

Seacology

Saving the World, One Island at a Time

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Report from the Lai River Footbridge Project Opening, Papua New Guinea



Above: Dancers at the Lai River Bridge project opening. Right: Villagers crowd around a grandstand to listen to speakers at the opening (photo credits: Sam Moko).

By Sam Moko, Seacology Papua New Guinea Field Representative

The people of Ruti Village, Baiyer and Jimmi Valleys have now done away with the need to continually replace the traditional cane footbridge, which for many years was the only means of crossing the famous Baiyer River that joins the Lai River, by replacing it with a modern wire footbridge funded by Seacology. This project was funded in support of multi-village protection of the 10,329-acre Kengai Kitenga Park conservation area for a duration of 30 years.

In late January 2010, the engineer and the community of Ruti Valley completed the footbridge. It took the community almost three weeks to get the wires and frames down the 650-foot steep mountains to the Lai River site where the footbridge was erected. This was hard work but the community cooperated to get the project to completion.

The official opening of the footbridge was on August 17, 2010. The project team and I arrived at Ruti Village to a warm welcome by an energetic dancing group just before midnight. All throughout the night there was eating, dancing, singing and beating of kundu drums until dawn. People came from as far as Enga Province border and Simbai border in the Madang Province. A crowd of between 1,000 and 2,000 people gathered to witness and listen to the speeches to mark the opening of the project. People expressed feelings of excitement, happiness and joy. In the past, many had been washed away while trying to cross the river across the cane footbridge; having a sturdy wire footbridge was something that the community had long wished for.

At around mid day on the 17th of August 2010, the councilor of Ruti, Keu Rumints, officially cut the traditional coconut leaf ribbon and announced the Ruti Footbridge

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Seacology Welcomes New Staff Member



Above: Seacology Board Member Masayuki Kishimoto, Seacology Japan Co-Chair Akemi Chiba, Seacology Chairman Dr. Paul Cox and Seacology Japan Co-Chair Akemi Yoshida at the dedication of the new aluminum walkway tower in Falealupo Village, Samoa.

In Samoa this summer, I was delighted to welcome our colleagues from Seacology Japan to the dedication of the new aluminum tower for the Falealupo Rain Forest Canopy Walkway. This new tower, which provides access to the 25 meter (82 feet) high walkway, was welded in place by Arbonaut Access of British Columbia, and was built with funds from Seacology Japan, Seacology Scandinavia, and Seacology USA. Village chiefs tell me that on a good week the village earns over US\$400 in visitor revenues from the walkway. These funds are used to help support the village school and for other village projects.

Together with our Seacology Samoa Field Representative Cedric Schuster, I also visited the Satapuala marine reserve, which was created in return for Seacology's support of their village school. And on the other side of Upolu Island, many families are recovering from last year's tsunami, with water supplies and tanks funded by donations from Seacology supporters in Japan, the United States, Germany, and Scandinavia.

What impresses me about these projects is not only how important they are to the villagers as well as the significant conservation benefits they continue to gen-

erate, but also the international support that facilitated them. With Seacology affiliates in Japan, England, Germany, and Scandinavia, our approach to conservation—making deals with villagers in return for forest and marine reserves—has garnered global support. This win-win approach has produced tangible benefits for villagers and major conservation progress in 45 countries and on 115 islands worldwide. This example of international sharing and collaboration is deeply moving. Thank you for joining with us in our approach to conservation. Our projects may be small—a school here, a hospital there, a water supply or solar electrification scheme—but they mean a great deal to the local people. Thank you for helping to save the world one island at a time.

Paul Alan Cox, Ph.D.
Chairman

Seacology Project Update: Muri Lagoon, Rarotonga, Cook Islands



Above: Community members at the dedication of the newly-renovated and upgraded community hall and health clinic at Muri Lagoon, Rarotonga, Cook Islands. Seacology provided funding for this project in exchange for the establishment of a 413-acre conservation area in and around Muri Lagoon for a minimum duration of 10 years. The lagoon is known throughout the Pacific for its outstanding beauty (photo credit: Allan Tuara).



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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

Madagascar Forest Conservationist Awarded 2010 Seacology Prize



On Thursday, October 7, over 100 Seacology supporters joined board members and staff at the David Brower Center in Downtown Berkeley to honor Mr. Rabary Desiré of Madagascar, the 2010 recipient of the Seacology Prize. The Seacology Prize honors indigenous islanders who have dedicated their lives to preserving their environment, and is generously underwritten by Seacology President Ken Murdock in memory of his mother, Lalovi Fish Murdock.

