



the small world foundation

20 - August 2008

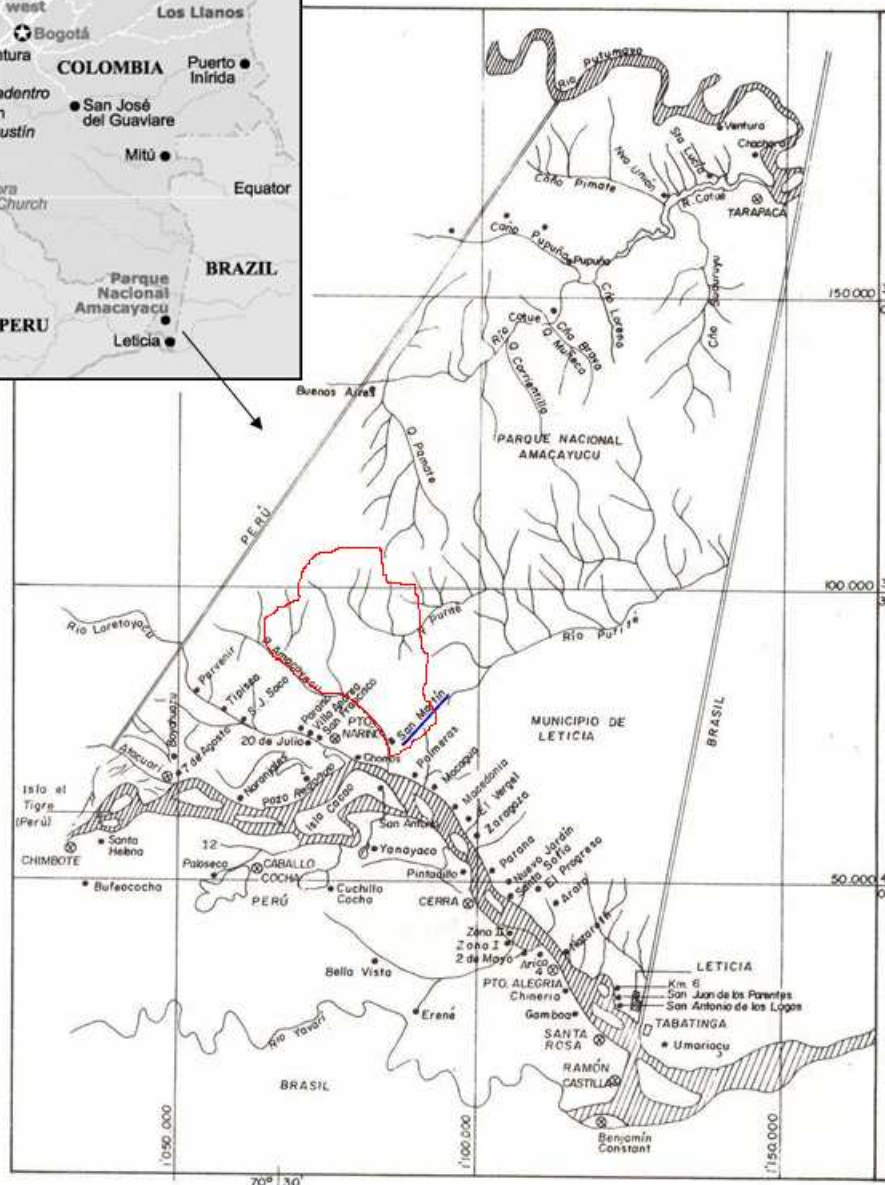
THE BORDER MAP IS READY!

After two years of hard work, the map indicating the border of the ancestral lands of the Tikuna indigenous community "San martin de Amacayacu" is ready (map on the right)!! Since it will be difficult for you to orient yourself with this map, we created a preliminary map on the next page, featuring the whole region. The border is determined according to the historical, ecological and cultural places within this area that are important for the people of San Martin. To make this map, these places were first marked on paper according to the indications of the old people of the community, and around them, the border was drawn. Subsequently, this border was actually set out in the jungle by marking trees. And finally, it was marked with the help of a powerful GPS. The whole area roughly covers about 300-400 km², and the community aims for its official recognition. This map is unique in the Amazon region as well as in the whole of Colombia. Similar to the current situation of San Martin, the other indigenous communities have had their land (called a "reserve") assigned by maps made in government offices. However, the borders of these reserves are not marked in the jungle generally. This leads to confusions about the location of hunting areas or of trees that will be cut down. Now that the map of San Martin is finished as a "tangible product", the community is being taken more seriously about their wish to extend their lands legally. Earlier, this was not the case. There were even



some official authorities who tried to discourage the people of San Martin from making this map. At the moment, people from other communities or organizations come to San Martin to inquire about the project. These visits usually end with the question whether San Martin project can be extended to their own communities as well! Despite this fantastic result, the work is not completely finished yet. The important places still need to be marked on the map. To support this step of the

project logistically and financially, Javier Diaz (the second one on the right on the photo, MSc student and an old friend) is helping San Martin. Part of his job is to mark the important places with a GPS. There is also work to be done on the computer with mapping software to fill in the digital map. Since this is not the specialty of people in San Martin, we appreciate Javier's help; it's the ideal combination for the creation of something beautiful!!

