

# Seacology

Saving the World, One Island at a Time

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## Seacology Group Visits Madagascar Projects



Above: A group of children in front of the Seacology-funded school in Mongoro, Madagascar. (Photo credit: Duane Silverstein.) Below right: A Madagascar chameleon, one of many unique wildlife species encountered by the Seacology group. (Photo credit: Kathryn Fox Winokur.)

In May 2008 a Seacology expedition visited three project sites in Madagascar. The first stop was the remote southern Madagascar region of Saint Luce, home of the Manafiafy Forest, one of the last remaining stands of littoral (coastal) forest in the country.

The area is home to critically endangered palms, birds and the rare brown-collared lemur. One of Madagascar's many endangered species, a palm called *Dyopsis santelucei*, had a population of just 60 mature trees in 2004. Seacology provided funding to a local NGO, Azafady, to establish a nursery where 3,000 seedlings of this endangered palm tree are now thriving.

The next stop was the Mangoro region of Madagascar. Because of hunting, uncontrolled fires and logging, many roosts of the Madagascar Flying Fox, a large fruit bat, have disappeared. In a project coordinated by our local partner organization, ACCE, Seacology funded the construction and renovation of seven schools. In exchange, local villages have agreed to protect remaining forest fragments which are home to 4,000 of these bats, important pollinators of the rainforest.

Our final project visit was to Mt. Angavokely. Seacology's first project in Madagascar was to assist in the establishment of a 1,717-acre protected area on "Orchid Mountain," one of the last remaining tracts of high-

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Some of the trees were over 450 years old. We rejoiced in this small eden - one of only a few primeval beech forests in the world - which is just a five hour drive from Tokyo.

In Berlin, I was thrilled with Seacology Germany's unique approach to carbon offsets. They offer island villages state-of-the-art solar panels to replace polluting diesel generators in return for habitat conservation. The tons of carbon that would otherwise have been released to the atmosphere are then available to offset vehicles of donors. Their bilingual web site ([www.seacology.de](http://www.seacology.de)) asks for your vehicle's make, model and miles driven, and then provides a price for offsetting the carbon footprint. My wife Barbara was delighted to totally offset her Toyota hybrid through a modest contribution, particularly since 100 percent of the funds go directly to the solar projects with no deductions for overhead or administrative costs. (For more information on the Seacology U.S. Carbon Offset Program, please see page 7 of this newsletter.)

Because of your generosity, Seacology is making a difference on islands throughout the world. Thank you for your gifts which preserve island environments and protect indigenous cultures. Thank you for helping Seacology save the world one island at a time.

Paul Alan Cox, Chairman

*Right: A student in Kawangkoan Village, North Sulawesi, Indonesia washes his hands at a new sink at his elementary school. The community has agreed to protect 75 acres of their rainforest as a permanent no-take reserve. In return for this commitment, Seacology funded the badly-needed reconstruction of the village elementary school, and new school furnishings. (Photo credit: Arnaz Mehta.)*



Good ideas travel quickly across the world. This certainly is the case with Seacology as our win-win approach to conservation continues to garner international acclaim. Our approach is straightforward: island villagers set aside a forest or coral reef in return for Seacology building a school, medical clinic, water supply or other improvement. This simple idea has gained traction on 97 different islands in 44 nations throughout the globe.

This past summer, I took some vacation time from my medical research position to visit both Seacology Japan and Seacology Germany. I first traveled by bus to Tademi in northern Honshu with Seacology Japan supporters. There we visited an ancient beech forest that 2007 Seacology Prize winner Mr. Kokichi Kariya had fought for decades to protect from logging. A hush fell over the group as we walked through a beautiful stream flowing on solid rock beneath these ancient trees.



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## Seacology Group Visits Madagascar Projects *(continued from page 1)*

altitude rainforest in all of Madagascar. Located just 22 kilometers from the capital city of Antananarivo, the mountain is home to approximately 120 rare and endangered orchid species. The forest is an important watershed for three local communities totaling over 20,000 inhabitants.

Project coordinator and 2003 Seacology Prize recipient Dr. Elisabeth Rabakonandrianina has worked with two of the nearby villages to produce an alternative charcoal that uses rice byproducts instead of wood. Cutting of wood for charcoal production is a primary cause of the rampant deforestation that has taken place throughout Madagascar. Portable solar stoves are also being introduced to the villages.

