The third most wide-spread rat in the world have afflicted Henderson island - a true paradise which offers home to more than 55 unique species (RSPB, date unknown). Unfortunately, this pristine island is located at the centre of the South Pacific Gyre, what causes waste influx, and now, there is presence of 37.7 million debris items weighing 17.6 tons (Lavers and Bond, 2017). As amount of waste is still increasing, it is questionable if surely rats are causing high mortality rate of Petrels. Polluted environment may not cause death to birds directly, but may increase their vulnerability to predation, and may causes serious problems with parasites or to get a various illness. A large-scale clean-up of the island may limit supply of food for rats and provide safer environment for birds. I think that it is on place, to undertake a research with the focus on whether excessive pollution is affecting petrel’s population and take further steps based on these results. To be honest, I have a neutral attitude to this situation regarding my feelings. I think it is correct to culled them, as Pacific rats are widespread across the world with a high reproduction rate (Harper and Bunbury, 2015), and we must protect potentially more vulnerable species to the extinction. Although rats are generally considered as a pest, I perceive them as conscious beings with ability to feel, and therefore their culling should be humane.

In the case of Burmese python’s eradication, I strongly disagree with the incentivisation of members and hunters of the community, and with the idea of payments for pythons caught. I consider this idea as inhumane, because python is perceived as a commodity from which you can make money. Also, there is not any licence or permission needed, what allows unskilled people to hunt in an inappropriate way and potentially damaged local ecosystem. It is necessary to control population of this super-predator, as makes some mammal species endangered (Steffens and Frazier, 2019). Killing directly seems to be the best solution, but with a humane and professional treatment. Even though I am afraid of huge snakes more as of rats, I do not feel less sorry for them, but because of the potential danger that python present for people, I will prefer their death more, as the death of hedgehog or rat. However, sometimes it is better for animals to euthanize them, as optional solutions may be very stressful and unsuitable, for example research about hedgehogs’ translocation from the Outer Hebrides, where sample is very small (n=20) (Warwick et al., 2006) and it is not fully approved if translocation is the best solution.

The contrast between pythons’, rats’ and hedgehogs’ eradication shows us variety of attitudes – from uncompromising killing to the effort to save the species. Different societies/cultures have contradictory attitudes about animals, what consequently shape, how people in a society deal with animals -how they think about, interact with, control and use (Higgs et al., 2020). To some extent, the religion may influence this also, for example cow is part of Hindu belief, so they will protect this species more than others (Britannica, 2018). More importantly, some animals are just lucky that their general look is sympathetic to humans, and their characteristic is represented through fairy tales, biblical and historical sources, and myths in a positive way.

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