



Members of Seacology's Board of Directors present the 2017 Seacology Prize to Gina Lopez of the Philippines.

A foundation of empathy

Gina Lopez, activist and former Philippines environment secretary, awarded 2017 Seacology Prize

No matter how much money you have, no matter what intellectual or economic theory you have...if it's not based on a deep foundation of caring and empathy, it's just not going to work."

This was the message Gina Lopez gave the crowd after receiving the 2017 Seacology Prize. Fighting back tears, she wondered aloud why she was struggling to maintain her composure, then answered her own question:

"Maybe it's because you are still listening."

Lopez has walked a difficult, sometimes frustrating path as a high-profile environmental activist. Last year she was appointed to the Philippines' highest environmental post, secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, only to have her position quickly revoked by a legislature compromised by mining interests she had angered. The strong environmental protections she put in place during her brief tenure are already at risk.

Lopez' story is quite different from most past Seacology Prize winners; she comes from a privileged background and already has a large

Lopez donates prize money to support Philippines conservation projects

Gina Lopez has decided to donate the \$10,000 included with the Seacology Prize to support several island-based projects, including a sustainable-development project on Kinatarcan, a small, sparsely populated island near Cebu.



national following. But she has spent much of her life working for the Philippines' most vulnerable communities and the country's unique ecosystems, home to some of the highest rates of biodiversity and endemism in the world.

Lopez took the occasion of winning the Seacology Prize to promote ILOVE (Investments in Loving Organizations for Village Economies), a new conservation initiative she founded after her stint as DENR Secretary was abruptly cut short, and compared ILOVE's vision and strategy to Seacology's. She stressed the importance of giving island

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Help Seacology protect parrotfish in Colombia

In early 2018, Seacology will launch a crowdfunding campaign to support our new project on the Colombian island of Providencia.



Visit seacology.org/parrotfish for more details.

New merchandise for donors coming soon

Show your support for Seacology with a new t-shirt, reusable shopping bag, water bottle, or sticker! These items will soon be available to Seacology donors.

For more details, please visit seacology.org/merchandise.



New Save an Acre projects

We invite you to Save an Acre at two new project sites in Malaysia and the Philippines. These low-cost donations, which help protect the habitat of threatened wildlife including **sun bears**, reef fish, and hornbills, can be given in the name of a friend or loved one and make great gifts.

Learn more at seacology.org/saveanacre



*From the Chair***Dear friends,**

All of us present at the Seacology Prize ceremony were deeply moved by the response of 2017 Prize winner Gina Lopez after receiving her award. As noted in this newsletter, Gina Lopez, overcome with emotion, asked aloud why she was struggling to maintain composure, and then said, "Maybe it's because you are still listening."

We have heard similar comments from island conservationists throughout the world. Our secret to success with over 289 schools, medical clinics, and water supplies built in 59 nations is that we carefully listen to indigenous people. Seacology builds community projects in return for agreements with villagers to protect their rain forests, coral reefs, and other precious environments. We do not impose our own initiatives, but instead listen carefully to our indigenous conservation partners so that we meet their needs.

In Sri Lanka, we listened carefully to villagers and national leaders. In response to their input, we have funded the world's first mangrove museum, three major mangrove nurseries, and microloans for 15,000 impoverished coastal women. In return, Sri Lanka is protecting all of their coastal forests, a major conservation achievement with significant implications for slowing global climate change.

Listening and then helping are not only key components of human interactions, but, as Seacology has proven, can achieve crucial conservation outcomes in nations throughout the world. Thank you for joining with us in this important dialogue.

Cordially,



Paul Alan Cox, Ph.D.
Chair, Seacology Board of Directors

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Seacology welcomes...

Leida Buglass *Field Representative, Dominican Republic*

As a native of the Caribbean, Leida has a long track record of working with local people on resources management and land-use projects. She has an MSc in Landscape & Environmental Planning from Germany and over twenty-five years' professional experience in the intergovernmental and not-for-profit sectors working on sustainable and social development issues.



