



40

december  
2011

# the small world foundation

## APPLICATION FOR SAN MARTIN'S TERRITORY IS READY!!

Amongst others, it all started with this newsletter in May 2005: De long road to the official ancestral lands recognition application of the Tikuna indigenous community of San Martin de Amacayacu. Over the years, paper and digital maps have been made, these were set out in the rainforest, and additional data were brought back from the rainforest and also included in these maps. Many workshops and meetings were held in the community and elsewhere, with governmental entities

and other stakeholders, to define the cultural, ecological and legal arguments for the application. Now, in this 40th edition of the Small World Foundation newsletter, we have something to celebrate. The land recognition application, directed to the Colombian Institute for Agricultural Development ([www.incoder.gov.co](http://www.incoder.gov.co) – also involved in the fish pond project), is READY!

Now we have to wait for an occasion where all 22 community heads of the Tikuna Cocama Yagua reserve are together to sign the document.

Bogotá, noviembre de 2011

Señores  
INCODER  
ATN. PAOLA HERNÁNDEZ VILLALBA  
Subgerente de Promoción Seguimiento y Asuntos Étnicos  
Ciudad

### ASUNTO. SOLICITUD AMPLIACIÓN TERRITORIO RESGUARDO TICUNA, COCAMA Y YAGUA -TICOYA- RESOLUCIÓN 021 DE 1994

Nosotros, identificados como aparece al pie de nuestras firmas en calidad de curacas de las comunidades que hacen parte del "Resguardo Ticuna, Cocama y Yagua -TICOYA-" en virtud de la facultad otorgada por el Decreto 2164 de 1995 que permite solicitar "La ampliación de resguardos constituidos a comunidades indígenas cuando las tierras fueran insuficientes para su desarrollo económico y cultural o para el cumplimiento de la función social y ecológica de la propiedad, o cuando en el resguardo no fueran incluidas la totalidad de las tierras que ocupan tradicionalmente o que constituyen su hábitat", presentamos a ustedes de manera respetuosa solicitud de ampliación del "Resguardo Ticuna, Cocama y Yagua - TICOYA" en el área delimitada más adelante en beneficio de las comunidades de San Martín y Palmeras basados en los siguientes:

#### HECHOS

1. En el año 1975, en el área conocida como el Trapecio Amazónico en jurisdicción de los municipios de Leticia y Puerto Nariño (terreno de

## INCODER NATIONAL HEAD OFFICE VISITS SAN MARTIN

On October 1st, San Martin de Amacayacu received a visit of the national head office of the Colombian Institute for Agricultural Development INCODER. The visit's aim was to get to know the fish pond project advances and obstacles personally. The families involved were invited to speak about their experiences so far. It was clear that the expectations of the city-based INCODER are not always met by rural communities such as San Martin. For example, the assistance of machines is not an option at isolated and hilly locations. Fortunately, San Martin disposes of the BN/DeStem Development Prize (newsletter 25) for the support of the *minga's* organised to dig the ponds manually. However, this is not the case for other communities. The geographic distance to the INCODER office (in the case of San Martin this is in Leticia) is another important obstacle to comply quickly and efficiently with the administrative demands of an entity like INCODER. A better understanding of this situation can make the INCODER subsidy policy more flexible or different in the future, so that expectations are not unnecessarily high and, as a result, difficult to reach. A few fish ponds were visited by the INCODER team in company of the participating families. The most important INCODER staff member was even handed a spade to experience how tough it is to dig manually! A few participants from San Martin were interviewed by the film crew (which registered everything else too) for the INCODER TV program "*Frente al campo*" (free translation: "Ahead with the rural area"). This is broadcasted every week and is about INCODER projects all over the country (from fish ponds to coffee beans to land rights). What a publicity: San Martin de Amacayacu and the fish ponds on national TV! The visit was closed with an extensive lunch for the community and the INCODER team.



## ALMOST GOT 40 TOILETS FOR SAN MARTIN DONE!! THANKS!!

It is almost done!! At this moment we gathered €9082 of the €9733,- for the 40 toilets for San Martin! Over the course of the last months we received a lot of support from diverse sources. The Catholic Women's Organisation ([www.kvo.net](http://www.kvo.net)) Circle Breda adopted 'GET 40 TOILETS FOR SAN MARTIN DONE' for the current season. Attention has been dedicated to the Small World Foundation and the project at different activities of this organisation. De foundation has been able to sell jewellery and money has been collected especially for the project. Soon, this assured a tremendous contribution. KVO circle Breda: Thanks! Inge Kuiphuis (newsletter 16 and picture below) also participated in the fundraising activities, by cleaning toilets at the walk and cycle event "Herfsttinentocht" in Vasse (Twente) ([www.herfsttinentocht.nl](http://www.herfsttinentocht.nl)). Great action!



Through the project widget at the websites specified above and below you can still donate until the end of December. This is also possible via Rabobank account number 13 27 26 203 of the Stichting SMALL WORLD FOUNDATION in Baarle-Nassau, mentioning "40 toilets". Then we will make sure it gets to the right place! As soon as the total budget is complete, the installation of the toilets will start. On the 'Get It Done' website as well as on Facebook special project pages will continue to exist and be fed with new pictures and the latest information. Scular posts: JUST DO IT!

## ZLTO DEDICATED PRIZE TO SMALL WORLD FOUNDATION

On August 13th, Ton Duffhues of the Southern Agricultural Organisation ([www.zlto.nl](http://www.zlto.nl)) was on a reception in Baarle-Nassau honouring the PhD degree of Heike van Gils (Faculty of Agricultural Sciences at the National University of Colombia). Ton Duffhues was here with a special reason, namely to hand of a cheque of €500,- of the ZLTO Social Fund for the activities of Heike in San Martin de Amacayacu. The philosophy behind this prize is that idealistic young people can affect the current world positively. Children of ZLTO members can be nominated for this prize.



The cheque was received by Heike with a lot of surprise and fulfillment. Given the priority the Small World Foundation gives to San Martin's ancestral lands recognition process, the money has been spent on the partial payment of the lawyer (newsletter 39) who elaborated the application (first page of this newsletter). In the agricultural magazine 'De Nieuwe Oogst' of October 8th 2011 attention was also given to the occasion.



## ELECTIONS ARE OVER

On October 30th, people in Colombia voted for mayor, municipality council, governor and departmental council. Months in advance, the many Amazon candidates were busy making themselves heard: Meetings in Leticia, Puerto-Nariño and the indigenous communities, noisy manifestations, conversations behind closed doors, material (for example: gasoline, boots, machetes, food supplies, clothes) and financial (an average of 25 euro per vote) donations or promises to voters, etc. On the day itself, the candidates organised the voters transport over the Amazon river to the voting booths. This always allows some space for those candidates with more financial means to influence the voters choice at the very last moment... An exciting day with enough food for everyone: Whole cows (alive or dead) are transported to the communities to feed everyone that day. Even so, this round it seemed time for "conscience voting" and the regional political "maffia" did not get its foot between the door. Now, the Amazon has to wait and see if the less financially strong



but elected leaders can stick to their promises without breaking under the pressure of others. San Martin also had a candidate for the municipality council. Mamerto Alfonso Vásquez (newsletter 38) got the support of San Martin de Amacayacu, but this was not enough to help him get a political seat. Better luck next time!!

---

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