

Conservation

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Recognizing the scientific, economic, and cultural significance of the petrified forest, the Peruvian government prohibited the disturbance of fossils in The Petrified Forest Piedra Chamana in 1997. However, illegal fossil collecting is not the only threat to Sexi's natural resources. Both government and local involvement is necessary to ensure the longevity of the forest's fossils and flora.

Fossil Inventory & Monitoring

In 2005, researchers surveyed and photographed the fossil sites at Sexi. At the time, it appeared the forest was relatively undisturbed. Just four years later, monitoring detected some loss of fossil material. While fossil monitoring continues, cooperation between researchers, the citizens of Sexi, and government and nonprofit organizations is essential to the successful preservation of the fossils for future generations.

Modern Flora

The results of a preliminary inventory of the modern flora at Sexi were published in 2006. Among other conclusions, Aragón et al. (2006) found that "urgent measures" were necessary to protect the modern flora of Sexi, which the local people depend upon for its useful plants, pastorage for animals, and firewood. Conservation efforts, such as reforestation, should help maintain the modern forest's biodiversity while remaining sensitive to the lifestyles of the citizens of Sexi.



2005
Routine monitoring of the fossil sites detected the loss of a palm trunk between 2005 and 2009. The exact cause of the fossil's disappearance is currently unknown.



Clusia cajamarcensis is a plant species in danger of extinction. The fruit of this shrub is shown above.

Threats

Natural and human threats to the preservation of the fossils and flora at Sexi include:

- Disturbance and trampling by animals and humans
- Illegal fossil collection (nonprofit and commercial)
- Weathering of fossils by wind and rain
- Deforestation

Peruvian law provides for the conservation and protection of the petrified forest. The fossils are part of the Patrimony of the Nation and fall under the jurisdiction of the Peruvian Ministry of Culture. Fossil collecting is prohibited by law.

Aragón, S., Rimarachín, L., Ayasta, J., and Woodcock, D., 2006, Inventario Preliminar de la Flora del Distrito de Sexi, Cajamarca: Arnaldo, v. 13, no. 2., p. 360-369.