

# Seacology

Saving the World, One Island at a Time

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## Seacology Expedition Members Visit Seychelles Projects



Above: The Seychelles' Cousin Island is home to the Cousin Island Special Reserve, significant for seabirds and endemic land birds, as well as the most important breeding site for Hawksbill turtles in the Western Indian Ocean. The reserve is managed solely by local staff. Seacology has funded several projects to support conservation efforts on Cousin Island (photo credit: Martin Harvey).

According to the *Lonely Planet* guide, "Among the 115 islands that make up the Seychelles are some of the most beautiful island getaways in the Indian Ocean, or indeed the world. Here you can find the lush tropical paradise you may have seen in seductive advertisements." The group of islands around Mahe (home of the international airport and the capital city of Victoria) are made of granite while the remaining islands are coralline atolls. The Seychelles lie 1,600 kilometers off of East Africa, its nearest neighbor. As a result of this isolation the Seychelles are rich in rare plants which flourish nowhere else on the planet.

The Seychelles are home to one of the world's most successful nature reserves - Cousin Island. Founded by BirdLife International and run by Nature Seychelles, the Cousin Island Special Reserve, though only one kilometer in diameter, is home to 300,000 nesting seabirds. The reserve is responsible for saving the Seychelles Warbler and the Seychelles Magpie Robin from the brink of extinction. The reserve is also the western Indian Ocean's largest nesting site for Hawksbill turtles. A highlight of any visit is seeing Aldabra Giant Tortoises.

Seacology was so impressed with the critically important role Cousin Island is playing that we have supported several projects there. The waters surrounding Cousin Island are a no-take marine reserve. Seacology provided funding for demarcation buoys so that local fishing community members will know where they can and cannot fish. Because Cousin Island is a major tourist attraction, Seacology also provided signage so visitors will understand the importance of the various bird and turtle species living on Cousin, and the reserve's vital role in protecting these species. Finally, Seacology provided funding for state-of-the-art composting toilets for rangers and visitors as another important step in keeping the ecosystem pristine.

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Seacology Welcomes New Staff and Field Representatives



Left: Fairy Terns on Cousin Island, the Seychelles (photo credit: Dishon Murage).



museum. Our conservation strategy, called "indigenous control," has guided us since Seacology was first created (Cox, P. A. and Elmqvist, T. 1991. *Indigenous Control: An Alternative Strategy for the Establishment of Rainforest Preserves*. *Ambio* 20(7): 317-321).

In June of this year, Seacology staff and donors visited 13 different conservation projects around the world. Many Seacology trips are scheduled to coincide with the dedication of a conservation project. These are spectacular affairs, replete with native feasts (funded by Seacology), dancing and merriment. In Nasigasiga Village, Fiji, a 400-acre rainforest reserve was established in return for Seacology's funding of a kindergarten, water tanks and restrooms. The villagers insisted that Seacology Executive Director Duane Silverstein christen the village toilets, and they did not mean with champagne. As Duane emerged, the assembled villagers erupted into applause. Although we cannot guarantee you an opportunity identical to Duane's, we can promise a life-changing experience if you join a Seacology trip. Several spaces are still open for 2009 and 2010. Please visit <http://www.seacology.org/travel/index.htm> for more information. I encourage you to consider going, so that you can see firsthand how your gifts to Seacology are saving the world, one island at a time.

Paul Alan Cox, Ph.D.  
Chairman

## Project Update: Pemba Island, Tanzania



*In June 2009, Seacology Development Director Susan Racanelli visited projects on Pemba Island, Tanzania and Wasini Island, Kenya. On Pemba, Seacology has funded infrastructure and trail development, information and marketing materials, and ecotourism initiatives for community conservation of the Pemba flying fox. A women's group was trained to create pottery and jewelry as a long-term alternative livelihood endeavor. Above, Pemba Island women work clay for the creation of pottery (photo credit: Idris Abdullah).*



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## Seacology Executive Director is a MLB “All-Star Among Us!”

