

Seacology

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Seacology Board of Directors Approves New Island Projects

The following projects were approved by Seacology's Board of Directors at their July 2003 meeting:

FIJI – Construction of a community center in exchange for the establishment of a 17,297-acre marine reserve, Laselase Village, Viti Levu Island. The village has agreed to establish a no-take marine reserve in part of their traditional fishing area in exchange for a much-needed community center.

FIJI – Construction of a community center in exchange for the establishment of a 2,000-acre forest preserve, Nakalavu Village, Viti Levu Island. The village has agreed to preserve their ancestral rainforest in exchange for a critically needed community center.

FIJI – Construction of a community center in exchange for the establishment of a 14,826-acre marine protected area, Nukuvou Village, Kadavu Island. The village has agreed to establish a no-take marine reserve in half of the village's traditional fishing rights area in exchange for the construction of a much-needed community hall.

GRAND CAYMAN – Construction of a youth center in exchange for the creation of a 7-acre park. Due to a high rate of development, Georgetown, the capital city of the Cayman Islands, lacks sufficient urban parkland as well as facilities for the city's growing teenage popula-

tion. Seacology is supporting the construction of the youth center in exchange for the establishment of a seven-acre park in Georgetown.*

INDONESIA – Outboard motorboats for patrol and enforcement of community fishing grounds, Asmats, West Papua. Recently, a consensus agreement was reached between some of the coastal Asmat villages and a large Indonesian commercial fishing company to ban fishing in the Asmat traditional fishing grounds. Seacology is providing four outboard motorboats for patrol and enforcement of the near-shore fishing area.

INDONESIA – Fisheries enforcement and community infrastructure in exchange for the creation of a 3,200-acre marine sanctuary, Togeans Islands. Illegal blast fishing is an ongoing activity in the Togeans and is met with virtually no enforcement. Seacology is providing local villages with a speedboat and radio equipment for patrol, a guardhouse, as well as new infrastructure for the village of Tomil. In exchange, the village is setting aside a 3,200-acre no-take fishing zone.

MADEIRA – Reforestation at the Ecological Park of Funchal. In November 2001, Seacology awarded a grant to the Association of Friends of the Ecological Park of Funchal to reforest a highly degraded 12-acre area on the park's highest peak, where native plants had been nearly eradicated. Seacology is providing funding for the restoration of an additional 2.5 acres of extremely rugged terrain within the park, as well as maintenance for the already-planted 12-acre area.*

THE PHILIPPINES – Community-based coral reef restoration and education program in El Nido, Palawan Province. In response to the area's declining fish populations and degraded coral reef, ten El Nido villages are establishing no-take zones totaling approximately 2,000 acres. In exchange, Seacology is providing 600 "EcoReef" modules to facilitate reef restoration.

THE PHILIPPINES – Enforcement of three existing marine sanctuaries and support for sustainable alternative livelihoods in Jandayan Island. In exchange for the creation of marine protected areas encompassing 150 acres of mangroves, seagrass beds and reef slopes, Seacology is providing guardhouses, motorboats and radio equipment for enforcement of the preserves, as well as demarcation and mooring



A weaver from Jandayan Island, the Philippines, where Seacology is providing materials for sustainable alternative livelihoods in exchange for boats, equipment and guardhouses for the enforcement of three marine sanctuaries.

buoys. Additionally, Seacology is providing equipment for the production of basketry and other crafts as an alternative income source, as well as demonstration plots and training for the planting of small gardens throughout the villages.

**Support for asterisked projects is generously provided by the Nu Skin Enterprises Force for Good Foundation.*

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“Thank you for helping Seacology become a bright ray of light in a darkened world.”

Due to recent economic conditions, many not-for-profit organizations are now faced with laying off key personnel and reducing essential programs. Some are even threatened with closure. Seacology, by contrast, is in good financial health. Strong support from you and others, careful budgeting, and Seacology’s philosophy of keeping administrative expenses to a minimum have all helped. But perhaps most important to this success has been Seacology’s focus. The philosopher Søren Kirkegaard said, “Purity of heart is to will one thing.” In that regard, Seacology does will one thing: Seacology seeks to protect island cultures and habitats throughout the world.

As you will see in this newsletter, Seacology continues to expand its reach, building community halls, schools, water supplies, visitor centers, and other public works for island peoples in return for protecting rain forest, coral reef, and other precious habitats. For my upcoming 50th birthday, Seacology staff sent me a list of 50 Seacology projects throughout the world. But even now the list is obsolete: Seacology has produced more than 67 projects, bringing hope and joy to island peoples around the globe.

I wish to thank you for making a difference. If you could only see how much joy your donation has brought village adults and children in Sao Tome, Madagascar, Bali, Fiji, the Philippines, Dominica, and numerous other islands throughout the world. Seacology is often the only hope islanders have of protecting their culture and habitat. Thank you for helping Seacology become a bright ray of light in a darkened world. Thank you for helping Seacology save the world, one island at a time.

