



Seacology



2023 Annual Report

# Why islands?

## Seacology is dedicated to protecting island environments and cultures around the world.

Seacology focuses only on islands because in the last 500 years, more than half of all animal extinctions have occurred on islands. They are crucial to preserving the Earth's biodiversity.

From coral reefs to mangrove forests, the world's islands house a multitude of unique habitats.

But island communities are under increasing pressure to boost economic development, even at the cost of environmental damage.

Our approach tackles both environmental threats and humanitarian challenges. Our projects create marine and terrestrial reserves on islands while improving the quality of life for local people.

Islanders tell us what land or sea area they want to protect. Then they identify a communal need Seacology can provide, such as a school or a water delivery system. It's a win for the environment and for the people who depend on it.



Message from the Chair.....	3	Finances .....	9	Seacology in the news .....	36
Who we are.....	4	Major initiatives .....	10	Seacology Prize.....	37
Where we work.....	5	Project highlights.....	23	Travel .....	38
Our supporters.....	6	New projects.....	32	In memoriam.....	42

# From the Chair

Documentary filmmaker Ken Burns said that national parks are “America’s best idea.” When my grandfather helped initiate what became Grand Teton National Park based on a generous bequest of scenic ranch lands from John D. Rockefeller, the brilliance of this idea was not universally accepted here in Wyoming. Even when I spent precious time as a boy living in a small cabin near Jenny Lake when my father was a National Park Ranger, this idea was still controversial among a few residents. Today, I don’t think you can find anyone here in Jackson Hole who opposes the National Park.

In a small way, Seacology is based on a similar idea. Facing the imminent destruction of a large rainforest on a remote island in Samoa, Barbara and I personally assumed the loan made to Falealupo village to pay for a required school. Since the loan had been secured by the logging company, we essentially purchased the logging rights out from under them. But then Barbara and I needed help to pay the debt. I

asked businessmen Ken Murdock and Rex Maughan to help pay off the loan. Yesterday, in his office, Ken and I reminisced about my original

request for a large donation.

“What do I receive for my money?” he asked me then.

“Absolutely nothing,” I said, “and you need to pledge that the villagers will retain all rights to their forest.”

“I don’t receive offers like that very often,” Ken responded. “Please tell me more.”

Rex has since passed away, and Ken currently serves as Vice Chair of Seacology. What Ken and Rex made possible 35 years ago constitutes an extraordinarily powerful idea: Seacology partners with indigenous island people to protect their forests, coral reefs, and other precious environments. In return, Seacology funds schools, medical clinics, solar electrification, water supplies, and other needed community infrastructure.

This idea is so powerful that it has led to more than 400 projects in 68 countries around the world, resulting in the protection of over 1.5 million acres of precious island habitats.

In this annual report, you will read how Seacology in 2023 launched 23 local projects from Madagascar to Honduras, and has established nationwide conservation projects in Sri Lanka, the Dominican Republic, and the Cook Islands. Consider, for example, Seacology’s efforts to protect sea turtle nesting sites on Montecristo Island, El Salvador. By repairing a sea turtle hatchery and helping establish infrastructure for village

caretakers and tourists, last year Seacology facilitated the release of nearly 90,000 baby sea turtles into the wild. On Rabi Island, Fiji, Seacology funded a new community hall in return for the villagers protecting 1,230 acres of mangrove and inland forests. Seacology was able to establish a crucial wildlife corridor in Madagascar by funding a school and community center.

These may seem like small wins compared to the ongoing environmental threats faced by island villages. But they are tangible and very real to the local inhabitants.

I would like to make an offer to you similar to the one that I made to Ken Murdock. Please make a gift to Seacology of cash, appreciated stocks, or a bequest in your will. In return, you will receive no interest in the forests and marine areas that the indigenous people control. But I promise you that the smile you will have, knowing that you have made a tangible impact on conservation, will be almost as big as the one that I saw on Ken Murdock’s face yesterday as we recalled the founding of Seacology.

Cordially,



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

# Who we are



Seacology Field Representative Ferdie Marcelo, second from right, attends the dedication ceremony of our project at Maite Village, on Siquijor Island in the Philippines.



Field Representative Pettine Simpson meets with a village leader and his family in Korolevu, Fiji.

## Our team

### Board of Directors

Paul Alan Cox, Ph.D.	Chair
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Douglas Herst	Vice President
Kimberly Myers Hewlett	Vice Chair
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Peter Read	
Kristin M. Reed	Vice President
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Sandie N. Tillotson	Vice President
Jake Walker	
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Amanda Kirkhart	Program Associate
Karen Peterson	Senior Manager of Special Initiatives
Mary Randolph	Program Manager
Max Rojas-Domke	Individual Giving Manager

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 Peter H. Raven, Ph.D.

### Field Representatives

#### Africa

J-Hude Moudingo West Africa  
 Samuel Ledo Pontes Guinea-Bissau  
 Dishon Lionel Murage East Africa

#### The Americas

Tyrone Buckmire Grenada  
 Leida Buglass Dominican Republic  
 Lynn Costenaro Dutch Caribbean  
 Claudio Delgado Chile  
 Krishna Desai Jamaica  
 Michelle Fernandez Honduras  
 Marcio Halla Brazil  
 Enrique Michaud Peru  
 Marisol Rueda Flores Mexico  
 Cecilia Suárez Uruguay  
 Marcos Terete Guatemala

#### Europe and the Mediterranean

Marilen Enseñat Spain  
 Zafer Kizilkaya Turkey

#### Indian Ocean

Vineeta Hoon India and Bangladesh  
 Erik Patel Madagascar  
 Leela Padmini Batuwitige Sri Lanka

#### Pacific Ocean

Simon Ellis Micronesia  
 Sione Faka'osi Tonga  
 Arnaz Mehta New Zealand  
 Pettine Simpson Fiji  
 Tuaine Tuara Cook Islands

#### Southeast Asia

Pisit Charnsnoh Thailand  
 Ferdinand Marcelo Philippines  
 Irman Meilandi Indonesia  
 Christopher Wright Malaysia

### Affiliates

Seacology Japan  
 Seacology Germany  
 Seacology UK



# Our supporters

## CHIEF ULU FELLOWS

(\$25,000 or more)

