



## ***The Suruma Museum, a new archeological Museum in Putumayo opens its doors to the public***

- *Gran Tierra Energy in partnership with the Colombia Institute of Anthropology and History (ICANH) and Corpoamazonia are pleased to announce the opening of a new museum in Putumayo that will serve local communities as a permanent archaeological exhibition.*
- *Located in the Centro Experimental Amazónico (CEA) the museum is an educational space to preserve and protect historical artifacts and shares the cultural diversity and history of the Putumayo department.*

**Mocoa, 25 November 2021.** After more than 6 years of work, Gran Tierra Energy is proud to announce the opening of *Suruma, a museum thinking of Putumayo*. This new permanent archaeological museum and conservation area is the result of extensive joint efforts between the Colombia Institute of Anthropology (ICANH), Corpoamazonia, local communities and Gran Tierra Energy. The museum is dedicated to the people of the Putumayo and is an educational space to preserve historical artifacts and tell the story of its history and culture.

The Museum is situated in a flora and fauna conservation zone at the Amazon Experimental Centre (CEA), a facility situated at the eighth kilometer of the Mocoa-Villagarzón road. There are 15 permanent museum exhibits, distributed in two structures and a central area showcasing the reconstruction of an archaeological excavation area.

*Suruma, a museum thinking of Putumayo*, displays artifacts that were discovered by Gran Tierra Energy through its archaeological activities in Putumayo. These archaeological activities took more than four months of work and involved 25 archaeologists and 160 local field helpers who excavated an area of more than 3,300 square meters. The discovered artifacts include Indigenous ceramics, lithic artifacts (two carved projectile points), complete pottery pieces, archeological features (coal and fire pits) and a goldsmith's piece. The museum also provides guests with interactive spaces and activities to experience firsthand the excavation process.

During the opening event, Manuel Buitrago, President and Country Manager of Gran Tierra Energy Colombia stated, "Gran Tierra Energy is proud support social and environmental projects that are undertaken in partnership with our neighbouring

communities and it is exciting when years of collaborative work comes to fruition into something we can give back to the communities. Thank you to our partners at ICAHN and Corpoamazonia, together we hope that this museum will strengthen and preserve the history and culture of the Putumayo for everyone who lives and visits here.”

During the event the Vice Minister of Regional Development and Heritage of the Ministry of Culture, José Ignacio Agote specified that: “The Putumayo Archaeological Museum will promote research and dissemination of the department's cultural manifestations, and especially on archaeological works carried out in the region. Thanks to this initiative the inhabitants of Putumayo and Colombians in general will be able to enjoy a museum exhibition of great value for the culture and heritage of the South of the Colombian Amazon.”

Nicolás Loaiza Díaz, general director of ICANH, highlighted in his speech the importance of this inter-institutional alliance: “Thanks to the joint work between private companies and public entities such as Corpoamazonia and ICANH it has been possible to see this project, which leads us to assess the usefulness of this type of initiative to enhance the development objectives that are raised from the public sphere and the way in which they have a positive impact on the benefit of society.”

Likewise, the General Director of the Corporation for Sustainable Development of the South of the Amazon CORPOAMAZONIA, Luis Alexander Mejía Bustos expressed: “We built in the Centro Experimental Amazónico (CEA) of CORPOAMAZONIA, the first archaeological museum in the department of Putumayo and it is a responsibility shared with the Government, Mayors and environmental organizations, to ensure that scenario that proposes us to unearth the past, to prospect a sustainable and desirable future. Thanks to the inter-institutional work that today makes it possible to materialize this project as a heritage of our territory in the Amazon.”

With the opening of the Suruma Museum local communities, Colombians and tourists to the region will have the opportunity to learn more about Amazonian history and explore one of the most diverse and rich biodiversity areas in the whole world. This is an opportunity that no one should miss.