

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. 11, 09
Affiliation/Position	Asian and African Area studies, African area studies /D4
Name	Aya Yokotsuka

1. Country/location of visit	DR Congo, Thuapa province
2. Research project	Study on local perceptions of bonobos among Bongando ethnic group in DR Congo
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)	2017. 05. 17 – 2017. 09. 13 (120 days)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation	Dr. Idani , Professor at Kyoto University , WWF Mbali, CREFF
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>I conducted research on local perception of bonobos among Bongando ethnic group in non-protected areas this time. Bongando is known as an ethnic group who don't eat bonobo meat. Actually Bongando who are in the Luo Scientific reserve still believe their traditional taboo to bonobo meat, and they protect bonobos for bonobo research. However, I observed that Bongando have start eating bonobos outside of the reserve. Through my research since 2014, I assumed that Bongando may eat bonobos, but little has been reported on food taboo to bonobo meat among each ethnic group.</p> <p>I chose 4 villages where are not in the protected areas and interview with local people.</p> <p>Result 1 People in non-protected areas eat more bonobo meat than people in reserve. Villagers who have eaten bonobo meat In Luo reserve • • • 2.5% Outside of the reserve • • • 23%</p> <p>Result 2 Villagers in the reserve have more opportunity to encounter bonobos in the forest. Villagers who have met bonobos in their forest. In Luo reserve • • • 73% Outside of the reserve • • • 42%</p> <p>Result 3 Young generations among 10 – 30's start eating bonobos, however people aged 70's tend to avoid it. It is no difference even in the reserve or not.</p> <p>Bongando people in Mbali I interviewed with Bongando people in Mbali, Bandundu province. Mbali is not Bongando territory and it is not so fur from Kinshasa, but they live in one village. According to villagers, some Bongando hunters started live there, and composed one village. They are very afraid of police and WWF so that they don't kill bonobos and elephants even though they are struggling against crop raiding by elephants.</p> <p>Bongando in Thuapa and Bandundu province I found that it is clear that Bongando people especially young generations tend to eat bonobo. Young people in rural areas that include bonobo distributions don't care their traditional taboo, so it may be direct damage to bonobo population. However Bongando in Nbali avoid killing Bonobo. They don't kill bonobos not for their traditional thoughts but for wildlife law. It is sure traditional beliefs are disappearing today. The strongest deterrent to protect bonobos is to enforce villagers wildlife protection law.</p>

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Left) Villagers sometimes kill monkeys (mainly they hunt red-tailed monkey) by gun. All gun hunting is not banned in DRC. Some areas allow hunting wildlife by gun if hunters pay and register their guns to police station.

Right) The period of caterpillars! (July to September) Caterpillar is very important food for villagers to get protein. It's not easy to hunt animals and fish everyday, but they can get a bunch of caterpillars everyday (but only 3months)!

6. Others