

Table S1. A review of *fady* related to vertebrate species.

Species, taxa, item	Scientific name	IUCN status	Malagasy protection status	Study site	Region	Type of <i>fady</i>	Origin	Origin story	Individual, household, or community	Source
Ring-tailed lemur, Verreaux's sifaka	<i>Lemur catta</i> , <i>Propithecus verreauxi</i>	EN, CR	Class I, Class I	Beza Mahafaly Special Reserve	Atsimo-Andrefana	Ancestral	Human resemblance	The lemurs were humans at one point who turned into primates, community members also point out the morphological and social characteristics are similar to humans	Community	Loudon et al. 2006
Perrier's sifaka	<i>Propithecus perrieri</i>	CR	Class I	Andrafiarena Forest	Diana	Ancestral	Human resemblance	A disobedient child was transformed into a sifaka	Community, household	Anania et al. 2018
Indri	<i>Indri indri</i>	CR	Class I	Anjanaharibe-Sud Special Reserve	Sava	Ancestral	Honoring an animal who saved a human	In early times Indris were thought to provide medicine to those injured by invaders (colonizers?)	Community	Thalmann et al. 1991
				Moramanga and Anosibe An'ala Districts	Alaotra-Mangoro	Not cited			Community-half adhere	Jenkins et al. 2011
Aye-aye	<i>Daubentonia madagascariensis</i>	EN	Class I	Ankarana Special Reserve and Analamerana Special Reserve	Diana	Ancestral	Harbinger of death	Many origin stories cited. Most involve members of the community becoming sick or dying after being in the presence of the animal	Across multiple communities	Simons and Meyers 2001
Milne-Edward's sifaka, Eastern woolly lemur	<i>Propithecus edwardsi</i> , <i>Avahi laniger</i>	EN, VU	Class I, Class I	Surrounding Ranomafana National Park	Vatovavy	Ancestral	Embodies ancestor	These two species embody deceased ancestors and are prohibited across the community	Community	Jones et al. 2007
All lemur species			Class I	Surrounding Berenty Reserve	Anosy	Health / Ancestral	Embodies ancestor, consumption causes sickness	Eating lemur causes severe sickness in the throat. They also believe lemurs represent ancestors	Community	Ichino et al. 2018
				Sahamalaza National Park	Sofia	Ancestral	Harmed an ancestor, bad luck	A group of people threw rocks at a lemur to try to kill and eat it. When the lemur fell dead, so did the man who threw the rock. It is now believed bad things will happen if you harm lemur	Community	Cinner et al. 2007
Fosa, Spotted fanaloka	<i>Cryptoprocta ferox</i> , <i>Fossa fossana</i>	VU, VU	Class I, Class I	Surrounding Ranomafana National Park	Vatovavy	Ancestral	Species consumes ancestral remains	Believed to scavenge off remains of ancestors buried in the forests	Community	Jones et al. 2007
Fosa	<i>Cryptoprocta ferox</i>	VU	Class I	Boeny, Moramanga, Vatovavy-Fitovinany, Menabe		Ancestral	Species consumes ancestral remains, Similarity to dogs	Believed to scavenge off remains of ancestors buried in the forests. Also are seen as similar to dogs, and dogs are not eaten		Merson et al. 2019
Madagascar flying fox	<i>Pteropus rufus</i>	VU	Game	Amborabao, Berenty Reserve	Anosy	Not cited			Community-100% / 89% adherence VS 0% adherence in surrounding communities	Rahaingodrahety et al. 2007
Greater hedgehog tenrec, lowland streaked tenrec	<i>Setifer setosus</i> , <i>Hemicentetes semispinosus</i>	LC, LC	Class II, Class II	surrounding Ranomafana National Park	Vatovavy	Ancestral	Helped an ancestor	Clan members were hiding and almost caught, but then the animal distracted the enemy and diverted them	Community	Jones et al. 2007
Greater hedgehog tenrec	<i>Setifer setosus</i>	LC	Class II	Surrounding Makira Natural Park	Analanjirifo	Health / Ancestral	Consumption caused ancestral sickness	Ancestors who consumed suffered severe GI disease	Community	Golden and Comaroff 2015
Red-tailed tropicbird	<i>Phaethon rubricauda</i>	LC	Class I	Nosy Ve	Diana	Ancestral	Species migrated to an ancestrally sacred space, making the	When the birds first appeared on the island 35 years ago, the community established it as <i>vorom-paly</i> (forbidden bird) since	Community	Lilette 2006

