Introduction
Austronesian peoples radiated out from Taiwan and populated the islands of Oceania where they faced many challenges such as extreme climate and European exploration. In these extreme conditions, these peoples created interesting relationships with the fauna of the region as well as the animals brought over by the Europeans. This study ventures into the different relationships and interactions these cultural groups have formed with these animals.

This study acts as a review of background information found in literature that will be used in a follow up multi-sited research project held in the region. The information this project will provide will both further the understanding of these relationships and will also provide information useful in biodiversity conservation efforts and in affirming indigenous rights over natural sources.

Fish and marine animals:
- Use in legends
- Inspiration for art
- Valuable food source dictating where populations settled
- Fishing conducted as a gendered task, aided by children
- Magic for better yields or keep fish away from enemies
- Ceremonial fishing trips
- Fish and shellfish staple in diet
- Social rules regulate fishing
- Shark tooth and sting ray skin in art production
- Shark tooth in ornamentation and tools
- Fishing practices include poisoning, spearing, nets, etc.
- Whale teeth ornamentation, whalebone for tools
- Symbolic difference in ocean fishing and reef fishing

Pigs:
- Inspiration for art
- Domesticated
- Wild population
- Introduced by Austronesians
- Staple meat
- Use in legend and spirituality
- Use in ritual
- Strong personal relationships
- Rules dictating relationship

Animals:

Birds:
- Inspiration for art
- Wild population
- Use in legend
- Feather use in ornamentation
- Hunted with stones, spears, nets, mahuket, etc.

Dogs:
- Introduced by Austronesians
- Domesticated
- Pets or livestock
- Use in spirituality and legend
- Dog’s teeth in ornamentation, high in symbolic and economic value

Rats:
- Introduced species
- Use in legend, deemed threatening to man

Fowl:
- Introduced by Austronesians
- Staple meat
- Domesticated

Turtles/Tortoises:
- Wild population
- Source of meat
- Tortoise shell used in jewelry, symbolic value
- Turtle meat reserved for priests and chiefs, in Marquesas
- Proposed as tribute to chief to create peace, in Marquesas
- Tortoise honoured as chief in Tonga

Conclusion:
Drawing from all the data, across many different cultural groups, patterns arise. First, the incredible impact of the above listed animals, many of which are not native, is of note. In most situations, these animals, instead of native animals, become the primary meat source. Pigs, in particular, are integrated in Austronesian societies and have a special, close bond to the people. Most surprising of all the finds was the level of respect and honour attributed to turtles. Differences exist between each culture despite the similarity in origin and in fauna that can be attributed to Austronesian settlement and physical proximity. Some of these differences can be explained through variations in relief altering ways of life. For example, in Tonga, the lack of running freshwater limits the wildlife diversity. Today, the peoples are westernized but the roots of their culture still remain. Interactions with fauna have been reduced through importing canned meats. However, these relationships remain and studies to help maintain that these relationships are not interfered with are still important.

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