Kathryn Selvidge *Development Director*

Kathryn comes to Seacology with over 18 years of successful development experience. During her nonprofit career she has raised over \$50 million for groups such as The YMCA, The American Lung Association and the American Red Cross. She has worked on all facets of development on both the East and West Coasts of the U.S.

SRI LANKA'S MANGROVES

Construction of new training center under way after project attracts major grant support; mapping and conservation work continues

Two and a half years into Seacology's largest-ever project, our program to protect all of Sri Lanka's mangrove forests continues to make remarkable progress.

As reported in the spring issue of *Island Update*, Seacology was named a winner of the Global Resiliency Partnership's Water Window Challenge in March, yielding almost a million dollars in additional support for the project. With this unanticipated boost in funding, we were able to expand the project to include an additional skills-training facility in Mannar, a northern, majority Tamil district hit particularly hard by the three-decade civil war that ended in 2009. The funding also lets us expand the amount offered through microloans that help disadvantaged Sri Lankan women become entrepreneurs in sustainable trades in exchange for assistance with mangrove conservation.

Work has progressed quickly on the training center, and it is scheduled to officially open in February. When complete, the facility will provide assistance to thousands of women annually.

On July 26, the international conservation community observed the second annual World Mangrove Day, a UNESCO-designated day of action and advocacy for preservation of mangrove ecosystems around the world. The date also marked the first anniversary of the opening of the Seacology-funded mangrove museum in Pambala. It has become a popular destination for local school groups with thousands of visitors in its first year.

Sri Lanka has also made steady



Above: Members of Sudeesa, the Sri Lankan government, and local communities participate in a mangrove planting in September to commemorate the anniversary of the Montreal Protocol, which phased out substances harmful to the ozone layer.



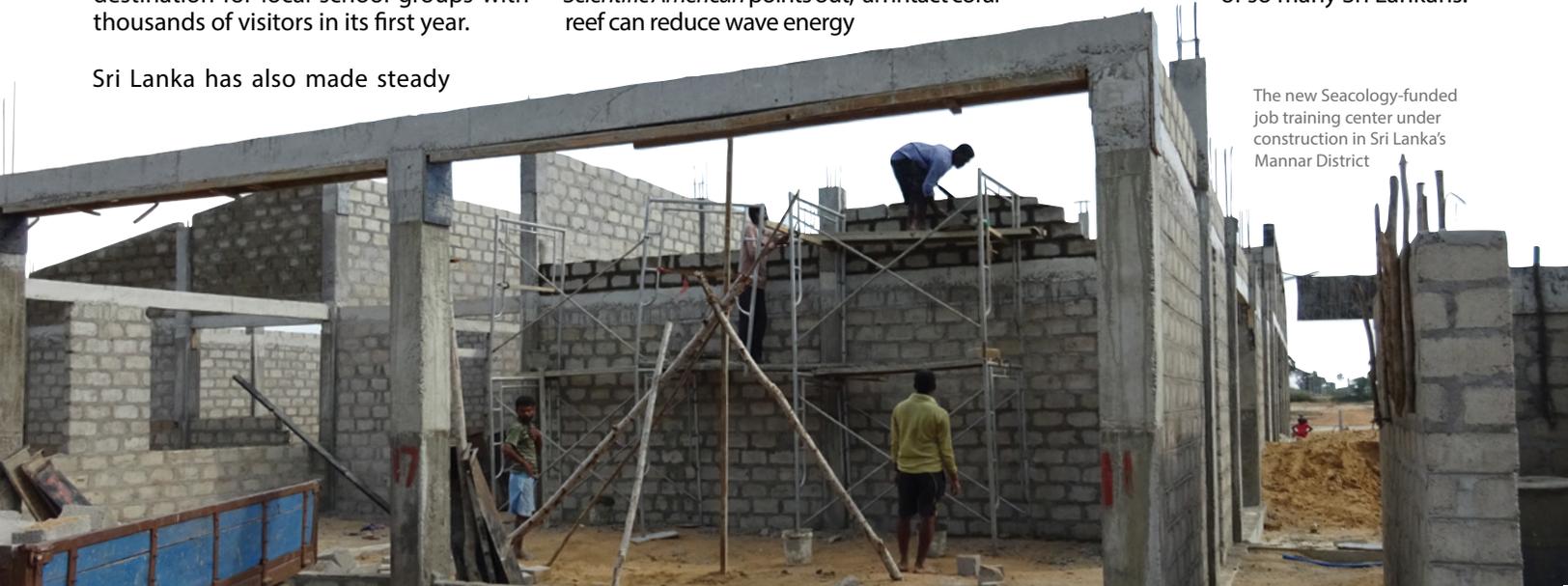
Left: Approximately 15,000 acres of intact mangrove forests have been demarcated since the project began.

