

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

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Affiliation/Position	Primate Research Institute/D3
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1. Country/location of visit
Kyoto and Kumamoto, Japan
2. Research project
14 th ICEE Conference and PSJ 35 th Symposium
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2019.06.22-2019.06.26 and 2019.07.12-2019.07.14
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
PWS and Primatological Society of Japan
5. Progress and results of your research/activity
<p>This is a combined activity report aiming to present the improvement in my poster presentation, consequence of the feedback received during the first conference.</p> <p>The first poster version was prepared to be presented in the 14th International Conference of Environmental Enrichment, held in Kyoto University Clock Tower Centennial Hall, in June 22nd to 26th.</p> <p>The improved version of the poster was then presented during the 35th Primatological Society of Japan Symposium, held in the Kumamoto International Hall between July 12th and 14th.</p> <p>The differences are mainly related to design aspects. The second poster follows an adapted version of the <i>#bestposter</i> design idea presented during the CICASP seminar of July 3rd, held in Primate Research Institute.</p> <p>This year conference theme for ICEE Kyoto was “Learning from the Wild: Animal Welfare, Conservation and Education in Harmony”, grasping studies from both wild and captive settings which could bring a positive input for the improvement and understanding of animal welfare in general. Special focus was given to new and pioneer approaches and technologies to the study of animal welfare, with special attention to cognition and training. This conference brought together researchers, zoo staff and animal welfare enthusiasts from all over the world, including organizations such as PWS, Kyoto City Zoo, Japan Monkey Centre and SHAPE-Japan. Attending this conference provided me with the opportunity to be updated about the recent environmental enrichment activities implemented all over the world - but specially in Japanese zoos -, the management methods being introduced for improving the life quality of captive animals, and public outreach activities being conducted throughout the country.</p> <p>The Primate Society of Japan was established in 1985 to connect the Japanese researchers studying primates who were dispersed in anthropology, ecology, psychology, physiology, veterinary and biochemistry fields. It also aimed to bring closer together researchers, especially younger researchers, and facilitate the knowledge exchange and communication.</p>

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In the PSJ conference, I presented the improved version of the poster and received kind support from other researchers, with pertinent questions. In the end, I managed to deliver my main findings to the people interested in this topic.

The impact of mountain gorilla Ecotourism in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda

Raquel Costa, Misato Hayashi, Michael A. Huffman, Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka, Lilly Ajarova, Sayuri Takeshita, Fred Bercovitch and Masaki Tomonaga. raquelberingel@gmail.com

Take home message

Ecotourists are changing the mountain gorillas behaviour.

The problems are most pronounced when people get too close to the gorillas, in violation of standard rules (>7 m).

Background and aim

Some studies have found that tourists are closing in on gorilla space and causing changes in their behaviour.

AIM: examine the impact of ecotourism on a group of mountain gorilla in the Bwindi.

Gorilla welfare and the preservation of their behaviour are crucial factors for maintaining sustainability of neutral ecotourism.

Methods and study site

Behavioural data

- Focal sampling (total 576 hours)
- Behavioural catalogue: 19 behaviours
- N=15*
- Period (Before, during and after the tourists)
- Distance: gorillas<->humans
- GLMM: variable (Behaviour), fixed factors (Period/ Distance), random effects (ID).

* (3 adult males, 7 adult females, 1 juvenile and 4 infants)

Preliminary analysis

GLMM before vs during p<0.02**

GLMM 0m vs 7m p<0.02**

GLMM 0m vs 7m p<0.02**

- Group social dynamics, feeding and stress-related behaviour are affected by tourists, especially with proximity to humans (<3 m).
- Gorillas will touch humans and avoid them, when humans get too close to them.

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6. Others

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