



FANTASTIC NEWS:

**PERSISTANCE PAYS OFF
THE APPLICATION FOR THE RECOGNITION
OF THE ANCESTRAL LANDS (±32.000HA)
OF THE TICUNA INDIGENOUS
COMMUNITIES OF SAN MARTIN DE
AMACAYACU AND PALMERAS, AS AN
ENLARGEMENT OF THE COCAMA AND
YAGUA RESERVE, HAS BEEN
APPROVED ON THE 23RD OF MARCH**

HURRRRRRRRAAAAY!

**TO EVERYONE WHO HAS SUPPORTED OUR FIGHT IN THE LAST FEW YEARS: THANK
YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! WE HOPE YOU WILL STILL BE WITH US WHILE WE
TAKE THE NEXT STEPS TO MAKE THE AREA AROUND THE OTHER FIVE
COMMUNITIES TO ALSO BE RECOGNISED. 😊**

It was on the 23rd of March that the redeeming Whatsapp message arrived from the Colombian National land agency (*Agencia Nacional de Tierras - ANT*) saying that the directive committee, where different governmental organisations are part of, had aproved the application of San Martin and Pameras. In the history of the Ticuna Cocama and Yagua indigenous reserve this is the second enlargement with exactly 30.757 hectares and 9.847 m² (Globo 2 on the landmap on the next page). The first enlargement of 54.000 hectares in 2003 came relatively fast after the foundation of the reserve in 1999 (87.000 hectares). In total the reserve nowadays consists of about 173.000 hectares of rainforest in very good state. A small part consists of active agriculture fields and regrowth forest.

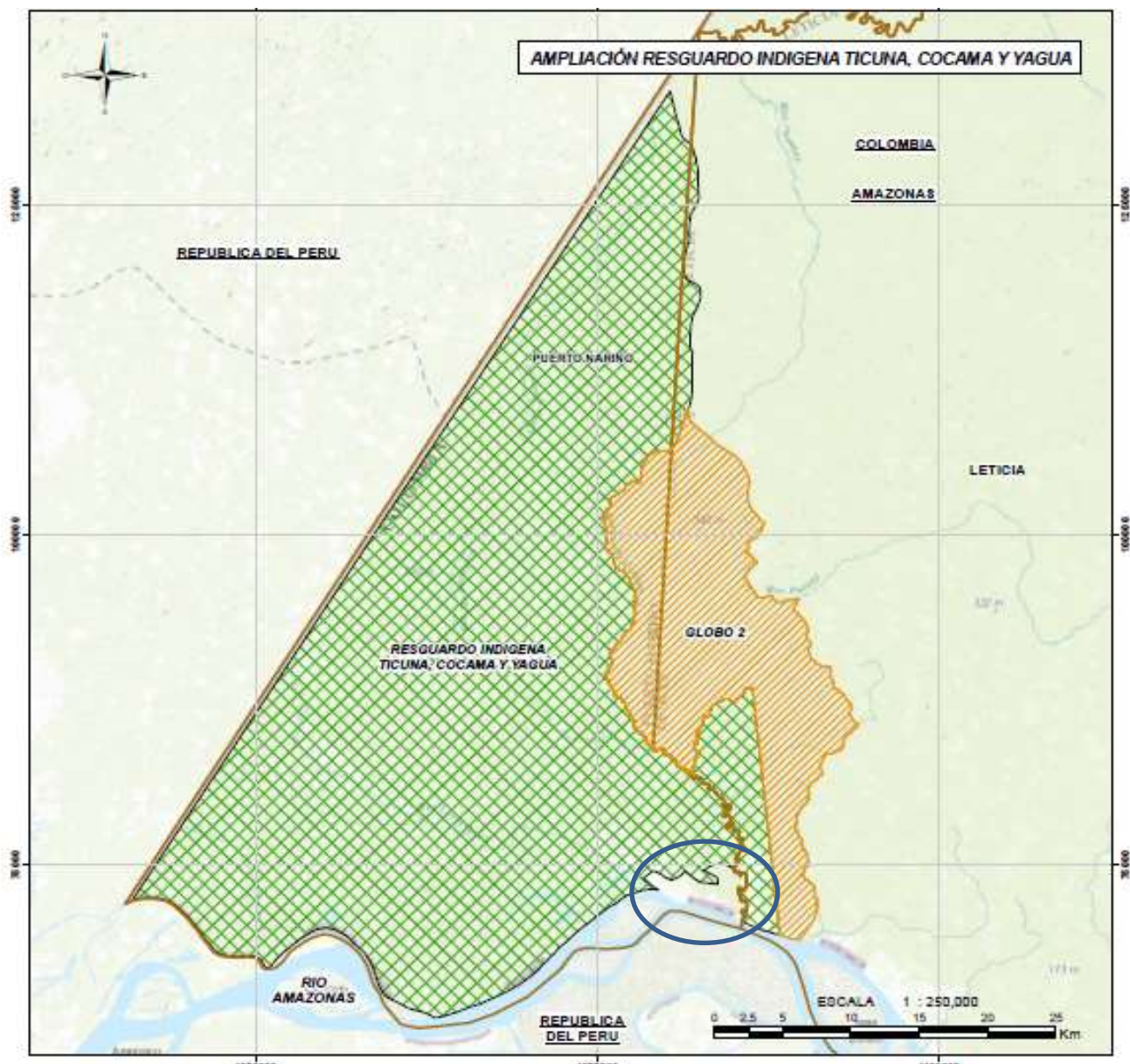
The territory of the five communities around Puerto Nariño (Ticoya, Patrullero, Veinte de Julio, Puerto Esperanza and Valencia) covers 1.617 hectares and 324m² (the blue circle on the map) and is still being lobbied and discussed. It is still impossible to estimate how much time is still needed before these lands are also recognised as part of the TICOYA reserve. At the moment these lands are no mans lands and there is a risk of these lands being occupied by third parties, which has already happened in some places. After five years these third parties receive the right over their lands. There are already meetings taking place with these new owners. Also the municipality of Puerto Nariño is trying to get it's hands on the lands in order to expand it's urban area. It's a process in development and we will keep updating you about it via our newsletters.

