Research Activity Report
Supported by "Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science"
(Please be sure to submit this report after the trip that supported by PWS.)

2015. 09. 30

Affiliation/Position	Primate Research Institute/D1
Name	Duncan Wilson

Curriculum: Fieldwork (designed by each PWS student)

1. Country/location of visit

Tanzania, East Africa - Gombe Stream National Park and Selous Game Reserve.

2. Research project

'Chimpanzee Forest and Wild Animal Savannah Tour'

3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)

2015. 09. 16 - 2015. 09. 25 (10 days)

4. Main host researcher and affiliation

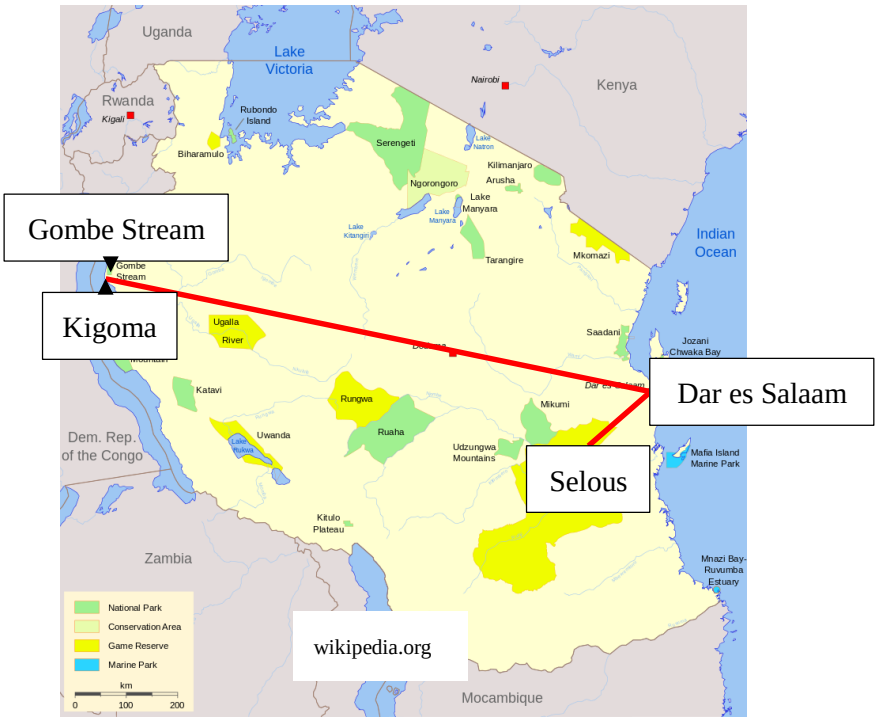
Prof. Gen'ichi Idani (KU, Wildlife Research Center), Ms. Eriko Eida (KU, Wildlife Research Center)

5. Progress and results of your research/activity (You can attach extra pages if needed)

Please insert one or more pictures (to be publicly released). Below each picture, please provide a brief description.

I am currently researching captive chimpanzee perception, emotion and welfare for my Doctorate at the Kyoto University Primate Research Institute (PRI), and so the main aim of my trip was to compare first-hand how wild chimpanzees live and behave. Therefore, my report will mainly focus on the chimpanzee trekking part of the tour.

Day 1 (09/17): Arrived in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
Day 2 (09/18): Dar es Salaam (flight) > Kigoma (Boat) > Gombe Stream National Park.
Day 3 (09/19): **Chimpanzee trekking** in Gombe.
Day 4 (09/20): **Chimpanzee trekking** in Gombe (Boat) > Kigoma.
Day 5 (09/21): Kigoma (flight) > Dar es Salaam.
Day 6 (09/22): Dar es Salaam (flight) > **Selous Game Reserve**.
Day 7 (09/23): **Selous Game Reserve** (flight) > Dar es Salaam.
Day 8 (09/24): Departed Dar es Salaam and Tanzania.



