

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

2017. 07, 30	
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1. Country/location of visit
Japan, Kyoto University
2. Outreach project
Asura International Seminar and Conserv’Session#10 with Elham Nourani
3. Date
2017. 07. 20
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
None
5. Progress and results of your outreach activity
<p>Junior Asura International Seminar</p> <p>Asura international seminars have been going on for years at Kyoto University. They are most often held in English and led by invited speakers from different academic backgrounds, governmental organizations and NGOs. They cover a wide range of topics from cutting-edge research, to genetic analysis techniques, to reports of ongoing conservation efforts in biodiversity hotspot areas. Mostly led by senior researchers, the goal here was to (re)-introduce the idea that they can be given by junior researchers as well. As such, Elham Nourani – PhD candidate from Nagasaki University gave a very interesting talk on migratory birds, wind and climate change. Her research showed how under a pessimistic scenario about climate change, from mid-century to late-century, wind may not be favorable for birds to return to Japan in Autumn via their usual oversea flyway. Elham Nourani presented her results at the Primate Research Institute and at the Wildlife Research Center of Kyoto University. A mosaic of students and professors attended at both locations and provided comments for discussion (see feedback below).</p> <p>Conserv’Session #10: Bird conservation</p> <p>This session was the 10th volume of Conserv’Session and was dedicated to bird conservation worldwide. To serve this purpose, we screened short video clips / films introducing different threats to bird populations and had a discussion with the public afterwards. Our invited speakers were Dr. George Olah from The Macaw Project via Skype (from Hungary) and Ms. Elham Nourani from Nagasaki University, Japan. Fifteen persons attended this session, including students and members of the public outside Kyoto University.</p> <p><i>4 short films introducing different threats</i></p> <p><u>Illegal pet trade: Parrot trade in DR Congo (2016) by Dr. Cintia Garai (TL2 Project, Lukuru Foundation)</u> The biggest threats to African grey parrots are the illegal trade and deforestation. In Ghana, African grey parrots have been completely wiped out because of those threats. This short movie is an alarm call to avoid the same destiny for parrots living in DR Congo, where a thousand of them are captured from the wild monthly to feed that illegal trade. https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/extinction-countdown/african-grey-parrots-stolen/ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PEaBwUtryeA</p> <p><u>Plastic pollution and seabirds: TEDx Great Pacific Garbage Patch “We must be the change” (2010) by Chris Jordan</u> Since a few years, there has been a rise of awareness about where most of the plastic consumed worldwide goes. The formation of those giant garbage patches in the oceans is affecting wildlife by killing species and intoxicating us with all the fish we eat from the sea. This TEDx talk is about raising awareness of our plastic lives and how this impact seabirds, with here albatrosses from Midway island as an example.</p>

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L4mvxCrokcM&t=1s>

Wind and climate change: Climate change and birds (2014) from the National Audubon Society
Temperature, precipitations and seasons are common factors being affected by climate change and therefore affecting bird populations. Another factor changing with climate change and affecting birds and particularly migratory birds is wind and this is the missing factor Elham Nourani talked about with the public.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aN2-a82_3mg

Deforestation: The Macaw Project – biologists, ecotourists and local communities for the Amazon rainforest (2017) by Dr. Cintia Garai

This film introduced a success story in the Peruvian Amazon led by researchers, local communities and ecotourists to preserve macaws from deforestation for gold mining happening in the region.

<http://www.macawmovie.com/>

In this session, we used Poll Everywhere – an audience participation site (<https://pollev.com/>) to make it more interactive. As such, we could ask questions related to bird conservation and obtain responses and feedback anonymously. We did so before and after the screenings and discussion to test for a gain of knowledge among the public. Responses and feedback show that the public improved their knowledge regarding bird population threats, distributions and solutions for conservation.

Elham Nourani’s feedback

Asura International seminar at PRI (July 20th 2017)

This event was a great opportunity for me to get to know an international wildlife (primatology) research institute in Japan. I enjoyed meeting the people and being in the friendly atmosphere of the institute. The audience of my talk was very encouraging and their questions and comments made for a very nice discussion on my work. This was definitely a good experience to have before my PhD defense in a few weeks.

Conserv’Session #10 on bird conservation

The Conserv’Session is a valuable initiative for raising the public awareness about conservation issues. I appreciate all the hard work that the organizers put into these events. It was a great pleasure for me to get to know the organizers and also to be speaking at a Conserv’Session on bird conservation issues. It was very interesting and unexpected for me to have a diverse audience of students and the general public, which made it somewhat tricky to prepare a presentation with enough, but not too much, scientific detail. I think that all went well, because although my talk was simple, those who wanted more details had the opportunity to ask their questions during the discussion section of the event.

Asura International Seminar Feedback at WRC (July 21st 2017)

I enjoyed giving a talk at the WRC, mainly because most of the audience were people that I had met the day before at the Conserv’Session and therefore, being somewhat familiar with their field of work, it was easy to engage in discussions after the talk. I found the questions very relevant, and quite similar to those that I got asked at PRI. This definitely helps me improve my talks in the future by preparing additional information that audiences are likely to be interested in.

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6. Others

Acknowledgements: I would like to thank PWS for its support; Miku Akiyama for her continuous support; and Elham Nourani for coming from Nagasaki to share her knowledge.