



Interview with Local Expert in the Andes

The following is a transcript of an interview with an expert in water management in the Sacred Valley of the Cusco Region, Peru.

Vicente Cusihuaman Valer, Water Governor
Ollantaytambo, Cusco Region, Peru
Interviewed by staff of the Smithsonian Institution
June 2014

As a water governor, I work on the management of water and the maintenance of drainage systems. I also do installations. It is my job to control the water supply. Every morning I come and see how the system is working. Today we have a modern reservoir that supplies water to all the people of Ollantaytambo, using the spring water that comes from the mountain. Sometimes this is not enough water for the community's daily use. There are times during the day when there is no water in the village. From July to November we have water shortages, and then the rain comes and we have enough water. We don't pump water from wells here because it's very rocky. The springs give us water. This water we have now is used to irrigate the fields of quinoa, potatoes, and root vegetables in our agricultural terraces. In the Sacred Valley, different crops grow during different seasons. We have no frost or bad weather. Three hundred types of tubers and three hundred types of corn are grown here.