



REINALDO'S JOB

Now that the coordinator of the process dealing with the recognition of the ancestral territory for San Martin de Amacayacu (Jose Gregorio) will be busy in the coming months with (the preparations for) the meetings with the surrounding communities, the board of the Amacayacu NP and the Tikuna Cocama Yagua Indigenous Reserve (where San Martin still belongs to) about the plans of the community, it was good to know that Reinaldo Dasilva (picture) is interested to



continue working with teams in the rainforest to fill in the digital map of the ancestral territory with GPS points of malokas, salt licks and other sites of interest. Of course, these trips of several days each will be financed by the Small World Foundation (this time with the anonymous contribution of 1000 euros last year), but Reinaldo will also present himself for funding by other organisations. You never know.. Javier Diaz taught Reinaldo the GPS skills and now they will be applied! An important part of his proposal is the dialogue between the elders and the young generation about the territory. It is quite a privilege for these young people to walk around with the elders and hear all stories about this in person!

ONLINE CONTRIBUTION!

Until recently, the Small World Foundation always presented a Dutch and Canadian bank account number for interested people who

wish to make a contribution to the activities of San Martin de Amacayacu. This is still the case, but thanks to the Stichting Geef Gratis, or *Give for Free Foundation* in English (www.geefgratis.nl), there is now the possibility to make an online international donation for San Martin de Amacayacu on http://smallworldfoundation.org/?page_id=68 as well as on the Small World Foundation's space on www.allegoededoelen.nl, which is : (<http://www.allegoededoelen.nl/index.php?gd=2745&t=oo>)!

As such, this service is free of charge for the member foundations of www.allegoededoelen.nl. Their interest is the 10% charge on all contributions. Therefore, it is still more interesting for Dutch and Canadian bank account holders to transfer directly to the Small World Foundation bank account, to ensure that 100% arrives to support the initiatives of San Martin de Amacayacu. However, for other international public, which we try to reach with this newsletter in english, this online contribution possibility is definitely a solution! The advantage of being a member of www.allegoededoelen.nl is not only this online module, but also an opportunity to reach a wider public. We are doing our best and hope you will make use of this service!!



ACCOUNTING

To keep things up to date, I regularly dedicate time to accounting, such as in the case on the picture on the previous page. Over 2008, the Small World Foundation has spent 3.829 euro on the following activities:

Mapping process	2.259
Jewellery	844
Transport	560
Maintenance equipment	81
Photocopies, phone calls, paper etc.	73
Other	13
	3.829

This is much less than in 2007, and this is partly due to my absence in the community for a few months due to my PhD obligations. In the term "Mapping process" all mapping related activities and materials are included: Food and a small daily recognition for people going into the jungle, plastic sheets, fuel and first aid supplies. 844 euro were spent on jewellery, and the sale of these products represented XXXX euro; a profit of XXX euro! From the regular contributions of people and companies, XXXX was received. This positive balance will be very useful for the planned Thank you, everyone!

NEW JEWELLERY

From the beginning of March onwards, a new collection of unique, handmade jewellery has been available in Baarle (The Netherlands), this time not only with previous models of the



stone necklaces and *tagua* bracelets (http://smallworldfoundation.org/?page_id=109), this time with a new model of *tagua* bracelet (picture). These new bracelets are extremely eye-catching and available in all colors of the rainbow!

At this moment, all mentioned jewellery is bought from a small and young business in Leticia, called Hippilandia. The Small World Foundation buys jewellery here because of the good quality, and because they value the active involvement of people of the poor neighbourhoods in the production process as independent entrepreneurs, and the recycling of byproducts from the seed processing. These are being used as fuel for the drying chambers and as compost. Hippilandia also stimulates inhabitants of these neighbourhood to plant trees and palms of which the seeds can be used and sold, as an alternative source of income in the long term.

With an eye on what is being asked for in the Netherlands, and thus on what can be sold, the Small World Foundation mainly buys from Hippilandia. However and of course, we also have a local production from San Martin de Amacayacu, with necklaces made of seeds and snail houses, and *chambira* key holders and hammocks. And in the recently arrived collection another new product: the first five rings which seem to be made of gold, but which have been hand crafted by James Gregorio Snachez (picture above) from a coin

of 100 pesos! A larger collection of these rings can be expected soon!

