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July
2015

the small world foundation

JOSÉ FROM SAN MARTIN IN HOLLAND!

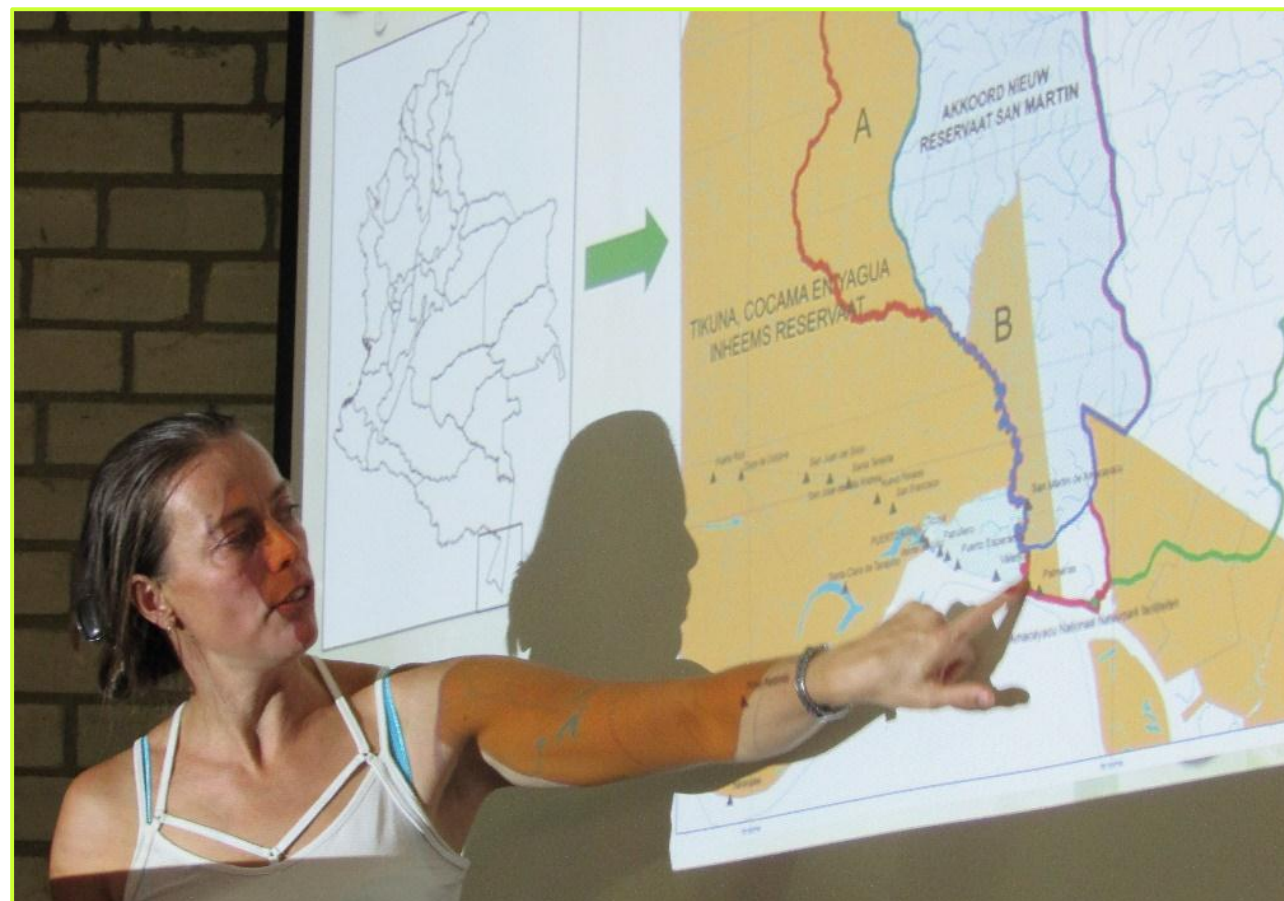
After having received support from the Netherlands for all kinds of projects for his community San Martin de Amacayacu for over 10 years, it was now time for José Gregorio Vasquez to visit this country together with Heike van Gils. The very long trip from San Martin to Baarle-Nassau (two sections by boat, two by taxi, three by airplane and a last one by car) was already impressive enough in itself! Rivers, the flat polder landscape, cars on a shiny highway, all kinds of wind mills, farms, sheep and cows passed the car window on the way from Schiphol. How strange was the feeling at the discovery that it was still light at 10pm??

The first days were to get over the jetlag and to get used to the Belgian-Dutch border area around Baarle-Nassau. The tropical heat during those days gave everything a hint of “just-like-home”! Despite earlier visits by José to the Colombian capital of Bogotá (8 million inhabitants), it is still not to be compared! So, all kinds of new impressions. Key words of the first few days: Belgian beer, harvesting and processing fruits and vegetables, board games, fruit licor, eating ice cream and checking out Opel cars in Belgium, mowing the lawn..



PRESENTATION JOSÉ GREGORIO VÁSQUEZ AND HEIKE VAN GILS IN BAARLE-NASSAU

On July 3rd, everyone could attend the presentation by José Gregorio Vásquez and Heike van Gils in the shed at 't Ghil in Baarle-Nassau. The warm evening was a great success with more people than expected. Around 50 people found a chair or hanging table to follow the presentation attentively. José did the introduction in Spanish and was translated by Heike. She then got into the details of the two community priorities for 2015: The recognition of the ancestral lands as an indigenous reserve and the organisation of the local environmental guard and regulations for the conservation of these lands. After the presentation the public had the chance to ask questions, enjoy drinks and say hello personally. This was not easy of course, but the message was always clear. The collection of handmade jewellery from the Amazon was there for sale, with discounts up to 50%! Thank you everyone for the sincere and overwhelming interest, support and contributions! An impression of the evening:





FESTIVAL CULTURALITÉ – PREMIAIN

The Small World Foundation will be present this year at the 16th Festival Culturalité in the French village of Premian (Languedoc-Rosellón, 17-19 July, <http://www.fildesarts.com/17-18-et-19-juillet-2015/>). Armed with flyers, coupons, and handmade jewellery from the Amazon and stationed at a stand at the Premian central square, we hope to be able to inform lots of people about the goals of San Martin de Amacayacu to get recognition for their ancestral lands. And of course we hope to earn some euros for our projects! The festival is about film, theater, music, art and most of all about being together. This year's theme is "Living in a cultivated landscape". Several festival organisers have visited San Martin and all were very impressed with the activities. Thanks, it was a very kind gesture to invite us!!

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.