

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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| | 2018.12.06 |
| Affiliation/Position | Primate Research Institute/M2 |
| Name | Xiaochan Yan |

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| 1. Country/location of visit |
| Sri Lanka |
| 2. Research project |
| Attend to International Training Program 2018 in Sri Lanka |
| 3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan) |
| 2018. 11.17 – 2018.11.29 (13 days) |
| 4. Main host researcher and affiliation |
| Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka |
| 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>During this trip, I got the great opportunity to explore not only the unique ecological and biodiversity of Sri Lanka, but also its culture. The schedule was as following,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11.18 Arrived at Colombo 11.19 Inauguration ceremony & Orientation program in University of Sri Jayewardenepura 11.20 Explored mangrove forest in Madhu ganga & Fa Hien Caves 11.21 Explored rain forest in Sinharaja World Heritage Site & Visited Galle Fort 11.22 Snorkeling in Unawatuna Jungle Beach & Lecture on Human-Elephant conflict 11.23 Safari in Bundala National Park & Discussion on human-elephant conflict 11.24 Hiked and lectured in Horton Plains Mountain Forest ecological zone 11.25 Visited UNESCO World Heritage Site, Sigiriya 11.26 Visited the world’s oldest wildlife sanctuary, Mihintale 11.27 Backed to Colombo 11.28 Left for Japan <p>On Nov.19, we attended inauguration ceremony in University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Several scholars in the University gave lectures on Sri Lanka’s biodiversity, culture and primates. Lanka, previously called "Ceylon", is an island nation in the Indian Ocean. Most of southeast, east and northern parts of the country is comprised of the dry zone, whereas southwestern part is known as the wet zone, as one of 34 hot spots on the world. The freshwater and invertebrate are considered as the best documented in Lanka. On the following days, we explored the biodiversity from wet zone to dry zone, low land to high land.</p> <p>On the next two days, we explored mangrove forest in Madhu ganga and rain forest in Sinharajia World Heritage Site. In Sinharajia World Heritage Site, a global conservation project involving researchers from 27 countries, has been carried out for over 40 years. Every 5 years,</p> |

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researchers monitor the dynamic changes for all plants in the forest. It is a huge but extraordinary work. For successful restoration, it is essential to understand plants’ preferred microhabitats. Furthermore, while the forest changes dynamically, how it influences animals and how about the seed dispersal are important to be studied.



Giant Lizard



Jungle folk



Leech



Fa Hien Caves



Common green lizard

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On Nov. 22, we did snorkeling in Unawatuna Jungle Beach. I enjoyed the sea and weather there very much. I am dreadfully regretted for the fate of coral reef there. Over 90% have been gone for the past 15 years. Along with the rapid development of tourism, water pollution was not strictly controlled but worsened. Similarly, I felt sorry for the human-elephant conflicts in Lanka, which is also a severe problem in Lanka. Lanka has great treasure of biodiversity, which harbors about 4000 Asia elephants in a relatively small area. Several conservation or development issues have been taken in human-elephant conflict. During the talk, it was interesting for me to find out that honey bee, which was used to keep away elephants in Africa, does not work for Asian elephants in Sri Lanka and India.



Snorkeling site

From Nov. 23, we moved from rain forest to dry zone. We did safari in Bundala National Park, an internationally important wintering ground for migratory water birds. It was great excited to see green bee eater, pelican and king fisher and many other birds I cannot name. Unexpectedly, there were many peacocks and we happened to see courtship behavior by a male. The most attractive for me was a group of buffalo in the lake and a mother-daughter pair elephant in the park. By observing the wild animals, I immersed myself in the peaceful environment. Last but not the least, I saw groups of Toque macaques and grey langur. I hope to be one of them, then I could enjoy this paradise longer. After safari, we headed to upper montane forest, Horton Plains National Park. Hortain plain is the largest and the highest plateau in Sri Lanka. The landforms and weather were totally different from previous sites. It is prohibited to bring any plastic bags into to park, since plastic pollution can cause long-term contamination. Similar to the situation of deer and trees in

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Yakushima, local sambers (*Cervus unicolor*) cause bark damage and may entice stem defect of a tree which will eventually lead to death. Luckily, we saw the montane purple faced langur but we did not have enough time to observe them because of the heavy rain and cloudy weather.



Water birds



Asia elephants



A group of grey langurs

After we got down from Horton plain, we visited UNESCO World Heritage Site, Sigiriya on Nov. 25. Then on 26th, we visited the world’s oldest wildlife sanctuary, Mihintale. It was my first time to see Toque macaque in such a close distance. Different from Japanese macaques, Toque macaques are the smallest macaque and tolerant species. They have special black eyes, lips and ears.

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Plant in dry zone



Way to World's end



Baker's fall at Horton Plain

During trip, I fully enjoyed various environment and creatures. I can easily compare the characteristic of wet zone to dry zone, rain forest to grassland, aquatic animals to terrestrial wildlife. I am greatly appreciating the kindness of Lanka people. With their kindness, we enjoyed the trip without any problem.

6. Others

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to Prof. Takakazu Yumoto, Prof. Michael Huffman and Prof. Hiroyuki Tanaka for organizing the trip and taking care of us. Thank Faculty of Graduate Studies of University of Sri Jayewardenepura for hosting the program, especially Prof. Hemanthi Ranasinghe, Prof. Charmalie Nahallage, Prof. Prasad M. Jayaweera and Dr. Kamal Ranatunge.

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Moreover, I want to express my appreciation to Mohomed Atheeq, Raveendra Withanachchi, Charith Ekanayake and Tharaka for their great assistance and guidance for the program. Without these people, we cannot have a such fulfill trip in Sri Lanka. Last but not the least, I would like to thank PWS for supporting this trip.