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<NEWS>

Mahale 50 Kyoto, Tokyo & Kigoma*Kazuhiko Hosaka**Co-chairman, Mahale Wildlife Conservation Society
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As announced in the previous issue, this year of 2015 flied as various events were planned and carried out to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Mahale Mountains Chimpanzee Research Project (MMCRP). In Kyoto on 18 July, a workshop at the 31st Congress of the Primate Society of Japan was held for the purpose of not only reviewing the long-term research at Mahale but also stimulating discussion about common interests shared among field primatologists, such as how to collect and use basic data relating to habitat ecology and life history of study species. In Tokyo on 12 October, a symposium at the 69th Congress of the Anthropological Society of Nippon was held to review long-term and recent findings from Mahale focusing on three topics (demography, DNA research, nocturnal behaviors of wild chimpanzees), leading to discussion about future contributions of wild ape research to anthropology.

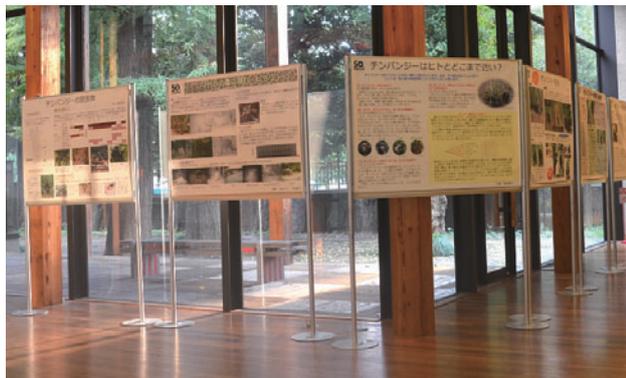


Figure 1. Twenty-three posters featuring 21 topics of research and conservation at Mahale were exhibited in a lobby of Yayoi Auditorium Ichijo Hall, the University of Tokyo.

Two ceremonial gatherings took place both in Tokyo, Japan and in Kigoma, Tanzania successfully. First, ‘Mahale 50 Exhibition and Symposium: 50 Years of Wild Chimpanzee Studies’ was held at the Yayoi Auditorium of the University of Tokyo on 19 September. The event was open to the public at large and gathered by more than 350 participants. It comprised an exhibition at the lobby and a symposium at the hall. The exhibition featured 21 topics of research and conservation at Mahale (Figure 1). All the poster exhibitions (in Japanese) were later edited as online educational materials and are now available free of charge at <http://mahale.main.jp/50th/panels/contents.html>. The symposium was called to order by Kazuhiko Hosaka addressing the aim of this public event, followed by Rashidi Kitopeni, a longtime research assistant for MMCRP and a member of Mahale Wildlife Conservation Society (MWCS) local staff, reading a congratulatory address. The first session entitled ‘A half-century explor-



Figure 2. A panel discussion in the final session of the public symposium, “Fifty years of wild chimpanzee studies”.

ing wild chimpanzees’ comprised three speakers, Kosei Izawa, Yukio Takahata, and Michio Nakamura with Toshikazu Hasegawa presiding. The second session entitled ‘For the next 50 years of research’ comprised three speakers, Nobuko Nakazawa, Takuya Matsumoto, and Juichi Yamagiwa with Hitoshige Hayaki presiding. The final session was a panel discussion of all six speakers with Masaki Shimada presiding (Figure 2).

On 26 November, an international workshop to celebrate the 50th anniversary of collaboration between Japan and Tanzania took place at Kigoma, Tanzania. For the detail, see the next news article.

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Mahale Research 50th Anniversary Event in Kigoma, Tanzania*Takuya Matsumoto**Graduate School of Science, Kyoto University, Japan
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The Mahale Research 50th Anniversary Event was held in Kigoma, Tanzania, on 26 November 2015. About fifty participants, including Mahale Mountains Chimpanzee Research Project (MMCRP) researchers and their Tongwe assistants (active and retired), guests from Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI), Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA), Embassy of Japan in Tanzania, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Mahale Wildlife Conservation Society (MWCS), and Gombe Stream Research Centre, assembled at the Lake Tanganyika Hotel (Figure 1).

The event was called to order at 1430 h. His Excellency Masaharu Yoshida (the Japanese Ambassador to Tanzania; Figure 2), Mr. Toshio Nagase (Chief Representative of the JICA Tanzania Office), Mr. Herman Batiho (Chief Park Warden of Mahale Mts. National Park, TANAPA), Dr. Edward Kohi (Director of the Mahale-Gombe Wildlife Research Centre, TAWIRI) and others gave speeches, and a video message from Professor Hosea

Kayumbo (University of Dar es Salaam/ Chairman of MWCS) was screened.

After a coffee break, Michio Nakamura, Nobuko Nakazawa, and Takuya Matsumoto from Kyoto University/MMCRP gave talks titled “An Overview of 50 years



Figure 1. Participants in the International Workshop: 50 Years of Research on Wild Chimpanzees and Other Wildlife in Mahale, at Lake Tanganyika Beach Hotel, Kigoma, Tanzania, on 26 November 2015 (All photos in Figures 1–3 courtesy of Hiroko Sakuragi).



Figure 2. His Excellency Masaharu Yoshida, the Japanese Ambassador to Tanzania, gives a speech.



Figure 3. The whole participants practice “Grooming Hand-Clasp” known as a social custom of Mahale chimpanzees in Matsumoto’s talk.

of Chimpanzee Research at Mahale,” “Recent Research Advances in Mammals other than Chimpanzees,” and “Diversity of Chimpanzee Behavior,” respectively (Figure 3).

After the event, we enjoyed dinner and celebrated the 50th anniversary of Mahale Research into the night. Ramadhani Nyundo, who worked in the first two decades of MMCRP and later hired by TANAPA, made a toast and Hilali Kalunde expressed the history of Mahale in poetry or song (Shairi in Swahili) at dinner.

Mr. Yoshida commented, “I have seen in a new light that research in Mahale such as cultural behaviors of chimpanzees is not only important to biology, but also attractive to the public.” Mwami Rashidi, who had been an assistant of MMCRP and whose father had also belonged to MMCRP, commented that he would like to help research in Mahale for the next 50 years.

<NOTE>

A Case of Infant Carrying against the Mother’s Will by an Old Adult Female Bonobo at Wamba, Democratic Republic of Congo

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INTRODUCTION

Kidnapping, one form of allomothering behaviors in which an infant is carried by a non-mother individual for a prolonged time without returning to its mother, has been observed in various primate species (Maestripieri 1994). In bonobos, it occurs rarely and all reported kidnapers were females (Neugebauer 1980; Hohmann & Fruth 2003; Vervaecke *et al.* 2003). Kidnapping can be fatal to the infant. In two cases of captive bonobos, the kidnapers were anesthetized in order to return the infants to their mothers (Neugebauer 1980; Vervaecke *et al.* 2003). In the case of wild bonobos in Lomako, the baby was observed to be dead one day after the kidnapping (Hohmann & Fruth 2003).

Here, I report a case of kidnapping behavior by an old adult female. The incident happened immediately after the infant had gone through a seemingly stressful and possibly fatal accident, falling from the tree canopy to the ground. The old adult female carried an infant for 51 min and kept ignoring the mother’s efforts to retrieve her infant, until the mother finally snatched the infant away.

BACKGROUND

The observation was made on 17th March 2015 at Wamba, Luo Scientific Reserve, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). A group of bonobos, PE group, has been followed on a daily basis since October 2010. The group had been observed between 1976 and 1991, and at that time, the group was called ‘P group’ (Idani 1990). The