At the ceremony, Desiré described his journey as a leading Malagasy environmentalist. A self-taught expert in Madagascar's unique wildlife, Desiré shared the vocalizations of the endangered silky sifaka lemur. With his knowledge of his native flora and fauna, Desiré has become a highly sought-after research and ecotourism guide in northeastern

Madagascar. Using the money he earned, he purchased land on a former coffee plantation. After successfully reforesting the land, Desiré established a private conservation area, the Antanetiampo Nature Reserve, which provides critical habitat for silky sifaka and other rare Malagasy species.

For his conservation achievements, Desiré received \$10,000 from Seacology, which he will use for reforestation, tourism infrastructure, and the purchase of additional land for the Antanetiampo reserve. In his acceptance speech, Desiré listed some of the solutions to the problems of deforestation and bushmeat hunting that plague Madagascar: encouraging sustainable agriculture rather than hunting and gathering as the primary source of food; educating youth about conservation; addressing local poverty; and ending government corruption. He ended with a traditional Malagasy saying: *hazo tokana tsy mba ala*, or "One tree is not a forest, so let us work together." Thanks to all who attended the Seacology Prize Ceremony to help honor Desiré!

Left: Rabary Desiré at the 2010 Seacology Prize ceremony (photo credit: Chad Frischmann). Below left: A silky sifaka mother and baby; Desiré is a self-taught expert on this endangered lemur and other Madagascar wildlife (photo credit: Jeff Gibbs). Below: Desiré at the entrance to the private conservation area that he established with his own funds (photo credit: Erik Patel).



Lai River, PNG Footbridge Opening (continued from page 1)

open for use by his people. There were traditional chants, cries and shouts to express excitement. The councilor thanked Seacology for the funding of this project in exchange of the protection of forest and reminded his people to continue to look after the forest area and conserve it.

I was given an opportunity to speak and responded that this project is a small infrastructure development but means a lot and has to be looked after by the community. I also reminded the community that this project has an agreement in place and has to be honored. It is a promise that the conservation area in exchange for this project will not be disturbed or touched by the community or any outside developers.

After the formal ceremony, we feasted on roasted pigs and local vegetables. With great excitement the community continued traditional dancing and feasting. The next day, I met with the project team and thanked everyone involved in the project for a job well done after a lot of challenges and delays. We finished with light refreshments and said goodbye. The footbridge is a wonderful project in a remote area, and should serve the communities for years to come as they continue to protect their forest.



Above: Local villagers cross the new Seacology-funded aluminum footbridge for the first time (photo credit: Sam Moko).

Species-ology! Spotlight on: Whale Sharks

By Seacology Development Director Susan Racanelli

Seacology Executive Director Duane Silverstein and Seacology Fellow Daniel Grunberg recently returned from a brief trip to the Yucatan Peninsula to research a potential Seacology project. Staying on the island of Isla Mujeres, Duane and Daniel were perfectly situated to launch into the Gulf of Mexico in search of the Earth's biggest fish: the whale shark. The marine habitat off the west coast of Mexico provides the gargantuan shark a watery cathedral where it congregates in groups of up to 300 at a time. A spectacular species in many ways – size, beauty, weight, consumption, serenity and lore – the whale shark is also a vulnerable one, according to the World Conservation Union's Red List. Weighing in at an average of 36 tons, this slow-moving migratory creature has been measured at 42 feet in length. *Rhincodon typus* is the only member of its genus and its origins date back 60 million years. Found worldwide in warm tropical waters, this fish predominately spends its life in the open sea, and can dive to depths of 2,300 feet. Typically seen offshore, they have also been found entering lagoons or coral atolls, and near the mouths of estuaries and rivers from South Africa to Western Australia, the Philippines to Madagascar, and the Yucatan to Honduras.



Above: A whale shark photographed off Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula by Seacology Fellow Robert Heil.

