

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

2017. 05, 31	
<b>Affiliation/Position</b>	Primate Research Institute/D1
<b>Name</b>	Josue Alejandro Pastrana

<b>1. Country/location of visit</b>
Colombia, Bogotá, San Martín, Cali
<b>2. Research project</b>
International Conference on Environmental Enrichment
<b>3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)</b>
2017. 05. 14 – 2017. 05. 25 (11 days)
<b>4. Main host researcher and affiliation</b>
13 <sup>th</sup> ICEE, Parque Jaime Duque, Bogotá, Zocay Project, Dra. Carretero (project manager), Cali Zoo (zoo keepers)
<b>5. Progress and results of your research/activity</b>
<p>With the support of the Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science, I was able to attend and present my work done as a master’s student at the Primate Research Institute in the 13<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Environmental Enrichment (ICEE), May 15-19, 2017 held in Bogotá, Colombia. The mission of the ICEE is to improve the wellbeing of captive animals by providing a venue for the exchange of information among the many diverse groups that participate in environmental enrichment with the participation and interaction of animal welfare scientists and all those responsible for the care of captive animals. The ICEE Committee organizes a biennial conference, with published proceedings, in locations around the globe. This year the conference took place at the Parque Jaime Duque, about 30km north of Bogotá Colombia, a natural reserve that promotes the conservation of endangered species, it includes a zoo, historical and cultural museums, and an outreach program which is main goal is to promote conservation but it also serves to help young students from communities with less resources as well for the elderly in the surrounding rural areas to find employment and opportunities to further their education. It was established in 1983 by Jaime Duque and it serves as a recreational and cultural place of much importance for the Colombian people. During those 5 days, my colleagues from the Kyoto Zoo, Primate Research Institute, and Japan Monkey Center and I were able to present our various work related to animal welfare/enrichment and share ideas with the rest of the attendees. We were very impressed with the facilities, and their dedication to enrich the lives of their animals at the zoo as well as the zoo keepers, veterinarians, curators and other staff that came from all over the world to present their work. We were also very surprised to meet many people who had traveled days by bus from all over South and Central America for various days just to attend the conference. We were very well received at the conference, with translators available for those who could not present in English and we were successfully able to understand all talks and join all workshops. I was able to get very good feedback on my work and get some ideas that I most likely will be able to use during my graduate studies. The highlight of the conference for me was a talk about the Cali Zoo, where zoo keepers work with wild animals that were rescued by the government from the pet trade. They use environmental enrichment to rehabilitate animals before they are released back to the wild by providing a good environment, training, and devices that promote species-specific behaviors. We also had the opportunity to announce the fact that the Kyoto Zoo will be hosting the next ICEE conference and I look forward to help and contribute on it being a very successful conference.</p>



*Parque Jaime Duque, venue for 13<sup>th</sup> ICEE*

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*At the ICEE in Parque Jaime Duque, Bogotá Colombia. (museums, zoo and outreach programs)*

For the second part of our trip, we went south to the Los Llanos (savannah plains) where we met with Dr. Carratero-Pinzon who manages the Zocay Project. This research project started in 2004 with the aim to identify and determine the densities of the primate species present in forest fragments of different size in one farm near to San Martin town in the piedmont of Colombian Llanos. Due to the interest of the owners of neighboring farms the project was extended to other farms in which a continue monitoring of primate densities since 2004. A total of 7 forest fragments have been monitored from 2004 and another two were added in 2008 (Las Usamas Private Reserve). During our trip we were

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able to go into the forest and look for four primate species living in the area: red howler monkeys (*Alouatta seniculus*), black-capped capuchins (*Sapajus apella fatuellus*), dusky titi monkeys (*Callicebus ornatus*), the Colombian squirrel monkeys (*Saimiri cassiquiarensis albigena*) and the Brumback owl monkeys. We were able to see 4 primate species as well as many other animals that coexist in these fragmented forests. We went many times into the forest for dawn, dusk, night and midday observations as most monkeys were diurnal but mostly moving in the mornings while one was nocturnal.

What was very interesting to me was that the fragmentation plots were affected by different man-made reasons. Some plots were affected by logging, palm oil, while others were affected by cattle which had consumed the underbrush of the forest. This created fragmented forest plots with different distributions of flora which made some monkey species select certain forests plots over others, depending on their natural species-specific diets. We also learned about the monkey’s nesting behaviors, their predators, what they feed on and about other animals in the area. It was a great experience and I plan to hopefully be involved with some type of collaboration in the future as I am also interested in relationships between animals’ stress and their environments.



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For the final part of our trip we were able to go “behind the scenes” at the Cali Zoo in Cali Colombia. We met some colleagues from the ICEE conference who showed us their enrichment program, how it works, and gave us a tour of the facilities. The zoo was very impressive as it works along with the government and non-profits to counter the pet trade problem that affects many animals of the south American continent. We were able to see how enrichment can be



*At the Cali Zoo we saw many species and had the opportunity to go “behind the scenes” thanks to our colleagues from the 13<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Environmental Enrichment. We saw how the enrichment program works, how the staff does training with the animals to avoid unnecessary stress. Before and after our visit to the zoo, we spoke to local people from Cali and learned that the zoo is the place this city is proudest of. Now we can understand why.*

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used to rehabilitate animals, help others that are too old or injured to return back to the wild.



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I am very grateful to my supervisors and mentors of the PWS program for allowing me to participate in such a great learning experience. I would also like to thank all the professors and staff involved in the Leading Program of PWS for making all of this possible. I learned many things about primate ecology in New World Primates, new ideas I could apply for the next conference in Kyoto (ICEE 2019) and above all, I encountered a new country with a new culture that was very kind and beautiful. I would strongly recommend anyone who enjoys biodiversity, where one can enjoy Amazon rain forests, Caribbean Sea, Pacific Ocean, high tundra mountains with snow, as well as desert and an immeasurable amount of animals in every direction. I look forward to my next visit!