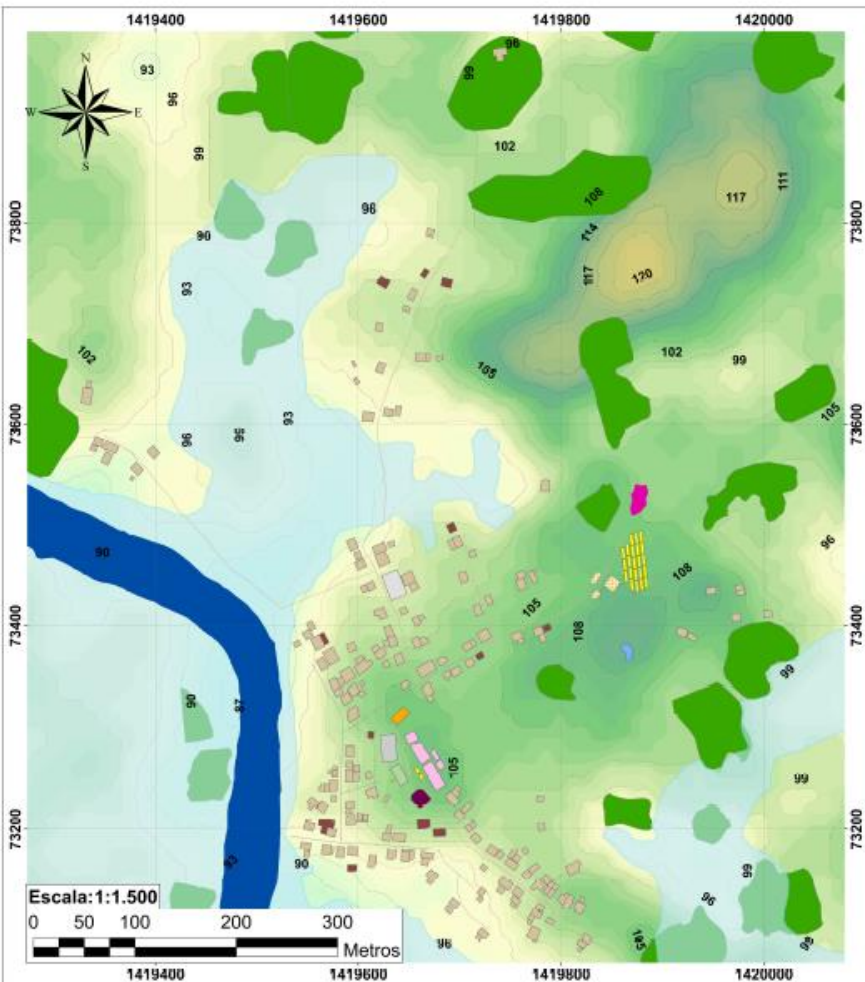


## SPATIAL PLANNING SAN MARTIN

The Colombian Javier Diaz has been involved with the initiatives of San Martin de Amacayacu for years. Today Javier is a teacher of Social Geography at a Colombian public university (UDCA). In the recent past, three groups of his students have visited San Martin with Javier in the framework of the Cultural Geography course. By flying a drone and taking GPS locations, the groups have already created a nice map of San Martin together, on which you can easily identify the floodable areas. Eventually, such a map can greatly help the community's spatial planning efforts. It can give a practical answer to the question where houses, special buildings and public space can be located best.

