

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.)

2015.8.20

Affiliation/Position	PRI/M1
Name	Shintaro Ishizuka

1. Country/location of visit

Wamba village, Luo scientific reserve area, DR Congo

2. Research project

Reserve research for wild bonobos

3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)

2015.6.26-8.3 (7days)

4. Main host researcher and affiliation

Dr. Furuichi

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.

From 26th June to 3th August, I went to Wamba village, Luo scientific reserve area, DR Congo. The purpose for this trip was reserve research for wild bonobos and collecting for non-invasive DNA samples. This trip was first time for me to go abroad and to conduct the actual fieldwork. Before this trip, I expected how much I can adapt for other culture and how tough I understand to do fieldwork in foreign countries.

At first it was more difficult to get permission for research than I had expected. In application for permission, there were many times to be requested to give money or to be waited for too much time. Though we tend to feel annoyed, we had to be patient and make affinitive relationship with African people. Affinitive relationship with local people is the most important thing for fieldwork. I thought that many researchers at Wamba, where research for wild bonobos has continued for more than 40 years, made great efforts to keep them.

And to walk in tropical forest was too tough for me. Maybe because my body was large and my sense of proportion was poor, many vine plants tangled my body. In this trip the period of research in forest was only one month due to an accident and I didn't get used to walking in forest. But I learned fieldwork in tropical forest was very tough.

To watch wild bonobos was very wonderful. If a bonobo call, many bonobos responded him and call. So it became noisy! In addition I watched meat-eating, which is rare in bonobos but not rare in chimpanzees. Though I tried to record it through video camera, I failed. I felt that we can't expect what happen in field research for wildlife. And about collecting non-invasive DNA samples, as somebodies said, it was difficult to get ones of infants. Most feces of arboreal infants don't fall down to ground. I thought that balance between sampling and observation is important depending on my own study.

Through this trip I learned a lot of things. This experience would help me in not only my study but also all of my future life. I want to make use of this experience to develop my study.



Wild bonobos



Our research camp

6. Others

This program was supported by PWS Leading Program. I would like to appreciate this program and Dr. Furuichi, who gave me so many supports and teaching.