



A greener Hispaniola

Seacology's first projects in the Dominican Republic protect mangroves, support ecotourism

Last year, Seacology began working in the Dominican Republic in a big way by simultaneously launching our first three projects there. The initiatives, at Montecristi, Las Garitas, and Oviedo Lagoon, will each help to protect mangrove habitats and develop sustainable tourism.

The Dominican Republic makes up roughly the eastern two-thirds of the island of Hispaniola, sharing it with the nation of Haiti (where Seacology also has a project, at Caracol Bay). Its diverse topography features four major mountain ranges, coasts on the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean, and many ecologically important rivers and watersheds.

The country's economy is undergoing a rapid transition away from agriculture and toward services, tourism in particular. And for good reason. The Dominican Republic has beautiful beaches, dense jungle, exciting nightlife, and a rich culture with Afro-Caribbean, Latin American, and other roots. Tourism, now the largest sector of the economy, brings in millions of visitors annually and accounts for hundreds of thousands of jobs. With this surge in attention from abroad comes increased pressure on the environment, particularly along the coasts. Our projects aim to encourage sustainability as the country undergoes this massive transformation.

Fortunately, the DR has a robust, well-organized



Seacology has three active projects on the Atlantic northern coast of the island of Hispaniola, and one on the Caribbean southern coast.

conservation movement. The organizations we're working with—Grupo Jaragua, Agrofrontera, and CEBSE—have a strong record of working to protect the lush wetlands that ring the country's coast.

In Montecristi Province, near the border with Haiti, our project is funding training for local youth, who are learning to become kayak guides. They'll also learn other relevant skills such as basic accounting and customer service. The area is home to some 15,000 acres of mangrove forest and has less tourism than does much of the country. By establishing this link between the ecosystem and the economic opportunities from ecotourism, our project is helping the local community to see conservation as an asset and not a barrier to opportunity.

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Seacology earns top score from Charity Navigator

Not only is Seacology committed to environmental stewardship, we're also careful stewards of our donors' contributions. Seacology has again been awarded four stars by nonprofit-rating service Charity Navigator—its highest score. This recognition reflects our commitment to fiscal responsibility and transparency, two of our organization's core values.

Save the date for the 2018 Seacology Prize Ceremony

The 2018 Seacology Prize Ceremony will be held Thursday, October 4 in Berkeley, California. We hope you'll join us to honor an inspiring island conservation leader. The winner of this year's prize will be announced over the summer in our e-newsletter and at seacology.org/prize.

Share your best island photos—and so will we!

Calling all photographers: Seacology invites you to share your best island photos with us for a chance to have your work shared in our publications and on our daily Instagram feed.

Please email your shot to photos@seacology.org or tag us in a post on social media and use the hashtag #islandphotos. We will of course credit any work we use.

From the Chair**Dear friends,**

Living for two years in small island villages in Samoa, I was struck by the relationships the indigenous people perceived between the land and the sea. Elderly Samoans told me that every terrestrial organism, plant or animal, has a spiritual counterpart in the ocean. Subsequently, the Polynesian people gave me a name that memorializes this linkage: Nafanua, after a cultural hero who came from the sea but taught the people to protect the rainforest. Even Polynesian land tenure systems reflect the link between the terrestrial and marine environments of islands. Chiefs are charged with protecting entire watersheds (called in the Hawaiian language “ahupua’a”), which stretch from the mountain tops to the coral reefs.

Modern ecological theory has now validated these indigenous concepts. Scientists have learned that when watersheds are deforested, silt and debris cover and kill the coral reefs. And we now know if seagrass communities or coastal mangrove forests are destroyed, coastal areas become extremely vulnerable to devastation from cyclonic storms and tsunamis.

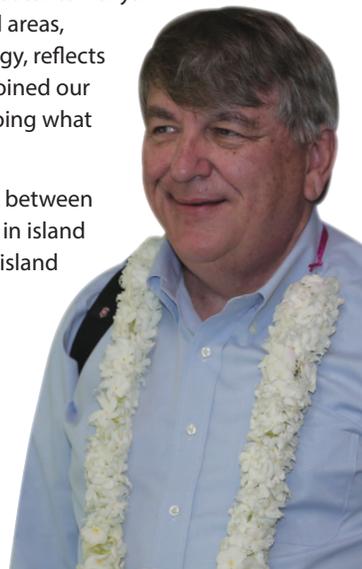
The interconnection among the land and the sea and the indigenous people—what might be termed the ecological triangle—has deeply informed our approach to conservation. As you will read in this newsletter, Seacology conservation projects from Sri Lanka to Madagascar to Kenya to the Dominican Republic reflect our commitment to protect coastal areas, interior rainforests, and indigenous peoples. Even our name, Seacology, reflects the ties between marine and terrestrial ecosystems. Bill Marré, who coined our name and helped to found our organization, recently passed away doing what he loved: surfing the interface between the sea and the beach.

