

ANT WORK VISIT!!

In this special edition (nr 100!!) of the SWF newsletter, we would have liked to start with the news that the recognition of the ancestral lands of San Martin de Amacayacu and Palmeras as an indigenous reserve is a fact. Unfortunately, this is not the case. However, we can report about the recent crucial visit of the National Land Agency (*Agencia Nacional de Tierras - ANT*) to the Tikuna Cocama and Yagua (TICOYA) indigenous reserve in the context of the land applications of 2012 and 2019.

Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, the communities have been waiting for the visit of the ANT technical team to complete the population census and the socioeconomic study (newsletters 89 and 90). These two parts are crucial to advance with the application.

A team of no less than 8 ANT representatives arrived in Puerto Nariño on November 23rd. The next day, a big meeting was held about the central goals of the visit:

- 1) Recognition of the ancestral lands of San Martin and Palmeras.
- 2) Recognition of the lands occupied by the communities of Ticoya, Patrullero, 20 de Julio, Puerto Esperanza and Valencia.
- 3) Identify, purchase, include or exclude private properties currently present in the TICOYA reserve.

This meeting went according to expectations and four teams of 1 ANT representative and 5 young people from San Martin already started the next day with the population census in the 22 communities in the TICOYA reserve. Another group of local people went into the rainforest with the ANT topographer to verify the GPS information of the limits of the discussed areas. Already before the arrival of the ANT, there had been expeditions by people from San Martin in November to these parts of the rainforest to create a path to the right locations.

In the meantime, another ANT representative made trips to the local agricultural fields to describe indigenous agriculture and a 7th representative looked at the socioeconomic situation of the households. The 8th representative analyzed the legal aspects of the application.

A lot of information had already been gathered in 2013 (newsletter 50) by the INCODER team. However, because 8 years have passed and the 2019 application also concerns additional communities and lands, this information needs to be adjusted and other information gathered for the first time.





AND HOW TO CONTINUE?

On December 1st, the last meeting was held with the 22 community representatives of the TICOYA reserve and the ANT. The results were discussed and it became clear that at least another 2 ANT visits are required to complete the information. Mostly, its about the GPS information of the area that is to be recognized and of the non-indigenous people that live on reserve land, legally or illegally. There has to be an inventory of all these people and their lands, to analyze how to deal with each situation. Some land can be purchased for the reserve with government money. With the people who occupy land in the reserve illegally, a dialogue will be held. Areas of land that are legal property of non-indigenous people need to be taken out of the reserve for the reserve map to be in agreement with reality. At this moment, those areas seem to be part of the TICOYA reserve, which leads to a lot of confusion.



Until the next ANT visit to the reserve, it is likely that there are another few Teams meetings. On the one hand, the weak internet connections in the region cause meetings having to be postponed, but on the other hand, they allow saving travel expenses.

Would you like to support the Tikuna indigenous community of San Martin together with the Small World Foundation, and stay informed about local developments in this remote corner of Colombia?

Please transfer 15 euro yearly (or more!) to the following bank account in the Netherlands:

Account name: Stichting SMALL WORLD FOUNDATION

SWIFT/BIC Code: RABONL2U

IBAN code: NL28 RABO 0132 7262 03

Or check out the online contribution module on: www.smallworldfoundation.org/?page_id=68

Please DON'T FORGET TO INFORM US ABOUT YOUR NAME AND EMAIL ADDRESS!!

(smallworldfoundation@hotmail.com)

The contributions will be spent exclusively on the development and realization of local initiatives in San Martin de Amacayacu in the Colombian Amazon. No wages are being paid to anyone. The expenses will be mentioned as much as possible in the newsletters.

For more information about this initiative, please check the website:

www.smallworldfoundation.org.