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the small world foundation

EDUCATION + CLEANING UP WASTE

The primary and secondary education in the Amazon follows the national Colombian study program. This is also the case in the Ticuna community of San Martin de Amacayacu. Since a few years, the environmental patrol has been teaching children about the environment hoping this knowledge will become something important in their daily life: Taking care of your physical environment in order to secure everyone's quality of life. The ideas are transmitted to the children in a playful way by collecting waste together and talking about the importance of it. This activity is always followed by sport exercises and a short football match, using blue and green shirts to make the game more fun and give it a professional touch.





It is always so much fun to watch the children join these activities with enthusiasm. It can be quite difficult to make children understand the consequences of pollution for our health and for the environment, but making them believe that a clean environment is nicer than a dirty one is already a very good start. The collected waste is put in bags which are taken to Leticia by anyone who has to travel there. In



Leticia there is a NGO (*Amazonas Sin Limites*) who selects the materials to be processed in Bogotá. In collaboration with the air force, the bags full of plastic bottles (sorted by colour), cans, cardboard and glass are transported to Bogotá by plane or to Manaus in Brazil by boat. Though most of the waste is sorted in Leticia and transported elsewhere, there still exists a big waste dump in the open air near Leticia. We really hope one day the waste can be processed at a location in Leticia, solving the problem locally instead of shifting it to another part of the country.

ENVIRONMENTAL GUARD: MONITORING

In the first half of 2023, a project was carried out within the context of a big project of the TICOYA reserve, building new malokas at 10 of the 22 communities. The maloka used to be the original living space of indigenous people in the Amazon and with the arrival of the missionaries the indigenous inhabitants were encouraged to build separate houses where they would live only with their closest family. Malokas are still being built in the communities and serve as a space for special gathering and events, such as the Pelazón for example (Newsletter 94).

The materials needed to build a maloka are round poles of different measurements, the barks and leaves of palm s and lianas. All these materials can be found in the ancestral territory of San Martin de Amacayacu. The environmental guard of San Martin received a permit to organise the harvest of all the needed materials together with people from the different communities and was also responsible to lead these activities in the right direction. Most of it went well but the amount of waste left in the forest by people from the different communities will be one of the topics on the agenda for the next meeting with the other communities of the reserve. A few large pieces of plastic were left behind, which they use for the tents of this expedition. These pieces were so big and dirty that the only thing the guard could do was to burn it with gasoline. They also noticed that some planks were cut from trees they had no permit to use.

Apparently it is not only the young generation but also the older generation who needs to be educated about the environment?





CLASCO ZOOM DEBATE

The Latin American council for social dialogue (*Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales* – CLASCO) and the workgroup “Indigenous people and epistemic and territorial conflicts” (GT-PIDET) organised a debate via zoom on the 17th of August to discuss the situation of indigenous people in different countries and regions. Each group was given the opportunity to describe their specific situation and/or conflict and the actions that are being taken to



Link watch the zoom debate:

https://www.youtube.com/live/sEjxAYv4al?si=BVsiHUJW_u7rAq85

solve it. It is through these kind of debates that all the different indigenous communities in Latin America have the possibility to motivate and support each other. The later being very important in the long and often solitary path to become recognised.



Would you like to support the Tikuna indigenous community of San Martín 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

Bankaccount 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

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