



A NEW YEAR, NEW ENERGY!

2010 has started! An overview of 2009 from San Martin de Amacayacu:

- The voice of the people was heard, and a new administrative board of the Tikuna Kokama Yagua (TIKOYA) indigenous reserve was chosen. A leader from San Martin was appointed the strategic function of “coordinator of territorial control”. This means that San Martin’s plan to get legal recognition of their ancestral lands can count on the support and lobby of this key figure in the board. Very important.. 😊

Sand, gravel and timber extraction permits can only be obtained with his permission, which has already resulted in a reduction of these activities in the ancestral area- In turn this has reduced the pressure on these resources.

- Reinald finished the fieldwork for the completion of the digital map of the ancestral lands of San Martin de Amacayacu. We expect GIS expert Edixon Daza somewhere the coming month for the processing of these data.
- Two sources of funding have been obtained to finance the 12 family fish ponds in San Martin. Even though the paperwork has been handed in successfully, the Colombian governmental entity INCODER still has not transferred a cent. All costs involved for this paperwork have been covered with the BN/DeStem Development Prize money, and the remaining budget is waiting for the moment for the INCODER funding to arrive to be of special use.
- Five water tanks with accessories have been sponsored by Voeten in de Aarde (*Feet in the Earth* - www.voetenindeaarde.org). These tanks have been transported by cargo boat to San Martin, where they have been handed over to the selected families.

The selection looked at who does not have a tank yet, lives at the strategic point or especially far from the Amacayacu river. Also, an aluminum roof is required as we are talking about drinking water. A roof made of leaves contaminates the rain water too much. All five installed tanks can be admired at: www.smallworldfoundation.org!



All this is enough reason to cruise through to 2010 with a lot of energy. We do hope San Martin will really get closer to obtaining the recognition of their ancestral lands.

In the meantime, activities of the (SWF) volunteers in the Netherlands have also continued. For 2009 are worth mentioning (amongst others): the Midsummer Night Fair, Dassepop, Village Breakfast and the presentation in the library in Baarle-Nassau-Hertog, the Zeezicht Charity dinner in Wageningen, the K3WK Art Manifestation in the Porcherie in Riel, Open Garden Days in Klundert, Arcadia Open Day in Steenberg and the 24-hour Queen Wilhelmina Foundation Walk Together for Hope in Tilburg. If you have any suggestions of such events in the coming year, or would you like to organize something yourself, please let us know! We will be pleased to assist where we can.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2009

Last year, the Small World Foundation was able to support 5000 euro for activities in San Martin. The largest expenditure in transport was without any doubt fuel. This way, the coordinator of territorial control could move between San Martin and the TIKOYA office in Puerto Nariño several times a week from May to December. As written before, after the change of board there was no budget left to cover the expenses of the new board in 2009. In 2010 there will be a new budget. The largest expenditure in materials and maintenance were for the solar power installation (which is working perfectly again), and for the purchase of a new 8hp outboard motor (picture below). The YAMAHA 8hp sponsored by oneMen was sold for 110 euro: maintenance would have been too expensive. 1595 euro was spent on handy crafts, and from their sale 2880 euro was collected. Very much worth the effort again, and there is still a large collection to choose from for this spring and summer!

Map	1403
Transport	1407
Materials and maintenance	1599
Communication	120
Meetings	203
Other	277
Total	5009



SPECIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (RÉGIMEN ESPECIAL DE MANEJO)

Since 2007 this program from the National Unit of National Natural Parks has been ongoing. In short, it deals with what is allowed and not allowed in the areas where indigenous reserves and national parks overlap. The national parks have legislation (Decree 622), but this does not say anything about situations of overlap. This is what the Colombian government wants to change. The whole legal area of San Martin de Amacayacu as well as majority of the ancestral lands overlap with the Amacayacu National Park (newsletter 26), and therefore all kinds of activities are being developed here too regarding this program. Check the picture on the next page for an impression of a meeting between park staff and community members. The Amacayacu National Park has appointed one community leader as local coordinator, and a committee of interested people has been established. They have put forward the regulation of timber use by local people as the main focus of the program in San Martin.

