



the small world foundation

SAN MARTIN DE AMACAYACU REPRESENTED AT INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

On the 1st and 2nd of June, Mamerto Alfonso Vásquez and José Gregorio Vásquez from San Martín de Amacayacu were present in the Colombian capital of Bogotá to participate in the international congress called "Maps and land and natural resources rights" organized by the private Andes University. The flight tickets were sponsored by the Small World Foundation representative in Canada (Javier Díaz). Local transport and meals were paid for by the Dutch part. Kellyn Duarte and Sebastian Escobar kindly gave them a place to stay.



At the congress, José and Mamerto listened to speakers from a wide variety of countries and discovered what's happening in the world of maps on practical and scientific levels: Different ways of making maps, and their role in land and natural resource rights and management.

Mamerto Alfonso Vásquez: *"The experiences of this event for the exchange of viewpoints were very fruitful, especially concerning the role of maps for land rights in different countries. It is clear that the indigenous way of presenting and describing a piece of land is a lot more integrated than scientific or political methods are. To include all concepts in one map, and thus present the territory correctly, we have to undertake profound discussions."*

The congress also had a political angle. José Gregorio Vásquez: *"Because of the indigenous struggle, a lot of progress has been achieved over the last twenty years in terms of land rights for native peoples. Of course, maps played an important role. But also: To what extent have these rights been shaped and influenced by western countries, NGO's, multinationals and development banks, each with their own*



agenda of climate change, nature conservation and development? These entities can exert a lot of influence in some steps necessary to obtain (land) rights. The indigenous people are not always consulted for these crucial steps. So it can be that the indigenous struggle eventually serves other agenda's and is pulled from its context. As such, the indigenous people can miss their goal."



During almost the whole month of July, Catalina Lopera (right on the picture above), representative of the Techiwa Foundation (newsletter 32), was in the United States to acquire knowledge about the technical part of making maps. Catalina: *"I am a biologist and I have six years of experience in the Amazon. Last year I got involved with the Techiwa Foundation. Looking at the activities in San Martin de Amacayacu, I realized that my knowledge of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) should improve if I really want to contribute to the community of San Martin. A scholarship of the Society for Conservation GIS (SCGIS, Davis, California) gave me the opportunity. After two weeks of training, we went to the ESRI International User Conference in San Diego and the SCGIS Annual Conference in Big Bear Lake. At this last conference I presented a project about the nature and meaning of important natural resources in San Martin. It was a great experience. The training was hard; there is so much information and there are so many tricks to learn. There was hardly enough time. There were a lot of interesting people from different countries, all working very hard*

for nature conservation in their own country. So we could exchange a lot of experiences. I really hope to be able to share my experience with the people from San Martin, and I also hope to be involved with GIS activities in the community or elsewhere."

GET 40 TOILETS FOR SAN MARTIN DONE

GET 40 TOILETS FOR SAN MARTIN DONE.

As announced in the last newsletter: The new Small World Foundation project for San Martin de Amacayacu: **GET 40 TOILETS FOR SAN MARTIN DONE**. At the website below you can find all information about the project. Get It Done (www.getitdone.org) already did its best for us: Just like last year (newsletter 33), the project has been elected for the GIVASHIT concept at theater festival De Parade (www.deparade.nl) this summer! Hopefully, this event will raise 70% (6813 euro) of the total budget (9733). The Small World Foundation calls for your help to get the other 30% (2920 euro) together! You can make a donation through the project widget on the website below or on Rabobank account number 13 27 26 203 of the Stichting SMALL WORLD FOUNDATION at Baarle-Nassau, mentioning "40 toilets", IBAN: NL28RABO0132726203, BIC: RABONL2U. We will make sure it gets to its destination! Your contribution to GET IT DONE as well as the Small World Foundation can be tax deductible: Please inquire with you tax office or advisor!

<http://www.getitdone.org/projects/posted/type/view/id/119>

You can also place the project widget on your Hyves page and invite your contacts to help distributing it. First, log on to your Hyves page and open the Get It Done website in another window for the project widget. The rest speaks for itself!

On Facebook you can find a special project page (check link above) with the latest pictures and information. Please leave a comment and of course, "like" and "share" the page: JUST DO IT!!

The Small World Foundation will make some extra effort for this project this summer. For example on the Farmers Day in Alphen on August 13th. And there will be another presentation in the library of Baarle-Nassau-Hertog to inform you about the project personally.

WE NEED YOU TO GIVE A SHIT TO GET THE 30% DONE!!



IRIS VERSTAPPEN VISITS SAN MARTIN DE AMACAYACU

Last month, Iris Verstappen from Baarle-Nassau visited San Martin de Amacayacu. With her own eyes she could follow all projects and developments. Iris: *"On my way to San Martin I was welcomed on the Amazon River by the smell of the wild forest of which I had already dreamt so often. Finally, I did not have to dream anymore: All of a sudden San Martin was so close! Once arrived, my heart melted and I secretly swallowed my tears of happiness. The people are so sweet and hospitable. I learnt things that will always stay with me. Prepare fresh fish on a fire, drink masato and dig fish ponds, talk and do nothing together, plat long black hair, plant yucca, plantain and pineapple, watch soccer (something I never did in the Netherlands because I thought it was boring – seeing some enthusiasts running after the ball in the stinking Amazon mud gives quite a different impression of soccer) but most of all I have learnt to respect nature and a different way of thinking and living. I am grateful to all kind people there, because they shared their lives in all their aspects with me, a Dutch student."* PS. *"As the project mover of GET 40 TOILETS FOR SAN MARTIN DONE I really hope that with your donations we will soon reach the 2920 euro!! I have seen that there is still a lot to improve on a sanitary level."*

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GET 40 TOILETS FOR SAN MARTIN DONE. 1.0%

DONE €102 TO DO €9631

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EXCLUSIVE "AMAZONAS" COLLECTION BY JORGE LOPERA

When you are reading this: The exclusive collection "Amazonas" by the Colombian artist Jorge Lopera (www.jorgelopera.com) is in the Netherlands for you!! To the right, you can see some examples of the handmade rings and earrings of silver and colored resins. Please get in touch quickly with Tonny van Gils (+31-135078003) to make an appointment to admire the collection first! Be quick, because **GONE = GONE!!**



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 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.