

# History of Events

[Home](#)

**1994**

- First fossil specimens from Sexi brought to the Natural History Museum of the Universidad Nacional Mayor San Marcos in Lima, Peru

**1995-6**

- Peruvian researchers from the Natural History Museum travel to Sexi. Their reports stress the scientific importance of the fossils, the need to protect the site and fossils, and the potential of tourism to improve socioeconomic conditions in Sexi.

**1997**

- Peruvian law protects the fossils as part of patrimony of the nation.

**2000**

- The Peruvian postal service issues a stamp featuring the fossil forest (pictured right).
- Grant from the American Philosophical Society
- Scientists from U.S. visit to assess research and conservation needs.



Photographs on the stamp featuring the fossil forest were taken by Heinz Plenge, a renowned Peruvian nature photographer. The stamp was issued on December 29, 2000.

**2004**

- Research grant from the The National Science Foundation

**2005**

- First survey of the extent and vulnerability of the fossils conducted
- Samples taken to date the rocks containing fossil wood
- Fossil woods and leaves collected for scientific analysis with permit from the Peruvian government
- The modern flora of Sexi surveyed

**2007**

- Inventory and assessment report of fossils presented to the National Institute of Culture and town officials of Sexi
- Additional fossil leaves collected for scientific study

**2009**

- Interpretive brochures and exhibit posters prepared
- Additional fossil leaves collected for scientific study
- Partnership established between The Friends of Florissant Fossil Beds and people in Sexi working to preserve the fossil forest
- First article published on the geological context and age of the fossils

**2011**

- Geologists from the Instituto Geológico Minero y Metalúrgico (INGEMMET) carry out additional geological survey work.

- 2013** • Delegation from Peru visits Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, USA to develop ideas about conservation of the Piedra Chamana fossils
- 2017** • Grant from National Geographic Society supports new research  
• First article published describing fossil woods from Piedra Chamana
- 2018** • Scientific field work examines “fossil soils” (paleosols)  
• Evaluation of sites reveals deterioration of the condition of the fossil trees at Piedra Chamana since 2005 due to erosion, human disturbance, and theft
- 2019** • Second article published on the fossil woods  
• Piedra Chamana research collections cataloged at Museo de Historia Nacional in Lima
- 2020** • First scientific publication in a Peruvian journal describes the significance of the fossil site and calls for additional conservation, protection, and international recognition
- 2022** • New research describes the fossil leaves from Piedra Chamana