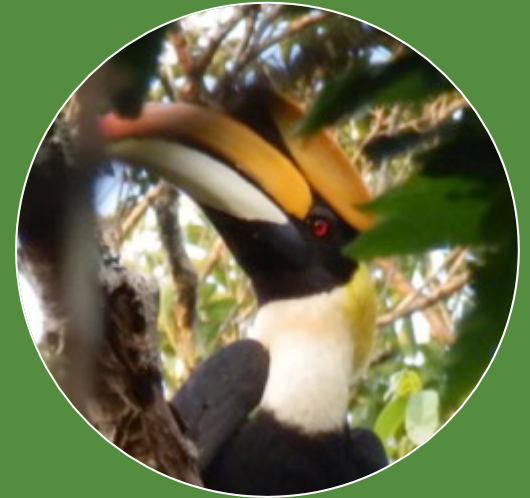


ANNUAL REPORT 2015



ANNUAL REPORT 2015



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Vientiane, Lao PDR

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1. Foreword

“It is with great pride that I bring to you the second annual report of Project Anoulak, which summarises our actions in 2015.

Already three years since we established our association, working in the field for wildlife protection in Nakai-Nam Theun National Protected Area in Laos.

We have come a long way already and 2015 must be one of the most important years of our beginning.

Indeed, this year we accomplished a milestone with opening our office in Nakai and with the construction of our field station in the forest, which will be our base for the years to come to observe, study, protect and inspire. This followed the official approval we received from the Government of the Lao P.D.R. to proceed with our projects.


We hope 2016 will bring some more exciting results with new & continuing partnerships.”


*Camille Coudrat
Project Anoulak Founder*



*Vientiane, Laos
30 December 2015*

II. Project Anoulak background

 Project Anoulak (*'conservation'* in Lao language) is a French-registered non-for-profit association dedicated to the long-term conservation and study of wildlife in their natural habitats in Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR or Laos), in particular in the Nakai-Nam Theun National Protected Area (NNT NPA) where we operate from our field station.

 We have for mission to develop and implement innovative, multidisciplinary and sustainable approaches to the long-term conservation and study of the biodiversity and ecosystems in Nakai-Nam Theun National Protected Area, central-eastern Laos, with a passionate and dedicated team of nationals and internationals.



III. Project Anoulak Team

Board of directors of French-registered Association Projet Anoulak

Camille Coudrat



Founder
Vice-President

Mélanie Berthet



President
Veterinarian at Zoo de Besançon

Benoît Quintard



Secretary
Veterinarian at Mulhouse Zoo

Brice Lefaux



Treasurer
Director & Veterinarian
at Mulhouse Zoo

Lao Team – Permanent Staff

Camille Coudrat
a.k. a. Kham



Director

Chanthalaphone Nanthavong
a.k.a. Tou



Project coordinator,
field station
manager & research
assistant

Ouphakhone Suvandee
a.k.a. Done



Research & Activity
Assistant


Gibbons Monitoring Team:
Mr. Siengouan & Mr. Phouvong

Doucs Monitoring Team:
Mr. Kieng & Mr. Ken


Field Station keepers:
Mr. Heuy & Mr. Xee


IV. Programmes Activities in 2015

1. Meetings & Agreements

-  **February 2015:** First official meeting with
- The Department of Forest Resource Management of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment;
 - The Nam Theun 2 Watershed Management and Protection Authority;
 - The District office of Forest Resource Management;
 - The Provincial office of Forest Resource Management;
 - village leaders;
 - Project Anoulak;
 - Nam Theun 2 Power Company


This led to an agreement letter signed by the Ministry for the implementation of the project.


 **May 2015:** Meeting with village leaders from two clusters to agree on project activities, common interests and collaboration. Five villagers from **four** villages were chosen by village leaders to work with Project Anoulak


 **November 2015:** Visit of field station and meeting with head of the Navang and newly in charge of conservation activities, for the area, representative from the Watershed Management & Protection Authority and representative from the District office of Forest Resource Management to report on activities 2015 and discuss workplan 2016.