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Chimpanzee Trekking

Day 2: In the evening we were briefed about the chimpanzees by our guide (Photo 1). We were warned that the chimpanzees had moved over a mountain and into a valley, and that the chimpanzee trackers were able to hear their calls but could not visually locate them. We were instructed to maintain a distance of five meters, although the chimpanzees may decide to come closer. It was explained that if a chimpanzee displays or shows aggression towards us we should slowly walk backwards, and if it tries to attack we should hug the nearest tree for protection. In addition, we were told not to use a camera flash, as this could be mistaken for lightning, and arouse the chimpanzees. Our treks were limited to one hour with the chimpanzees per day.

Day 3: We set out trekking at about 8am and soon started hiking up a steep mountain. Two chimpanzee trackers started one hour before us. Our guide communicated with the trackers ahead using a walkie talkie and by vocalizing (hooting). It was a tough climb for about two and a half hours to reach the mountain summit. On the way we saw the remains of palm nuts which the chimpanzees had eaten. These are available throughout the year. In addition, from June to October they eat pods from the Horn Pod tree and Miombo tree, and sweet brown fruits from the Parinari tree. From November, they eat orange berries from the Garcinia tree and lemon-like fruits from the Saba Florida Vine. The chimpanzees feed for about six hours a day and spend 50-70% of their time eating fruit, 20% eating leaves, and the remainder eating seeds, flowers, pith, bark, stems and resin. After reaching the summit of the mountain we heard that the trackers had visually located the chimpanzees. We then walked around the mountainside to the other side of the valley where, to my great relief, we finally spotted several chimpanzees in the trees, including the alpha male (Photo 3). The group spent a brief period of time feeding in a patch of trees (Photo 4) before walking across the mountainside to feed from the next patch (Photo 5). The chimpanzees moved around in small groups of five or six, and when the whole group fragmented they would pant-hoot to each other to keep together. As I have only ever heard pant-hooting close up in captivity, it was very impressive to hear the strength and eerie echo of pant-hooting across a huge valley. Soon the chimpanzees had moved down into the valley and it became too difficult to follow them, so we headed back to our accommodation via boat (Photo 14). On the way, we spotted some red colobus monkeys in the trees (which the chimpanzees also eat) and olive baboons on the shoreline. It had been an exhausting but very exciting first encounter with wild chimpanzees!

Day 4: We set out trekking at 8am again. Fortunately the early trackers had quickly located the chimpanzees a short boat ride away close to the shores of Lake Tanganyika. Soon after entering the forest we encountered the alpha male again, who displayed at us from a distance by shaking branches and beating on buttress roots. However, he soon calmed down and we were able to follow the chimpanzees across a stream and deeper into the forest. We came across four or five adult and infant chimpanzees feeding on a termite mound. They took long plant stems, stripped off the leaves with their teeth and inserted them into the mound to fish for termites. After feeding from a stem several times, they discarded it and made a fresh one (Photo 6). Then an infant approached one of our group members and stole her towel! A fight between two infants over the towel ensued and an adult female came across to investigate, stopped the fight, and took control of the towel. She then proceeded to rip it apart with her teeth and roll pieces of it around in her mouth, while the infants sat beside her patiently, hoping to get it back (Photo 9). The chimpanzees eventually left the termite mound and we followed them into a large clearing in the forest. Here we found the majority of the group, about 10-12 individuals; some were resting and playing on the ground (Photo 10), whilst others were foraging up in the trees. One infant stomped on the side of a hollow tree to stir the termites inside before dipping its hand into the trunk to feed on them (Photo 12). After around twenty minutes the chimpanzees moved off into the forest again and we followed them to a huge termite mound where they were playing and feeding. At this point our time with the chimpanzees was over and we walked back to our accommodation. On the way back we saw two chimpanzee nests (Photo 13). Our guide explained that the chimpanzees make a new nest every night, by bending branches which form curved edges to prevent them from falling out. This day was certainly the highlight of the trekking, and indeed the whole tour for me, as we were quickly able to locate the chimpanzees and spend a considerable amount of time in very close proximity to them. In the previous five days prior to our arrival the trackers had not been able to find any chimpanzees, so we were very lucky to have had such an intimate experience in the short time we were there. It was also interesting to see them in two different environments; mountainous terrain on the first day, and forest on the second day.