By Duane Silverstein

Because of the great work of Seacology, I was selected to be honored by Major League Baseball (MLB) at the 2009 All-Star Game. After throwing out the first pitch at an Oakland A's game, I packed my bags and headed for St. Louis. After a bit of sightseeing, we arrived at the reception to find that the *People* magazine staff, cosponsors of the All-Stars Among Us (ASAU) campaign, had decorated the carpet with stars a la the Hollywood Walk of Fame, except with the names of my fellow honorees rather than movie stars. The reception featured speeches from the editors and publisher of *People*, and Tim Brosnan and Jacqueline Parkes, two high level MLB executives who were responsible for the All-Stars Among Us program. Of course the highlight was getting to meet the other ASAs, all of whom were extremely dedicated, inspiring people.

The next morning we were off to a photo shoot with Commissioner Bud Selig and Bob Costas. Next it was off to the official All-Star game press conference featuring the managers and starting pitchers for the game. That night we attended the Home Run Derby. After the derby it was off to the All-Star Gala. Located in a huge tent adjacent to Busch Stadium, this was quite a party. The next morning we took part in the traditional All-Star red carpet parade through downtown St. Louis. Then it was finally game time.

We were ushered onto the infield as a tribute video to the All-Stars Among Us was played. This is the first video in history in which all five living presidents took part, which was quite an honor. All 44,000 fans gave us a tumultuous and prolonged standing ovation, after which the All-Star players came onto the field to thank us. As a baseball fan it

was a lot of fun to have Albert Pujols, Derek Jeter, Ichiro, Joe Mauer and many other players thank us for what we were doing. The players could not have been nicer or more sincere. The players stayed with us as Sheryl Crow sang the national anthem right behind us. It was then time to march off the field to a final great round of applause. Many of the fans were overcome with emotion and were crying. To cap off a great night, MLB had us all sign a ball that is headed for the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.

All in all this was a wonderful event which will hopefully reap benefits for Seacology in years to come. One benefit is already apparent. I have made 29 new lifelong friends.



Right: American League and National League All-Stars line the field in St. Louis to pay tribute to the MLB “All-Stars Among Us” (photo credit: Major League Baseball).

## Seacology Expedition Members Visit Seychelles Projects (continued from page 1)

No discussion of Cousin Island would be complete without a mention of the very charismatic and extremely competent director of Nature Seychelles, Nirmal Shah. In many ways, Shah is “Mister Environment” of the Seychelles. He has followed in his father’s footsteps and between the two of them, they are likely responsible for almost every major environmental achievement in the Seychelles in the last 30 years. Shah is also a world-recognized expert on island ecosystems. Accompanied by Dr. Shah, the Seacology group also visited the Wildlife Clubs of Seychelles visitors center at Roche Caiman, which was recently renovated with Seacology funds.

In the words of Nirmal Shah, “Many islands are, in the face of global changes, teetering on the brink of catastrophe. Because of the clear and present danger, one would have thought there would have been many dedicated organizations funding island conservation. But Seacology is the only one that has understood the vital nature of saving these precious and unique island environments.”

Far right: Duane Silverstein with an Aldabra Giant Tortoise (photo credit: Dr. Jeffrey Hays). Near right: Dr. Nirmal Shah with one of the Seacology-funded mooring buoys on Cousin Island (photo credit: Dishon Murage).



## Seacology Board of Directors Approves New Island Projects

The following projects were approved by Seacology's Board of Directors at their May 29, 2009 meeting. For more information about these projects, please visit <http://www.seacology.org/projects/index.htm>:

**CARIBBEAN ISLANDS** – “Bottle Bead” Sustainable Livelihood project in exchange for the protection of sea turtles.

**FIJI, Tokou Village, Ovalau Island, Lomaiviti Group** – Construction of a community hall in exchange for the establishment of a 365-acre marine reserve for a duration of 10 years.

**INDONESIA, Benteng Dewa Village, Flores Island** - Community health clinic to help children in support of approximately 14,826 acres of no-take forest reserve. \*

**INDONESIA, Cunca Lolos Village, Flores Island** - Village fresh water system for children and others in exchange for support of 12,355 acres of no-take forest. \*

**INDONESIA, Mandalamekar Village, Java** - Multi-Purpose Community Building for children and others in support of replanting 72 acres and protecting a total of 267 acres of no-take rainforest. \*

**KENYA, Kiweni, Lamu Archipelago** - Purchase of moorings for boundary demarcation and anchorage, snorkel gear, solar inverter system, communication and other equipment in exchange for the establishment of a 741-acre community managed marine conservation area for a minimum duration of 10 years.

