

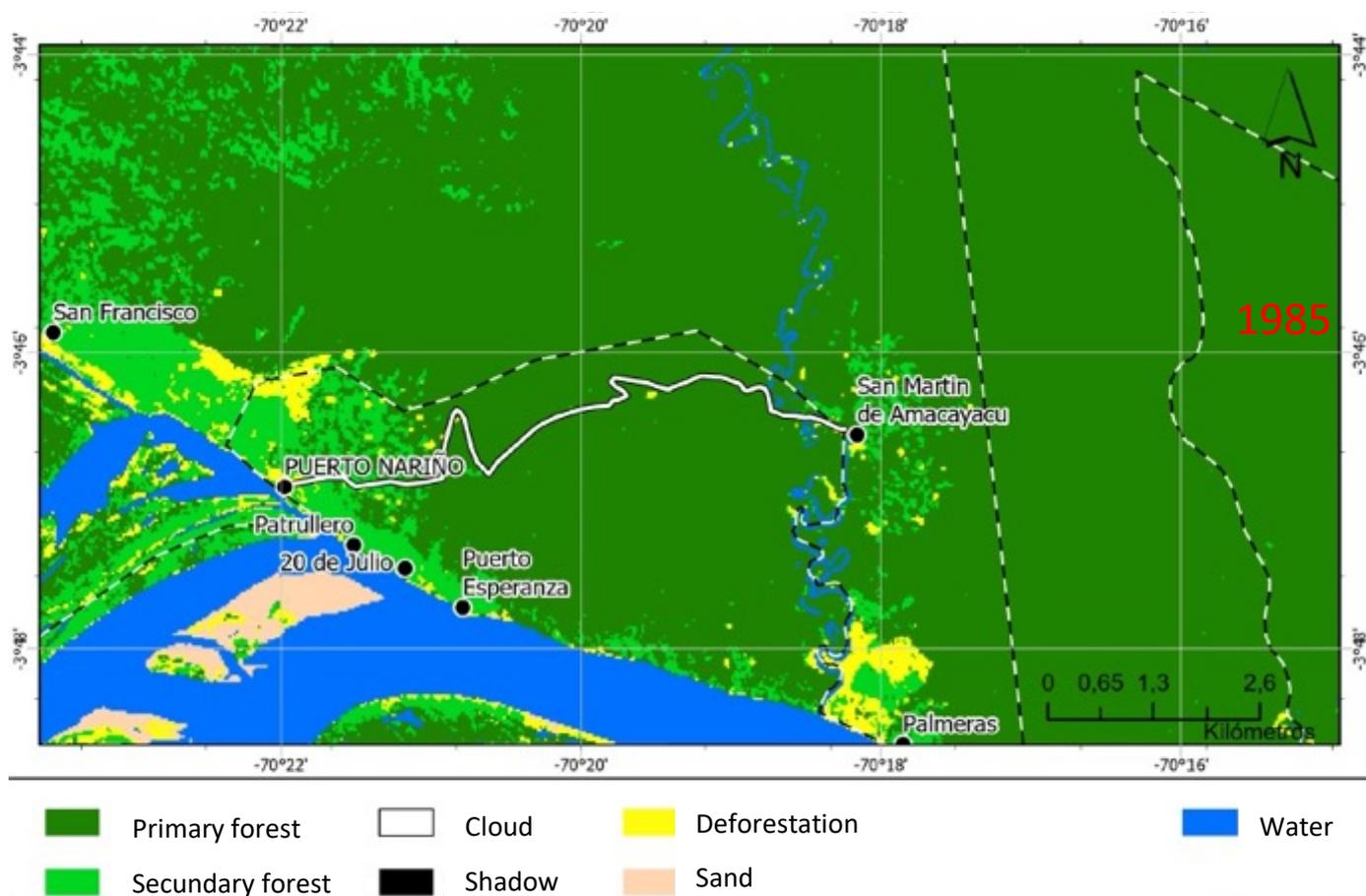
SPATIAL ORGANIZATION

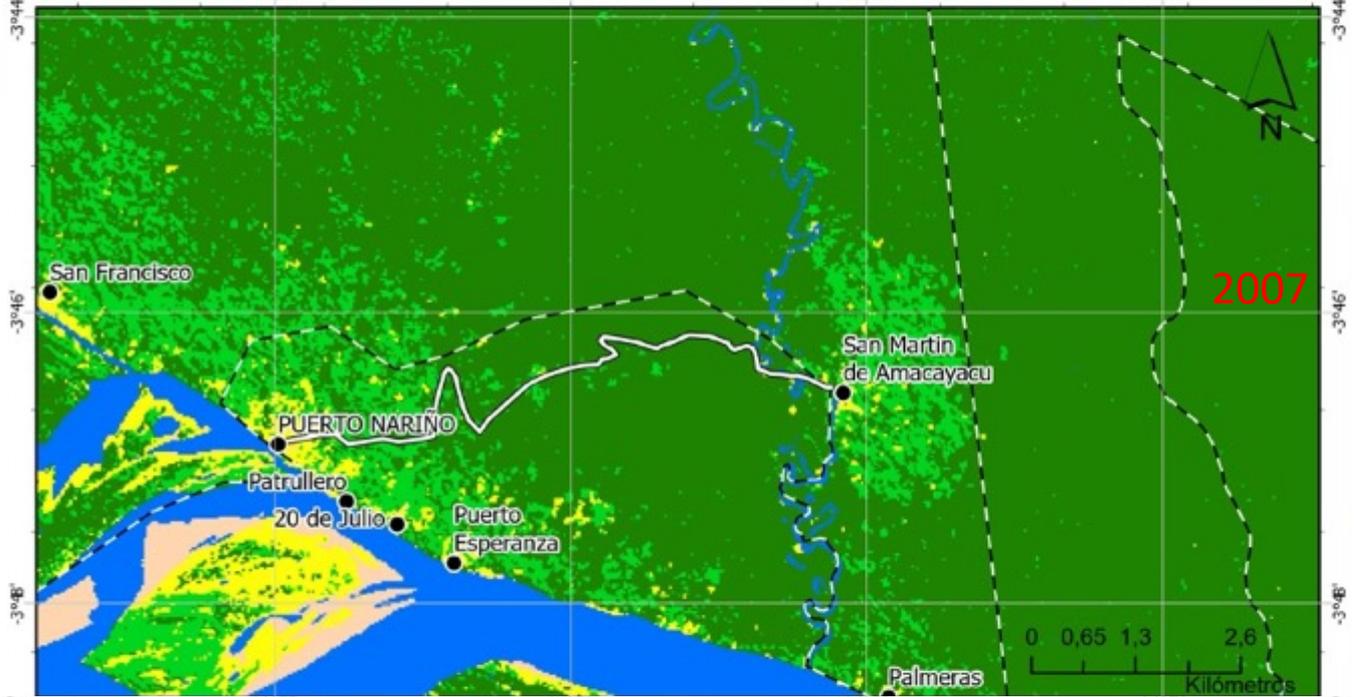
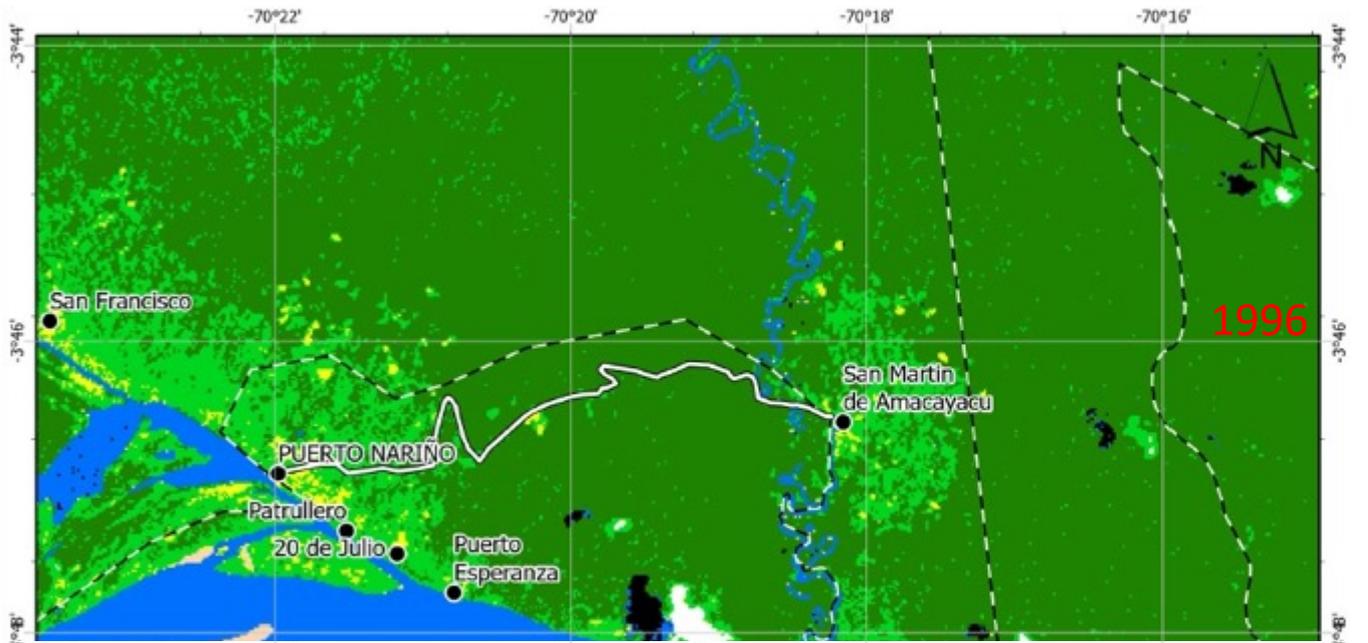
In response to the deforestation alert of the Colombian Geographic Institute (IGAC) at the beginning of September 2020, Raul Carvajal and Javier Diaz used geographic information systems (GIS) to map the development of the rainforest in the area around San Martin de Amacayacu and the Ecovia (Newsletter 71). Suitable satellite images were available from 1985. Here follow four examples.