It's not hard to imagine that this shark's name generated from its physiology; it's as big as a whale. And just like a whale, this leviathan is a filter feeder and one of only three known filter feeding shark species. They have large mouths and employ at least two basic techniques to gather their food, which includes plankton, krill and fish. The first is a more passive method that involves the shark swimming with its mouth open. It often ends up swallowing everything that flows in, including old shoes and other refuse. To expel such unfavorable objects, the shark can later evert its stomach through its mouth and disgorge the debris. A second feeding method features the shark standing on its tail, shooting upward with mouth wide open. The maw of this big fish measures nearly five feet wide, holds five pairs of large gills and can contain 350 rows of micro-teeth. The shark's distinctive four-inch-thick skin is marked with an abundant mottling of pale yellow/white spots and stripes, and can be used to identify individuals for counting populations.

Known as a deity in Vietnamese culture, whale sharks have been coined "Ca Ong," which translates as "Sir Fish." In Mexico, and throughout much of Latin America, the whale shark is called "pez dama" or "domino" for its distinctive patterns of spots. In Belize, the sharks go by "Sapodilla Tom" due to many sightings near the Sapodilla Cayes on the Belize Barrier Reef. In Africa, the imaginative name of "papa shillingi" in Kenya comes from the myth that God threw shillings upon the shark which are now its spots.

Recent news on the disastrous oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico has thrust this shy marine creature into the spotlight. An estimated five million barrels of oil flowed into an area south of the Mississippi River Delta, where scientists say one-third of all northern Gulf of Mexico whale shark sightings have occurred in recent years. Aerial photos depicted the massive fish swimming through oil slicks. We'll probably never know how many died as a result of this toxic spill, but we do know healthy populations were spotted after the disaster, congregating en masse near the Yucatan coast.

Environmentalists everywhere hope that by studying and better understanding this unique species more widespread protection will occur. Tourism might actually play an important role. Despite its menacing size, the whale shark does not pose a significant danger to humans. Tourism involving diving and snorkeling with this gentle giant has grown in recent years around the world in Australia, Belize, the Maldives and Mexico. Perhaps by enhancing the economies of host nations with a green industry – with sensible protection in place for this remarkable creature – this type of eco-tourism can demonstrate to the world that the great spotted whale shark of the tropical seas is most valuable alive and swimming in its sparkling marine habitat. Seacology is investigating the possibility of funding mooring buoys off Isla Mujeres to warn large cargo ships that whale sharks may be nearby.

Join Seacology and Zegrahm Expeditions for a Trip to the Azores

Join Seacology Executive Director Duane Silverstein on a cruise through the beautiful Azores, along with Spain, Gibraltar, Morocco, the Canary Islands and Madeira. This once-in-a-lifetime cruise is run by Zegrahm Expeditions, one of the world's leading expeditionary cruise companies. The voyage will take place from May 6 – 20, 2011 aboard the 110 passenger, luxury adventure cruise ship, the Clipper Odyssey. Highlights will include the world famous Alhambra in Granada, Spain, the 1,400-foot high Rock of Gibraltar, Casablanca and Taroudant ("Little Marrakech") in Morocco, the bizarre volcanic landscapes of the Canary Islands, wine tasting in Madeira, and whale watching in the Azores. Duane Silverstein will be one of many lecturers aboard, and will present on topics including the Seacology-funded project in Madeira to reforest the highest peak of the Ecological Park of Funchal. Reservations should be made directly with Zegrahm Expeditions (Tel: 800-628-8747, www.zeco.com). Make sure you mention Seacology as Zegrahm is making a generous contribution to Seacology for every passenger that books directly with them.



Above: The breathtaking coastline of the Canary Islands.

Seacology Bridges the Equator and Visits Nanumea, Tuvalu

By Seacology Executive Director
Duane Silverstein

Want to visit the world's least populous nation? If so, I suggest you pack your sunscreen and head to Tuvalu, whose nine Polynesian atolls are home to 12,373 inhabitants. Only Monaco and nearby Nauru can claim a more diminutive status, as Tuvalu is the world's third smallest nation. Want to visit a lower lying nation? Only the Maldives edge out Tuvalu, whose highest elevation is a mere 16 feet above sea level. It is this latter fact that indirectly led to my recent visit to this very remote island nation.

Tuvalu is understandably very concerned about the rise of oceans due to global warming. In other parts of the world, this change might impact the types of crops that are grown, how much energy is used, and the introduction of new tropical diseases. In Tuvalu, rising oceans may submerge the entire nation under water. Unfortunately for Tuvalu, the negative impacts of the rising oceans are already being experienced in terms of stronger storm surges that reach farther inland. During my recent visit, many village elders described how this is already happening, with areas that never before experienced flooding now regularly underwater during storms.