IV. Programmes Activities in 2015

2. Field Station, Headquarters and Office

 In May 2015, we built our field station in the middle of the Nakai-Nam Theun National Protected Area.


 Our field station is composed of four traditional wooden houses, a kitchen and toilets. We are powered by the sun, with solar panels and have a vegetable garden. It is permanently staffed with a keeper and our Primate Monitoring Units.


 The Anoulak field station is our base for all our long-term research and forest protection activities and can welcome other researchers, students and visitors for specific projects.



IV. Programmes Activities in 2015

2. Field Station, Headquarters and Office

 In 2015, following official meeting and agreement between Project Anoulak, the Government of Lao PDR (Department of Forest Resource Management of the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment) and the Nam Theun 2 Watershed Management and Protection Authority (WMPA), the latter provided us with an **office** in their headquarter building in Ban Oudomsouk, in Nakai.

 In 2015, we also started building our **headquarters** in Nakai (Ban Oudomsouk), which will be completed in 2016 and be our base outside the forest!



Project Anoulak Office





Headquarters building in Nakai District town, January 2016


IV. Programmes Activities in 2015

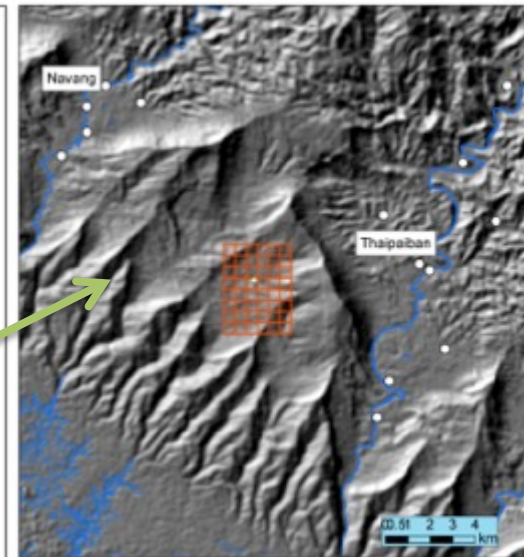
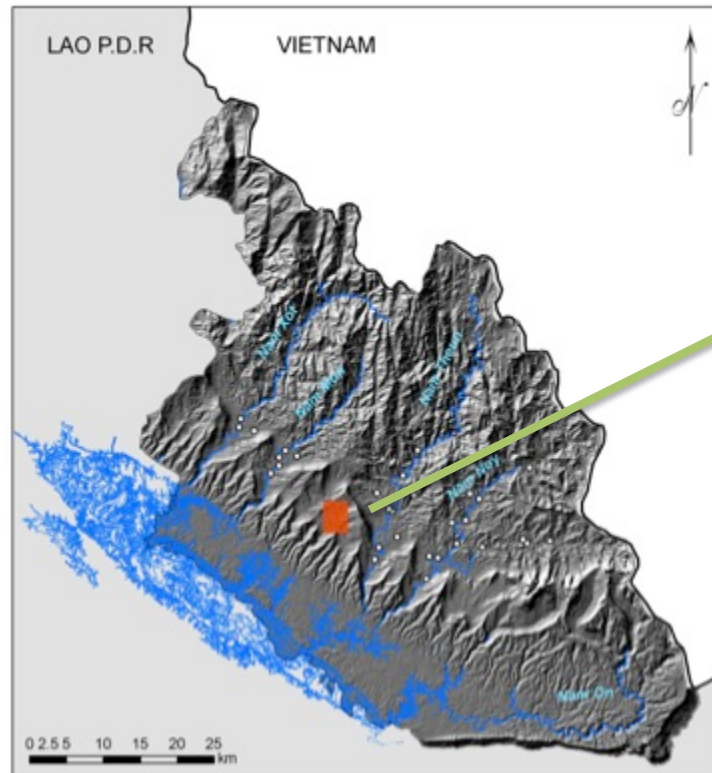
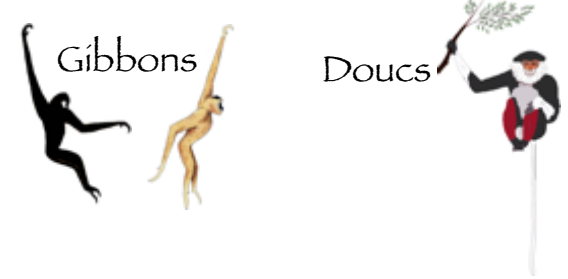
3. Gibbons and Doucs Ecology and Conservation Programme

