

Seacology

Saving the World, One Island at a Time

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Marou Kindergarten Dedicated, Emau Island, Vanuatu



The community of Marou is the largest on Vanuatu's Emau Island. The village is situated on a beautiful lagoon teeming with biodiversity. As well, the village is home to a forest containing coconut crabs, land crabs and an endangered bird species. With the help of local nonprofits, awareness has spread regarding the importance of preserving the area's natural resources. In 2003 the village chief and community set up the Marou Conservation Area at a historic site where local men were taken to work in the sugarcane fields of Fiji and Queensland during the blackbirding (slavery) era.

In January 2006, Seacology's board of directors approved a project to complete a kindergarten building for the village in exchange for the creation of a 32-acre no-take marine reserve, and a 300-acre no-take terrestrial area, each for a minimum duration of ten years. Seacology Vanuatu Field Representative Kevin Tari and Seacology

Fiji Field Representative Saula Vodonaivalu, Jr., along with his wife Keresi, attended the official opening of the kindergarten on September 1, 2006.



Above left: Keresi Vodonaivalu addresses the group on behalf of Seacology. Left: The completed kindergarten. Below: A string band greets visitors. (Photo credits: Kevin Tari.)

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Seacology Moves to New Office





Together with several Seacology Fellows and Board Members, our family returned to the place where Seacology's unique approach to conservation began 17 years ago - Falealupo Village in the Samoan islands. In 1989, the Samoan government had given this remote village an ultimatum to build a better school, or teachers would be removed and their children would not be educated. Having no other source of revenue, the villagers sold the logging rights to their rainforest. In answer to my plea, Verne and Marion Read assumed payments on the school mortgage before the forest could be destroyed. Our family and a few friends, including Ken Murdock and Rex Maughan, then repaid the loggers and funded the school in return for a village covenant to protect their pristine 30,000-acre rainforest. The project was so successful that Ken (who serves as Seacology's President) suggested that we seek other village projects to fund in exchange for marine or forest preserves. Bill Marré coined the term "Seacology" to describe our focus on island conservation and helped incorporate our

little foundation as a nonprofit organization in 1991. Seacology's win-win approach to conservation has since blossomed to nearly 150 community projects on 80 islands in 40 different nations throughout the world.

This year Seacology funded restoration of Falealupo's white sand beach in return for villagers protecting 35 acres of crucial wetland. The villagers worked hard in the hot sun to restore the beach. We were thrilled to see how proud they were of the Seacology-funded aerial rainforest walkway which provides ongoing income to the village. Later, we visited the Fagasa forest project in American Samoa, where villagers scaled steep slopes to remove tree species which threaten the National Park rainforest.

Seventeen years of successful Seacology operations - first as a totally volunteer operation and later as a professional organization with a very small but dedicated staff - demonstrates the importance of working directly with villagers for conservation. The deep respect that island peoples have for conservation, coupled with their desire to protect island habitats, suggests a continuing need for Seacology. The time has come to create an endowment for Seacology so that these good works will continue well into the future. The Seacology endowment has already begun with a generous seed grant from board member Larry Barel. In the future, we will share our endowment goals with you, with an aim of completing the endowment by Seacology's 20th anniversary. Thank you for helping so many dreams come true by helping Seacology to save the world, one island village at a time.

Nafanua Paul Cox
Chairman

P. S. I have just learned that King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV, who was awarded the Seacology Prize in 1996 for his protection of flying foxes in the Kingdom of Tonga, passed away in New Zealand at age 88. His Majesty was a friend of Seacology and a strong advocate of island conservation. Seacology extends its sympathies to Queen Halaevalu Mata'aho, the Royal Family, and to all of the people of Tonga.

Seacology Has Moved!

After seven years in the same location, Seacology has moved. Please take note of our new address:

1623 Solano Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94707
USA

Our telephone and fax numbers, as well as our email address, remain the same:

Tel: 510-559-3505
Fax: 510-559-3506
Email: islands@seacology.org



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Seacology's Japanese Donors Visit Projects in Samoa and American Samoa



Above: Seacology's Japanese fellows and board members in the Falealupo Rainforest: from left to right, Akemi Yoshida, Masakatsu Yasukawa, Michie Sekiguchi, Takemi Sekiguchi, Akemi Chiba, Yoshiko Fukada, Takehiko Kamijyo, Sayuri Yamaki, Seacology staff member Masayo Baillet, Tamako Kishimoto, Masayuki Kishimoto and Matsuno Patrick. (Photo credit: Dr. Paul Cox.)