**MALAYSIA, Mudung Abun, Belaga District, Sarawak** – Integrated community-based micro-hydro power system in support of 1,236 acres of watershed for 30 years.

**MEXICO, Seri Tribe Territory, Gulf of California** – Environmental and information signage, and waste/recycling facilities, in support of the conservation of 298,593-acre Tiburon Island and 59,238-acre Canal Infiernillo.

**SAMOA, Satapuala Village, Upolu Island** - Construction of a community hall and upgrading the village water supply in exchange for the establishment of a 1,600-acre marine conservation area (240 acres no-take) for a minimum duration of 15 years.



Above: A fisherman participates in the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network's (WIDECAST) first “Bottle Bead” Sustainable Livelihood workshop on the island of St. Kitts in the Caribbean. Using discarded or recycled bottle glass to produce beads for jewelry, the project provides an economic alternative to fishermen who have few alternatives to killing turtles for food and/or cash. Participants will be chosen from three Caribbean communities, and will sign agreements to protect turtles and turtle habitat. This project is being funded with generous support from Seacology Japan (photo credit: WIDECAST).

**VANUATU, Abwatuntora, North Pentecost** - Construction of a Nakamal (Chiefs' Meeting House) in exchange for the extension of an established 185-acre marine reserve as no-take for an additional minimum duration of 10 years.

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

### Project Update: Marou Community, Emau Island, Vanuatu



June 2009 was a busy month for Seacology staff, with Executive Director Duane Silverstein leading an expedition to visit two projects in the Seychelles, Development Director Susan Racanelli visiting projects on Wasini Island in Kenya and Pemba Island in Tanzania, and Senior Program Officer Karen Peterson visiting nine projects in Fiji and Vanuatu. In Vanuatu, Karen and Vanuatu Field Representative Kevin Tari visited the Marou Community on Emau Island, where Seacology funded the completion of a kindergarten building in exchange for the establishment of a 32-acre no-take marine reserve and 300-acre terrestrial reserve for a minimum duration of 10 years. After taking a boat to this small village, which is on a beautiful lagoon that has been protected along with a portion of their hillside forest, Karen and Kevin met with Village Council Head Kaltafa Daniel and other community leaders. The kindergarten building is actively used, and the marine protected area and forest reserve are being carefully managed by the community. Karen reports that the conservation efforts in Marou are multi-generational, with young men playing an active role in monitoring and enforcement. Karen also noted that small communities in Vanuatu are in general very excited about conserving their marine resources, and are thrilled to see the variety of species that are reemerging in their community-managed protected areas.

Left: Senior Program Officer Karen Peterson (center) with Marou Council Head Kaltafa Daniel (front) and other members of the Marou Community (photo credit: Kevin Tari).

# Seacology Welcomes New Field Representatives in the Caribbean

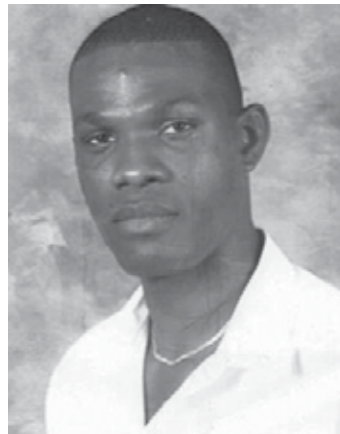
Seacology's success in identifying and monitoring island projects that both protect precious environments and benefit local communities lies with our wonderful field representatives.

Our field representatives act as our eyes and ears in their respective regions, and understand environmental and cultural issues on their home islands in a way that enables Seacology to operate so effectively. We are excited to introduce three new field representatives for the Caribbean Region.

