

Title	The Exhibition and Workshop to Commemorate The 30th Anniversary of Chimpanzee Research at Mahale
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Citation	Pan Africa News (1996), 3(1): 1-2
Issue Date	1996-06
URL	http://hdl.handle.net/2433/143338
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Type	Article
Textversion	publisher

The Exhibition and Workshop to Commemorate The 30th Anniversary of Chimpanzee Research at Mahale

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To commemorate the 30th anniversary of the chimpanzee research at Mahale, an exhibition was opened in the National Museum at Dar-es-Salaam on December 4th of 1995. The opening ceremony was held by Mr. Costa Mlay, the Director General of the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) and addresses were made by the Hon. Juma Ngasongwa, M.P., the Minister of Tourism, Natural Resources & Environment, Mr. Shigeyuki Suzuki, the Deputy Ambassador of Japan, Dr. D.N. Manyanza, the Principal of the College of African Wildlife Management and Mr. Hiromasa Kawasoe, the Director of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Dar es-Salaam. As arranged by Prof. Hosea Kayumbo, the Chairman of the Mahale Wildlife Conservation Society, a team of girls and boys danced and sang a song to commemorate the success of the research. Many people from the Ministry, various embassies, the University of Dar-es-Salaam, conservation-oriented NGO's, newspaper offices, various aid agencies and the general public gathered for the ceremony. Among the distinguished guests were Mr. B.N.N. Mbano, Director of Wildlife, and the British Ambassador.

After a 40 minute ceremony, the VPs had the privilege of previewing the various panels in the exhibition which illustrated chimpanzees, birds, fish, forests and other wildlife at Mahale, actual plant specimens and brand new videotapes accompanied by Prof. Toshisada Nishida's

narration. The panels were prepared by Prof. Shigeo Uehara of Sapporo University, Mr. Michio Nakamura, Dr. Michael A. Huffman, Dr. Michio Hori and T. Nishida of Kyoto University, while video tapes were shot and edited by Anica Production, Tokyo. Live botanical specimens were collected at Mahale and transported to Dar by T. Nishida. The exhibition continued for a week.

On the afternoon of December 4th, a workshop on research and conservation began with Mr. Costa Mlay's keynote address at the Simba Grill of the Kilimanjaro Hotel. The workshop had originally been planned by Professor Kayumbo and T. Nishida and further organized by TAWIRI, Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) and JICA. Mr. Mlay emphasized the importance of wildlife management officers, researchers and NGO's who rarely, if ever, have the chance for discussion, gathering together. Mr. Mlay, who visited Japan in November of last year, delivered a letter on behalf of Prof. Junichiro Itani to congratulate everyone on the 30th anniversary and to suggest the establishment of a game reserve in the area peripheral to Mahale.

Following Mr. Mlay's address, Ambassador Job Lusinde, Board Chairman of TANAPA, and Professor Kayumbo each made a brief address. Then, one of the major contributions was made jointly by Mr. Lota Melamari and A.R. Kajuni, Director General and Manager of the Planning Unit of TANAPA,

respectively. They emphasized one of the important roles played by scientific research, in particular that of ecosystem study, in wildlife management. This was followed by my own lengthy speech on the past and future prospects of Mahale research, and then by a presentation on the current distribution of chimpanzees in Tanzania by Mr. Edeus Massawe, the Director of the Mahale Wildlife Research Centre.

The second day's morning session (December 5th), chaired by Dr. Anthony Collins of the Gombe Stream Research Centre, began with Dr. George Sabuni's speech on research policies that are relevant to wildlife conservation, followed by Professor K. Tambila's presentation on socio-economic implications of wildlife conservation. Prof. Tambila whose ancestor was from Mahale (Tambila is the name for one of the main peaks of the southern range of the Mahale Mountains) emphasized the importance of local people participating in the decision-making regarding planning within and outside of protected areas. Then, two presentations by Mahale researchers took place. Dr. Huffman introduced brand-new findings on chimpanzee medicinal plant use, while Prof. Uehara presented a detailed analyses of hunting behavior by wild chimpanzees. After the lunch break, under the chairmanship of Dr. Huffman, Dr. Fatima Mturi of the University of Dar-es-Salaam discussed the loss of habitat of endangered Zanzibar red colobus monkeys. Then, Dr. Fumio Fukuda, the JICA consultant to Mahale, explained his long term attempt to habituate the B group of chimpanzees to human observers without resort to provisioning. The session was closed by two eloquent speakers: Dr. W.A.

Rodgers of F.A.O. spoke on the diversity of primate fauna in Tanzania, while Dr. Kim Howell of the University of Dar-es-Salaam summarized the biodiversity of the Mahale area. After the afternoon session, attendees met and enjoyed a reception at the swimming pool of the Kilimanjaro Hotel.

The third day (December 6th) began with Dr. Manyaza's presentation on the role of protected areas (PAs) for the development of the well-being of local people. He pointed out the difficulty of the concept of "neighboring community" which is variously defined as geographical, sociological or ecological. The rest of the morning was dedicated to the summary and discussion of all topics previously raised. Mr. Melamari and Dr. Jane Goodall who had joined the workshop from the previous evening's reception, chaired the entire morning session. This final session was extremely productive: Participants discussed basic versus applied research, better use of indigenous talent in PA planning and community conservation, the problem of inadequate scientific advisory services to management, capacity building by TAWIRI, systems plans and biodiversity, community participation in resource conservation, roles of NGOs in creating awareness in conservation and other topics.

The closing address was delivered by Mr. Takashi Komori, the deputy Director of JICA who thanked participants for their contribution to the tremendously successful workshop. I have heard that all contributions were collected by Mr. Mlay and Dr. Sabuni of TAWIRI by the beginning of February, 1996 and an anthology will be published in the near future.



Left: The Hon. Juma Ngasongwa, M.P., the Ministry of Tourism, Nature Resources and Environment addresses the gathering (Photo by T. Nishida)