Paul Alan Cox, Ph.D.
Chairman

Seacology Project Update: Bali



The Tirtagangga Wastewater Gardens project is now complete. Wastewater Gardens are constructed wetlands which use the ecological diversity of wetland plants and associated microbes to purify water. Tirtagangga is both an important community bathing spot and a very popular tourist destination. This project will provide health benefits for the community and visitors, and is being viewed as a model for wastewater treatment throughout Bali.



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2003 Seacology Prize recipient Dr. Elisabeth Rabakonandriana.

Madagascar Conservationist to Receive 2003 Seacology Prize

Seacology is pleased to announce that Dr. Elisabeth Rabakonandriana has been selected to receive the 2003 Seacology Prize for her outstanding efforts to protect Madagascar's "Orchid Mountain," Mt. Angavokely, home to over 120 rare and endangered orchid species. The Prize is awarded annually to an indigenous islander for exceptional achievement in preserving the environment and culture of any of the world's 100,000-plus islands. Dr. Rabakonandriana will be awarded the \$5,000 Prize on November 17, 2003 at a ceremony in San Diego, California.

Due to both high species diversity and high endemism (species found nowhere else in the world), Madagascar is often considered to be one of the most important sources of biological diversity in the world. Located 13 miles east of Antananarivo, the nation's capital, Mt. Angavokely has one of the last remaining tracts of high-altitude rainforest in all of Madagascar. In 2001, Dr. Rabakonandriana successfully negotiated a legal framework for protection of the mountain with the Malagasy government. In conjunction with Seacology and the local organization ARC VERT, the government is establishing a 927-acre reserve on the Orchid Mountain.

"It is a great honor mingled with delightful surprise for me to be the recipient of the 2003 Seacology Prize," said Dr. Rabakonandriana. "Madagascar is one of the most important havens for unique biodiversity. Unfortunately, the flora and fauna are disappearing at an alarming rate. Preserving them for future generations is a difficult task within a developing country with a poverty-stricken population... Within only a year, great steps forward have been accomplished. BRAVO Seacology and a warm welcome to the Indian Ocean area. This Prize is an encouragement and recognition for all Malagasy people. TOGETHER WE WILL WIN."

The Seacology Prize is underwritten by Ken Murdock, president of Seacology, in memory of his mother, Lalovi Fish Murdock. Her family's century-long connection with the Samoan Islands, and their love for its people, inspired Murdock's work to help indigenous islanders preserve their environment in the face of a changing world.

For more information about Dr. Rabakonandriana or the November 17 ceremony in San Diego, please contact the Seacology office (Tel: 510-559-3505 or email islands@seacology.org).

Madagascar: Biodiversity in Peril

Madagascar is often considered to be one of the most important sources of biological diversity in the world. More than 97 percent of the country's non-bird species are endemic (found nowhere else in the world). Madagascar is also home to five primate families and 50 species of lemurs. More than two-thirds of the world's chameleon species are found there.

Madagascar is also renowned for its over 1000 species of orchids, some 85 percent of which are endemic. Since orchid species often occur in small populations, most of the magnificent Malagasy orchid species will go extinct within the near future if their habitats are not saved. Since 1950, 270,000 acres of Malagasy rainforest have been lost annually. Halting this downward spiral of environmental degradation would benefit the impoverished inhabitants of this island nation, while maintaining its singular biodiversity for all people.

Seacology is planning an expedition to Madagascar in April 2004. The highlight of this trip will be a visit to the Orchid Mountain, Mt. Angavokely, where Seacology is helping to create a 927-acre park. The tour of the park will be led by 2003 Seacology Prize recipient Elisabeth Rabakonandriana.

For more information regarding this exciting trip, please call the Seacology office (510-559-3505) or email islands@seacology.org.



Mt. Angavokely, the Orchid Mountain.

Bunaken, Indonesia: Landing Dock to Protect Coral Reef

Bunaken Island, the “crown jewel” of Bunaken National Park, is home to over 3,000 native fishers-farmers. It is one of Asia’s best-known dive destinations. Unfortunately, despite its national park status, the island’s reef and seagrass beds have continued to degrade due to intense resource use pressures.

The Bunaken Concerned Citizen’s Forum has worked with the Bunaken National Park Office to undertake a locally-managed marine conservation plan including no-take zones and areas where only traditional (non-destructive) fishing techniques are allowed. In exchange for this sacrifice, Seacology is providing the community with a landing dock. This dock will help prevent chronic damage to coral reefs and seagrass beds caused by anchoring boats in shallow waters, and will allow for much easier access to and from the village at low tide.

