



## NATIONAL LAND AGENCY NEWS

It wasn't easy, but we are used to that by now. Since the end of September 2016 three so called *derechos de petición* have been sent to the director of indigenous issues of the *Agencia Nacional de Tierras* or the National Land Agency. A *derecho de petición* is an official request for information and should be answered by the receiver within 15 working days. The information requested by San Martín de Amacayacu was proof that the community's application for recognition of the ancestral lands as an indigenous reserve has an active status with this new Land Agency.

The first *derecho de petición* was on behalf of the community itself and the second (basically a copy of the first) on behalf of the *Defensoría del Pueblo*, the Colombian ombudsman. Both did not receive a reply. At the beginning of last March, the community sent one again, this time to the vice director of the Land Agency and with about ten other stakeholders in the CC, such as the Amacayacu National Park.

From someone at the United Nations Human Rights Office in Bogotá (Newsletter 64) we received the vice director's phone number to check if the *derechos de petición* were being received. A few phone calls ahead, also with other employees at the Land Agency, we received a Whatsapp message from Mrs. Dangond. It turned out she is dealing with San Martín and Palmeras' land application. Of course this is positive news: The application has not disappeared in a box!

Still we are careful with our enthusiasm. Mrs. Dangond tells us she is very busy with applications from other indigenous communities in Colombia. Also, she is not acquainted with the Amazon region or with the backgrounds of San Martín and Palmeras. Therefore we sent her a chronological overview of all crucial moments and documents since 1982, which are somehow related to the desire of these two communities to get official recognition of their ancestral lands as an

independent indigenous reserve. Parts of this overview are:

- ✓ Abstract of the letters that were sent since 1982 between the involved entities back then: San Martín and Palmeras, the Amacayacu National Park, the Colombian army (for maps) and the Colombian Institute for Agricultural Reform (Instituto Colombiano de Reforma Agraria – INCORA). This last one was responsible for indigenous land applications before the Colombian Institute for Agricultural Development (Instituto Colombiano de Desarrollo Rural - INCODER).
- ✓ The constitution (1990) and expansion (2003) of the Tikuna Cocama and Yagua reserve, to which San Martín and Palmeras belong, but in which the whole of the ancestral lands of these two communities never was included.
- ✓ All steps that since 2006 led to the final application filed at the INCODER office in 2013, for the recognition of these lands as an independent indigenous reserve for San Martín de Amacayacu and Palmeras (Newsletter 49, 50).
- ✓ The minutes of the meetings that have taken place since. The most important one was the Wone Congress (October 2014) in which the majority of the 22 communities of the Tikuna Cocama and Yagua reserve voted in favor of the constitution of this independent reserve for San Martín de Amacayacu and Palmeras (Newsletter 58).

At the moment of writing, we have not received any official response from Mrs. Dangond.

## KUMDANDAY VISITS TUIRUPÜ KINDERGARDEN AGAIN

In Newsletter 60, we commented on the visit to the Tuírupü kindergarden by travel agency Kumanday ([www.kumanday.com](http://www.kumanday.com)) with a high school class from Manizales. It was then the second time and before the visit it was decided that the kindergarden would become the permanent project to which each group would contribute in the future. During that visit, the donation was a gas stove and tube. The Small World Foundation then contributed the gas bottle.

Due to circumstances, a visit did not happen last year but it did once again this year! The donation this time was a wide dish washing basin for the kinder garden kitchen, 60 towels and a box of color pencils and drawing books.

Like we wrote in 2015: "It is not our intention to convert the kindergarden into a tourist attraction. Still, isolated events as these are a nice opportunity for the Manizales students to realize how things work elsewhere in their country and for Tuírupü to make one more step ahead".

By now the kindergarden has two local teachers and a cook. The new community count of kids between 2 and 4 years old shows that there may be up to 60 kids! To deal with so many kids, there is a call for two more teachers.

The Colombian Institute for Family Wellbeing (Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar - ICBF) delivered a full inventory for the kitchen: Pots, plates, cups, cutlery, a blender, a freezer, dish racks, tooth brushes and paste, paint, etc.

The same ICBF also delivered a white PVC ceiling in the community, which will be installed under the aluminum roof of the kindergarden, or at least a part thereof, so the heat on sunny days will be much more bearable for the kids. There are even plans to expand the big play room with 5 meters, so there will be enough space for so many kids. We can be proud that the Small World Foundation has been able to give a fantastic start to all of this! Thanks again everyone for the effort and contribution!





For the Manizales students, the kindergarden kids and teachers had prepared a nice traditional dance and collected products from the community as a present.



## **THE NETHERLANDS IN THE MEANTIME**

As of January 2017 this newsletter is only sent by email. We hope that this transition has been smooth and that the people who did not receive anything since February will send a message to [heike\\_van\\_gils@hotmail.com](mailto:heike_van_gils@hotmail.com).

On April 23rd, Tonny van Gils will participate at the Market organised to celebrate the beginning of the touristic year in Baarle-Nassau. This market will be held along the cycle path "Het Bels Lijntje", close to the Dutch-Belgian border. Here you can also find the cosey Pothuis, where people can eat and drink something. Tonny will have her self made jam for sale for all passers-by. If you just ran out of jam, this is your chance! The profits go to the Small World Foundation.

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**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](http://www.smallworldfoundation.org/?page_id=68)

Please DON'T FORGET TO INFORM US ABOUT YOUR NAME AND EMAIL ADDRESS!!  
([heike\\_van\\_gils@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:heike_van_gils@hotmail.com).

For more information about this initiative, please check the website:  
**[www.smallworldfoundation.org](http://www.smallworldfoundation.org)**.