

# Inter-Species Compact is the Origin of Our Environmental Wisdom

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*What does Pacific Island/Oceanic wisdom mean to you?*

*Pongso no Tao* (Orchid Island, Taiwan), one of the so-called Pacific small islands that are rooted in the ocean, surrounded by coral reefs, passed by ocean currents, visited seasonally by migratory birds and migratory fishes, encountering tropical cyclones and Monsoon annually, and connected by Austronesian Indigenous seafaring. We've experienced climate change in extreme weather, global warming, and species migration. There inherited the inter-species compact between the noble black-winged flying fish and Tao ancestor, evolved an eco-calendar calibrated by the biological clock in the ecosystem cycle and having two types of indigenous fisheries of coral reef fishing and migratory fishing.

*How/why do you bring island wisdom into your scholarship?*

The eco-calendar is the simple but subtle indigenous holistic knowledge in its real play. While Inter-species compact becomes the foundation of their customary marine governance institution and the implementation of rights of nature. That's also an alternative multidimensional zoning system for the conservation of natural resources and environment as the basis of

community sustainability, and creating the food diversity and sovereignty for the resilience of *Tao* people. It's a wonderful model of Indigenous sovereignty and customary governance based on tribal community connected to and embedded in their inter-species habitats for the trinity of language, cultural and biological diversity.