

FANTASTIC 2026!

TIKUNA LEADERS ON TOUR

Since September, several indigenous leaders from the Tikuna Cocama and Yagua (TICOYA) Indigenous Reserve have been meeting and discussing the new national challenge for all reserves in Colombia: the ETI (Entidad Territorial Indígena) status. This is best translated as "Indigenous Territorial Entity" or "Indigenous Territorial Unit."

This status refers to an independent administrative or governance status that can be assigned specifically to Colombian indigenous reserves. It means that these reserves are well-organized and can independently assume all government functions, receiving direct subsidies for these functions. Currently, very few reserves have been granted ETI status.

All of this is enshrined in the Colombian Constitution, which states that indigenous peoples have the right to recognition of their ancestral lands and to exercise autonomous governance within them, according to their own traditions and culture.

Several indigenous reserves have already achieved this ETI status, but usually with the help of large NGOs. Indigenous leader José Gregorio Vásquez is committed to the TICOYA Reserve. His efforts for San Martín de Amacayacu and this reserve have been sponsored by the Small World Foundation for the 20th year. This resulted in the recognition of the 32,000 hectares of ancestral lands in 2023. The land recognition application for the five other communities within the TICOYA Reserve is still ongoing.







PLANNING 2026

The 2026 meetings will focus on the ETI status of the TICOYA reserve, as well as the land application for the five communities. The environmental patrol will also continue its work. Fortunately, intensive logging and sand-grabbing activities are no longer necessary. This is a great result of the efforts of the

past 20 years. However, there is still much work to be done regarding litter and household waste management. This topic and several others will continue to be addressed in the environmental education groups with the children and youth of San Martin de Amacayacu. We will keep you updated!



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:

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Bankaccount name: Stichting SMALL WORLD FOUNDATION at Baarle-Nassau,
Under the reference of 'newsletter' and your Name (BIC: RABONL2U)

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