



Conservation of flora and fauna at the Khorat Fossil Museum, Nakhon Ratchasima

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The Khorat Fossil Museum, or the Northeastern Research Institute of Petrified Wood and Mineral Resources, Nakhon Ratchasima Province, was established on 12.88 hectares of what was a community forest of Khrok Duean Ha village. When constructing the buildings and roads of the museum, larger trees and patches of forest were preserved. A project is underway to study and conserve the remaining flora and fauna of the museum grounds. A study of the naturally occurring as well as escaped cultivated plants showed at least 69 families, 194 genera, and 248 species. The most diverse families are Fabaceae and Poaceae with 37 and 30 species, respectively. The fauna includes numerous birds, as well as other vertebrates and invertebrates. Trails are being prepared that will be lined with explanatory signs, and trees are being labeled with their names and benefits. Collected plant specimens will be preserved in herbaria. Although the conserved area is small, the museum grounds are part of a larger ecosystem of forest patches, including those in nearby Suranaree University of Technology.