

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.)

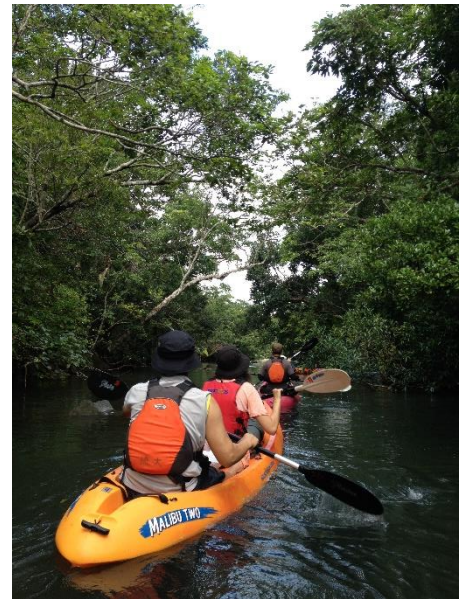
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|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | 2015. 12, 20 |
| Affiliation/Position | Primate Research Institute / D1 |
| Name | Morgane Allanic |

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| 1. Country/location of visit |
| Iriomote Island, Okinawa Prefecture, Japan |
| 2. Research project |
| Iriomote Field Course |
| 3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan) |
| 2015. 11. 26 – 2015. 11. 30 (5 days) |
| 4. Main host researcher and affiliation |
| Professors of Ryukyu University and Profs Matsuzawa, Koshima, Yumoto, Takizawa of Kyoto University |
| 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. |
| <p>From November 26th to 30th, I participated to a study tour in Iriomote Island with the aim to discover the subtropical ecosystem of this area and to get practical skills on water activities. Iriomote Island has a surface of 289 square kilometers and is situated in the very south of Japan, in Okinawa Prefecture. This island is well known for three different things:</p> <p>First, this island possess an endemic species of wild cat, the Iriomote yamaneko (<i>Felis iriomotensis</i>) with a population estimated around 100 individuals. Unfortunately, they are very rare to observe so we did not have the chance to observe one. We visited the Wildlife Conservation Center to learn more about this species. The population size is thus already very small, and the traffic accident which is their biggest threat keeps decreasing the population. While driving in the island you can see many traffic sign to increase awareness about the presence of cats but accidents keep happening.</p> <p>Second, a large amount of the island is composed by mangrove forests. We did two different activities in order to observe the mangrove. We went on a river boat cruise and we did kayaking. These two activities and especially the kayaking allowed us to see the mangrove from very close, to observe the different species of mangrove trees that composed the island. Mangroves are salt tolerant trees with a complex root system. I really like the different shapes of the mangrove tree roots.</p> <p>Third, the island possess a coral reef. We had a snorkeling session that I really enjoyed even if I could not stay in the water for too long because of the coldness. We could observe the different corals and also many different fishes. The water was very clear and I was surprised to see this amount of fishes.</p> <p>We also learned that the island is victim of many typhoons, the island is regularly in the core of big typhoons which causes big damages. The island could be suitable to agriculture due to the weather conditions, however, because of the typhoons which often touch the island destroying the agriculture patches it is not so much a suitable place for it.</p> <p>Overall, I think Iriomote is a very interesting place to visit to learn more about mangrove forest and coral reef ecosystems. I think for students who are interested in ecology and aquatic wildlife, this new field science course in Iriomote Island is the ideal place. Through the different activities (river boat cruise, trekking in the forest, kayaking, and snorkeling) we were able to explore the island and learn more about these different ecosystems and also to improve our skills on aquatic activities.</p> |

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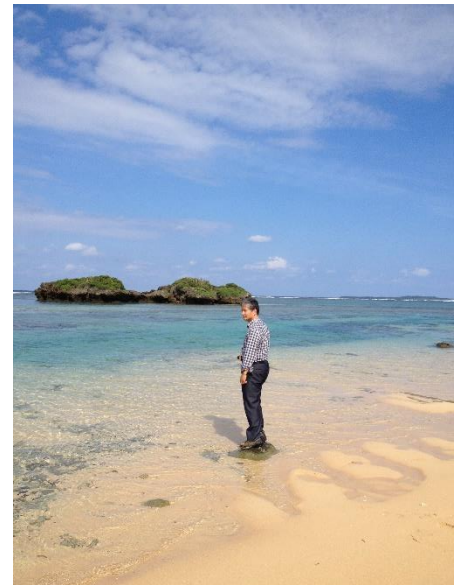
Kayaking



Kayaking in the mangrove



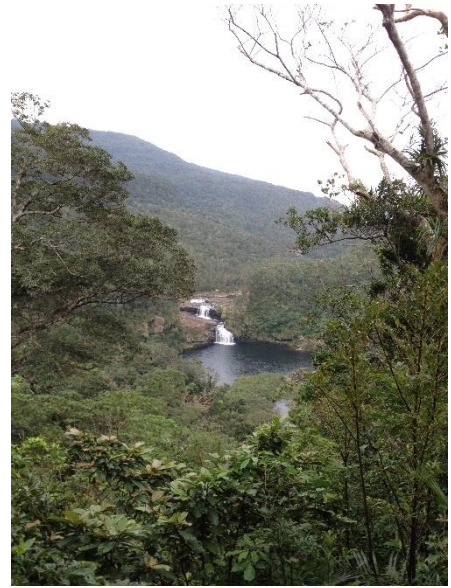
Place where we did snorkeling



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Mangrove trees



Waterfall



Another type of mangrove trees

6. Others

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the PWS program for supporting this course and to Profs. Matsuzawa, Yumoto, Koshima, Takizawa from Kyoto University and the professors from Ryukyu University for their guidance during the course.