

Protecting the Muri Lagoon in Rarotonga, Cook Islands

The community of Muri Village requested assistance in upgrading their meeting house to a multi-purpose standard (cyclone evacuation center, cultural arts center, gymnasium, health care, etc.).

Seacology agreed fund the renovating and upgrading of the village

meeting house and health clinic; in exchange, the Muri community will declare 413 acres of the lagoon and surrounding area as a protected area for a duration of 10 years. With the exception of food fish for community use only, a prohibition on harvesting all coral, marine biodiversity, marine mammals, bird and mammals that inhabit the islet will be enforced; sand mining of the beach will also be prohibited.



Seacology's Field Representative for the Cook Islands, [Allan Tuara](#), attended Muri's opening ceremony on August 14, 2010, for their renovated community center and health clinic. The event brought together local leaders and over 100 residents to celebrate full renovations to the two adjoining buildings. In addition, a water purifying unit was attached to the center and is now fully functioning to provide clean water to the community. Seacology and the Muri Community are all thrilled at the project's successful completion, and we look forward to many years of protection for the coral reef.



[Seacology](#) is an international nonprofit, nongovernmental organization whose sole purpose is to preserve the environments and biodiversity of islands globally. Seacology has created an innovative model of island conservation and community development that has proven to successfully protect threatened island ecosystems, engage local stakeholders in modern conservation trends, promote international cooperation and dialogue, and ensure long-term benefits to rural island communities and the increasingly precious environments that surround them. To-date, Seacology has funded 199 projects on islands around the globe, preserving 1,812,720 acres of coral reef and marine ecosystems and 161,477 acres of terrestrial habitat. There remains much more work to be done, and Seacology intends to continue our legacy of success through additional innovative, grassroots programs aimed at preserving the world's most endangered ecosystems throughout 2010.