



CO₂ - TICOYA RESERVE - SOUTHPOLE

All over the world CO₂ is being produced and afterwards absorbed by trees that take it from the air. Each type of tree has a capacity to capture CO₂ that can be measured. Moreover, this capacity can nowadays be turned into credit according to share price. Companies who strive to reduce their CO₂ immissions can buy these so called carbon offsets. The money is given to the owners of the lands where the forest is to be protected in order to consume the amount of CO₂ “bought” by the industry. The path between the ownership of the forest land and receiving the payment from the companies involved is something new and quite complicated for many (indigenous) people. For this reason, the Tikuna Cocama and Yagua (TICOYA) indigenous reserve has been in contact with [Southpole](#) for a few years now. This is a world wide NGO which is also established in the Netherlands and whose goal is to trade the CO₂ absorption capacity of the forest of the TICOYA reserve in exchange for a percentage of the profit. This new income can reach astronomical amounts which the indigenous communities would like to see invested in, for example, the building of new houses.

Some years have passed by and it seems, though, that it is not clear at all for the communities if Southpole has already received any profit from the trade. People are also asking themselves if the money they might have received has already been spend on anything. An important factor for this lack of clarity is of course the fact that the Southpole office is established all the way in far Bogotá.





C

The representatives of San Martin de Amacayacu and the environmental patrol have participated in several meetings on this subject in the TICCOYA reserve (in chronological order A, B and C) and as always they have been very committed to take important responsibilities. It is very important for this community that this problem is solved, also within the context of the land application. If the application is approved this will mean that the community has 30.000 hectares that can be traded on the CO₂ market. These meetings are, therefore, also supported by the Small World Foundation which finances the costs of the transport (fuel) for the representatives.

At this moment the representatives and the environmental patrol are preparing to attend a Wone Congres (Newsletter 82) about this situation.

LAND APPLICATION SAN MARTIN

There is not much news we can share about the application. We are still patiently waiting for a reply from the ANT about the application we sent in March, after the disastrous



A



A



B

meeting at the Ministry of Internal Affairs in September 2018. Each time we hear from them on Whatsapp it seems that someone is taking care of it but because of our previous experiences we are not fully convinced. On the 20th of September, when we met one of the staff members (Francisco Centenas, D) we expected that he was working seriously on our application but one week later it seemed that he was not working for ANT anymore.

In the end of november we heard on Whatsapp that another new member was working on the application. At the same time we were told



that this person had not officially received the application yet and that therefore he could not give an answer yet. It is January now and we still have not received a clear answer, apart from that the ANT is awaiting it's new decisions for 2020.

Through others we have heard that exactly the same thing is happening with the other indigenous land applications that have arrived at the ANT. People are commenting that the department of indigenous affairs is being ran very unefficiently by staff who has no experience on this field. Meanwhile patience is running out in San Martin de Amacayacu...

But there is still some hope: a contact of Javier Diaz (Newsletter 79, 86) is a lawyer and seems to be interested in writing a so called "tutela". This is a kind of complaint against a (governmental) institution for not doing it's job according to the rules. The ANT will definitely not be pleased with this "tutela" but we hope it will help to make some progress. In the next newsletter we will definitely tell how this story has been continued...



KINDERGARTEN TUIRÜPÜ

On the 14th of December the children of the Tuirüpü school celebrated the end of the year after which all the older children go to year 1. The parents were there to celebrate and it was great fun. Some impressions:





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:

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