



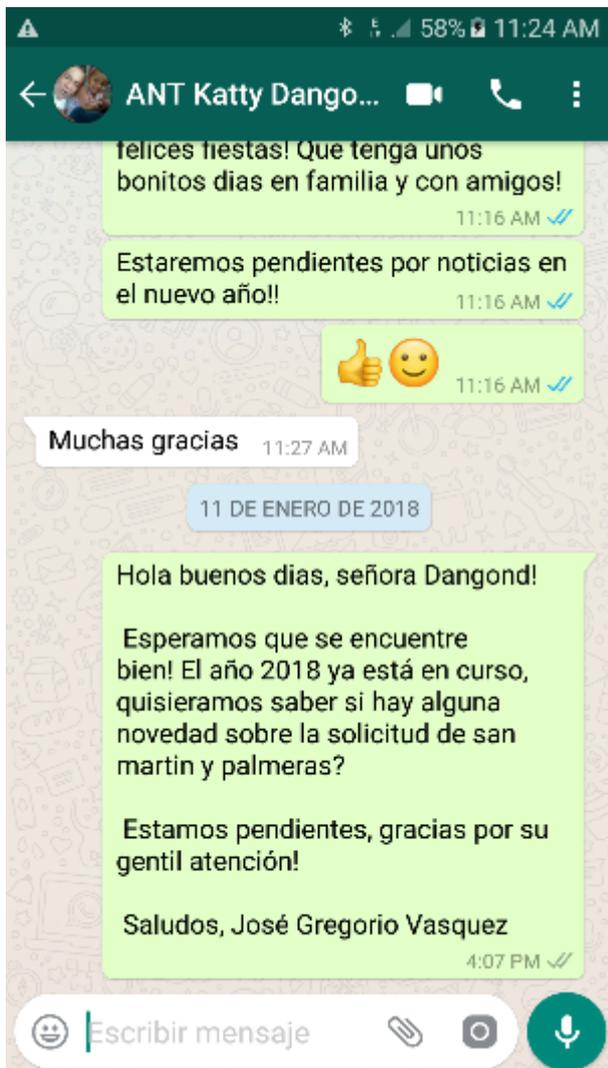
76

January  
2018

the small world foundation

## 2018: STILL NO CONTACT

With a lot of courage we hoped to start this edition of the Small World Foundation newsletter with great news, but also now it seems too early. Our first careful approach on January 11<sup>th</sup> with a Whatsapp message to Mrs. Dangond remains until now received but unread. Fortunately, we have experienced this before and we remain calm. This year the Colombian government will surely also only start somewhere in February?



## 2017 OVERVIEW

We would really like to use this edition to inform you all about some other (read: not financed by the Small World Foundation) projects which strongly affect daily life in the community of San Martin de Amacayacu.

First we have the solar panel project, financed by the Spanish government via the Amazonas department governor. This project has remained unmoved since about a year, even though we mentioned in Newsletter 71 of February 2017 that the project would probably be finished at the end of March that same year (which was already a year too late by then). As you can see on the pictures, the solar panels have been installed and the battery house with complete internal wiring has been finished. But the fence around the infrastructure (because a solar panel is easily stolen!) is still missing and a house around the green machine (picture) as well.

What happened? Corruption is most probably a decisive factor. Nobody knows how or when the project will continue. For now, the solar panel electricity can not be used, because the project has not been officially handed over to anyone. A few people in the community remembered from the tests how to connect the cables to the electricity wires present in the community. Therefore, there are a few house of extra electricity in the community sometimes (around NYE or for a meeting). However, these wires are property of the private company Amazon Electricity, which at the moment provides 8 hours of electricity to the community with the yellow diesel



solar panels

Battery house

green machine

Diesel tank

yellow diesel generator

generator (picture). Representatives of this company have explicitly prohibited the connection of the solar panels on their wires because if an accident would occur, they do not want to suffer the consequences, be involved and certainly not be responsible. This company would love to manage the panels and the community too. The question remains if the community also has the capacity to do so?

Secondly there is the antenna project with which supposedly the mobile phone network in the Colombian Amazon will drastically improve. With the current infrastructure it is currently virtually impossible to make a phone call in San Martin de Amacayacu and data traffic does not exist. Again, a huge boat arrived with heavy aluminum tubes and frames to build the antenna with at about 20km north of the community in the middle of

the jungle. For the transport over the first leg of the distance, local wooden boats were used. Then the helicopter came into action to transport everything even further into the jungle. This one is the last of 150 antennas constructed in the Colombian Amazon. It is not clear when the antennas start their transmission.

Third, there is the Ecovía (Newsletter 69 and 72): The concrete walking path that is being constructed between Puerto Nariño and San Martin de Amacayacu. From the river, there is not much else to see than the pillars as on the picture in Newsletter 72, but in the jungle the path is slowly taking shape: Many huge concrete posts on which a series of wooden platforms will be located. The project was stopped a few times, but each time it starts again!





And ultimately there is kinder garden Tuirupü, which as been adopted completely by the community and the Small World Foundation is only involved minimally. And that is how it is supposed to be. The sink (Newsletter 72) has been useful for almost a year and more than half a year ago a brand new ceiling was installed (Newsletter 72). It is now much less hot inside during the day! Another 6 meters is currnely being added to Tuirupü with money from the government. There are plans to involve the older generation in the daily activities of the kinder garden. Maybe as a kind of place where these elderly can come to drink coffee and tell a nice traditional Tikuna story to the kids?





## ACCOUNTING 2017

2017 was the cheapest year in the history of the Small World Foundation! Staying in touch with the National Land Agency (*Agencia Nacional de Tierras – ANT*) was for free via email and Whatsaoo, thanks to the WIFI antenna in San Martin de Amacayacu. This year the Small World Foundation paid for the relocation of this antenna, which originally as put up straight behind the goal post of the community soccer field.

The biggest expense was the participation of the team of 4 people in the Binational Congress in Iquitos (Peru) (Newsletter 73). A handful of small expeditions with the environmental patrol were organised. The water levels in the Amacayacu river in the dry season between June and October were so low that no decent boat could go up the river to cut timber or extract sand. There were really not many suspicious activities that deserved the attention of the environmental patrol. This is well possibly the result of the previous years, in which this patrol kept on repeating the possibility that illegally extracted resources could be confiscated if there would be no dialogue with the community about extraction.

Later in the year, there were some problems with sand extraction by and for the municipality of Puerto Nariño. But there was not much that could be done legally, because the locations were chosen carefully outside the indigenous reserved ánd the Amacayacu National Park. A meeting later in Leticia with the Amacayacu NP and the Ministry of Mining also did not provide any clarity about the legal framework that could help to stop this activity.

Category	Euro
Meetings San Martin	229,13
Kinder garden	76,67
Darrell Posey	126,25
Congress Peru-Colombia Iquitos	600,00
Relocation internet antenna	143,33
Other	63,09
<b>Total</b>	<b>1238,48</b>

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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)

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).

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