Right: The Falealupo Rainforest as viewed from the walkway. (Photo credit: Akemi Yoshida.)

Below: A Falealupo villager at the wetlands to be protected in exchange for Seacology's funding the restoration of Falealupo's historic white sand beach. (Photo credit: Dr. N. Gaugau Tavana.)

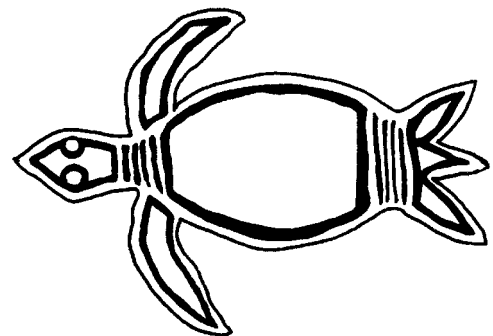


In early July 2006, a group of Seacology's dedicated Japanese fellows and board members traveled to the South Pacific island nations of Samoa and American Samoa. The group was greeted warmly at Falealupo Village, home to Seacology's founding project, the Falealupo Rainforest School and canopy walkway. The group also viewed Seacology's newest project in Falealupo, the restoration of a historic white sand beach in exchange for the protection of a wetland that is critical habitat to several threatened wildfowl species. Expedition members also experienced the thrill of climbing the tower and walking across the rainforest canopy walkway.

The group also visited the village of Fagasa, American Samoa. Fagasa is one of four villages on Tutuila Island that allowed its primary rainforest to be incorporated into the National Park of American Samoa. Seacology provided funds for the village to completely remove invasive tamarind trees from its land that has been leased to the National Park.

Support for both of these projects was generously provided by the Nu Skin Enterprises Force for Good Foundation.

Other highlights of the trip included a dinner with Samoan Prime Minister Tuila'epa Sailele Malielegoai, and viewing flying foxes at the Tafua Crater on the island of Savai'i.



Seacology Travels to Borneo to Visit Terian Micro-Hydro Project



In March 2006, a group of Seacology donors traveled to the world's third-largest island, Borneo, Malaysia. Sabah is one of two Malaysian states located on Borneo. Sabah's Crocker Range National Park, also known as the "Spine of Sabah," overlaps with the traditional lands of dozens of forest-dwelling Kadazan/Dusan communities. The 200-person village of Terian is the first community to collaborate with the Crocker Range National Park to create an overall conservation plan. PACOS Trust (www.sabah.net.my/PACOS/), a Sabah-based NGO, has worked with the village of Terian for many years. With the invaluable on-the-ground assistance of the Borneo Project (www.borneoproject.org) and Green Empowerment (www.greenempowerment.org), they approached Seacology to support the installation of a micro-hydro energy system to provide Terian with energy without having to rely on diesel fuel. With this micro-hydro generator, the villagers no longer have to hike seven hours up and down steep mountains carrying heavy diesel fuel cans. The owners of the land in the watershed above the generator have now signed a contract stating they will no longer farm or develop 1,000 acres of land.

The Seacology group chartered helicopters to visit Terian and see firsthand the impact of the micro-hydro generator project. The visitors received a warm greeting from the women and children of the village, took part in dancing and feasting, and viewed the generator. Mr. Nousi Giun, a village leader who led the visit to the generator, stated, "The village is very pleased to have such an inexpensive and nature-friendly source of energy." Anne Lasimbang, the executive director of PACOS Trust, added, "This is a pilot project, a model for other villages who have already expressed interest in getting a micro-hydro generator."

The group also viewed many of Borneo's spectacular wildlife species, including Borneo pygmy elephants, the rhinoceros hornbill, macaques, pythons, monitor lizards and proboscis monkeys. As well, the group was able to see orangutans in the wild. These great apes exist only on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo. Community-based forest protection projects such as the one initiated by Terian are invaluable in providing critical habitat for these magnificent creatures.

Left: Seacology Fellow Pete Boyce and a local journalist view the micro-hydro generator. Below left: An orangutan; these great apes exist only on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo. Below: Terian villagers present embroidered sashes to members of the Seacology group. At right is Anne Lasimbang, executive director of PACOS Trust. (Photo credits: Teng Wei.)