◆ Primate Monitoring & Protection Unit

 In June and July 2015 a grid trail system around the field station was cut and marked with red paint to facilitate movement at the research site. The trail system was completed in August 2015, with a total of 55 km of trails, covering 12 km².

 We employ four villagers to form our Gibbon Team and Douc Team; Both teams are in charge of habituating a group of gibbons and a group of doucs for our long-term behavioural ecology study.

 Habituation process began in September 2015 and is still in progress. We have not yet been able to start collecting behavioural data on both species.



IV. Programmes Activities in 2015

3. Gibbons and Doucs Ecology and Conservation Programme



◆ Gibbon triangulation survey around the station



🌿 In November 2015, we conducted a four-day auditory gibbon survey, using three listening posts around the field station.

🌿 We recorded direction and estimated distances of groups heard over the four days to identify by triangulation the different groups and their approximate locations.

🌿 We identified at least eight groups around the station (as shown on the map beside).

IV. Programmes Activities in 2015

3. Gibbons and Doucs Ecology and Conservation Programme

◆ Ex-Situ Diet & Nutrition Study

As part of our study on the ecology of doucs and gibbons in the wild, we are interested in understanding how much of the nutrients they consume is physiologically digested to determine the nutritional needs of both species.

Food intake and nutrient digestibility is best studied in captive settings. In 2015, we started our ex-situ diet and nutrition study.

Our first data collection took place at the Endangered primate Rescue Centre, Cuc Phuong National Park, Vietnam.

We focussed our study on eight *Nomascus siki* and seven *Pugathrix nemaeus*. For six consecutive days, we recorded food intake (weight of food given – weight of food left over) (Table 1).

All food items and faeces were analysed in laboratory to calculate the proportion of nutrients digested.

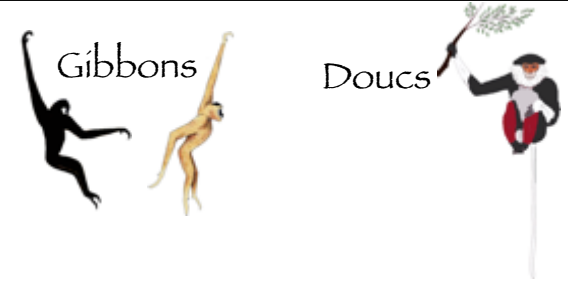


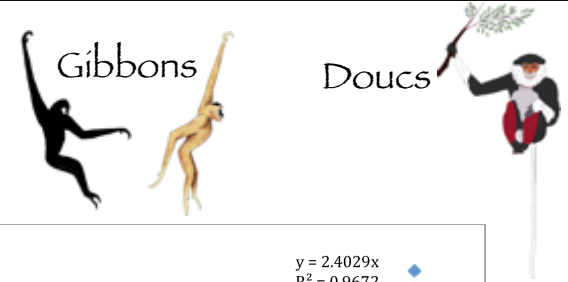
Table 1: Percentage of fresh weight of food items fed and eaten to doucs and gibbons over the 6-day study

Food Item	Doucs		Gibbons	
	Given	Eaten	Given	Eaten
Browse	98.60%	95.73%	-	-
Vegetables	1.40%	4.27%	57.86%	61.58%
Fruits			33.07%	29.37%
Egg			0.54%	0.52%
Grains			6.76%	7.07%
Peanuts			1.76%	1.47%

Note: the browse that gibbons were fed is negligible and was not recorded

IV. Programmes Activities in 2015

3. Gibbons and Doucs Ecology and Conservation Programme



◆ Ex-Situ Diet & Nutrition Study

Table 2: Nutrients ingested by doucs and gibbons from the diet fed over the 6-day study

	Ash	Protein	Fat	ADF	NDF	NSC	Ca	P	Energy	Ca:P
Doucs	8.1	18.5	3.9	20.4	44.8	24.5	2.7	0.2	6.3	13.5
Gibbons	4.7	11.1	3.6	9.0	30.1	50.3	0.5	0.2	2.8	2.1

All nutrients are in % DRY matter; Energy is in Kcal/g DRY matter
 ADF=Acid Detergent Fibre; NDF=Neutral Detergent Fibre; P=Phosphorus; Ca=Calcium

Table 3: Percentage (mean and standard deviation SD) of digestibility of the different nutrients for doucs and gibbons

	Energy	Protein	Fat	ADF	NDF	Ca	P
Doucs - Mean	86.61%	80.17%	54.45%	83.92%	89.15%	86.59%	51.34%
Doucs - SD	8.41%	12.12%	29.20%	10.14%	6.71%	8.26%	26.39%
Gibbon - Mean	91.26%	87.99%	81.01%	86.63%	92.58%	88.74%	84.44%
Gibbon - SD	4.52%	9.27%	19.74%	6.52%	3.34%	5.69%	8.53%

ADF=Acid Detergent Fibre; NDF=Neutral Detergent Fibre; P=Phosphorus; Ca=Calcium

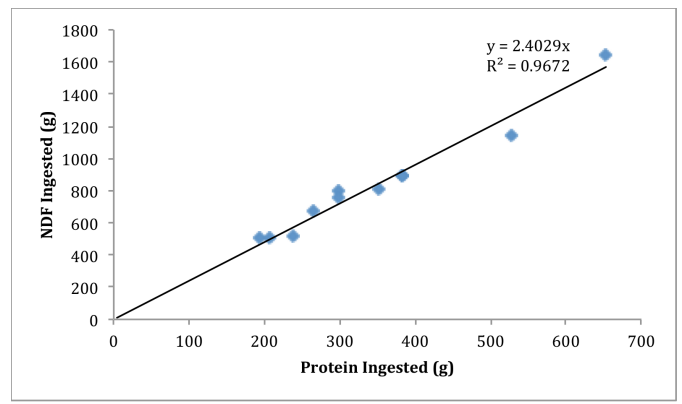


Figure 1: protein to NDF intake ratio for doucs

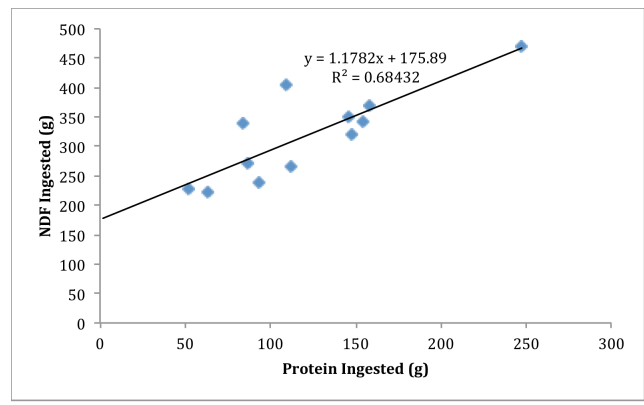


Figure 2: protein to NDF intake ratio for gibbons

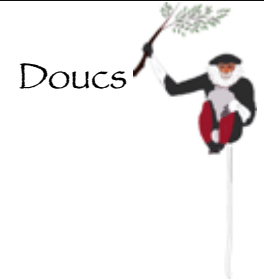
IV. Programmes Activities in 2015

3. Gibbons and Doucs Ecology and Conservation Programme

◆ Ex-Situ Diet & Nutrition Study

Preliminary observations and next steps:

- Both the gibbons and the doucs are able to ferment structural carbohydrates. Doucs are able to digest a much larger amount when compared to the gibbons.
- The foods consumed by doucs was very specific and stringent in their protein to fibre ratio. Gibbons were less restrictive in their selection but definitely ingested more fibre than was thought necessary for this apparent frugivorous species. Fibre may be more important in their diets than previously thought.
- Additional data will be collected in 2016 in other facilities in order to confirm these preliminary results.