Although my time with the Gombe chimpanzees was limited, I observed a number of interesting differences between them and the captive PRI chimpanzees. Firstly, I thought the Gombe chimpanzees were relatively small and slender, even the alpha male. The Gombe chimpanzees typically spent a short time foraging in a patch of trees before walking to the next patch some distance away. In contrast, the PRI chimpanzees have set times and places to come and collect breakfast and dinner, which consists of vegetables and fruit. Perhaps this is one of the reasons some of the PRI chimpanzees are overweight. Although the PRI chimpanzees get the opportunity to 'forage' for food rewards during daily cognitive experiments, in order to recreate the type of natural tree foraging I observed in the Gombe chimpanzees, laying branches with fruit on top of their large indoor cages could help to extend their daily foraging and exercise time. Perhaps attaching fruit to artificial reusable tree branches would help to reduce the costs involved with this, although it would be time consuming to prepare. Also, I thought the atmosphere of the Gombe chimpanzees was very peaceful and I didn't observe any serious fighting. In my experience, the PRI chimpanzees fight quiet frequently. One reason may be because chimpanzees living in an enclosure find it more difficult to avoid each other following a dispute, and so social tensions become amplified. Hopefully when the PRI green cage is fully operational, this will increase the opportunity to exercise and forage, and reduce any boredom and aggression. It is interesting to note that both the Gombe and PRI chimpanzees are well habituated to humans, and the Gombe chimpanzees frequently ignored our presence. However, I understand that some other communities of wild chimpanzees are afraid of humans and will flee up into the trees. Therefore, this aspect of Gombe chimpanzee behaviour may not be typical of wild chimpanzees.

Selous Game Reserve

Day 6: Upon arriving in Selous Game Reserve we started a long game drive from around 10am to 3pm. Driving for hours through the savannah really gave me an impression of the huge size of the reserve and the harshness of the environment, especially in the dry season. The animals we most frequently encountered included; impala (antelope), giraffes, zebra, warthogs, waterbucks (antelope) and wilderbeest. A couple of hours into the drive we found a lion resting under a tree (Photo 15). We parked our open top safari jeep (e.g. Photo 16) just a few meters away from the lion, at which point I became a little concerned! Our driver explained that as long as we don't stand up or move suddenly, or stare at the lion's eyes, then the lion sees us as part of the car and not prey. Another reason that lions cannot detect us is that we do not smell like their natural prey. I found this difference in visual perception between humans and lions fascinating. Next we came across a lion guarding a hippo it had just killed from hungry vultures (Photo 17). The lion walked away from the kill a number of times to seek shade from the sun, but frequently ran back to scare off the vultures. Eventually the lion gave up and joined a lioness under a tree while the vultures feasted on the carcass. In the late afternoon we enjoyed a boat safari, during which we saw crocodiles (Photo 19), hippos (Photo 20) and African buffalo (Photo 21) along the banks of the Rufiji River.

Day 7: In the early morning we went on a walking safari near our camp, between 7am - 9am. This was a good opportunity to learn about the flora and fauna of the savannah in more detail, which is difficult during a relatively fast moving game drive. We learnt about Whistling Thorn trees (which have a symbiotic relationship with ants, using them as a defense against giraffes and elephants which feed on them), the highly poisonous Desert Rose, the Ebony tree (used for making black piano keys), the Sausage tree, hissing Matabele ants which feed on termites, Ant Lion larvae and Trapdoor spiders, to name just a few fascinating species. The Maasai people also use many of the trees and plants for different medicinal purposes. Finally, we went on another game drive for two hours where we saw many bird species, giraffes drinking at the Rufiji river (Photo 22), and two elephants in the distance on the opposite side of the river bank.

