

**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.)

2017. 2, 12

<b>Affiliation/Position</b>	Wildlife Research Center/M1
<b>Name</b>	Anna Kawakita

<b>1. Country/location of visit</b>
Tanzania, Katavi National Park
<b>2. Research project</b>
Behavioral observation of giraffes at Katavi National Park, Tanzania
<b>3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)</b>
2016. 08. 15 – 2016. 11. 30 (108days)
<b>4. Main host researcher and affiliation</b>
Tanzania National Park
<b>5. Progress and results of your research/activity</b> (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>I went to Tanzania for the observation of wild giraffe. It was my first time to visit Africa, so everything was new to me, including vaccination, getting a research permit and observing African wild animals. Thanks to many people, I enjoyed the life in Tanzanian and came back safely.</p> <p>When I arrived at the Julius Nyerere International Airport (Mr. Nyerere is the first president of Tanzania, who is printed on 1000Tsh bill), a driver took me to the Field Station of Kyoto University which was located in Dar es Salaam. Many Japanese researchers and students staying there showed me procedures for research permit and life in Tanzania. Two boys living in the next to the Field Station taught me Swahili language.</p> <p>Prof. Gen'ichi Idani drove a car for three days from Dar es Salaam, and we arrived at Katavi, western part of Tanzania. I stayed there with Ms. Miho Saito, L4 student of PWS. She helped me a lot during my stay. Prof. Fred Bercovitch also stayed for the first 10 days and taught me signs of wildlife and tips of observing giraffe. One day, the battery of our car died because I forgot to turn off headlights. Prof. Bercovitch calmly coped with the incident, and we pushed the car together. Except that, I didn't get any trouble in the field.</p> <p>I have had an experience of observing giraffe at Kyoto City Zoo for my undergraduate thesis. The fieldwork in wild, however, was totally different, comparing with the observation of captive giraffe. In Tanzania I had to search nice and safe places to follow giraffes. It was difficult to know the appropriate distance to continue the focal sampling yet not to affect their behaviors. The focal observations which I conducted by continuous sampling method during October and early November was for 70 hours in total, but half of them are not useful for my data analysis because I didn't record the information of trees and shade. My plan is to show the differences of feeding behavior between the sexes, analyzing feeding postures and shade usages. From my observation It might be said that female giraffe often start to eat with their neck below their back, even when they fed on taller trees than themselves, and continued feeding at upper heights. Females might try to feed whole parts of trees, I thought. On the other hand, males preferred the trees with a large shade area and rested under the tree. They might save their energy by resting in the shade. In the near future I would like to identify the species of trees which giraffe feed.</p>

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Giraffe with a hole on his left ear.



During my stay, I saw a dead hippo three times.

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Same place on Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> (left) and Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> (right). Rainy season has begun at the end of Oct.

**6. Others**

I really appreciate Prof. Idani, Prof. Bercovitch, Ms. Saito, and all PWS members. Thank you.