

Seacology

Saving the World, One Island at a Time

Volume 9, Number 1

Spring Edition April 2007

Seacology Group Visits Projects in Maldives and Andaman Islands



In October 2006, a group of Seacology board members and donors visited several projects in the Indian Ocean region. In the Andaman Islands, schoolchildren from the Kendhoo kindergarten, funded in exchange for an agreement banning the collection of turtle eggs, greeted visitors (left). The devastating tsunami of December 26, 2004 caused moderate damage to the school's doors and principal's office, and destroyed all books and furnishings. The Seacology Tsunami Relief Fund paid for their repairs and replacement. The Tsunami Relief Fund also provided Kendhoo with a water desalinization plant (see photo page 3).

Expedition members then traveled to the Maldiv Islands. On Havelock Island, Seacology has funded the construction of an environmental education center and plastic recycling program in exchange for the 2,175-acre no-take marine reserve. The group took part in the groundbreaking ceremony for the event, and participated in a beach cleanup with local schoolchildren.

Please see photos of the Seacology group visiting other projects on the Maldives and Andamans on page 3.

Left: Children from the Kendhoo kindergarten greet members of the Seacology group. (Photo credit: Duane Silverstein.) Below: Seacology Board Member Cindy Troop (left) and donor Wendy Barels (right) unveil the sign for the Havelock Island environmental education center. (Photo credit: Hoslo Jiwa.)

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Paul Cox addresses Falealupo villagers and Seacology's Japanese supporters during a July 2006 expedition to Samoa. Falealupo is home to Seacology's first project, the Falealupo Rainforest School and canopy walkway. (Photo credit: Akemi Chiba.)

Throughout the world, human populations in coastal areas are rapidly expanding, with shrimp farms, sand mining, housing and other developments taking place on filled lands formerly occupied by mangroves and seagrasses. The interface between the land and sea is highly endangered. Seacology believes that indigenous peoples on islands are often in the best possible position to protect these precious ecological interfaces.

In this newsletter, you will read how Seacology's partnerships with islanders from Tanzania to Fiji have resulted in positive steps to protect terrestrial and marine areas. Thank you so much for your gifts which support Seacology's efforts to save the world, one island at a time.

Paul Alan Cox
Chairman

Sometimes I am asked what "Seacology" means. This term - coined by Bill Marré - combines both terrestrial and marine ecology to emphasize our charity's focus on conservation of oceanic islands. But the name "Seacology" also alludes to our interest in protecting the entire zone between land and sea, including forests, mangroves, seagrasses and coral reefs.

As an ethnobotanist, I was taught by Polynesian healers that every organism on land has its counterpart in the sea. I knew, of course, that some fish and eel species live in freshwater but return to breed in the sea, and that sea turtles lay their eggs on the beach before returning to their marine life. But the Polynesian belief is deeper - they believe the health of the marine ecosystem is inexorably linked to the health of the forests, and that the health of the forests is linked to that of the reefs.

Scientifically, we now know that Polynesians are right. The habitat created by mangrove roots and seagrass plants in the intertidal areas is a major breeding ground for marine invertebrates, while the silt from deforested areas can kill coral reefs. In turn, the inland areas are protected by their mangrove and seagrass communities. In the Asian tsunami of Dec. 26, 2004, villages that had protected their mangroves suffered less damage from the terrible waves.



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Right: A hand-carved Balinese gamelon (musical instrument) base. In the small village of Sarinbuana, Bali, Indonesia, Seacology funded the construction of a music/dance/library building, instruments and equipment, as well as a stepping-stone pathway and signage leading to an important temple, in exchange for the establishment of a permanent 1,975-acre forest preserve. (Photo credit: Arnaz Mehta.)

