

### SWF PRESENTATION IN BAARLE

Only a few weeks after the intensive weekend in Bogota for the meeting with the Office of Indigenous Affairs of the Ministry of Interior Affairs was it possible for José Gregorio Vásquez and Heike van Gils to report in person to the SWF contributors and others interested in the Netherlands. Shared misery is half the misery!

On the afternoon of September 15 they spoke to more than 80 people at "het Ghil" in the Dutch town of Baarle-Nassau about the progress of the application for the recognition of the ancestral lands of the indigenous communities of San Martin and Palmeras as an indigenous reserve, since 1982 until now. In our last (80th!) newsletter, we also reported about this. This was good timing, because now all the attendants were already informed of the disappointing result.

The presentation also aimed to emphasize that the last 6 years haven't been completely in vain either. The fact that the ancestral lands most probably will be recognized now as an enlargemente of the existing Ticuna, Cocama and Yagua (TICOYA) indigenous reserve is still really a huge victory. What San Martin and Palmeras must do in th near future and probably forever, is work very hard to assume and own the responsibility for the management of the lands.

During the coming months, there will be frequent contact with the Office of Indigenous Affairs, the National Land Agency (*Agencia Nacional de Tierras* – ANT) and other stakeholders. Of course we will report about the whole procedure!





## PARTICIPATION EVENT SWITSERLAND

Already more than a year ago, José Gregorio Vásquez and Heike van Gils received a visit in San Martin de Amacayacu of Anke and Arno Schwarzer of the <u>Kirschbluete community</u> in the Swiss village of Lüsslingen-Nennigkofen. They maintained in contact and then José and Heike were invited to participate in the second "<u>Symposium for Community and Community</u> <u>Making</u>" (Sept 30 – Oct 2), an event also sponsored by the <u>World Wide Magic</u> <u>Movement</u>.

The symposium dealt with questions such as: How is life and living with many? What are the myths about life in a community? What do we need to achieve a flourishing and lively community? What kind of demands poses life in a community on the individual? What is real community? What does life in a community to do with friendship, love, freedom and individual responsibility?

José gave a special presentation titeled: "<u>Changes in community life in the Amazon</u>". José spoke in Spanish (and was simultaneously translated into German) about all the changes that have taken place in San Martin de Amacayacu since the people abandoned life in the enormous tradicional communal homes (called "maloka") in the rainforest about 50 years ago, and them came to live in western style houses on the current location.

It was a very special to get to know and experience this Swiss community. The people here think critically about society and practice different forms of living together, also when it comes to the use of land or property.

For example, this Swiss community has a giant vegetable garden in which the mayority takes part and there are people working at the local government.

There was talk about the possibility of developing a project in San Martin de Amacayacu. Who knows where it al leads us!







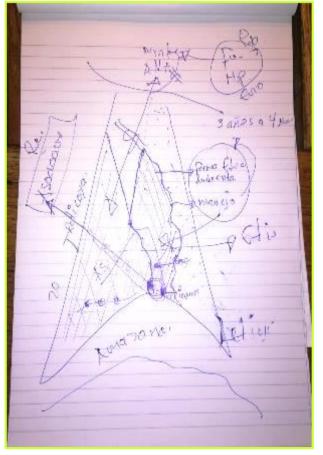
## SWF BOARD MEETING

The Small World Foundation board (Heike and Tonny van Gils, Jos Withagen and Cissie Laureijssen) gathered on September 12 to review the previous year and discuss the coming. With a very illustrating sketch, José Gregorio Vásquez explained the situation of the land recognition process of San Martin and Palmeras, which now all of a sudden took a different turn. It is clear that there will be much more work to do for the two communities. Exactly at this moment, the Small World Foundation is of crucial importance to support the necessary activities meet the set goals concerning to environmental management as best as possible. There will have to be a lot more meetings with the other 20 communities of the TICOYA reserve. Fortunately and despite the disappointment, the leaders of San Martin and Palmeras still have plenty of energy left to work hard and lots of trust in the future.

# VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION (only for Dutch readers living in the Netherlands)

Are you looking for a valuable occupation for the coming years? Then the Small World Foundation may just be the organisation you are looking for. We can give you the beautiful task of keeping the Dutch part of the administration: Who contributed how much and when? Who do we need to send a reminder? What elso do we need to send to whom? The newsletter is now only availably digitally, which saved a lot of work. You may even be interested to organize a fund raising event?

We estimate that this task will take you about three hours a month. Does this description fit your dreams, then we love to receive your message on heike\_van\_gils@hotmail.com





### **INTERESTIG OFFER:**

Martijn Rovers was also at the presentation at "het Ghil" and was very impressed. A few weeks ago, he launched his super original initiative to raise money for the Small World Foundation, which is the sale of very creative personalized banners. Especially with the upcoming festivities, this is fantastic! The banners are more of colourful paper and you can design your own text. On the picture to the right, the example banner says "Hurray, it's the pope's birthday".

The banners cost a minimum of €10 (excl mailing fee) and you can contact Martijn on



email (martijnrovers@hotmail.com) to explain your wishes for text and colours.

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

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.