

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

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Affiliation/Position	Primate Research Institute/D2
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1. Country/location of visit
Japan, Kyoto University
2. Outreach project
Conserv'Session#3: Virunga and discussion with Pr. Juichi Yamagiwa and Dr. Naobi Okayasu
3. Date
2017. 01. 09
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
None
5. Progress and results of your outreach activity
<p>This Conserv'Session was the third conservation-related screening and discussion session to be organized at Kyoto University main campus. This session aimed at approaching the different issues conservationists and field scientists may face while working in war zone-type conditions. Those conditions were illustrated in the film Virunga from Orlando von Einsiedel (2014) depicting the resource and war conflicts happening in the national park located at the border between DR Congo, Rwanda and Uganda, and which ultimately threaten biodiversity and the rangers protecting the park. Although Virunga national park is a UNESCO World Heritage site, until the film came out, oil investigations were still happening in the park and illegal poaching remains a main threat. To discuss about those issues at the end of the documentary, we invited two field scientists/conservationists who have spent extensive periods of time working in such regions: Pr. Juichi Yamagiwa (Primatologist and President of Kyoto University) and Pr. Naobi Okayasu (Director of the Habitat Conservation Section, Japan Monkey Centre and Specially Appointed Professor at the Wildlife Research Center of Kyoto University).</p>



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Outcome: This session gathered up to 64 participants, students, post-docs, professors, administrative staff, members of the public, youngsters and elders. This time, the Conserv’Session team was complete as all 5 members were present. We benefitted from the talented photography skills of Ryoma Otsuka through the screening of his clichés of mountain gorillas from Bwindi Impenetrable national park in Uganda before the session started, and from the baking skills of Zsofia Budai after the session. Ryoma also helped to translate the introduction and announcements in Japanese. And because of all this (- or not), two other students volunteered of joining Conserv’Session from next session on.



6. Others

Acknowledgements: I would like to thank again PWS for supporting this initiative; the team for being so dedicated; our two invited speakers: Pr. Juichi Yamagiwa and Dr. Naobi Okayasu for their participation; as well as Atsushi Tsujimoto, Miku Akiyama and Yoko Sakai for coming and helping us.