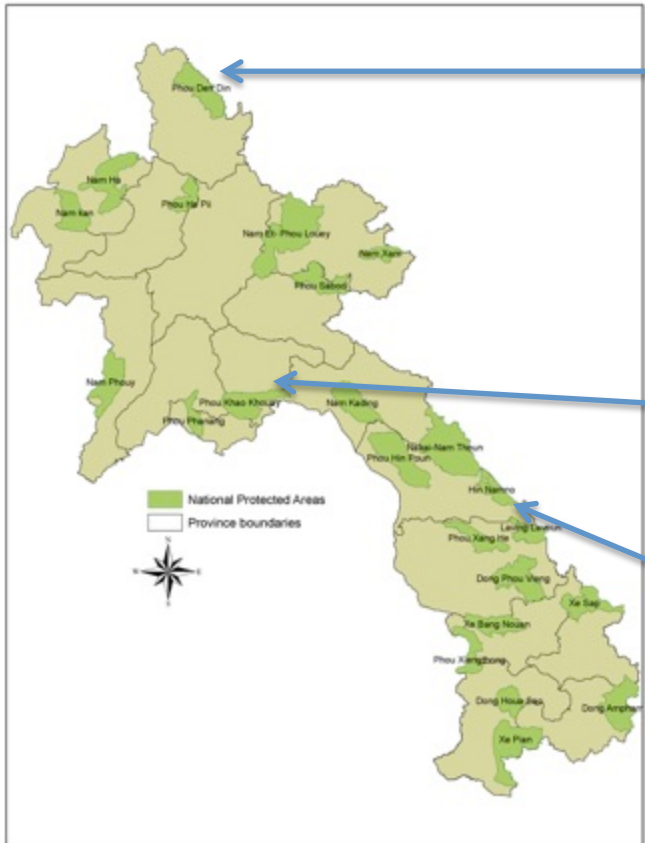


IV. Programmes Activities in 2015

3. Gibbons and Doucs Ecology and Conservation Programme



◆ Other gibbon surveys in Lao PDR in 2015



January 2015: Phou Dendin NPA with Lao Biodiversity Association and Fauna & Flora International

June 2015: Nam Ngiep Watershed with Nam Ngiep 1 Power Company

April and Sept 2015: Hin Namn NPA with German-Lao Development (GIZ)

IV. Programmes Activities in 2015

3. Gibbons and Doucs Ecology and Conservation Programme

◆ 2015 Year of the Gibbons

The IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group Section on Small Apes declared the 24th October 2015 the International Day for Gibbons.

For the occasion, Project Anoulak celebrated in Laos and in France!



Limited edition Gibbon T-shirts produced by Project Anoulak

IV. Programmes Activities in 2015

2015 Year of the Gibbons

Gibbon Day in Vientiane, Laos



French Ambassador in Laos adding her fingerprint to the gibbon tree!

Gibbon Day at the Zoo Besançon, France



IV. Programmes Activities in 2015

4. Environmental Education Programme

🌱 In 2015, Project Anoulak started working with a volunteer from the US, Miss Janelle Kaczmarzewski to develop some environmental education activities and resources.


🌱 Janelle will be leading our environmental education programme from January to May 2016 in collaboration with the Watershed Management & Protection Authority and District Education Office.





Janelle with kids in Nakai, December 2014


IV. Programmes Activities in 2015

4. Environmental Education Programme

 In 2015, we have collaborated with artist Eric Losh to create an exclusive children's book on the unique biodiversity of the Annamite Mountains, where our project is based

 The book will be used in our school activities in Nakai-Nam Theun and also be distributed Nationally and Internationally to raise awareness and funds

 The illustrations created for the book will also be used to produce some other products (t-shirts, calendars, cards, posters etc.)

 We will organize a special launch event for the first edition of the book in 2016!





If you are interested in re-printing the book and sell it at your institution on behalf of Project Anoulak to raise funds for us, please do not hesitate to contact us!!!