Seacology Expedition Members Help Install Philippines EcoReefs

After the March 2006 Seacology expedition to Borneo, several members of the group traveled to El Nido, Palawan Province, the Philippines, to assist in the installation of 100 EcoReef modules around three uninhabited islands called Tres Marias. In response to the area's declining fish populations and degraded coral reef, ten El Nido villages have established no-take zones totaling approximately 2,000 acres. Working with the El Nido Foundation, Seacology has provided funding for 600 of the snowflake-shaped ceramic modules to facilitate reef restoration. Over 100 community volunteers helped with the installation.

Below: El Nido villagers work to assemble the EcoReef modules. Right: The assembled modules were floated on rafts to Tres Marias. (Photo credits: The El Nido Foundation.) Below right: Seacology Board Members Jon Ives and Shari Plummer help install the EcoReef units. (Photo credit: Mathieu Meur.)



On the Web: Seacology Has Over 1,200 Friends on MySpace, and Seacology is Yahoo's September Pick for Good!

The word regarding Seacology's great work to protect islands throughout the world is spreading via our new MySpace web page:

<http://www.myspace.com/seacology>

MySpace is an extremely popular social networking website where users can share photos, videos and more. Originally founded as a venue for aspiring musicians and bands to share music and concert dates, MySpace has grown into a complex site where users can create profiles, including photographs, blogs, music or movie preferences. Each user can choose to invite friends to create profiles or link to existing ones, creating a social network that can be exponentially expanded as users with similar tastes, interests or shared friends are discovered and added. As of September 15, Seacology has over 1,200 MySpace friends!

Also, out of all the websites in cyberspace, Seacology was selected as the Yahoo! Pick for Good for September. According to the Yahoo! website, "Each month, Yahoo! Picks for Good features an intriguing web site that's making a positive impact in the world -- either locally or globally. Every organization that we feature tackles a new issue of interest to us all or offers an innovative approach to an old issue that affects us all. Our hope is that you'll be inspired to learn more, act responsibly, or contribute generously." Check out Seacology's listing:



<http://picks.yahoo.com/picks/i/20060905.html>

Seacology Board of Directors Approves New Island Projects

The following projects were approved by Seacology's Board of Directors at their June 5, 2006 meeting. For more information about these projects, please visit www.seacology.org/projects/index.html:

INDONESIA, Ranawangko Village, North Sulawesi - Fresh water supply, public toilets and access road in exchange for the creation of a permanent 35-acre no-take sea turtle nesting beach. *

INDONESIA, Tulap Village, North Sulawesi - Public stairway in exchange for the creation of a permanent 36-acre no-take sea turtle nesting beach. *

INDONESIA, Tulaun Village, North Sulawesi - Fresh water supply, public toilets and access road in exchange for the creation of a permanent 30-acre no-take sea turtle nesting beach. *

MALDIVES, Alifushi Island - Establish a waste management system in return for a total ban on using coral for any building purpose and extracting sand for any purpose for a duration of 10 years. *

MALDIVES, Innamadhoo Island - Establish a waste management system in return for a total ban on using coral or extracting sand for any building purpose; and a total ban on killing turtles or harvesting turtle eggs, harvesting sea cucumbers, shark fishing or shark finning for a duration of 10 years. *



Girls walking to school in Tulaun, Indonesia. (Photo credit: Arnaz Mehta.)



The Wakon, Vanuatu Sea Lake. (Photo credit: Kevin Tari.)

MALDIVES, Ra Maakurathu Island - Establish a waste management system in return for a total ban on using coral for any building purpose and extracting sand for any purpose, and a ban on harvesting turtle eggs for consumption for a duration of 10 years. *

PAPUA NEW GUINEA, Torricelli Mountains, Sundaun Province - Village chicken farming project in exchange for the establishment of a 37,065-acre forest conservation area to protect the Scotts Tree Kangaroo, and formalization of an existing hunting moratorium for the Golden-Mantled Tree Kangaroo. *

VANUATU, Dip Point, Wakon Community, West Ambrym, Malampa Province - Construction of a community hall in exchange for the creation of a no-take 25-acre marine reserve and a 667-acre terrestrial reserve for a duration of 10 years. *

VANUATU, Pango Village, South Efate Island - Construction of a *farea* (meeting hall) in exchange for a 17-acre marine reserve for a minimum of 10 years, and in support of a permanent 15-acre marine reserve. *