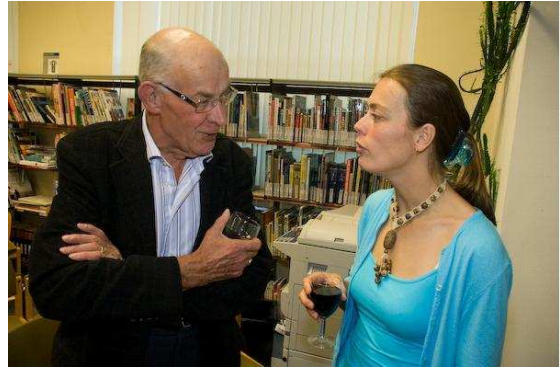


LIBRARY PRESENTATION

On July 23rd, I did a presentation at the Baarle Library about the latest developments in the community of San Martin, and about their daily activities in general. There was a short film illustrating scenes about the current situation in San Martin. This film confirms that even the smallest contributions mean a lot for this community.



At the end of the presentation, there was time for some questions, comments and drinks. There were about 75 guests. Before the presentation, there was an exhibition and sale of jewellery made in the Amazon. The event raised 600 Euros for the community of San Martin. On behalf of the Small World Foundation, we would like to thank Baarle Library, all the guests, photographers and journalists for the wonderful evening!!



SPECIAL RESULTS INDEED..

Once more, we would like to emphasize that you, as a reader, make a difference for the people of San Martin. This was explained during the library presentation, but of course not everyone was present here. Even before I arrived in San Martin in 2004, the community was already thinking about how to get their ancestral lands back to be able to protect these lands for the future. They had already made very clear plans, which I aimed to support with the creation of this newsletter in 2005. Through income from this newsletter and the funding from several NGO's (BothENDS, oneMen, NCIV, Tropenbos..), the community could finally begin to realize their dreams. To put it very simply, without this financial help it would not have been possible to create the map of the ancestral lands on paper and mark the borders in the jungle, since these people also need to feed their families every day. Usually, the men in San Martin go hunting or fishing while the women are busy with the daily tasks around the house and take care of the children. When the men go into the jungle with this project and thus leave their family behind, it may be possible for their women and children to eat with other family members for a couple of days, but definitely not for a week or more. Marking the border or the special places is very hard work. Even though the men of San Martin bring along some food and sometimes go hunting, they often come back home skinny after a couple of weeks of hard work in the jungle. Since the community managed to do this project with their own people, in their tempo and own way, the result is very special for the community. It is also worth noting how decisions are taken during this process. Where we in Holland can reach important



of the effort. Even though there are differences in opinion (which is normal), everyone is able to explain and defend the effort to people from outside the community. These discussions sometimes continue the whole day. In order not to break up this process, food is served in between so that people do not have to leave the meeting and lose time with cooking. In the pictures you can see people holding plates and glasses and standing in the line to get food after a meeting. All these activities in the community are very inspirational for some young people. The community was recently sad about losing a promising young man who left to work as a teacher in another community. Now, he is applying his knowledge concerning the theme of `ancestral lands` in this community. Slowly but surely, the community of San Martin is being taken more seriously. This has some benefits for their mission: They are more often asked to join meetings in other reserves or notified earlier if there are some decisions to be made. These developments have also been possible thanks to you. Please continue supporting San Martin!!

agreements just by talking amongst directors, in San Martin everyone's opinion is important, so it takes long discussions to decide about some issues. However, in this way everyone is clear about the goals

It is definitely worth it!

Would you like to support the Tikuna indigenous community of San Martin together with the Small World Foundation, receive a present and stay in touch about the local developments in this remote corner of Colombia?

Please transfer 15 euro yearly (or more!) to:

Bank name: Rabobank

Bank Address: Singel 4, 5111CD, Baarle-Nassau, The Netherlands

BIC: RABONL2U

Account number 13 27 26 203.

Account name: Stichting SMALL WORLD FOUNDATION

IBAN code: NL28 RABO 0132 7262 03.

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 realisation of local initiatives in San Martin de Amacayacu in the Colombian Amazon, and under my personal guidance. The expenses will be mentioned as much as possible in the newsletters. For alternative (forms of) 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.

In advance: thank you very much on behalf of San Martin de Amacayacu!

Greetings, Heike van Gils