



PROJECT ANOULAK

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# Annual Report 2018

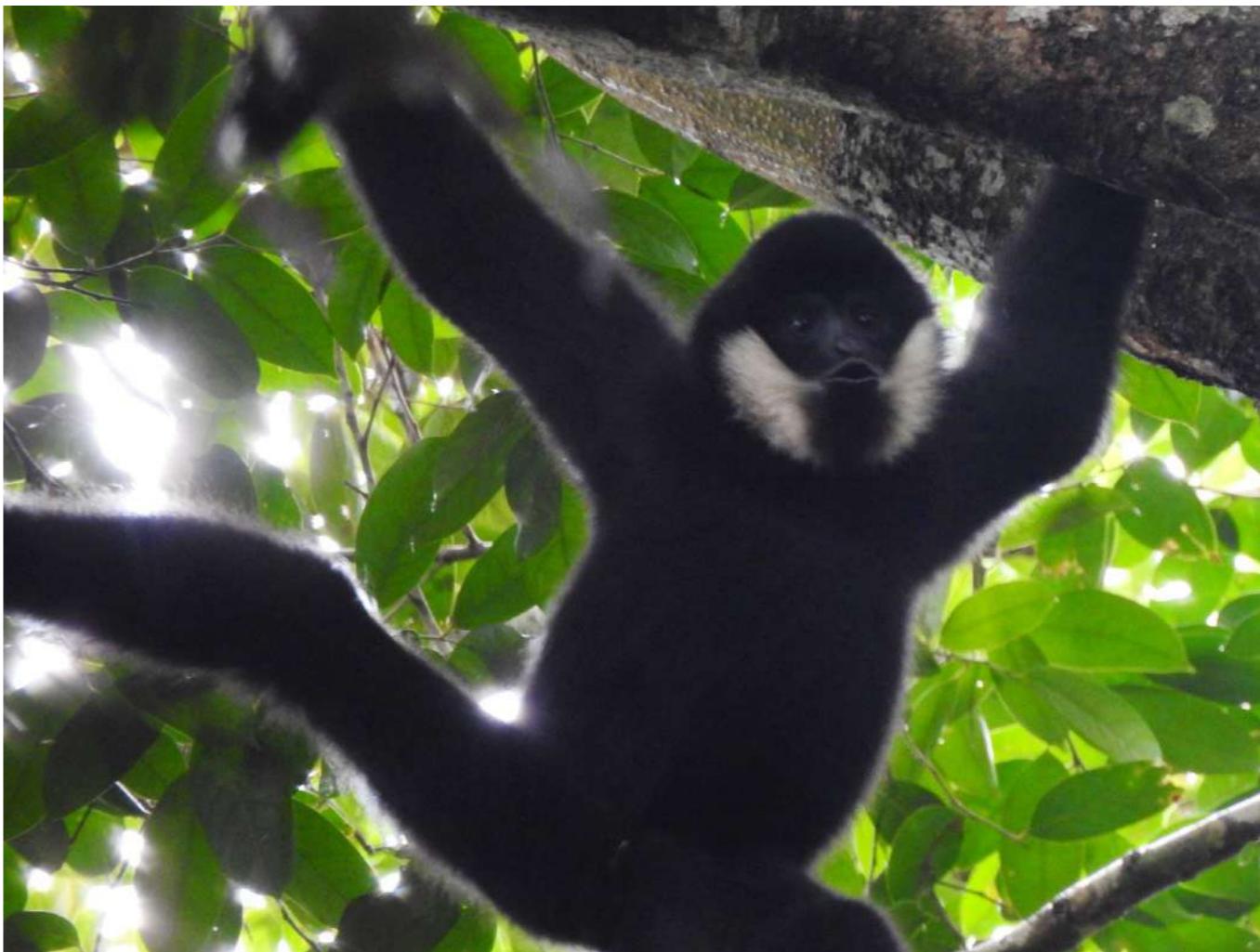
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# Project Anoulak

## Annual Report 2018



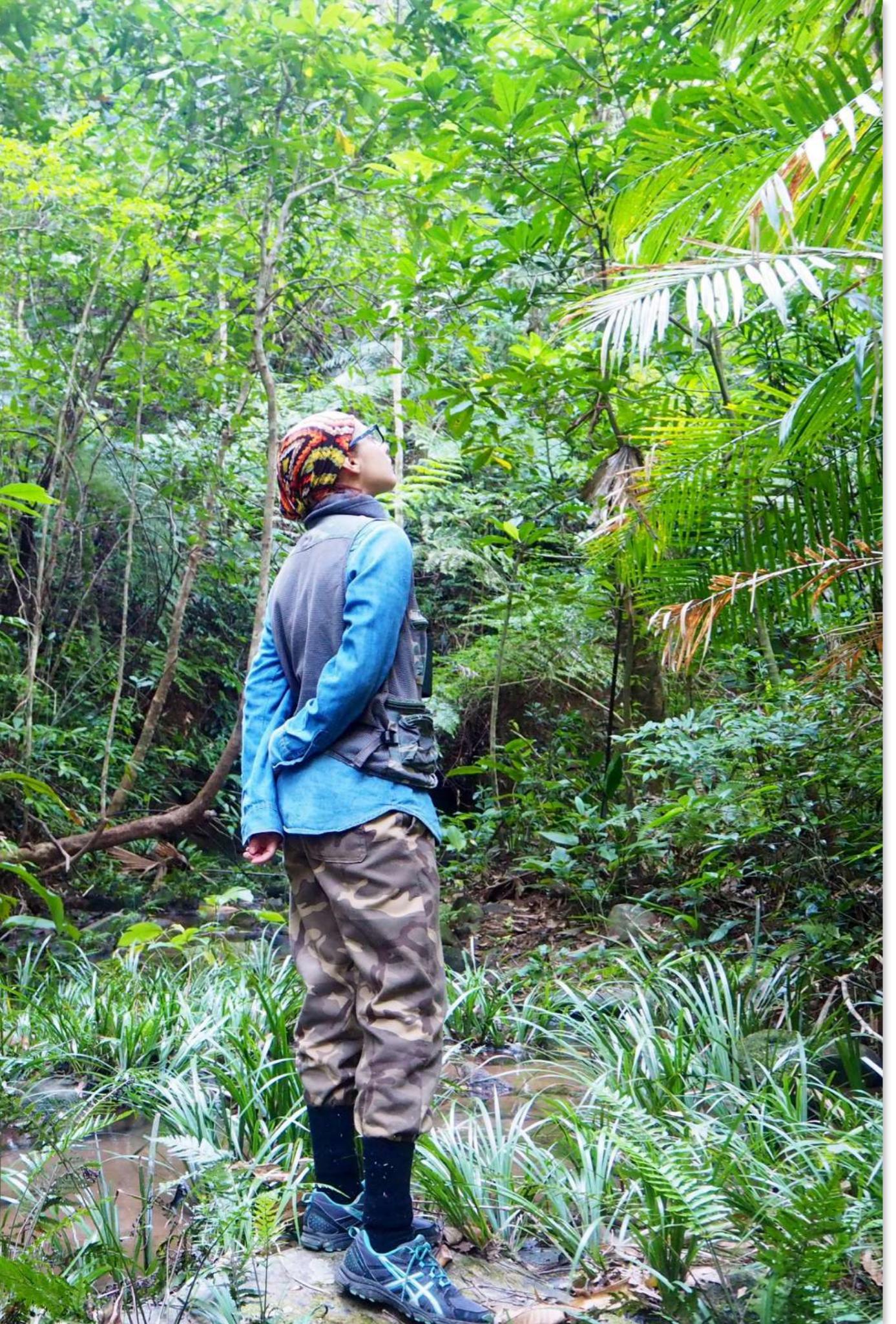
(c) Project Anoulak 2018



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# Foreword

This annual report 2018 marks the fourth year of the activities of Project Anoulak in Laos. Another eventful year that saw us establishing several new collaborations to help us develop our programs further and pave the way forward.



But nature conservation is a complex venture and in spite of all our past and present efforts, we must not become complacent about our achievements. What we do today may only bring change tomorrow. We must remain focused, maintain our long-term vision and continue towards a local, holistic, multidisciplinary and collaborative approach.

Over the past few years I have realized that answers to the current biodiversity crisis we are facing will only come about if community members of the civil society participate collectively in the management of natural resources and build solutions for their resilience as well as strengthen and cultivate their cultural traditions and knowledge. Therefore, over 2018, we have been developing new projects for community sustainable livelihoods that will be launched in 2019. In addition, we continue to scale-up our on-going programs on biodiversity research, law enforcement, conservation awareness and capacity building.

But equally important, as conservationists, we, as individuals, must reflect on our deepest motivations and seek the wisdom, self-awareness and courage to make personal choices and changes towards a more sustainable way of life. All our individual actions have consequences, and therefore every one of us has the power to make global changes.

The challenges and obstacles ahead of us are many but will not stop us.  
"We have nothing to lose but everything. So let's go ahead ..." Albert Camus, 1957.

We are looking forward to this exciting new year.

Camille. Founder and director  
In Nakai, 26 January 2019.



## About us

**Project Anoulak (conservation** in Lao language) is a French-registered association dedicated to the long-term conservation and study of wildlife in their natural habitat in Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR or **Laos**), in particular in the **Nakai-Nam Theun** National Protected Area.

Our **mission** is 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, with a skilled, passionate and dedicated team of nationals and internationals.

Since 2015, Project Anoulak conducts some research projects (notably a long-term behavioural ecology study of the red-shanked douc) from a **field station**.

Project Anoulak currently **employs 34 people**:

- Director (1) - *Camille Coudrat*
- Project coordinator (1) - *Chanthalaphone Nanthavong*
- Primate research team leaders (2) - *chalor Yongyea and Done Souvandee*
- Assistants to primate research team leaders (4 villagers from local community)
- Field station keeper (2 villagers from local community)
- Anti-poaching rangers (24 villagers from the local community)



Anoulak field station

In 2019, we plan to increase our team with several new projects we are developing.



Camille C.



Chantalaphone N.



Chalor Y.



Done S.