IV. Programmes Activities in 2015

5. Otter project

 In November 2015, we began our otter project with the first ever otter-specific camera-trap survey. We set up 11 cameras along the Nam Mon river for one month.

 The purpose of the survey was to (i) identify species of otters occurring in the area and (ii) qualitatively assess their population abundance and threats.



One of otter photographs of our survey in Nov. 2015 © Project Anoulak

 Of the 11 cameras, four recorded otters, with a total of 10 notionally independent pictures of otters! In collaboration with the IUCN/SSC Otter Specialist Group, the otters photographed will be identified to species. A final report will be prepared in January 2016, ahead of the 13th International Otter Congress, 3-8 July 2016, Singapore, where we will plan our next steps related to this otter project. This will include a second camera-trap survey after refining the survey design, developing an otter population monitoring technique, extend our interviews, and developing a local conservation action plan for otters in Nakai-Nam Theun.

V. Visits from supporters in 2015

In November 2015, Dr. Brice Lefaux [Project Anoulak Board member and Director & veterinarian at Mulhouse Zoo, France] and Dr. Cyril Hue [veterinarian at Zoo La Flèche, France] came for a 4-day visit to our field station.



V. Visits from supporters in 2015

“The Mulhouse Zoo is supporting Project Anoulak since the very beginning. I went to visit the Project in Nakai-Nam Theun in December 2015, the first time in Laos and in this spectacular ecosystem of the Annamite mountains.



I met villagers working with Project Anoulak, officials representing the district and the area’s managing authority. We participated to discussions about future development of the protection of the forest and the involvement of the locals. Project Anoulak is very well accepted and villages are asking for more support from the Project. Sadly, we heard gun shots during the night while at the station: the forest needs more protection.

The field research station is operational and with all the comfort needed for field research, allowing us to spend 7 hours a day in the well managed research forest area. We had the privilege to observe red shanked doucs, macaques and many birds. And even if I couldn’t see them I had the huge honor to hear in the morning 4 groups of white-cheeked gibbons surrounding the research station: that made my journey!

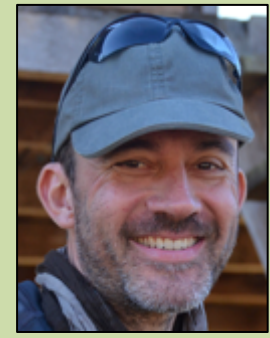
Field guides are in the process of habituating groups of doucs and gibbons and camera trapping is going on. The most impressive is that all this was accomplished in a very short time, about 1.5 years. Project Anoulak is a young and strong based project, it will offer the opportunity to conserve through protection and on-going education program this magnificent ecosystem and its inhabitants. The scientific research potential is huge and the field station is a real opportunity to improve our knowledge on the fauna and flora of this region.”

Mulhouse, France, 7 January 2016

Brice Lefaux
Director Mulhouse Zoo
Vice chair of the EAZA Gibbon TAG
President French Society of Primatology

V. Visits from supporters in 2015

“In December 2015, I had the opportunity and the chance to go to Laos to visit Project Anoulak within the Nakai-Nam Theun National Protected Area. I discovered with an indescribable happiness a site of remarkable beauty and still little encroached. Day to day, I was able to go with the teams of Anoulak the research site for gibbons and doucs. I was very impressed by the seriousness and the design of the project, including the operation of the station, place of living and research. I totally admire the dedication and professionalism of the researchers and the entire staff of the organization. The work, the progress made in recent years, the results obtained and the magnitude of the task still to be carried deserve attention and support. I also have perceived that the threats are real on this biodiversity treasure: illegal logging, poaching, the border traffic with Vietnam... More than ever we must be vigilant, present, active and combative along side Anoulak to act for conservation in Laos.”



