



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 enlargement of the existing Ticuna, Cocama and Yagua (TICOYA) indigenous reserve is still really a huge victory.

What San Martin and Palmeras must do in the 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 SWITZERLAND

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 [Kirschbluete community](#) in the Swiss village of Lüsslingen-Nennigkofen. They maintained in contact and then José and Heike were invited to participate in the second [“Symposium for Community and Community Making”](#) (Sept 30 – Oct 2), an event also sponsored by the [World Wide Magic Movement](#).

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 do with friendship, love, freedom and individual responsibility?

José gave a special presentation titled: [“Changes in community life in the Amazon”](#). 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 traditional communal homes (called “maloka”) in the rainforest about 50 years ago, and then 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 majority 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 all leads us!



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.