A foundation-laying ceremony for the dock was held in late July and was attended by top-ranking local officials as well as members of the media. Right, Bunaken Village Chief Sintje Caroles speaks to the assembled crowd.



Reforestation in Madeira

Deforestation and habitat degradation caused by livestock has caused severe erosion and the spread of invasive species in the high mountains above Madeira’s capital of Funchal. In November 2001, Seacology awarded a grant to the Association of Friends of the Ecological Park of Funchal to reforest a 12-acre area on the park’s highest peak. The reforestation effort has involved hundreds of volunteers, including local orphan children.

Seacology is providing funding for restoration of an additional 2.5 acres of extremely rugged terrain within the park, as well as maintenance for the already-planted 12-acre area. “Planting parties,” such as that pictured left, have occurred every month year-round. Hundreds of individual plants from 12 different species have been planted each month, stabilizing this important watershed and recreation area for the city of Funchal.

Before and After: Saavedra Fish Sanctuary Guardhouse



In 1986, the coastal fishing community of Saavedra, the Philippines worked together with a local NGO to create a 20-acre marine sanctuary. After years of exposure to the elements, the guard post used for observation of the sanctuary area (left) had become dilapidated to the point where it could not provide safe and adequate shelter during rains. In November 2002, Seacology provided the Coastal Conservation and Education Foundation with funding in the amount of \$6,910 to build a new permanent guardhouse. This sturdy new guardhouse (below) contains sleeping quarters, an observation deck with a panoramic view of the sanctuary area, and a community meeting room. The dedication ceremony for the guardhouse was held in April 2003.



Grand Cayman Youth Center Opens

On September 17, 2003 the new Stephen Jared Ebanks Youth Centre (right) was officially opened. Due to a high rate of development, Georgetown, the capital city of the Cayman Islands, lacks sufficient urban parkland. At the same time, there is also a lack of facilities for the city's growing teenage population. Seacology supported the construction of the youth center in exchange for the establishment of a seven-acre park in Georgetown. The center is named for a local youth (the son of the coordinator of the project, Pastor Al Ebanks) who died in a tragic car crash last year. He would have turned 18 on the day the center was dedicated.



Seacology Travels to Fiji to Open Three New Projects



In June 2003, a group of Seacology board members and donors visited Fiji to open three new projects. In Nasigasiga Village, Seacology provided a critically needed water tank and water delivery system in exchange for the village's agreement to preserve their pristine 350-acre rainforest. At left, three villagers pose in front of one of their village's brand-new toilets.

Below left, Yasawa I Rara villagers prepare for the arrival of Seacology expedition members in front of their new Seacology-funded community center. The village holds title to two small islands, Yalawakalou and Yawini Ciri, with a combined land area of 1.8 square miles. Yasawa I Rara Village has signed an agreement with Seacology prohibiting development on both islands for a period of 20 years and establishing a no-take fishing reserve on the 80 square mile area surrounding the islands for a period of ten years.

To get to Waibalavu Village, where Seacology provided a community center in exchange for the protection of the village's 750-acre ancestral rainforest, the Seacology contingent had to take a 40-minute charter flight followed by a two hour drive, a 20 minute boat ride up a beautiful river, then a 15 minute walk to the village. Below, (l-r) Seacology President Ken Murdock, Executive Director Duane Silverstein and board member Cathy Klema cut the ribbon to the brand new Waibalavu Community Center.

For more information on Seacology's 2003 Fiji expedition, please visit <http://www.seacology.org/travel/index.html>.



Seacology now has 10 projects in Fiji, protecting a total of 6,276 acres of rainforest and 104,827 acres of coral reef. In exchange for this protection, Seacology has provided seven community centers, two water delivery systems, a kindergarten and other critically needed village improvements.

Scenes from Vietnam: In Search of the Cat Ba Langur



The highly endangered Cat Ba Langur. After 20 consecutive years of a population decline, thanks in part to the Seacology-funded langur guardian program, the population has increased 20 percent in the past year. There are now 59 Cat Ba langurs, all but two located on Cat Ba Island. (Photo credit: Tilo Nadler)



Members of the Seacology expedition in search of Delacour's Langurs near the village of Van Long, Vietnam. (Photo credit: Don Arntz)



Above: Seacology board member Don Arntz, langur guardian program assistant Chu Xuân Canh and langur guardian Vi Vân Châu searching for Cat Ba Langurs in Halong Bay, Vietnam, a World Heritage Site. Right: Langur Guardian program coordinator Rosi Stenke of the Germany-based nonprofit Zoological Society for the Conservation of Species and Populations (ZSCSP), and Seacology board member Masayuki Kishimoto in Halong Bay. Seacology is funding ZSCSP's program to hire local Cat Ba Island residents to guard the remaining Cat Ba Langur subpopulations. In return, the guardians get a \$50 per month stipend and agricultural rights in the areas they are guarding.



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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.

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