



ENOUGH FOOD FOR DISCUSSION

Last February 15th and 16th, an important meeting was held in San Martin with representatives of the ministry of interior affairs, the Amacayacu National Park, the Tikuna Cocama Yagua reserve, the municipalities of Leticia and Puerto Nariño, and other organizations involved. All of a sudden, San Martin had a few hundred visitors! They slept (in hammocks, tents and improvised mattresses) and ate in assigned "sleeping and eating houses". The ingredients for the three daily meals were delivered here (partly sponsored by the Small World Foundation). The women of these houses (helped by kitchen assistants) took care of the preparation and serving and were paid a small fee.

The central theme of the meeting was the proposal of San Martin de Amacayacu to get official recognition of the ancestral lands in the shape of an independent reserve.

This was the first real occasion to talk about this subject in public with the municipality of Puerto-Nariño and leaders of other communities of the Tikuna Cocama Yagua reserve, to which San Martin currently (still) belongs. This time, the general response was less positive. This was to be expected, because there are enormous interests in the many natural resources in San Martin's ancestral lands (think of: timber, gravel, sand, fish, game). Since it is feared (even though unjustified) that this area will be off limits for the municipality of Puerto-Nariño and other communities after independence, the spontaneous reaction of the stakeholders is negative at first.

Suggestions made by the ministry of interior affairs gave San Martin an impression of the options, which will obviously not be the easiest. Fortunately, San Martin and the Small World Foundation have enough arguments to follow up on these options: The dialogue has only just started!



**END OF FEBRUARY 2011: GOT WATER&BOAT FOR SAN MARTIN (PART II) DONE:
13 WATER TANKS OF 1000L. BOUGHT, TRANSPORTED & INSTALLED!!**



**GET
IT
DONE.**



THE FIRST ORIT TANKS...

Remember: ORIT (www.orit.nl) is also contributing to the "Clean drinking water" theme in San Martin de Amacayacu" by donating 9 tanks! This is one more than planned because we got the transport of all tanks and fish pond materials almost for free from the shop where we bought everything. Three of the ORIT tanks have been installed and the other six are still waiting for their destination!

In this (for now: last) round of tanks some families participated which do not have an aluminum roof on their house. The solution: Separately set up constructions of about three aluminum slates that can catch enough water at least for drinking purposes. Washing the dishes still needs to be done in the river!

Until now and with help of Voeten in de Aarde (www.voetenindeaarde.org), Get It Done (www.getitdone.org) and ORIT, the Small World Foundation has been able to finance 39 water tanks. This is almost enough to cater for one half of the community's houses. On behalf of all families: THANK YOU!

The other half has a tank (but usually old and/or leaking) or shares one with the neighbors. For these families we are still making an effort!

INCODER VISITS SAN MARTIN

At the beginning of February, the fish pond materials arrived by boat in San Martin (wheel carriers, shovels, buckets, PVC tubes...). A few days later, INCODER (www.incoder.gov.co) technical staff visited the community to check the 12 fish ponds to be and to explain the administrative side of the project. In the extreme heat of that particular day, each location was measured and evaluated for suitability for a fish pond. Almost all successfully passed the test. Only one location was too high up, and would probably not maintain water. Another location was found immediately.



The day ended with a delicious well deserved meal for everyone. The coming months: just keep digging!!



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 module on: www.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.