

**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. 2.29	
<b>Affiliation/Position</b>	Wildlife Research Center/D1
<b>Name</b>	Miho Saito

<b>1. Country/location of visit</b>
Tanzania
<b>2. Research project</b>
Visit of Serengeti National Park and Katavi National Park in rainy season
<b>3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)</b>
2016. 2. 15 – 2016. 2. 28 (14days)
<b>4. Main host researcher and affiliation</b>
<b>5. Progress and results of your research/activity</b> (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.
<p>The main purpose of this trip is to visit Serengeti National Park and Katavi National Park.</p> <p>1. <u>Serengeti National Park</u>          Purpose: Observe the vegetation where giraffe distributes. Check if there is vegetative difference from Katavi National Park          Results: Giraffe mainly formed herds which were consisted around 10 individuals. The location where those herds were found is bush area which height is almost the same as giraffe’s base of tail. Miombo woodland which is the main vegetation in Katavi National Park, was not found in Serengeti, on the other hand Acacia woodland is the main vegetation. The distance between trees were longer and visibility was better than Miombo woodland.</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-top: 20px;">  <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <p>Figure 1. Bachelor group at Serengeti</p> </div> </div> <p>2. <u>Katavi National Park</u>          Purpose: Check the vegetative difference between seasons, area where giraffe distributes and if calf can be observed          Results: Of course, more plants were available rather than dry season. The height of grass plant was more than my waist and bush was denser than Serengeti. Therefore, even if we found giraffe, we could see only</p>

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their face because of the high density of vegetation. We conducted walking safari as I did in dry season, but we couldn't enter the bush because it will be dangerous since the visibility was poor. The number of individuals in a herd of giraffe was less than rainy season. In rainy season, plenty of food may distribute everywhere, then giraffe may disperse and form small herd compared to dry season. Since we stayed only 2 days at Katavi NP, we couldn't find any calf.



Figure 2. Solitary giraffe at Katavi. I could see only his face.

Summary: It was very valuable to visit my field site in rainy season to plan my next research schedule. The vegetation was different from dry season and I found it is difficult to conduct the same research methods in rainy season. Therefore, I would like to conduct my research in dry season mainly. Because I could see the vegetative difference between two national parks even in the same season, it might be possible that the giraffe nursing strategies are different between those two national parks. Therefore, it might be interesting to establish a research to compare the nursing strategies in different national parks.

I visited TAWIRI, COSTECH, and immigration office to proceed the process to get a research permit. Because of this progress, I will be able to start my next research smoothly. I also met a head of Katavi National Park and informed that I am planning to conduct my PhD research in Katavi again. I am sure that I can get a help from him at my next visit of Katavi.

## 6. Others

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the PWS program for supporting this course.