progress toward demarcating and mapping all of its existing mangrove forests. With Sudeesa's assistance, the country's forestry department has been cataloguing all of these areas for the first time and installing guide posts and signage to mark these now legally protected forests. Approximately 16,000 acres of mangroves are now demarcated.

The devastation caused by recent storms in the Caribbean and elsewhere reminds us that healthy mangroves, along with coral reefs, seagrass beds, and other natural barriers, are vital to protecting coastal communities from storm surges, wind damage, and flooding. As a recent piece in *Scientific American* points out, "an intact coral reef can reduce wave energy

by 97 percent, buffering the impact of storms. Mangroves can reduce wave height by 66 percent...These moments highlight the need to build resilience at a local level, to prevent what we can and prepare to protect and rescue ourselves and each other from what we can't prevent."

Sri Lanka is taking up that challenge, working at both the local and national scale to prepare for the next natural disaster through unprecedented mangrove conservation. We still have much work to do in the remaining years of our project. We're proud to be part of setting this important example, and to be making a tangible difference in the lives of so many Sri Lankans.



The new Seacology-funded job training center under construction in Sri Lanka's Mannar District

PROJECT UPDATES

With dozens of active projects around the world, things are happening all the time. Here are just a few highlights of the past several months.

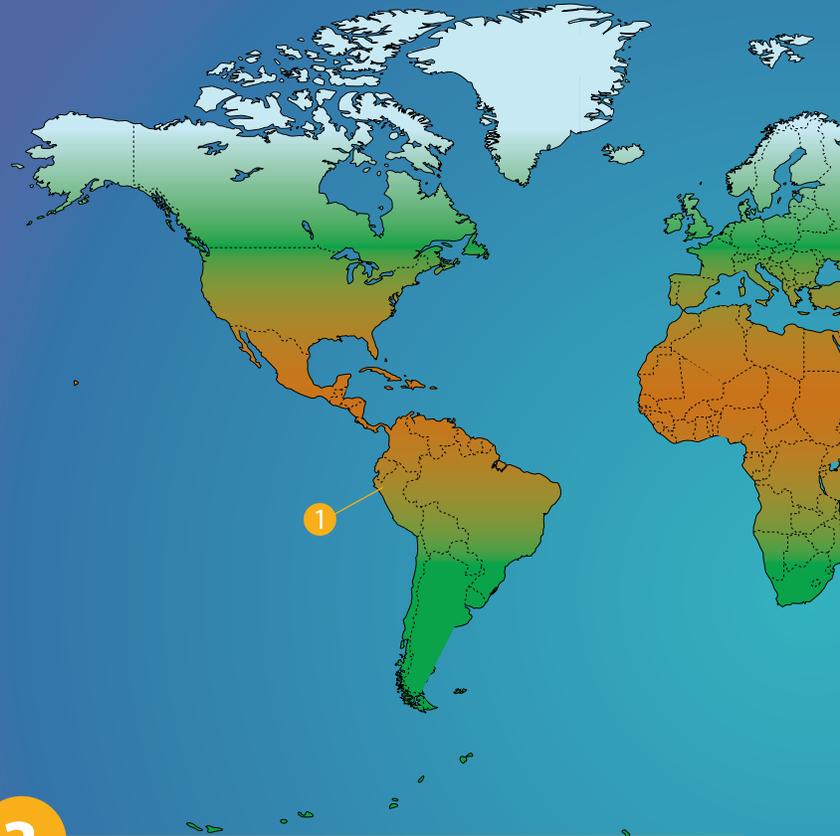
1



FOCA ISLAND, PERU

Construction of ecotourism center, in exchange for protection of 24,216 marine acres for 15 years

