

**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, 20
<b>Affiliation/Position</b>	Asian and African Area studies, African area studies /D4
<b>Name</b>	Aya Yokotsuka

<b>1. Country/location of visit</b>
Taketomi-Cho, Yaeyama-Gun, Okinawa
<b>2. Research project</b>
Iriomote practice
<b>3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)</b>
11th-15th, November, 2017 ( 5 days)
<b>4. Main host researcher and affiliation</b>
Ryukyu University
<b>5. Progress and results of your research/activity</b> (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>I learned ecosystem in Iriomote island through this practice. I'm very impressed that I could know how people conserve Iriomote wildcat.</p> <p>Schedule          11th arrival at Iriomote island          12th trekking in mangrove forest, practice for kayaking          13th lecture about coral reef and snorkeling          14th lecture about Iriomote wildcat and visit Iriomote wildlife conservation center.          15th leaving from Iriomote island</p> <p>On the 1st day of the practice (12th), we walked in mangrove forest. Professor Kajita told us ecosystem of mangrove forests. In the afternoon, we did kayaking. Though we were planning walking the forest after the kayaking, unfortunately we had to give up it. Because of heavy rain, path was sank like a small stream...</p> <p>On the 2nd day, we learned about coral reef its around Iriomote island. We dived with a snorkel and observed coral reefs in the sea. I saw bunch of huge coral reefs and some beautiful coloured fish. I've seen the world in the sea only on the TV before I did snorkeling, so I was very excited to observe sea world.</p> <p>On the 3rd day, we learned about Iriomote wildcat's physical description, ecology, and conservation challenging in the lecture by professor Izawa. Road kill is most serious issue for Iriomote wildcat. Okinawa government put fences along service roads where the place some road kills were reported in the past. They also constructed pathway for wildlife under the main road to avoid car accidents. We visited Iriomote wildlife conservation center. Entering the center, we saw a big Iriomote island map that for putting information about the place where people saw Iriomote wildcat, road kill and other alien species. All information are from local people. In another room, some paints that were drawn by elementary and junior high school students in Iriomote island put on the wall. Theme of the paints is coexistence between human and wildlife. I thought environment education in schools is infiltrated in this area. Through this practice I realized local people, researcher and government are cooperate each other for save wildlife in Iriomote island.</p>

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Yaetama Hirugi (*Thizophora stylosa*) has interesting roots. It is distinctive features.



Blue sea, coral reefs and beautiful coloured fish!



Fences for avoiding car accidents of Iriomote wildcat



A map for putting eyewitness information from local peoples about Iriomote wildcat and other alien species. Car accidents of Iriomote wildcats are also on the map

**6. Others**

I would like to thank professors and staff of Tropical Biosphere Research Center University of the Ryukyus