

NATIONAL BATUTA FOUNDATION AND GEOPARK TEACH MUSIC TO 80 YOUNG LEARNERS IN PUTUMAYO

Puerto Asis, Colombia. March 25, 2021 - To create safe spaces for children and adolescents in Putumayo, the National Batuta Foundation and GeoPark, through its subsidiary 'la nueva Amerisur', will continue a project to teach string orchestra music to 80 young learners in Puerto Asis, in classrooms and online.

This project is based on the conviction that learning music strengthens culture as a means of regional change and creates a space for young learners in Puerto Asis to fully enjoy their fundamental right to education and recreation. The project is also a tool for social change by promoting values that are fundamental to living in harmony, such as respect, solidarity and teamwork.

The partnership will also strengthen the Foundation's *Talentos Batuta* program that facilitates access to higher musical education for young people from low-income families who are part of the Children and Youth Orchestra System.

"Creating this path of opportunities is the best way to rebuild the social fabric and generate real social transformation in Colombia," National Batuta Foundation Executive President Maria Claudia Parias Duran said. "Together with strategic partners like the new Amerisur, we will continue to strengthen the skills of Putumayo children and youth to support their social and vocational development."

The project is an opportunity for GeoPark to continue contributing to closing gaps and fulfilling the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, specifically:



Quality Education: by promoting learning opportunities through music as a way of creating safe spaces for children, teenagers, and their families.



Gender equality: by helping empower girls through learning and the creation of safe spaces that prevent any form of violence against them.



Reduced inequalities: by creating and promoting educational opportunities for children and teenagers.

“We are very pleased to continue this project, which helps dreams of learning music come true for children and teenagers in our neighboring communities in Putumayo,” GeoPark Neighbor Relations manager Luisa Vargas said. “In the new Amerisur we are committed to leveraging projects that allow us to generate opportunities for regional change and contribute to the consolidation of a more equitable and inclusive society”.

Music teaching programs in Putumayo are part of the National Batuta Foundation's commitment to generate learning opportunities and strengthen safe spaces for children, teenagers and young adults.

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