

Seacology

Saving the World, One Island at a Time

Volume 6, Number 2

Fall Edition October 2004

Tiwoho, Indonesia Coastal Community Resource Center In Use!



The island of Sulawesi is defined by the longest continuous coastline in all of Indonesia. As such, a significant percentage of island residents are highly dependent on their naturally rich marine resources for their survival and livelihood. However, Sulawesi's coastal marine ecosystems have sustained significant degradation due to unchecked resource extraction and development pressures.

In cooperation with the U.S.-based Mangrove Action Project and local organization KELOLA, Seacology has funded the construction of a multi-purpose Mangrove Conservation Resource Center in the community of Tiwoho on Sulawesi Island. Based on the success of a similar Seacology project in Sri Lanka, the new center is a mangrove demonstration site, environmental education center, and a meeting place for villagers and local organizations. Additional assistance for this project was provided by the Coral Reef Alliance.

Left, local schoolchildren exit the center after a presentation regarding the importance of protecting mangroves. The children then participated in mangrove planting, below. (Photo credits: Ben Brown, Mangrove Action Project.)

IN THIS ISSUE:

New Island Projects

Letter from the Chairman

Seacology Travels to Fiji and Madagascar

2004 Seacology Prize Recipient Announced

Two EcoReef Projects Completed in Indonesia

Project Updates: Vietnam, the Philippines, Indonesia and the Maldives

2005 Seacology Expeditions to Fiji and China Announced!





In August, I had the opportunity to travel to Japan while doing research on neurological illness. While there, I took a few days to visit with some good friends and supporters of Seacology in Nagoya and Tokyo.

Our discussions were prompted by an unexpected gesture of Japanese people that occurred last April in Atami, Japan. At the request of generous Seacology donor Mr. Okamoto-san, I spoke to a crowd of about 1,200 people about Seacology's conservation work. At the end of my remarks, Nu Skin Team Elite member Shumi Ryu presented an envelope containing funds that she and the people there had raised for Seacology – over \$8,000.

As I left Atami on the bullet train and looked out the windows at the beautiful Japanese scenery, I thought of the tremendous generosity of the Japanese people. These funds were used to support the construction of four forest stations for the Manafiaf Forest in southeastern Madagascar.

So four months later Seacology Board Member Matsuno Patrick and I held two days of wonderful discussions in Nagoya and Tokyo. Seacology Board Member Masayuki Kishimoto assisted from afar in assembling the group. As a result of our meetings, Seacology has launched a new Fellows program in Japan. We decided to hold a special trip for Japanese speakers to a Seacology project in the South Pacific, to look for some new projects in Japan, and to build a foundation for Seacology to grow in Japan.

Seacology's simple mission – protecting indigenous cultures and habitats – has clearly resonated with the people of Japan. With nearly 100 completed conservation projects on islands throughout the world, Seacology is one of the world's most effective and efficient conservation organizations. With the help of friends in Japan, Seacology will only increase its effectiveness throughout the world. Thank you for all you have done to help Seacology preserve islands, one village at a time.

Update: Support for Marine Protected Areas, Jandayan, the Philippines



On Jandayan Island, the Philippines, three island communities have created marine protected areas encompassing 150 acres of mangroves, seagrass beds and reef slopes. In exchange for this sacrifice, in July 2003 Seacology provided funding for guardhouses, motorboats and radio equipment for enforcement of the

preserves, as well as demarcation and mooring buoys. Facilitated by Project Seahorse, three marine protected area guardhouses in the villages of Handumon, Jandayan Norte and Jandayan Sur are now completed. Three patrol boats have been purchased to provide mobility to the fish wardens who will be manning the guardhouses on a 24-hour basis. In February 2004 village officials, the town's mayor, the local congressman, members of the coastal development council and Project Seahorse Foundation helped inaugurate the new guardhouses and patrol boats (above). (Photo credit: Project Seahorse.)



