

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

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<b>Affiliation/Position</b>	Primate Research Institute/D2
<b>Name</b>	Raquel Costa

<b>1. Country/location of visit</b>
Kumamoto, Japan
<b>2. Research project</b>
SAGA 21 <sup>st</sup> Symposium
<b>3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)</b>
2018.11.17-2018.11.18
<b>4. Main host researcher and affiliation</b>
Tokai University and Kumamoto Zoological Park and Botanical Gardens
<b>5. Progress and results of your research/activity</b>
<p>The 21<sup>th</sup> SAGA Symposium was held between November 17<sup>th</sup> in Tokai University Campus, and on the 18<sup>th</sup> in the Kumamoto Zoological Park and Botanical Gardens.</p> <p>The “Support for Africa/Asian Great Apes” was officially founded in 1998, in a joint collaboration of researchers, caretakers and broader members of the public, with the aim to promote conservation and welfare of great apes, resident in Japanese homeland. SAGA first endeavor was the abolition of invasive biomedical research in chimpanzees, who have been used since the 1970s to the study of hepatitis C by pharmaceutical companies. In order to pressure these entities, as well as other primate private holders, SAGA established the Great Ape Information Network (GAIN) in 2002. This project aims to constitute an up to date database with the information (birthday, day of obit, resident facility and family trees) of all great apes living in Japan. This intent to create a transparent system, allowing the interactions among scientists, zoos and general public in the design of science, husbandry management plans, and, ultimately, action-plans for species conservation. In this moment, GAIN website identifies 311 chimpanzees living in 49 facilities (Primate Research Institute, Kumamoto Sanctuary and 47 zoos across the country), 6 bonobos living in the Kumamoto Sanctuary, 21 gorillas distributed in 7 zoos, 47 orangutans in 19 zoos and 178 gibbons living in 43 facilities (Primate Research Institute, Osaka University and 41 zoos).</p> <p>Considering that in 2007, invasive biomedical research using chimpanzees was banned in Japan, SAGA turned the focus on the use of chimpanzees by the media and entertainment business. SAGA addresses the problem in both ethical and scientific strands. Research has demonstrated the deleterious behavioural consequences for animals when prevented to be raised by own mothers and in a social environment with conspecifics. However, the practice of retrieving young infants from the mothers at first sign of neglect is still current. This occurs specially when the purpose is to rear the infant in a way it can be handled by humans easily and used in the entertainment industry. SAGA has launched a campaign to put a stop on this (please visit <a href="https://www.saga-jp.org/indexe.html">https://www.saga-jp.org/indexe.html</a>).</p>

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In this symposium such topics were discussed. An entire panel, followed by discussion, was dedicated to the topic of reintroduction of infants to the mother, following veterinary care (Prof. Hayashi, Prof. Hirata and Prof. Nakamichi talks). But other topics were also addressed: reintroduction of a severely injured chimpanzee in the social group, birth of twin chimpanzees, the caring of an infant chimpanzee with severe disabilities by her mother, the importance of Aso semi-wild grasslands for the functioning of zoos and cattle zoonosis.

This symposium provided me with the opportunity to understand the current efforts Japanese institutions are deriving to improve captive apes lives and their conservation as endangered species, together with the educational value for the general public. I was very pleased to see that the situation is improving and many people (especially young high school students attending the symposium) were interested in the topic. I expect a fruitful concretization of these endeavors and the real improvement of captive animals` lives throughout the country.



Fig. 1. Discussion panel.



Fig. 3. Elephant skeleton in Kumamoto Zoological Park.



Fig. 3. Poster session.

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<b>6. Others</b>
I wish to express my gratitude to my academic supervisors Prof. Misato Hayashi, Prof. Michael A. Huffman and Prof. Masaki Tomonaga and to the SAGA organizational committee. A special thank you to PWS.