	2017. 08, 13
Affiliation/Position	Primate Research Institute/D1/L3
Name	Josue Alejandro Pastrana

1. Country/location of visit

Kyoto, Japan

2. Research project

Junior Asura International Seminar:

3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)

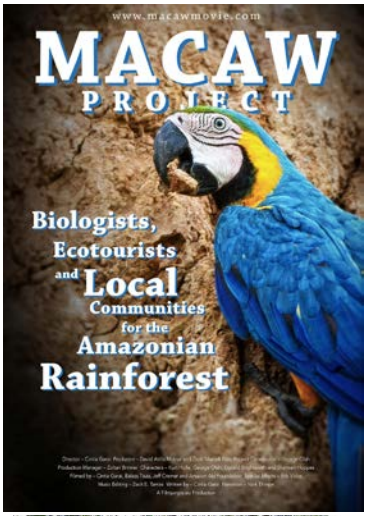
2017. 07. 20 - 2017. 07. 20 (one day) Inuyama-Kyoto

4. Main host researcher and affiliation

Conservsession Team, Elham Nourani, PhD candidate (D3), Nagasaki University, Laboratory of Animal Ecology

5. Progress and results of your research/activity

During our Conserv'Session at the Seminar House, North Yoshida Campus at Kyoto University we had the opportunity to watch various documentaries regarding the different types of threats many wild bird's species face across 3 major areas of the world: Asia, Africa, and South America. This was followed by a student led discussion from the Wildlife Research Center and Primate Research Institute from Kyoto University along with our guest speakers from Japan and South America via Skype. The event was from 6-8pm on July 20th 2017 and it was also open to the public.



The first movie we saw had a personal impact on me for various reasons. The director of the film titled "Parrot trade in DRCongo" was done by my old colleague Cintia Garai who had graduated from Kyoto University and had dedicated her studies in Bonobo research for purposes of conservation, and used her knowledge about her time in Africa to tackle and give awareness regarding the illegal parrot trade in Africa. Conservationists working in the Democratic Republic of Congo, including Cintia, have warned that thousands of African grey parrots (which can sell for $2,000 or more) are being stolen from the wild in that country every month and sold to international markets. They notice that their natural behavior of being highly social animals and nesting together makes it easier to trappers to catch them in the wild. Although it is illegal in the country to catch them in the wild, it is still a recurring problem. Researchers hope that by working with the local communities and changing how people think about these animals might be a better approach to end this problem.

Another movie we saw was "The Macaw Project", where Cintia also used her cinematography skills to document an ongoing project on saving macaws from the ever present deforestation of the South American rain forests. To my surprise, it is not logging, agriculture, or spread of urban areas that threat these birds specifically in this zone of Peru, but gold mining from local and foreign companies. I was unaware of the kind of damage gold mining does to the forests by fracking the soil and pumping out the precious metal. It was breathtakingly devastating to see how quickly a forests can be destroyed using this method. Just as in Africa, the Macaw Project tries to minimize the impact by working along with the local communities and bring awareness to the problem and how taking care of the forest is also taking care of their communities.

We also had the opportunity to see two short films, "Birds and climate change" by the National Audubon Society, and the Great Pacific Garbage Patch by Chris Jordan. Both short films dealt with how climate change affects the environment which in turn negatively affects birds' feeding and nesting ecology. The Great Pacific Path was also alarming because it

was very well portrayed how to what degree this problem has grown exponentially.

Lastly we finished our meeting with a presentation by Elham Nourani, a doctoral student from Nagasaki University who talked to us about a potential problem caused by climate change titled "Migratory birds, winds, and climate change: lessons from East Asia". Bird's responses to local weather conditions affect the its migration, impacting its reproductive success and population dynamics, developing optimal migratory strategies through natural selection. But as climate change progresses, many of these optimal strategies become less profitable, forcing the birds to make adjustments or suffer from the consequences. She has based her studies in modeling the migratory niche of satellite-tracked Oriental honey-buzzards *Pernis ptilorhynchus*, using air movement variables as predictors, at a critical section of autumn journey from Japan to China. Her work shows that the wind-dependent optimal routes and flyways for this buzzard can undergo dramatic changes by mid-century. Although this bird could potentially become a non-migratory bird, it will affect other species as it will compete for resources through all seasons or the population might decrease by not finding high quality foods during winters in Japan, rather than South Asia.

In the end we had the opportunity to talk to the researchers from Japan and also from South America in an open discussion. It was my first time seeing a colleague who graduated and do what she loves while also contributing to conservation. I also learned many other environmental challenges such as gold mining in South America or how climate change can even affect migration routes for birds. After this experience, I will be able to tell more people about the various challenges birds from all over the world are facing and what we can do as individuals.

I am really grateful to all the organizers and I am looking forward to the next meeting!