Board of Trustees

- Donald Arntz
- Larry Barel
- Kimo Campbell
- Paul Cox, Ph.D., Chairman
- Graham Farrar
- Paul Felton, Treasurer
- Scott Halsted
- Douglas Herst
- Jonathan Dale Ives
- Suzanna Jamieson
- Masayuki Kishimoto
- Cathy Klema
- Ken Murdock, President
- Charles Murphy III
- Matsuno Kuhara Patrick
- Peter Pistor
- Shari Sant Plummer, Vice President
- Gordon Radley
- James Sandler
- Michael Staffieri
- Sandie Tillotson, Vice President
- Jake Walker
- Herb West
- 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 C. Ogden, Ph.D.
- Elizabeth Pierson, Ph.D.
- Peter H. Raven, Ph.D.
- William E. Rainy, Ph.D.
- E.O. Wilson, Ph.D.

Staff

- Duane Silverstein
Executive Director
- Emily Klokkevold
Administrative Assistant/Webmaster
- Karen Peterson
Program Officer/Newsletter Editor
- Susan Racanelli
Development Director
- Lisa Rosenthal
Office Manager

Seacology

2009 Hopkins Street
Berkeley, CA 94707 USA
Tel: 510-559-3505
Fax: 510-559-3506
Email: islands@seacology.org
<http://www.seacology.org>

Seacology Board of Directors Approves New Island Projects

The following projects were approved by Seacology's Board of Directors at their July 16, 2004 meeting:

ANDAMAN ISLANDS – Restoration and conservation of mangroves. The Andaman Islands are located in the Indian Ocean about 750 miles off the coast of India. Seacology will assist the Coastal Poor Development Action Network (COPDANET) in building a Mangrove Biological Garden and Resource Center in the village of Kadachang near the Andaman capital of Port Blair.*

CHUUK, MICRONESA, Epinup Village – Establish the Epinup Mangrove Forest Reserve and Marine Protected Area in exchange for a community water system. The rural village of Epinup holds a large portion of the last healthy and intact mangrove forest on Weno Island. The Epinup community wants to protect the last remaining mangrove forest and nearby marine areas, totaling 364 acres, for an initial 25 years. In exchange for this sacrifice, Seacology is funding a community water system for the village.*

FIJI, Nacamaki Village, Koro Island – Community center maintenance and repair in exchange for the creation of a 494,211-acre marine reserve. Nacamaki villagers are renowned for their traditional gift of turtle calling, in which sea turtles respond to chanting by swimming to shore. Nacamaki's 22-year old center is deteriorating and is in need of repair and maintenance. The village is willing to establish a 494,211-acre no take marine reserve for a minimum of 10 years in exchange for the repair and maintenance of their center.

FIJI, Navolau Village, Viti Levu Island – Community center in exchange for the creation of a 370,658-acre marine reserve. Navolau Village is located in Ra Province on Fiji's main island of Viti Levu. The village has agreed to create a 370,658-acre no take reserve within their traditional fishing rights area for a period of ten years in exchange for Seacology's funding of a new community center.

INDONESIA, Kumu Village, North Sulawesi – Establishment of 124-acre no take forest reserve in exchange for elementary school renovations. Kumu is a small village on the northern coast of Sulawesi with a population of about 240 families. Seacology is assisting Kumu villagers by funding the planting of 5,000 indigenous tree seedlings as well as the renovation of the village's only school. In exchange for these urgently needed items, the villagers will set aside 124 acres of intact rainforest as a no take zone.*

INDONESIA, Molas, Meras, Tongkeina, and Bahowo Villages, Sulawesi Island – Establishment of four no take marine reserves in exchange for outdoor cultural theater. Bunaken National Marine Park is home to over 30,000 fisher/farmers. In exchange for the formalization of four no take marine reserves totaling 160 acres, Seacology is funding a 200 seat outdoor amphitheater to be used for traditional dance performances.*

KOSRAE, MICRONESIA, Lelu Island – Establish the Lelu Conservation Area in exchange for the construction of Lelu Marine Park. The Lelu Resource Management Committee is in the process of establishing a conservation area which will cover approximately 550 acres of marine and terrestrial ecosystems. In exchange for this sacrifice, Seacology will provide a recreational area for youth, a walking path and thatch sitting huts at the Lelu Marine Park.*

MADAGASCAR, Sainte Luce – Construction of four forest stations in exchange for the protection of 1,730 acres of forest. The Manafiafy Forest in southeastern Madagascar's Sainte Luce area is one of the last remaining stands of littoral forest in the country and is home to critically endangered palms, birds and the rare brown collared lemur. Seacology is working with the UK-based organization Azafady to construct four forest stations within the protected area.

