helton, MD
Carlton A. Hubbell Trust*	Erin West
Suzanna Jamieson	Herbert A. West
Sara Katz	Greg and Pat White
	Marsha Garces Williams

*\* deceased*

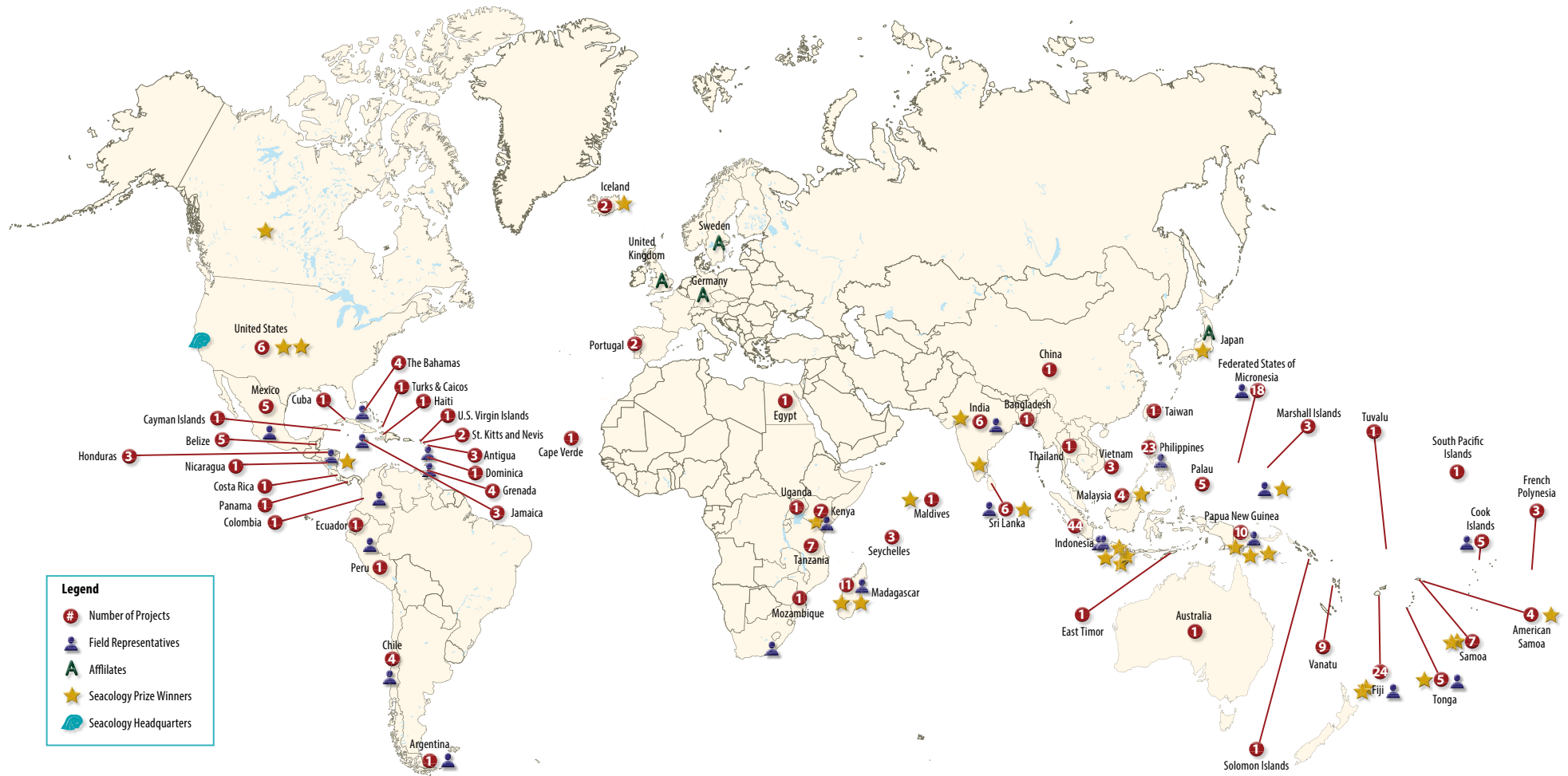
If you are a Seacology Fellow, a longtime Seacology supporter, or are new to our cause and feel a great affinity for our mission, please consider joining our Island Legacy Society. Members of the Island Legacy Society have made a commitment to protecting islands for future generations to enjoy by making a planned gift to Seacology. To join the Island Legacy Society:

- Make a gift to Seacology in your estate plan through your financial advisor.
- Contact Seacology's Development Department at (510) 559-3505 or [islands@seacology.org](mailto:islands@seacology.org), and we will send you a Letter of Intent to complete and return to us.