LOCAL JAM PRODUCTION

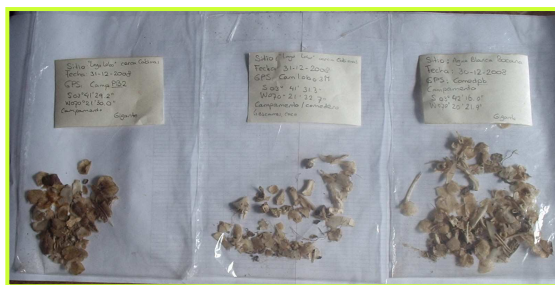
Another local product, which is rather heavy per piece to take abroad, and which is not produced regularly, but which is worth mentioning (once again, you never know..) is the selfmade jam from San Martin de Amacayacu as shown by Maria Ayla in the picture. In the Amazon, jam can be made from all kinds of delicious exotic fruits of which a common western person has never heard! Around 2002, there was a project to stimulate



people to produce jam, but because of different factors, this has never come off the ground. For example, ordering and paying in advance for the glass jars, which have to come by plane from Bogotá to Leticia, and then by boat from Leticia to San Martin, was a significant obstacle administratively and logistically, especially without counting on a start capital. Also, a real market is very far away. Every once in a while, some tourists visit the community, but this is not sufficient when there are also many other (cheaper) products for sale at the same time. In Leticia, there is too much competition which offers jams at lower prices as the production process is cheaper there. Jam, all very complicated, but still extremely tasty!

ABOUT OTTERS

For about six months the study about the otters of the Amacayacu river has been going on. As was mentioned in the 19th newsletter, two otter species can be found in this area: a small one (*Lontra longicaudis*) and a big one (*Pteronura brasiliensis*), which were reduced in numbers in the times of the skin hunters about 20 to 30 years ago, on demand of all kinds of people from outside the community, even internationally. The first research results show positive news; many fresh tracks have been found at their resting sites, where they rest, eat and leave their left-overs. Regularly, individuals of both species have been spotted



during the study. Of course, fishermen also observe them frequently while they are fishing, and this information is also included in the study. It can be said that the populations have recovered remarkably well, but they do search for quiet places where human presence is not frequent. To indicate the diet of the otters, left-overs at resting sites are gathered and cleaned for collection (picture below). This has shown that otters are easy living, and mostly catch the slowest fish species..

TOURIST ACCOMODATION

The follow-up on the story of the tourist accommodation (Newsletter 22) turned out very different in the end. After our visit in Bogotá at the project's responsible entity, which told us that there was still hope on getting the second half of the project financed, we enthusiastically started in San Martin with the activities that had to be carried out to comply with the criteria of the first half, even though there were no financial resources for all activities... First, about 3000 euro was rescued from an existing bank account of the project. With these resources, toilets, water tanks and timber for the windows and doors were bought. Also, four of the required eight workshops on the social aspect of the tourist accommodation project have been realised with the help of a volunteer: What is this project



for? How do tourists need to be received and treated during their stay? How do hosts present themselves and how do the children need to behave?

To coordinate these activities, many meetings needed to be organised, which occupy precious time for people with no income. Therefore, the shock was all the more dramatic when a letter came which said that there was no hope on getting the second half financed after all!! Of course, people were angry and disappointed, because why had they supported the community so much? Until today, this remains a mystery, because even calling Bogotá has not solved anything.

After this, a dialogue was started with the municipality of Leticia, and they seem to be willing to see what they can do for the 5



families which finally have lived in a temporary home (some of which closely resemble a chicken pen) for nothing, as they spent their time waiting for the promised stone tourist accommodation which never came. What else can the community do than keep hopes up?

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

Please transfer 15 euro yearly (or more!) to either on of the following bank accounts:

For the **Netherlands**:

Bank name: **Rabobank**

Bank Address: Singel 4

5111CD

Baarle-Nassau

The Netherlands

SWIFT/BIC Code: RABONL2U

Account number: 13 27 26 203.

Account name:

Stichting SMALL WORLD FOUNDATION

IBAN code: NL28 RABO 0132 7262 03.

For **Canada**:

Bank name: **CAISSE CENTRALE DESJARDINS**

Montréal, Canada

SWIFT/BIC Code: CCDQCAMM

Branch ID: CC081520439

Account Number : 0815 2043 9090 9150

Account Name:

THE SMALL WORLD FOUNDATION

Or check out the online contribution on: http://smallworldfoundation.org/?page_id=68

Please **DON'T FORGET TO INFORM US ABOUT YOUR NAME AND EMAIL ADDRESS!!**

(heike_van_gils@hotmail.com for The Netherlands or chaquenalt@hotmail.com for Canada) !

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 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!