

**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, 4

<b>Affiliation/Position</b>	Primate Research Institute/D2
<b>Name</b>	Gao Jie

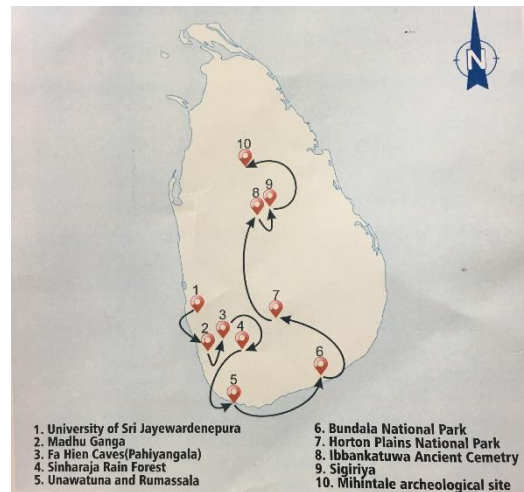
<b>1. Country/location of visit</b>
Sri Lanka
<b>2. Research project</b>
International Training Programme on Terrestrial / Aquatic Wildlife and Primate Conservation
<b>3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)</b>
2018. 11. 17 – 2018. 11. 29 (13 days)
<b>4. Main host researcher and affiliation</b>
Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka
<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.

Sri Lanka is a beautiful country. During this trip, we visited many places in Sri Lanka, and learned about various natural environment and animal species.

Our schedule was as follows:

- 11/17-18: Arrival at Colombo and preparations.
- 11/19: Inauguration ceremony and orientation program.
- 11/20: River safari at Madhu River; Pre-historic archeological site exploration at Fa Hien Cave.
- 11/21: Excursion in the rainforest at Sinharaja Forest Reserve.
- 11/22: Marine ecological study and snorkeling at Rumassala Reef.
- 11/23: Wildlife and Migratory water bird observation at Bundala National Park.
- 11/24: Excursion at Horton Plains.
- 11/25: Visit to ancient rock fortress at Sigiriya.
- 11/26: Primate observation at Mihintale; Closing ceremony.
- 11/27: Visit to Megalithic burial site at Ibbankatuwa; leaving to Colombo.
- 11/28: free time in Colombo before taking the flight.



(map)

We visited the beautiful campus of University of Sri Jayewardenepura on the 19th, and had the opening ceremony there.



(the campus)

We had a safari on the Madhu River on the 20th. We saw the mangrove forest, and some interesting species, including a lizard in very big size and a giant squirrel.

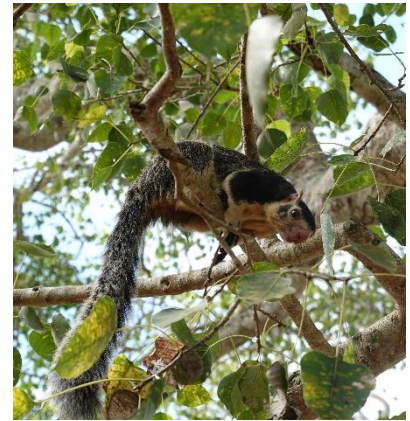
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(mangrove forest)



(lizard)



(giant squirrel)

We visited Fa Hien Cave later that day. Fa Hien Cave is an important archeology site. Pre-historical human remains were found here. The cave was used by humans from about 33,000 years ago. It was named after a famous Chinese monk, Fa Hien, who stayed there for Buddhism practice during his visit to Sri Lanka.



(the cave)



(the archeology site)

On the 21st, we had an excursion at Sinharaja Forest Reserve. It was a tropical rain forest. Apart from the typical rain forest plants, there were also planted trees as a part of the conservation project.



(a snake)



(nepenthes)



(a cricket on a flower)

We had a lecture about the marine ecology and corals that evening. I didn't do snorkeling because of my poor swimming skills on the next day, but I enjoyed the boat ride on the sea.

On the 23rd, we joined a safari to observe water birds and other wildlife at Bundala National Park. There were many peacocks there. I was excited to see the courtship behavior by a peacock. A male displayed his tail feather to a female. The female was not very interested at first, and the male kept showing from different angles. The female started to approach and to examine him from different angles, but then walked away and continued to watch the show. We stayed there for more than ten minutes, but the female didn't make any choice within that period. Then we had to leave for the elephants nearby, but in the end, we could only see the back of two elephants.



(on the sea)

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(peacock courtship)



(elephants)



(mother with babies)

We also saw gray langurs and toque macaques there.



(langur paradise)



(macaques playing)

We arrived at Horton Plain later that day. Horton Plain is in the dry zone of the country, and the features of the plants changed gradually as we headed there, from having large wide leaves to small narrow ones. On the 24th, we did an excursion on the Horton Plain. Horton plain is also at the top altitude of the country. The scenery and weather were totally different from what we had in the lower altitudes.



(Horton Plain)



(a sambar deer at the parking lot)

We visited Sigiriya on the 25th. It is a World Heritage Site. We visited Mihintale on the next day. It was the world’s oldest wildlife sanctuary. Led by Prof. Charmalie Nahallage, we did a practice of focal sampling observation of the macaques there. We also visited the temple and rock remains in that area.



(Sigiriya)



(macaques at Mihintale)



(view from Mihintale)

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During the trip, we enjoyed seeing various natural environments and species. I was very impressed by the diversity, from wet to dry, from hot to cold, from forest to plain, and lakes and sea. I felt the change of the environment, and was amazed at the biodiversity it brought.

I was also very impressed about the archeological sites in Sri Lanka. Not only were there the oldest modern human civilizations, but also many pre-historical remains. It has been a wonderland for humans to live and grow.



(the oldest hospital perhaps in the world, at Mihintale)

During our trip, we met many very kind local people. As a religious country, Sri Lanka brought me a peaceful time. I appreciate that.



## 6. Others

I would like to thank Professors Yumoto, Huffman, and Tanaka for leading the trip and taking care of us. I also want to thank Faculty of Graduate Studies of University of Sri Jayewardenepura for organizing this program and leading the activities, especially Prof. Hemanthi Ranasinghe, Prof. Charmalie Nahallage, Prof. Prasad Jayaweera and Dr. Kamal Ranatunge, and also Atheeq, Raveendra, Charith, and Tharaka for their great assistance for the trip. I would like to thank PWS for supporting this trip.