With one of those groups came Raul Carvajal and this young man was very impressed with the political projects in the community. During the whole last month of July he was back and started work immediately. Together with the environmental guard, the community reached an agreement about which piece of land is whose responsibility to keep organised. Even though nobody can really own such a piece of land because a Colombian indigenous reserve means collective land rights, it creates a lot of clarity for everyone. Little "border posts" and marker trees were painted orange. Next October, Raul is coming back to take the precise GPS locations of each marker and add this info to the map. For now, the project was mainly about agreeing on the placement and location of the markers. A nice photo report of the work:





## Comunidad Tikuna San Martín de Amacayacu Abril del 2017

**Leyenda**

	Curvas de nivel		Cementerio
	Sendero sin pavimentar		Planta eléctrica
	Sendero pavimentado		Panel solar
	Casa		Sala de computo
	Construcción		Estanque de piscicultura
	Maloca		Cancha de futbol
	Escuela		Cancha de micro futbol
	Iglesia		Rio Amacayacu

**Convencion**

	Inundación		Chagras
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• La digitalización fue realizada en base a un ortofotomosaico de 1991 a 1998 adaptándose a través del UTM (U.T.M. PROYECTO 5, 18 21 de zona 18E 2017 entre las 2700 y 2800 con el software ArcGIS/Photoscan 1.2).

• Las chagras se digitalizaron a través de imágenes satelitales provenientes de Google Earth y el ortofotomosaico construido.

• Las zonas de inundación fueron digitalizadas a través del ortofotomosaico las imágenes provenientes del satélite ALOS PALSAR.

Sistema de Coordenadas: MAGNA Colombia Bogotá  
 Meridiano Central: -74.0775  
 Latitud de Origen: 4.0002  
 Unidades: Metros

Auto: David Tello (tello.david@gmail.com)  
 Correo: david\_tello@hotmail.com

*"Mantener la naturaleza, mantener el equilibrio con las culturas de los que se debe vivir el mundo vegetal"*  
 (Rivarola & Vargas, 2017)



A little interview with Raul: “Hi, my name is Raul Carvajal and I am 24 years old. Originally, I am from Villavicencio in the Meta Department. I really like learning a lot from different people and I think my studies are very interesting. They emphasize the practical part and focus less on science and politics. I started studying in 2013 and I only need to do one thesis and three subjects. I think San Martin is a community with a very driven leadership and I hope the rest of the people in the community will identify with this leadership. In comparison with other communities that I visited in Colombia, the people of San Martin have an amazing ability to read and use their environment. They have an incredibly good memory and a wonderful geographic orientation. Without the use of maps, a compass or a GPS, they can easily navigate through the rainforest. They have a great sense of humor and like to make fun of each other. They can listen very well and have a lot of patience and they also love talking and telling colourful stories.

I have felt at home here. I can listen to the stories and it is fascinating for me to experience how people think and talk about their ancestral lands. Even though I am an outsider, I felt welcome and invited. I worry a little about the younger generation which does not seem to see the chances San Martin has in the future. It seems to me that they themselves are not able to develop these chances for themselves or in the broader context of the community. It seems important to me that the young people become more involved with collective activities for the development of the community. It also seems to me that the western education system is not the most ideal for this kind of communities. The kids spend too much time in square classrooms and are alienating themselves from their environment which is the Amazon rainforest. I hope there is a possibility of a hybrid form between the western and indigenous world views. Thank you for supporting my stay in San Martin!”

## FRUSTRATION FRUSTRATION

Via our contact at the United Nations Human Rights Office, Mr. Mamian, we were just informed that another visit of the indigenous leaders of San Martin de Amacayacu and Palmeras to Bogota may still be necessary again. Apparently, some representatives of the office of Indigenous Affairs of the Ministry of Interior Affairs keep insisting on the situation in which the to be recognised ancestral lands should be added as an enlargement to the existing Tikuna Cocama Yagua reserve and not as an independent reserve. It seems not to matter that the autonomy of the indigenous people is being undermined with this: A majority vote was obtained for the independent status in 2014.



The leaders will personally have to argue again why the independent status is the most adequate solution in this situation. We really hope to get the support from the Amacayacu National Nature Park. When exactly the trip is going to take place is yet unknown. It is obvious that the National Land Agency (*Agencia Nacional de Tierras – ANT*) is in a hurry because the newly elected president Duque is not said to be a fan of the Colombian indigenous people....

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**Would you like to support the Tikuna indigenous community of San Martin together with the Small World Foundation, and stay informed about 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)**.