

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.)

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Affiliation/Position	Primate Research Institute/D5
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1. Country/location of visit
Seminar house, North Campus, Kyoto University, Japan
2. Research project
Conserv’Session “Sonic Sea”
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2017. 11. 16
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Zsofia Budai, Kyoto University
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>Sonic Sea is a documentary about the impact of industrial and military ocean noise on whales and other marine life. The film shows scientific evidence that the noise caused by human activity (e.g shipments, sonars for detection of submarines) causes a disruption in animal behavior, leading them to move away from noise sources, which results in their stranding and death, as the case of Bahamas Islands in 2000. The film also shows changes in stress hormones in cetaceans before and after the events of 9/11, when ship traffic reduced. Besides being stressful, the noise caused by ships hinds communication between whales and increases the chances of mother-infant separation. The film offers potential solutions for a quieter ocean, and underscores that the ocean is our own responsibility.</p> <p>The discussion was led by Zsofia Budai, from Kyoto University, with special participation of Dr. Chandra Salgado and her student, from Curtin University (Australia), by videoconference. They explained their point of view about the movie, which seemed to have achieved its goals in explaining the devastating consequences of noise in marine life, although some statements were considered wrong. Dr. Salgado also discussed about the potential solutions and the difficulty in applying them (e.g financial restrains, law enforcement). Finally, the last question from the audience was “what can we do as a single individual to contribute to this issue?”, and the general answer was “to inform other people about this issue”.</p> <p>I have seen other documentaries on whales such as “Blackfish”, “The Cove”, and “Behind the Cove”, and I knew about the issues showed in the films before I watch, because the hunting, welfare issues in captivity are easily observed. But this is not the case of “Sonic sea”, which shows an issue that we are unable to hear. The movie was very informative and I believe it succeeded in increasing awareness of the audience. I hope that, by spreading the information we learned in this session, more technology will be developed to reduce ocean noise and protect marine wildlife.</p>

Figure 1 Videoconference with Dr. Chandra Salgado and her student

6. Acknowledgments
I would like to thank Prof. Matsuzawa and PWS for supporting my trip, to Dr. Chandra Salgado and her student for the very interesting discussion, and to all members of Conserv’Session for organizing this event.