In addition to our project visits we had many opportunities to observe up close and personal many of the endemic and endangered species - including lemurs, chameleons and countless orchids - for which Madagascar is famous.

Each of our three project visits were captured on video by Seacology volunteer Jake Hart. To view these short videos please visit [www.youtube.com/user/Seacology](http://www.youtube.com/user/Seacology).

*Right: Seedlings of the endangered palm *Dyopsis saintelucei* grow in a Seacology-funded nursery in the Manafiafy Forest, Madagascar. (Photo credit: Susan Racanelli.) Below: Seacology Executive Director Duane Silverstein was asked to make a speech, but in true Seacology style, he opted for a different form of entertainment. (Photo credit: Daniel Grunberg.)*



### Seacology Featured in Music Video

Seacology's efforts to preserve the fragile biodiversity of islands and the populations that dwell upon them have been featured in "What About Now," the new music video from Daughtry. The empathetic video, which features heart-wrenching images of human suffering along with glimpses of nonprofits that are actually doing something about it, recently had its debut on mtv.com.

"What About Now" is a clarion call from Daughtry, an American Music Award-winning, Grammy-nominated rock band whose founder, Chris Daughtry, was an American Idol finalist in 2006. Executive Director Duane Silverstein and Seacology are featured along with the founders of nonprofit organizations such as Keep a Child Alive, Room to Read and the Insight Prison Project. With its focused mission, Seacology is an apt choice for Daughtry in a video with the urgency of "What About Now." More than 600 million people, or 10% of the world's population, inhabit islands. Meanwhile, according to the recent Global Species Assessment Report from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, of all recorded species extinctions since 1500 A.D., 62% of mammal, 88% of bird, 54% of amphibian, 86% of reptile and 68% of mollusk extinctions were island species.

Watch the video at [www.youtube.com/user/Seacology](http://www.youtube.com/user/Seacology).

## Seacology Board of Directors Approves New Island Projects

The following projects were approved by Seacology's Board of Directors at their June 9, 2008 meeting:

**AMERICAN SAMOA, Pago Pago Village Phase 3** - Eradicate the dense stands of the destructive invasive tree (*Falcataria moluccana*), adjacent to the National Park areas of American Samoa. \*

**INDONESIA, Umbu Langang Village, Sumba Island** - Fresh-water system in support of the protection of 7,414 acres of rain-forest and savannah for a minimum duration of 10 years. \*

**KENYA, Wasini Island** - Rehabilitation and construction of water collection and storage tanks in exchange for the protection of 1,236 acres of mangrove forests for a minimum of 10 years. \*

**PHILIPPINES, Barangay New Bulatukan, Municipality of Malasila, North Cotabato, Mindanao Island** - Micro-hydro power generator and fruit tree nursery in support of the protection of 744 acres of watershed forest for a duration of 30 years.

**PHILIPPINES, Palau Island** - Renovation of Multi-Purpose Hall in exchange for the establishment of a 5,369-acre forest reserve for a duration of 20 years.

**TUVALU, Nanumea Atoll** - Refurbishment of a handicraft center and the establishment of a two-acre lagoon-based mangrove nursery/reserve and the planting of 1,000 mangrove seedlings along a one kilometer (.62 mile) coastline for a duration of 10 years.

**YAP, Maaq Village** - Construction of causeway culverts and extension of the household water system in exchange for a 35-acre pristine mangrove sanctuary as a no-take area in perpetuity.

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



Above: Young women on Wasini Island, Kenya's mangrove walkway. (Photo credit: Dishon Murage.) Below: The Maaq Village, Yap men's house. (Photo credit: Karen Peterson.)



## Seacology Welcomes New Field Representatives in Three Regions



*Dishon Murage.*

Seacology's success in identifying and monitoring island projects that both protect precious environments and benefit local communities lies with our wonderful field representatives. They 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 welcome our first-ever field representatives in three regions: East Africa, Madagascar and French Polynesia.

Dishon Lionel Murage is our new East Africa field representative. He has a Master's degree in Zoology from the University of Nairobi, Kenya and his professional experiences have included extensive work with local communities to promote conservation and sustainable livelihoods, currently with the East African Wildlife Society.