It is well-known that mangrove forests ameliorate the impact of storm surges. As was seen in the devastating Southeast Asia tsunami several years ago, villages



Above: Seacology Executive Director Duane Silverstein and President Ken Murdock officially open the new handicraft center (photo credit: Ramona Wilson).

that kept their mangrove forests intact suffered less damage than those that had cut their mangrove trees down. Consequently, the Tuvalu atoll of Nanumea approached Seacology for support of a win-win project. Nanumea has a population of 660 people and outside of government employment there are zero paying jobs on the island. Everyone lives off the bounty of the land and sea in a subsistence fashion. Therefore, Nanumea was seeking support for the renovation and expansion of a Women's Center, where the local women can make traditional handicrafts for sale in the capital city of Funafuti. In exchange, the people of Nanumea would begin a two-acre lagoon-based mangrove nursery and reserve, planting over 1,000 mangrove seedlings along the coastline.

Along with Seacology President Ken Murdock and 42 other guests on Zegrahm Expeditions' exploratory cruise ship the Clipper Odyssey, I recently attended the official opening of the Nanumea project. As we came in to the lagoon on our zodiacs, we were serenaded in traditional fashion by villagers who came out to greet us on their kayaks. After receiving flowered headdresses from the wonderful Pula Taofa, coordinator of the Tuvalu National Council of Women (TNCW), and other high ranking village representatives, we walked over to the new Women's Center. The speeches made by Pula and her colleagues from TNCW were very moving and made it clear that the Women's Center will allow women to earn income from the manufacture of traditional handicrafts and give them not only much-needed income, but also a sense of independence and accomplishment. We then traveled by zodiac to the other side of the lagoon to inspect the mangrove nursery and plant mangrove seedlings. It is very much in the tradition of Seacology to get our hands dirty and lend a hand to our projects.

With our work completed, it was then time to celebrate. The village put on an incredible feast featuring pigs and chicken baked in an earth oven. Afterwards, we were treated to a wonderful performance of singing and dancing. Ken Murdock and I made our way through the 80 villagers singing in a tight-knit circle around a large drum and joined the villagers in the drum circle, which was a very moving experience. As a surprise to my fellow passengers, Seacology had arranged to be the first major customer of the Women's Handicraft Center and with our support, the village presented everyone with gifts of beautiful handmade dresses, necklaces and fans. It was an event that none of us will ever forget.



Expedition members including Don and Jerry Ziegler (right) planted mangrove seedlings to protect Nanumea's coastline alongside local women (above) (photo credits: Giovanna Fasanelli).



Seacology Board of Directors Approves New Island Projects

The following projects were approved by Seacology's Board of Directors at their July 13, 2010 meeting. For more information about these projects please visit <http://www.seacology.org/projects>:

ANTIGUA – Waste recycling baler and bins.

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA, Onongoch, Fefen Island, Chuuk - Community hall, water tanks and toilets in exchange for the protection of a 15-acre pristine upland forest as a no-take area in perpetuity.

GRENADA, Bathway Beach, Northern St. Patrick's Parish - Acquisition, construction and installation of interpretive materials to promote protection and conservation of Leatherback turtles. *Funded by Seacology Japan.*

INDONESIA, Banjar Anyar, Desa Sangkitan, Bali – Community building in support of 1,977 acres of no-take rainforest in perpetuity.

INDONESIA, Kahuku Village, Bangka Island, North Sulawesi - Village health clinic in exchange for the creation of 74 acres of no-take coral reef and in support of an additional 27 acres of no-take coral reef. *

MADAGASCAR, Antanandava Village – Construction of two primary school classrooms with furnishings and a restroom block in support of an agreement



to stop all new shifting cultivation within 988 acres of biologically diverse low-elevation humid forest for a duration of 15 years.

PANAMA, Kuna Yala Archipelago– Waste management system for Carti island communities.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA, Tavolo, Pomio District, East New Britain Province - Community health clinic in exchange for the establishment of a 988-acre no-take coastal marine conservation area within an existing Wildlife Management Area.

PHILIPPINES, Sitio Lobo, Barangay Ned, Municipality of Lake Sebu, Mindanao Island– Microhydro power generator and fruit tree nursery in support of the protection of 6,178 acres of watershed forest within the 18,150-acre ancestral claim of the T'boli and Manobo tribes.