Anoulak rangers

# Region of focus and intervention

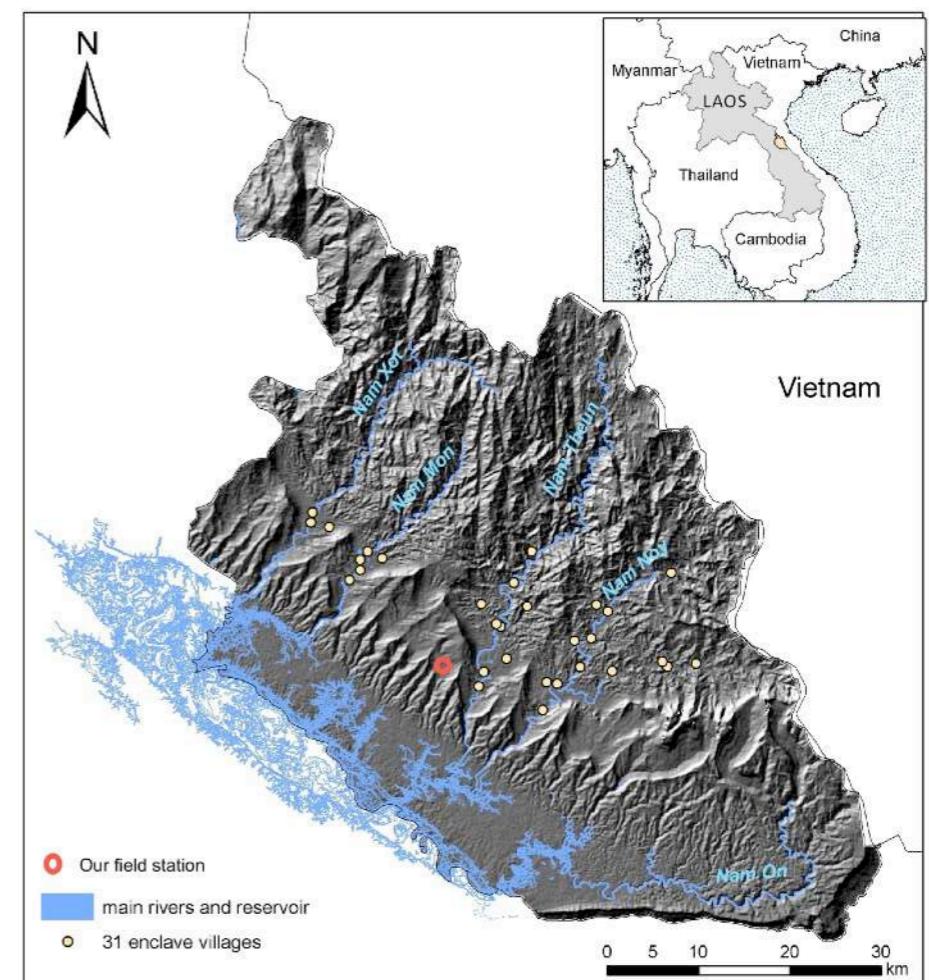
## Nakai-Nam Theun National Protected Area

(3500 km<sup>2</sup>) is one of the largest remaining contiguous forest blocks in the Indochinese peninsula and holds numerous **rare, endemic and highly threatened species**. It falls in the heart of one of the richest regions of Southeast Asia in terms of biodiversity and endemism and is one of the identified 'Key Biodiversity Areas' within the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot. In Laos, Nakai-Nam Theun is ranked as a **priority for its National and Global biodiversity importance**.



This is notably due to its geographical location in the heart of the **Annamite Mountains** with a unique climatic pattern and ecosystem characterized by a very high species richness and endemism. The Annamite Mountain range is where some of the **last mammals discoveries** took place (Critically Endangered saola *Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*; Critically Endangered large-antlered muntjac *Muntiacus vuquangensis*; Data Deficient Annamite muntjac *M. truongsonensis*; Data Deficient Annamite Stiped Rabbit *Nesolagus timminsi*).

**The challenge:** Southeast Asia has long been identified (including by the IUCN) as being the region of the world with the **highest biodiversity extinction risk** principally from **unsustainable harvesting of forest resources** and this pattern is observed throughout Laos and in Nakai-Nam Theun.



Project Anoulak implements activities on:

### \***Biodiversity research and monitoring for conservation**

**Objective:** to understand the distribution, monitor wildlife populations and to increase our knowledge on in-situ species ecology of the threatened and endemic species in the Annamite Mountains which will inform conservation management

### \***Community anti-poaching patrols**

**Objective:** to reduce illegal poaching of species in the wild allow their populations to remain stable or recover from unsustainable hunting

### \***Community outreach and awareness raising**

**Objective:** to inform local communities about the links between a healthy environment and nature for people's sustainable livelihoods

### \***Community sustainable livelihoods**

**Objective:** to provide alternative and sustainable livelihoods and income to local communities to reduce their reliance on natural resources

### \***Capacity building**

**Objective:** to inspire and train the new generation of Lao conservationists and biologists and ensure the sustainability of and sense of ownership all our projects at the national level





## Biodiversity research and monitoring in 2018

# Red-shanked Douc (*Pygathrix nemaeus*) behavioral ecology

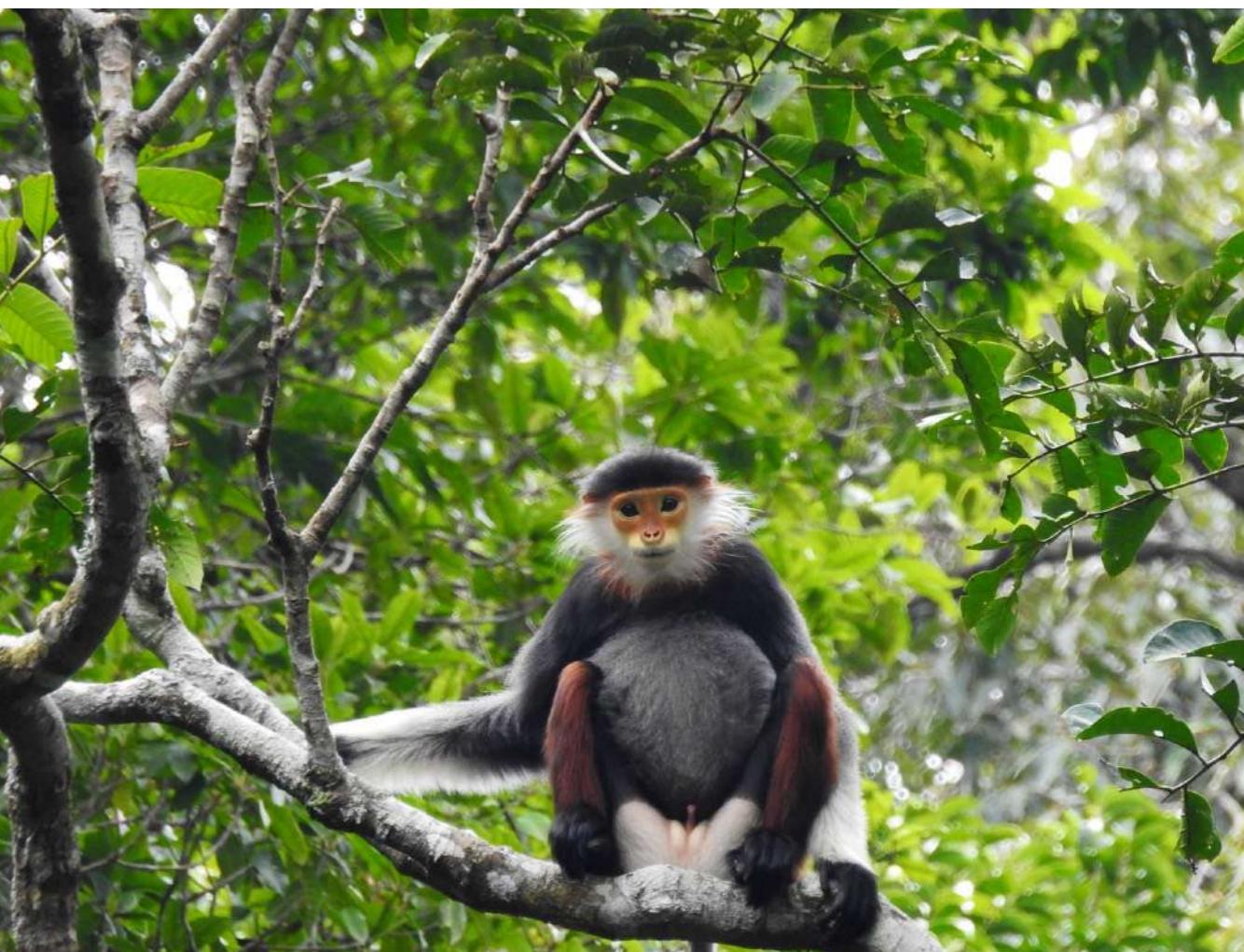
**Rationale:** The Red-shanked Douc is a charismatic Asian monkey endemic to Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. Its largest population is found in central-eastern Laos. Given its current conservation status (soon to be up-listed from Endangered to Critically Endangered in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species), there is a need to better understand their ecological requirements in order to improve their *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation management. Understanding the ecology (including nutrition) of this species is one of the first steps in the development of conservation management plans and guidelines.