Anonymous  
Robert Epstein and Amy Roth  
Lisa and Scott Halsted  
Doug and Leni Herst  
Ken Murdock  
Mary O'Malley and Robert Dion  
Peter Read  
Stephen Silberstein  
James Walker  
Karen and Burt Yarkin

## ISLAND FELLOWS

\$10,000-\$24,999

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Barbara Bateman  
Terri Hearsh  
Bob and Rosie Heil  
Freya Hermanson and  
Kenneth Mahaffey  
Murray and Jeanie Kilgour  
Masayuki and Tamako Kishimoto  
Rabbi Brian and Caroline Fromm Lurie  
Dr. Denis R Lyman &  
Diane K Robards Lyman Foundation  
Takao Moriuchi/Axe Taka, Inc.  
Duane Silverstein and Marcia Stewart  
Judah Slavkovsky  
Christine A. Symchych and  
James P. McNulty  
Sandie Tillotson  
Paul and Leigh Tischler  
Greg and Pat White  
Scott Wilson

## SEACOLOGY FELLOWS

\$2,500-\$9,999

Anonymous  
Howard Adams  
Larry Barels  
Renee Boicourt & James Hemmerly  
Pete Boyce  
Michael Burbank and Cindy Roberts  
Craig Chiappone  
Dr. Paul Alan and Mrs. Barbara Cox  
Clara Crace and Cavan Bunkhall  
Ann Danforth  
Cheryl Disque  
Michelle and Robert Friend  
John and Marcia Goldman  
Janet Harman  
Mr. and Mrs. Melissa Herst  
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Michael Hofman and Janet Moyer  
Cynthia Hubach  
Paula Kasler  
Reed and Yuliya Kathrein  
John and Janet Kister  
Kris Knoernschild  
Valerie London  
Mary Love May and Paul Gabrielson  
Barbara Meyer  
Joe Meylan  
James Miley  
Roger and Audre Newman  
William Oberbeck  
Gordon Radley  
Buffy Redsecker and Alan Chung  
Kristin Reed

Jeff Rosenbloom & Melissa Mednick  
Joe Ruck and Donna Ito  
Joseph and Cathy Scalzo  
Rand and Carol Selig  
Bill and Judy Shepherd  
Elizabeth and Noah Silverman  
Howard and Ann Sohn  
Anne Symchych  
Cherri and Randy Tom  
Cindy and Richard Troop  
Sally and Ron Wackowski  
Jake Warner and Toni Ihara  
Jacqueline and Paul Wender  
Julissa and Wayne Westerman

*Seacology is fortunate to receive many gifts under \$2,500, and we deeply appreciate every contribution. Each gift we receive is important to our efforts to protect the world's islands.*

## CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS

Anonymous  
11th Hour Racing  
Argus Fund  
Arntz Family Foundation  
Arthur L & Elaine V Johnson Foundation  
Bernard Osher Foundation  
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The Eucalyptus Foundation  
Flora Family Foundation  
Holdfast Collective  
Belron Ronnie Lubner Charitable  
Foundation  
Mariposa Fund  
The Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation

Mennen Environmental Foundation  
New York Community Trust  
Nextera Energy  
Nu Skin Force for Good Foundation  
Nu Skin International Inc./  
Pharmanex LLC  
Overbrook Foundation  
Parlez Clothing

The Plant Initiative  
Sea Grape Foundation  
Sony Music Entertainment  
Newman and Zeneth  
Ward Family Foundation  
The White Pine Fund  
Whole Systems Foundation

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In 2023, 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.

## Our supporters

The following individuals and organizations generously supported our campaign to repair and reopen the Lanka Mangrove Museum.

This first-of-its-kind museum was built as part of our nationwide program to preserve Sri Lanka's coastal wetlands from 2015-2020. Like many institutions across the island nation, it was forced to close amid the pandemic and severe financial crisis that followed. Our campaign allowed the museum to make needed repairs and on July 26, World Mangrove Day, it welcomed enthusiastic crowds through its doors for the first time in several years. Today, the museum is once again fulfilling its mission as the leading repository of knowledge about Sri Lanka's vital coastal wetlands, and is a popular destination for students, tourists, and scientists.

Anonymous	Amanda Kirkhart
Erin C	Jon LaBranch
Kevin Claassen	Denis and Diane Lyman
Joyce Clarke	Rhianna Lynch
Dr. Paul Alan and Mrs. Barbara Cox	Nathanial Matthews
Albert G (Pete) Boyce Jr	Gregg Mayer
Ann Ruth Danforth	Nelke
Lin Due	Karen Peterson
Jim Enright	John Pohlman
Nu Skin Force For Good Foundation	Aaron Rashba
Rahula Gunasekera	Peter Read
Nan Guslander	Kristin Reed
Lisa and Scott Halsted	Scotty
Doug and Leni Herst	Wes Silverstein
Kimberly Leilani Myers Hewlett	Duane Silverstein and Marcia Stewart
Kimberly Johnson	Pam Wade
Julie	Michael Ward
Paula S Kasler	Alex Weinstein, MD & Betty Helton, MD



Above, students watch a presentation in the museum's auditorium.



The Lanka Mangrove Museum organizes fun, hands-on activities for young people to get involved in protecting and restoring the country's coastal wetlands.



Left, the museum offers a wealth of information about Sri Lanka's mangrove forests, the many species they contain, and their importance for the country's future.

