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

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Affiliation/Position	Primate Research Institute/D2
Name	Raquel Costa

1. Country/location of visit

Kyoto University, Japan

2. Research project

Primatology Wildlife Science Symposium and Conserv' Session

3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)

2018.09.21-2018.09.24

4. Main host researcher and affiliation

none

5. Progress and results of your research/activity

The 10th International Symposium on Primatology and Wildlife Science was held between September 22nd and the 24th in the Seminar House of North Campus of Yoshida Campus of Kyoto University. This Symposium was also the celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Wildlife Research Center.

In the first day of the Symposium, I had the opportunity to do my first oral presentation, integrated in an international symposium. I presented a preliminary analysis of my PhD research study targeting the impact of the Ecotourism of mountain gorillas (Gorilla beringei beringei) in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda. Specifically, this project aims to assess the behavioural responses of habituated mountain gorillas to the tourists visits, hoping to contribute to the decisionmaking policies of this Conservation/ Business activity. Preliminary analysis of the first 6-month data set (collected between December 2017 and August 2018) on a habituated group (N=12) in Buhoma sector of Bwindi NP, shows that gorillas change their behaviour with the tourist presence. Kruskall-Wallis and Mann Whitney tests were used to compare pre-contact, during contact and post-contact periods, and to correlate the gorillas' behaviour with the distance to tourists and human group size. Data shows that "Human directed behaviour" increases 3.5 times during the tourist visit (Kruskal-Wallis=10.029, P=0.027 Bonferroni correction) and is present only when tourist are within 3 meters of the gorillas. Moreover, group social dynamics are affected by close distance to humans - affiliation, agonism and submission behaviours increase within 3 meters from the tourists. These preliminary results show a disturbance in the gorillas' behaviour but more data is needed for a more detailed analysis.

In the second day of the symposium, and after more talks on diverse subjects, Dr. Wiebke Finker and Prof. Llyoyd Spencer Davis gave a workshop on Science Communication. This is an important subject, often under looked. Being a young scientist, the techniques presented, and the insights given by Dr. Wiebke and Prof. Llyoyd, had a great impact on me and I intend to explore them using my own research. The key points of the workshop were: storytelling, engaging the public, effective

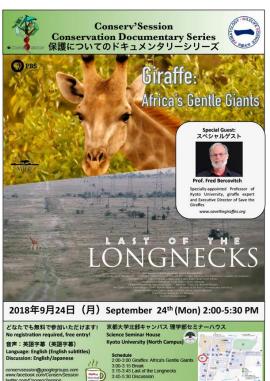
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and educational outreach.

In the last day, the morning session of the symposium included several talks from former CICASP professors - I was delighted to meet them again.

In the afternoon, after the symposium was finished, the Conserv' Session took place, held also at Kyoto University, Seminar House of North Campus of Yoshida Campus. This event screened two movies: "Giraffe: Africa's Gentle Giants" and "Last of the Long Necks". Both documentaries tackled the alarming speed of the decrease of giraffes' wild populations. In fact, the notion of these animals being an endangered species is not common, not even among scientists. However, the two documentaries used a very different approach to this issue. The screening of the documentaries was followed by the commentary of Prof. Fred Bercovitch, a giraffe expert and Executive Director of "Save the Giraffes" ONG. In addition, Dr. Wiebke and Prof. Llyoyd also gave their perspective about the filmmaking strategies both movies used. The panel was opened for discussion in the end.





6. Others

I wish to express my gratitude to my academic supervisors Prof. Misato Hayashi, Prof. Michael A. Huffman and Prof. Masaki Tomonaga. I also would like to thank Prof. Fred Bercovitch, Prof. Colin Chapman and Dr. Angela Brandao for their support and helpful comments, and to the Conserv' Session organization committee for another interesting event. A special thank you to PWS program.