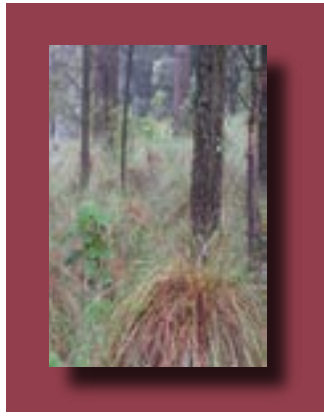


MEXECRI builds strong relationships with Purépecha community councils and municipal governments to form partnerships that provide employment, protect cultural and natural resources and support autonomous community development. Through long-term knowledge of communities and in-depth research in collaboration with universities on cultural and environmental history, MEXECRI forms bridges for alternative grassroots development.



Michoacán Cultural & Environmental Heritage Project
Partnership with Purépecha Communities

MEXECRI researchers and professionals, from the U.S. and Mexico, work in partnership with Purépecha communities in Michoacán to promote sustainable cultural and environmental resources management. Community members manage their cultural resources through excavation, cataloging and curation.

Communities provide in-kind support for research, provide educational programming for visitors and curate artifacts. All research is conducted with the permission of the Consejo Nacional de Arqueología in Mexico. This project is sponsored by contributions from The National Geographic Society Committee for Research & Exploration, TOPCON, The University of Connecticut, and Central Washington University.



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Archaeological Research in Michoacán, Mexico

Working in Partnership with the Comunidad Indígena

Researchers, like Dr. James Chatters (photo below), form the professional binational team that is working on long-term archaeological research in Michoacán. Long considered outside the domain of Mesoamerica, Michoacán,



Mexico, is best known for harboring the formidable rivals of the Aztec Empire, the Tarascans (Purépecha). Little is known about the origins of the Purépecha people whose language is an isolate.

The archaeological

research is targeted in the most ancient sites which have been identified through the partnership with the Comunidad Indígena leadership.

Identification of cultural heritage sites and protection from looters is one of the most

important results of the project to-date.

Through this work both Comunidad and municipal authorities are collaborating to protect sites that will help us to better

understand the past and to preserve these cultural zones for the future.

The Comunidad of Nuevo Parangaricutiro has made a commitment to curating their archaeological artifacts and osteological remains through the creation

of a community museum. They are supporting this effort through their ecotourism program. Outside support is needed to make their dream a reality and to continue cultural heritage research.



Dr. Chatters is providing invaluable assistance in the identification, description and analysis of human remains. The dental remains above are from an over 4500 year-old skeleton excavated from an ancient cliff site. MEXECRI and the Comunidad Indígena hope to fund the reconstruction of the facial characteristics for educational purposes. This site may hold many answers to questions about early ceremonial and religious practices as well as evidence of early plant domestication.

Cut here

MEXECRI is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt educational and research organization. U.S. and Mexican researchers donate their time.

Yes, I would like to contribute to MEXECRI's research and excavation in Michoacán. Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution.

Yes, I would like to specifically contribute to Dr. Chatters' osteological research. Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution for:

- DNA testing
- Skeletal Reconstruction Materials
- Field Expenses

Yes, I would like to contribute to the creation of a community museum in San Juan Nuevo Parangaricutiro. Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution for:

- Building Purchase & Remodeling Costs
- Educational Programs
- Exhibit Construction

Please send me more information about MEXECRI's programs.

Email:

Name & Address: