

Research Activity Report
Supported by JSPS Program for Leading Graduate Schools
“Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”

2015. 11, 9

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| Affiliation/Position | Primate Research Institute/ M1 |
| Name | Aruga Natsumi |

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|---|
| 1. Country/location of visit |
| Uganda / Kalinzu Forest |
| 2. Research project |
| The observation of chimpanzee, Environmental education program for local children |
| 3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan) |
| 2015.4.26 – 2015.10.31 (188 days) |
| 4. Main host researcher and affiliation |
| |
| 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. |

The scopes of this report are research on chimpanzees, and educational activity for children in Kalinzu Forest in Uganda.

Research on chimpanzees

I felt difficult to keep my motivation during long-term research on chimpanzees, because periods when the observation of them is easy or difficult came alternately. I observed them very well from May to the beginning of June when *Trichoscypha submontana* was fruiting. Therefore, I followed chimpanzees from the morning to the early evening. But I could not follow them well from the end of July to August. I just found the parties consisted of males and estrus females when they appeared. I learned that perseverance is also necessary in a long-term research.

Trichoscypha submontana has a seed embedded in the center part of the fruit, and chimpanzees squeezed only the juice. Chimpanzees usually chew the fruit. Kana, an adult female, put the fruit in the mouth and pushed it from outside of the mouth by her hand to get the juice of the fruit (Figure 1). In this season, chimpanzees mainly ate *Trichoscypha submontana* fruit and they were not observed

[Itinerary]

26-27/4/2015
 Inuyama-Dubai-Kampala
 28/4/2015
 Kampala
 30/4 - 26/10/2015
 Kalinzu Forest
 27/10/2015
 Kalinzu to Kampala
 28-29/10/2015
 Ngamba Island
 30-31/10/2015
 Entebbe-Dubai-Inuyama

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urinate and defecate. Therefore, I could not collect urine and fecal samples well, in spite of long observation on chimpanzees.



Figure 1. Kana is pushing the mouth by her hand for getting juice.

During this study period, three babies were born in M group. *Shoko* is a mother of one of the babies and she was born in M group (Figure 2) and her mother *Sono* was still in M group. I observed three generations of *Sono* family. This is the first time we have observed a birth given by a natal female in M group since we had started observation on M group chimpanzees since 1997. In Kasakela community of Gombe National Park, about half of all females remain in their natal group (Pusey et al., 1997). These days, adolescent females tend to remain in the M group without emigrating from their natal group and are observed to copulate with males of M group. A similar tendency as in Gombe may occur in Kalinzu and I like to continue to observe adolescent females to see whether a low transfer rate of females occur in Kalinzu.

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Figure 2. Shoko is pregnant. She has the mother and siblings in the same group.



Figure 3. Mitsu bore her first baby “Miche” on June, 2015.

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Education Program

I conducted the education program for local children at the Education Center every Sunday. Following the previous stay, I played a game of primates, rented books and watched videos with children. Every time, number of children was around 40. Students of the workshop presented a talk to children about their natal country, culture, primates and animals on 23rd August. The presentation was 1 and half hour, but children concentrated their attention to their talks on foreign matters. One of the students was Ugandan, so I felt that children got deep impression from him.

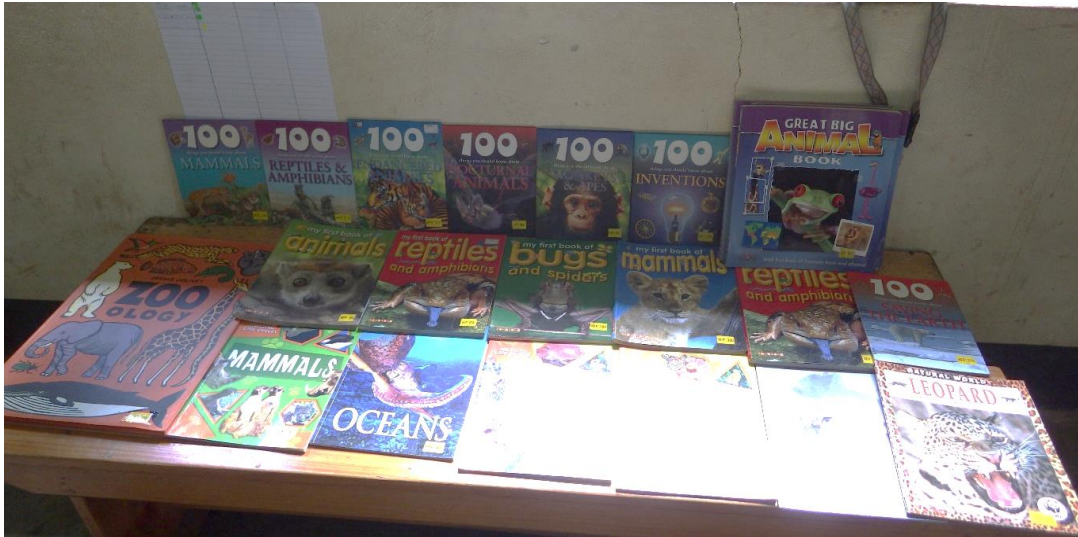


Figure 4. Renting books. I chose animal books in this occasion.

Based on the workshop experience. I produced an opportunity the presentation by our trackers to children. One was named as “Monkey Talk” on 4th October, the other was “Chimpanzee Talk” on 11th October. Both speakers had experiences to visit frequently to the Education Center when they were children. The presentations were about 1 hour including Q and A, respectively, but children asked questions more actively than my presentation. I learnt that children are interested in the mix group of Red-Tailed Monkey and Blue Monkey because their questions were many on it; eg. Do they play together? Do they fight each other? One of the children asked “When they sleep, do they make a nest like a chimpanzee?” I am happy to hear that because I have already taught them about nest of chimpanzee. This presentations gave me a very good opportunity to know what children are interested in. I want to take this advantage to the next opportunity.

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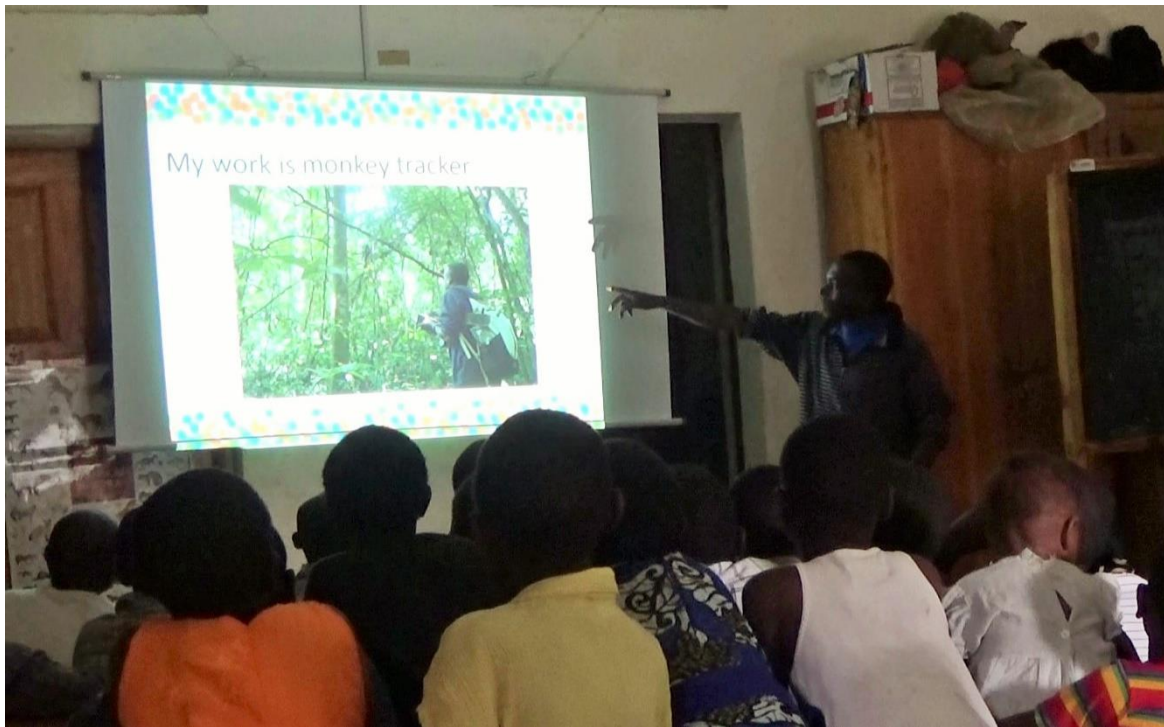


Figure 5. A tracker introduced his work to children.

I interviewed children at the Education Center as well as the Tea Estate Primary School. I was carried out with the same questions as the previous, and I wanted to compare with last one. I added questions about the name of animal they know and whether these animals are good or bad. I guessed the most familiar animals for them are domestic ones, but they gave the name of the forest animals most frequently, especially those in the National Park. When I asked whether each animal is good or bad, they answered based on human life. For example, lion is bad because of eating human, and Chimpanzee is good because they don't raid our crops. I was interested in that they did not mention that they are cute and cool which are often mentioned among Japanese children.

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Figure 6. Baboons sometimes come to the Education Center when I interviewed children.
(Photo by Matsuo)



Figure 7. More and more I identified their name and fame.

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Figure 8. I sometimes join practice of dancing. (Photo by Matsuo)

I visited Ngamba Island from 28th to 29th October. I have already been to there on July 2014, but I spent a night there to see their whole activities, and reported about my activity in this occasion. I went with about 25 tourists who came from US, England and Spain on the way to the island, so I saw their activity for tourists. About 80% tourists bought some goods eg. Baskets which are with Ngamba Island logo in the Island Shop. I was very surprised because NFA of the Kalinzu Forest also try to sell some baskets and toys of traditional cloth, but tourists usually do not buy it in my impression. I thought they bought these goods because of display of price, cleanliness, limited sale based on realization of those would be for the sake of chimpanzees. Kayanga people who live in the nearest village of the Kalinzu also make basket of the same quality, so I need to consider the difference well. After chimpanzees feeding time, I visited Koome Island. The island did not have a school up to 6 years ago, so they tried to construct a school and could it now. As Ngamba Island staffs are encouraging their women's community, I experienced to make a part of traditional beads accessory. It was a good opportunity to reconsider about our ecotourism. I met Ms. Lilly Ajarova who is an Executive Director of Chimpanzee Sanctuary and Wildlife Conservation Trust, and discussed about progress and problem of each other's education program and future of ecotourism in Uganda. In the next visit, I want to see her program in Hoima District.

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Figure 9. Ngamba Island staffs

6. Others

I would like to express my appreciation to the PWS program and Prof. Tetsuro Matsuzawa for the opportunity to study in Kalinzu Forest, Uganda. I thank my adviser Prof. Takakazu Yumoto, Prof. Chie Hashimoto and Dr. Masayuki Tanaka for valuable comments. I also thank all staffs and trackers for observation of chimpanzees.