

# Preserving Our Oceans

The



# Way

DUANE SILVERSTEIN

Previous stories for Ocean Geographic described Seacology's "win-win" projects on islands throughout the world. Seacology projects fulfill an island village's tangible needs, such as a school or a fresh water delivery system, in reciprocation for the establishment of a marine or forest reserve.


**O**ur network of 13 field representatives on islands throughout the world, serve as our eyes and ears. Their scope includes sourcing, researching and analyzing potential projects; negotiating agreements with villages and local NGOs, assisting in the implementation and monitoring them after completion. Utilizing our 'bottom-up' approach through the meticulous study of the local conditions and needs by our network of

field representatives ensures relevance and full participation from local stakeholders. This is a key element for the consistent success of our projects.

Seacology currently has field representatives in the Cook Islands, Eastern Africa, Fiji, French Polynesia, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Mexico, Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa and Vanuatu. We are keen to expand our

network of field representatives to other islands throughout the world. These very part-time duties (averaging a few hours of work per week) begin with finding one project per year in their respective islands. Successful field representatives must be comfortable operating in both the western culture and that of their own islands. Other requisites include proficiency in English and the local language; must have lived in their respective island for many years and ideally, are indigenous to that island. If you fit these criteria and live on an island that is not represented by us, please write to us at [islands@Seacology.org](mailto:islands@Seacology.org). We are particularly interested in Thailand, the Caribbean and Latin America but are open to having representatives on any island in the world.

Our projects are funded by a variety of sources including individuals, foundations and corporations. Comparatively a differing feature of Seacology is the support from our international affiliates. We have already established representation in Japan, Germany, England and are in the process of establishing in Norway. These affiliates raise awareness about Seacology's programs and money which they use to underwrite specific projects.

During our recent visit to associates in Tokyo, we learnt of their incredible progress in just two short years; literally propelling us to the forefront of the nascent Japanese environmental movement. This is particularly notable as Japan does not have a strong history of either environmental organizations or organized philanthropy. In fact our associate in Japan is a real trail blazer and is making history even as this edition goes to print. In its short history, Seacology in Japan has already funded projects in Fiji, Palau, Samoa, Seychelles and Vietnam. 



**DUANE SILVERSTEIN MAKING WAVES** with the Seacology team in Tokyo, Japan.