



Association for indigenous Communities in Paraguay

www.indigene-paraguay.ch

info@indigene-paraguay.ch

Autumn Newsletter

October 2022

Dear members, patrons and interested parties

The pandemic seems to be over for the most part, and we hope you are doing well.

Annual meeting 2022

On June 9, we held our 25th Annual Meeting with modest festivities. Although there was not yet as large a crowd as before the pandemic, we should be pleased with about 35 people in attendance.

Espacios

Again, we are very grateful for the great commitment of Verena and Vera Regehr (field work and administration), Julio Duarte (advocate) and Fernando Elias (MD). They made sure that the usual work continued in the areas of land control, legal representation before courts and authorities, and with help in cases of health problems. Many meetings were held with the Líderes of the Totobiegosode, in which they consulted on current developments and on the use of funds.

Checkpoints, satellite surveillance

The Totobiegosode continue their policy of peaceful surveillance of their territory. Each month, 5 forest rangers take turns at the checkpoint. The mere presence of the Totobiegosode and their activities on the ground serve as a discouragement to intrusion. In addition, repeated trips to the territory are made for control purposes. As we reported last year, we have secured additional support through accurate satellite imagery. These images are being analyzed by father Peter and son Alfred Sawatsky in the USA and Canada, for which we owe them a great debt of gratitude. Any violations will be reported directly to our Paraguayan lawyer Julio Duarte, who will take appropriate action with the Public Prosecutor's Office.

Without your lasting commitment and donations, thousands of hectares of land would have been lost. We are convinced that we must stay on to preserve this habitat for the indigenous people and many species of animals and plants!

Fondo de Salud - Health Fund

Our efforts to finance the Fondo de Salud also remain a vital factor for Totobiegosode. Especially during the pandemic, doctors and hospital visits had to be paid again. The Fondo saves lives every year! We thank Vera Regehr for her great efforts. The generous donations from you, dear members, patrons, make it possible for us to support this work!

Finances

This year we have again been able to approve the budget presented by OPIT (Association of Totobiegosode Guides). However, without additional donations, most of our financial resources will be depleted by the end of this year. We continue to explore ways of support and we would like to ask you to take a look at the attached flyer about our training project for younger people and to contribute to the new project with an extra donation if possible.

There may be an additional possibility of funding emerging in the coming years. At the moment we are helping OPIT with the certification of their forest and the possible sale of the resulting CO2 certificates. It is a complicated matter, but we have an expert in this matter on the board itself and one in Paraguay, Julio Duarte. OPIT has also asked a young professor from the United States for advice, as he has lived and researched with the community for some time. We will keep you informed.

Board and meetings

It is very gratifying that the annual meeting in June this year elected four new board members: Alexander Abraham, Jean-Jacques Gergely, Claudio Losa and Marian Weenink. They have been actively involved with our association for the past year. Five board meetings have been held so far.

We thank you, dear members, patrons and all those interested, in the name of the indigenous people most sincerely for your help and we very much hope that we can continue to count on you. Also attached to this newsletter is a payment slip, the easiest way for all those who want to and can continue to support us.

We wish you a beautiful autumn season. Stay healthy and well!

With best regards

Hans Weenink and Rolf Scheibler, Presidium