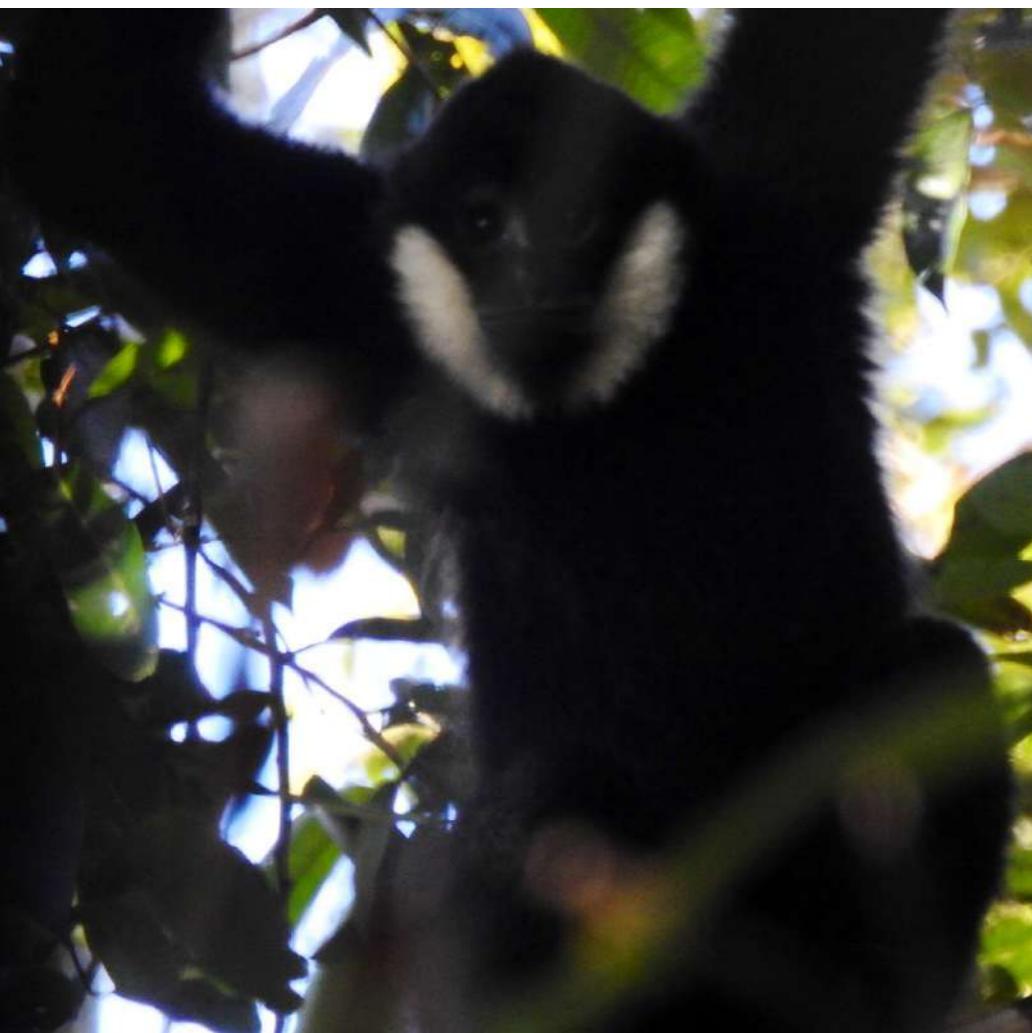


Andrea Sotto-Mayor with local team wearing bright vest as part of the habituation process

From **March to June 2018**, Mr. Andrea Sotto-Mayor, a volunteer under the supervision of Dr. Shelly Masi from the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle de Paris, came to our research site for four months to set up the **data collection protocol and train our local teams**. This included initiating a protocol of data collection using the software CyberTracker on smartphones. The data collected on behavioral ecology however requires that at least one group of doucs first become habituated to our presence and tolerate our observation. This requires daily follows and basic data collection. Although our teams have been able to observe doucs relatively well, the habituation is still on-going. Only until one group becomes habituated that ecological data can be collected and analyzed.

In 2019, Andrea will come back for a full year to continue the work we have started and support our local team. In addition a PhD student registered at the Australian National University will conduct a research specifically on the feeding ecology of doucs. A botanist will also come to conduct a survey of tree species in the habitat.





# White-cheeked Gibbons (*Nomascus siki*/ *N. leucogenys*) distribution

**Rationale:** The current taxonomic status and distribution range limit of the population of gibbons occurring in Nakai-Nam Theun remains uncertain. It may hold both the Northern and Southern white-cheeked gibbon and/or a hybrid population. To better plan conservation actions on these species, it is crucial to know their distribution across the landscape. Because gibbon vocalizations are species specific we are recording gibbon calls in as many sites as possible across Nakai-Nam Theun, which we will identify to species.

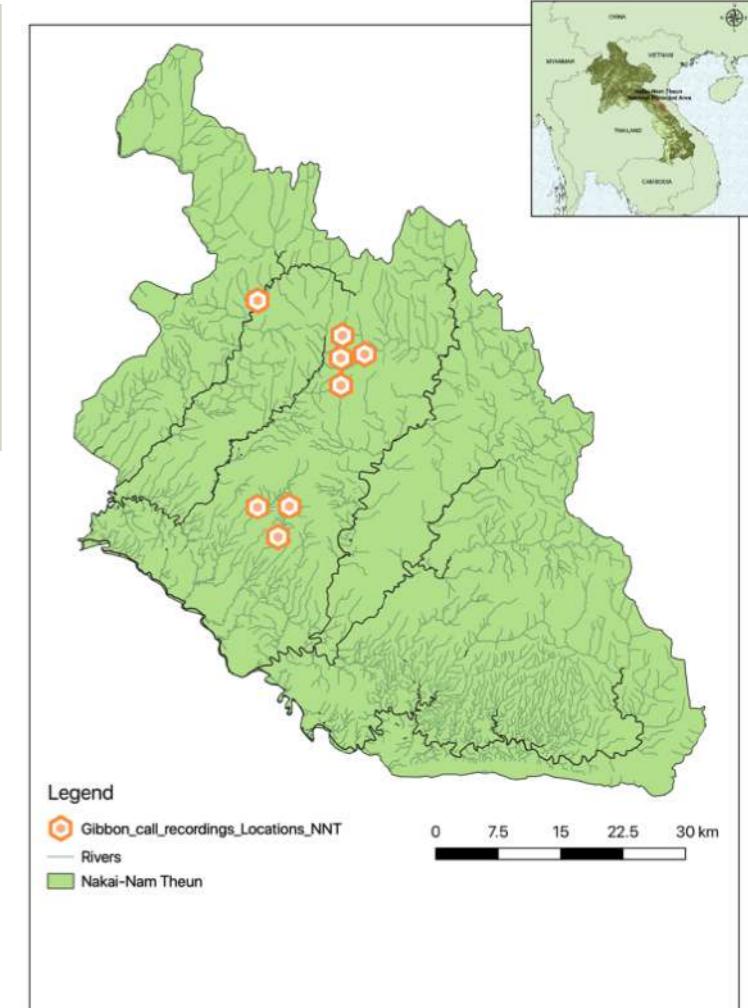
In **2018**, we have collected vocalization samples from eight locations (shown on the map).

We are collaborating with Dr. Michal Hradec from the University of Life Sciences of Prague, Czech Republic for the analysis using computer softwares.

In **May 2018**, Michal came to our site to collect some vocalizations. Unfortunately he became ill from food poisoning and had to cut short the field work. We will continue and complete the data collection over 2019 before starting the analysis.

Gibbon ecological study put on hold...

In **February 2018**, Dr. Luca Morino (Paris Zoo) came to our field station to assess the potential of our research site to conduct a behavioral ecology study on gibbons. Due to the challenges we have had since 2015 to observe gibbons because of their shyness, we decided to invite Dr. Morino, who has experience in gibbon habituation in the wild, to set up a habituation protocol. However after two full weeks spent in the field with best practices approach, there were no direct encounters with any gibbon group. Dr. Morino advised that under these conditions, it was preferable to put the project on hold until gibbons become less shy while we pursue our study on doucs involving our continuous presence at the site.



Locations of gibbon vocalizations recorded in 2018



Dr. Luca Morino with local team, February 2018

# Wildlife populations monitoring with systematic camera-trap surveys

**Rationale:** The current **conservation status** of several globally threatened species remains unknown in Nakai-Nam Theun. In addition, in order to **evaluate the management efforts** (especially patrol efforts) being implemented it is critical to obtain baseline population estimates of key indicator species and monitor their populations trend over time. We collaborate with the *Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research* to apply the protocols and survey designs they developed for wildlife monitoring with camera-trapping. This survey design, data collection and analysis methods will allow us to estimate species population abundance over time and space (with the occupancy estimation methods; MacKenzie, 2006). The current strategy for the entire protected area (which we developed and supervise) uses this approach with annual surveys conducted in three Biodiversity Priority Zones (see map below), delineated based on their high biodiversity value. All our data collected is processed using CamtrapR program. This research also contribute to **our commitment** to monitor populations and distribution of the **Critically Endangered Large-antlered Muntjac (*Muntiacus vuquangensis*)**.

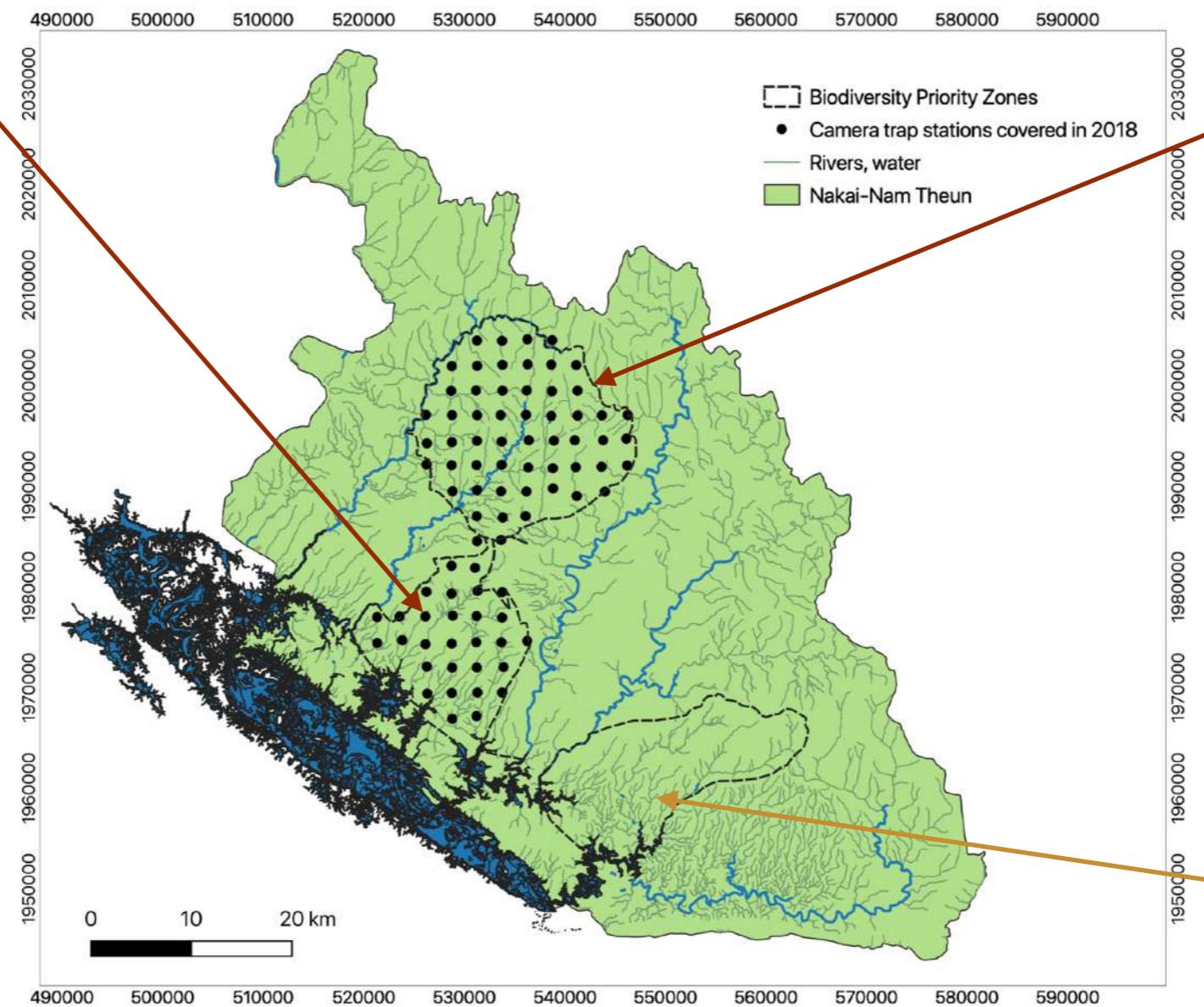


From **February to May 2018**, we conducted a systematic camera-trap survey in Nam Chae Biodiversity Priority Zone. We trained four team leaders, hired from the Nakai District office.

