

**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.)

	2018. 12, 14
<b>Affiliation/Position</b>	Wildlife Research Center/D3
<b>Name</b>	Nachiketha Sharma

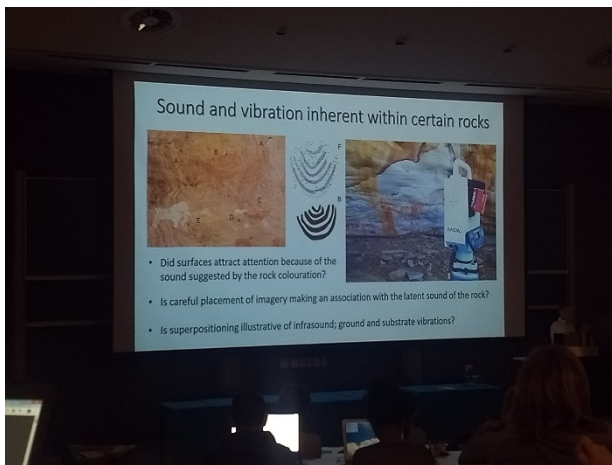
<b>1. Country/location of visit</b>
Cape Town, South Africa
<b>2. Research project</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> African Bioacoustics Conference
<b>3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)</b>
2018. 11.30 – 2018. 12. 10 (10 days)
<b>4. Main host researcher and affiliation</b>
Dr. Simon Elwen, Director, Sea Search Research and Conservation, Research Fellow Univeristy of Pretoria, South Africa
<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 1<sup>st</sup> African Bioacoustics Conference was organized by the Sea Search Research group and hosted by the University of Cape Town (UCT), South Africa. The main motivation behind this conference was to bring researchers studying acoustics under one roof to engage and exchange ideas. The conference had various sessions such as plenaries, talks, speed talks, poster sessions as well as workshops and outreach sessions.</p> <p>The conference began from the plenary talk by Dr Jerome Sueur, an author of the book Sound analysis and synthesis in R. His talk focused on how eco-acoustics can be used and tested through acoustic adaptation hypothesis and acoustic niche hypothesis to estimate animal densities in tropical forests. Other plenary talks were by Prof Christine Erbe who spoke about the marine man-made soundscapes and their effects on whales and other species. Prof Nicolas Mathevon explained mother-offspring vocalizations in crocodiles. Prof Marta Menser spoke about vocalizations in Meerkats with a special reference to the referential signaling which is directly related to my work. She explained how meerkats react when distinct types of calls played back especially in context of predators. Prof David and Dr Anna spoke about acoustic communications in insectivorous bats. Dr Salvatore explained the use of passive acoustic techniques to determine the whale populations off the coast of Africa.</p> <p>There were a couple of talks on elephant vocalizations. Dr Bobbi from Elephant Listening Project spoke about the use of passive acoustic monitoring and camera trapping to assess the spatiotemporal occurrence patterns of African forest elephants in DRC. The talk that motivated most in the entire conference was from Dr Neil Rouch who is studying bioacoustics in the pre-history. His team has interpreted through recreating the cave painting that humans in pre-history had sound knowledge on elephant vocalizations especially with low-frequency vocalizations as well as behavior of bees.</p>

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The conference had many outreach activities, screening of the documentary ‘Being visible’ followed by a panel discussion on noise in ocean and how it can be tackled. The science communication session on the last day taught us how to take science to common people. Overall, this conference was very helpful to add knowledge and information on my academic pursuit.



Univeristy of Cape Town, South Africa



Dr. Neil Rusch talking about understanding elephant vocalizations through pre-historic paintings



Dr. Boddi talking African Forest elephants vocalizations

**6. Others**

Sincere gratitude to Prof. Kohshima and Prof. Sukumar encouragemenin me to participate in the conference. A special thanks PWS and PWS office member, Ms Price Kyoko for their generous and continuous support.