

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.)

	2016.3.1
Affiliation/Position	PRI/M1
Name	Shintaro Ishizuka

1. Country/location of visit

Wamba village, Luo scientific reserve area, DR Congo

2. Research project

Research for wild bonobos

3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)

2015.11.29-2016.3.1 (94 days)

4. Main host researcher and affiliation

Dr. Furuichi and Dr. Sakamaki

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.

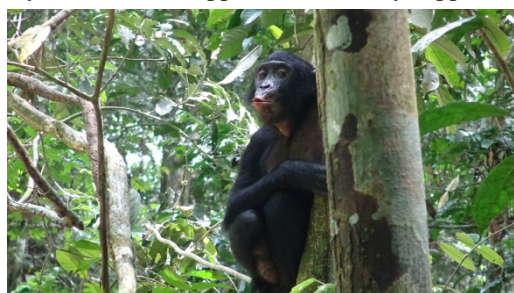
From 29th November to first March, I went to Wamba village, Luo scientific reserve area, DR Congo. The purpose for this trip was to collect for non-invasive DNA samples. This trip was for second time to go to Wamba. For the first trip, I was annoyed so much. So before this trip I studied Lingala language so much and brought great tools for fieldwork and so many Japanese foods.

In this trip I collected 291 samples including 189 feces, 60 urines, 52 food particles. For the most reason why I collected these samples was because I got used to walking in tropical forest. Food particle samples include pith of terrestrial horizontal vegetation bonobos ate. In observation of bonobos I considered there might be a bit of saliva on those plants. So I tried to collect DNA of bonobos. If I succeeded to collect in such way, I think it is good way to collect non-invasive DNA of bonobos.

This research period was during dry season. Food for bonobos was scarce in forest and bonobo groups were on fission. So for man times I couldn't even see target bonobos of which I aimed to collect DNA. The good season for DNA sampling would be when food would be so much in forest and bonobo groups would be on fusion.

I encountered rare case that infant died due to heavy disease. After the infant died and 1 day passed, mother came back to her infant and groomed, which was very interesting. This behavior implies that bonobo can recognize death and after infant died, mother-infant relationship would continue.

This trip was very exciting. I was annoyed so much by so many requests from local people. There would be great differences between people around me and them although I don't know what it is. But for foreign fieldwork it would be important to understand ideas or behaviors of them well and keep appropriate distance from them. And also I realized that I was supported so much in not only fieldwork but also in Japanese life. From now I want to make great effort for my research with appreciation for my supporters.



Wild bonobo



Local people

6. Others

This program was supported by PWS Leading Program. I would like to appreciate this program and Dr. Furuichi, who gave me so many supports and teaching and Dr. Sakamaki, who accompanied with me.