

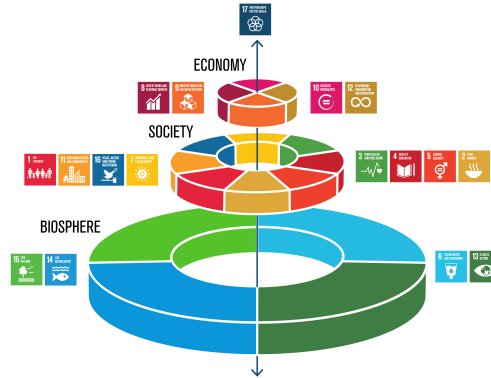
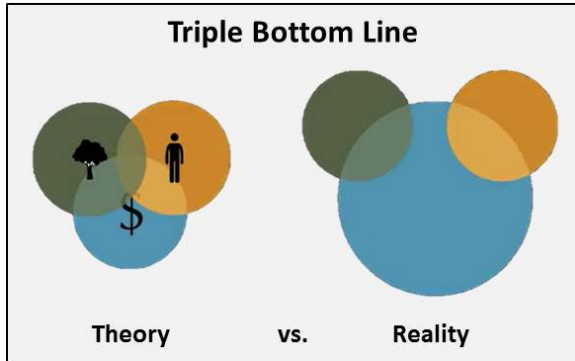
Research Activity Report
Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”

2017. 11, 28	
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1. Country/location of visit
Japan/United Nations University, Tokyo
2. Symposiums and congresses
2017 International Cosmos Prize Ceremony
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2017. 11. 10
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Prof. Tetsuro Matsuzawa
5. Progress and results of your research/activity
<p>Each year, the International Cosmos Prize rewards an individual or team who has made/is making a significant contribution promoting “The Harmonious Coexistence between Nature and Mankind”. Previous recipients include Sir David Attenborough (2000), Charles Darwin Research Station (2002), Dr. Raman Sukumar (2006), Prof. Edward O. Wilson (2012), Prof. Philippe Descola (2014), and Prof Johan Rockström (2015). The recipient of this year was Dr. Jane Goodall for her continuous fieldwork and pioneering research rooted in ethological observations of individually recognized animals as well as the practical conservation initiatives, such as the TACARE program (tree-planting program), and environmental education activities that she created around the world via the Jane Goodall Institute and through Roots & Shoots (http://www.rootsandshoots.org/).</p> <p>This year, the ceremony was held at the United Nations University in Tokyo – a place I’ve long been wanting to visit! People could attend the ceremony only on invitations and was not advertised because the Imperial Family was present. We – 4 PWS students, were probably the youngest persons in the audience and could reflect very well on what was said by the invited keynote speakers: Raman Sukumar (Professor, Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science), Johan Rockström (Director of Stockholm Resilience Centre and Professor of Environmental Science at Stockholm University) and Jane Goodall. I particularly enjoyed Prof. Johan Rockström’s talk – whom I never heard before. It was awakening, inspiring and it gave me hope. Prof. Rockström started his talk introducing the Mickey Mouse model (below), reflecting on how human societies function around the globe, and explaining why it is not sustainable. Then, he captured the audience attention (at least mine!) by sharing what was to him “one of the most important scientific fact of this year”, being that 2017 had the highest ever recorded temperature (beside El-Niño-amplified 2016) with a global surface temperature change of about +1°C. “What we will do in the next 50 years will determine the coming 50,000 years”, he added. He pursued by showing that we rely heavily on gas, oil, and coal as sources of energy and that renewable energies currently make only 2.8 % of it, as of 2017. No surprise, however those renewable sources have an exponential growth and if we keep “business as usual”, companies investing in non-renewable sources will gradually make a switch towards renewable sources as they will make more money. By doing so, we should reach 100% of renewable energies by</p>

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2045. My question is at which cost for our planet... By 2045, this also gives enough time to eradicate a good number of species and ecosystems from the face of Earth so, I hope that enough of the green ear of Mickey Mouse will remain during and after that transition.



Left: Mickey Mouse model reflecting the unsustainability of human societies model growth (credit: Johan Rocström). Right: Wedding cake sustainable goals (credit: Azote Images for Stockholm Resilience Centre).

Finally, with the 40 million JPY awarded with the International Cosmos Prize, Dr. Jane Goodall said she will help JGI projects in Africa (www.janegoodall.org/our-work/projects/).

6. Others

I would like to thank Prof Matsuzawa, Yoko Sakai and Miku Akiyama for inviting us and organizing our attendance at the ceremony.