

## Wildlife Conservation of Vicuna(*Vicugna vicugna*) and Village Revival of Andean Mountain in Peru

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This presentation shows the natural environment of Andean highland, ecology of vicuna and wildlife conservation in Peru. The vicuna lives at vast plains from 3500 to 5600 meters above sea level. The vicuna is a grazer of forbs and grasses. The distribution occurs from Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile and Argentina. Because of continuous hunting, the population declined to 6,000 by 1965 and this led to the listing of the species in Appendix I of CITES. The history of vicuna protection was synonymous with that of Pampa Galeras National Reserve in Department of Ayacucho. In 1967, the Peruvian Government set up Pampa Galeras National Reserve for wildlife conservation and rational use of vicunas. After the 1960s, the population steadily increased due to the cooperation of local residents and ranger activities for anti-poaching. The re-establishment of ancient hunting method, chaco, was important for the residents' incentive to wildlife conservation. Chaco is an ancient indigenous hunting method in central Andes. The Inca Empire had called up villagers for chaco, hunting animals on the puna. Thousands of people walked abreast in a line and caught vast animals including camelids and deer. They had classified the species, sex, and age of the animals and did not kill them indiscriminately. After shearing the wool of vicunas, they released them to the wild. In 1994, the village started chaco. They capture vicuna alive and shear the wools without killing them. The vicunas were released to the wild. They sold the shorn wool to international consortium through the representative committee of local campesino community. The community members engaged in chaco and obtained valuable income. The taking of vicuna wool was used for infrastructure for improving everyday life and other facilities. The re-establishment of chaco provided not only economic benefit, but also cultural revival in Andean mountains.

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