## Our supporters

### ISLAND LEGACY SOCIETY

*Members of the Island Legacy Society have made a commitment to protecting islands for future generations to enjoy by making a planned gift to Seacology.*

Anonymous (4)  
Frank W. and Margaret B. Adelstein Fund  
Marie-Louise Ansak  
Larry and Wendy Barels Charitable Trust  
Susan Walker Bagley Bloom\*  
Michael Burbank and Cindy Roberts  
Kimo Campbell\*  
Dr. Paul and Mrs. Barbara Cox  
Cheryl G. Disque and Michael J. Disque  
Rosalind Douglas Trust  
Graham Farrar Living Trust  
Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence Feigenbaum  
Kathryn Fox-Winokur  
Susan Friedman  
Christy Gavitt  
Eliot Girsang and Richard Wilson  
Kathleen Goetten\*  
Hank and Jane Goichman  
Mr. G. Morgan Griffin

Craig Grube  
Scott Halsted  
Doug and Leni Herst  
The Ives Family  
Michael N. Hofman and Janet M. Moyer  
Nick Hohn  
The Hotham Family Trust  
Cynthia Hubach, in memory of Richard A. Hubach  
Carlton A. Hubbell\*  
Shanna Jamieson  
Dr. Kimberly Johnson  
Sara Katz  
Mr. Raleigh Klein\*  
Masayuki Kishimoto\*  
Cathy Klema  
Estate of Neil and Jane Levy\*  
Mark Murzin\* and Krista Knoernschild  
Ken Murdock  
Dana Nojima and Elaine Lyford-Nojima

Matsuno K. Patrick  
Mickey Petersen Charitable Fund  
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Mr. and Mrs. Randolph Selig  
Nicholas Kendall Song Memorial Fund\*  
Duane Silverstein and Marcia Stewart  
Lindley S. Sloan  
Michael and Marilyn Staffieri Family Trust

Sandie N. Tillotson Foundation  
Cindy and Richard Troop  
Eric and Sharlene Van Boer  
James L. Walker, IV  
Alex Weinstein, MD and Betty Helton, MD  
Erin West  
Greg and Pat White  
Marsha Garces Williams

*\* in memoriam*

To join the Island Legacy Society:

- Make a gift to Seacology in your estate plan through your financial advisor.
- Contact Seacology's Development Department at (510) 559-3505 or [islands@seacology.org](mailto:islands@seacology.org), and we will send you a Letter of Intent to complete and return to us.





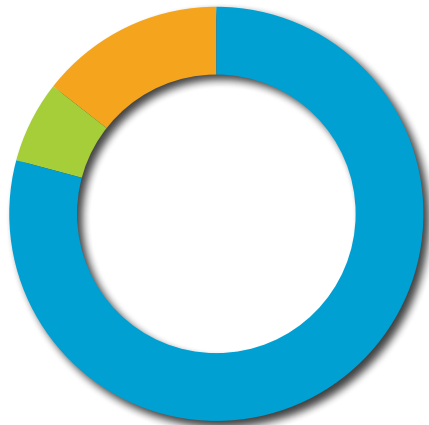
# Finances

Despite the challenges of rising prices in many of the countries in which we work, Seacology's finances remained strong in 2023. Due to a favorable investment environment, we saw significant growth in our assets. As usual, the overwhelming

majority of our spending went to our projects, helping us again earn top scores from charity-rating services.

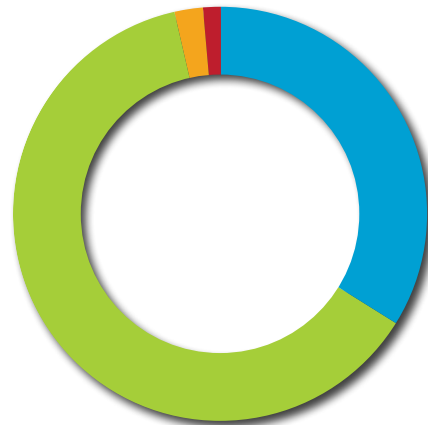
More details and documents are available at [seacology.org/about/annual-reports](https://seacology.org/about/annual-reports).

## Expenses



- Conservation programs (79.4%)
- Fundraising (14.4%)
- Management and General (6.2%)

## Public support



- Foundation grants (62.5%)
- Donations and bequests (34.1%)
- In-kind contributions (2.3%)
- Non-cash donations (1.1%)

## Statement of financial activity

January 1 through December 31, 2023<sup>1</sup>

### Support and Revenue

Foundation grants	\$ 2,681,818
Donations and bequests	\$ 1,513,314
In-kind contributions	\$ 98,960
<b>Total public support</b>	<b>\$ 4,294,092</b>

Expedition Income, net of expenses	\$ (12,969)
Interest/investment income	\$ 1,383,131
Miscellaneous	\$ 747
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>\$ 1,370,909</b>
<b>Total support and revenue</b>	<b>\$ 5,665,001</b>

### Expenses

Program services	\$ 2,404,841
Management and general	\$ 187,124
Fundraising	\$ 437,397
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$ 3,029,362</b>

**Change in net assets** **\$ 2,635,639**

<sup>1</sup> To request copies of previous years' audited financial statements prepared by Doran & Associates, Certified Public Accountants, please contact the Seacology office.



# Major initiatives

Most Seacology projects work with individual communities or small regions. However, in recent years our work has expanded to include conservation programs that span entire countries.

In 2023 we continued to fund two of these initiatives.

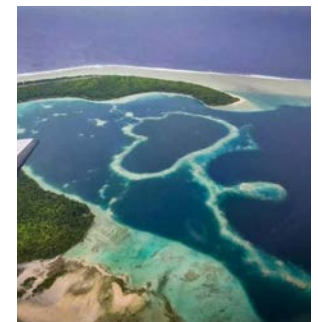
In its third year, our nationwide partnership to protect and promote the Dominican Republic's mangroves, known locally as *Campaña ManglarES*, continued to achieve milestones. The wide-ranging partnership with Dominican NGO Grupo Jaragua and several local communities and organizations is helping foster appreciation for these shoreline-protecting, carbon-capturing coastal forests. Our local partners have worked with schools, tourism providers, fishing cooperatives, and other stakeholders to educate and mobilize local people for mangroves.

As part of the initiative, our Play for the Mangroves program connects young people's passion for sports with environmental education and action. Play for the Mangroves has provided thousands of disadvantaged

young baseball and volleyball players with balls, bats, nets, uniforms, and other essential equipment. The innovative program has organized trips for the young athletes to some of the country's most important mangrove areas, teaching them about the unique wildlife found there, and enlisting them in coastal cleanups and plantings. The program has been such a hit that we've now expanded it to the Philippines and are exploring adapting the model to more countries.

Thousands of miles away, Seacology is working with leaders across the Cook Islands to promote Marae Moana. This record-breaking marine reserve encompasses the entirety of the Pacific island nation's exclusive economic zone. Given the challenges of enforcing protections of this massive ocean territory—particularly in a sparsely populated country like the Cook Islands—local engagement is critical.

