



## FIRST DATABASE AND DIGITAL MAP ANCESTRAL LANDS

After a lot of drawing on the paper map and many trips to the rainforest, we are proud to present (in collaboration with Edixon Daza - GIS specialist) the first version of the digital map of the lands where the ancestors of the current inhabitants of Martin de Amacayacu used to live (next page). The goal of this first version is to dispose of data showing the historical links between these current inhabitant and these lands. This is necessary information for the official request to the government for recognition of an independent reserve for the community.

The map is connected to a database to which infinitely more information can be added. The light blue areas on the map are the existing indigenous reserves; on the left Tikuna Kokama Yagua reserve, to which San Martin belongs. The red line indicates the border of what this community considers the ancestral lands. Apart from the marked sites, there are numerous others that are also important culturally, historically, ecologically or in another way. This is especially the case in the relatively "empty" areas, which are often so far away or hard to reach, that the priority (and economic means!) at the moment goes to the official request.

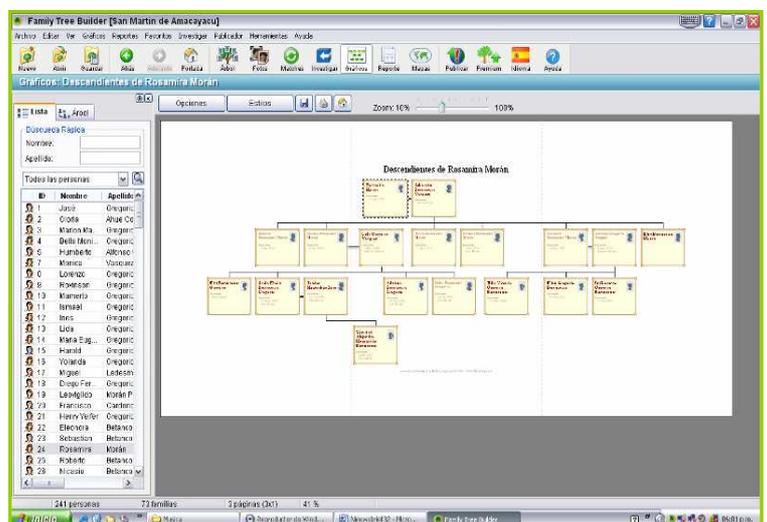
## FAMILY TREE GOES DIGITAL

Complementary to the ancestral lands map, a large effort has already been made with the elderly in the community to elaborate the San Martin family tree. At the moment, a few family lines have been followed until 1820. Not only are people's names written down, but also their place of birth and death. For the ancestors, this usually is accompanied by the name of the specific malokas (communal houses).

This way, the family tree is connected to the ancestral lands map. There is so much information available, that we currently use the software program 'My Heritage Family Tree Builder'. All information can now easily be organized and analyzed.

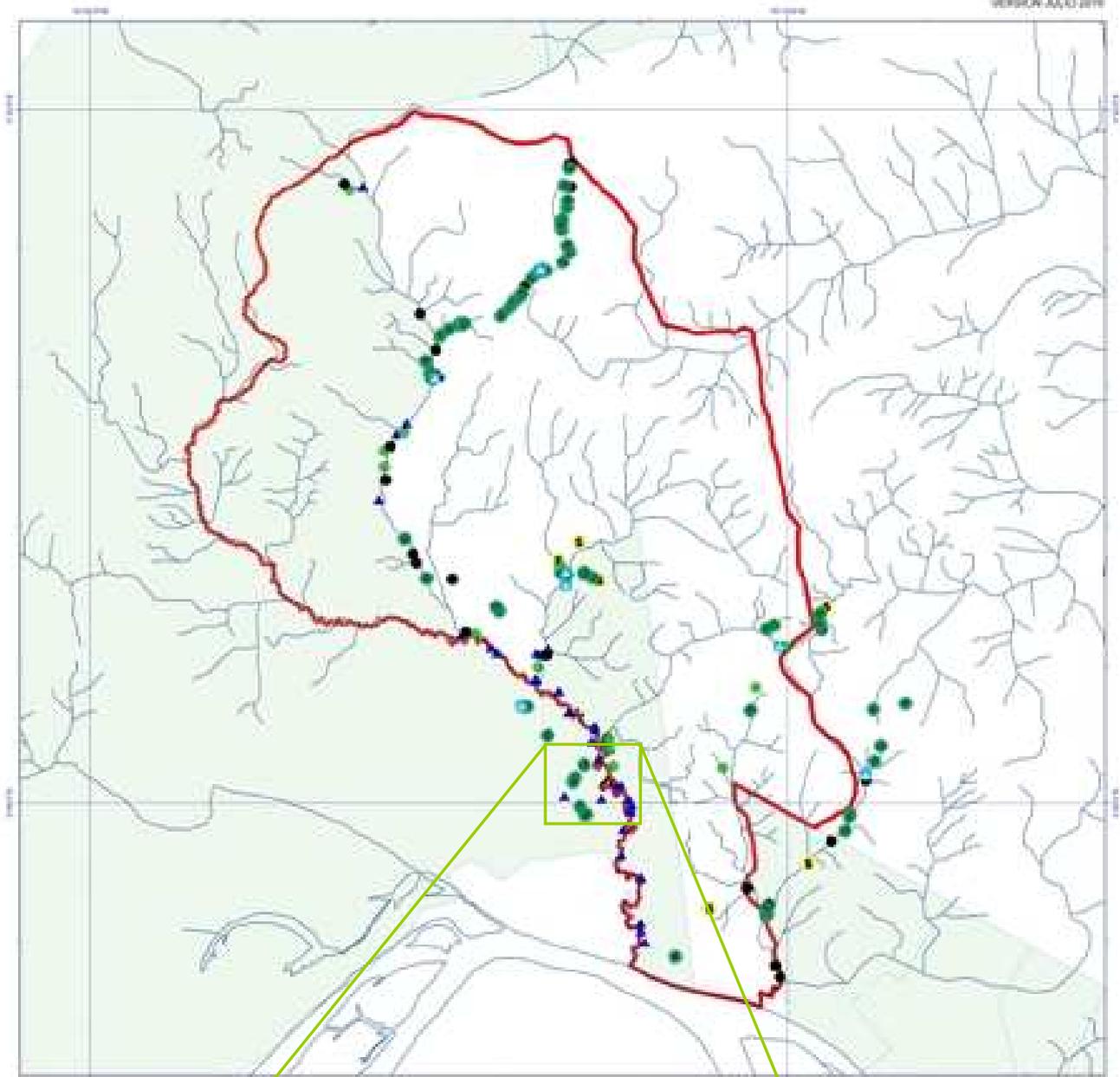
Apart from the necessary information for the family tree, the elderly often start telling relevant stories from the past. Why was a certain maloka abandoned? Why did that one lady only have one child? What was the role of specific people in the indigenous society of those days?

It is also interesting to see how the use of surnames developed over time. Around 1850, many people only had their indigenous name. Fifty years later, most had one or two Spanish names and two surnames (of their father and mother, respectively). When people had to register them selves for the government for the first time, surnames were copied from colonists, any other existing surname was chosen, or a surname was applied that sounded similar to the indigenous person's name.

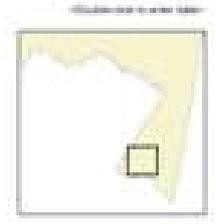
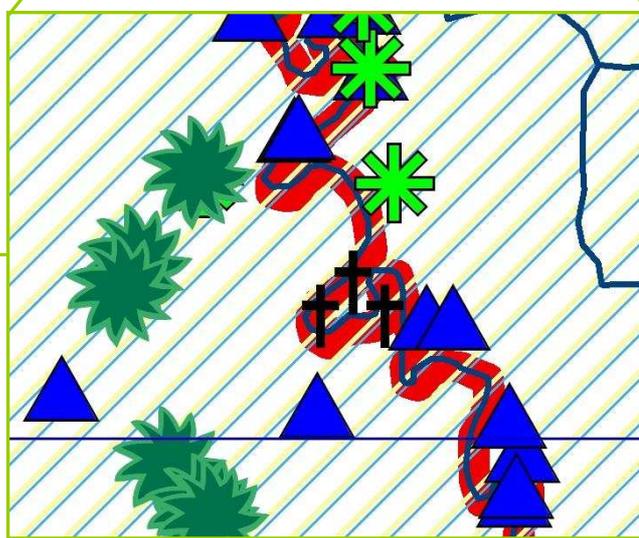


**MAPA DE ALGUNOS LUGARES DE IMPORTANCIA HISTÓRICA, SOCIAL, ECONÓMICA Y AMBIENTAL EN EL TERRITORIO ANCESTRAL DE LA COMUNIDAD INDÍGENA TIKUNA DE SAN MARTÍN DE AMACAYACU, AMAZONAS, COLOMBIA**