MALAYSIA, Terian, Sabah – Integrated watershed management and community microhydro system. In exchange for the community of Terian's protection of a 1,000-acre watershed, Seacology is working with PACOS, the Borneo Project, Green Empowerment and the Community Development Action Group of Terian to complete a micro-hydro energy system, which creates power using the vertical drop of a stream within the watershed.*

SRI LANKA – Library and audiovisual facilities at the Kiralakele Mangrove Resource Center. In response to threats to Sri Lanka's mangroves, the Small Fishers Federation of Lanka (SFFL) and Seacology have established the Kiralakele Mangrove Resource Center and Biological Garden in southern Sri Lanka. Seacology will assist SFFL in establishing a library, a computer facility, an aquarium to demonstrate the fauna associated with mangrove habitat, and an audiovisual center.*

TANZANIA, Chumbe Island – Purchase mooring buoys for Chumbe Island Reef Sanctuary. Chumbe Island is a 55-acre coral island eight miles off of Zanzibar. The island's Reef Sanctuary is a no take area that extends 1,000 feet from the high water mark along the western stretch of fringing coral reef. Seacology is providing mooring buoys to be installed along the borders of the marine sanctuary for use by local fishers in emergencies and severe weather.

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



Above: A fisherman floats off Sulawesi Island, Indonesia (photo credit: Arnaz Mehta). The local communities of Molas, Meras, Tongkeina and Bahowo Villages are creating no-take marine reserves totaling 160 acres. In exchange Seacology is funding the construction of a 200 seat outdoor amphitheater to be used for traditional dance performances. Below: A Cakalele dancer from Sulawesi (photo credit: Jeremy Barnes).



Seacology Travels to Fiji to Officially Open Three New Projects



In June 2004, a group of Seacology board members, Fellows and donors traveled to Fiji to open three new projects. In 2003, expedition members visited Nasigasiga Village to officially open a new water tank and delivery system that Seacology funded in exchange for the establishment of a 332-acre forest reserve. Nasigasiga decided to set aside another 400 acres of pristine forest for a period of 20 years. In exchange, Seacology provided a much-needed kindergarten and medical dispensary for the village. In February 2004, former Seacology Board Member Tim Toben traveled to Nasigasiga to lay the foundation for the new building. The kindergarten and dispensary were completed in June 2004. At left, expedition member Beto Bedolfe (left), and Seacology Board Members Suzanna Jamieson and Kimo Campbell (right) were on hand to officially dedicate the new building.

The isolated village of Dakuniba on Vanua Levu Island has agreed to preserve 763 acres of pristine rainforest for a minimum of 20 years and establish a 24,711-acre no-take marine reserve for a minimum of ten years. In exchange, Seacology is funding the construction of a community center for the village. The project is being funded in part by a memorial fund established to honor the life of Stephen Erdmann, a young man who passed away tragically as a result of a bus accident in Egypt in August 2003. Stephen's brother, Dr. Mark Erdmann, shares the job of Seacology's field representative for the islands of Southeast Asia with his wife, Arnaz Mehta. Dr. Erdmann, his brother Scott, and his father Omer (pictured below left) traveled to Dakuniba with other expedition members to celebrate the laying of the foundation for the new community center.

Naikorokoro Village on the island of Ovalau has agreed to establish a no-take marine reserve for ten years in a 17 square mile (10,880 acres) section of their traditional fishing area. In exchange, Seacology has provided a new kindergarten and upgraded the village's community hall. Attending the official dedication of this project were students from the John Gray Recyclers of Grand Caymen, a high school group that helped fund the project. Below, expedition members, John Gray students and local schoolchildren stand outside Naikorokoro's new school and rebuilt community hall.



Seacology's fifth Fiji expedition will take place June 21-30, 2005. Once again, the Seacology group will stay at the beautiful Jean Michel Cousteau Fiji Resort (www.fijiresort.com). While in Fiji, Seacology expedition participants will have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to visit remote Fijian villages for the official opening of Seacology projects. For more information regarding this incredible trip, please contact the Seacology office (Tel: 510-559-3505 or email: islands@seacology.org).

