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the small world foundation

WORLD CUP SOCCER: SUSPENSE!!!

By the time you read this, we'll know who won the world cup soccer. Before it came to that, Colombia experienced chaos for about a month. This country was not able to participate in this event since 1998! So enthusiasm was enormous and you could feel the suspense in the air, even more so when Colombia faced Brasil. Last time this happened was in 1950 and then Colombia lost. The border between the Amazon towns of Leticia (Colombia) and Tabatinga (Brasil) was closed and no alcohol could be sold in Colombia. Three families in San Martin de Amacayacu have a satellite tv reception and everyone was invited to watch the games at their houses. The victories on Japan, Uruguay and Ivory Coast boosted the spirits. The Colombian team went to the next round, where Brasil was waiting. Five extra minutes of time and taking the Brazilian hero Neymar out of the game with a knee kick in the back did not help. The result was a 2-1 loss for Colombia, with many doubts about the performance of the Spanish referee to the advantage of Brasil. You can image the Colombians weren't happy at all and wait for the next opportunity with impatience. Hopefully, they don't have to wait another 64 years!



DARRELL POSEY IN ACTION

In January this year, Gregorio Vásquez from San Martín de Amacayacu won the *Darrell Posey Fellowship for Ethnoecology and Traditional Resource Rights* of the American International Society of Ethnobiology (www.ethnobiology.net) for the project *Control of natural resource use in the ancestral lands of San Martín de Amacayacu*. There have been many meetings since then, also regularly with the participation of Amacayacu National Park representatives.

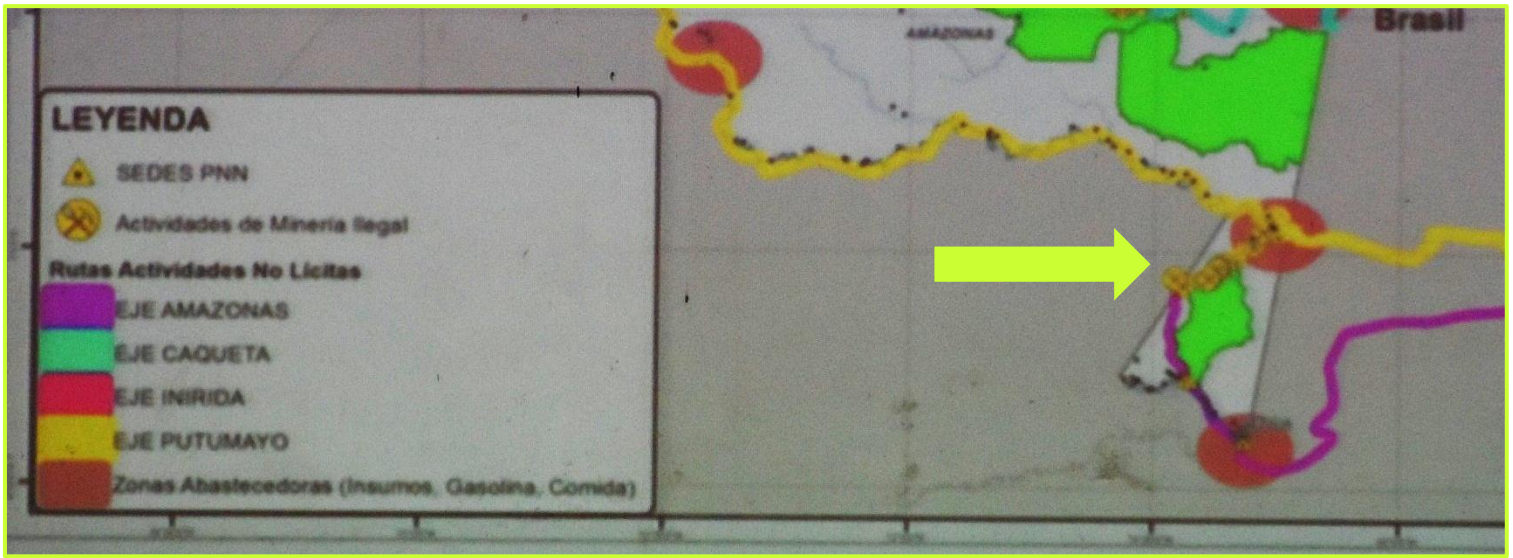
Different topics were subject of these first meetings. A team of 8 members was formed, who will accompany the use of timber, sand, gravel and so on. This team will also go on control expeditions in the ancestral area on foot and by boat. They participated in a GPS workshop, so it will be possible later to represent all information in maps.

During several days, the meetings were with a larger group of people interested and about the procedure that will have to be followed in the future to use a resource.

To facilitate the administration, a start has been made to design formats that are easy to print and fill out, for the different purposes such as the control activities, the application procedure and the permission.

In the framework of this project, a few people from San Martín participated in a congress about illegal gold mining in the Colombian Amazon, which is a new hype at the moment. Even in the Cotué river on the northern border of the Amacayacu National Park there is activity of several *dragas* (picture next page above right), a kind of big square steel floating docks with a tube that destroys the river bottom and sucks up all rock material. Somewhere in the process, highly poisonous mercury is added to extract the gold from stone. This mercury then ends up straight into the river. Geographically, the step from the Cotué to the Amacayacu river is only small. We try everything to prevent this.





SPONSORMARATHON IN GEESTEREN

Last May 8th, almost 500 children of the catholic Aloysius school in Geesteren fanatically ran for the San Martin de Amacayacu kindergarden and a project of another foundation. The children really made an effort to collect money. The result: 2900 euro for each of the two projects. Tonny van Gils received the contribution on behalf of the Small World Foundation during a celebration in the Geesteren church. Everyone involved: THANKS! We can now finish the kindergarden properly.



SMALL WORLD SUMMER

The Small World Foundation volunteers will put on a pink wig and a white coat again this August at the summer events in Alphen (NB) (thanks to the Stichting Trekkertrek Alphen - www.stta.nl):

FARMERS DAY (SAT 9 AUGUST) TRACTOR PULLING (SAT 23 AND SUN 24 AUGUST)

This time, raising funds for the running activities concerning the ancestral land application and the natural resource management plan will be the goal of our work. We are still looking for volunteers who want to help out keeping the toilets clean. Even if it's for a few hours, you're very much welcome!! Please let us know by emailing heike_van_gils@hotmail.com. If you can't help us, but will attend the events: Please come to use a sparkling toilet!

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.