A total of 34 camera-trap stations (two cameras per station=68 cameras) were set up. Two of our cameras were stolen.

The preliminary results of this survey is presented on the next page.

An occupancy analysis (abundance index and distribution models) for the selected species will be performed in 2019 for the three zones targeted. Results will be compiled in one report and shared with project partners.



In **November 2018**, we set up 50 camera-trap stations (two cameras per stations = 100 cameras) in Thongkhacheng Biodiversity Priority Zone. We conducted a refresher training for two staff from the district that we had trained in February and trained two new team leaders.

We will retrieve the cameras in February 2019 and process the data the following weeks.

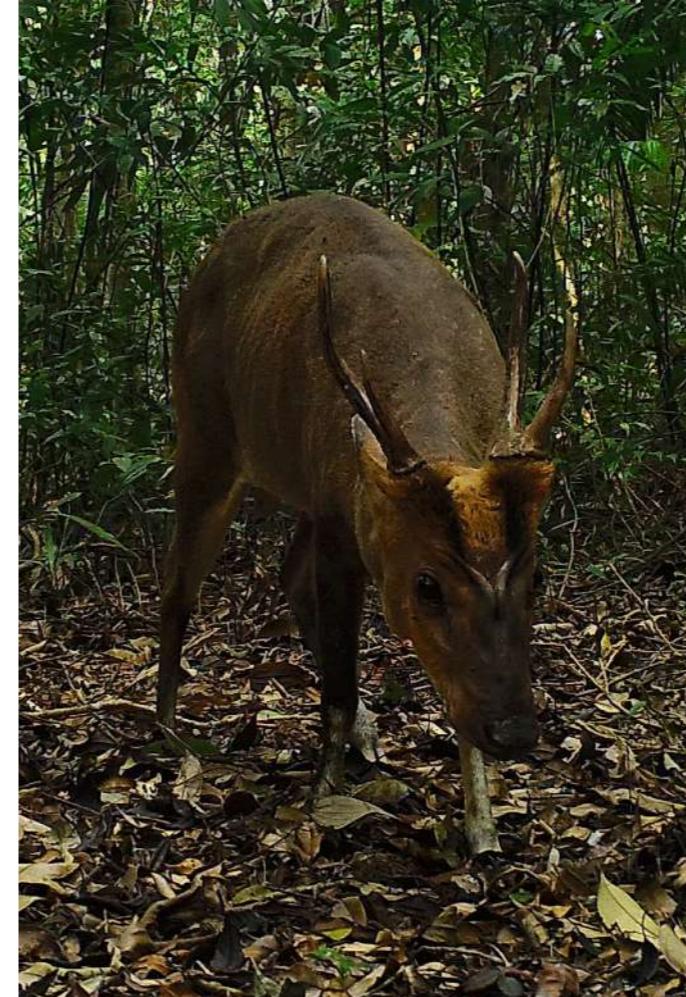
Not surveyed in 2018. Survey planned in February 2019 for which ©Panthera cameras will be used. Mr. An Nguyen from the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research will come train our team to use these cameras.

# Preliminary results of camera-trap survey in Nam Chae Biodiversity Priority Zone

- Total number of stations: 34
- Number of operational stations: 33
- Total number of cameras: 68
- n nights with cameras set up (operational or not): 4828
- n nights with cameras set up and active (trap nights): 4597
- Total trapping period: 14 Feb 2018 to 12 May 2018

Species	number of events	number of stations where recorded
Common Palm Civet ( <i>Paradoxurus hermaphroditus</i> )	174	22
Pig-tailed Macaque ( <i>Macaca leonina</i> )	88	21
Tragulus spp ( <i>Cervotain spp</i> )	84	7
Ferret Badger spp ( <i>Melogale spp</i> )	62	14
Large-antlered Muntjac ( <i>Muntiacus vuquangensis</i> )	61	12
Muntjac spp ( <i>Muntiacus spp</i> )	52	10
Masked Palm Civet ( <i>Paguma larvata</i> )	50	13
Assamese Macaque ( <i>Macaca assamensis</i> )	46	10
Crab-eating Mongoose ( <i>Herpestes urva</i> )	46	9
Red Muntjac ( <i>Muntiacus vaginalis</i> )	45	9
Treeshrew spp	36	8
People or domestic animals	29	6
Asiatic Brush-tailed Porcupine ( <i>Atherurus macrourus</i> )	28	5
Wild Pig ( <i>Sus scrofa</i> )	27	9
Yellow-throated Marten ( <i>Martes flavigula</i> )	24	10
Partridge spp	23	7
Asian Porcupine ( <i>Hystrix brachyura</i> )	15	7
Red Junglefowl ( <i>Gallus gallus</i> )	10	5
Grey Peacock-pheasant ( <i>Polypelectron bicalcaratum</i> )	6	2
Weasel spp	6	4
Spotted Linsang ( <i>Prionodon pardicolor</i> )	5	3
Sun Bear ( <i>Helarctos malayanus</i> )	5	3
Leopard Cat ( <i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i> )	4	1
Monitor lizard ( <i>Varanus</i> )	4	3
Stump-tailed Macaque ( <i>Macaca arctoides</i> )	4	2
Sambar ( <i>Rusa unicolor</i> )	3	2
Silver Pheasant ( <i>Lophura nycthemera</i> )	3	2
Pangolin spp	2	1
Black Giant Squirrel ( <i>Ratufa bicolor</i> )	1	1
Macaque spp	1	1
Muntjac spp	1	1
Rhesus Macaque ( <i>Macaca mulatta</i> )	1	1
White-cheeked Gibbon ( <i>Nomascus spp</i> )	1	1

Note: rats/mice spp; squirrel spp; small bird spp; test photos; blank photos and unidentified photos are not listed



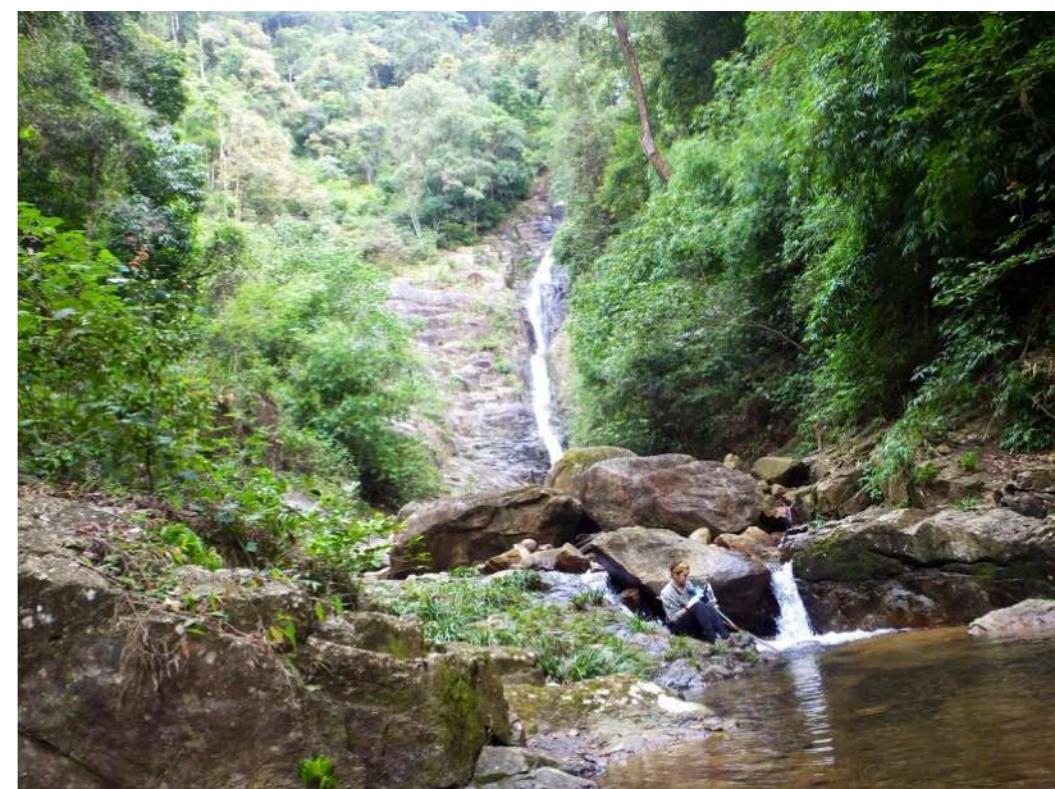
## Camera-traps surveys in 2018 selected photos



# Biodiversity surveys with environmental DNA

**Rationale:** Environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling is a non-invasive technique that consists of collecting water samples from streams, rivers and ponds in natural habitats, which are later analysed in a laboratory to extract remnants DNA from animals that came into contact with the water. This innovative and recent technique is used to for biodiversity inventory, monitoring biodiversity richness, species distribution and detect rare species.

