



59

January
2015

the small world foundation

QUIET END OF 2014 IN SAN MARTIN

Once again, the Small World Foundation can look back on a successful year. The new kindergarden Tuírupü was opened again with a spectacular ceremony in May 2014. The building ended up costing €7.217 and will make sure the kids can play as much as they want during all weather conditions, because it is definitely big enough! The Tuírupü school year already kicked off halfway January 2015, this time with 31 children. Kinder garden teacher Miriam has been back since november from her maternity leave of three months. By the way, her son Arjen has been named after famous Dutch soccer player Arjen Robben! The Small World Foundation is proud!



2014 was also the year of the Darrell Posey Small Grant of the International Society of Ethnobiology (www.ethnobiology.net). This prize consists of ±€3800 for 2014 and the same amount for 2015, and is to be spent on the project *“Control of natural resource use in the ancestral lands of San Martin de Amacayacu”*. With natural resources, we mean timber, sand, gravel, palm leaves, fish and animals. The many meetings and workshops in the community in 2014 resulted in the formulation of the procedure to be followed by those interested in the use of these natural resources in this area. Also, a group of people has been formed in the community to figure as a kind of environmental police.

At the end of September, this group walked through the jungle for 3 days to visit the Tikuna community of Buenos Aires Cothué, located at roughly 60 kilometres to the north of San Martin. Many people in this community have family in San Martin and the Cothué indigenous reserve borders the San Martin ancestral lands.

The reason for visiting was the presence of illegal gold miners in the Cothué rivers (which is still the case at the moment of writing). The group from San Martin wanted to make clear that the use of mercury is illegal and life threatening for people and animals, also in the long term. Therefore, San Martin does not allow gold mining in the rivers in its ancestral lands and will do everything to avoid this.

During the visit, it was clear that also indigenous people from Buenos Aires Cothué were involved and/or got paid by the gold miners, voluntarily or maybe as a result of intimidation. The gold miners themselves come from Brasil, Peru or the Colombian inland and usually have ties to drug trade or guerilla. The group from San Martin was thus not received with open arms by everyone and taking photos of the gold mining boats was no option. The only “proof” is the photo above left: The gravel has been exposed by an attempt to find gold here, but apparently nothing was found.

Still, there was enough interest in Buenos Aires for a follow-up of the dialogue because at the end of October, a group of people came walking from Cothué to San Martin to continue the dialogue. It was emphasized that whenever strangers are present in the community, immediate action should be taken to avoid illegal activities later on.



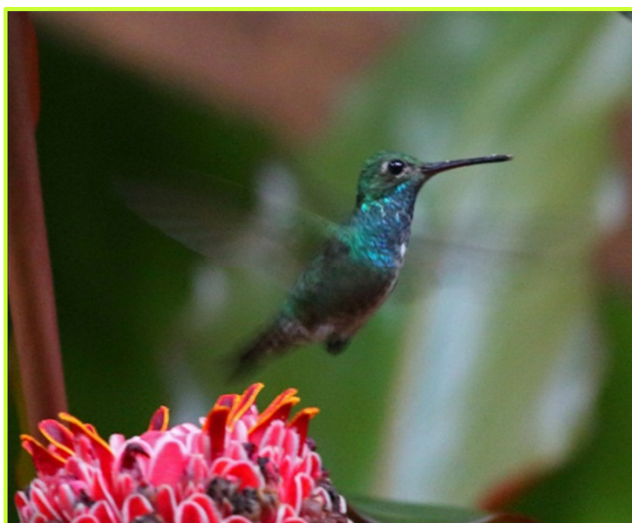
THANKS FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION!

On behalf of San Martin de Amacayacu and the Small World Foundation, we thank you a lot for your contribution and efforts in 2014. We experienced a busy and exciting year and we can conclude that we have never been so close to a possible recognition of the ancestral lands of the community. After so much serious work we thought it was time for a party.

Hopefully 2015 will deliver a concrete result? To be prepared for anything, the Small World Foundation continues to raise funds as always to support all necessary activities efficiently. Therefore, we hope to be able to count on your support and efforts again in 2015. Also, if you know of any events or occasions at which the foundation can raise funds, please let us know!

To the right you'll find a resume of the expenses in San Martin de Amacayacu in 2014 and a picture of Heike's garden hummingbird (thanks to Ria Vogels). The 2014 annual report will take a little longer. Earlier annual reports can be found on www.smallworldfoundation.org. By the way, this site has a new look thanks to Freshheads' Wout Withagen!

Category	Euro
Meetings San Martin	6.568
Kinder garden	5.397
Darrell Posey	3.896
Communication	192
Equipment and maintenance	976
Transport	1.847
Other (incl party for San Martin)	2.274
Total	21.150



Would you like to support the Tikuna indigenous community of San Martin together with the Small World Foundation, and stay in touch about the 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!!
(heike_van_gils@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 alternative contributions, please contact Heike van Gils at: heike_van_gils@hotmail.com.

For more information about this initiative, please check the website:
www.smallworldfoundation.org.