La Flèche, France, 8 January 2016

Cyril Hue
Veterinarian at La Flèche Zoo

VI. Conferences/workshops in 2015

-  March 2015, Siem Reap, Cambodia: CEPF workshop – Mid-term Assessment of Implementation of the Ecosystem Profile for the Indo-Burma Hotspot
-  March 2015, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: IUCN/SSC Otter Specialist Group Asian Section – Regional planning
-  April 2015, Phnom Penh, Cambodia: IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group Section on Small Apes: Working group workshop for drafting the *Gibbon Survey and Monitoring Guidelines*
-  September 2015, Wroclaw, Poland: EAZA, Gibbon Taxonomic Advisory Group – presentation by colleague Francis Cabana on our ex-situ diet and nutrition study
-  September 2015, Mulhouse, France: General Assembly of Association Projet Anoulak with Board
-  October 2015, Vientiane, Laos: French Volunteer Day, Presentations on biodiversity, climate change and the environment
-  November 2015, Singapore: IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group Asian Primates Red List update Workshop

VII. Financial report 2015

PROGRAM	EXPENSES
GIBBON PROGRAM	
Food	\$348.21
Transport	\$1,472.81
Supplies/consumables/office/printing	\$343.23
Education & communication supplies	\$590.39
Salaries/compensations	\$535.62
Laboratory analysis	\$1,517.89
Equipment	\$4,660.42
Administration	\$373.14
TOTAL	\$9,841.71

OPERATING SUPPORT	
Salaries/compensations	\$6,200.00
Research equipment	\$1,615.42
TOTAL	\$7,815.42

DOUC PROGRAM	
Supplies/consumables/office/printing	\$443.12
Laboratory analysis	\$761.24
TOTAL	\$1,204.37

OTTER PROJECT	
Food	\$12.22
Transport	\$54.12
Research equipment	\$1,803.35
Supplies/consumables	\$20.22
Salaries/compensations	\$488.62
TOTAL	\$2,378.53

PROGRAM	EXPENSES
EDUCATION PROGRAM	
Supplies/consumables	\$266.79
Salaries/compensations	\$1,012.35
Material printings	\$1,364.44
TOTAL	\$2,643.58

PRIMATE MONITORING UNIT	
Food	\$661.96
Transport	\$1,019.47
Supplies/consumables	\$304.94
Salaries/compensations	\$10,646.11
TOTAL	\$12,632.48

FIELD STATION/HEADQUARTERS SET UP	
Food	\$1,202.13
Transport	\$674.63
Supplies/consumables	\$894.59
Office/supplies	\$296.53
Equipment/building	\$4,828.44
Salaries/compensations	\$7,516.40
Meetings	\$680.87
TOTAL	\$16,093.59

GRAND-TOTAL	\$52,609.68
SPENT in 2015	

VIII. Communication 2015



Website: www.conservationlaos.com

YouTube: www.youtube.com/c/Conservationlaos

Facebook: www.facebook.com/projectanoulak

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ConservationLao>

Instagram: <https://instagram.com/conservationlaos/>

Our new brochures created in 2015, available in English and French:
www.conservationlaos.com/Brochures.html



IX. Support in 2015

GIBBONS



DOUCS



صندوق محمد بن زايد
للمحافظة على الكائنات الحية
The Mohamed bin Zayed SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND



FIELD STATION

CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM
PARTNERSHIP FUND

EDUCATION



OTTERS



IUCN Otter Specialist Group
Leading global otter conservation



X. Partnerships

Our activities are implemented thanks to partnerships with other organizations/institutions:



The **Nam Theun 2 Watershed Management and Protection Authority** is the governmental organization responsible for the wildlife protection and livelihood development of Nakai-Nam Theun National Protected Area.

They are our main national partner for all implementation of our programmes and in 2015, provided us with an office in their headquarter in Ban Oudomsouk (Nakai)!



The **Lao Wildlife Conservation Association** is dedicated to the conservation of wildlife and habitats in Laos by collaborating and facilitating the implementation of conservation projects

They have been instrumental in facilitating our establishment



The **European Endangered Species Program** (EEP) is an intensive captive breeding and population management program of the **European Association of Zoos and Aquariums** (EAZA). For each captive species, the program includes the support of in-situ conservation/research project.