TONGA, Felemea Village, 'Uiha Island, Ha'apai Islands – Refurbishment of an existing community hall and its facilities in support of the protection of two Fish Habitat Reserves totaling 368 acres for a duration of 10 years. *

UGANDA, Lake Victoria – Solar-powered refrigerator for medicines for the Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary.

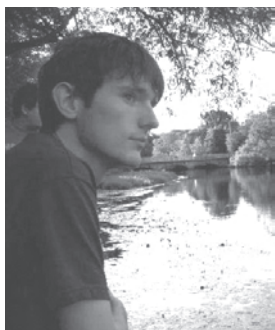
VANUATU, Isavai Community, Aniwa Island - Construction of a community hall with two guest rooms and a water tank in exchange for the establishment of a 163-acre marine reserve and 178-acre mangrove reserve for a duration of 10 years.

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



Above: A boy carries water in Tavolo, Papua New Guinea (photo credit: Sam Moko). Below left: Primary school buildings in need of repair at Antanandava Village, Madagascar (photo credit: Missouri Botanical Garden).

Announcing Staffing Changes at Seacology Headquarters



Seacology is pleased to welcome David Drayton to the staff as our new Administrative Assistant and Webmaster! David replaces Emily Maxwell, who left Seacology after seven years to start a family. David graduated Cum Laude from Brandeis University. His nonprofit experience includes issues ranging from global poverty and anti-genocide to health care reform and environmentalism. While still in college, David spent two years helping to build the Millennium

Campus Network, a now-national nonprofit that focuses on empowering students to fight global poverty. After moving to California, he served as field manager for the Fund for the Public Interest, quickly becoming one of the office's top fundraisers. In his spare time, David enjoys training in website design and development, exploring the Berkeley hills, and discovering new local restaurants. At Seacology, he is responsible for updating and maintaining the website, as well as assisting other members of the staff and other administrative projects. Welcome David!

Karen Peterson, who became Seacology's first paid staff member in 1999, is now Seacology's Program Manager. Karen is primarily responsible for managing our 18 field representatives throughout the world in identifying new island projects, and monitoring projects in progress.

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 carynne@seacology.org, or by phone at 510/559-3505.

We look forward to welcoming you into the Island Legacy Society soon. You will join dedicated members whose gifts will help preserve the world's islands and their indigenous 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

Donny Closson Living Trust

Paul and Barbara Cox

Rosalind Douglas Trust (*deceased*)

Graham Farrar Living Trust

Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence Feigenbaum

Paul and Dianne Felton

Eliot Girsang & Richard Wilson

Hank and Jane Goichman

Morgan Griffin

Craig Grube

Scott Halsted

Douglas Herst

Michael N. Hofman and Janet Moyer

Carlton A. Hubbell Trust (*deceased*)

Suzanna Jamieson

Sara Katz

Masayuki Kishimoto

Cathy Klema

Ken Murdock

Matsuno Kuhara Patrick

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Rose Silverstein Memorial Fund (*deceased*)

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Seacology Project Update: Cunca Lolos Village, Flores Island, Indonesia

Cunca Lolos is a small farming community of just 152 people in 38 households, and is one of 27 villages located around the 63,738-acre Mbeliling Forest. Seacology has funded a village fresh water system in support of 12,355 acres of forest as a strict no-take zone for a minimum of 10 years. The villagers identified an abundant and clean spring located just over a mile from the village within Mbeliling Forest. As of June 2010, Seacology Field Representative Arnaz Mehta reports that the infrastructure for the new fresh water system was completed and handed over on February 13, 2010 to the Cunca Lolos community.

Since 2007, the villagers have played a major role in monitoring the condition of the forest and in planting trees around the water spring. The village has planted the following trees in the village tree farm area: 4,437 mahogany seedlings, 13 Saingon seedlings, 387 Ampupu seedlings and 68 Waru seedlings. Cash crop seedlings, such as durian, citrus, sweet potato, jackfruit, mango and betel nut were also planted. Birdlife Indonesia has drafted a Nature Protection Agreement with the involvement of all 27 villages around the Mbeliling Forest in their local dialect that encompasses rules and sanctions of the protected forest.



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Seacology Projects Have Saved:

159,312 acres of island
terrestrial habitat

1,012,686 acres of
coral reef and other marine
habitat

Seacology Has Built or Funded:

103 schools, community centers,
water systems and other
critically needed facilities

35 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.