

# EXPLORING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ON HERD MANAGEMENT AND HUNTING PRACTICES IN PASTORLIST SOCIETIES OF NORTHWESTERN ARGENTINA DURING THE LAST 1400 YEARS

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The links between environmental characteristics and climatic change with human subsistence have been the subject matter of research and publications during decades in anthropology and archaeology. This relation was usually studied in a coarse grain in terms of their spatial and temporal resolution and in both, extractive and productive societies. The improvement of the spatial and temporal resolution of paleoenvironmental information in the past two or three decades, and the better understanding of the relation between climatic signal of different scope have started to allow the refinement of the questions that can be currently made and the models that can be build about this topic.

As in other parts of the south-central Andes, in recent years a few new high resolution paleoenvironmental records have been studied in Northwestern Argentina, and have generated reach and detailed information about the main trends in climate and their ecological impact during the past 2000 years. Laguna Pululos Core 1012, is the only one of this records that is located in the highlands (Puna) of Jujuy Province, Argentina, and the more representative source of paleoenvironmental information for our research area that have fitted well the regional climatic trends. For this reason we selected this record as the main source of paleoenvironmental information to test some hypothesis regarding particular subsistence strategies in pastoralist societies that inhabited both the Puna and the pre-Puna of Jujuy during the last 1400 years.

In this paper we compare the mentioned paleoenvironmental information with the zooarchaeological record of several layers of 13 archaeological sites, in order to explore and discuss two particular aspects in the relationship between climate and subsistence in pastoralist societies: a) the links between sustained drought periods and the butchering practices of domestic camelids, and b) between climatic uncertainty and the frequency of hunting practices of wild camelids.

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