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							species also sacred	it chose to inhabit a sacred island. A consumption <i>fady</i> was placed		
Namaqua dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>	LC	Game	Berenty Reserve	Anosy	Ancestral	Helped an ancestor	Ancestor was helped by the dove and made it taboo to eat	Community-younger generations have begun to eat	Ichino et al. 2018
Radiated tortoise	<i>Astrochelys radiata</i>	CR	Class I	Mahafaly and Karimbola Plateaux	Atsimo-Andrefana, Androy	Ancestral	Embodies ancestor	Believed to contain spirits of ancestors	Some communities within the region, but adherence declining and many people ate	Nussbaum and Raxworthy 2000
				Lavanono, Beloha, Tsiombe	Androy Region	Ancestral	Various Reasons	Some thought the animal was dirty, one family cited a situation with an ancestor and tortoise where the ancestor died, one family cited the tortoise embodied their ancestor after finding an animal in the grave where the ancestor was buried	Community, Family	Lingard et al. 2003
				Mahafaly and Antandroy tribes across 9 districts	Atsimo-Andrefana and Androy Region	Ancestral	Various reasons	Origin stories varies. Tortoises can ask spirits for rain, so if the tortoises are hunted or removed from the region, there will be no rain. Some have stories of poor interactions and/or death of ancestors resulting from tortoise	Community, Family. Adherence and protective abilities varied	Ploos van Amstel et al. 2022
Octopus	Order Octopa		Not Listed	Sahamalaza National Park	Sofia	Ancestral	Harmed an ancestor, spiritual retributions	Oral story of an ancestor touching an octopus while hunting them, the octopus grabbed it and held the ancestor under. those who eat will get rashes and sores only cured by spiritual retribution	Community	Cinner et al. 2007
Eels	Order Anguilliformes		Not Listed	surrounding Ranomafana National Park	Vatovavy	Health	Birthing complications	Pregnant women cannot eat, punishment is miscarriage	Pregnant Women	Jones et al. 2007
Various whale, dolphin and sea turtle species	Infraorder Cetacea, Superfamily Chelonioidae			Anakao	Atsimo-Andrefana	Ancestral	Honoring an animal who saved a human	Marine animals saved sailors from capsized boats	Community	Lilette 2006
Crayfish, freshwater crabs	<i>Astacoides</i> spp, <i>Hydrothelpusa</i> spp.	Some species VU, some LC		surrounding Ranomafana National Park	Vatovavy	Health	Birthing complications	Pregnant women cannot eat, punishment is multiple births	Pregnant Women	Jones et al. 2007
Round food items				Makira Natural Park	Analanjirifo	Health	Protection against bad luck and health	Consumption of round objects inactivated powers of <i>aody andro</i> , which are medicines that protect health and luck	Community	Golden and Comaroff 2015

Table S2. Survey quotes.

Species	Malagasy quote	English translation
<i>Potamochoerus larvatus</i> , Bush Pig	<i>Nanomboka aho niteraka ny zanako voalohany, tsy neken'ny ombiasy miahny hihinanana lambo intsony</i>	I began to give birth to my first child, the <i>ombiasa</i> did not allow me to eat boar anymore
	<i>Resaka ody no tsy nihinanana</i>	It was a matter of magic
	<i>Tsymihinana raha mbola miteraka</i>	Do not eat while giving birth
	<i>Mahazo mitsapa fa tsy azo ampidirina an-trano</i>	Can be tasted but cannot be brought home
<i>Pyxis planicauda</i> , Flat-tailed tortoise	<i>Olobe taloha nahandro kapika de nahidy fa tonga namany de navonony anaty vodiny nefa izy tsy misy silipo de nikakariny kapika de maty de nanomboka teo tsy nihinana kapika ny havany rehetra</i>	An elderly man was preparing a tortoise for a meal, when his friends approved unexpectedly. He quickly hid the cooked tortoise by placing it under his clothes, and he was not wearing underwear. The tortoise bit his genital area, that eventually led to his death. From that day onward, his family vowed to never eat tortoise again.
<i>Cryptoprocta ferox</i> , Fosa	<i>Satria mitovy ny alika, ary ny Malagasy tsy homana alika</i>	Because dogs are the same, and Malagasy people don't like dogs
<i>Fossa fossana</i> , Spotted fanaloka	<i>Nihinana ny henany ny olona taloha, dia narary ary maty, nanomboka teo izahay no tsy nihinana azy intsony</i>	People used to eat its meat, get sick and die, since then we have stopped eating it
	<i>Hatramin'ny nahaterahako mandra-pahafatiko, ny taranako koa tsy mahazo mihinana</i>	From my birth until I die, my descendants are not allowed to eat
<i>Microcebus murinus</i> , Grey mouse lemur	<i>Tsy faly fa tsy mihinana</i>	Not a taboo, we just don't eat it

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