



# World Heritage / Patrimoine Mondial

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**Institution of Supervisor:**

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■ Please provide a 500 words abstract outlining your thesis; you may wish to attach a table of contents or any other relevant material:

AYMARA PERSPECTIVES: ETHNOECOLOGICAL STUDIES IN ANDEAN COMMUNITIES OF NORTHERN CHILE

Amy Eisenberg, Ph.D. 2002

This dissertation presents participatory ethnographic research, which was conducted with the Aymara Indians of the northern Chilean Andes, from November 1998 through January 1999, in an attempt to understand Aymara perspectives of recent development that has taken place within their ancestral homeland. A study design was developed that would engage Aymara people directly in the assessment of their cultural and natural resources along an altitudinal gradient from the coastal city of Arica to the Altiplano, the high plateau at Lago Chungara.

This interdisciplinary study in Arid Lands Resource Sciences draws upon the fields of ethnoecology, American Indian studies, applied cultural anthropology, botany, agriculture, history, physical and cultural geography, and social and environmental impact assessment. Ethnographic interviews with Aymara people were conducted in sixteen Aymara villages along an altitudinal transect from sea level to 4600 meters. A systematic social and environmental impact assessment was executed along International Chilean Highway 11, which connects Arica, Chile with the highlands of Bolivia.

For Andean people, economic, spiritual and social life, are inextricably tied to land and water. The Chilean Aymara comprise a small, geographically isolated minority of Tarapaca, the northern border region, who are struggling to maintain their sustainable and traditional systems of irrigation waters distribution, agriculture and pastoralism in one of the most arid regions of the world, the Atacama Desert. Ethnoecological dimensions of the conflict between rapid economic growth and a sensitive cultural and natural resource base are explored through participatory research methods. The recent paving of Chilean Highway 11, the diversion of Altiplano waters of the Rio Lauca to the arid coast for hydroelectricity and irrigation, and Chilean national park policies regarding Aymara communities, their natural resources and cultural properties within Parque Nacional Lauca, the International Biosphere Reserve, are examined from the perspectives of the Aymara people. The potentiality of indigenous resource management of this protected area is discussed within the context of human-land reciprocal relations.

The findings of this study, based on Aymara Indian perspectives, are designed to aid in understanding and appreciating the cosmological vision, and the needs of Andean communities in the poorest province of Chile. The Aymara showed great interest in having their perspectives and cultural concerns expressed and incorporated into historic and cultural preservation legislation.

■ Thematic Structure (max. 5)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Archaeological Heritage	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cultural Routes and Itineraries, Linear Heritage (Routes, Canals, Railways, Rivers, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Built Heritage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Natural Heritage and Environment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Earthen Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Geological Heritage
<input type="checkbox"/>	Historic Centres and Cities, Historic Urban Landscapes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Forests
<input type="checkbox"/>	Military / Defence & Maritime Heritage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deserts
<input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial, Technological, Astronomical & Scientific Heritage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Biodiversity
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vernacular Heritage	<input type="checkbox"/>	Marine and Coastal Heritage
<input type="checkbox"/>	Modern and Contemporary Heritage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mountain Heritage
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cultural Landscapes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rock-Art

<input type="checkbox"/>	Underwater Heritage / Archaeology	<input type="checkbox"/>	Research on Materials Conservation and Mechanics
<input type="checkbox"/>	Museums, Museology & Moveable Heritage	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, Youth and Volunteers
<input type="checkbox"/>	Documentary	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cultural Tourism & Ecotourism
<input type="checkbox"/>	Oral & Intangible Heritage	<input type="checkbox"/>	Heritage Legislation (National and International), Conventions, Charters and Declarations
<input type="checkbox"/>	Languages and Toponymy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Climate Change Impacts on Heritage
<input type="checkbox"/>	Genealogy and Heraldry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Restoration
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:		