Seacology's support is helping the Cook Islands Voyaging Society and other partners share the importance of Marae Moana ("Sacred Ocean") for the local economy and culture.





Dominican Republic

## National Mangrove Initiative

Young participants in **Play for the Mangroves**, wearing jerseys provided by the program, meet with a Seacology delegation and our local partners to prepare for mangrove planting at **Las Calderas** in April.

Several guests joined us on this trip to the Dominican Republic as part of Seacology's travel program (read more on page 38).



Dominican Republic

## National Mangrove Initiative

Las Calderas is near a base of the Dominican navy. During our visit to the project, many active-duty sailors and cadets joined with local residents, students, and a representative of the environmental ministry to help plant mangrove

seedlings. While the national government is not an official partner in the initiative, this participation shows unprecedented support from many sectors of the country's society in promoting healthy mangroves.



Dominican Republic

# National Mangrove Initiative

The first-ever **Run for the Mangroves** exceeded our expectations. Organized by our local partner Foro Ambiental de Samaná, the inaugural run offered 3K and 5K courses along the scenic coast of **El Astillero**, one of our project sites. More than

200 runners of all ages joined in the fun, including many participants in Play for the Mangroves, members of our staff, and guests on a Seacology expedition. (read more on pg. XX)



Dominican Republic

# National Mangrove Initiative

Our national partner, Grupo Jaragua, has been working with schools across the country to bring mangrove-related fun and environmental education to thousands of students. Among the frequent guests at these interactive lessons

is a giant parrot representing one of the many species found in the DR's mangrove forests. A study is currently being conducted to measure the educational impact of these programs.



Dominican Republic

## National Mangrove Initiative

The campaign's lessons aren't limited to the classroom. Students enjoy field trips to some of the DR's most important mangrove areas, coming face-to-face with the wildlife that depends on their preservation. The program also funds interpretive

materials and equipment to help students and tourists get a closer look at their country's native creatures, such as pelicans, frigatebirds, and iguanas.



Dominican Republic

# National Mangrove Initiative

Over the summer, the first *Campamento Rodante Manglares* (rolling mangrove camp) brought kids and teenagers to key mangrove forests around the Dominican Republic. Mixing ecotourism and education, the weeklong expedition mixed

fun outings like kayaking, snorkeling, and nighttime hikes with hands-on instruction and environmental stewardship. The campers held beach cleanups, learned to monitor sea turtle nests, and planted mangrove seedlings.





Ariel Contreras/Cúa Conservation Agency

Dominican Republic

# National Mangrove Initiative

As part of the public outreach of Campaña ManglarES, Grupo Jaragua has organized mangrove photography and art exhibits at major shopping centers and other venues. The work of talented photographers and painters is displayed

in prominent locations like this mall in the capital city. The exhibits are important conversation-starters with people who aren't aware of the importance of their county's mangroves.



Dominican Republic

# National Mangrove Initiative

In **Las Calderas**, Seacology is working with a local beekeeping cooperative to expand their business and protect 173 acres of neighboring mangroves. It's a true win-win: The beekeepers know the area and keep their hives in the forest near the

mangroves, making them the de-facto guardians of the area. The mangrove flowers help feed the bees. The cooperative is also helping to fight pollution and reduce trash, making ecotourism in the area more popular.



Cook Islands

# Marae Moana

After nearly two years of tireless work, talented artists have transformed what was once a drab, gray seawall into a beautiful mural, the longest in the South Pacific. The mural celebrates the unique culture and history of each of the 15 Cook Islands,

its biodiversity, and its connection to Marae Moana. The mural is located near the airport on the country's main island of Rarotonga, so it will be seen by nearly everyone who visits.



Cook Islands

# Marae Moana

Since the reserve's inception, the Cook Islands government has been unified in support of Marae Moana and Seacology's efforts to promote it. Prime Minister Mark Brown (left) and his entourage

attended the official dedication of the mural in late 2023. Also pictured are Seacology Prize recipient and Marae Moana ambassador Kevin Iro (center) and the mural's lead artist, Gonzalo Aldana.



Cook Islands

# Marae Moana

Best known for his exceptional rugby career, Kevin Iro has dedicated much of his time post-retirement to protecting the Cook Islands ocean. As the official ambassador for the reserve, he frequently travels to remote corners of the archipelago to

meet with community leaders, students, and other stakeholders to advocate for Marae Moana's success. We awarded him with the Seacology Prize in 2022 for his passionate and effective environmental advocacy.

# Kia Tapu to tatou Marae Moana



## Cook Islands

# Marae Moana

Many students across the Cook Islands have created fantastic ocean-themed artwork as part of the outreach that Seacology is funding. Contests to design posters and the official uniform worn by

park officials have showcased the skills of these talented young people and created engaging content for the reserve's popular social media channels.

# Project highlights

Though our national initiatives represent a major scaling-up of our work, local win-win partnerships with individual island communities continue to be the foundation of Seacology's unique model of conservation.

In 2023, we launched 23 of these partnerships (see page 32). These local projects helped island communities in Madagascar, India, Honduras, and many other countries safeguard their critically important wetlands, watersheds, and fisheries, protecting countless native species. Seacology projects helped island villages secure clean drinking water, generate renewable energy, sustainably grow crops, and provide education for their children.

With the average cost of a Seacology project under \$30,000, these locally managed conservation initiatives remain remarkably cost-effective. Thanks to our dedicated field representatives' deep understanding of local needs and capacities, our projects are carefully planned and vetted, and have an excellent rate of success.

The following pages feature just a few of our favorite examples of this approach in action in 2023, showcasing the diversity of communities served and habitats protected.

To explore any of our projects going back to our first in 1991, check out [Secology.org/projects](https://www.seacology.org/projects). You can read more about them all, see the different types of ecosystems we protect, view wonderful photos from islands around the globe, and more.





Cameroon

## Tiko-Limbe Islands

On the three remote islands involved with this Seacology project, life's essentials are hard to come by. Equipment to dry and store fish, as well as solar power for over 30 homes, has now been installed in exchange for conservation of 4,942 acres of mangrove and associated ecosystems

for 25 years. The people of these communities have created a committee to manage electricity distribution and solar power system maintenance. They are also implementing livelihood plans that will give people alternatives to exploiting mangrove and marine ecosystems.