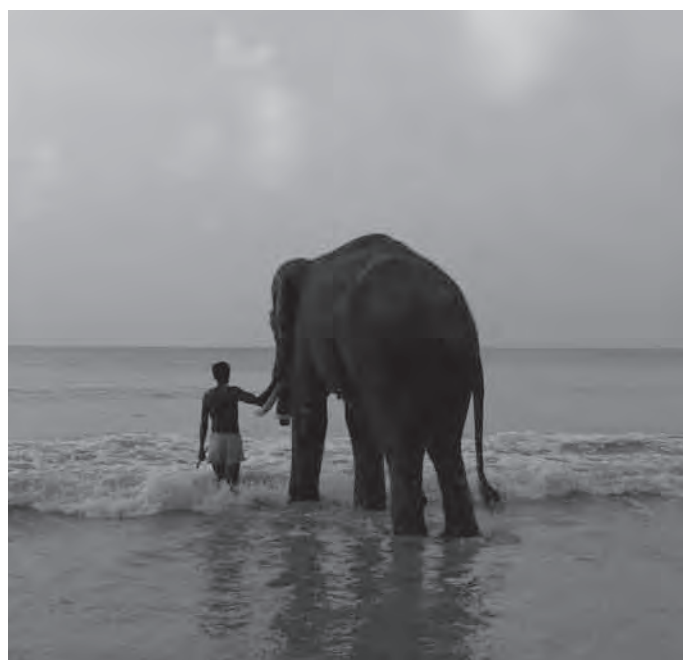


Seacology Group Visits Projects in Maldives and Andaman Islands (continued from cover)

Though the Maldivian Islands were spared much of the devastation of the December 26, 2004 Indian Ocean-region tsunami, salt water washed over these low-lying islands, rendering wells brackish and killing plant life. As part of Seacology's Tsunami Relief Fund efforts, a water desalinization plant was constructed for the village of Kendhoo. Maintenance and repairs to the plant have been conducted by the staff of the Four Seasons Resort. Water from the plant is primarily being used during the dry season. At right, in front of the desalinization plant Seacology Board Member Marsha Williams takes part in a traditional ceremony where honored guests take turns hitting a coconut until it cracks open. (Photo credit: Duane Silverstein.)

In the remote Andaman Islands, Seacology has assisted the Coastal Poor Development Action Network (COPDANET) by funding a mangrove resource center and restoration program at Kadakachang Village. Below, Seacology Executive Director Duane Silverstein plants a mangrove at the center. (Photo credit: Hoslo Jiwa.) Mangroves provide vital habitat, acting as fish "nurseries" and protecting coastline. Communities with intact mangrove forests experienced markedly reduced damage from the December 2004 tsunami. On Havelock Island, Seacology has funded an environmental education center and plastic recycling program in exchange for the establishment of a 2,175-acre no-take marine reserve. At lower right, an elephant enters the waters of the newly-created Havelock marine reserve. (Photo credit: Richard Troop.)

After the devastating December 26, 2004 tsunami, Seacology's Tsunami Relief Fund repaired damages to the Kadakachang Mangrove Resource Centre, as well as provided boats, chickens, fishing nets, sewing machines and goats to sustain livelihoods in the hard-struck region.



Get Seacology in your Inbox!

Seacology is proud to announce the launch of a new e-newsletter. Every month or so, we will send out an update regarding the latest Seacology happenings, project news, etc. If you wish to receive this e-newsletter, please send an email to newsletter@seacology.org with "subscribe" in the subject line. You can also sign up via Seacology's website: <http://www.seacology.org/news/index.cfm>. You may opt out at any time, and we will never share your email address.

Seacology Projects: Saving Island Habitats and Species



A Talaud kingfisher in a Seacology-supported 60,958-acre forest reserve on Karakelang Island, Indonesia. In cooperation with Birdlife Indonesia and in support of their commitments to protecting the forest for a minimum duration of 20 years, Seacology provided Ensem Village with a medical clinic, and Niampak Village with a kindergarten. (Photo credit: Birdlife Indonesia.)

The Seacology newsletter typically features progress reports on our island projects; construction of schools or community centers, water flowing from a Seacology-funded system, etc. However, all these vital facilities and services have one thing in common: they are provided to island communities in exchange for their commitment to conserving their precious environments. On this page we show you some of the beautiful habitats that are protected thanks to the community-led marine and terrestrial reserves created by Seacology projects. As of this writing, Seacology projects have helped to protect millions of acres of island terrestrial and marine habitat throughout the world.



