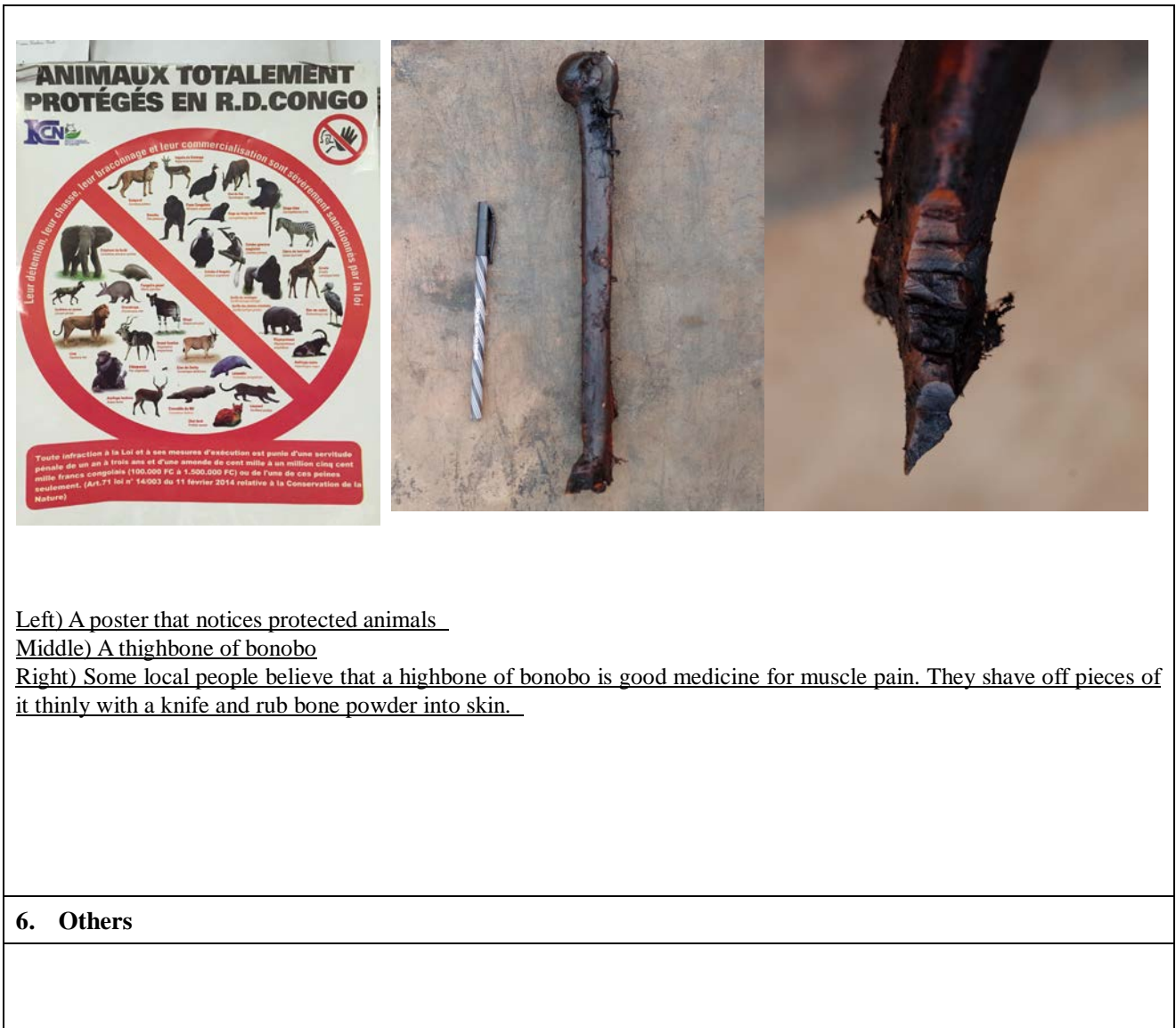


Research Activity Report
Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”
 (Please be sure to submit this report after the trip that supported by PWS.)

	2016. 08, 02
Affiliation/Position	Asian and African Area studies, African area studies /D 1
Name	Aya Yokotsuka

1. Country/location of visit	Democratic Republic of Congo, Thuapa province
2. Research project	Study on local perceptions to the bonobos among ethnic group Mongando and Mongo
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)	2016. 05. 08 – 2016. 08. 01 (85days)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation	Ministere de La Recherche Scientifique et Technologie, CREF(Center of Research for Ecology and Forests)
5. Progress and results of your research/activity (You can attach extra pages if needed)	<p>Please insert one or more pictures (to be publicly released). Below each picture, please provide a brief description.</p> <p>This research in DR Congo was 4th time for me. I conducted study on ethnic group Mongo that they don't have traditional taboo against eating bonobo meat.</p> <p>“Why are endangered animals not protected?”</p> <p>There are not only endemic animals but also endangered species in DR Congo. These are faced with extinction, although DRC government appeals to residents to prohibit killing these preserved animals. I had interviews with local people if they know these protected animals. It was conducted in Wamba and Yokamba where is in Thuapa province.</p> <p>According to my examination, most of people know that the local government prohibit them killing leopard, elephant and bonobo. However, it seems rather peculiar. Local people told me that police would arrest them if they kill protected animals, but if they give some parts of meat of these animals, for example a head, a thigh to the village mayor, the problem will be finished.</p> <p>The “local” regulation is referred to leopard, elephant, hippopotamus, and crocodile in Wamba (they mentioned bonobo is not applied to this local rule. If they kill a bonobo, police will arrest them). Whereas another villagers, who are live in Yokamba, where is located at south-west of out of Luo Scientific reserve, reported that bonobo meat is sold in the village, because bonobo is one of animals that local rule applies. The problem to the protected animals seems to be simple at first glance, because people recognize which animals are preserved and police will arrest poachers. But actually it is difficult to save endangered species by the customs peculiar to rural areas of DRC.</p> <p>“We are not afraid of any taboos to the bonobo meat ”</p> <p>The most different point between Wamba and Yokamba, is some people in Yokamba start eating bonobo meat, especially among young men. Ethnic group Mongando occupies half of population in Yokamba. Once all of them had a tradition that avoids eating bonobo. Another ethnic group Mongo who eat bonobo live in some villages that adjacent to Yokamba. Because of Mongo, taboo of eating bonobo meat is dramatically disappearing for people in Yokamba. Some youngsters told me that they are not afraid of any taboos to the bonobo meat.</p> <p>I am going to focus on breakdown of traditional taboos for PhD thesis. I'm planning to write a paper to publish my work for the rest of this academic year.</p>

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Left) A poster that notices protected animals

Middle) A thighbone of bonobo

Right) Some local people believe that a highbone of bonobo is good medicine for muscle pain. They shave off pieces of it thinly with a knife and rub bone powder into skin.

6. Others