Photo credit (all): Atu Rasea.

Lemurs, Orchids and Geckos: Seacology Visits Madagascar



In April 2004, a Seacology expedition traveled to the Indian Ocean island of Madagascar to visit the Seacology-supported new park being created at Mt. Angavokely. Known as the "Orchid Mountain," it is located 15 miles outside the capital city of Antananarivo and is home to over 120 species of rare and endangered orchids. One of the last remaining tracts of high-altitude rainforest in all of Madagascar, the area is an important watershed for three local communities totaling over 20,000 inhabitants. Seacology is working with the Malagasy environmental organization ARCVERT, faculty from the University of Antananarivo and Uppsala University, and the Service des Stations Forestieres to establish a 1,717-acre national park.

The expedition visited the project site at Mt. Angavokely, and received a tour of the park guided by project coordinator and 2003 Seacology Prize recipient Elisabeth Rabakonandrianina. Also in attendance were local youth who have completed the voluntary park guide training program, as well as members of the participating volunteer organization ARCVERT. The group was treated to a traditional Hauts Plateaux (Highlands) song and dance performance. The group also visited several other nature reserves and parks throughout Madagascar including Nosy Mangabe Special Reserve, a 1,285-acre island off Madagascar's east coast, and the dryland deciduous forests of the country's sunny west coast.

Above right: Local youth who have completed the voluntary park guide training program with Dr. Rabakonandrianina (far right) stand in front of the park office (photo credit: Karen Peterson). Below: Seacology Fellow Tamako Kishimoto (left) and Seacology Board Member Matsumo Kuhara Patrick (right) stand on the flank of Mt. Angavokely (photo credit: Masayuki Kishimoto). Above inset: A leaf-tail gecko blends in perfectly with its surroundings on the island of Nosy Mangabe (photo credit: Karen Peterson).



Seacology 2005 China Expedition Announced!

We are pleased to announce Seacology's first expedition to China, which will take place from April 9–April 20, 2005. China's largest island, Hainan, is home to the world's most endangered primate, the Hainan Gibbon. Members of the expedition will visit the Bawangling Reserve, where the remaining gibbons live. Seacology has launched a project with the Zoological Society of Shanghai to underwrite the costs of scholarships for all 200 primary school age children in the four villages surrounding the reserve. In exchange, the villagers have agreed to forego non-sustainable exploitation of the reserve. Instead, they will pursue alternatives such as bee farming, production of handicrafts and growing medicinal herbs.

Other stops on this fascinating trip include Shanghai, Beijing and Xi'an. The price for this trip is \$4,465 per person based on double occupancy with a single supplement of \$875 per person. The price will be increased by \$500 if less than 10 people sign up. This price does not include international airfare. A \$1,000 donation to Seacology is requested from participants who are not Seacology Board Members or Fellows.

For more information, contact Seacology Executive Director Duane Silverstein (Tel: 510-559-3505 or email duane@seacology.org).

North Sulawesi, Indonesia EcoReef Installation Complete

Bunaken Marine Park, a 89,000-hectare park in the waters off Sulawesi, Indonesia, is one of the world's top dive destinations. Unfortunately, before the marine park was established, some of the area's coral reefs were reduced to rubble by fishermen throwing bombs into the water, then harvesting the fish that floated to the surface. With Seacology's assistance, in January 2004 Manado Tua villagers installed EcoReef modules, snowflake-shaped ceramic modules that are designed to mimic branching corals, providing shelter to fish and a surface for larval corals to build a new reef. In return, villagers have expanded their current no-take zones to include five acres of reef containing the modules.

In August 2004, another EcoReef installation took place at Alung Benoa Village off Bunaken Island. The villagers worked hard to assemble the modules, and most importantly, have given up their traditional fishing rights in the EcoReef areas and will enforce new no-fishing rules. Both the Manado Tua and Alung Benoa installations were coordinated by Seacology field representative Dr. Mark Erdmann with the assistance of the North Sulawesi Watersports Association. The Alung Benoa installation has particular meaning for Dr. Erdmann and his family, as the new EcoReef is dedicated to the memory of his late brother Stephen, who had dived the region many times before his untimely death.

