

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. 08, 30
Affiliation/Position	Asian and African Area studies, African area studies /D 1
Name	Aya Yokotsuka

1. Country/location of visit	United States of America, Illinois, Chicago, International Primatological Society Congress
2. Research project	How local perceptions to the bonobos diversified in DR Congo (Oral presentation)
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)	2016. 08. 20 – 2016. 08. 29 (9 days)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation	International Primatological Society
5. Progress and results of your research/activity (You can attach extra pages if needed)	<p>Please insert one or more pictures (to be publicly released). Below each picture, please provide a brief description.</p> <p>I took part in the international primatological society congress 2016. It was held in Chicago, Illinois, the U.S. The purposes I attended this congress were because 1) Having an oral presentation for conservation section, 2) Getting information about conservation activities and studies that are conducted all over the world.</p> <p>I also participated the IPS 2014 in Vietnam. Then I had no any presentations, because it was held before my first research in DR Congo. This time I've already done my fieldwork for 3 times, so I understood the same and differences between Wamba district and each study site for conserving primates.</p> <p>I know orangutans are suffering from habitat loss for palm oil plantations and some speakers talked about it in conservation sections. However I didn't know palm oil crisis might occur also in Africa. A presentator introduced data that 99% of bonobo habitats are suit for palm oil plantation. When I think back some talks from villagers in Wamba district, they told me there was a big palm oil plantation before civil war broke out.</p> <p>Another presentator introduced bushmeat crisis in central Africa. He showed a photo that a boy holds dead red tailed monkey. I sometimes encounter such moments in DR Congo. I'm recently feeling the gap between researchers and local people. We hope if local people stop killing endangered species any more and if they eat livelihoods instead of them, it'll be the best way for researchers and conservationists. However, bushmeat is some kind of customs for locals. It is quite hard challenging for us that changing local food customs.</p> <p>I got some new ideas. I understood cyber tracker is one of efficient tool for recording. Though I don't have enough knowledge about DNA analysis, it is good way to identify the species when I want to research smoked bushmeat (It is difficult to identify if these are smoked).</p> <p>I had an oral presentation on 25th. It was first time to do it in international congress, so I felt very nervous and I don't say my presentation was really successful. But I got motivation to improve my English and having a presentation. If I didn't do the presentation this time, I wouldn't find these next challenges for next step. Through the experience of having a presentation in the international congress, I got “the challenging spirit” to tell my research in international conferences.</p>

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↑ Scenery of outside of Navy pier.



↑ My oral presentation

6. Others

Leading program of Primatology and Wildlife Science supported all travel expenses. Thank you very much for giving great opportunity.