Project Anoulak is an official partner organization for *Nomascus* species approved by the Gibbon Taxonomic Advisory Group



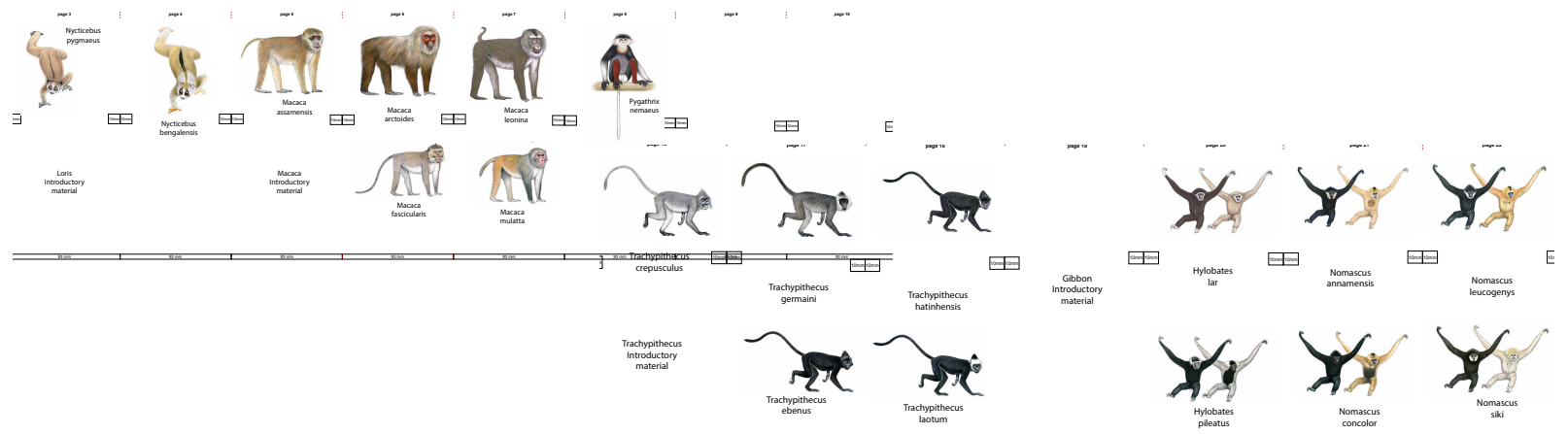
The **Asian Species Action Partnership** is an IUCN SSC initiative aimed at reversing the declines in the wild of Species On The Brink of extinction: Critically Endangered freshwater and terrestrial vertebrates in Southeast Asia by providing networking and technical facilitation and support to partner conservation practitioner organizations in Southeast Asia.

In 2015, Project Anoulak became a partner organization of ASAP

XI. Workplan 2016

Also coming in 2016...

The first Primate Pocket Field Guide for Lao P.D.R.



A joined collaboration between Project Anoulak and wildlife artist Stephen Nash and conservationist Russell Mittermeier from Conservation International and IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group

XII. Greetings for New Year 2016



Project Anoulak would like to wish all our partners, friends, colleagues and supporters a **happy, hopeful, positive, daring** and adventurous **New Year 2016**.

We expect 2016 to be as challenging and rewarding as ever.

Every Year, we strive to protect the beautiful Nature surrounding us, with **Your support**.

Thank you.

XIII. Contact Us

For any inquiry please do not hesitate to contact us:

Camille Coudrat
Founder, Managing Director
camillecoudrat@gmail.com

Chanthalaphone Nanthavong
Project Coordinator
chanthalaphone@gmail.com

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Khammouan Province
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Mélanie Berthet
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Benoît Quintard
Benoit.Quintard@mulhouse-alsace.fr

XIV. Support Us

DONATION

You can make a donation by bank transfer directly at:

Ass Projet Anoulak
51 Rue du Jardin Zoologique, 68100, Mulhouse, France
BANQUE POPULAIRE D'ALSACE, Mulhouse Kennedy
IBAN: FR76 1760 7000 0170 1989 7525 257
SWIFT code: CCBPFRPPSTR
Account Number: 70198975252

OR

via Paypal, on our website, by clicking on the 'Donate' button on the Home page



