



MEETING AGAIN WITH THE ANT

On July 15, and with certain suspense, a delegation of 7 representatives of the Tikuna Cocama and Yagua (TICOYA) indigenous reserve traveled to Leticia for a virtual meeting with the National Land Agency (Agencia Nacional de Tierras – ANT) about the application to get the ancestral lands of the Tikuna indigenous community San Martin de Amacayacu recognized as an indigenous reserve (Newsletter 58 and 83) – the ultimate goal of the Small World Foundation.

Since March 2020 there has been pretty much no contact. ANT staff had no permission to carry out the then agreed upon activities (people’s count and updating the socio-economic study). The delegation had hoped to find a fast wifi connection at a governmental research station in Leticia. Unfortunately, no Microsoft Teams image connection could be established and communication was only by voice. In two weeks, the meeting will be continued with concrete proposals about carrying out the activities. Exciting!



WASTE & ENVIRONMENTAL GUARD

In Colombia, communities such as San Martin de Amacayacu are autonomous within the borders of their indigenous reserve in all areas such as governance, healthcare, education and land management. This means that many government institutions, which are responsible for these areas in common cities, towns and villages in Colombia, do not exist in the indigenous reserves. As such, there is, for instance no potable water distribution, no garbage collection service, no administration of public green spaces, no road construction entity and no institution to process waste water.

The Colombian government tries to assure that no human rights are violated and therefore creates all kinds of agreements with

the indigenous communities to assure certain services are provided. The national government pays, for example, the indigenous teachers at the local schools, provides meals for children at the schools and in many communities, the government also has activated Wi-Fi points to support education (even though this Wi-Fi is usually extremely slow). Each indigenous inhabitant of Colombia also gets free healthcare.

The community itself can also create agreements with companies or NGO's to provide services. The power supply in San Martin, for example, is in hands of a private company (the households pay a monthly bill) and the drinking water point has been provided by the FAO.



Now back to a matter that has to be organised by the community itself: waste collection. With the arrival of tourism and other sources of income, purchases of processed food (like soft drinks, canned food and pasta) and other products (like engine oil, washing detergents and batteries) have increased dramatically. All kinds of products end up on the growing waste piles in the household gardens: plastic, aluminum, iron, diapers, chemical waste, electrical appliances and old clothes. Glass is crushed and used as gravel in concrete and aluminum cans can be sold but the amount of non-recyclable or reusable waste keeps growing and there is no sustainable solution for this in the region.



Therefore, the alternative for the community remains simple: making sure waste does not end up in the environment by collecting it and taking it to the recycle depot "[Amazonas Sin Límites](#)" in Leticia. The idea is not to organise a special trip for this but to let the garbage be transported by people that have to go to Leticia anyway. In this way, it does not have any environmental impact.

Not only adults, but also the kids are involved in the waste collection campaigns. It is crucial to involve and teach the community inhabitants, who have almost no access to the outside world, about the consequences of waste and to encourage the reduction of waste.





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.