**Antigua and Barbuda - Mykl Clovis:** Mykl has worked on environmental conservation projects in the Caribbean for the last eight years and is now based on the island of Antigua as an independent consultant. She works primarily in the areas of wildlife conservation, sustainable tourism and project management, and is an active volunteer with local NGOs and community organizations. She holds a Master's degree in Coastal Management from York University, Toronto.



*Above: Mykl Clovis of Antigua and Barbuda (photo courtesy of Mykl Clovis). Below left: Tyrone Buckmire of Grenada (photo courtesy of Tyrone Buckmire).*



**Grenada - Tyrone Buckmire:** With almost 20 years as an activist, advocating for child rights, rural community development and environmental protection, Tyrone has had extensive experience working in Grenada and regionally. He first worked with the Grenada Planned Parenthood Association for 10 years, and subsequently worked as Coordinator of the Inter-Agency Group of Development Organizations and the Grenada National Coalition on the Rights of the Child, umbrella agencies whose members grappled with a host of social issues, primary among them poverty alleviation, education and training, domestic violence and social/legal assistance. He

responsible for natural resource management and regulating development. Krishna has spent the last few years working as a consultant where he used his experience to help formulate policy and contribute to management plans while he studied to complete his law degree. After a short stint in London, where he worked in sustainable development for an inner London borough, he is now back in the sunshine completing his professional legal qualifications and advising on numerous coastal development projects in the Caribbean. Krishna enjoys photography, SCUBA diving, playing squash and camping out with friends.

trained extensively in relevant regional and international projects, with internships in the US, UK, Canada and Europe, and also served on various youth expert panels within UN-specialized agencies and in the international Planned Parenthood and adolescent health field. More recently, Buckmire served as the Manager of Rare Enterprises, Grenada, during which time he successfully set up community-based ecotourism enterprises. Buckmire is also the Secretary/Executive Officer of Grenada Fund for Conservation, Inc. Tyrone is married, with three children, and enjoys reading and creative writing.

**Jamaica - Krishna Desai:** Krishna is a trained natural scientist with a post-graduate degree in marine management. He spent eight years working for the Government of Jamaica as their technical advisor on coastal issues and during that time led numerous interdisciplinary teams



*Above: Krishna Desai, Seacology's new field representative for Jamaica (photo courtesy of Krishna Desai).*

## Seacology Project Update: Nanumea Atoll, Tuvalu

The remote, small island nation of Tuvalu has nine atolls with a total land area of under 10 square miles, with the highest elevation above sea level of only 16 feet. A major threat to Tuvalu's subsistence is sea level rise due to climate change. Mangroves are an important resource which enhance local fisheries, handicrafts, firewood and provide protection from tidal and storm surge. Seacology has funded a project with the Tuvalu National Council of Women (TNCW), together with the Tuvalu Association of Non-Government Organizations (TANGO), to replant mangroves and seedlings of Beauty Leaf Laurel in areas threatened by coastal erosion, as well as refurbish a handicraft center. In July 2009, over 1,000 mangrove seeds were collected from the Lakena Islet and planted in a nursery established on Nanumea Atoll. More than 50 women from the community participated in the project and were so enthusiastic that they plan to plant their own individual mangrove gardens at their homes. Building plans for the extension of the handicraft center have been completed and the community is now awaiting quotes for the materials from Fiji.

*Right: Thriving mangrove seedlings, with community members working on the mangrove nursery in the background (photo credit: TNCW).*



# Species-ology! Spotlight on: The Seychelles Paradise-flycatcher

By Seacology Development Director Susan Racanelli

In the far west expanse of the Indian Ocean, east of Africa, is nestled one of the most gorgeous and iconic island paradises in the world. Over 100 islands, collectively called the Republic of the Seychelles, forms a small land spray north of Madagascar. Flaunting brilliant aqua waters and pristine beaches, these islands are home to rare and exquisite bird and plant life. In particular, one startlingly beautiful bird lives there and nowhere else: the Critically Endangered (CE), IUCN Red-listed, Seychelles Paradise-flycatcher. Alarming rates of habitat loss and fragmentation due to tourism and private development have been the flycatcher's greatest threats, along with introduced plants and mammals. In addition, a wilt disease affecting the trees on which this bird nests has led to increased woodland clearance on the La Digue plateau, the last flycatcher stronghold.