Chile

# Puluqui Island

The peatlands and lagoons of Puluqui collect rainwater that provides the island's fresh water supply, and support a rich diversity of wildlife. Seacology's partner organization, Ecopuluqui, built a bird observation area and boardwalk, providing community open space and a venue for environmental education. Ecopuluqui also

conducted a seminar on management and conservation of water and peatlands on the island, which was a conservation milestone. Regional decision-makers, as well as peat extractors' organizations and researchers working on sustainable peatland management, all participated.



Dutch Caribbean

## Lac Bay, Bonaire

A batch of juvenile Queen conch grown in Curaçao were successfully transported to Lac Bay, Bonaire, and are doing well in their new protected habitat. The Queen conch is a threatened yet essential species which can grow up to a foot in length. They are economically and culturally significant

in Bonaire, but are at risk due to overfishing. The juvenile mollusks will augment the existing conch population in Lac Bay, helping to keep the seagrass habitat healthy by grazing on macro algae and organic matter.



El Salvador

## Montecristo Island

The beaches of Montecristo Island are one of the main sea turtle nesting sites in El Salvador. Seacology funded repairs for a sea turtle hatchery, as well as guardhouse modifications to improve conditions for hatchery caretakers and tourists. An environmental education festival engaged kids

in over ten local communities, and fishers have attended training sessions on how to repair their boats, keeping their work more cost-efficient and sustainable. As of mid-December 2023, 116,212 sea turtle eggs had hatched, and 92,453 hatchlings had been released.



Fiji

## Uma Village, Rabi Island

Rabi Island is home to about 5,000 descendants of indigenous Banabans who were forced to relocate after strip mining left much of Banaba Island uninhabitable. The islanders used a Seacology grant to restore their dangerously dilapidated meeting building and build a solid new community hall for families from six

villages, in exchange for protecting 1,230 acres of mangrove and inland forests. A Seacology expedition attended the joyous opening of the new community building in September, joining hundreds of local people for a day of music, dancing, and feasting.



Madagascar

## Ecovision Village

A Seacology grant funded the purchase and planting of seedlings to create a wildlife corridor connecting sections of Madagascar's important and fractured forests. Our partners and community members planted about 20,700 seedlings of 60 native tree species across 44

acres of degraded forest area. They monitor the seedlings weekly and have found an average seedling mortality rate of 7.8%, which is highly successful. The rest of the grant will go toward building the village's first school, which will also serve as a community center.



## Philippines

# Suyac Island

The Suyac Island Mangrove Reserve was able to reopen to the public after extensive repairs to facilities damaged by storms and disuse during the pandemic. Seacology funded repairs of a watchtower and spa, drawing tourists to boost the local economy and aiding efforts to monitor the park and prevent poaching of unique native

species, including the golden-crowned flying fox, the world's largest bat. Islanders count the bats monthly, reporting the data to the Regional Office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. As of August 2023, the flying fox population count had risen to over 8,000.



United States

## Sucia Island

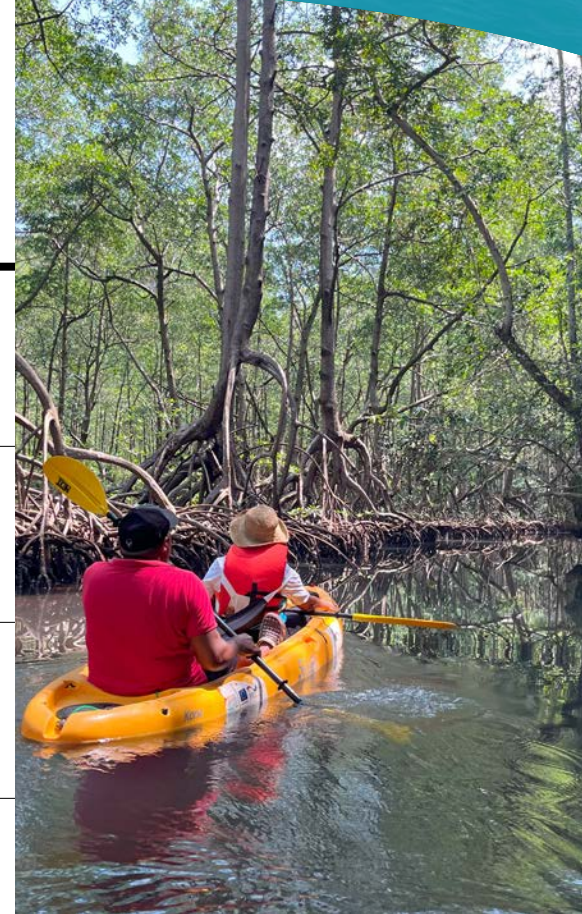
Our latest partnership with the University of Washington's Friday Harbor Laboratories is working with indigenous youth to restore a degraded seagrass meadow. With guidance and

logistical support from UW's scientists, these teens with deep ancestral ties to the San Juan Islands will play a direct role in restoring the plants, which are vital to the local marine ecology.

# New projects



Location	Conservation benefit	Community benefit
<b>Chile</b> Doña Sebastiana Island	Assessment and control of invasive marine species	
<b>Dominican Republic</b> San Lorenzo Bay	Conservation of 2,916-acre mangrove ecosystem for 15 years	Rebuilding of office and support for ecotourism and sustainable fisheries
<b>Dutch Caribbean</b> Lac Bay, Bonaire	Restoration of the threatened Queen conch	Environmental education and eventually, a sustainable fishery in Lac Bay
<b>El Salvador</b> Montecristo Island	Protection of four endangered species of marine turtles	Turtle egg hatchery improvements; waste management; children's sea turtle awareness activities; turtle festival; ecotourism, artisanal fishing and handicraft training
<b>Federated States of Micronesia</b> Pisiwi Island, Chuuk	Permanent protection of 108 acres of land and marine area as nature preserve	New visitors center/ranger station



Seacology began

23

new projects  
in 2023

🇺🇸 *Funding provided by Nu Skin Force For Good Foundation*

🇯🇵 *Funding provided by Seacology Japan*



Location

Conservation benefit

Community benefit

**Federated States of Micronesia**

Walung Community, Kosrae



Permanent protection of two marine areas totaling 207 acres

Renovation of community youth center

**Fiji**

Qumusea District

Protection of a 4,000-acre forest area for 15 additional years; mangrove planting preservation