On behalf of Seacology's Board, staff, and most especially, the habitats and peoples of the world's islands, we thank the following Island Legacy Society members. Your thoughtfulness and generosity will conserve the unparalleled biodiversity and cultures of islands for many generations to come.







## SEACOLOGY AROUND THE WORLD

276 projects in 58 countries • Approximately 1.3 million acres protected  
23 field representatives, four international affiliates, eight full-time staff



# SAVING SRI LANKA'S MANGROVES

2016 was the first full year since the launch of the Sri Lanka Mangrove Conservation Program, Seacology's first nationwide initiative and first multimillion-dollar project.

The landmark project—which protects all of Sri Lanka's mangrove habitats while providing economic assistance for thousands of coastal women—marked many successes. With members

of our Sri Lankan partner organization, Sudeesa, we opened the world's first mangrove museum, which has become a popular destination for Sri Lankans and tourists alike. We propagated thousands of mangrove seedlings to be replanted along Sri Lanka's deforested coastlines. And we forged important partnerships with Sri Lanka's institutions. Its navy, now at peace following the country's devastating civil war, has assumed a role

in planting mangrove seedlings and enforcing the new legal protections, and the country's president, Maithripala Sirisena, personally cut the ribbon to dedicate the museum.

As we move into the next year of the ambitious five-year project, we look forward to continuing this success and applying its lessons to our future work.



Seacology staff and board members tour mangroves in northern Sri Lanka.





Left, Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena joins leaders of Seacology and Sudeesa to open the world's first mangrove museum in Pambala, Sri Lanka. The museum, below, is situated at the edge of a mangrove forest and offers a wealth of information about the ecological and economic importance of mangroves.



Mangrove seedlings grow at one of the Seacology-funded nurseries established by the project. In 2016, such nurseries provided about 300,000 seedlings that were planted on Sri Lanka's coastline.



Jeewanthi Mallawarachchi is one of hundreds of new entrepreneurs who has received finance and training through the project.



Members of the Sri Lankan navy join Seacology and Sudeesa personnel and local civilians to plant mangrove seedlings.



# SEACOLOGY SUDEESA SRI LANKA MANGROVE CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena joins leaders of Seacology and Sudeesa at the dedication ceremony for the Sri Lanka mangrove museum.



SAVING SRI LANKA'S MANGROVES



# 2016 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



## BANGLADESH

St. Martin's Island

Seacology funded a school building for children in an isolated village in the island's south. The building has been completed and a teacher has been hired there. Our project supports a 1,480-acre reserve, protecting coral reefs and sea turtle nesting grounds.





## INDIA

Berhampur Village,  
Chilika Lake

In exchange for the planting of 10,000 mangroves and other trees and protection of 20 acres of lagoon habitat, Seacology funded a new solar-powered community center. The center, which will host alternative-livelihood trainings and environmental education programs and coordinate the replanting effort, opened recently. Because of a favorable exchange rate, it came in under budget, and our project partners used the surplus to purchase bio-toilets and build a wall and gate around the new center.





## HAITI Caracol Bay

Hundreds of people attended environmental education and alternative-livelihood workshops, and 75,000 mangroves grown in nurseries established by the project were planted.





## INDONESIA

Puncak Baru

Community members repaired and reinforced a 1.5-km section of canal that supplies the rice-growing village of Puncak Baru, and will complete the project after planting this year's crop. They have also planted many trees along the canal route and are actively protecting 2,325 acres of forest in the area.





