

A photograph of Professor Nobuyuki Kutsukake in a field. He is wearing a grey bucket hat, sunglasses, a light-colored long-sleeved shirt, and a green tactical vest. He is holding a small blue object in his hands. The background shows a dry, open landscape with sparse green bushes and trees under a clear blue sky.

Research themes arise from observation

Professor
Nobuyuki Kutsukake

Q: What is the one thing you want to know the most right now?

I want to know the astonishing lives and minds of animals, particularly mammals. I like rare and weird species such as armadillos, anteaters, platypuses, and so on. I want to study those species someday.

Q: So your research originates from something you love to do?

Yes, I try to find questions by observing animals. For doing so, it is important to observe animals when you do not have specific questions and purposes. We can also find questions through reading papers and thinking in an office, but I think the questions you gained through fieldwork are more valuable than those.

Q: Could you share your thoughts on the future prospects of this field?

Studies of animal behaviour are growing rapidly by interfacing with different areas and introducing new technologies. Still, I think it is important to take a long time to observe behaviour of animals in their wild habitat.

Q. What was the most enjoyable moment and the most challenging moment during your research?

I have hoped to live with animals since my childhood, so I am thankful for what I am doing every day. I also thank the opportunities to study with young researchers who have similar interests to mine. Moreover, I think it is valuable to have experiences of seeing various animals, people, countries, and cultures through my academic activity such as fieldworks and conferences. One difficulty is that my activity and research are powerless for preventing the destruction of the natural environment and the extinction of many species.





Q: Do you have a message for undergraduate and graduate students who are interested in joining your lab?

Supervisors can teach students how to study. But we cannot teach you what you are interested in and why you want to study. I hope that students keep strong interests in favourite species or topics. It is desirable that you have experiences of studying animals and doing fieldwork, but those may not be indispensable because I had no experiences until I did my first study. So, you may not need to worry too much about this point.