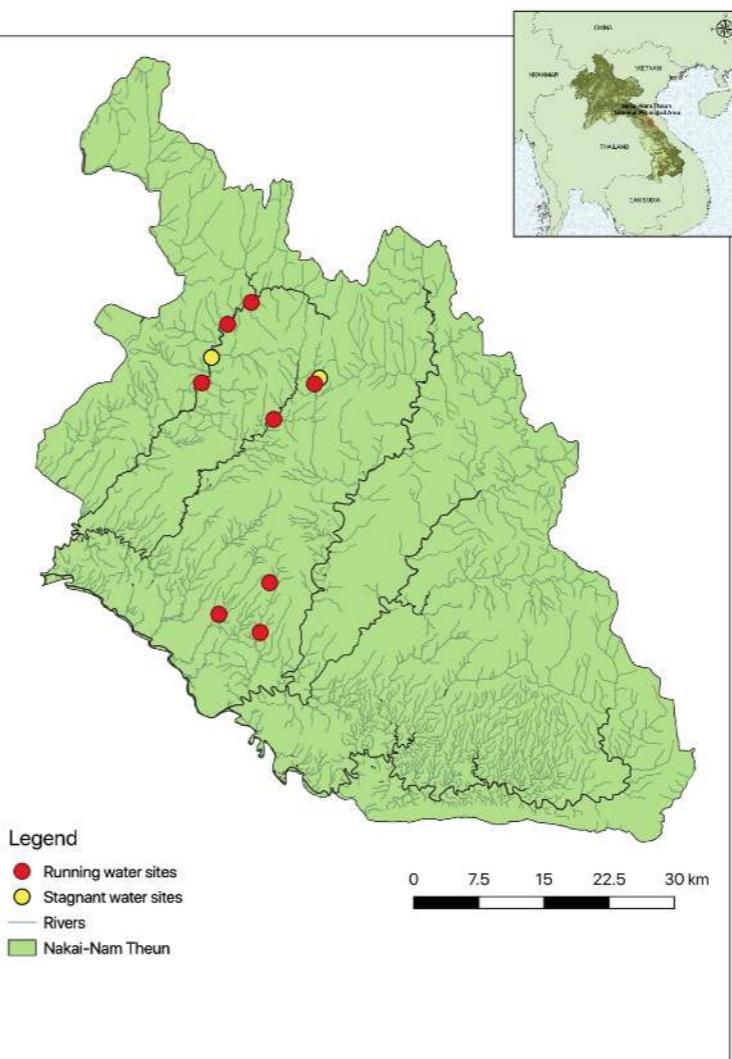
In 2018 we started a collaboration with *Vigilife*, *Beauval Nature* and *Spygen* to experiment the techniques in Nakai-Nam Theun and explore its potential for our research needs, including our research on otter surveys and distribution.



## Sampling in 2018

In 2018, we collected eDNA samples from 10 sites as part of the sampling across Nakai-Nam Theun. In 2019, we plan to sample at least 10 additional samples to cover the protected area.

The results of all the samples collected in 2018 and 2019 will be compiled into a report in 2019 which will be shared with all partners.



Water system	Site #	Site name	no. samples collected
Running	1	Nam Xot 1	2
Running	2	Nam Xot 2	2
Running	3	Nam Xot 3	2
Running	4	Houay Sanap	2
Running	5	Houay Sangong	2
Running	6	Houay Tong	2
Running	7	Nam Mon	2
Running	8	Houay Morrow	2
Stagnant	9	Nam xot pond (training purpose)	1
Stagnant	10	Thongkhacheng Lake	2
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>19</b>



© Oscar Dominguez / www.deepwildphoto.com

eDNA team. From left to right: Decotte JB (VigiLIFE), Arnold M. (ZooParc de Beauval); Nanthavong C (Project Anoulak); Coudrat C (Project Anoulak); Bairao Ruivo E (Beauval Nature); Youthya J (DAFO)

In **March 2018**, our partners from **Vigilife** and **Beauval Nature** came Nakai-Nam Theun for a first mission in order to train our team to collect eDNA samples.

A short film (in French) of the expedition was produced by Beauval Nature, available to watch [here](#)

In **July 2018**, as part of our collaboration, we joined Vigilife and Beauval Nature on a mission to Senegal to sample the Casamance river.



Collecting eDNA samples on the Casamance river in Senegal, July 2018

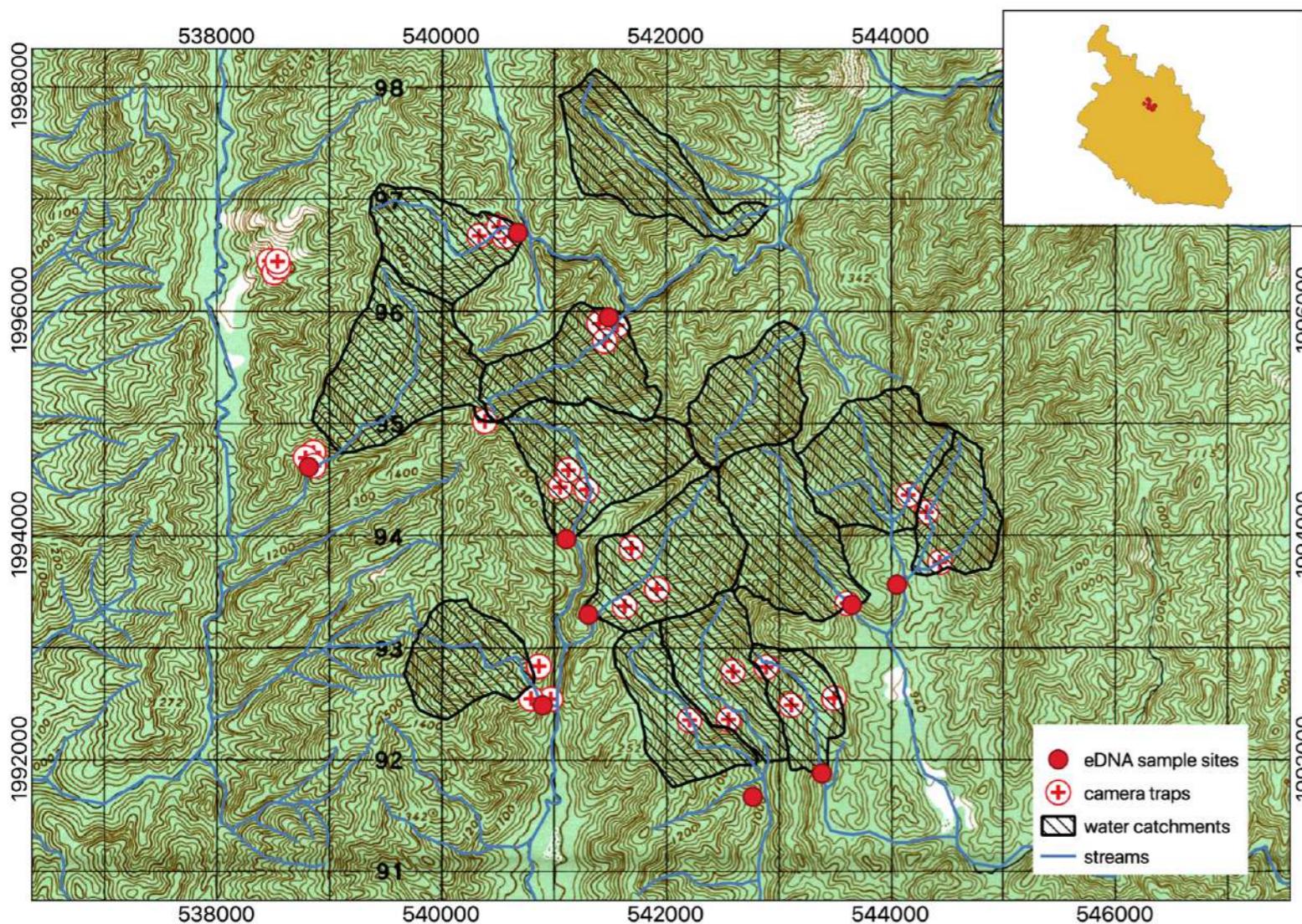


# Research projects in collaboration with the Saola Working Group

**Rationale:** In 2016, the Saola Working Group decided to initiate a captive breeding program for the Critically Endangered Saola (*Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*) and Critically Endangered Large-antlered Muntjac (*Muntiacus vuquangensis*) to secure insurance populations for eventual reintroduction in the wild. As part of this project detection and capture methods for both species have been explored and experimented. As a member of the Saola Working Group, we have been working on two projects:

- 1) Detection of Saola using both eDNA and camera-traps
- 2) Muntjac baiting experiment to define future capture methods

## Detection of Saola using both eDNA and camera-traps



The fourteen water catchment initially selected and delineated by Robert Timmins to conduct the surveys. Only ten sites had to be selected from these based on the limited availability of eDNA sampling kits. The ten sites surveys with camera-traps and eDNA samples are shown on the map. Four samples are collected at each of the 10 sites (two at camera set up and two at camera retrieval).

As part of detection efforts of Saola in Nakai-Nam Theun, Robert Timmins delineated key water catchments where Saola-focused surveys could be carried out using a combination of water samples (for eDNA) and camera-traps. The surveys will also contribute to compare the two methods in an occupancy framework there requiring repeating sampling in time. In consultation with Vigilife, Beauval Nature, Spygen and the Saola Working Group, it was decided to collect eDNA samples both at camera set up and at camera removal.

A total of **10 sites** could be covered according the sample kits available for the project.

In **November 2018**, the first eDNA samples were collected at the time of the cameras set-up. The second eDNA samples will be collected early January 2019 at camera removal to complete the survey.

The results will be analyzed and compiled into a report that will be shared to project partners in 2019

# Muntjac baiting experiment to define future capture methods



In **January 2018**, we conducted an experimental study to investigate the effectiveness of deer lures and baits to attract muntjacs. We set up 40 camera-traps with the use of commercial synthetic lures and artificial mineral licks.

