

Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian  
and Amazon Conservation Association  
present

## ANDES AND AMAZON, PERU: THE Q'EROS AND THE WACHIPERI

Tuesday, November 15, 2011 from 12:00 to 2:00 pm  
National Museum of American Indian, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor



Holly Wissler, musician, adventure travel guide and ethnomusicologist Ph.D. who resides in Cusco, Peru, will present her research in two indigenous communities: The Quechua Andean community of Q'eros, who are still self-sufficient and cultivate three ecological zones in the traditional pre-Hispanic vertical ecology system, and the Wachiperi Amazonian community, an endangered group pertaining to the indigenous Harakmbut linguistic family, located in the Madre de

Dios River basin. Both groups live on the extremes of the same River Q'eros: the Q'eros on the source, the Wachiperi on the mouth. The groups share contiguous cloud forest, though separated by distance and impassable geography.

Through the lens of music, Holly will show the connections, comparisons, and expression of cultural meaning and modern challenges of both groups, placed in the larger context of Andean and Amazon cosmology. Both groups use their songs for healing, to express and venerate their natural environment, and for personal expression of grievances.



Smithsonian  
National Museum of the American Indian



4th St. and Independence Ave SW, Washington, DC 20024  
Metro: L'Enfant Plaza, Maryland Avenue/Smithsonian Museums exit

For further information: [www.AmericanIndian.si.edu](http://www.AmericanIndian.si.edu); 202-633-1000

Amazon Conservation Association [www.amazonconservation.org](http://www.amazonconservation.org)

See Holly's video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LgVMkWXhseA>.