Seacology staff and board members and local dignitaries officially dedicated the interpretive center on a recent trip to Peru.



2



SII ISLAND, KENYA

Rehabilitation of Beach Management Unit office, support for alternative livelihoods in exchange for protection of 741 marine acres

The Kenya Forest Service approved construction of the office on government land, and construction will begin when rains subside. A survey of the Sii Island mangrove forest established that most of the forest is relatively intact and requires only protection to maintain its status.

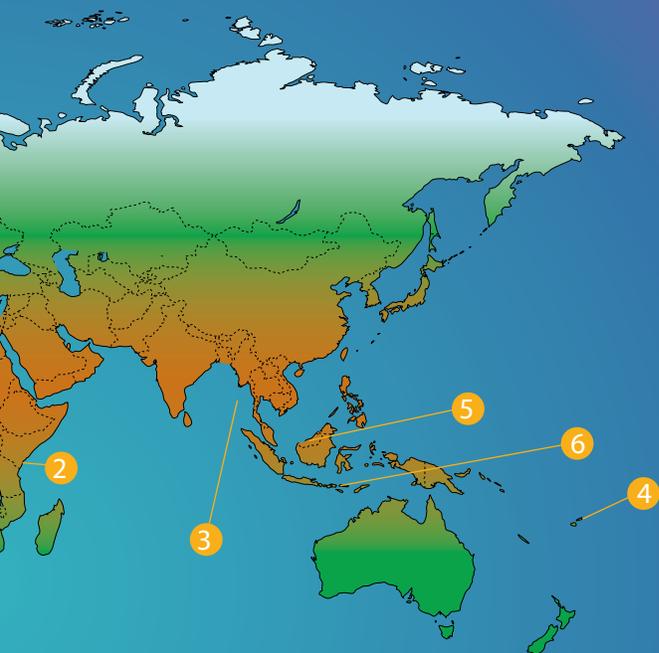
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WEBI VILLAGE, MIDDLE ANDAMAN ISLAND, INDIA

Crafts and women's center in exchange for protection of a 1,433-acre mangrove forest and estuarine land for 10 years

The building has been finished, and the community's women are delighted to have a place of their own to meet, work, and hold programs. They have conducted training in how to use a traditional loom to weave bags and other objects with distinctive Karen designs. Community members continue to cooperate with the forest guards to protect their estuarine lands. They have also held a marine environmental awareness program with local schoolchildren.



5



TERIAN, BORNEO, MALAYSIA

Community micro-hydro system, in exchange for protection of a 107-acre watershed and integrated watershed management

Seacology has approved a maintenance grant for this 2004 project after a landslide destroyed the water pipeline supplying the generator. The dense rainforest remains well-protected, and the community recently helped defeat a proposal for a large dam in the area.

4



NUKUBALAVU, VANUA LEVU, FIJI

Construction of a preschool and kindergarten building, in exchange for creation of a 25,600-acre marine reserve for 20 years

The school building, damaged in Cyclone Winston last year, has now been completely repaired and expanded and is once again being used. Field representative Pettine Simpson and program manager Mary Randolph visited for a re-opening celebration in July, complete with ribbon-cutting, wonderful food, and music.

6



Arturo de Frias Marques

LAMAKERA, SOLOR ISLAND, INDONESIA

New ecotourism and community center in exchange for permanent ban on hunting oceanic manta rays

The community center building, which will play an important part in the community's shift from hunting mantas to welcoming eco-tourists, has been finished. The community plans to hold an official opening when government representatives can visit the area.