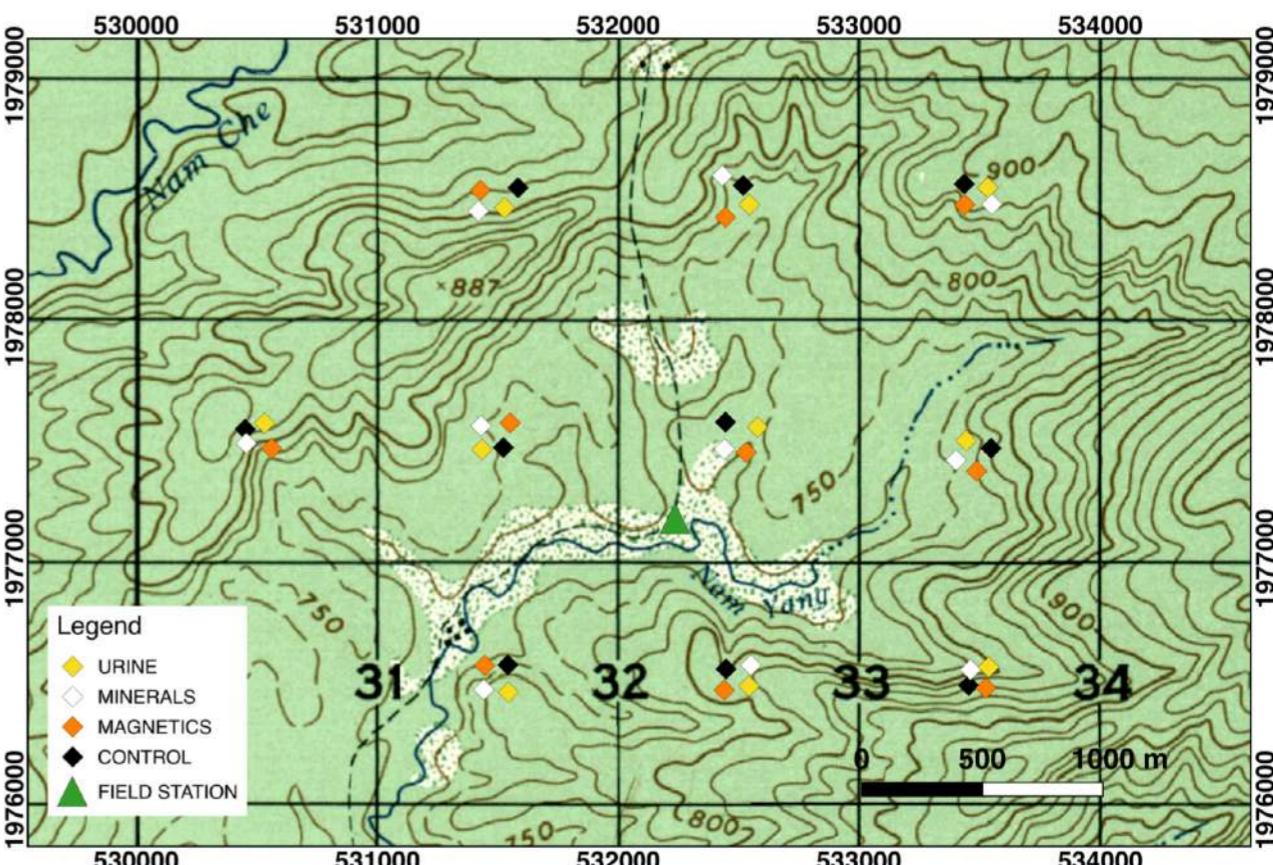
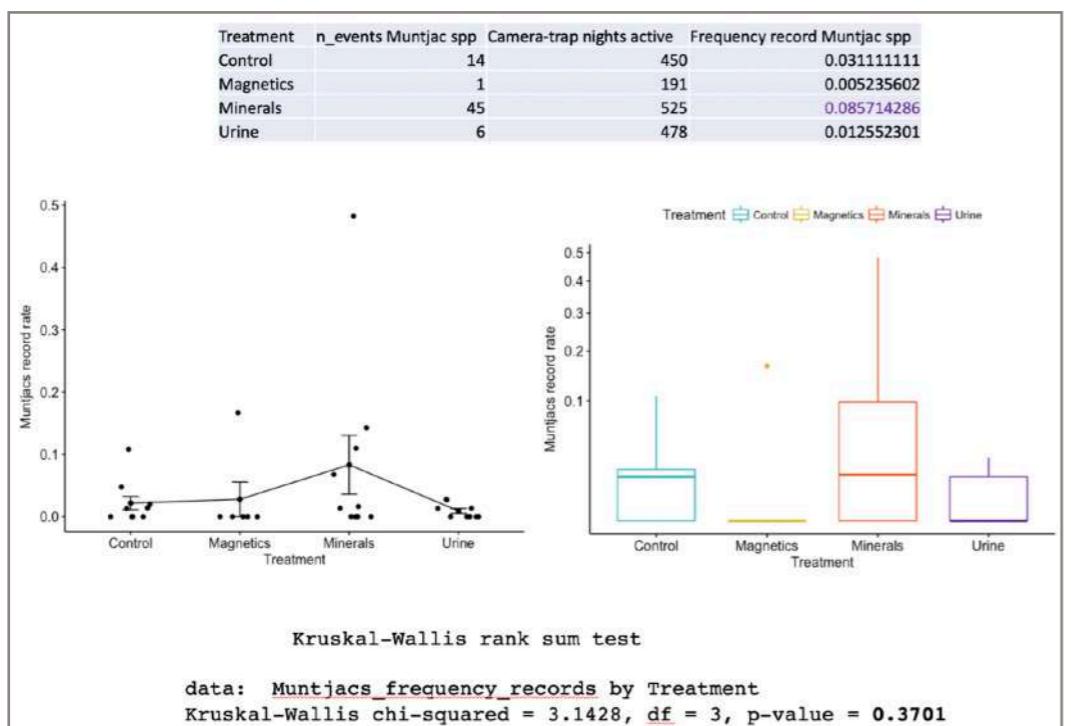
Our preliminary findings show that:

- Although not significant, MINERALS treatment seems the most visited by muntjacs.
- Muntjacs spent the most time on MINERALS and came back repeatedly
- Commercial scent lures did not seem to be effective for muntjacs

Further experiments will be carried out by the Saola Working Group in 2019.



COMMERCIAL SYNTHETIC BUCK ATTRACTANT	COMMERCIAL SYNTHETIC ALL SEASON BUCK URINE	COMBINATION OF: - 20 kg Sodium chloride - 10 kgs Monosodium phosphate - 10kgs Calcium carbonate - 10kgs Potassium chloride (=50kgs/station)	NO TREATMENT
"MAGNETICS"	"URINE"	"MINERALS"	"CONTROL"



# Visit of professional wildlife photographer Oscar Dominguez

From **February-March 2018**, we received the visit of wildlife photographer Oscar Dominguez to photograph wildlife, threats on biodiversity and activities of Project Anoulak.

Oscar is a professional wildlife and conservation photographer focused on endangered species and the Asian continent. To learn more about his work:  
[www.deepwildphoto.com](http://www.deepwildphoto.com)





## Anti-poaching patrols in 2018

# Anti-poaching patrols

**Rationale:** Illegal poaching in Nakai-Nam Theun National Protected Area have led in the past few decades to wildlife population declines and species extirpation, including several globally threatened and endemic species. In order to conserve the current remaining populations of threatened species in the area and allow animal populations to recover from past hunting pressure, it is imperative that an **intensive anti-poaching patrol system** is put in place **over the long-term**. To do so, site prioritization is essential. Three Biodiversity Priority Zones have been identified in terms of their qualitative and quantitative biodiversity value. We collaborate with current law enforcement technical teams and authorities and Project Anoulak's patrol efforts complement current resources to fill the gaps.

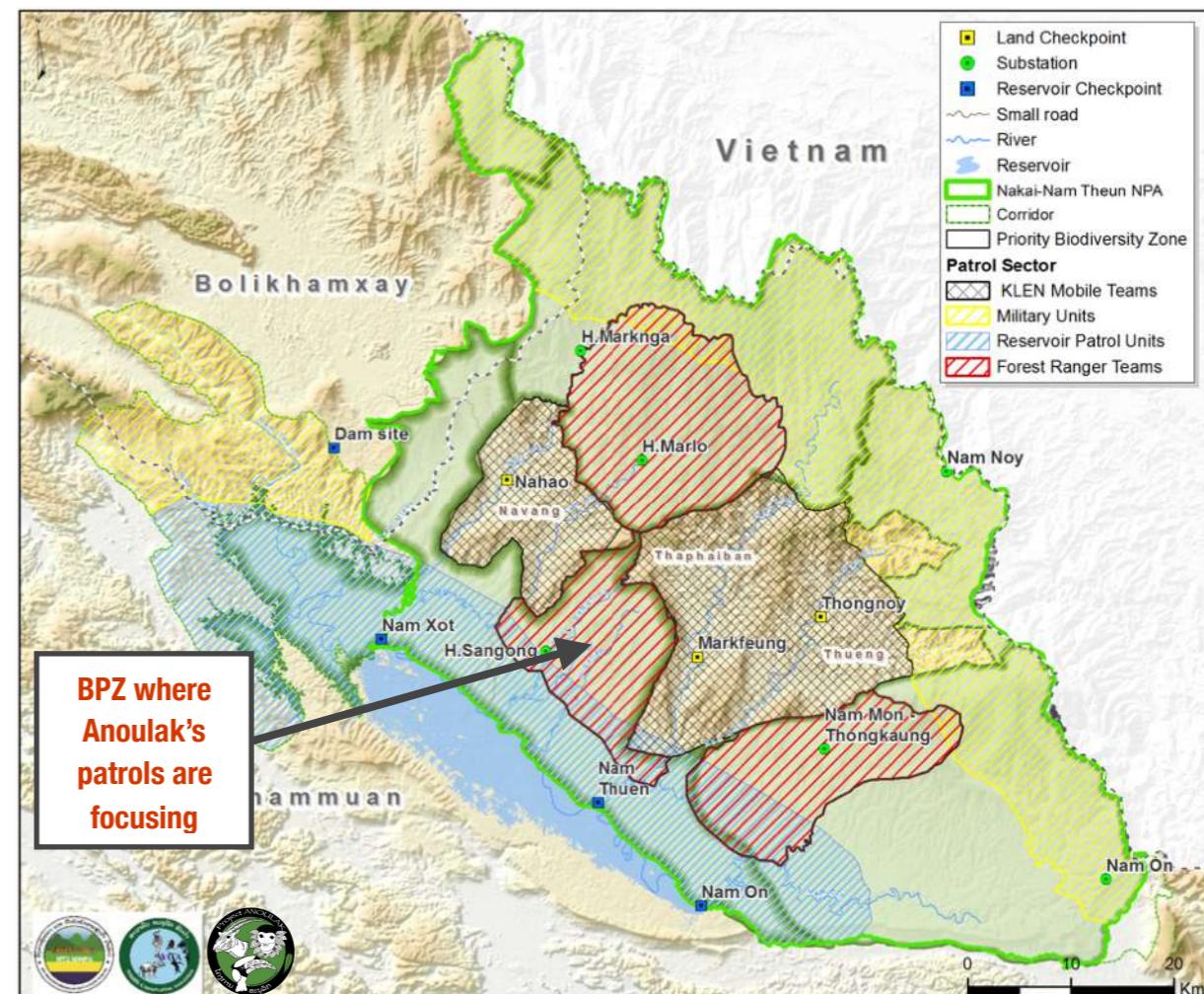
## Background context

We are working in close collaboration with the Nam Theun 2 Watershed Management and Protection Authority (NT2 WMPA) and its law enforcement technical team to coordinate our anti-poaching patrols as part of the overall Law Enforcement Strategy of the protected area. Data management and interpretation is processed with the Program SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool ; <http://smartconservationtools.org/>).

The law enforcement strategy for the protected area is based on sites prioritization where forest patrols are focusing on three Biodiversity Priority Zones (BPZ; the three BPZ where delineated based on a consultation workshop with experts coordinated by Project Anoulak in 2015 and represent the zones with the highest value in terms of biodiversity richness, wildlife populations and relatively lower levels of threats).

