

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. 08, 20
Affiliation/Position	Primate Research Institute / M1
Name	Makiko Take

1. Country/location of visit
Sri Lanka
2. Research project
International Training Program on Terrestrial & Aquatic Wildlife & Primate Conservation
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2015. 07. 31 – 2015. 08. 17 (18 days)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Prof. Swarna Piyasiri, Dr. Charmalie Nahallage, Dr. Kamal Ranathunga (Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Sri Jayewardenepura)
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>Sri Lanka accommodates the highest species density for flowering plants, amphibians, reptiles and mammals in Asian region. It also has the second highest human population density in Asia. Sri Lanka’s wet zone is recognized as one of the 35 Global Biodiversity Hot Spots in the world. Conservation of such a precious biodiversity is a big issue in this country.</p> <p>The aim of this training program was to experience the nature and culture of Sri Lanka and to think about the way that human and animals can live together in this small country. The participant from Japan was five students from Primate Research Institute (PRI), two students from Wildlife Research Centre (WRC), and two teachers from PRI, Prof. Michael A. Huffman and Prof. Hiroyuki Tanaka.</p> <p>After the opening ceremony at Colombo, we visited many National Parks and Nature Reserves and had lectures from each resource person. During the travel, Dr. Charmalie Nahallage and Dr. Kamal Ranatunga, the program coordinators from University of Sri Jayewardenepura, guided us in turn. Mr. Atheeq and Ms. Vdyani, staffs of the university, also accompanied and helped us.</p> <p>Through this trip, I learned a lot about the richness of biodiversity in Sri Lanka, problems of conflicts between human and animals, and management of National Parks. I was very impressed at the various nature environments in Sri Lanka and was happy that I saw many endemic birds, flowers, monkeys and other animals. I was also very surprised at a heavy amount of garbage everywhere, even in some National Parks. Proper environmental education to local people was needed in order to conserve such wonderful nature.</p> <p>After almost all programs finished, we had an opportunity to do presentation and discussion about the problems that we saw in those places in the trip. I presented about Yala National Park, where we found many problems such as traffic-jam of jeeps and the worst amount of garbage. As possible solutions, I proposed prohibiting food and drink brought into the Park, installing a small shop which provides food and drink in deposit system, making jeep drivers change their job to nature guides in proper trainings, cooperating traditional doctors who have rich knowledge about plants and animals. I obtained many comments that made my idea deeper and more effective.</p> <p>This trip was quite international. There are people from 7 countries — Japan, Sri Lanka, Puerto Rico, Chile, Hungary, France, and USA. There was a sense of unity, and it was very fun. As chatting with them, I felt my English skill improved a little bit. I’m grateful to them for teaching me the meaning of words and usage of them.</p>

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Photos



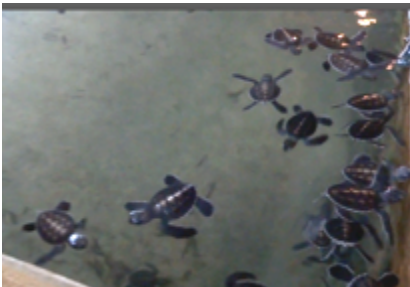
Opening ceremony at Colombo



Shinjaraja rainforest



Boat tour at Madu Ganga



Babies of sea turtle 3 days after birth



Hikkaduwa Marine National Park



Jeep safari at Bundara National Park



My first wild elephant at Bundara



Many people and many monkeys at Kataragama temple



Heavy amount of garbage and traffic-jam of jeeps in Yala National Park



Bear monkey (Purple-faced langur) and vegetation in Horton Plains National park

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Sygeriya World Heritage



Pigeon Island Marine National Park

6. Others

I'm very grateful to Prof. Huffman and Dr. Chamalie for organizing this great program since one year ago. I also appreciate Prof. Matsuzawa and other staffs of PWS for supporting our trip.