NEW PROJECTS

The second half of 2017 has been extremely productive for Seacology, with 15 new projects. For details on all of our work, past and present, visit seacology.org/projects.

Country	Location	Community benefit	Environmental benefit
CHILE	Doña Sebastiana Island	Development of management plan, ecotourism equipment	Eventual declaration of permanent 24,710-acre marine protected area
COLOMBIA	Providencia Island	Support for off-season alternative livelihoods for lobster fishing workers	Parrotfish protections
COOK ISLANDS	Mangaia	Refurbishing of school and purchase of equipment for skilled trades courses	Protection of 4,500 acres of forest habitat of the Mangaia kingfisher for 15 years
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	Las Garitas	Mangrove boardwalk for environmental education and ecotourism	Awareness and promotion of mangrove ecosystem conservation
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	Montecristi Province	Training and employment of youth in kayak mangrove tourism	Community engagement in mangrove protection
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	Oviedo Lagoon	Capacity-building and infrastructure for ecotourism	Community patrol and monitoring in Jaragua National Park
GRENADA	Carriacou Island	Materials and training for women's crafts cooperative	Mangrove replanting in 19-acre area, conservation of mangroves and sea turtle nesting habitat for 10 years
INDONESIA	Pantai Bahagia Village	Community center to promote mangrove education and water-storage tanks	Protection of 50 acres of mangroves plus replanting of 197 acres for 15 years
IRELAND	Lodge Bog	Environmental education for schoolchildren	Restoration of 86 acres of ecologically valuable peatland and increased habitat for the threatened curlew
KENYA	Kirepwe Island	Water cistern construction and repair and mangrove replanting	Protection of a 865-acre mangrove forest for 20 years
MALYASIA	Mangkadait Village	Installation of 10-kilometer, gravity-fed pipe to provide clean water	Protection of 600-acre forest watershed for 20 years
MEXICO	Cozumel	Video for visitors to Cozumel	Environmental education
PALAU	Ngerkeklau Island	Environmental education, construction of pier, plant nursery, and storage for educational equipment	Permanent protection of 37 acres of dugong and sea turtle habitat
PERU	Whalebone and Love Islands	Interpretive center in Puerto Pizarro, trash collection, and interpretive trail on Love Island	Protection of 1,235 acres and reforestation of five acres of mangroves for 15 years
PHILIPPINES	Agdangan Municipality	Construction of an environmental education center and 400-meter mangrove boardwalk	Protection of two no-take fish sanctuaries (301 acres total) and 124 acres of mangroves for 15 years

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Seacology is fortunate to receive many gifts under \$2,000. Space limitations prevent us from listing the name of each donor, but we deeply appreciate every contribution to Seacology. Each gift we receive is important to our efforts to protect the world's islands.

Island Legacy Society *Members of the Island Legacy Society have made a commitment to protecting islands by making a planned gift.*

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* Deceased

Seacology Prize continued from page 1

communities a stake in the use of their resources and a share of the profit, and the need for policy makers to consider how development affects these communities. She repeatedly called on the wealthy and powerful to rediscover their empathy for the less fortunate.

"The key to genuine economic growth—which must result in social justice—the key and

the foundation, is love," she said. "I come from a business family, so of course I believe in business. But it can't be money for money's sake."

We were humbled by the response from the Philippines to this year's Seacology Prize. Thousands of people there shared the news and tuned into our Facebook Live stream of the ceremony, and prominent



Gina Lopez led efforts to clean up and rehabilitate the Pasig River in metro Manila.

media outlets covered and praised our decision to award the recognition to Lopez.

A second event took place in Manila this month, honoring Lopez' work in her home country.



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Since 1991, Seacology has helped protect island habitats and local communities by offering villages a unique deal:

If they agree to create or enforce a forest or marine reserve, we'll provide funds for something the village needs, like a schoolhouse or health clinic.

289

projects

59

countries

734,647

marine acres
protected

560,435

terrestrial acres
protected