

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BIRD PROJECT

In the spring of 2022, the environmental guard of San Martín de Amacayacu received the Explorer Grant of the National Geographic Society for the project “Boosting Indigenous knowledge for autonomous Rainforest Design (BIRD)”. This project aims to connect the older and younger generations of Tikuna people by organizing activities to do with local birds and their role in Tikuna indigenous culture. The knowledge transferred by the elderly to the younger people can be a tool for the management of the ancestral lands in general. The birds’ ecology and behaviour can explain a lot about the state of the rainforest and can be an indicator of rainforest restoration or degradation, for example.



You can easily say that the more cultural interpretation of the birds and the part they played in the history of world creation and of the Tikuna people is unique on this planet and therefore worth focussing on. Therefore, one of the expected results is a book where some of these stories are told alongside the photo's taken by the project participants during the excursions to the rainforest. Another main project activity is making at least five masks that represent these culturally important birds. The basic material of these masks is made of the yanchama inner tree bark. This bark has to be harvested carefully but once dried it is very durable. Hopefully, the masks will be used later this year during a planned Tikuna ritual (pelazón, newsletter 94). All elder and younger participants are very enthusiastic and interested. Regularly, projects pictures with an explanatory text are posted on the Facebook and Instagram accounts: **@Tikuna_birds**. Do you follow the project already?







Tikuna Birds

14 Me gusta • 22 seguidores



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EVENT

Between the 8th and the 12th of May, a workshop was held in Mexico City for the Story Tellers Collective and National Geographic Explorers. About 20 indigenous and non-indigenous participants and about 10 National Geographic representatives gathered to share their perspectives on the art of story telling. There were many debates on the role of stories for different world cultures, the best story telling techniques in different contexts, the contribution of images to stories, the role of social media to pass on stories, etc. José Gregorio Vasquez was one of the three invited people from Colombia and together they traveled to Mexico City. It was a very strictly

organized week where José gained a lot of new impressions. During his presentation, he emphasized on the practical side of story telling: To what end do we use stories and how can we use stories in our daily lives to reach specific goals?



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:

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Bank account name: Stichting SMALL WORLD FOUNDATION at Baarle-Nassau,
Under the reference of 'newsletter' and your Name (BIC: RABONL2U)

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