We are determined to make a difference in protecting the special link between the sea and the land. Seacology continues to make significant strides in island conservation. Thank you for your gifts, which help Seacology protect island habitats and cultures throughout the world.

Sincerely,



Nafanua Paul Alan Cox
Chair, Seacology Board of Directors

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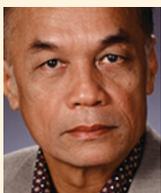
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Seacology welcomes...**Erin Coyne** *Institutional Giving Officer*

Erin Coyne comes to Seacology with a longtime passion for international development, having served as a Peace Corps volunteer as well as a program manager for several international nonprofit organizations. She has extensive experience in project management and a dedication to ensuring that innovative programs are funded and sustainable. Originally from the East Coast, Erin moved to the Bay Area over 10 years ago to attend UC Berkeley, where she received an MA and a Ph.D. in Slavic Languages and Literatures. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family and doing volunteer work. She also enjoys traveling and learning about new places and cultures.

**Pisit Charnsnoh** *Thailand Field Representative*

Pisit Charnsnoh is well-known in the environmental movement for his work to protect mangrove forests in his home country. A winner of the Goldman Environmental Prize in 2002 and one of the co-founders of the Mangrove Action Project, he was one of the early high-profile advocates of defending mangrove forests. Since the mid-1980s, Pisit has worked to unite disenfranchised fishing communities in Thailand. His persistence in this mission has resulted in meaningful government action to promote local management of mangroves and other vital coastal resources.

HEALTHY REEFS

Join Seacology's first crowdfunding campaign! Help us save parrotfish—essential to coral reefs, and adorable, too—in Colombia

Many divers and snorkelers know the sound well—the *crunch, crunch* that reverberates through the water as parrotfish scrape rocks and reefs for algae with their hard, beaklike mouths. The colorful herbivores are not only a fantastic attraction for underwater tourism, but also play a key role in keeping coral reefs healthy. Hungry parrotfish eat the harmful macroalgae that compete for space with corals, keeping the ecosystem in balance. Too much algae can smother and ultimately kill a coral reef. A new Seacology project aims to protect algae's mortal enemies, parrotfish—but we need your help.

The Caribbean island of Providencia is part of Colombia, but is far north of the country's mainland, closer to Nicaragua. The island's isolation has kept overdevelopment at bay, and its people are self-reliant, making ends meet with small-scale agriculture, a modest amount of tourism, and fishing. Parrotfish—including species rare in the Caribbean—are abundant, which has contributed to the island's better-than-average reef health.



Mark Yokoyama

Parrotfish use their beaklike teeth to scrape algae from rocks and coral, keeping reefs clean and in the process producing new sand.

Unfortunately the parrotfish are under threat. The declining stocks of snapper and other species, and the ease of catching parrotfish in the shallower waters they inhabit, have put pressure on their populations. Though one of the local fish-buying cooperatives does not buy parrotfish, they still frequently end up in the local market, their fillets labeled as other species.

Together with the regional government and Fundación Providence, a local NGO, Seacology is working to implement a ban on taking parrotfish around Providencia. We will be funding an education and outreach campaign to the

island's fishing community, local schools, restaurants, and the broader community.

This is also the first opportunity for donors to directly support a Seacology project through crowdfunding. Launched on Earth Day, our campaign runs through June and aims to raise the \$16,000 project budget. Donors will receive some exclusive Seacology gifts as a token of our gratitude (see "donor perks").

You can contribute any amount you wish at seacology.org/parrotfish. We hope you'll help save the parrotfish, and the reef, by contributing to and sharing our campaign!

Donor perks

All donors who give \$25 or more will be listed in our newsletter and on our website.

\$25 Thank you card and Seacology pin

\$50 Photo print of the beautiful blue parrotfish

\$100 Seacology canteen

\$250 Seacology t-shirt

\$500 Seacology t-shirt and tote bag

\$1000 VIP package containing Seacology merchandise and an item from a Seacology project

\$2,500 Become a Seacology Fellow—early access to Seacology Prize ceremony and travel opportunities, VIP gift bag with above items

\$10,000 Trip to Providencia accompanied by a member of the Seacology staff to see the parrotfish campaign in action. Includes round-trip airfare, four nights' accommodations and snorkeling or diving. More details available at seacology.org/parrotfish.

BORNEO PROJECTS

Seacology protects some of the world's most important—and threatened—rainforest in Malaysian Borneo

After nearly a decade, Seacology has once again begun to launch new projects in the southeast Asian country of Malaysia. Under the leadership of Field Representative Chris Wright, we've begun three new projects, and revisited an older one, all on Borneo, the world's third-largest island.