Above: Springtime vegetation thrives on Madeira's Pico de Arreiro. The North Atlantic island of Madeira, which was first settled in the 15th century, has about 250,000 inhabitants. Most live in the island's capital of Funchal, a city spread out in amphitheatre-style fashion from a low-lying bay area to ever-steeper hillsides. Deforestation caused by livestock grazing has led to serious flooding problems, and desertification and invasive species are an ever-growing threat to the island. Seacology has provided support for the reforestation of Pico de Arreiro, which at 5,600 feet is the highest mountain of the 2,471-acre Ecological Park of Funchal. The project is being carried out by a small local organization, Associação dos Amigos do Parque Ecológico do Funchal, which engages local street children and orphans in tree plantings and other fun ecological activities. (Photo credit: Raimundo Quintal.)



Above: The islets of Tres Marias, El Nido, Palawan Province, the Philippines. The marine area surrounding these uninhabited islands is part of El Nido's community fishing ground, and is also popular with recreational divers. In response to the area's declining fish populations and degraded coral reef, 10 El Nido villages are establishing no-take zones totaling approximately 2,000 acres. Working with the El Nido Foundation, Seacology has provided 600 EcoReef modules to facilitate reef restoration. Above, EcoReef modules assembled by community volunteers await installation. (Photo credit: El Nido Foundation.)

Below: The pristine waters off Chumbe Island, Tanzania, where Seacology has funded mooring buoys for the 96-acre Chumbe Island Reef Sanctuary. The sanctuary is the only privately managed marine protected area in this part of the world. A Seacology expedition visited the reserve in March 2007. (Photo credit: Hal Thompson.)



Seacology Project Update: Mangoro Region, Madagascar



Above: Local government officials and project coordinators tour the recently-completed Antanambony School. At right, children from the village of Sakalava gather together to greet visitors at the November 2006 dedication ceremony for their new school. (Photo credits: Dr. Richard Jenkins.)



Because of hunting for bushmeat, uncontrolled fires and logging, many roosts of the Madagascar Flying Fox, which are important pollinators, have disappeared. In Madagascar's Mangoro Region, a close network of 12 small forest fragments holds up to 4,000 of these bats. Seven nearby communities are working with local organizations Arongam-panihy - Culture, Communication and Environment (ACCE), and Lamin'asa Fiarovana Ramanavy sy Fanigy to implement a *dina*, or social contract, to protect the roosts. In exchange for this agreement, Seacology is providing funding for badly-needed repairs to each of the seven community municipal offices and 11 primary schools near the roosts. Through a series of local meetings with the representatives of seven communities and local governments, the *dinas* to protect the bats and forests have been developed, discussed and signed. The documents have been endorsed by local legal authorities and field trips have been made to the communities to announce the new *dinas*. In November, a dedication ceremony was held for the completed Antanambony and Sakalava schools. Six other schools are in the process of being repaired. Three schools are behind schedule due to land use disputes and preparation of materials, but are expected to begin construction in early 2007.



Seacology Project Update: Teling Village, Indonesia

In many of the biologically and culturally rich island regions where Seacology works, basic needs such as clean water and sanitation are often lacking. Seacology is different than other organizations in that we provide medical clinics, schools, wells, washrooms or other facilities based on what the communities themselves identify as their most critical need. In exchange, the communities agree to protect some aspect of their environment that they have identified as most threatened.

Seacology's "win-win" strategy has led to the protection of 98,507 acres of island terrestrial habitat and 1,741,062 acres of coral reef and other marine habitat. In exchange, 57 schools, community centers, water delivery systems and other critically needed facilities have been provided for island communities, as well as 23 scholarship programs, vital medical services and supplies, and other crucial support.

The villages of Kumu, Teling, Poopoh and Pinasungkulan on Indonesia's Sulawesi Island have together declared 1,065 acres of their forests as protected. This contiguous reserve is home to several rare and endangered bird species. To acknowledge these communities' commitment to conservation, Seacology has provided critically needed infrastructure in each village. At left, the chief of Teling Village inspects a new Seacology-funded water tap. (Photo credit: Arnaz Mehta.)