We would like to pause for a moment and think about how unique it is that in a land like Colombia there is the right of recognition of ancestral lands, as a indigenous reserve where the inhabitants are politically authonomous. Looking from this perspective one could think that some more developed countries are far behind. What a luxury is the recognition of this wonderful rainforest in these times of land



grabbing, legal and illegal mining and invasions of settlers for logging, livestock farming, cocaplantages, cocaine production, commercial fishery and religious cults. Despite the declining fish stocks in general in the Amazon (probably due to the overfishing in the big cities?) the population of the TICOYA indigenous reserve is still able to live from fishery, hunting and traditional agriculture.

The recognition has been an extra boost for the environmental patrol who has been managing the territory with so much dedication. The received political autonomy also indicates the total responsibility to take care of the reserve. Also on this matter we will keep you posted!



MINISTERIO DE AGRICULTURA Y DESARROLLO RURAL

AGENCIA NACIONAL DE TIERRAS -

ACUERDO No. **264** DE 2023

(23 MAR 2023)

"Por el cual se amplía por segunda vez el resguardo indígena Ticuna, Cocama y Yagua - TICOYA con un (1) globo de terreno baldío de posesión ancestral, localizado en los municipios de Puerto Nariño y Leticia, departamento del Amazonas"



"MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT" – NATIONAL LAND AGENCY – AGREEMENT NR 264 OF 2023 "By which the Ticuna Cocama and Yagua – TICOYA reserve will be enlarged with one (1) piece of land with ancestral property rights located in the municipality of Puerto Nariño and Leticia, province Amazonas"

WONE MEETING TICOYA

On the 26th, 27th and 28th of April the most important meeting of the TICOYA reserve took place. All communities of the reserve gather at this event in order to discuss important themes. A so called Wone meeting takes place every 18-24 months and it's name derives from the "Wone" tree out of which (after a very long story) the Amazon was created. This year it was, of course, the time to talk about the

recognition of the ancestral lands. It was important to discuss this topic since there were already some rumours spreading that all the five communities had already been recognised, which is not true. This had to be cleared up. Also the representatives of San Martin held a speech in which they explained about their future job as the organisers of the freshly recognised territory.



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?

You can transfer a yearly amount of 20 euros (or more...!) to:

Rabobank IBAN: NL28RABO0132726203

Bank account name: Stichting SMALL WORLD FOUNDATION at Baarle-Nassau,

Under the reference of 'newsletter' and your Name (BIC: RABONL2U)

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

Do not forget to inform us by sending your name and e-mail to smallworldfoundation@hotmail.com. For alternative (forms of) contributions you can also write to us via the e-mailadress mentioned above. As mentioned before, all contributions will be exclusively spent on the development and implementation of local initiatives. We will inform you about these projects as much as possible via the newsletter.

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