Didi Rakotondratsima has just been retained as our field representative for Madagascar. Didi speaks French, English and Malagasy. He is currently a tour guide and travels frequently throughout Madagascar. Didi's keen interest in the environment should serve him well as Seacology's field representative in one of the world's most ecologically significant island nations.

We are also pleased to announce that Teurumeriariki Hinano Teavai-Murphy has just been retained as our field representative for French Polynesia. Hinano, who is fluent in Tahitian, English and French, is the associate director of the UC Berkeley Gump Research Station on the island of Moorea. Hinano is also president of Te Pu Atitia, a local nonprofit organization with the dual purposes of preserving the environment and culture of French Polynesia.



Welcome to the Seacology team, Dishon, Didi and Hinano!



*Above: Didi Rakotondratsima. Left: Hinano Teavai-Murphy.*

## Seacology Group Visits Fiji Projects, Opens New Kindergarten and Community Center



*Above: Seacology visitors wrap villagers in cloth, a traditional gift of gratitude for hosting the group. Trip participants also joined villagers in dancing and a traditional kava ceremony. Right: The Seacology group and Nukubalavu villagers in front of the community's new Seacology-funded preschool. (Photo credits: Louise Gund.)*

In August 2008, a Seacology group traveled to Fiji to open two new projects. Seacology funded construction of a preschool building in exchange for the creation of a 25,600-acre marine reserve for a duration of 20 years in the community of Nukubalavu in Savusavu on Vanua Levu Island. In Ketei Village, also located in Savusavu on Vanua Levu Island, Seacology funded the construction of a community center in exchange for the creation of a 900-acre forest reserve for a duration of 20 years. This year's expedition was Seacology's sixth group visit to Fiji. Once again, the Jean Michel Cousteau Fiji Island Resort was "home base" to the group, and site visits to Nukubalavu and Ketei made for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to meet island villagers and see the impact of Seacology's projects firsthand.



## Species-ology! Spotlight on: The Dugong

By Seacology Development Director Susan Racanelli.

In our new series showcasing island species in crisis, we paid homage last spring to an intriguing terrestrial animal, the endangered Greater Bamboo Lemur of Madagascar. This time we'd like to take a dip into the crystal waters that surround the world's islands to illuminate a particularly charismatic aquatic species: the dugong.

This large vegetarian mammal floats effortlessly in the subtropical waters of nearly 40 countries between East Africa and Vanuatu, including the Red Sea, the Indian Ocean, and the Pacific Ocean. Dugongs are related to manatees and are similar in appearance and behavior, except for the dugong's whale-like fluked tail. Amazingly, both are related to the elephant, though not at all similar to their terrestrial kin in either appearance or behavior.

Dugongs, also known as "sea cows," swim in shallow waters where they find protection from large waves and storms. They surface only to breathe and never appear on land. These odd-shaped creatures can stay underwater for six minutes

Right: Dugongs are "seagrass specialists," making their populations especially sensitive to habitat loss.



before surfacing, and sometimes breathe by "standing" on their tails with their heads above water. They graze on underwater seagrasses day and night, rooting with their bristled sensitive snouts and chomping them with their rough lips. Reaching up to 10 feet in length, the dugong can weigh almost 1,200 pounds. They have a thick layer of fat, giving them a comically rotund appearance, and small paddle-like flippers used to steer while swimming. Dugongs undulate their broad flat tails up and down, propelling them in a hypnotically relaxed fashion through the warm shallow seas.

Dugongs are listed as endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act and as vulnerable by the World Conservation Union. The creatures have declined in many parts of their range, especially along the coasts of East Africa and India, where they are at high risk of extinction. Several factors are at play in this decline, including their slow rate of birth; females only give birth to a single calf every three to seven years. The dugong's reproduction is painfully sensitive to the availability of sea grass. When dugongs do not have enough to eat they delay breeding, making habitat conservation a critical issue.

Further causes of the dugong's decline are gill netting (where they get caught and drown), subsistence hunting, human settlement (including boating deaths) and agricultural pollution which destroys their food source, seagrass. Additionally, dugongs are so big, placid and slow-moving that it is nearly impossible for them to escape any threats that might confront them. Being hefty animals, however, only large sharks, saltwater crocodiles and orcas are a danger other than humans. Frightened adults make a whistling sound and calves have a bleating cry.

