

The desert of our Peruvian coast has made it possible to preserve many organic materials, and one in particular is wood.

Despite the small variety of tree species, the ancient settlers knew how to take advantage of the felling of local species and those imported from the Amazon, which could be sculpted by master craftsmen.

Due to its semi-hard consistency, wood was used in a wide range of utensils that covered practically all types of activities. It was used as fuel for making fire and cooking, to make shoots that served as spears for stone points for hunting animals, to make rafts for fishing and moving on the sea, due to its ability to float, and to make oars.

In addition, it was used to make implements for making textiles, food containers, to make posts and beams in constructions, and even to make coffins for priests in cultures such as the Mochica. It was therefore a highly sought-after material produced in cabinetmaking workshops that are still the subject of research.

The so-called Inca keros made of wood deserve a separate topic. These ceremonial vessels were used to drink chicha by the elite in the midst of rituals, but also by the populations and even the ancestors represented as mummies.