

Indigenous Conservation of Totora (*Schoenoplectus Californicus*, Cyperaceae) in Peru

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We investigated the persistence of *Schoenoplectus californicus* (Cyperaceae), totora, in two Peruvian communities: Huanchaco and Lake Titicaca. We predicted that a plant with high saliency to the local culture would have a high level of associated indigenous conservation. Totora has a history of use for boats, houses, mats, fans, food, and as a fertilizer. Its use continues into the present in communities with a tight association to water as their economic base. We found the reeds actively cultivated in both communities. In Huanchaco the reeds cannot survive without human intervention. Totora's importance in both fishing and tourism has been responsible for the preservation of totora.