The knowledge derived from these maps is important for the spatial organization of the community and surroundings. It can be determined which areas are or are not at all

suitable for activities such as tourism, reforestation, agriculture, housing etc. The maps can also be relevant for the current CO₂ and biodiversity negotiations, since it is easy to analyse what the rainforest composition in the whole indigenous reserve is.

The dotted lines show the borders of the indigenous reserves. It is interesting to see how in 1985 there were still private cattle farms on indigenous ancestral land occupied by the colonists. Around 2001, these lands were included in the TICOYA reserve and turned into forest again.





Over time, it can also become apparent if the Ecovia (orange arrow) really has the feared deforestation effect which usually takes place along rainforest paths that become more accessible.

It seems that the agricultural area around Puerto Nariño and the communities has been expanding itself equally in all directions and independently of the Ecovia. There does not seem to have been a sudden expansion of the agricultural area along the Ecovia between 2007 and 2020, the period in which this route became much more developed. So at this moment there does not seem to be reason for worry, but then again, the Ecovia is only a few years old.

COVID-19 IN THE AMAZON

Last October, a period started in which it was allowed to travel within Colombia without a negative PCR test. With a specific protocol for shops, hotels, transporters and restaurants, daily life returned and tourists started to appear regularly in the Colombian Amazon. Unfortunately, the fun did not last long.

The Brazilian variety of the coronavirus has been able to spread from Manaus up the Amazon river. Since the end of January, the region around Leticia and Puerto Nariño have been completely closed off from the rest of Colombia. Leticia airport seems to remain closed until the beginning of April. This new corona wave seems to affect mostly people in the urban areas of Leticia and Puerto Nariño and again not so much the indigenous communities. So far, it is still a mystery why this is. In the history of the Amazon, western diseases have exterminated whole indigenous communities and now the opposite seems to be true for the Tikuna people. Does their outside lifestyle have something to do with this or maybe the local diet? Or maybe they have a natural resistance?

Since the closure, mostly the urban Amazon people have been pressuring the government to vaccinate in this remote region as soon as possible. After a lot of confusing news reports about the vaccine numbers and brands, the vaccination campaign started on February 24.



ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

In February and March 2020, committees went to Bogotá to meet with the National Land Agency (ANT) and other institutions. For San Martin de Amacayacu, Covid-19 meant that the agreements reached in these meetings (the people's count, amongst others) were not carried out at all.

Fortunately, there was never a complete lockdown in the Amazon so that other activities could continue, such as the CO₂ negotiations and the environmental guard monitoring and garbage expeditions.



Categories	Euro
Meetings San Martin	65
Visits to Bogota	3083
Environmental guard	793
Bank costs	48
CO ₂ negotiations	1773
Floating dock	877
Total	6639

IN MEMORIAM

Cissie Laureijssen-Oomen, Small World Foundation board member and newsletter editor for years, passed away last Monday February 22, age 75. The foundation and San Martin de Amacayacu are very grateful for her dedication. We wish her husband, children and grandchildren a lot of strength with their loss.

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!!

(smallworldfoundation@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 more information about this initiative, please check the website:

www.smallworldfoundation.org.