After the Alung Benoa installation, a Seacology delegation visited Manado Tua to mark the official opening of the EcoReef reserve. The Energy Secretary of the Philippines, the Honorable Vincent Perez, Jr., attended the ceremony, as the Philippines will be the site for the next Seacology-funded EcoReef installation and marine reserve. Divers inspected the EcoReef installation and saw that in just six months, corals were already starting the slow process of making a comeback, and several species of fish were seen in the area.

Right: Alung Benoa villagers assemble the ceramic modules. Below left: Villagers and volunteers carry assembled EcoReef modules to the water. Below right: Project coordinator Dr. Mark Erdmann lowers one of the EcoReef modules into position. (Photo credits: Cary Yany.)



Malaysian Conservationist to Receive 2004 Seacology Prize



Seacology is pleased to announce that Mr. Adrian Lasimbang of Borneo, Malaysia will be awarded the 2004 Seacology Prize for his outstanding work to organize communities and coordinate alternative energy projects in his native Borneo, Malaysia. 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. Mr. Lasimbang will be awarded the \$5,000 Prize at a ceremony in San Francisco on October 12, 2004.

Mr. Lasimbang is the Coordinator for the Community Resource Management Program of Partners of Community Organizations (PACOS Trust). As a self-taught engineer with a great love of nature and local communities of his native Sabah, he has spent his career organizing rural communities to develop their own resource management plans.

Over the past three years, Adrian has become the lead coordinator and facilitator of microhydro electricity implementation in three indigenous communities in Sarawak and Sabah. Working with U.S.-based organizations the Borneo Project and Green Empowerment, as well as community and environmental organizations within Malaysia, Mr. Lasimbang has successfully combined cutting

edge appropriate technology with village decision making, international networking, and successful negotiations to protect remaining rainforests and watersheds.

"I am truly honored for being chosen to receive the Seacology Prize for 2004," said Lasimbang. "This is a great achievement for me personally and also a great recognition to our organization's work with indigenous communities and conservation in Borneo... My late father said, 'if we don't do it ourselves, who else will do it for us?' These words have always inspired us to work with our community and I hope it will do the same to others."

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 regarding Mr. Lasimbang or the October 12 ceremony in San Francisco, please contact the Seacology office (Tel: 510-559-3505 or email islands@seacology.org).

Seacology Project Update: Protection of Cat Ba Langurs, Vietnam

In November 2002, Seacology began support for a langur-guarding program, instituted by the Zoological Society for the Conservation of Species and Populations (ZSCSP), whereby local residents are in charge of guarding particular subpopulations against illegal poaching. Since Seacology started funding the program, there has been a 20 percent increase in the Cat Ba Langur population, which is very significant because there was a substantial decrease in the population for each of the preceding 20 years. In November 2003, Seacology funded the purchase of a fast boat to enhance the guardians' ability to protect the langurs.

Participation by local families in the langur guardian program has continued to increase, allowing for a wider patrol area beyond the Cat Ba National Park boundaries and into the more rugged areas of the surrounding fjords. Park officials expected to see another Cat Ba Langur population increase during the second birth peak time this past July and August. (Photo credit: ZSCSP.)





2009 Hopkins Street
Berkeley, CA 94707 USA

NONPROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
BERKELEY CA
PERMIT #1324

Printed on 100 percent post-consumer waste recycled paper using soy-based inks.

Seacology Project Update: Kendhoo, Maldives School Completed

What was a sandy foundation site in early 2004 (below) is now a brand new preschool on the island of Kendhoo in the Indian Ocean. Eight years ago the government of the Maldives had the foresight to impose a ban on the catching of turtles in Maldivian waters. However, this ban did not cover the harvesting of eggs from the highly endangered sea turtles. Seacology, in cooperation with the Four Seasons Resort, provided a preschool for the island of Kendhoo in return for a ban on the taking of turtle eggs.

The school was completed and dedicated in June, when representatives from the Four Seasons Resort traveled to Kendhoo to officially hand over the school to the people of the island. The turtle egg ban is holding well, and the Kendhoo villagers continue to express their full support for sea turtle protection. *(Photo credits: Four Seasons Resort Maldives.)*



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.