



JUST IN TIME...

At the end of March, San Martin de Amacayacu was lucky... Just like in the night of December 24th 2009 by the way, when almost the same happened: an attempt to steal the last aluminum boat left in the community (after two others were stolen last year). When the cut chain had been discovered in the morning of March 31st, and preparations were made to start a search (maybe without any result?) with the red wooden oneMen boat, the good news arrived: the boat had already been brought to safety at the Amacayacu river mouth. Around midnight, a fisherman (picture below) from another community saw two men in a canoe tugging the boat along, and tried to stop them, but needed to make a pursuit. Eventually, the two let the boat go and fled as quickly as they could.

The fisherman informed the Amacayacu National Park checkpoint, but the people on duty did not undertake any action. "Too dangerous", they said. The fisherman kept hanging around the river mouth all night, until San Martin came for the boat. In the meantime, the man was soaked to the bone; it had rained basically all night! A reward was in place: 40 euro.

Unfortunately, this story does not come alone. It is not an incident. As written before: the aluminum boat from the school and the health post were stolen from San Martin last year. In other communities, inhabitants have to haul their boats on land, and chain them to a post of someone's home: A heavy task, physically and economically speaking. A chain and lock easily cost around 50 euro.



TO THE FOREST AGAIN



After Edixson Daza's visit to San Martin last March, it was decided worthwhile to let Reinaldo DaSilva and his team of 2 elderly and 3 young people undertake another trip to the heart of the rainforest to register the GPS locations of 25 ancestral malokas at once. This is about 25% of all malokas described in 2008 by a few young people after the indications of several elderly in the community: Their name, location description, which people/families lived there, what did they produce, what special occasions took place, etc.



A comparable number of malokas the GPS location had already been registered. Another few will (dependent on the budget) be registered another time, and yet others are located too far from San Martin to get there. Apart from the malokas, other interesting sites were taken into account as well: cemeteries, concentrations of certain trees or plants (picture above right: a *caranazal*, where small palm trees are concentrated, of which the leaves woven together on a flat pole, serve for roofing), salt licks, mythological locations, etc. That these are not static parts of the rainforest, but all sites with a story, proves the picture right below of a decayed tin, found near one of the malokas. Such tins were used to store rubber in the '50 and '60 until merchants came to buy or trade it for goods the indigenous people did not have: textile (per meter!), pots, axes, machetes, etc. The information collected during this trip was soon sent to Edixson, who is going to put it all together in the database he is making right now.

WILD FUTURES MAKES AN EFFORT!



Nature conservation organization Wild Futures (UK – www.wildfutures.org) spontaneously made an effort for San Martin de Amacayacu by explicitly mentioning the GET WATER&TRANSPORT FOR SAN MARTIN DONE initiative (www.getitdone.org) in the Spring Edition of their newsletter, sent to many hundreds of members. We do not only hope for new contributions to buy more water tanks and a new aluminum boat (with chain and lock!!) for San Martin, but also for more involvement and understanding of people in the long process towards the recognition of their ancestral lands.

SMALL WORLD FOUNDATION ACTIVE IN THE NETHERLANDS IN THE COMING MONTHS

In June, July and August, volunteers of the Small World Foundation will be present at several events with information about the initiatives we support in San Martin de Amacayacu. Also, the collection of handmade jewellery of natural products will be available for you to find something of your liking!

June 13th: Sports centre/golf course De Leemput Rijen, during the festival Rijen Ruikt (by the Juin Foundation).

June 20th: Summer Fair at Elderly Home Mauritsstaete in Geertruidenberg.

July 17th: Open Garden Day at the Schanse Dijkhuizen in Klundert (Posthumus family).

July 24th: Mid Summer Night Fair Baarle-Nassau-Hertog. Precise location unknown, but Heike van Gils will definitely be present!

Later this summer, Heike will present again about our work in the Public Library of Baarle-Nassau-Hertog! Please come and visit, and stay in touch!

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.

Thank you on behalf of San Martin de Amacayacu, Heike van Gils.