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“Analyzing Crisis and Resilience in the Museum Space through the ‘When it Rains, We Harvest’ / Cuando Lluve Cosechamos’ Exhibition”¹

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Abstract

El Niño, a cyclical extreme rainfall event, causes severe flooding and devastation in Peru. However, for the Sechura desert community in Northern Peru, it also provides an opportunity for abundance and livelihood as the rains bring much needed moisture for crops and create lagoons for fishing. This paper examines how the theme of crisis and resilience regarding weather-related disasters is explored in the museum space. The University of St. Andrews MLitt Museum and Gallery Studies student-led exhibition “When it Rains, We Harvest” / “Cuando Lluve Cosechamos” at the Scottish Fisheries Museum focused on the themes of adaptability and resilience, local heritage and history, and abundance and opportunity to showcase how a fishing community in the Sechura desert responds to the impacts of El Niño. The exhibition centered around *Fenómeno de Oportunidades: Farming and Fishing in the Desert*, a collaborative research project examining how the Sechura community adapts to and relies on El Niño as a source of subsistence.² Archaeological evidence in the region indicates that both the Moche and Chimú cultures developed sophisticated water management practices surrounding El Niño that date back to at least the first century C.E. This ancient heritage of working with rather than against the extreme weather event demonstrates how relying on heritage and tradition can help us prepare for environmental instability in the future, especially as the already volatile nature of El Niño becomes more unpredictable due to climate change. The exhibition used the voices of local community members and researchers to showcase how scientific research and cultural traditions cooperate to inform more sustainable living practices. The researchers incorporated this notion into the educational curriculum by introducing assignments and projects in local schools that focused on learning about agricultural or fishing traditions that allowed the community to prepare for and take advantage of El Niño.³ The

¹ This paper was first presented at 5th Cambridge Annual Student Archaeology Conference: Crisis and Resilience. 16th-18th September 2022, Cambridge, UK.

² University of St. Andrews School of Geography and Sustainable Development, *Fishing and Farming in the Desert? A Platform for Understanding El Niño Food System Opportunities in the Context of Climate Change in Sechura, Peru*, UK Research and Innovation (AH/T004444/1AH/), Accessed July 11, 2022, <https://gtr.ukri.org/projects?ref=AH%2FT004444%2F1>.

³ University of St. Andrews School of Geography and Sustainable Development, *El Niño a Phenomenon with Opportunities: Learning History and Valuing Community Assets for an Empowering Digital Curriculum in Northern Peru*, UK Research and Innovation (AH/V012215/1), Accessed July 11, 2022, <https://gtr.ukri.org/projects?ref=AH%2FV012215%2F1>.

exhibition's main goals were to introduce El Niño, convey how it affects the Sechura desert community, and engage visitors in the research conducted by the University to initiate a conversation about how we can learn from the past to live more sustainably in the future.

Introduction

When warming waters and increased air pressure over the Pacific Ocean combine, it creates the El Niño phenomena—an extreme weather event that causes heavy rains and severe flooding on the west coast of South America, especially in Peru. El Niño is usually categorized as a “disaster” as it causes devastation leading to significant economic losses in agriculture, fishing, livestock, and commerce, which negatively impacts the infrastructure and the health of the population of Peru.⁴ Although difficult to predict, extreme El Niño events usually occur every 10-20 years, with the last major event occurring in 2016-2017.⁵ However, current climate research predicts that a warming planet could increase not only the frequency of extreme El Niño incidents, but also escalate their intensity.⁶ An increase in other natural disasters around the world are evidence of such climate change that ultimately lead affected populations to seek strategies for mitigation and adaptation.