At the villages of Mangkadait, Terian (the older project), and Long Liam, Seacology is working to install or upgrade low-impact water-based infrastructure. The Terian and Long Liam projects involve micro-hydro generators—gravity-fed

Continued on page 6

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



ORIKA, ISLA GRANDE, COLOMBIA

Trash processing, recycling, and composting facility

The waste processing facility is under construction. A committee with people from the community and local NGO partner Islaunika meets regularly. They will be conducting outreach to island households to make sure everyone knows how to handle waste so that reusable materials can be sold for the community's benefit.

2



ANTSAHABERAOKA, MADAGASCAR

Construction of a footbridge and primary school classrooms in exchange for support of a 4,819-acre rainforest reserve for 30 years

Our partners report that the new, reinforced bridge has been completed. Children on the other side of the river again have access to the village's school.

3

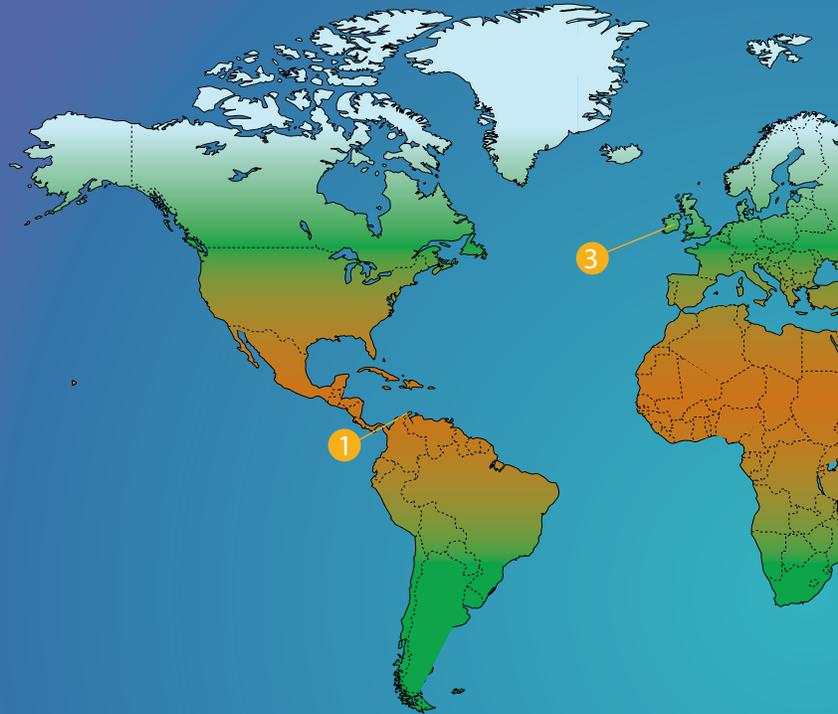


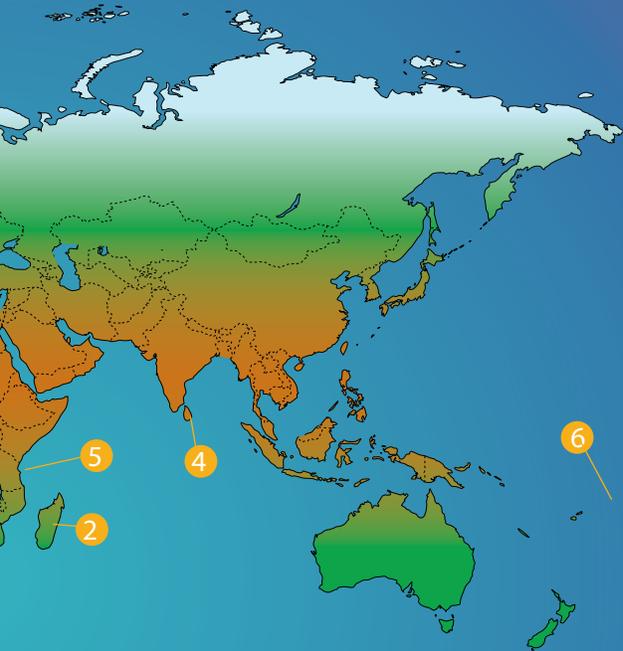
Sam Rowley Photography

LODGE BOG, IRELAND

Restoration of 86 acres of ecologically valuable peatland and increased habitat for the Eurasian curlew, environmental education for schoolchildren

Our nonprofit partner, the Irish Peatland Conservation Council, has installed or reinforced 22 dams and planted mosses on Lodge Bog, to block drainage and encourage peat formation. To get all this work done, the IPCC trained 20 volunteers, who will be able to use their new skills on other raised bogs that could also provide habitat for the threatened curlew.





5



SII ISLAND, KENYA

Construction of a watch tower and office, mangrove mapping and replantation, and community awareness, in support of the conservation of 1,977 acres of mangrove forest for 15 years

In February, the new office building was dedicated in an opening ceremony in the village of Vanga, with prominent members of the local and national governments in attendance. The new facility will bolster the efforts of local rangers to protect the island's mangroves, and will support ongoing planting and other activities.

4



SRI LANKA

Nationwide mangrove conservation and mapping, support for sustainable livelihood training

Construction of the training center in the northern district of Mannar, funded by a large grant that Seacology won from the Global Resilience Partnership, is nearly complete. The demarcation work of Sri Lanka's intact mangrove forests continues, and our partner organization, Sudeesa, is conducting regular planting events with the help of the Sri Lankan navy and other supporters of the project.

6



'ATATA ISLAND, TONGA

Rebuilding of community center, in support of 440-acre fish habitat reserve for 15 years

Cyclone Gita, with sustained winds of 144 mph, caused extensive damage in Tonga in February. The storm tore roofs off many houses and collapsed the Tongan Parliament building. We were afraid of what might happen to the unfinished 'Atata community hall. But damage was minimal—meaning the building may well serve as a storm shelter in the future. Although the building project has been delayed as community members grapple with shortages of fresh water and food, it will resume soon.

NEW PROJECTS

In February, Seacology launched eight new projects, including our first in Uruguay. For details on all of our work, past and present, visit seacology.org/projects.

Country	Location	Community benefit	Environmental benefit
FIJI	Nabubu Village, Vanua Levu	Renovation and expansion of village school and teachers' quarters, water tanks	560-acre marine no-take zone and 132-acre rainforest reserve for 15 years
INDONESIA	Mekarjaya Village, West Java	Rice-processing machinery and building	Protection of 4,638 acres of rainforest (including replanting 326 acres of it) for 15 years
MADAGASCAR	Macolline Reserve	Repairs to cyclone-damaged environmental education center	Protection of 25-acre rainforest preserve for 30 years and environmental education
MALAYSIA	Dagat Village, Borneo	Sustainable livelihood initiative	Protection of 550 acres of rainforest for 15 years
MALAYSIA	Long Liam Village, Borneo	Micro-hydro electricity generating system	Protection of 371-acre riparian forest reserve for 15 years
MEXICO	Isabel Island National Park	Mooring buoys and lobster shelters	528-acre no-fishing zone around protected island for at least 18 years
PHILIPPINES	Manamoc Island	Multipurpose community center	Protection of 272-acre Caseledan Lagoon for 25 years
URUGUAY	Nuevo Berlin, Filomena Islands	Honey-extracting equipment and GPS	Mapping of invasive trees to be removed on islands in the Uruguay River

Borneo continued from page 3

turbines that provide reliable electricity in Borneo's wet climate. At Mangkadait, we're funding a 10-km pipeline to bring water to the village for drinking, cooking, and agriculture.

The fourth project, at Dagat Village, is a unique project for us. Seacology is funding a building that will serve as an artificial habitat for swiftlets—small birds whose nests are an ingredient for birds' nest soup, a delicacy in parts of Asia. The building mimics the birds' natural cave dwellings and the community plans to sell the nests (after the birds are done with them) as a renewable revenue source.

Famous for its iconic orangutans, Borneo is one of the great centers of biodiversity in the world, with countless endemic plant and animal species. Our four projects will help local communities to protect 1,500 acres of this pristine habitat, and keep it off-limits to developers, large-scale agriculture interests and others who would sacrifice it for short-term gain.



Villagers from Mangkadait prepare to install a pipeline that will carry fresh water to the village.

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In 2017, all Seacology Board members made generous personal gifts. Board contributions represent a significant portion of Seacology's total fundraising. We are most grateful for the generosity and leadership of each Seacology Board member.

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Robert Dion and Mary O'Malley

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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

Dominican Republic continued from page 1

Oviedo Lagoon, a remote, even larger mangrove area in the south, is part of a wetland that has been declared of international significance. It serves as an important nesting area for several endangered bird species. We're helping to develop infrastructure for ecotourism, such as improvements to tour boats, and offering support for the rangers who enforce rules against poaching and other destructive activities.

Samana Bay, the third new project site, has the largest concentration of mangroves in the entire country, but it

is closer to major developments, and the forests are threatened by pollution and by possible removal for coastal development. Based in the town of Las Garitas, our project is funding construction of a boardwalk through the mangroves, as well as educational initiatives to foster appreciation of the ecosystem.

Under the leadership of new Seacology Field Representative Leida Buglass, we're looking forward to helping communities in this beautiful and unique country to strike the right balance between development and sustainability.



Agrofrontera personnel deploy their new Seacology-funded kayaks, which will be used for tours of Montecristi Province's mangrove forests.



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You can help
Seacology
protect
parrotfish
and coral
reefs in
Colombia!
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seacology.org/parrotfish

Carl Salonen
creatingimagery.com