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## Interview with Local Expert in the Andes

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

**Felipe Romelio Ascoe Gibaja, Water Management Expert  
Pacchapata, Ollantaytambo, Cusco Region, Peru  
Interviewed by staff of the Smithsonian Institution  
June 2014**

Prior to restoration of the ancestral canals in this area, the rain and the water that was coming down the road was chaos. The canals couldn't be seen. This place is called *Pacchapata* which means "place of a waterfall." The water came down with great force, flowing wherever it could. I had to ask my neighbors and other villagers nearby to work together. We have removed roots and stones. The architects in the area have also helped remove some of the stones. The canal had been forgotten for hundreds of years. An excavation was made of the totally destroyed Inka canal. There were remnants of physical evidence that served as a guide indicating where the original canal was located. The original *paccha* (waterfall) was gone. The initial restoration efforts have been completed and the second part of the canal is still under reconstruction. We have repaired 150 yards of the 300-yard long canal. We have also repaired the agricultural terraces as they had been destroyed. It's turned out moderately well. It was a three-month job with twenty to thirty workers. I am a farmer and a homeowner from Ollantaytambo, one of the oldest communities. Since my youth, I have felt that it is my duty to repair important structures that have been destroyed. The *Apus* and the *Pachamama* enlightened me a bit. Then came a flood and were it not for the already partially restored canal, everything would have disappeared. We are all Inka here; we all know how to do the job.