Conclusion:

Overall, by observing directly how wild chimpanzees live and behave, I have a clearer understanding of how the lives of the captive chimpanzees differ, and the ways in which their quality of life could potentially be improved. The experience has helped me to think more about the ecological validity of my ideas, and I feel in a better position to discuss the implications of my future research findings for both captive and wild chimpanzee populations. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Prof. Gen'ichi Idani, Ms. Eriko Eida (our main tour guide in Tanzania), Prof. Tomonaga and PWS Program Coordinator Prof. Matsuzawa for giving me the opportunity to visit Tanzania and learn about its wonderful wildlife, particularly chimpanzees.

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6. Others

Photo 1: Our guide and other tour members.

Photo 2: Lake Tanganyika from a mountain.

Photo 3: The alpha male.

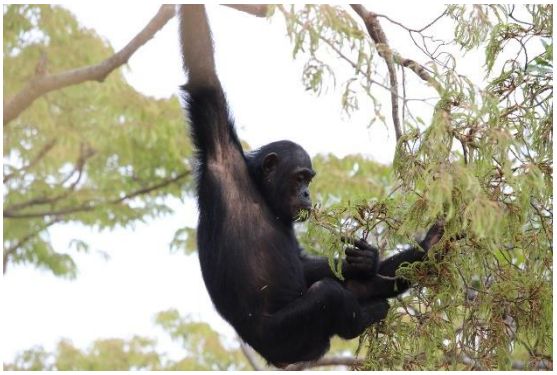

Photo 4: Feeding on tree leaves.

Photo 5: Traversing a steep mountainside.

Photo 6: Termite fishing.

Photo 7: A baby.

Photo 8: An infant.

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Photo 9: Investigating a stolen towel!

Photo 10: Resting and playing.

Photo 11: Two adult females in the background.

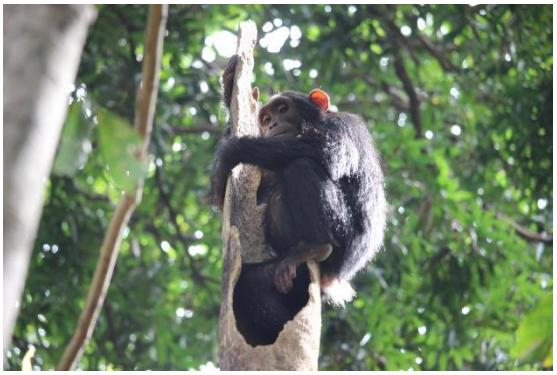

Photo 12: Feeding on termites inside a tree.

Photo 13: A chimpanzee nest.

Photo 14: Our boat on Lake Tanganyika.

Photo 15: A lion resting under a tree.

Photo 16: A lioness approaching a safari jeep.

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Photo 17: Lion guarding a hippo it had killed.

Photo 18: Lunch next to a Baobab Tree (right)

Photo 19: A crocodile basking in the sun.

Photo 20: A group of hippos (boat safari)

Photo 21: African Buffalo on the river bank.

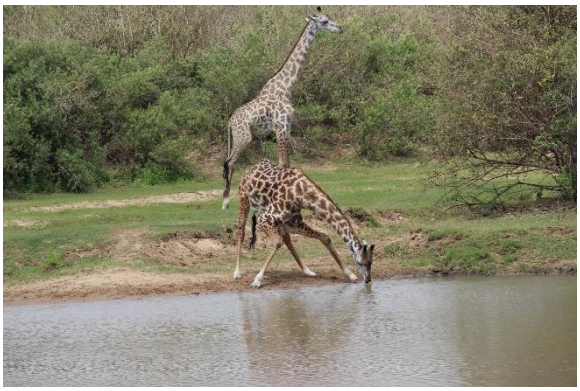

Photo 22: Giraffes drinking from Rufiji river.

Photo 23: Yellow Baboon (walking safari).

Photo 24: Vervet monkey carrying dead infant?