New computer building for school

**Fiji**

Uma Village, Rabi Island



Protection of 1,230 acres of forest for 15 years; mangrove planting on four acres

New community hall/kindergarten, renovation of small historic building

**Honduras**

Exposición, Inglesera, and Pacar Islands

Protection of 124 acres of coastline for 20 years

Solar panels, lobster sheds, sewage and solid-waste management education

India, Berhampur and Mahinsha villages

Continued mangrove planting and conservation

Support for ecotourism

**India**

Chorão Island

Protection of about 7.5 acres of biodiverse mangrove and wetland habitat, home of an endangered otter




Interpretive center, observation platform, wildlife murals, education and training for landowners and fishers

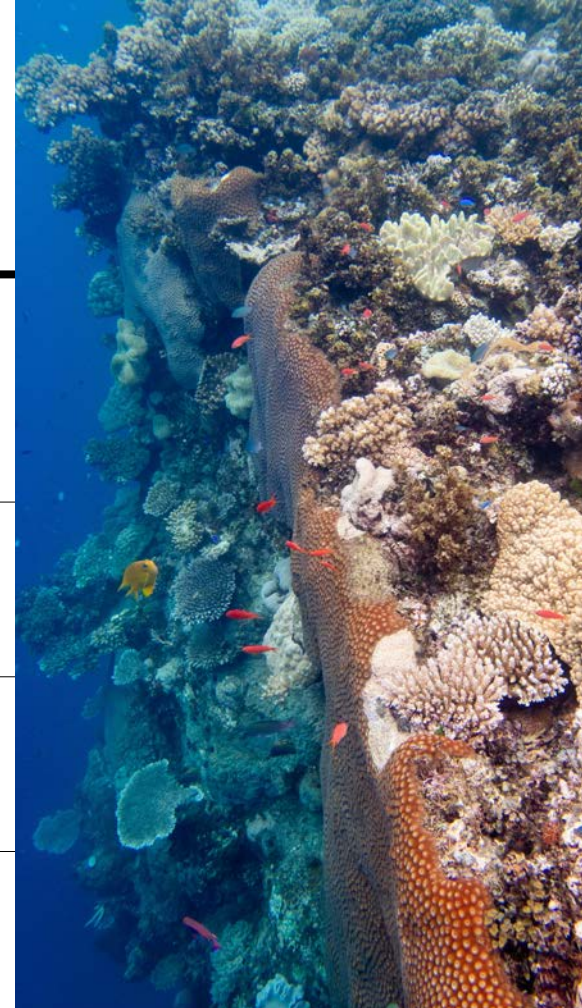


By the end of 2023,  
our projects had  
protected

658,892

acres of terrestrial  
island habitat.

Location	Conservation benefit	Community benefit
<b>Indonesia</b> Medan Mas Village, Borneo 	Mangrove replanting (25 acres) and patrols of 450 acres for 15 years	Coastal Learning Center for environmental education and livelihood trainings
<b>Indonesia</b> Elang Cot Girek, Sumatra	Protection of 618 acres of forest for 10 years	Support of coffee growing, native tree planting, and small-scale ecotourism
<b>Madagascar</b> Ecovision Village 	Protection and replanting of 74-acre forest corridor for 30 years	Primary school and furnishings, with restroom block
<b>Malaysia</b> Gana Village, Borneo 	Protection of 124 acres of forest for 15 years	Shade structures for artisanal organic farming, gravity water system
<b>Malaysia</b> Puneng Trusan Village, Borneo	Protection of 1,165 acres of forest watershed for 15 years	Renewable energy from micro-hydro system
<b>Mexico</b> Contoy Island	Protection of endangered species such as sea turtles, manta rays, and fragile ecosystems like mangroves in a marine reserve	Environmental education



By the end of 2023,  
 our projects had  
 protected  
**800,303**  
 acres of marine  
 island habitat.

New projects

Location	Conservation benefit	Community benefit
<b>Mexico</b> Guadalupe Island 🌐	New 110-acre no-take intertidal area for 10 years	Fresh water from new desalination plant
<b>Philippines</b> Suyac Island	Permanent conservation of 37 acres of mangroves, habitat of endangered bat	Repairs to watchtower and ranger station to support locally managed nature-based tourism
<b>Philippines</b> Play for the Mangroves	Environmental education, mangrove protection and restoration	Sports equipment and training for youth
<b>Thailand</b> Ban Bagunyai Village	Conservation of 3,700-acre marine area, including coral reef and 450 acres of seagrass, for 10 years	Youth environmental center
<b>Tonga</b> Manuka Village	272-acre marine protected area, including 64-acre no-take zone, for 10 years	Infrastructure for new ecotourism and recreational park
<b>United States</b> Sucia Island 🌐	Replanting .12 acres of native eelgrass	Inclusion of indigenous youth in eelgrass education and long-term restoration

By the end of 2023,  
Seacology had  
launched

406

projects  
on islands in

68

countries.



# Seacology in the news

Rappler, February 4, 2023

"Fast Facts: Things to know about Sibuyan Island, the 'Galapagos of Asia'"

Time Out, April 21, 2023

"14 sustainable travel companies you can feel good about booking with"

Cook Islands News, May 3, 2023

"New growth recorded for endemic Mitiaro species – Iniao"

Sustainable Jungle, May 7, 2023

"13 Eco-Tourism Companies To Help You Book Your Next Sustainable Adventure"

Pageone.ph, May 11, 2023

"Mangrove Eco-Tourism Project Uplifts Lives Of Sagay Island Folk"

The Bonaire Reporter, July 5-26, 2023

"Restoring Lac's Conch"

SunStar, August 14, 2023

"Improved spa, watchtower opened in Suyac Ecopark"

Philippine News Agency, August 14, 2023

"Sagay City mangrove island gets P1.5-M aid to improve facilities"

Politiko Visayas, August 16, 2023

"Javelosa thanks Seacology for P1.5-M aid to fix mangrove island"

The Travel, August 30, 2023

"10 Eco-Friendly Tour Companies You Should Know About"