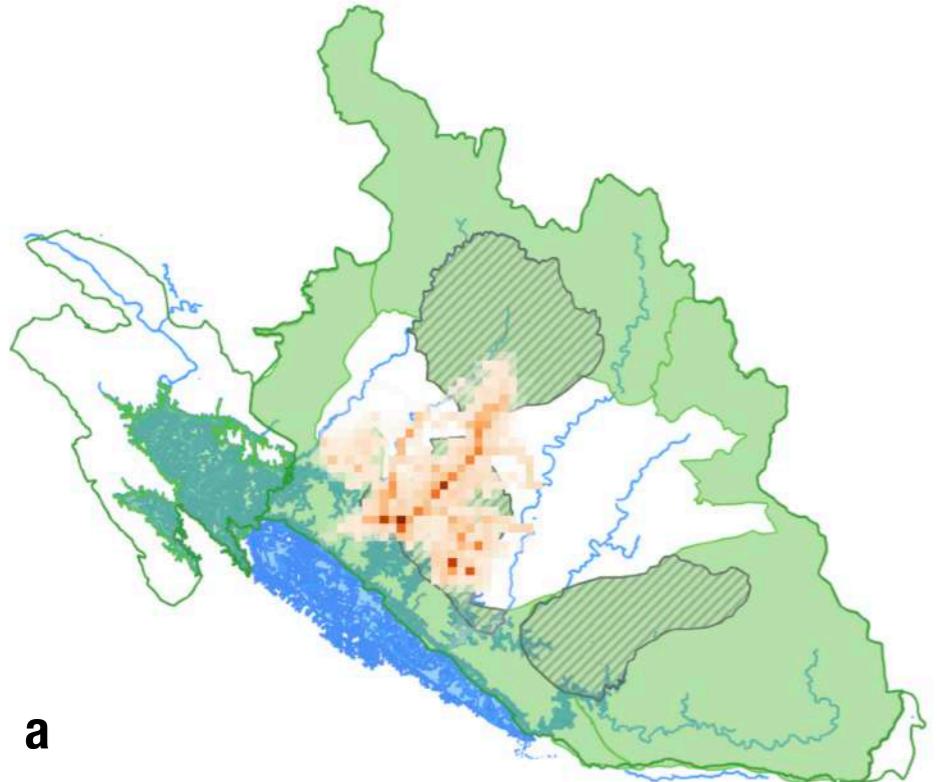
Since 2016, we have been deploying monthly 4 anti-poaching patrol teams (total of 24 trained villagers from the local community) focusing patrols in one of the three BPZs, covering approximately 250 km<sup>2</sup> in order to control illegal activities in this zone. Patrols in the other two BPZs (and other key areas) are supported by the Nam Theun 2 Watershed Management and Protection Authority since 2017.

To eliminate completely illegal activities in these zones will take time and continuous efforts.

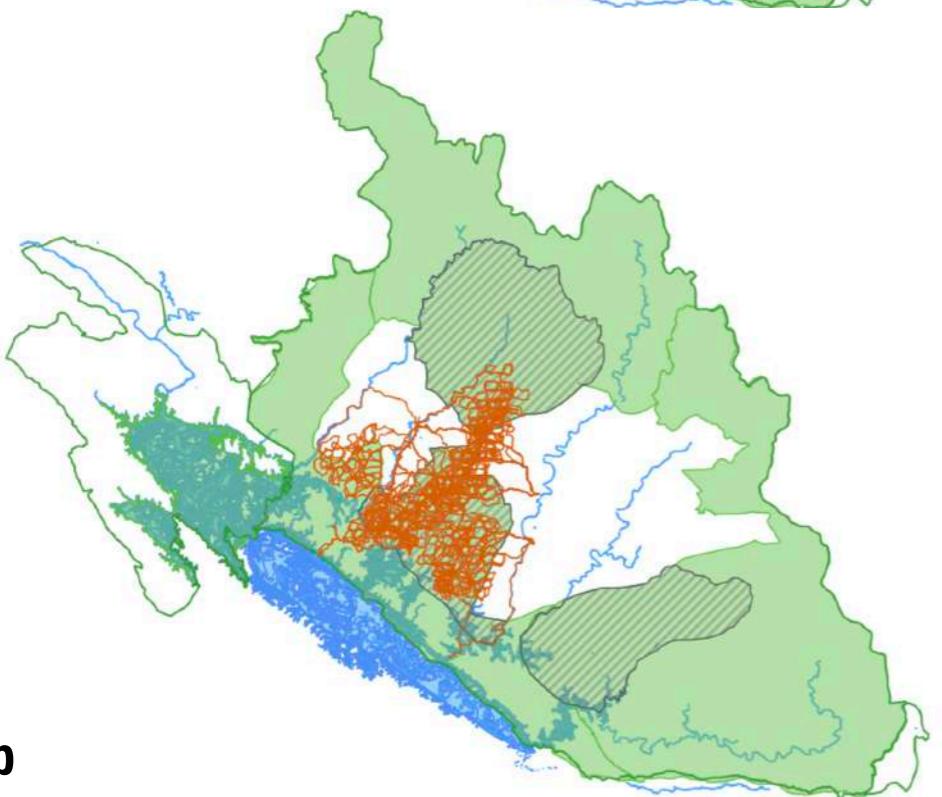


Strategic zonation of law enforcement in Nakai-Nam Then at the protected area level. This includes three Biodiversity Priority Zones (BPZ; ~700 km<sup>2</sup>) where 'Forest Ranger Teams' focus their patrols. Project Anoulak's ranger teams focus on one of these three zones (indicated on the map).

# Project Anoulak's Patrol Report for 2018



a



b

Patrol coverage of the four (4) patrol teams combined deployed by Project Anoulak, for the entire year 2018. (a) Patrol coverage intensity by 1km<sup>2</sup> grid-cells. (b) Patrol coverage from GPS tracking



## Patrol effort from 1st Jan 2018 to 1st Jan 2019

Patrol team	Number of Patrols	Number of Days	Distance (km)
TPB-TPB-Namchae	12	152	1185.01
NV-FDG-Namchae	12	150	1590.07
TPB-MFG-Namchae	10	133	1092.50
NV-NVG-Namchae	12	148	1521.61
Total			

## Number of poachers found

Patrol team	Observed Only	Escaped *	Written warning	Educated and Confiscated *	Arrested
TPB-TPB-Namchae				23	
NV-FDG-Namchae		3		46	
TPB-MFG-Namchae				20	
NV-NVG-Namchae					
Total					

## Number of snares found

Patrol team	Cable snare
TPB-TPB-Namchae	164
NV-FDG-Namchae	35
TPB-MFG-Namchae	55
NV-NVG-Namchae	664
Total	

## Number of firearms found

Patrol team	Semi Automatic	Hand-made gun (type 1)	Hand-made gun (type 2)
TPB-TPB-Namchae	1	13	2
NV-FDG-Namchae	2	18	
TPB-MFG-Namchae	1	4	
NV-NVG-Namchae	7	3	
Total			

## Number of infractions found

Patrol team	Hunting	Logging
TPB-TPB-Namchae	33	1
NV-FDG-Namchae	32	14
TPB-MFG-Namchae	28	7
NV-NVG-Namchae	38	
Total		



## Conservation awareness in 2018



# ດວງວິນຍານຂອງເສົາຫຼາ SPIRIT of the SAOLA

Story by Melody Kemp  
Illustrations by Hoang Van Dao  
Publication supported by Project Anoulak

ລາວນ້ອຍຜູ້ໜຶ່ງ ຫຼິບໝີຈາກສະພາບຂອງຕົນທີ່ຖືກເຢັ້ງຈາກຄືນອ້ອມຂ້າງທີ່ຢູ່ໃນເມືອງ ມາດ້າລົງ  
ຊີວິດຢູ່ກັບຢ່າໃນເຂດປາແຫ່ງໜຶ່ງ. ຕອນທ່າອິດ ຍິງສາວພຽງແດ່ຢ່າກຮຽນວິທີການເຮັດນ້ຳເປົ້າສຸດດັ່ງ  
ເດີມໃຫ້ມີລົດແຊບທີ່ສຸດ ແຕ່ການຮຽນຮັ້ນພັດໄດ້ນໍາພາດີນເອງຄົ້ນພືບເລື່ອງຈາວຕ່າງໆຂອງພໍ່ຕຸ  
ຕົນເອງ ແລະ ພະລັງລົກລັບບາງຢ່າງ ທີ່ປຶກປັກຮັກ ສາປາໄນ້ ແລະ ສົ່ງທີ່ມີຊີວິດທີ່ຢູ່ໃນປາແຫ່ງນັ້ນ.  
ຈາກເລື່ອງຈາວປະຈິນໄພທີ່ຍິງສາວໄດ້ປະເຊີນທີ່ເຮັດໃຫຍງສາວຮູ້ວ່າ ແທ້ຈິງແລວ ທີ່ຜ່ານມາດິນເອງຮູ້ເລື່ອງ  
ລາວຂອງສັດ ລົກລັບທີ່ຊື່ວ່າ ເສົາຫຼາ ພຽງແຕ່ເລັກນ້ອຍເຕົ້ານັ້ນ.

**A** YOUNG WOMAN FLEEING THE TAUNTS OF THE CITY, GOES TO STAY WITH HER GRANDMOTHER IN THE FOREST HOPING TO LEARN TO MAKE THE PERFECT TRADITIONAL SOUP, PHO. SHE LEARNS INSTEAD ABOUT HER GRANDFATHER AND THE SECRET FORCES THAT CARE FOR THE FOREST AND ITS INHABITANTS. SHE ALSO LEARNS HOW LITTLE SHE REALLY KNOWS ABOUT THE MYSTERIOUS ANIMAL CALLED THE SAOLA

#### About Melody Kemp

Far too late in life Melody discovered her real love: writing. Now specialising in environmental, geographic and conservation issues she is a regular contributor to the British Geographical and other publications. She has been fortunate enough to live in Asia for over 30 years and written several books about elephants. Like the heroine of this book, Melody also loves to cook.