Seacology Board of Directors Approves New Island Projects

The following projects were approved by Seacology's Board of Directors at their January 15, 2007 meeting. For more information about these projects, please visit www.seacology.org/projects/index.html:

AMERICAN SAMOA, Fagasa Village, Tutuila Island - Second phase to eradicate the remaining dense stands of the destructive invasive tree *Falcataria moluccana* in the National Park of American Samoa (NPSA). *

COOK ISLANDS, Atiu Island - Construction of a community geriatric housing ward in exchange for the establishment of a 297-acre wildlife sanctuary on Takutea Island, and a restricted fishing zone extending five miles from the island's shores, both for a duration of 20 years. *

FIJI, Ketei Village, Savusavu, Vanua Levu Island - Construction of a community center in exchange for the creation of a 900-acre forest reserve for a duration of 20 years. *

FIJI, Nukubalavu Village, Savusavu, Vanua Levu Island - Construction of a preschool building in exchange for the creation of a 25,600-acre marine reserve for a duration of 20 years.

INDONESIA, Ensem Village, Karakelang Island, Talaud Archipelago - Medical clinic in support of a 60,958-acre rainforest reserve for a minimum duration of 20 years. *



A booby chick on Takutea Island, Cook Islands. (Photo: Allan Tuara.)



An aerial view of Lake Ngardok, Palau. (Photo credit: Palau Conservation Society.)

INDONESIA, Niampak Village, Karakelang Island - Kindergarten in support of a 60,958-acre rainforest reserve for a minimum duration of 20 years.

PALAU, Melekeok State - Construction of a solar-powered, eco-friendly visitor and education center in support of the 1,236-acre Lake Ngardok Nature Reserve in perpetuity.

PHILIPPINES, Barangay Rizal, Municipality of Magsaysay, Cuyo Island, Northeastern Palawan - Multipurpose building in support of a 247-acre Mangrove Forest Park (185-acre no-take zone) for a minimum duration of 20 years. *

VANUATU, Port Olry Village, Espiritu Santo - Construction of a community hall in exchange for the creation of a 659-acre terrestrial reserve on Dolphin Island for a duration of 20 years. *

VANUATU, Sanoa Village, Tanaliu community, Efate Island - Construction of a community hall in exchange for a 12-plus acre no-take reserve for corals reefs, shells and fish for a minimum duration of 10 years. *

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

Bali Turtle Conservationist Receives 2006 Seacology Prize

At an October 18, 2006 ceremony in San Francisco, California, Ketut Sarjana Putra was awarded the 2006 Seacology Prize for his efforts to protect endangered sea turtles in his native Bali, Indonesia. Ketut worked for 10 years to secure nation-wide legal protection for the sea turtles of Indonesia, lobbying government officials to create a law to protect turtles throughout the country, with an exception made to the island of Bali to allow the capture of 5,000 turtles a year for consumption in Balinese religious ceremonies. After learning that the quota was being exceeded seven-fold, Mr. Putra suggested that turtles could only be used in religious ceremonies with a special permit and recommendation from a Balinese priest; furthermore, he suggested that only Green turtles with a carapace length of less than 60cm length could be used (knowing that juvenile Green turtles are very hard to find). Mr. Putra then worked on a WWF-led team to gently persuade 37 religious leaders in Bali to ban turtle meat from ceremonies. According to Mr. Putra, "I am sure that this is not only for me but for Balinese people and their government who have been working very hard to adopt and implement the true turtle conservation and successfully putting them in the ground."

Right: Ketut Sarjana Putra (center) with Seacology Chair Dr. Paul Cox (left) and President and Seacology Prize sponsor Ken Murdock (right).



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Established in 2005, **The Island Legacy Society** is a program for planned giving that honors those who have included Seacology in their estate plans. You can make a contribution of any amount in a number of ways. Our goal is to make this process as user-friendly as possible; we are here to help you with any questions you might have. Please contact Susan Racanelli, development director, at 510-559-3505 or susan@seacology.org. She can assist you with your membership in the **Island Legacy Society**. By joining, you can ensure the magic and majesty of islands – vibrant coral reefs, tropical rainforests, spectacular marine life, rare bird life, unique wildlife and historical cultures – will endure for future generations.

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| 1,741,062 acres of coral reef and other marine habitat | 23 scholarship programs, vital medical services and supplies, and other crucial support for island communities. |

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