



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.)

2017. 07, 27	
Affiliation/Position	Wildlife Research Center/M1
Name	Moe Yanagi

1. Country/location of visit
Himeji central park, Himeji
2. Research project
Sampling for Preliminary experiment
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2017.06.28
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
The director of Himeji central park 福重 祥一さま
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 visit, I conducted sampling for research on diet of African elephants. I used this opportunity to achieve preliminary experiments for making sure how conditions of sampling affect the result of experiments. This was first time to conduct sampling of African elephants for me. Through this experience, I have developed a skill of collecting fecal samples, which will be great help in the future research in Uganda.</p> <p>After arriving Himeji central park from Kyoto, I conducted an interview about dietary information of African Elephants in this park with Ms. Nakamura who is the caretaker of them. There are two elephants in this park now, “Hiro”, 37 years old male and “Sachi”, 36 years old female. We moved to their cage after interview, then tried to collect samples from their feces. Ms. Nakamura recorded the time of defecation for each feces, and it was useful information to compare the results finally. Since it was heavy rain in this early morning, some feces outside of cages had not been kept in good condition. However it was also good to compare with various condition. Sunshine had been stronger and stronger from the afternoon, so it was very hot to collect samples outside. I collected their feed as samples too. Then, caretakers helped me to collect samples of their hair. Two elephants were well trained, so they didn’t move during cutting their tail hair. They also gave me a chance to look around of this park after sampling. All of staffs were so kind that they introduced animals in their part even it was a closing day for this park.</p> <p>I am going to conduct two experiments from these samples, one is DNA analysis to measure the amount and purity of DNA from fecal samples, and the other is Stable isotope analysis to measure their dietary information from their feces, hair and their feed.</p>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Fig 1. One of fecal samples of African elephant</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Fig 2. Sampling hair from their tail</p> </div> </div>

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6. Others

This visit was financially supported by PWS. I appreciate to PWS for providing me this opportunity. I would also like to express my gratitude to all the staffs in Himeji central park and the director who accept me to conduct sampling in this park.