While El Niño causes severe devastation to a great extent of Peru, a fishing community in the Sechura desert of Northern Peru uses the effects of the heavy rains to create an entire economic system. For the Sechura desert, El Niño is not viewed as a disaster, but a source of abundance when rain

⁴ Julia Busiek, “Bay Nature: What Is El Nino, Why Is It Called That, and What Does It Mean?” Bay Nature, Accessed June 20, 2022, <https://baynature.org/article/whys-it-called-el-nino-and-how-did-scientists-figure-out-what-it-is/>.; Yoo-Geun Ham, “El Niño Events Will Intensify under Global Warming,” *Nature* 564, no. 7735 (December 2018): 192–93, <https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-018-07638-w>.; Fenómeno de Oportunidades, “Fishing and Farming in the Desert,” Accessed June 27, 2022, <https://elninophenomenon.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk/>.

⁵ “How Will Climate Change Change El Niño and La Niña? - Welcome to NOAA Research,” Accessed June 20, 2022, <https://research.noaa.gov/article/ArtMID/587/ArticleID/2685/New-research-volume-explores-future-of-ENSO-under-influence-of-climate-change>.

⁶ “How Will Climate Change Change El Niño and La Niña?”; ReliefWeb, “Peru Floods Highlight Challenge of a Warming Planet – Peru,” Accessed June 20, 2022, <https://reliefweb.int/report/peru/peru-floods-highlight-challenge-warming-planet>.

creates freshwater lagoons for fishing and bring essential moisture for cropland.⁷ Further, archaeological excavations in the area reveal that the Moche and Chimú cultures inhabiting the desert region from the 1st-8th century CE and the 14th-15th century CE used El Niño rains much the same as people do today, constructing canals for water management and fishing in lagoons created by flooding. Research into the adaptation strategies of the desert community informed by ancient practices provides a framework for how communities can not only mitigate the impacts of natural disasters, but also use their effects to generate positive outcomes.

“When it Rains, We Harvest” / “Cuando Lluève Cosechamos” was an interdisciplinary museum exhibition at the Scottish Fisheries Museum in Anstruther, Scotland and curated by University of St. Andrews MLitt Museum and Gallery Studies students. The exhibition explored the intersection of heritage and scientific research to inform subsistence practices surrounding El Niño. It was on display from March 13, 2022, to June 20, 2022. The exhibition focused on the University of St. Andrews research project, *Fenómeno de Oportunidades: Farming and Fishing in the Desert*, coordinated by Human Geographer Professor Nina Laurie, with Professor Karen Brown of Museum and Gallery Studies and Dr Tania Mendo of the School of Biology, funded by the AHRC Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF), and supported by Project Manager Oliver Calle from the Peruvian Non Government Organisation PRISMA. The exhibition also included a commissioned artwork by Frances Law, an artist based in rural Northeast Scotland whose work draws inspiration from the relationships between landscapes, people, culture, archaeology, and identity.

Exploring the local history and heritage of the region, the adaptability and resilience of the desert community, and the abundance and opportunity created from El Niño aided in the realization of the exhibition’s overarching theme, “How a local fishing community responds to climate change:

⁷ <https://elninophenomenon.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk>, last accessed 9th September, 2022.

learning from voices of desert communities of northern Peru.” The guidelines and mission of the Scottish Fisheries Museum, the content provided by the research team, as well as the group’s creative vision for the exhibition informed our aims and objectives are outlined in the table below (Table 1).

Aims and Objectives for the Museum	Aims and Objectives for the Visitor
1. Inform exhibition visitors about how the Sechura community adapts to El Niño, creating an economic opportunity rather than viewing it as devastation.	1. To come away with a developed understanding of what El Niño is and how it has impacted Peru and the Sechura community.
2. Raise the profile of the research and the educational program being conducted by the St. Andrews research team.	2. To understand the connections between Anstruther and the Scottish Fisheries Museum, Peru, and the global impact of climate change.
3. Engage stakeholders in conversations about local agency in climate change adaptation strategies and how it can be informed by the past.	3. To be able to physically engage with the exhibition in some way (activities for children, online engagement, visitor feedback surveys) that stimulates further interest in El Niño/climate change.
4. Provide a global view within the Scottish Fisheries Museum while connecting it to Scottish fishing industry.	4. To be able to leave the museum with a satisfactory level of knowledge on the exhibition that can be shared with others.
	5. To be able to empathise with the Sechura community. We feel Frances Law’s art will inspire an emotional connection to the exhibition.