VERSION JULIO 2019



- LEYENDA**
- campesinista
  - ayahuacero
  - varco
  - mungo
  - sacha
  - + cementerio
  - ▲ machete
  - + santuario\_ayahuacero
  - + lagunas\_ayahuaceras
  - frontera



## TÉCHIWA FOUNDATION

San Martin de Amacayacu, as a Colombian indigenous community, is governed by a *cabildo*. A *cabildo* was once invented by western influences, and is usually elected every year by the community by voting on the candidates available for each of the five posts. The president of the *cabildo* is called *curaca* and this post gets assistance from the *vice-curaca*, a secretary (*secretario*) a treasurer (*tesorero*), an evaluator (*fiscal*) and a *vocal*, who communicates news or announcements to or in the community. This structure differs a lot from the old days, when leadership was still in the hands of the elderly or a shaman. No one in the *cabildo* gets paid for the job, but they are often very busy attending local or regional meetings, workshops or other events. A yearly election can also cause a lack of continuity in leadership, which can lead to administrative difficulties.

Therefore, a few young people in San Martin though it was time to create their own foundation, and look for support for their initiatives themselves. The foundation will be called Téchiwa, after a flower with a very special story in Tikuna culture. At this moment, the Small World Foundation helps the group with the administrative side of the story: editing the required documents, registry at the chamber of commerce and tax office, etc. In turn, Téchiwa will be the Colombian counterpart for the Small World Foundation and make sure our economic support will be according Colombian standards.

## THEATER FESTIVAL “DE PARADE” AMSTERDAM FOR SAN MARTIN

With the effort of the [Cheruto/Get It Done](#) people, San Martin is lucky again. With the slogan “Give A Shit”, the Amsterdam part of theater festival De Parade (<http://www.parade.nl> 6-22 Aug) will donate the revenues from the toilets to our well-known proposal for “Get Water&Transport for SanMartin Done”. The planned purchase of 30

water tanks and accessories fitted well into the concept of sanitary facilities. Will you also give a shit to get it done?

## PRESENTATION LIBRARY BAARLE

On Tuesday September 7th, Heike van Gils will once again give a presentation in the public library of Baarle-Nassau-Hertog about San Martin de Amacayacu and the Small World Foundation activities there. The presentation will start at 8pm. There will also be ample opportunity to admire the collection of handmade jewellery from the Amazon. There will be lots of new models, so you can be sure to find something of your liking for the late summer or autumn.

## MID SUMMER NIGHT FAIR BAARLE

On the 24th of July, the full board of the Small World Foundation (Tonny en Heike van Gils, Bea Voogt, Jos Withagen, Cissie Laureijssen) was represented at the mid summer night fair in Baarle-Nassau-Hertog. Amongst the hundreds of stands, ours was a popular destination for the thousands of visitors. We provided information, drew portraits, and sold for over 600 euro in jewellery! An excellent result; we will be back next year!



## FLASHY BOAT

Thanks to the support of Daan Wijsman and Regina Engels, San Martin was able to end the greatest necessity of the moment: a little boat for small errands. During their stay in the Amazon, they visited the Tikuna community of Puerto Rico and met Vidal, the carpenter of the 7 meter long wooden boat. Daan: *"Fantastic to meet this guy, who built this boat with his bear hands and a few tools within a week. What a skill. I heard Vidal also made the oneMen boat. If this one lasts as long as that one, it is worth every peso!"* In the meantime, the boat has been painted brown, white and yellow and is called "Tric Trac" as well as "Regina". Pictures of this beauty will be posted on [www.smallworldfoundation.org](http://www.smallworldfoundation.org) in September! For the report and picture of Daan and Regina in San Martin: check [www.travelling-trictrac.hamba.nl](http://www.travelling-trictrac.hamba.nl)



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**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 Nether lands

Account number: 13 27 26 203.

Account name: Stichting SMALL WORLD FOUNDATION

SWIFT/BIC Code: RABONL2U

IBAN code: NL28 RABO 0132 7262 03.

Or check out the online contribution possibility on: [http://smallworldfoundation.org/?page\\_id=68](http://smallworldfoundation.org/?page_id=68)

Please DON'T FORGET TO INFORM US ABOUT YOUR NAME AND EMAIL ADDRESS!!  
([heike\\_van\\_gils@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:heike_van_gils@hotmail.com).

For more information about this initiative, please check the website:

[www.smallworldfoundation.org](http://www.smallworldfoundation.org).

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