

Notes on Makuna Consent

Makuna of Amazonian forest of northwest Colombia – hunting, fishing and gathering complemented with slash-and-burn agriculture

Rules governing fishing and hunting, encoded in myths, help prevent over fishing and over hunting

“Negotiate with the animals.” To take kills, to ask feeds.” “Life is gift and sacrifice.”
“We eat what was given by consent.”

“The fish gives itself to me. We eat only with consent. Everything that lives, lives only by consent of everything else.” Venancio, son of a Makuna shaman

Exchanges between animal and human bases of relationship – shaman must travel to the invisible house of the animal spirits and explain needs of people (hungry)

Peach Palm Festival celebrates the relationship between animal and human

Also see how stories and oral traditions critically interwoven throughout each case study