Fiji Times, September 20, 2023

"Deal for a 'bright future'"

FBC News, September 20, 2023

"Seacology builds computer lab"

Fiji Times, September 24, 2023

"Community hall in exchange for preservation of forest"

Cook Islands News, October 17, 2023

"Marae Moana art project creates more awareness"

Listin Diario, October 26, 2023

"Apicultura en Las Calderas"

Cook Islands News, November 6, 2023

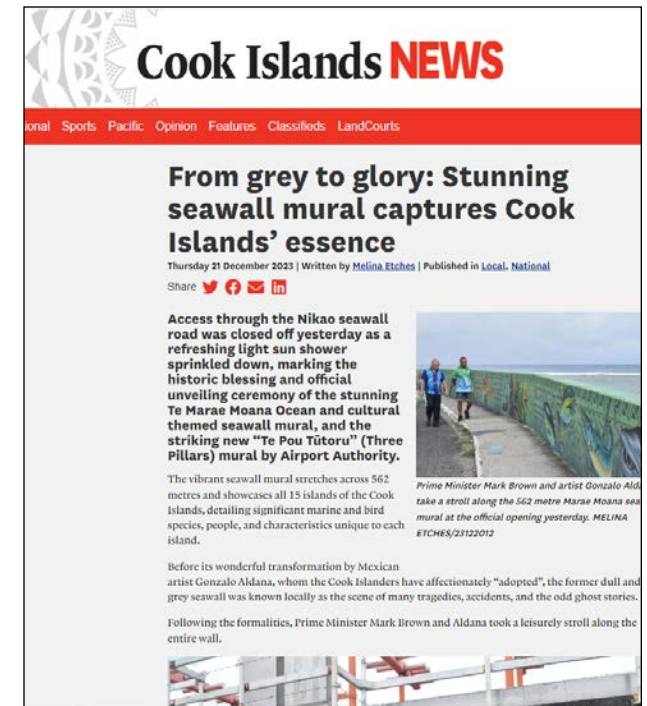
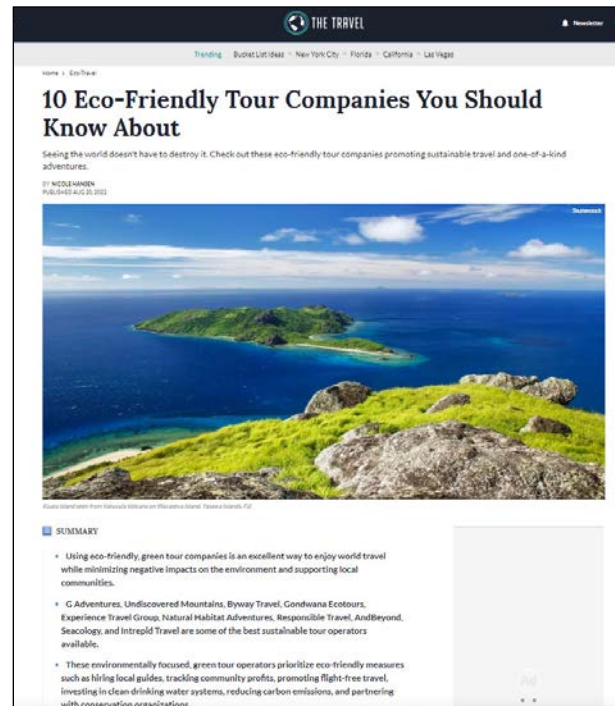
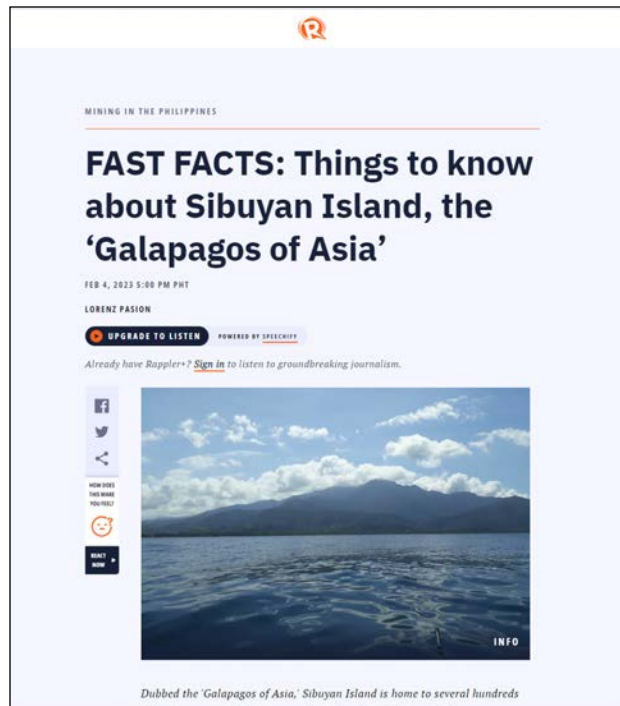
"Te Marae Moana's ocean-themed mural project nears completion"

Lemur Conservation Network, December 19, 2023

"Dr. Jonah Ratsimbazafy Wins the Seacology Prize!"

Cook Islands News, December 21, 2023

"From grey to glory: Stunning seawall mural captures Cook Islands' essence"



# Seacology Prize



## Jonah Ratsimbazafy

One of Madagascar's leading primatologists, Dr. Ratsimbazafy has been a steadfast voice for his country's iconic and endangered lemurs

Jonah Ratsimbazafy knows the sounds of the forest. A renowned expert in the many species of lemurs that inhabit Madagascar's trees, he can identify the often-elusive creatures by their calls. His imitations of their signature vocalizations have delighted countless schoolchildren as he travels across Madagascar, bringing his message of conservation to classrooms around the country.

In October we welcomed Dr. Ratsimbazafy to the United States in the first Seacology Prize Ceremony held in-person since 2019. The audience was captivated as the brilliant environmentalist shared the story of how he discovered his life's work of saving lemurs, and how helping local people escape poverty is essential to this goal.

In his acceptance speech, Dr. Ratsimbazafy shared that he originally aspired to be a paleontologist, but a visit to a local nature reserve and the heartbreaking experience of finding lemurs ensnared in traps in the forest shifted his priorities.

