

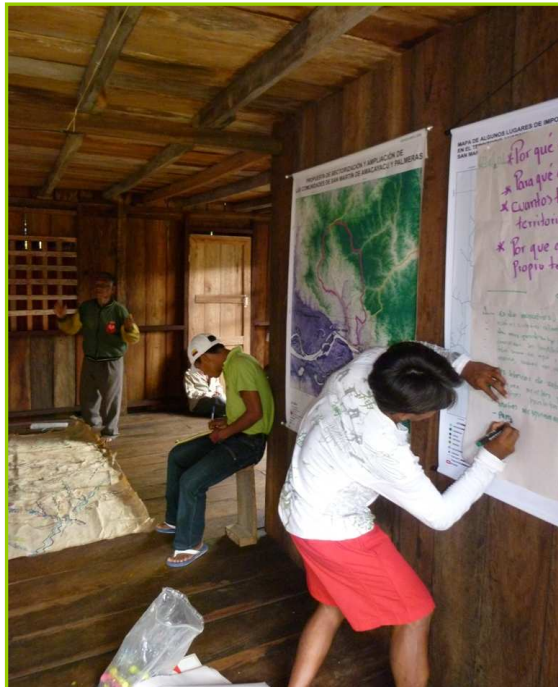


## WORKSHOP ANCESTRAL TERRITORY

Let us not forget the main objective (as far as the Small World Foundation is concerned): getting official recognition for the community's ancestral territory. Last October a workshop was held to review the situation so far with the different generations. Themes were dealt with such as: What information did we gather? Why precisely this information? What do they mean for the community?

After lunch, the subject changed to the actual application for recognition, and answers to the following questions were summarized: Why do we want territorial recognition (arguments from the past or present)? What do we want with our territory (future)? Why is this area important for us as a community?

Many answers on these questions went a lot further than "manage, decide about and have access to the natural resources we have taken care of and helped to exist". For the people of San Martin de Amacayacu, the territory represents an integral part of their indigenous culture. They were born here and everyone's personal history is alive here. The territory gives them more recognition as a community; they feel like being taken more seriously. It also stands for democracy and autonomy, difficult terms that are given a meaning this way. Together with the geographical information, these arguments will be part of the petition directed to the department of Ethnic Issues of the Colombian Ministry of Interior Affairs and Justice.





# FISH POND FUNDS IN THE ACCOUNT?

Things are so slow here sometimes. In the last newsletter (of two months ago) the financial agreement between the Colombian Institute of Agricultural Development ([INCODER](#)) and San Martin de Amacayacu had just been signed. At the moment of this edition's publication, we hope that the first 40% of the INCODER funds will be in the special fish pond bank account. To spend this money, we will first have to gather price indications in the different shops where the materials will be bought. These indications will be evaluated and after approval, the purchases can be made.

Maybe just before 2011 then? Until that big moment, people here keep digging: by hand and at temperatures that easily soar to 30°C during this time of the year. Of course, while enjoying many a cup of *masato*....



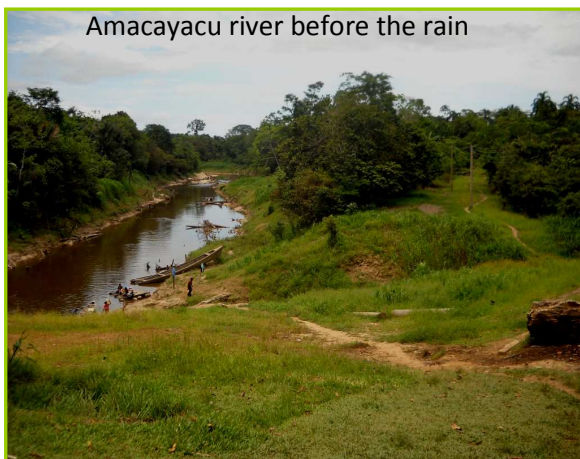


## LOW WATER LEVELS

At the moment of writing, it is half November. Normally, the rainy season would be well underway by now in this part of the Amazon and the rivers would already have high water levels. The dry season starts around May. This year it was all a little different. The dry season continued into November and the rivers maintained the lowest water levels in decades and for much longer than usual. That means that also in the Andes it did not rain very much. The Amazon River edges, which would

most, were extensive and had plenty of time to be overgrown with tall grass. For the area around Leticia, this is a huge problem as many goods are brought in by the Amazon River. At the end of October, no cement or Colombian beer was available anymore. Boating on the little river arms is very risky under such circumstances. At any moment, some trunk can appear under water. Now, even boating on the actual Amazon River was also risky: all of a sudden there were beaches everywhere and sometimes water levels were only knee-high right in the middle.

The rains that follow such dry times can be extreme. Below, two pictures of subsequent days. The one on the left, the Amacayacu river before a night of tremendous rainfall. Picture on the right is the same river the next morning. The difference was at least 6 meters and the speed of the water current was impressive and even dangerous. On the other hand, these dry times are good to establish agricultural plots: The cut down trees and bushes dry quickly for burning and the planted crops grow well..



## ORIT IS ALSO HELPING!

With the Feet in the Earth ([www.voetenindeearde.nl](http://www.voetenindeearde.nl)) and the Get It Done ([www.getitdone.org](http://www.getitdone.org)) project "WATER& TRANSPORT FOR SAN MARTIN" we asked for attention for the critical drinking water situation in the indigenous community of San Martin de Amacayacu. This is slowly getting better due to the purchase of sustainable plastic 1000 liter water tanks. ORIT B.V. (brick cutter and other construction materials: [www.orit.nl](http://www.orit.nl)) also wants to chip in for at least one year. That means: another 8 tanks! Again: Thank you very much! The first 12 Get It Done and ORIT water tanks are to arrive in the community around this newsletter's publication. Let's hope there will be water in the rivers!!



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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 Netherlands  
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.