

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.Oct.27

Affiliation/Position	Graduate school of Asian and African Area Studies / M2
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1. Country/location of visit
Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda
2. Research project
Human-Gorilla Conflict in Bwindi Impenetrable national Park, Uganda / Stress Hormone Study of Mountain Gorilla
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2017.June.18-2017.October.25 (140 days)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Conservation Through Public Health (CTPH), Dr. Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka
5. Progress and results of your research/activity (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>During 2017/June/18-2017/October/25, I conducted field work in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda. The purposes of this trip were conducting survey in community focusing on human-gorilla conflict and doing pilot study for stress hormone research of mountain gorillas in Bwindi.</p> <p>【Schedule】 2017/June/18-23 : Kyoto→KIX→DXB→EBB→Kampala / Preparation for fieldwork 2017/June/24-October/20 : Field work in Bwindi 2017/October/21-23 : Bwindi→Kampala / Meeting with CTPH staffs and other organizations 2017/October/24-25 : EBB→DXB→KIX→Kyoto</p> <p>【Study in community around the park】 This research was done in order to evaluate the effectiveness of HUGO (Human Gorilla Conflict Resolution Program/ Team) and deeply understand the challenges (Human-Gorilla conflict) which people are facing with. I visited and interviewed 54 households which were located in front-line of the villages adjacent to the park. 4 focus group discussions with 2 HUGO groups and 2 Batwa groups (indigenous people who used to live in the forest). On top of that I interviewed 3 park staffs who were mainly working for community conservation as well. I'm analyzing the data now. With the data which I collected in 2016 (I interviewed 43 HUGO members and 50 community members) and this year, I will write my master's thesis.</p> <p>【Pilot study for stress hormone research of mountain gorillas in Bwindi】 I and CTPH staffs tracked gorillas with UWA rangers and 229 fresh dung samples from 3 habituated groups (Mubare, Rushegura and Habinyanja) in Buhoma area of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. were collected from nests and trails in non-invasive way. 1.0g of dungs were extracted in 25ml tube (8.0ml 90% ethanol) and then kept for 40 minutes. 0.8ml of the supernatants were transferred into 2.0ml tubes and dried at room temperature. They were preserved in a dark room at room temperature until the shipment. Samples were shipped after getting MTA with Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) and Export Permit from Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST). Other data which seem to affect gorillas' stress levels such as temperature, rainfall, inter-group interactions, chasing event (by HUGO) and tourists number per group per month were recorded. The collected samples will be analyzed in WRC (Wildlife Research Center of Kyoto University) using EIA.</p>

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Photo1. Bananas eaten by gorillas during night



Photo2. A gorilla eating eucalyptus



Photo3. HUGO members guarding crops



Photo4. Dung samples left in night nest



Photo5. A SB gorilla eating fruits on the tree



Photo6. Chest-beating gorilla in front of tourists



Photo7. Playing infants



Photo8. A new born baby and mother



Photo9. Bwindi forest

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6. Others

This field work was supported by PWS. I am deeply grateful to Conservation Through Public Health (CTPH) for being our research partner. Appreciation goes to Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) and Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST) for permits to conduct this study and facilitate transfer of materials.