

THIS IS THE LAST NEWSLETTER

After 20 years, the Small World Foundation is starting a new period, both in San Martín de Amacayacu and the TICOYA reserve, as well as in the Netherlands. As announced in the [112th](#) newsletter of 2024, this 120th edition is the last true newsletter.

From now on, we will only publish an annual report in the spring containing a summary of the key processes we kept running during the previous year, mentioning any specific highs or lows.

The recognition of the ancestral territory of San Martín de Amacayacu as an extension of the TICOYA reserve in 2023 was certainly the crowning achievement of all the hard work since 2006. Currently, these are the remaining goals:

- 1) The recognition of the territory for the five other communities (see, among others, newsletter [113](#)),
- 2) The administration of the TICOYA reserve in the form of the ETI (see, among others, newsletters [1](#) and [118](#)),
- 3) The conservation and management of the rainforest in the ancestral territory (environmental guard and education).

Most of the activities required to achieve these goals take the form of meetings in San Martín de Amacayacu or another community, in Puerto Nariño, Leticia, or Bogotá. The Small World Foundation then contributes to the costs of logistics, transport, meals and snacks. If the meetings are local, the costs remain reasonably low, but as soon as flights are required and accommodation has to be paid for, the amounts naturally quickly exceed 1,000 euros.





For several years now, most of the support for environmental patrolling and education in San Martin has come from Switzerland via the Small World Foundation, and hopefully, this process can remain sustainably autonomous in the long term without further assistance from the Small World Foundation.

In the meantime, any specific and short-term projects, such as the bird project in 2022-2023, can of course continue to count on the administrative support of the Small World Foundation in the coming years.

One of the main reasons for not giving the newsletters continuity is the nature of the processes supported by the Small World

Foundation. These have become less concrete and more political compared to the recognition of ancestral territory. We understand from various readers that it is all quite difficult to follow, and at the same time, it is not so simple on paper to describe the dynamics in a few words.

If you wish to continue supporting San Martin de Amacayacu, you can do so as usual! Should you have any specific questions or comments in between the annual reports, the quickest way is to send a WhatsApp message to Heike van Gils at +573102798147. This is, of course, a Colombian phone number!





TIKUNA LEADERS IN PERU

The issue of ETI status is a priority for many Colombian indigenous reserves and leaders. At the same time, other processes are underway on various fronts, receiving attention from all sides. In the case of the Tikuna indigenous people, for example, there is an ongoing lobby to create a shared agenda or even territory for the Brazilian, Peruvian, and Colombian Tikunas.

At the time of the formation of these three countries, these people were simply divided and each received a very different context due to the legislation of each country. In Brazil, the pronunciation of the language has also been influenced differently by the Portuguese spoken there, compared to the Spanish of Peru and Colombia. Tikuna culture has also taken on different aspects in each country, depending on whether or not the various national ministries emphasize certain matters. In Peru, for example, the indigenous peoples were not recognized separately until recently and were simply treated like the rest of the Peruvians. As a result, the loss of culture among the Peruvian Tikunas is very significant.

In early July, a large Tikuna event was held in the Peruvian village of Cuchillococha to discuss these matters. For example, it was decided that Tikuna leaders should be made more easily recognizable again by wearing traditional upper armbands and feather headdresses, and by painting themselves again (Newsletter [2](#)). This should, for instance, lead to greater respect for these leaders.

An age-old dream of many Tikunas is the unification of their territory in the three countries as a separately recognized national entity. However, naturally, this area is so fragmented by national borders, cities, and private land holdings, and the legislation regarding land rights differs so much from country to country, that in practice this remains a utopia. Nevertheless, the efforts to achieve this can certainly be theoretically substantiated.

Other Tikunas view the threat to their culture and tropical rainforest ecosystem, including from illegal gold miners and coca plantations, as a much higher priority, as well as the implementation of rights granted per country that can also be revoked (if not utilized), such as the ETI status in Colombia.



Would you like to support the people of the indigenous community of San Martin de Amacayacu in the Colombian Amazon together with the Small World Foundation?

Then please transfer your contribution to:

Rabobank IBAN: NL28RABO0132726203
in the name of Stichting SMALL WORLD FOUNDATION in Baarle-Nassau,

with the reference your email address and your name (BIC: RABONL2U)

Important: the foundation is registered as an ANBI, which means that fixed annual contributions may be tax deductible. Please inquire with your tax advisor.

Do not forget to also provide your name and email address as soon as possible via WhatsApp
+573102798147

The contributions will be used exclusively for the development and implementation of local initiatives, under the guidance of the Small World Foundation. The expenses will be listed in the annual reports. For alternative forms of contributions, please inquire at the WhatsApp number above.

www.smallworldfoundation.org