

CORRECTION

In newsletter 113 we accidentally wrote: “these pieces of land (...) could come into the hands of the municipality”. What we actually meant to write was: “into the hands of the communities”! Our apologies for the confusion.

LANDAPPLICATION 5 COMMUNITIES

At the beginning of May the father of José Gregorio Vásquez passed away. José is the effective leader of the land applications, which are supported by Small World Foundation. Due to this sudden loss it was a difficult time for him to perform his leader role.

Nevertheless there were still meetings and lobbying activities, the most important one being a big meeting on the 3rd of July between the municipality of Puerto Nariño and the leaders of the 22 communities of the TICOYA reserve. The mayor was not present during this occasion but since the council is allowed to approve or reject a project by voting, their attendance was the most essential.





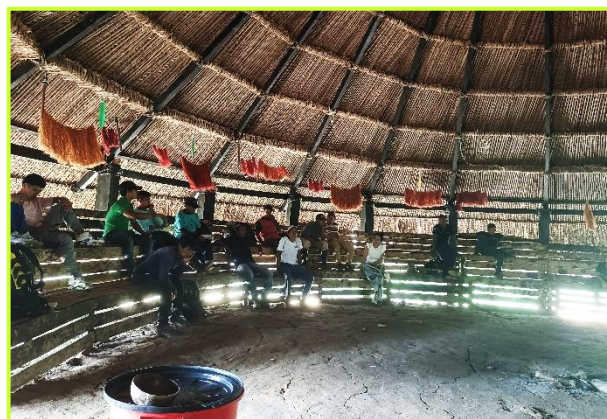
ENVIRONMENTAL PATROL TARAPOTO

On the 28th of July there was another meeting with the group from the TICOYA reserve whom call themselves the environmental patrol of the Tarapoto lake. This lake is located at the heart of the reserve and a few years ago it was declared as one of the [RAMSAR locations](#). The lake and the forest are of great value for the biodiversity of the region and many indigenous people are dependent on it for food. Due to overfishing, too much hunting and deforestation the region draw the attention and became protected. A few NGO's like [OMACHA](#) and the [WNF](#) sponsor the local environmental patrol with small contributions for already 20 years. Also the Natütama foundation contributes by focusing on education in the schools of Puerto Nariño.

The environmental patrol works for the protection of the forest and the manatees, the pink and grey dolphins, fish, reptiles (caimans and turtles) and birds at the Tarapoto lake. Rules and agreements have been made with the locals: which fish and reptiles are allowed to be fished and how many? Which size and which species exactly? In which time of the year and with what kind of fishing or hunting methods?

The environmental patrol of San Martin de Amacayacu has been involved in the work of

the patrol of the Tarapoto lake before. They have visited the lake together to share experiences, knowledge and advise. During this meeting in June San Martin contributed to the patrol of the Tarapoto lake by offering them 18 uniforms: trousers and long sleeved t-shirts with a beautiful print.



A VISIT TO SWITZERLAND

From the 8th until the 11th of August, José Gregorio Vásquez and Heike van Gils participated in a conference in the area of Solothurn in Switzerland, the [4th symposium “Zusammen leben” \(living together\) of the World Wide Magic Movement \(WWMM\)](#) on the theme “The art of living”. In 2019 José and Heike already attended the 2nd symposium (newsletter 81). Arno and Anke Schwarzer were again their contact persons for their participation at this special event.

Many aspects of life within a community, like many of the WWMM participants do in different places around the globe, require special care and attention in comparison to a more regular way of life. This kind of symposia focuses on aspects which could be part of “the art of living”: which are the challenges one faces within the community? how do you achieve a peaceful and satisfied community? A community where every different human

being can be happy? What kind of situations can be experienced in these kind of communities?

The symposium included group talks, presentations, live music, workshops, meals, dance, among many others. Also José got the chance to speak about the difference between a community in a western country and an indigenous community like in the Amazon.

In October a group of Swiss will also visit San Martin de Amacayacu for two weeks to strengthen the bond between the two communities. At this moment the biggest financial support for the environmental patrol and the environmental education in San Martin comes from this Swiss community and it is our hope to keep this compromise for the long term.





Would you like to support the Tikuna indigenous community of San Martin together with the Small World Foundation and stay informed about local developments in this remote corner of Colombia?

You can transfer a yearly amount of 20 euros (or more...!) to:

Rabobank IBAN: NL28RABO0132726203

Bankaccount name: Stichting SMALL WORLD FOUNDATION at Baarle-Nassau,

Under the reference of 'newsletter' and your Name (BIC: RABONL2U)

Or check out the online contribution module on www.smallworldfoundation.org/?page_id=68

Do not forget to inform us by sending your name and e-mail to smallworldfoundation@hotmail.com. For alternative (forms of) contributions you can also write to us via the e-mailadress mentioned above. As mentioned before, all contributions will be exclusively spent on the development and implementation of local initiatives. We will inform you about these projects as much as possible via the newsletter.

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