Table 1: Aims and Objectives

The main goal of the *Fenómeno de Oportunidades* research project is to “understand the desert-El Niño-food system in Sechura, northern Peru, as a pathway towards enhancing its long-term resilience to future, short term, cyclical systemic environmental shocks.” Research is conducted through historical and geographical analysis and evaluation of fishing and farming systems to develop a framework for sustainable production, processing, and commercialization during El Niño within the desert region. The project also incorporates an educational curriculum into local schools that focused on the passing down of knowledge about these subsistence practices to inform future generations. The aims of the research aligned with the goals of the exhibition: present adaptation strategies for natural disasters exacerbated

by climate change that advise more sustainable living systems. These goals also supported the mission of the Scottish Fisheries Museum by engaging in contemporary discourse regarding climate change and action as well as highlighting the importance of heritage related to fisheries.



Fig. 1 – Exhibition Space

Curating Climate Change

The student team became familiar with the content of the exhibition through extensive external research as well as communication with the research team. This was necessary for curating an informative, cohesive exhibition. Resources used to determine the exhibition's content and approach consisted of individual research on how to curate climate change within museums along with materials provided by the research team.⁸ Sources for curating climate-themed exhibitions included material from Coalition of Museums for Climate Justice, the University College London, as well as several virtual climate-themed exhibitions. Exhibitions relating to climate action are becoming more prevalent within museums, and we wanted to use literature already published within the field to inform our method. This was helpful in addressing various issues including how to discuss a sensitive topic, how to convey scientific information in an approachable manner, and how to engage audiences in discourse and action.

The interdisciplinary nature of the exhibition was challenging in terms of incorporating various perspectives while maintaining continuity and flow of content. The team considered the goals,

⁸ Coalition of Museums for Climate Justice, "Curating Climate: Insights from a Curator of Human Ecology," June 4, 2021, <https://cmcj.ca/curating-climate-insights-from-a-curator-of-human-ecology/>; Creative Climate Leadership, "Curating the Natural World," January 1, 2018, <https://www.creativeclimateleadership.com/curating-the-natural-world/>; "MfCA - Project Background," Accessed September 15, 2021, <https://www.museumsforclimateaction.org/rethink/background.>; MuseumNext, "Museums and the Art of Environmental Sustainability," June 30, 2021, <https://www.museumnext.com/article/museums-and-the-art-of-environmental-sustainability/>; Environment & Society Portal, "The Northwest Passage as a Voyage to Myth and Adventure," June 27, 2017, <https://www.environmentandsociety.org/exhibitions/northwest-passage/northwest-passage-voyage-myth-and-adventure>; UCL, "Exploring the Role of Museums in Tackling Climate Change," UCL News, June 30, 2021, <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/news/2021/jun/exploring-role-museums-tackling-climate-change>; "Opinion: How Museums Could Inspire Radical Action on the Climate Crisis," UCL News, November 18, 2020, <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/news/2020/nov/opinion-how-museums-could-inspire-radical-action-climate-crisis.>; Coalition of museums for Climate Justice, "Using Integrated Thinking in Museums: Arts, Humanities & Climate Change," January 9, 2018, <https://cmcj.ca/using-integrated-thinking-in-museums-arts-humanities-climate-change/>; Jennifer Newell, Libby Robin, Kirsten Wehner, *Curating the Future: Museums, Communities and Climate Change* (2016): eBook; Fiona Cameron and Brett Nielson, eds., *Climate Change and Museum Futures* (2014): eBook.

dispositions, and experiences of all stakeholders involved (the students, Fisheries Museum, researchers, Sechura and Anstruther community members, and Frances Law) and synthesized this information to create a unified and immersive experience for the visitor. This required a great deal of mediation and cooperation between multiple parties. Ensuring a balance between approachability and precision of information was our priority to facilitate accessibility of the content for the visitor. The academic and scientific nature of the research needed to be related to the visitor's own life and experiences in order for the visitor to connect to the subject matter. The student team used the resources mentioned previously to interpret objects and research in a communicable and understandable way, while retaining the weight and importance of the subject matter.

