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List of Abbreviations

aDNA	Ancient Deoxyribonucleic Acid (an organic molecule holding the genetic information about an organism that died long ago. Of special interest for archaeology are remains of humans and domestic animals)		
AMS	Accelerated Mass Spectrometer (an instrument used for the measurement of ¹⁴ C contents in organic material through separating accelerated isotopes by their mass)	IP	Initial Period (a period in Central Andean prehistory beginning with the introduction of pottery around 1500 BCE and ending with the spread of the Chavín style, approximately 900–200 BCE with regional deviations)
AMMTGS	Average Monthly Minimum Temperature during Growing Season (the multi-year average value of the monthly minimum temperatures from January to May. Where it drops below 0°C, crops may be severely damaged by nightly frosts)	ITCZ	Intertropical Convergence Zone (a belt of cyclones close to the equator where air and water are heated by nearly vertical solar radiation)
		m.a.s.l.	Meters above sea level
		MH	Middle Horizon (a period in Central Andean prehistory with widespread influences of the Wari style and the Wari Empire, approximately 600–1000 CE with regional deviations)
ASTER	Advanced Space-born Thermal Emission and Reflection Radiometer (provides imagery and DEMs of the Earth's surface)	LH	Late Horizon (a period in Central Andean prehistory with widespread influences of the Inca style and the Inca Empire, approximately 1470–1532 CE with regional deviations)
BCE	Before Common Era [age indication, identical to <i>Before Christ</i> (BC)]	LIA	Little Ice Age (a period of relatively cold conditions on a global level between approximately 1550 and 1850 CE)
CE	Common Era [age indication, identical to <i>Anno Domini</i> (AD)]	LIP	Late Intermediate Period (a period in Central Andean prehistory with regionally diverse cultural and political developments, approximately 1000–1470 BCE with regional deviations)
DEM	Digital Elevation Model (a geocoded raster with cell values representing surface elevations)	NGD	Northern Río Grande drainage (the valleys of the Santa Cruz, Grande, Palpa, Viscas, and Ingenio rivers)
EH	Early Horizon (a period in Central Andean prehistory with widespread influences of the Chavín style, approximately 900–200 BCE with regional deviations)	ONERN	Oficina Nacional de Evaluación de Recursos Naturales (a Peruvian authority entrusted with the analyses and registration of land use, related problems, possible solutions, and unused potentials during the 1960s and 1970s)
EIP	Early Intermediate Period (a period in Central Andean prehistory with regionally diverse cultural and political developments, approximately 200–600 BCE with regional deviations)	SGD	Southern Río Grande drainage (the valleys of the Aja, Tierras Blancas, Nasca, Taruga, and Las Trancas rivers)
ENSO	El Niño – Southern Oscillation (climatic phenomenon describing the abnormal weakening or even inversion of the direction of air and ocean currents, especially in the Pacific region)	SRTM	Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (provides DEMs of the Earth's surface)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization (an entity of the United Nations)	VBA	Visual Basic for Applications (Microsoft's programming language designed for the Office package)
INRENA	Instituto Nacional de Recursos Naturales (a division of the Peruvian Agricul-		