



## LAND MANAGEMENT

In June 2018 San Martin de Amacayacu started with the project of land management in the community (newsletter 79). Raul Carvajal (student at the colombian university UCDA) was the technical assistant of the taskforce from San Martin itself. They looked at the location and at the measurements of all the pieces of soil that each household has to take care of, in order to make clear which areas have to be taken care of collectively by all the people of the community. All soil of a colombian indigenous reserve is collective. Nevertheless, this kind of mark gives more clarity and makes it possible to develop certain projects more efficiently.

During the month of June 2019 Lady DeAntonio and Angie Rojas were in the community to follow up the land management project. They are both students of Geographic and Environmental Engineering at the UDCA, where Javier Diaz is a professor:

*“We, Lady and Angie, are very greatfull to have had the opportunity to fill in our final bachelor thesis topic in such a practical matter, for the benefit of San Martin de Amacayacú, Letícia, Amazonas. We know that the help we got from the people in the community has really come from the heart and we are really thankful.*”



*Everyone has given a part of their precious time and so much effort to this work. Especially José Gregorio Vásquez and the environmental patrol have been indispensable elements in the execution of our work and they have, without any hesitation, always shared their knowledge.*

*During this month we have collected information about each household and about the areas each household has to take care of. Therefore we now have a detailed database which easily gives insight in the state of each household. Per household we collected information about the state of the whole house itself, about the infrastructure of the house (dimensions, type of wood, material of the ceiling, the number of rooms and their state), about the kitchen (do they use wood, gas or do they not have a kitchen), and about the toilets, the water resources and energy.*

*We would like to emphasize that these projects are indispensable for the future development of this community. It is so important that these projects continue being supported. We gained a very big experience which we will be able to apply in our future careers. Warm greetings, Angie Tatiana Rojas Lopez and Lady Marcela DeAntonio Bermúdez.*

It is clear that for most of the 95 households the most important issues are the water resources and the toilets. The Small World Foundation has of course made a big

contribution with the building of the 60 toilets and 48 watertanks. However, this took place already a few years ago and the walls of some of the toilethouses are already in less good state. Also the watertanks are all working very well but for the big households 1000 liter of water is not always enough. The SWF thinks that with the 48 watertanks it has already helped the community a lot. It is also the responsibility of each household to deal with their own situation and find solutions themselves.

What the SWF does support is a project that has received a small budget from the EU through the Amacayacu National Park. It is the installation of two big septic tanks for the effluent from the kitchens and the toilets. For one of the septic tanks the SWF will contribute with a number of required PVC tubes and accessories.



## 20<sup>TH</sup> JULY INDEPENDENCE DAY

On the 20th of July the environmental patrol of San Martin de Amacayacu participated again in the yearly parade in Puerto Nariño to celebrate the independence day of Colombia. Last year their participation was a big success. Everyone knew by then that the community was very active in the protection of the environment. Nevertheless, last year one aspect was less succesfull. The colombian army was not happy with the uniforms they were wearing. According to them it was illegal to wear army pants with black longsleeves on top. Thanks to the *Stiftung Regenwald* (no website) and [Temperatio Stiftung](#) they were able to wear a different uniform this year: beige pants and new black longsleeves. The environmental patrol was the only participating group of all the 22 communities of the TICOYA indigenous reserve that not only represented the community but that also had another mission, the protection of the environment and land management.



---

**Would you like to help the Small World Foundation to support the people of the indigenous community San Martin de Amacayacu and keep updated about the local developments in this far corner of Colombia?**

You can transfer a yearly amount of 15 euros (or more...!) to:

**Rabobank IBAN: NL28RABO0132726203**

**Bankaccount name: Stichting SMALL WORLD FOUNDATION** at Baarle-Nassau,

Under the reference of 'newsletter' and Your Name (BIC: RABONL2U)

Or check out the online module contribution module on [www.smallworldfoundation.org/?page\\_id=68](http://www.smallworldfoundation.org/?page_id=68)

Do not forget to e-mail your e-mailaddress to Heike van Gils ([heike\\_van\\_gils@hotmail.com](mailto:heike_van_gils@hotmail.com)). For alternative (forms of) contributions you can also write to Heike. As mentioned before, all contributions will be exclusively spent on the development and implementation of local initiatives. We will inform you about these projects as much as possible via the newsletter.

You can subscribe for the newsletter at any time. If you would like to receive again one or more old editions of the newsletter do not hesitate to contact us or have a look on the website: [www.smallworldfoundation.org](http://www.smallworldfoundation.org)