Although the exhibition focused primarily on the positive effects of El Niño, it also acknowledged the devastation and suffering it causes to other parts of Peru. Integrating the various perspectives surrounding El Niño formed a holistic narrative by recognizing how natural disasters exacerbated by climate change affect communities differently. This allowed visitors to empathetically engage with the community and understand how El Niño will impact populations in the future as it increases in volatility due to climate change. The prevalent disaster narrative surrounding El Niño has prompted a partnership between the governments of Peru and the United Kingdom to create an infrastructure that would mitigate the flooding effects caused by El Niño. While helpful for some parts of Peru, this plan negatively impacts the Sechura region as it diverts water away from the desert, disrupting the fishing and agricultural economies created by El Niño moisture.⁹ This highlights the importance of communicating diverse experiences regarding weather-related disasters as well as the value of localized responses to climate change effects.

⁹ "CSU_2019_436 Peru Flood Report_full-v8-Web-21-1-20.Pdf." Accessed September 15, 2021. http://www.open-access.bcu.ac.uk/8911/1/CSU_2019_436%20Peru%20flood%20report_full-v8-web-21-1-20.pdf.

Storytelling: Approach to Content

Storytelling and oral history are integral parts of the culture and traditions of the Sechura region. These ways of remembering, together with documentation, informed our design and interpretation of the content. Since we were not representing our own experiences, we wanted to ensure that the exhibition reflected the experiences of the Peruvian community and the researchers. We sought to be mediators of their stories, representing their experiences through knowledge curation in the museum space rather than claiming it as our own. Our main priority was to synthesize and interpret the information in a cohesive manner, rather than claim any sort of ownership over the content. We accomplished this by uniting the history of the region and the voices of desert community members to tell a story.

We aimed to exhibit the content in a circular storytelling manner—beginning with the present, moving to the past to lay a foundation, then describing how the history of the area can inform a more sustainable future. We began by employing the heritage and archaeology of the Sechura region to illustrate how past populations adapted to El Niño. The exhibition used archaeological evidence from the area to describe how past cultures, specifically the Moche and Chimú, adapted to the unpredictable nature of El Niño. The archaeology of the Sechura desert indicates that the Moche and Chimú populations engineered sophisticated water management systems to optimize the effects of El Niño and take advantage of its abundant moisture.¹⁰ These populations fished in lagoons created by the rains and

¹⁰ Tom D. Dillehay and Alan L. Kolata, “Long-Term Human Response to Uncertain Environmental Conditions in the Andes,” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 101, no. 12 (March 23, 2004): 4325–30. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.0400538101>.; Nicolas Goepfert, Philippe Béarez, Aurélien Christol, Patrice Wuscher, and Belkys Gutiérrez, “Subsistence Economies in Marginal Areas with Natural Constraints: Interactions between Social Dynamics, Natural Resource Management, and Paleoenvironment in the Sechura Desert, Peru,” In *Maritime Communities of the Ancient Andes*, University Press of Florida, 2020. <https://doi.org/10.5744/florida/9780813066141.003.0011>.; “The Fishermen of Sechura: Excavations at a

constructed irrigation canals to divert water to agricultural fields where they grew maize, sweet potatoes, cotton, and other crops.¹¹

Human adaptation to unstable climates is nothing new. For the inhabitants of the Sechura desert, environmental equilibrium was not ‘normal’ or something to be achieved—rather, environmental instability was expected.¹² Communities adapted to environmental turbulence and created a culture based on the cyclical nature of El Niño and the opportunity it brings. The properties of channeled water, maintenance of canals, and crops grown as a result of El Niño moisture played an essential role in the ritual life of the Moche and Chimú cultures.¹³ We used the archaeology and traditions of past cultures to make sense of present practices of Sechura communities and demonstrate how this can inform future methods that take advantage of natural disasters. Introducing the history and archaeology of the area laid the foundation for exploring the importance of the research and current subsistence practices of the area.