The dugong is a culturally-beloved animal on many islands globally, and Seacology is addressing the plight of this vanishing species. In particular, our projects on the islands off the western coast of Thailand, on Palawan Island in the Philippines (see below), and on Nguna and Pele Islands in Vanuatu specifically preserve dugong habitat. However, all of our island projects with marine protected areas cradling the shallows around the Earth's islands benefit this serene aquatic creature.

To date, Seacology has protected nearly two million acres of marine ecosystem, vital to the survival of this rare and gentle giant.

### Seacology Project Update: Philippines

In June 2008, Seacology Senior Program Officer Karen Peterson and Seacology Philippines Field Representative Ferdie Marcelo visited three Seacology project sites on the island of Palawan, including a coral reef and mangrove protection project for the communities of Sibaltan, New Ibajay, Mabini and Villa Paz near the city of El Nido.

These communities have agreed to establish a 470-acre coral reef marine protected area and a 2,410-acre mangrove forest reserve in exchange for Seacology providing funds for two guardhouses and patrol boats to protect the reserve, as well as equipment for a fledgling cashew industry. This will provide an alternative income source for local people who will no longer fish in the reserve. The mangroves and reef are particularly important, as they are home to dugongs as well as Green, Hawksbill and Olive Ridley Turtles.

Ferdie and Karen, along with staff of project partner the El Nido Foundation, met with the communities to discuss details of the pending conservation agreement. They then toured the marine reserve area and saw abundant marine life, though also heard in the distance one of the most dire threats to coral: dynamite fishing blasts. The communities are committed to not letting this destructive practice harm their coral reef. The four communities hope to finalize their comprehensive conservation agreement by the end of 2008.



Above: Seacology Senior Program Officer Karen Peterson (bottom center), community members and El Nido Foundation representatives tour the waters a proposed marine reserve in the El Nido region, Palawan, the Philippines in June 2008. (Photo credit: El Nido Foundation.)

## 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 [ellen@seacology.org](mailto:ellen@seacology.org), or by phone at 510/559-3505, ext. 307.

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

Frank W. and Margaret B. Adelstein Fund  
(deceased)  
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## Seacology Carbon Offset News!

### *Seacology's New Carbon Offset Fund*

As you know, global warming is a serious threat to the earth's environment. If you'd like to do something tangible about this environmental challenge, you can offset your own car's emissions. Seacology now offers a program where, for \$40.00, you will receive a special sticker (pictured above) for your automobile.

One hundred percent of your donation will go to Seacology's Carbon Offset Fund, which supports island projects dedicated specifically to renewable energy or reforestation, offsetting greenhouse gases caused by fossil fuels. In particular, carbon emissions present an acute threat to coral reefs which can only survive in limited temperature ranges and are damaged by additional infusions of fresh water created by melting ice caps. Instructions for acquiring one of Seacology's carbon offset stickers can be found at [www.seacologycarbonoffset.org](http://www.seacologycarbonoffset.org).

### *Seacology Germany Launches Landmark Contract to Support Carbon Offset Projects*

Taking a course in driving safety is mandatory for Germans in order to keep their driver's licenses current, so driving safety schools are located throughout the country. A new state-of-the-art facility near Berlin, the Linthe driving safety center, attracts 50,000 drivers per year. Seacology's fledgling European affiliate, Seacology Germany, recently signed a contract with Linthe to offset the carbon emissions that occur during these important driving tests. Philipp Dressel (managing director of the General German Automobile Association driving safety center) and Peter Pistor (president of Seacology Germany) signed the contract on July 11, 2008.

For each completed training session, Linthe donates 1.60 Euro to Seacology's environmental fund. This year the donation will fund development of a solar plant in the Philippine fishing village of Manamoc, where three schools will be able to replace cost-intensive and environmentally harmful diesel generators. In exchange for the gift of solar power, the community has committed to set aside a marine-protected area of 267 acres and ban all dynamite fishing. The result is a win-win for the environment: reduction in carbon emissions from diesel generators and protection of threatened marine habitats and species.

We are very grateful to Seacology Germany and the General German Automobile Association for their commitment to the carbon offset program, and to all of the people involved in making this innovative transaction possible.



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Seacology Projects Have Saved:	Seacology Has Built or Funded:
<b>163,811</b> acres of island terrestrial habitat	<b>85</b> schools, community centers, water systems and other critically needed facilities
<b>1,808,452</b> acres of coral reef and other marine habitat	<b>30</b> 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.