## KENYA

Mkwiro Village  
Wasini Island

This project, supported by Seacology's Save an Acre program, has removed tons of refuse from Wasini Island's beaches. Much of the trash has been repurposed into handicrafts or sold to recyclers to produce revenue for the village. The Mkwiro Eco-Friendly Conservation Group, our project partner, has grown from 26 to more than 100 participants and now conducts cleanups twice a week.



# MADAGASCAR

Ambaro-Ambanja Bay

Working with renowned mangrove conservation specialists, Blue Ventures, this project protects 988 acres of healthy mangroves for the next 30 years. In exchange, Seacology is funding an ecotourism center, currently under construction.





## MICRONESIA

Ant Atoll, Pohnpei

This project, protecting 8,388 acres of marine habitat, is now complete. A solar power system for the ranger station overseeing the area's four no-take zones has been installed and is now in operation.



## PERU

Foca Island

Our first project in Peru, begun in June 2016, has moved forward quickly. Construction of the Seacology-funded ecotourism center in the mainland fishing village of La Isilla is finished. The new facility will aid in the enforcement of a new 24,216-acre marine protected area that will be off limits to all fishing except for small-scale artisanal techniques.




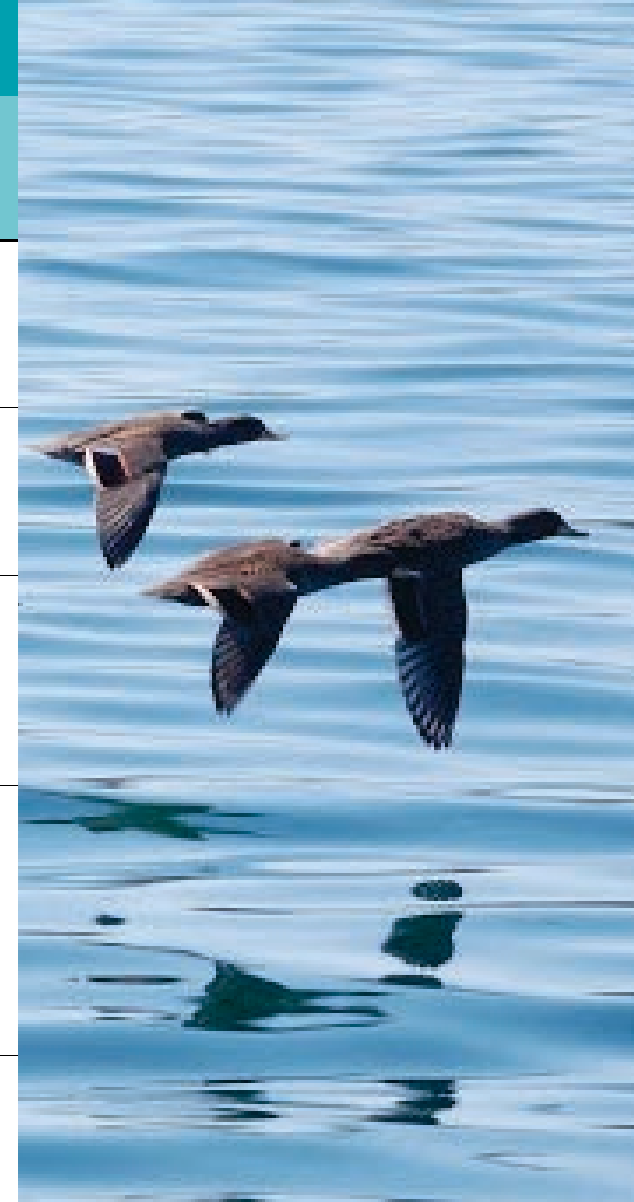
# PROJECTS BEGUN IN 2016





## NEW PROJECTS



LOCATION	COMMUNITY BENEFIT	ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFIT
<b>Chile</b> Koldita Island	Development of a management plan for 12,630-acre marine protected area and purchase of surveillance equipment such as marine radios and binoculars	
<b>Costa Rica</b> Islas Catalinas	Environmental education programs for local schools	Establishment of a marine protected area for giant manta rays
<b>Cuba</b> Cocodrilo	Support for alternative livelihoods, including ecotourism skills, and reef-monitoring training and equipment	Increased protection of the offshore marine environment
<b>Federated States of Micronesia</b> Balebat Village, Yap 	Restoration of damaged women's meeting place	Protection of 300 acres of mangroves for 15 years
<b>Federated States of Micronesia</b> Rang Village, Yap	Community water system	Protection of 24-acre mangrove forest as no-take area for 15 years
<b>Honduras</b> Sandy Bay, Roatán 	Construction of one floor of an environmental and children's center, comprising two classrooms and a kitchen   <i>Funding provided by Nu Skin Force For Good Foundation</i>	Environmental education programs, support of alternative livelihoods



