



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.)

	2025. 03. 03
Affiliation/Position	Wildlife Research Center/D2
Name	Kana Arai

1. Country/location of visit
Tamba-Sasayama, Hyogo Prefecture
2. Research project
PWS Field Course
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2025. 02. 18 – 2025. 02. 19 (1 day)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Dr. Katsuya Suzuki (Director of Research Institute for Satomon) and Dr. Tatsuro Kawazoe (Research Institute for Satomon) 特定非営利活動法人里地里山問題研究所 “さともん”
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>This field course is an additional PWS field course planned and organized by PWS students.</p> <p>Day 1: We departed from Kyoto early in the morning to travel to Tamba-Sasayama, a city in the central-eastern part of Hyogo Prefecture. Our schedule began with brief self-introductions, followed by a presentation from Dr. Katsuya Suzuki, Director of the Research Institute for Satomon. He introduced us to his work as part of a non-governmental organization in Tamba-Sasayama, focusing primarily on human-animal conflicts involving Japanese macaques, sika deer, and wild boars, particularly in relation to crop damage and how it affects locals living in Tamba-Sasayama. He also explained the countermeasures they implement to mitigate these conflicts, such as effectively setting up electric fences, using GPS to track Japanese macaques, and driving them away with fireworks and/or loud noises.</p> <p>After his presentation, we spend the rest of our time in Tamba Sasayama actually experiencing the topics discussed in the presentation.</p> <p>We first conducted GPS surveys to track the locations of Japanese macaques. I found it interesting that they attach a very large magnetic antennae to the roof of the car to track the individuals while driving along the roads. Once the trackers detected a signal indicating a nearby macaque, we got out of the car and used an even larger antenna to determine the location of angle. I was surprised by how easily we could spot Japanese macaques roaming near houses and approaching crops. Within just a few hours of arriving in Tamba-Sasayama, I was able to see and experience firsthand the severity of the problem. The Research Institute for</p>

<p>Brief self-introductions and presentation from Dr. Katsuya Suzuki</p> <p>Satomon conducts these surveys twice a day and informs local residents of the macaques’ locations through “SaruIchi”, helping them prepare and implement countermeasures. We were also fortunate to witness a group of macaques (approximately 7~8 individuals) trapped in cages as part of population management efforts. It was nice to see how Satomon and the council office staffs communicated efficiently and worked together to address these issues within the region.</p>

<p>GPS Surveys</p>

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.)

After conducting GPS and behaviour surveys throughout the afternoon, we prepared for dinner, boar stew (ぼたん鍋) before carrying out a light census survey at night.



Dinner: Black Bean Boar Stew

After dinner, we prepared for the light census survey. Although the heavy snow limited our visibility, we were still able to spot a few deer and a marten.

Day 2: We started the day early in the morning by talking with the locals of Tamba-Sasayama and hearing about their experiences in trying to mitigate human-animal conflicts. They shared the challenges they face in implementing countermeasure to drive the animals away, as well as the difficulties in bringing the community together. They also mentioned the lack of a young population, or even a sufficient population in general, in Tamba-Sasayama, and emphasized the need for more people. To address this, they discussed their efforts to attract people to the area by organizing local events such as black bean farming experience.

After listening to the locals’ experiences, we went to observe the electrical fences designed for macaques, deer, and wild boars. We also had the opportunity to touch the fences, and I will never forget the sensation—it felt as if I were being hit or pushed strongly from behind. After examining the fences, we watched how the locals use fireworks to drive away the macaques. In 2024, the locals formed a group to regularly use fireworks to deter macaques, setting fireworks several times a month. By the end of the year, they noticed a decrease in the number of macaques coming into the villages. Although setting off each firework is quite expensive, the locals showed us firsthand how they set it off. The sound was incredibly loud, and I could easily see how it could effectively drive the macaques away from the village.

We ended the day with lunch, where a local restaurant “Kaariman” prepared taco rice, black bean stew, and sausage made from boar or deer meat. While serving us, the owner explained how they began using wild game meat in their cooking and shared how he wants to promote Tamba-Sasayama so that both people and wildlife can live together in harmony. While having lunch, we continued talking with the locals, and they shared their concerns about the aging and shrinking population, which has made it difficult for the community to muster the energy and labor needed to continue implementing animal damage prevention measures.



Light Census Survey Preparation



Checking the fences

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.)



Locals driving away the macaques by setting off fireworks



Delicious food prepared by “Kaariman”

From this field course, I was able to observe how Satomon, in cooperation with the government and relevant organizations, supports local communities that are working hard with limited resources to combat animal damage while promoting Tamba-Sasayama to bring in more generations. One of Satomon’s goal is to shift the perspective that wildlife damage is purely a negative impact on the community. In reality, wild animals are an integral part of the satoyama landscape and one of the area’s attractions. Therefore, their aim is not only to reduce damage but also to maintain the presence of wildlife, promote positive coexistence measures by bringing the community together, and ultimately revitalize the area. Although I was only there for two days, I was impressed by Satomon’s efforts to mitigate such problems in rural areas of Japan and was glad to have had the chance to see it firsthand.

6. Others

Acknowledgements: I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Suzuki and Dr. Kawazoe for introducing us to their work on Tamba Sasayama, as well as to the locals who warmly welcomed us with their knowledge and delicious food. I would also like to thank Marie Seki for organizing this PWS field course.