The idea is that each family at a certain moment will have the right to cut a certain amount of trees. Part of the timber should be enough for the construction of a decent house, and the other part is supposed to be sold and generate income to buy sufficient construction supplies: Fuel for the chainsaw, nails, hammer, electricity supplies, water tank, etc.

The committee has made several trips to the rainforest to map useful trees, and for many the owner has been identified. It is clear that in abandoned agricultural plots (called *rastrojos*) many more timber species can be found in comparison with the so-called virgin forest. This is because of the simple reason that people have planted them on their agricultural plots, and have taken care of them after the plots were not in use anymore.

Before, national park politics was basically not to let people touch anything. Recently, there has been quite some change. Amongst other reasons, this is because today there is more understanding of indigenous agricultural practices, which can have many advantages for the rainforest. The system also assures that the trees have an owner, which is the person who planted them. Prohibiting the use



of trees planted by someone of course leads to illegal activities (at least according to the law). A tree too old will not be suitable anymore, because holes will appear and the tree will rot.

The shortage of sources of income in the community has led people from San Martin to leave the community to work for a short or long period of time in the coca plantations for the production of cocaine in other nearby (Peruvian) communities. In short, enough reasons to start talking about how to let people make use of their trees in a legal way. The biggest problem will be the sale of the timber. In the end, timber from San Martin could be a candidate for a kind of Green Label. But these are not cheap or easy to get, and required mountains of paperwork of which no one in the community has any knowledge. Even for the Amacayacu park staff, this is a new subject. Probably, the production will be too small anyway.

The local (Leticia/Puerto Nariño) market apparently is waiting for legal timber, but many experiences show the quite large quantity of illegal timber that still finds its way through, and drives down the value. Also, it is not yet known who, how and with what budget control activities will be carried out.

So, a special management plan. Started two years ago and only now it is getting shape in the community. At the moment, the only topic is timber, whereas many other rainforest products should be discussed: sand, gravel, animals, fish etc. This shows things go very slow here. After all, it is a complicated theme that just came falling on the roof of people in San Martin, whereas there are a hundred other things to do on a daily basis to even eat properly.

Some communities have boycotted the program, because they feel that they should be able to decide themselves what happens in their territory. After all, they were there before the existence of the national parks. If they had not always taken care of the forest, there would not even have been any reason to create a national park. For them, the change in the decree is only a tool for the national parks to get more decisive power over indigenous ancestral territories. Of course, there is much to say for that, but the government exists, and remains the real boss..

YOU BE DO



You can make the difference, be the change, do it now! A wonderful slogan for a company that sells books on the internet and allows the customer to donate 10% of the book's value to one of the affiliated causes. For several months, the Small World Foundation is also on the list, providing all relevant information about the activities in San Martin de Amacayacu that can count on SWF support. Of course, we recommend everyone to buy books on www.youbedo.com with the Small World Foundation in mind ☺.



GET IT DONE

On December 17th 2009, this concept (www.getitdone.org) by Cheruto (www.cheruto.com) was launched. It works like this: Projects in developmental countries looking for funding can inscribe and for each project a so-called "widget" is created. A widget is nothing more than an interactive application that can be placed on social networks such as Hyves and contains all relevant information about the project. Of course, there is an option to donate to the project, which makes the counter tick. When the asked-for budget is reached, the project can start. We invite you to place the "Get Water&Transport Done" widget of San Martin de Amacayacu on your Hyve through the Get It Done website! Let the world know what a beautiful project there is to sponsor!!



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 Nether lands

SWIFT/BIC Code: RABONL2U

Account number: 13 27 26 203.

Account name: Stichting SMALL WORLD FOUNDATION

IBAN code: NL28 RABO 0132 7262 03.

Or check out the online contribution possibility 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)

The contributions will be spent exclusively on the development and realisation 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 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.