**734,471**  
Acres of marine  
habitat protected by  
Seacology



# NEW PROJECTS

LOCATION	COMMUNITY BENEFIT	ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFIT
<b>Indonesia</b> Pakraman Wongaya, Bali 	Renovation of community center used for youth activities, meetings, and music and dance instruction and performance	Permanent protection of 1,600 acres of rainforest
<b>Indonesia</b> Puncak Baru, West Java	Repair of community freshwater supply system	Preservation of 2,325 acres of forest for 15 years
<b>Kenya</b> Sii Island	Watchtowers, mangrove mapping and replantation, and community awareness program	Conservation of 1,977 acres of mangrove forest for 15 years
<b>Marshall Islands</b> Buoj Island, Ailinglaplap Atoll 	Basketball court and solar lighting	121-acre marine protected area for 10 years
<b>Mexico</b> Contoy Island	Installation of solar power and restoration of fishermen's shelters	3,927-acre permanent lobster refuge



Funding provided by Nu Skin Force For Good Foundation



**551,510**  
 Acres of terrestrial  
 habitat protected  
 by Seacology



## NEW PROJECTS

### LOCATION

### COMMUNITY BENEFIT

### ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFIT

#### Peru

La Isilla,  
Foca Island

Construction of ecotourism and interpretive center

Protection of 24,216 marine acres for 15 years

#### Philippines

Abatan River,  
Bohol Island

Funds to rebuild tourist docks and an amphitheater

Protection of Abatan River and the mangroves along Maribojoc Bay for 10 years

#### Philippines

San Carlos,  
Cuyo Island

Multipurpose building that will, among other uses, be a venue for an alternative learning system for children

Protection of 287-acre no-take fish sanctuary for 25 years

#### United States

Carysfort Reef,  
Key Largo, Florida

Replanting and restoration of coral reef

Since our founding in 1991,  
we have launched

276  
projects

on islands in  
58  
countries



Funding provided by Nu Skin Force For Good Foundation





Over the past two decades Roatán, the largest of Honduras' Bay Islands, has experienced an unprecedented boom in tourism, and today it is a popular destination for large cruise ships, scuba divers, and other visitors. While the development has provided economic benefits for many of Roatán's people, it has also threatened the island's sensitive Caribbean ecosystems. Slash-and-burn agriculture on the island has led to massive loss of forest, air quality problems, and coastal runoff.

Irma Brady, a lifelong resident of the islands, became increasingly concerned about these growing threats and took action. In 1992, she founded the Bay Islands Conservation Association, a grassroots NGO designed to promote the sustainable use of the island's resources, monitor environmental impacts, and ensure that development doesn't come at the cost of irreplaceable habitats. BICA has grown in scope and influence over the years, and now has chapters on both Utila and Guanaja, Roatán's neighboring islands. It also manages the Sandy Bay West End Marine Reserve, the site of our most recent project in Honduras.



2016 SEACOLOGY PRIZE WINNER

IRMA BRADY

Our 2016 prize recipient has led an incredible sustainability movement on Honduras' Bay Islands

#### ABOUT THE SEACOLOGY PRIZE

Many foundations recognize exemplary achievements by scientists, educators, business leaders, and other individuals who work toward conservation. Seacology has chosen to recognize heroic achievement by people who seldom receive any publicity: indigenous leaders who risk their own lives and well-being to protect their island's ecosystems and culture.

The Seacology Prize is underwritten by Ken Murdock, Vice Chair of Seacology, in memory of his mother, Lalovi Fish Murdock.



