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April
2012

the small world foundation

PATIENCE WITH APPLICATION FOR SAN MARTIN'S ANCESTRAL LAND RECOGNITION...

Several times, the community of San Martin de Amacayacu was ready for the big moment that the application for official ancestral land recognition would be signed by the leaders of the 22 communities of the Tikuna Cocama Yagua indigenous reserve. Yet there is still enough political unrest in this reserve to cancel or postpone these occasions. Years ago, this unrest was one of the most important reasons to strive for an independent reserve for San Martin. This independence was sent to the fridge about a year ago (Newsletter 37). The resulting compromise was to expand the existing Tikuna Cocama Yagua indigenous reserve with the ancestral area of the communities of San Martin and Palmeras. For now, we are waiting patiently for a suitable opportunity in local politics....

SAN MARTIN DE AMACAYACU AND THE NEW...

ELECTRICITY GENERATOR!!

Since about a year, the electricity supply in the Colombian Amazon has been privatised matter. After many meetings between the indigenous communities and "Energy for the Amazon", new electricity generators arrived (picture above right) and were installed in most communities in the region. The diesel supplies have never been as big. Whether the communities are really ready for this new regime remains the question. Before, the diesel for the old generator (picture left) was subsidised (= free electricity for the communities). Now, energy meters will be installed in every house and a monthly energy bill will fall on the door mat (ehh.. wooden floor). Not paying means being disconnected...



PART 1 OF “GET 40 TOILETS FOR SAN MARTIN DONE” = DONE!

After the materials for the first 15 toilets arrived in San Martin de Amacayacu mid January, construction soon started. The involved families that first had their share in sand (4 bags) and corner posts (4 units) for the concrete floor ready at their house, were the first to be attended. Step one is determining the toilet location. Then, the ground is leveled for the floor and the ditch is dug for the PVC tube. After this tube has been installed, the wooden frame for the floor is put in place and filled with concrete. The toilet is then placed on the PVC tube opening, exactly level. The tube ends in an open hole, which is usually dug out directly as well. After a check, the hole is covered with durable timber planks and loam from the hole.

After this part, the carpenter can start his job. A wooden wall (2 meters high at the front and 1.80 meters at the back) with a door and three corrugated aluminum panels for a roof. To make the timber wall last longer, it will be painted with used engine oil. Each toilet has a simple lock on

the inside and a possibility to use a padlock on the outside. This, so that when the owner is not at home, the toilet will remain clean (which once again shows the need for toilets in the community!).

In the meantime, 14 toilets are successfully in use, and San Martin is ready for part 2 of “Get 40 Toilets for San Martin Done”. One toilet of part 1 will be relocated during part 2, because the hole was accidentally dug on a natural water well, and always fills up with water!! Check the picture above right. In the previous newsletter, we reported the loss of a chainsaw. This equipment has already been replaced (picture above right) and used intensively for the timber necessary for part 2 of the project, with which (thanks to you!) another 15 toilets will be installed in San Martin de Amacayacu!

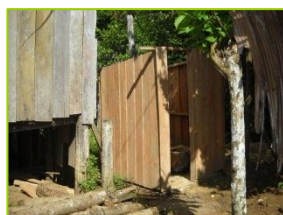


FOLLOW THE PROJECT ON GET IT DONE!!

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



**GET
40 TOILETS
FOR
SAN MARTIN
DONE.**



FOLLOW THE PROJECT ON FACEBOOK AND LEAVE A COMMENT!!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/GET-40-Toilets-for-San-Martin-DONE/173880899338985>

THE FIRST FISH HAVE BEEN SOLD!

Since Christmas, it has been raining almost daily in the Colombian Amazon river region. Sometimes a long term drizzle, but also regular poor downs. The water level in the rivers has been especially high and it seems that it will get higher yet. Because of the frequent rains, high water levels and general fish scarcity, it has been very difficult for fishermen in the region to gather a daily portion of fish for their families.

Sometimes, a fisherman comes back with only a few fish after a whole day of fishing. Under such circumstances, it is straight panic when the camera team of Travel Channel suddenly rocks up to film the preparation of a local dish! Luckily, one of the fish pond owners has advanced enough with his share of the BN/DeStem Development Prize that he could sell (with a big smile on his face) five beautiful fish (*Brycon* sp.) for twice the normal price!!



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.