In the Sechura region today, communities use El Niño rains similarly to that of past populations. Extensive freshwater lagoons create areas for fishing while channeled water and overflowing rivers provide necessary moisture to irrigate croplands. This abnormally positive experience of El Niño (i.e., an

Specialised Site from the Early Intermediate Period, Extreme Northern Peru,” *Antiquity Journal*, Accessed June 27, 2022, <http://journal.antiquity.ac.uk/projgall/goepfert340>.

¹¹ Amanda S. Aland, “Fishing Economies and Ethnic Specialization under Inca Rule In *The Oxford Handbook of the Incas*, edited by Sonia Alconini Mujica & R. Alan Covey, 247-262, (New York: Oxford Univeristy Press, 2018).; Nicolas Bermeo, Michelle Elliott, Nicolas Goepfert, Belkys Gutiérrez León, and Vásquez Sánchez Segundo, “First Contributions of Charcoal Analysis to the Study of the Specialised Fishing Site of Bayovar-01 (5th–8th Centuries AD), Extreme Northern Coast of Peru,” *Environmental Archaeology*, 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14614103.2018.1563981>.

¹² Ari Caramanica, Luis Huaman Mesia, Claudia R. Morales, Gary Huckleberry, Luis Jaime Castillo B., and Jeffrey Quilter, “El Niño Resilience Farming on the North Coast of Peru,” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 117, no. 39 (September 29, 2020): 24127–37. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2006519117>.

¹³ Caramanica, et al., “El Niño Resilience Farming.”

experience not represented in media, popular culture, and politics) was vital to communicate. However, the lack of physical objects from the present region presented a challenge. Instead of filling the gallery cases with objects, we filled them with photographs and quotes from community member interviews conducted by the research team and interpreted them as objects themselves. The anonymized quotations allowed for those experiencing El Niño to speak through their own words which reinforced our position as mediators, not owners of the content. It also underscored the importance of local action when responding to climate change as communities around the world act in various ways depending on the environment and culture that surrounds them.

To highlight the importance of local action, we had to relate the content of the exhibition to that of the local Anstruther community. Anstruther is also historically a prominent fishing community, relying on sea catches for its livelihood. However, as fishing methods and technology changed during the 20th century, Anstruther was no longer a prominent harbor for the Scottish fishing industry. The Scottish Fisheries Museum was founded to preserve and celebrate the way of life created in fishing villages around the country. Coastal Scotland likewise faces challenges as climate change and issues concerning



Fig. 2.1 – A Sechura Fish Supper



Fig. 2.2 – An Anstruther Fish Supper

sustainable fishing methods affect the fisheries industry. We used food, the universal language, to demonstrate that—although thousands of miles apart—both communities have developed a distinct culture surrounding fishing practices and can utilize their history as well as current scientific research to inform viable fishing methods. Photographs of two “fish suppers” (Figure 2) draw the connection between seemingly different populations and illustrate the resilience of fishing communities.

Showcasing the research reinforced the importance of current approaches to desert livelihoods, as it demonstrated how analysis of past practices and their continuation into the present can aid in developing future mitigation and adaptation strategies to natural disasters. Explanation of the research included satellite images of the formation of the lagoon (Figure 3) as well as NDVI (Normalized Difference Vegetation Index) imaging to illustrate the extensive impact of El Niño moisture. The researchers used modern technology to capture and reveal what the Sechura community already knew—El Niño creates a viable production economy and significantly contributes to the culture of the area. The research also utilizes historical data analysis to understand how adaptation strategies and perspectives have shifted and changed. The research proves that history, culture, and technology can coincide to generate sustainable answers to the effects of a changing climate.

Frances Law took inspiration from the opportunity provided by the cooperation of contemporary research and cultural heritage to create the artwork included in the exhibition. Her work explores the themes of archaeology, the importance of environment and place, as well as how the past shapes the future. The artwork positions the voices of the desert community within their environment as she used quotes from the anonymized interviews to encircle motifs of desert mountains (Figure 4). It delves into how the environment of a place define the traditions of a community which are manifested through their ways of life. Including an artistic perspective provided a different lens through which to consider the subject, creating an even more interdisciplinary approach to the content.

