



the **small world** foundation

30 - April 2010

FINALLY LEGAL

In May last year, the voice of the people of the Tikuna Kokama Yagua reserve was heard in San Martin, and a new board was appointed (newsletter 26). However, not everything was solved yet. The existing interests resulted to be enormous. Also, the way the old board used to be organized years ago had been changed (on paper), unfortunately with the help of CODEBA, a local NGO which received a huge budget from the Royal Dutch Embassy in 2005 – newsletter 2). So at the end of 2009, the newly appointed board was still not legal, and its members could still not subscribe any agreements or carry out their authority. All very complicated...

Last February representatives of the office of indigenous matters of the Colombian ministry of internal affairs had to get involved to appoint the new board again under their supervision. For some functions, the same people were appointed, and for others the people changed. At this moment, only the function of coordinator of territorial control is still assigned to a person from San Martin, whereas in May also the function of vice president was assigned to someone from this community.

The first task of the new board is now: organize it as it used to be, and work hard. On the pictures some impressions of the meeting held in the community of San Francisco.



EDIXSON BACK IN SAN MARTIN

Almost two years after his last visit to San Martin (newsletter 19), last month we could welcome Edixson Daza again in the community. Last time, his job was to walk along the limits of the ancestral lands with a powerful GPS, and to elaborate the digital map with the obtained data (newsletter 20). In the meantime, Reinaldo Dasilva and Javier Diaz gathered the GPS locations and descriptions of at least 250 important sites within these limits: malokas, cemeteries, salt licks, lakes, old agricultural plots, concentrations of certain useful (palm) trees, etc. All this information will be organized by Edixson, so in a few weeks a practical database will be available with which in an efficient manner all kinds of maps can be made of the ancestral lands. More detailed information about each site will be presented in a complementary document, which Edixson will set up.

Edixson: *"This part of the process in San Martin is important to show the outside world the way the ancestral lands are perceived by the community, and how Tikuna culture functions. It is an example of how for an indigenous group the use of natural resources is woven into daily life, and with the continuation of their culture, and therefore of how important the protection of the area is for these people. This is something quite different from what really is still thought very often from behind a desk: that the people who live in the jungle don't actually know anything and especially not if it is about nature conservation. The process in San Martin for recognition of their ancestral lands is special, but not unique. Other communities have also started to walk the same road. It concerns law and structure (as invented behind such a desk), as well as local knowledge of the lands, to reach a result which respects both institutions. Now*

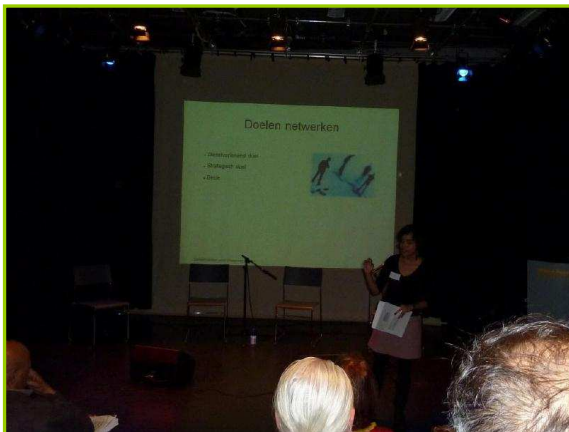
it happens to be San Martin de Amacayacu as a Tikuna community working hard for their ancestral lands that is making itself heard. Who knows how also other indigenous communities could pronounce themselves about the same theme in their region, and how much respect they could gain as people from the rainforest.

My presence in San Martin de Amacayacu is because here, such as is the case in other communities as well, a lot of knowledge is still missing on how to organize the extensive knowledge about their ancestral lands in geographic information systems. I also collaborate because I think the end goal of the community is worth it: the conservation and protection of the ancestral lands and all knowledge concerning these lands. My wish is that eventually in each community now asking for my help there is someone who can do this job. It would be great if I would teach them for a year!"



NCIV NETWORK MEETING

As part of our interest to stay informed about the latest developments on indigenous people's issues, the Small World Foundation was present at the network meeting of the Dutch Centre for Indigenous Peoples (www.nciv.net) in Utrecht last February. After an analysis of the goals and activities of the participating organizations (also: Cultural Survival), and the role of the centre in this, there was a chance to get to know each other better, and talk about possible alliances.



IPSO FACTO CHARITY PARTY 2010



Because of the successful lobby by Inge Kuiphuis and Mirte Gosker, both MSc International Development students at the Wageningen University, the traditional charity party of the student union Ipsos Facto was celebrated in café 't Gat this year on behalf of the Small World Foundation and thus San Martin de Amacayacu. The theme of the party was jungle – an appropriate recipe to guarantee crazy costumes and great pictures (which are soon to be admired on www.smallworldfoundation.org)!

At the party we had our jewellery collection for sale of course, and two new items were launched for the occasion: a new model of bracelet and cute key rings made from painted seeds only: definitely a must have!



JEWELLERY FOR SALE @ REVENGE

As part of our efforts to make our collection of unique jewellery from the Amazon (handmade of natural products only!) more accessible to the Dutch public, we present the ultra hip trend store REVENGE in the heart of Utrecht as our second sales point (apart from 't Ghil in Baarle-Nassau, of all places!). A wide variety of bracelets, rings and key rings are represented, so you can be sure to find something of your taste. But be quick, because the first delivery was sold out in a few days! Address: Vredenburg 34. Website: www.therevenge.nl.



Probably excessive information, but of course all possible profits from the sale of these items will be sent back again immediately to support the activities of San Martin de Amacayacu.



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 the following bank account in 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.

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 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 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.

Bij voorbaat dank namens San Martin de Amacayacu en tot ziens, Heike van Gils.