Seacology has three projects in the Seychelles and Duane recently visited these with a donor group to check on their progress (see cover story of this newsletter). He returned with a deep respect for our partner in the islands, Nature Seychelles, and its dynamic CEO, Nirmal Shah. An environmental pioneer, Nirmal has been instrumental in orchestrating conservation in the remote island

group with a bevy of eco-partners, of which Seacology is one. The native flora and fauna have reaped the benefits of his energy.

Several of the Seychelles' endemic bird species have been threatened with extinction for quite some time, but the Paradise-flycatcher is the only one still listed as Critically Endangered. The Vev, as it is called in Seychelles Creole, displays a deep black velvet head, a blue beak and long, glossy blue-black tail feathers, the latter being its calling card. Dazzling but diminutive, it's only eight inches long in

total, most of which is tail feathers. Of course, the female has substantially more subdued coloring; her feathers are a soft brown. Its diet consists of winged insects and spiders, caught in mid-air or snatched from leaves. Flycatchers mate for life and both parents tend the one egg produced after mating. The parents create small cup-shaped nests built of fine pieces of casuarina and coconut fiber, stuck together with spider webs, at the tips of down-hanging twigs.

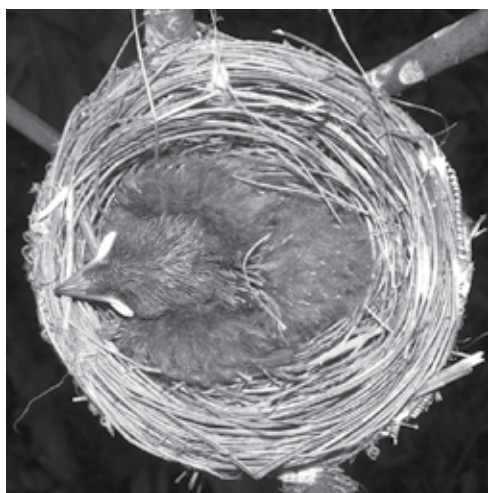
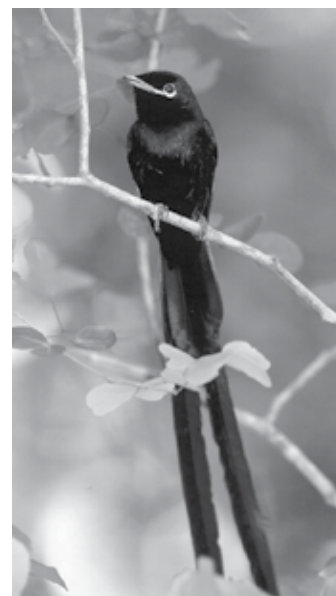
Once widespread on Praslin and all its surrounding islands, the Vev thrived only in the tall forests of native takamaka trees on the plateau of La Digue, putting the species at an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild. One disaster – an avian disease or typhoon – could cause extinction. Creation of additional island populations was crucial in improving its conservation status. In 2006, a project began to relocate a viable population of birds to another restored island in the Seychelles. By the end of 2008, 23 birds had been successfully relocated to Denis Island. Miraculously, in late June of this year, the first Seychelles Paradise-flycatcher chicks to fledge successfully outside La Digue are now flying on Denis Island, for the first time in over 60 years.

As a result, the Seychelles Islands are well on their way to saving the Paradise-flycatcher. What does this mean in terms of conservation results? Hopefully, within the next two years the flycatcher can be removed from the Critically Endangered list, leaving the Seychelles with no CE birds. Considering that

this small archipelago had more CE bird species than any country in Africa except Madagascar, this is a huge success and confirmation that conservation works.

For all of us here at Seacology, this is terrific news. In a world of vanishing species, we do not always find such encouragement in dealing with islands as we gather information for our projects around the world. But this time, thanks to concerned people and conservation groups globally, for the jeweled little Paradise-flycatcher of the remote Seychelles, the future looks rosy.

Right: A male Seychelles Paradise-flycatcher (photo credit: Nature Seychelles).