Eye TV, Mar 17, 2016

"Rise and Shine: Seacology's Karen Peterson and Aaron Rashba and Sudeesa's Dr. Herath Dissanayake discuss progress"

UNDP, May 16, 2016

"Wanang Conservation Area Awarded Equator Prize in Madang"

WISTV, July 26, 2016

"Leading the fight against climate change: California nonprofit, Seacology, marks big successes in Sri Lanka on World Mangrove Day"

Sri Lanka News Live, July 26, 2016

"President to open world's first Mangrove Museum"

Mongabay, July 26, 2016

"On World Mangrove Day, 9 things to know about these tough plants"

Mongabay, July 26, 2016

"Sri Lanka set to become first nation to protect all mangroves"

The Guardian, July 26, 2016

"Mangroves and incomes flourish as Sri Lanka's women promote conservation – in pictures"

Eye TV, July 26, 2016

"Rise & Shine"

Eye TV, July 26, 2016

"Sri Lanka local TV newscast"

ESPA, July 26, 2016

"World Mangrove Day – A Blog!"

ColomboPage, July 26, 2016

"Sri Lanka President launches Mangrove Conservation Program uplifting coastal communities"

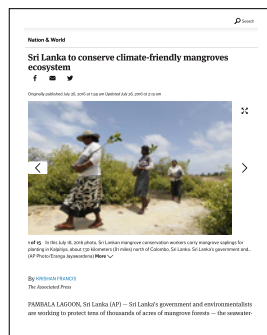


BBC News, July 26, 2016

"Sri Lanka prime minister: Mangroves curb climate threat"

Baltimore Sun, July 26, 2016

"Protecting the mangrove forests of Sri Lanka"



Associated Press, July 26, 2016

"Sri Lanka prime minister: Mangroves curb climate threat" [republished at ABC, Belfast Telegraph, China Daily Asia, Daily Mail, Independent.ie, KTAR, Philadelphia Enquirer, San Francisco Chronicle, Seattle Times, Washington Post, WRAL]

The Sunday Times Sri Lanka, July 27, 2016

"President declared opens Mangrove museum"

PMD News, July 27, 2016

"President opens Mangrove Museum"

Mother Nature Network, July 27, 2016

"Battered mangroves find reprieve in Sri Lanka with new conservation plan"

Lonely Planet, July 28, 2016

"Sri Lanka opens world's first mangrove museum"

Ledger Independent, July 28, 2016

"Photos: Sri Lanka once destroyed its mangroves. Now, it's trying to save them"

Hiru News, July 28, 2016

"President launches mangrove conservation program uplifting coastal communities"

Care2, July 28, 2016

"Mangroves Deserve a Global Day of Celebration"

inshorts, July 29, 2016

"World's first mangrove museum opens in Sri Lanka"

Reuters, August 3, 2016

"Sri Lanka success whets international appetite for mangrove conservation" [republished at Dhaka Tribune, Gulf Times, The Hindu, Yahoo! News]

Sri Lanka News Live, August 4, 2016

"Mangrove conservation to success"

Kensington, Chelsea & Westminster Today, August 4, 2016

"Sri Lanka leads the world in Mangrove conservation"

Diario Roatán, August 8, 2016

"Island ecologist receives the "Seacology 2016" award"

The Holiday Place, August 10, 2016

"Sri Lankans work together to save native mangroves"

SciDevNet, August 18, 2016

"Sri Lankan mangroves respond to conservation plan"

Devex, September 15, 2016

"Ocean conservation starts — but doesn't stop — with communities"

Southwest Magazine, September 2016

"Flying foxes, Caribbean Monkeys, a tiny laboratory in a Wyoming cabin, and a young Mormon missionary who became a Samoan Chief before pursuing one of life's greatest medical mysteries"

Playacar Magazine, Oct 24, 2016

"Entrevista Marisol Rueda Flores"

Resurgence & Ecologist Magazine, November/December, 2016

"Sri Lanka protects mangrove forests"

**CONSERVATION**  
**SRI LANKA PROTECTS MANGROVE FORESTS**  
Oliver Tickell reports on a plan to benefit plants and people

For decades coastal mangrove forests around the tropics have been sacrificed to development – to make way for shrimp farms, ports, urbanisation and luxury resorts – with little or no thought for the value of the mangroves, the wildlife they harbour, or the many essential services they perform.