"I said to myself, 'the fossils can wait under the ground for now,'" he told the packed auditorium. "Taking care of the creatures that are still alive is more urgent."

Learn more about Jonah Ratsimbazafy at [seacology.org/prize](https://seacology.org/prize).

## About the Seacology Prize

The Seacology Prize recognizes heroic achievement by indigenous leaders and other islanders who work tirelessly and often at great personal risk to protect their island's ecosystems and culture. It is underwritten by Ken Murdock, Vice Chair of Seacology, in memory of his mother, Lalovi Fish Murdock.

# Travel



Re-launched in 2022 after a pandemic suspension, our acclaimed travel program ramped up in a big way in 2023. Five Seacology Expeditions brought our supporters to see firsthand the impact of our work in the Caribbean, the South Pacific, and Southeast Asia.

## Dominican Republic

In April, Seacology donors joined members of our staff to visit the Dominican Republic and see the progress of our nationwide mangrove-conservation initiative launched in 2020.

The group met with our national partners and visited several project sites. As part of the exciting weeklong visit, we attended the first-ever Run for the Mangroves, a scenic footrace along the coast at our project site in El Astillero (read more on page 13).



In Las Calderas, the group met with local beekeepers. Seacology is helping them expand their business in exchange for their stewardship of the local mangroves, which provide nectar for their hives.



Above, some of the young participants in the Run for the Mangroves strike a pose at the finish line.

Left, our group visits our project at La Playita.

# Bonaire

In the past few years, Seacology has become active in the Dutch Caribbean with projects in the island territories of Bonaire, Saba, and Curaçao.

In June, our expedition toured the new nature preserve where Seacology is playing a vital role in protecting the critically endangered Bonaire palm, one of the world's rarest trees. Our simple but highly effective intervention built a fence around the trees, allowing seedlings to grow instead of being eaten by grazing goats and donkeys.

At nearby Lac Bay our partners explained how they are using technology and careful resource stewardship to protect the Queen conch. These large shellfish are an important part of the local culture and economy, and our project is helping to ensure that the fishery is stable. (Read more on pg. 26)

Several divers in the group explored one of the Caribbean's top scuba destinations.



Above, our group poses in front of a Bonaire palm. The tree is one of only a couple dozen mature Bonaire palms. Since our project, several new seedlings have taken root in the reserve.



Left, healthy coral reefs off Bonaire, a welcome exception to the overall trend of decline of reefs in the Caribbean

Below, our local partners demonstrate the electronic tagging system they use to monitor the Queen conch population.



# Borneo

They say that good things come to those who wait. Originally planned for 2020, this trip to Malaysian Borneo faced multiple postponements due to the pandemic. But when it finally took place, it was well worth the delays.

In August, our guests trekked through the beautiful, dense rainforests of Sabah State and enjoyed the amenities of leading eco-resorts. On the Kinabatangan River, they came face-to-face with orangutans, pygmy elephants, and other wildlife in one of the world's great biodiversity hotspots.

In a visit to the village of Tiga Bundu, we met with our local partners to learn how Seacology's investment in ecotourism there is helping the community ensure a more sustainable future and protect the natural bounty that surrounds them.



Above, exploring the verdant forests of Borneo

Left, an orangutan watches from the trees.



Below, the group joins residents of Tiga Bundu village to plant trees by the river.





# Fiji

The natural beauty and legendary hospitality of the Fijian islands have made them among the most popular destinations for Seacology's travel program. So popular, in fact, that we went there twice in 2023!

In September, we were welcomed to the official dedication of our new project in Uma village on Rabi Island, where Seacology funded a new community center. Long underserved since they were involuntarily relocated from an island in Kiribati, the local Banaban community put on a festive celebration, attended by hundreds of islanders.

A few months later, we hosted our second trip in a series of travel partnerships with the California Academy of Sciences. Our group visited Nukubalavu Village, where a Seacology-funded kindergarten has served local families since 2008. We also enjoyed world-class diving and learned about Fiji's fragile marine ecosystem from Academy scientists.



Left, divers enjoy the thriving coral reefs off Vanua Levu.



Below, the group takes a break from the water to have lunch in Lea village.



Below left, a traditional kava ceremony welcomes guests to Nukubalavu.



Above, a brass band entertains the crowd at the opening of the Uma Village community center.

Left, Seacology supporter Christine Symchych unveils the dedication plaque for the new hall.

# In memoriam



## Masayuki Kishimoto

A longtime member of our board of directors, Mr. Kishimoto was an indispensable part of Seacology's worldwide expansion

Mr. Kishimoto's pioneering spirit in conservation was manifest in many Seacology projects in Samoa, Fiji, Japan, and other islands of the Pacific and Southeast Asia. He played a key role in the establishment of our affiliate, Seacology Japan, with offices in Tokyo.

Kishimoto was born prior to World War II on the island of Tinian. As a small boy he traveled with his military family to Japanese-held islands in the Pacific, and suffered firsthand the ensuing famine during the Japanese retreat.

After finishing his education at the University of Maryland on a Fulbright Fellowship, Mr. Kishimoto became a Senior Manager for Japan Airlines in Washington, D.C. While there, he met and married his beloved wife, Tamako, who was working for the US bureau of Tokyo's Asahi newspaper. His stature with the Japanese government helped with rapid approval of Seacology Japan as one of the few foreign-linked charities in the country. His family charity in Okinawa led to the acceptance of Seacology throughout the Ryukyu Islands, and he has brought dozens of Japanese students as Kishimoto Fellows to California to cement better understanding between Japan and the USA. During his tenure on Seacology's board he made numerous site visits to our projects in Samoa and Hawaii.

His and Tamako's homes in both Tokyo and Palos Verdes, California became havens for conservation-minded individuals, particularly after his translation of *Nafanua: Saving the Samoan Rainforest* into Japanese. Mr. Kishimoto published several books in both Japanese and English arguing that conservation of the world's resources and the abandonment of armed conflict are necessary steps to a better world.

In 2023, we dedicated our new project at Gana Village in Malaysian Borneo to his memory, with funding provided by Seacology Japan.

Seacology extends our condolences to his wife, Tamako, and to his brother, Masuhara.

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



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