



The Pukara of Quito: An Indigenous Self-Determination Case Study (English and Spanish Edition)

Ryan Seelau, Laura M. Seelau

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The Pukará of Qitor: An Indigenous Self-Determination Case Study tells the story of the Indigenous Atacameño Community of Qitor and their efforts to regain control over an ancient and impressive piece of cultural property, the Pukará of Qitor—a large stone fortress located in the Atacama Desert of Chile. The Atacameño Community of Qitor has existed in essentially the same region of Chile for thousands of years, but after European contact, and particularly after tourism began near the end of the 20th century, their world changed dramatically. The Community began to see its cultural property vandalized and destroyed, and they knew that if they stood by and did nothing, much of what they held dear would be destroyed.

Fortunately, the Atacameño Community of Qitor took action. Exercising their rights to self-determination, the community found ways to regain some control over their traditional lands and property. Adopting a strategy whereby the Community exercised their rights little by little, they became one of the very first Indigenous communities in Chile to co-manage their own ancestral property. In the process, the Community has restored the Pukará of Qitor, expanded its reach as a respected tourist attraction, and taken both the lessons and the profits earned from the experience and has channeled them back into the Community for future work. In short, the Pukará of Qitor is a success story about Indigenous rights, and it is a story that anyone can learn from.

The Pukará of Qitor was written by the Project for Indigenous Self-Determination, an organization founded to promote Indigenous rights and successes. It is the first in a series of case studies designed to showcase how Indigenous rights can produce positive results in a wide range of contexts. For more information, visit: www.projectisd.org.

El Pukará de Qitor: Un Caso Práctico de la Libre Determinación Indígena cuenta la historia de la Comunidad Atacameña de Qitor y sus esfuerzos en re-asumir el control sobre el Pukará de Qitor, una fortaleza de piedra ubicada en el Desierto de Atacama en el Norte de Chile que es un antiguo e impresionante trozo de su propiedad cultural. A lo largo de miles de años, la Comunidad Atacameña de Qitor ha existido en precisamente la misma región de Chile, pero después de la llegada de los europeos y de relevancia especial para esta historia—el aumento enorme del turismo a fines del siglo XX, su mundo experimentó un cambio radical. La Comunidad fue testigo al vandalismo y destrucción de su propiedad cultural y los miembros reconocían la necesidad de tomar acción concreta para confrontar los riesgos de perder lo que valoraban.

Afortunadamente, la Comunidad Atacameña de Qitor actuaron. Ejercieron su libre determinación, forjando un mecanismo para re-asumir control parcial sobre sus tierras y propiedades ancestrales. Su estrategia les permitieron ejercer sus derechos poco a poco y se hicieron una de las primeras comunidades indígenas en Chile en co-administrar su propiedad ancestral. Durante el proceso, la Comunidad ha logrado restaurar el Pukará de Qitor y aumentar su visibilidad y interés como sitio de visitación turística. A la vez, la Comunidad ha re-invertido los aprendizajes adquiridos y las ganancias en el sitio mismo así como en el futuro de la Comunidad. El Pukará de Qitor es una historia de éxito sobre los derechos indígenas, y es una historia de la cual todos pueden aprender algo.

El Pukará de Quito fue escrito por el Proyecto para la Libre Determinación Indígena, una organización creada para la promoción de los derechos y éxitos indígenas. Es el primero en una serie de casos prácticos diseñados para destacar y mostrar cómo los derechos indígenas pueden contribuir a resultados positivos en una variedad de contextos. Para más información, visite: www.libredeterminacion.org



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