These services include protecting vulnerable coastlines from storms and rising sea levels, acting as nurseries for marine fish, and storing more carbon in their biomass and soils than almost any other kind of tropical forest.

But now that's all changed, at least in Sri Lanka. On 26 July, World Mangrove Day, President Maithripala Sirisena announced that the south Asian island nation would become the first to grant legal protection to all its surviving mangrove forests, working with local communities and NGOs to deliver a range of local benefits – economic, environmental and educational.

The project began as the brainchild of Sudeesa, the Small Fishers Federation of Sri Lanka, set up in 1992 to "improve the social and economic living conditions of all the coastal, inland fisher communities and associated farming communities of Sri Lanka". Sudeesa then teamed up with Seacology, a US-based group that protects island habitats around the world. In May 2015 Seacology launched its US\$1.4 million funding drive, and raised the entire sum in little over a year.

Working with the Sri Lankan government, the NGOs are now driving forward their plan to protect the island's surviving 21,000 acres of mangroves and replant a further 9,000 acres with half a million mangrove seedlings. This means reaching into 1,500 coastal communities, each of which will protect its own area of mangroves, and training 15,000 village women in mangrove conservation, propagation and planting.

"Much has been achieved since the project launched, particularly at a grass-roots level, transforming the lives of some of the poorest people in Sri Lanka," Sudeesa reports. "Women and children are at the heart of this project and many have received microloans as part of the project's Livelihood Programme, which offers training and funding to develop alternatives to cutting mangroves."

"Women have set up small businesses such as ice-cream sellers, small shopkeepers, poultry farmers and mill grinders. Through generating sustainable income from sources other than cutting mangroves, they can now pay for food for their families and for their children to go to school."

President Sirisena also opened the world's first mangrove museum to mark what he hopes will be a "new model for mangrove forest conservation around the world" – a topic now incorporated into the national curriculum.

[www.sudeesa.org](http://www.sudeesa.org)  
[www.sri-lanka-mangroves.com](http://www.sri-lanka-mangroves.com)  
Oliver Tickell is Contributing Editor for Resurgence & Ecologist.

Pictures, from top: Half a million mangrove seedlings are being grown, and then planted out around the coast. The new mangroves will provide work and inspire new business, especially for Sri Lankan women.



Photographs courtesy of Seacology [www.seacology.org](http://www.seacology.org)





## Nicaragua

JANUARY 8-16, 2016

Join Seacology in Nicaragua for an unforgettable tour of Lake Nicaragua and its breathtaking archipelago of over 350 volcanic islands. Enjoy the Spanish Colonial grandeur of Granada and the tranquility of the island of Jicaro, located on the edge of a bird preserve. A treasure trove of natural marvels awaits on Ometepe Island and the journey continues on the Pacific Coast beaches of San Juan del Sur. With Seacology's mission in action, preserving Nicaragua's wealth while helping local communities.

SEACOLOGY



## Explore Argentina

FEBRUARY 14 - 25, 2016

Join Seacology on an exciting trip to Argentina. Explore the vibrant city of Buenos Aires, marvel at the Perito Moreno Glacier, and experience the spectacular Iguazu Falls, one of the New Seven Natural Wonders of the world.

SEACOLOGY

In early 2016, Seacology led two trips to Latin America, where guests visited our first projects in both Nicaragua and Argentina.



Above, Seacology funded a retrofit of the visitors center on Nicaragua's Volcán Maderas as part of our first project in Nicaragua.

Right, guests on Seacology's expedition to Argentina visit one of the bird watching platforms built as part of our project on Tierra del Fuego Island.







1623 Solano Avenue

Berkeley, CA 94707 USA

Phone: 510.559.3505 | Fax: 510.559.3506

[www.Seacology.org](http://www.Seacology.org) | [islands@seacology.org](mailto:islands@seacology.org)

[f/Seacology](https://www.facebook.com/Seacology) | [t/Seacology](https://twitter.com/Seacology)