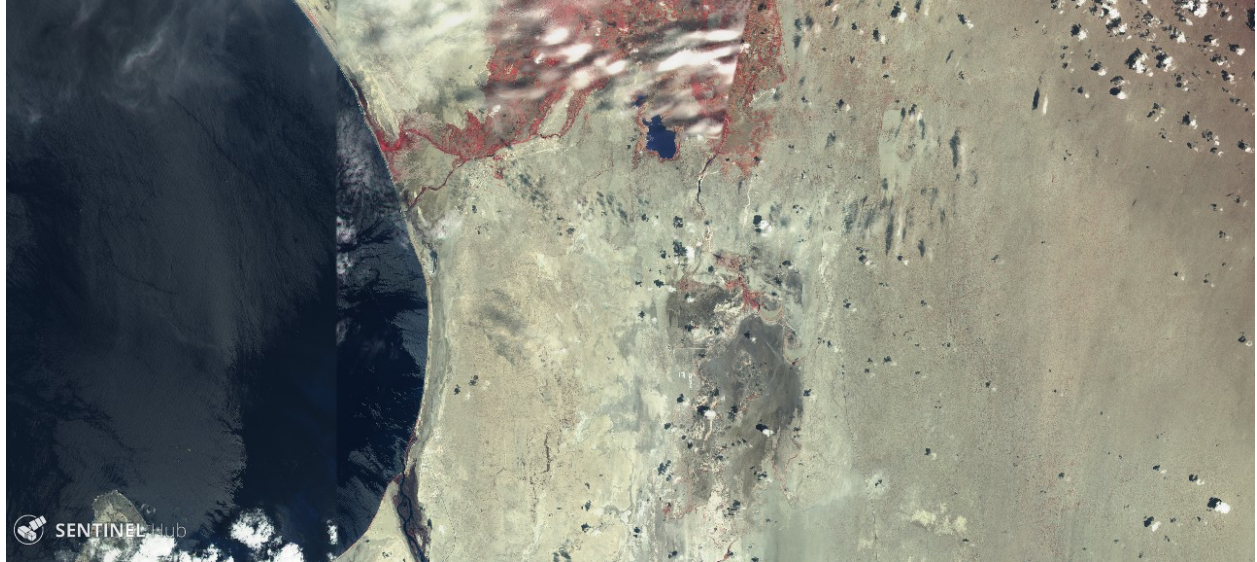


Fig. 3.1 – Satellite image of Sechura desert before 2017 El Niño

Courtesy of Sentinel Hub

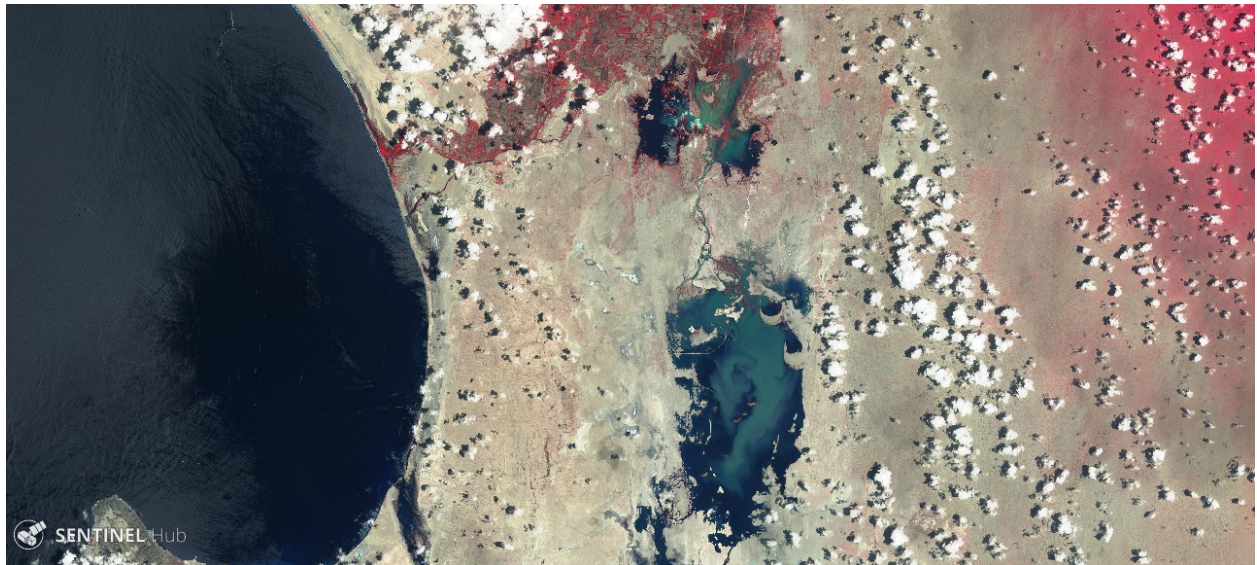


Fig. 3.2 – Satellite image of Sechura desert after 2017 El Niño

Courtesy of Sentinel Hub

Preparing for the Future

By using current research methods and modern technology as well as analyzing and understanding historic evidence of adaptation to natural disasters, it is possible to create and implement strategies for a more sustainable future. One facet of the research project focuses on building and implementing an educational curriculum that enable secondary students in the northern coastal region to understand the positive effects of El Niño in their community. The exhibition incorporated videos created by students at the Daniel Alcides Carrión educational institution in the Sechura region which were an outcome of the curriculum. The students were assigned to gather stories from elder community members about successful practices that take advantage of El Niño. Students recreated these unwritten oral stories in a digital storytelling format.¹⁴ Once again, these videos reinforce the theme of storytelling as the literal voices of the schoolchildren filled the gallery, bringing the written words and photographs to life.

The videos represent a culmination of the rest of the exhibition; it is where the analysis of the past and the current practices and research combine to forge a new generation of resilience. The education curriculum and the passing down of cultural knowledge empowers the younger generation to formulate sustainable adaptation strategies rooted in heritage and informed by modern research and technology. Learning from the past proves a useful way to work towards a better future. This is evident in the culture of the Sechura community, and the research being conducted there. While natural disasters exacerbated by climate change present uncertainties and challenges to communities across the world, the Sechura community of Northern Peru provides a case study as to how humans can adapt and use climate instability to advantage.

¹⁴ University of St. Andrews School of Geography and Sustainable Development, *El Niño a Phenomenon with Opportunities*.

Lastly, the artwork of Frances Law offers an imaginative perspective on the situation. Although worried about the future health of the planet, the resiliency of the human spirit yields yet unknown potential; just as the seemingly barren desert generates abundance when working with, not against, the forces of nature. The artwork draws the visitor into the future and allows them to contemplate how understanding the past can lead to a more sustainable future in terms of climate change adaptation. Although informed by modern research, learning from the past can be just as helpful for informing strategies of natural disaster preparedness and resilience.