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

2006 Seacology Fiji Expedition Opens Two New Projects

In June 2006, a group of Seacology donors traveled to Fiji for our sixth annual Expedition to the South Pacific island nation, where Seacology has launched 19 projects. The group attended openings in Viani Village on Vanua Levu Island, where Seacology has funded the construction of a community center in exchange for the extension of duration of a 7,413-acre marine reserve and the establishment of a 50-acre forest reserve; and in Vuna Village, where Seacology funded the construction of a kindergarten in exchange for the establishment of a 4,752-acre forest preserve and two marine protected areas totaling 3,010 acres. The Seacology group participated in traditional kava ceremonies, dancing and singing while visiting the villages. At the Vuna Village opening, village spokesperson Mr. Radrodro said, "With hearts of gratitude and thanksgiving, we the chiefly Mataqali Vusaratu and the Vanua of Vuna wish to acknowledge your group's contribution and individual sacrifices, for the development of education within the Vuna community... The Vanua of Vuna welcomes your decision to assist in educating our generation today and those to come."

Right: Viani villagers greet Seacology guests with a traditional spear dance. (Photo credit: Jeff Greenwald.)



Balinese Turtle Conservationist to Receive 2006 Seacology Prize

Seacology is pleased to announce that Ketut Sarjana Putra has been selected to receive the 2006 Seacology Prize for his efforts to protect endangered sea turtles in his native Indonesia. The Prize is awarded annually to an indigenous islander for exceptional achievement in preserving the environment and culture of any of the world's 100,000-plus islands. Mr. Putra will be awarded the \$10,000 Prize on October 18, 2006 at a ceremony in San Francisco, California. The Seacology Prize is underwritten by Ken Murdock, president of Seacology, in honor of his mother, Lalovi Fish Murdock. The Seacology Prize stipend has been raised from \$5,000 to \$10,000 due to the generosity of an anonymous donor.

As a staff member with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Indonesia, Mr. Putra realized that the root of the rapidly declining turtle population was anchored firmly in his home island of Bali. He lobbied to protect turtles throughout Indonesia, and a national law was created in 1999 to ban the harvest of turtles 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 an astonishing 35,000 turtles were being sold annually in Bali, exceeding the quota seven-fold, Mr. Putra worked relentlessly with Balinese government officials to adopt a complete ban on the harvest of turtles. Though officials feared a social revolt, he worked his way around their concern by suggesting that turtles could only be used in religious ceremonies with a special permit and recommendation from a Balinese priest, and that only Green turtles with a carapace length of less than 60cm could be used (knowing that juvenile Green turtles are very hard to find). The new island-wide law was passed in 2000. Mr. Putra then gently persuaded 37 religious leaders in Bali to ban turtle meat from ceremonies. He also appeared on several local television programs each week to inform the public on the plight of sea turtles.

In 2001, Mr. Putra's campaign to conserve sea turtles put his life in jeopardy when a kingpin of the turtle trade organized a mob of 300 protestors at the WWF office in Denpasar, Bali where Mr. Putra's work was based. Former turtle traders continue to pressure him to drop the law. However, there is virtually no evidence of a turtle trade and turtle meat is no longer consumed in Balinese ceremonies. Instead, if the Balinese find a turtle on the beach, they make a ceremony for it and turn it back to the sea.

According to Mr. Putra, "I am really delighted to receive this award and 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 (from policies to practices). I am glad and proud to have been part of those efforts." Mr. Putra is currently the Marine Director for Conservation International Indonesia.



Ketut Sarjana Putra releases a three year old Olive Ridley turtle after tagging. (Photo credit: Brian Hutchinson/CI.)



A young girl from Vuna Village, Fiji readies for the opening of the village's new community center. (Photo credit: Jeff Greenwald.)

Seacology established the **Island Legacy Society** to honor those that have included Seacology in their estate plans. The Society was created to ensure that coral reefs, tropical rainforests and island cultures are here for future generations. You can make a contribution in any amount in any of the following ways: bequest in your will; gift of real estate, securities or other property; charitable trust; life insurance policy; retirement plan beneficiary designation; or in some other way you choose. Contact Susan Racanelli about the many ways that you can help (tel: 510-559-3505 or email: susan@seacology.org).

Seacology Island Legacy Society Members

Frank W. and Margaret B. Adelstein
Fund (*deceased*)
Anonymous (1)
Marie-Louise Ansak
Larry Barels
Michael Burbank
Paul and Barbara Cox
Graham Farrar Living Trust

Paul and Dianne Felton
Scott Halsted
Michael N. Hofman and Janet Moyer
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Seacology Projects Have Saved:

106,496 acres of island
terrestrial habitat

1,731,630 acres of
coral reef and other marine
habitat

Seacology Has Built or Funded:

53 schools, community centers,
water systems and other
critically needed facilities

23 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.