

Since the fossils at Sexi became known to science in the early 1990s, many people and organizations have been involved in the scientific study of the fossil forest and efforts to preserve it.

Nonprofit Organizations



Association for the Preservation and Defense of the Fossils of the District of Sexi (APDFS)

Sexi, Peru

The APDFS is a nonprofit organization registered with the Peruvian government. APDFS is comprised of citizens of Sexi dedicated to the preservation of the fossil forest, the management and development of the site and museum, and the diffusion of educational information about the site and fossils.



The Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds, Inc.

Florissant, Colorado, USA

The Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, contributed to the establishment of a museum at The Petrified Forest Piedra Chamana and in May 2009 entered into an international partnership with APDFS in Sexi. The web site <http://peru.fossilbeds.org> was also made possible by The Friends in 2011.

Research Community



Deborah Woodcock

Marsh Institute
Clark University
Worcester, Massachusetts, USA

The focus of Dr. Woodcock's research is vegetation & climate and development of fossil wood as a source of information about past environments. She first traveled to the fossil forest in 1997, has been the principal investigator on the research grants, and is part of the team working on conservation of the fossils and development of the site.

Herb Meyer

US National Park Service
Florissant, Colorado, USA

The focus of Dr. Meyer's research is vegetation, climate and development of fossil leaves as paleoenvironmental indicators. He first visited Sexi in 2000, and has since completed an evaluation of the fossil forest sites with an emphasis on conservation and the development of geotourism.



William McIntosh & Nelia Dunbar

New Mexico Institute of
Mining and Technology
Socorro, New Mexico, USA

Dr.'s McIntosh and Dunbar visited Sexi in 2005 to study the volcanic rocks containing the fossils and collect rock samples for dating.

Guillermo Morales & Isabel Prado Velazco

Museo de Historia Natural
Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos
(UNMSM)
Lima, Peru

Engineer Morales and Biologist Prado were the first to be involved in the scientific study of the fossils at Sexi. Engineer Morales was the first to map the geology of the fossil forest. Biologist Prado has been involved in field work at Sexi and is the curator of the Piedra Chamana fossils in the Natural History Museum and liaison to governmental organizations for matters relating to the fossils. In 2001, she visited the United States to present information on the fossils of Peru at the Sixth Conference on Fossil Resources.



Susan Aragón

Graduate School of Geography
Clark University
Worcester, Massachusetts, USA

Susan has helped with project administration and, in conjunction with Dr. Woodcock, carried out a survey and analysis of the community structure of the vegetation in the area of the fossil forest.

Jennifer Young

Smithsonian Institution
Washington, District of Columbia, USA

In 2005, Jennifer collaborated with Dr. Meyer in conducting the first survey of the extent and vulnerability of the fossils at Sexi. The results of their work were compiled in the first inventory and monitoring report for the fossil forest in 2006.



Instituto Geológico Minero y Metalúrgico (INGEMMET) Lima, Peru

Geologists from INGEMMET are now part of the group of scientists investigating the fossil forest and its geological context.

Peruvian Friends & Supporters



Luis Valverde first saw the fossil forest while doing research for his thesis on economic development in Sexi and subsequently brought samples of petrified wood to the Museum of Natural History in Lima for scientific evaluation. He has also helped facilitate research trips and building efforts for the museum in Sexi.



Santiago Asenjo Davila was born in Sexi and is now an accountant in Lima, Peru. He coordinated the financial transactions for the museum, which was built with support from international organizations and the people in Sexi.



Elba Davila is a resident of Sexi who is dedicated to preserving the fossil forest. She has helped with fieldwork on many occasions.



Richard Davila Asenjo, the mayor of Sexi, also supports the scientific work and conservation efforts.



Lidia Rojas is a science teacher in Sexi. She helps educate local school children about the significance of the fossils at Sexi.