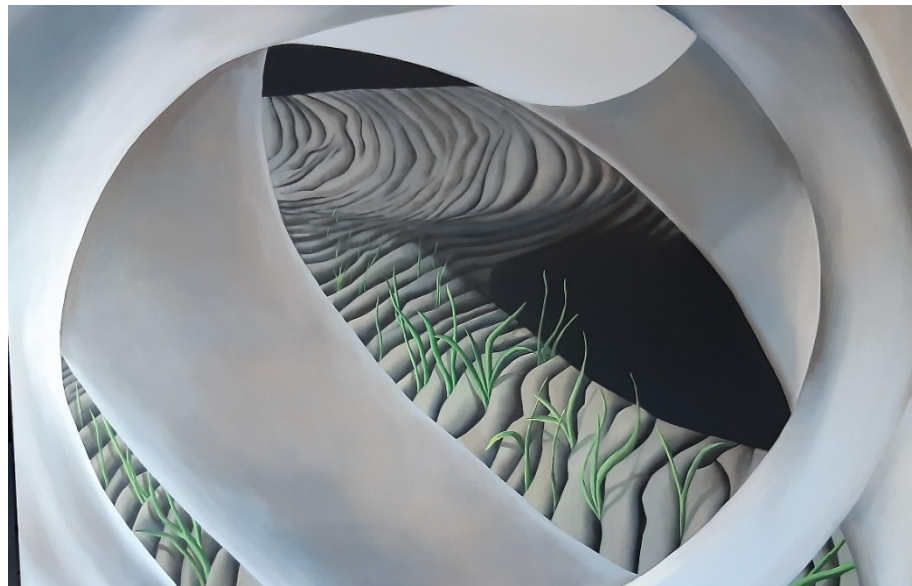


Fig. 4.1 – *When it Rains, We Harvest* artwork by Frances Law, oil on canvas (above)



Fig. 4.2 – *The Rains are A Blessing* artwork by Frances Law, mixed media assemblage (above and right)



Conclusions

“When it Rains, We Harvest” / “Cuando Llueve Cosechamos” showcased the adaptation practices surrounding El Niño in the Sechura desert community of Northern Peru and how they are informed by both heritage and modern scientific research. The exhibition is an example of interpreting archaeological evidence and applying it to current and future adaptation strategies to natural disasters within the museum space. Integrating historical analysis and geographic research to inform sustainable practices in the face of climate change not only contributes to contemporary discourse within museums regarding climate action, but also demonstrates the importance of learning from and passing down cultural knowledge. It substantiates the idea that we can use museums as a platform for disseminating information concerning adaptation to natural disasters and how they are affected by climate change.

The overall success of the exhibition is seen in how visitors reacted to and contemplated their visit. Comment cards left in the gallery provide insight into how the exhibition changed or helped visitors realize a different perspective on El Niño and climate-related disasters in general. The comments were prompted by questions curated by the student team related to the goals of the exhibition (Table 2). The accomplishment of the aims and objectives was also supported by external events held in relation to the exhibition. Our first event was an artist book making event for children where Frances Law helped children make their own artist books similar to the one featured in the exhibition. We also held a “cupcake coring” event, again for children which involved students using a straw to extract a “sediment core” from a colorfully layered cupcake, mimicking tasks done by researchers in Peru. Our last event was a lecture given by Professor Nina Laurie and Dr. Tania Mendo, both members of the research team. This lecture provided an overview of the research being conducted and its role in informing sustainable fishing systems. These events allowed for greater engagement with the local community, creating an

active space within the museum to discuss issues of sustainability and climate change in a local and global context.

<i>What was your favourite part about the exhibition?</i>	<i>Did you find it easy to understand the research?</i>	<i>What did the exhibition make you think of?</i>
Really interesting exhibition. Didn't appreciate the impact and opportunity that EL Nino brings. Great use of visual and objects in the exhibits well done!	Very accessible writing and great attention to narrative cohesion	It made me consider how something like changes weather can affect whole communities
The community voices were the most interesting part of the exhibition and brought material to life	Yes, I found it easy to understand!	Made me very interested in the communities affected. Loved the comparison to the local fishing community.
The integration of the perspectives of the people/communities from the regions in question.	Yes! it flowed nicely	Mixed emotions, fear but hope beyond

Table 2 – Examples of exhibition comments from visitors

In the face of climate instability, culture and heritage provide an invaluable tool for exploring how past peoples adapted to, and even thrived on, environmental uncertainty. The exhibition offered a new way of using tangible and intangible heritage to educate museum audiences about climate action as well as aid in constructing frameworks for preparedness strategies to natural disasters. Although often relegated to the spheres of “culture” or “art,” heritage museums present an opportunity for interdisciplinary collaboration and are a viable space for generating new discourse surrounding climate action. Showcasing archaeology and past cultures enables museum visitors to draw connections between the past and present and understand how this relationship can create a sustainable future.

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