Above: A Seychelles Paradise-flycatcher nest and chick (photo credit: Terence Vel).

## Seacology Welcomes New Staff Members



Seacology is delighted to welcome two new staffers to our Berkeley, CA office. Carynne McIver (left) joined Seacology in September after relocating to the Bay Area. Having worked at Oceana in Washington, DC, she is excited to have found another organization with a focus on marine conservation. A lifetime environmentalist and outdoor enthusiast, Carynne studied English and Art History at Williams College in Massachusetts. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, rock climbing and cooking. She has experience in legal assistance and office administration, as well as in grant writing and

other fundraising projects. At Seacology, she helps draft and maintain funding requests and assist with development events.

Our new Accounting Manager Mary West (right, with her pug Jasper) manages Seacology's financial activities and coordinates with field representatives to implement projects. Mary has more than a decade of experience in various financial management and consulting engagements at both for-profit and non-profit organizations. She has a BA in Visual Studies from University of California, Berkeley and an MBA in Sustainable Management from Presidio School of Management. At Presidio, Mary worked on a number of environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable projects, including performing financial and marketing analyses of alternatives to bottled water and disposable coffee cups, as well as developing a business plan for a renewable energy solutions provider in Baja California Sur, Mexico.



## Seacology Island Legacy Society

If you are a Seacology Fellow, a longtime Seacology supporter, or are new to our cause and feel a great affinity for our purpose, perhaps now is the time for you to join the Island Legacy Society.

The 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 investing professional.
- 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 newsletter, 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 [susan@seacology.org](mailto:susan@seacology.org), or by phone at 510-559-3505, ext. 305. 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

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

Frank W. and Margaret B. Adelstein Fund (*deceased*)

Anonymous (3)

Marie-Louise Ansak

Larry Barels

Michael Burbank & Cindy Roberts

Kimo Campbell

Paul and Barbara Cox

Rosalind Douglas Trust (*deceased*)

Graham Farrar Living Trust

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Paul and Dianne Felton

Eliot Girsang & Richard Wilson

Hank and Jane Goichman

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Cathy Klema

Ken Murdock

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Cindy and Richard Troop

Eric and Sharlene van Boer

James L. Walker, IV

Erin West

Herbert A. West

Windfall Foundation

## Seacology Announces New International Affiliate in Scandinavia

September 21, 2009 will be remembered as a historic moment in the development of Seacology. On that date Tove Kirkeng and her husband Trond Austgarden of Norway, and Anton and Jonna Bond (originally from Denmark but long time residents of Luxembourg), flew to London to meet with Duane Silverstein, who was visiting England to make a presentation on behalf of Seacology UK.

During their meeting, the group signed papers for the incorporation of a new international Seacology affiliate in Scandinavia. Also attending this meeting was Ragnhild Nerjord of Norway, who will be the staff person for the group. Tove, Trond, Anton and Jonna will be joined on the board by Carleric and Ingela Lindstrom of Sweden. The new Scandinavian group thus joins Seacology Japan, Germany and United Kingdom as official affiliates. While in London, Duane Silverstein made a presentation at the house of Scott Wilson and Lucy Cummings, founders of Seacology UK.

The representatives from the Scandinavian group released the following statement: "We feel very honored that the Seacology board has accepted us as an affiliate of Seacology. It is amazing to see how much Seacology has accomplished already! It is not often in life you are given a chance to really make a difference. We feel very lucky to have that opportunity to do so through the Seacology projects. What is going on in an island in Polynesia or India is not indifferent to people of Scandinavia anymore. The awareness of global responsibility for the environment is rising, and we are convinced that the people of Scandinavia will love Seacology."



Above: Trond Austgarden of Norway signs papers for the incorporation of Seacology's new Scandinavian affiliate (photo credit: Duane Silverstein).



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#### Seacology Projects Have Saved:

**161,726** acres of island  
terrestrial habitat

**1,813,020** acres of  
coral reef and other marine  
habitat

#### Seacology Has Built or Funded:

**89** schools, community centers,  
water systems and other  
critically needed facilities

**30** 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.