

TIKUNA LEADERS TO BOGOTÁ

Within the framework of establishing the ETI (Entidad Territorial Indígena - Indigenous Territorial Entity, Newsletter 118) of the Tikuna Cocama and Yagua (TICOYA) indigenous reserve, 6 local leaders flew to Bogotá for a meeting with the ANT (Agencia Nacional de Tierras – National Land Agency) on March 27.



The agenda of the meeting included not only the reserve's ETI-status and the remaining work required to achieve it, but also the land application for the 5 indigenous communities whose territory is currently officially classified as no man's land. The application archive was updated and remains ongoing. Everything went according to plan!



Unfortunately, there is a situation within the governance organization of the TICOYA-reserve that urgently needs to be resolved before the ETI process can seriously begin. In the recent past, a government decree was issued stating that the existing organizational structures of indigenous reserves had to be replaced by a different structure in order to initiate the ETI process at all. In most reserves, this decree was ignored, as the existing structure has been in place for decades and people saw no reason to change everything. Recently, however, it turned out that one person in the TICOYA-reserve, along with a handful of others, did actively pursue this. Despite official complaints filed by the existing TICOYA governance organization, they even

managed to register this new structure with the Colombian Ministry of the Interior. During this visit to the ANT, the steps required to invalidate this new organization became clear. The government decree has since been revoked. All of this can be considered quite a setback for the TICOYA-reserve and certainly means a huge delay for the ETI process. Nevertheless, we know that these types of processes are simply like this, full of unexpected obstacles. Step by step, the reserve will surely overcome this. Therefore, the continuous support of the Small World Foundation remains crucial!



TIKUNA LEADERS TO CAQUETÁ

The theme of the ETI status of indigenous reserves must be extensively discussed at all kinds of levels. This takes place during local meetings, but also on a national and regional scale. For several decades, a major event has been held regularly for the indigenous organizations of all Amazon departments: the Marco Amazonia. During these events, representatives of the Colombian government are also present, allowing the debates to be followed and guided by the various ministries. In mid-February, a Marco Amazonia took place near Florencia in the Caquetá department. Five leaders from the TICOYA reserve traveled there as well. This time, the theme of environmental and land management was

particularly relevant for the leader from San Martín de Amacayacu (José Gregorio Vásquez). After the topic of land recognition, this is naturally what has received the most attention in his community over the past 20 years. This is largely thanks to José's own interest, but certainly also due to the opportunities provided by the Small World Foundation: its own funds and grants secured by applying to NGOs. Years of experience give José great prestige at these kinds of events, where he can share his knowledge and skills with others. A local person like José is, of course, invaluable during these indigenous events!



INVOLVEMENT WITH LAKE TARAPOTO

In previous newsletters, we have already reported on the ties between the environmental patrol of San Martin de Amacayacu and the Lake Tarapoto patrol (Newsletter 115). Recently, the Small World Foundation made another contribution by purchasing two huge logs to be placed underneath the patrol's floating dock.

As can be seen in the photo, the current logs no longer have enough buoyancy to keep the dock above water. If this happens, the wood of the floor and the bottom of the walls will quickly rot. The members of the Tarapoto environmental patrol stay on this dock for entire weeks to monitor access to the lake, even at night.



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)

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

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