

**Research Activity Report**  
**Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”**

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<b>Affiliation/Position</b>	Primate Research Institute/D2
<b>Name</b>	Cecile Sarabian

<b>1. Country/location of visit</b>
Democratic Republic of the Congo/Lola ya Bonobo Sanctuary, University of Kinshasa, Kinshasa
<b>2. Research project</b>
Testing infection-risk avoidance in semi-free ranging bonobos
<b>3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)</b>
2015. 04. 14 – 2016. 07. 05 (80 days)
<b>4. Main host researcher and affiliation</b>
None
<b>5. Progress and results of your research/activity</b>

Lola ya Bonobo Sanctuary (“Paradise of bonobos” in Lingala) is located in Kimwenza, Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and is home to 72 semi-captive bonobos, either orphans or born at the sanctuary, and who live into 3 large forested enclosures and the nursery.



Scenes of “every-day” Lola filled with research, bonobos, interactions with staff, and capoeira for the kids of Kimwenza.

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At Lola ya Bonobo, I conducted contaminant avoidance experiments in a feeding context with 50-56 bonobos from different enclosures and different age groups. This study was part of my PhD research on the evolution of pathogen and parasite avoidance behaviour.



Experiments at Lola can be conducted in semi-isolation and by proposing items to the subjects behind grid doors.

Preliminary results from this study have been presented to the staff at Lola ya Bonobo (see picture) at the 31<sup>st</sup> International Congress of Psychology in Yokohama in July, at the 26<sup>th</sup> International Primatological Society congress in Chicago and at UC Davis in August, and at the last PWS symposium in Kyoto in September. I am currently analyzing the comprehensive set of data about this study in order to compare results with other species tested for similar experiments and to write a compilation manuscript for publication in an academic journal.



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As the Conservation Voices podcast host for The PrimateCast, I used the opportunity to be in Kinshasa and at Lola to conduct several interviews. As such, conservationist Jef Dupain working for the African Wildlife Foundation was the first interviewee of the series ([www.theprimatecast.com](http://www.theprimatecast.com)). Then, I also discussed with conservationist and Lola ya Bonobo founder Claudine André, Lola ya Bonobo program coordinator Fanny Minesi & veterinarian Raphael Belais, and primatologist/comparative psychologist Zanna Clay.



African Wildlife Foundation conservationist Jef Dupain and Lola ya Bonobo founder Claudine André. Photos: AWF/ABC

## **6. Others**

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