#### About Dao Van Hoang

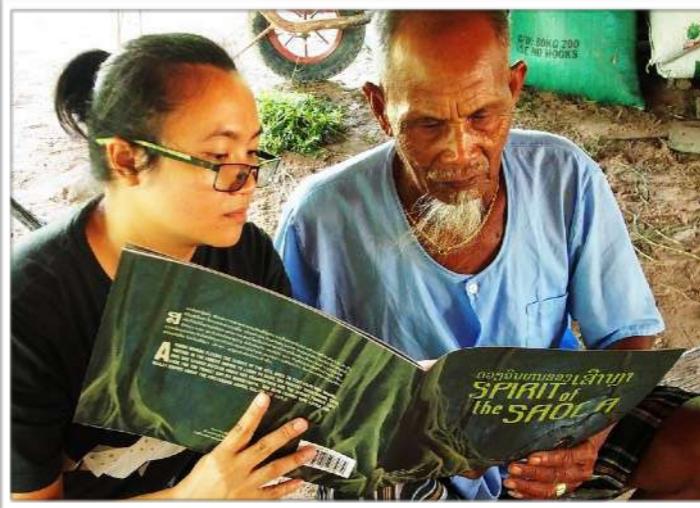
Dao Van Hoang an artist from Ho Chi Minh City Vietnam has, after a long career in advertising, dedicated his art to wildlife and environmental education. He is passionate about the importance of both for future generations. The scope of wildlife art work embraces children books, murals and interpretation centers for national parks, scientific illustrations and fine art.

You can see more of his work at [www.daovanhoang.com](http://www.daovanhoang.com)

## Spirit of the Saola

On the 23rd June we launch the publication in Laos of the book Spirit of the Saola in a bilingual Lao-English edition.

The book will be distributed to local communities for free and is also available for sale in the capital Vientiane.



To learn more about the book: [Visit our website](#)



From left to right: Dao Van Hoang (illustrator), Camille Coudrat (Project Anoulak, publisher), Melody Kemp (writer) at the book launch in Vientiane the 23rd June 2018

# Wonders of the Annamites



The four editions of our published book Wonders of the Annamites were widely disseminated worldwide.

The French-English edition is now available in the following zoos in France: La Citadelle de Besançon; La Vallée des Singes; Parc Zoologique et Botanique de Mulhouse; Parc et Réserve Zoologique à Plaisance; Parc Animalier d'Auvergne; Zoo d'Asson Pyrénées; Zoo de La Flèche.

To learn more about the book: [Visit our website](#)

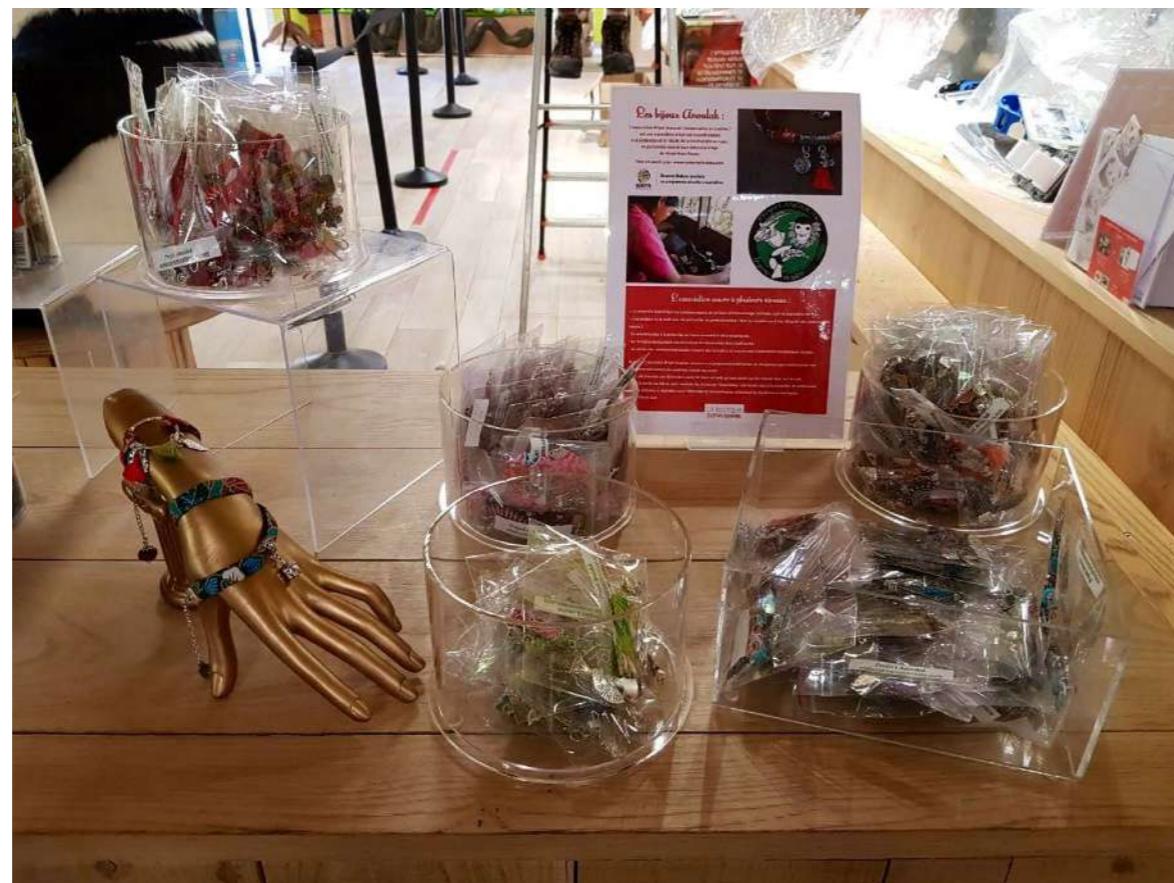




**Community Sustainable  
Livelihoods (program in  
development) in 2018**

In 2018, we launched a line of handcraft jewelries to raise funds for our project. Part of these jewelries are made from fabric purchased in Laos. We trained some women from the local community in Nakai to sew the fabric before completing the creation.

In 2018, these jewelries were retailed in zoo partner boutiques (Parc Zoologique et Botanique de Mulhouse; ZooParc de Beauval, Zoo de Cerza) and sold at conferences.



Retail display at ZooParc de Beauval, France - July 2018

## Next Steps 2019.

To take this further, we will launch the '*Nakai Women Handicraft Project*' in 2019 to provide sewing training and alternative income to women in villages in Nakai district.

New line of products will be designed to be sold through our partners abroad.

If you are interested to retail some of our products contact [camillecoudrat@conservationlaos.com](mailto:camillecoudrat@conservationlaos.com)



Prototype of a re-usable bag pocket featuring the red-shanked Douc, created by a partner crafty designer



## Conferences, meetings and events in 2018

## \* April 2018: International Otter Survival Fund Workshop, Nakai, Laos



The International Otter Survival Fund organized a training workshop at our office in Nakai to provide training on otter survey techniques and species identification. We led the workshop participants to a field trip to observe otter signs. Foot prints of the Eurasian Otter (*Lutra lutra*) were observed (and confirmed again by other otter experts). This is indeed a very important finding for Nakai, where this species had not been confirmed yet.



The full workshop report is available [here](#).



footprint from  
Eurasian Otter  
photographed  
during the field trip  
in Nakai, April 2018

## \* June 2018: Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research retreat meeting, Fraser Hill, Malaysia



As part of our collaboration with the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research, we were invited to join a meeting to review their current activities in Southeast Asia. This gave us the opportunity to discuss future collaborations.



## \* May 2018: EAZA Conservation Forum, Tallinn, Estonia



We gave a presentation on **Community Forest Patrols For Biodiversity Conservation in Laos**. Available to view [here](#).

Thank you to Beauval Zoo for inviting us to this conference.

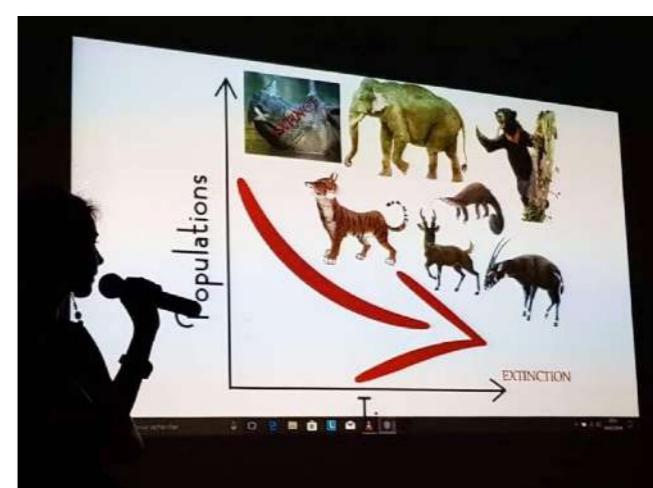


## \* July 2018: Public talk at ZooParc de Beauval, France

We gave a public talk at ZooParc de Beauval to present our work.



This gave us the opportunity to sell some books and Anoulak jewelries



\* **September 2018: Otter Specialist Group, Global strategy review, Singapore**



As part of our collaboration with the Otter Specialist Group (OSG) and our commitment to otter conservation, we were invited to participate in the OSG's global strategy review in Singapore.

We also were lucky to observe during our visit groups of wild Smooth-coated Otters in the middle of Singapore city!



\* **October 2018: Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG) annual meeting, Bangkok, Thailand**



CPSG's mission is to save threatened species by increasing the effectiveness of conservation efforts worldwide. The theme of this year's meeting was **Towards Zero Extinction in Southeast Asia**.

The meeting's proceedings are available [here](#).



\* October 2018: World Association of Zoos and Aquaria annual congress, Bangkok, Thailand



World Association of  
Zoos and Aquariums  
**WAZA** | United for  
Conservation®



## Highlights of the WAZA

The theme of this year's meeting was **Wild at Heart**

Thank you to Beauval Zoo for inviting us to this conference.



Presentation by Camille Coudrat at the Conservation Session: **How do Zoo Contribute to Biodiversity Conservation in the Annamite Mountains of Laos ?**

Available to view [here](#)



**Red-shanked Douc Consortium:** During the WAZA meeting it was decided among several institutions involved in the in-situ and ex-situ management of the red-shanked douc (*Pygathrix nemaeus*) (Cologne Zoo; Zoo Parc de Beauval; Zoorasia Zoo, Japan; Wildlife Reserves Singapore; Zoological Parks Organization of Thailand; Project Anoulak and other institutions to be determined), to form a consortium in order to propose the establishment of a Global Species Management Plan (GSMP) for the species in line with the One Plan Approach for the integrated in-situ and ex-situ species conservation management plans and actions.

Jane Goodall was one of the keynote speakers during the WAZA congress. Camille was fortunate enough to spend 30 minutes in private with Jane and Eric Bairrao Ruivo (Chair of the EAZA Conservation Committee) to discuss:

- ◆ Project Anoulak's work in Laos
- ◆ Possibilities to collaborate with the Jane Goodall Institute to conduct education activities and a Roots & Shoots Program
- ◆ Project Anoulak's two published books, which Camille gave to Jane

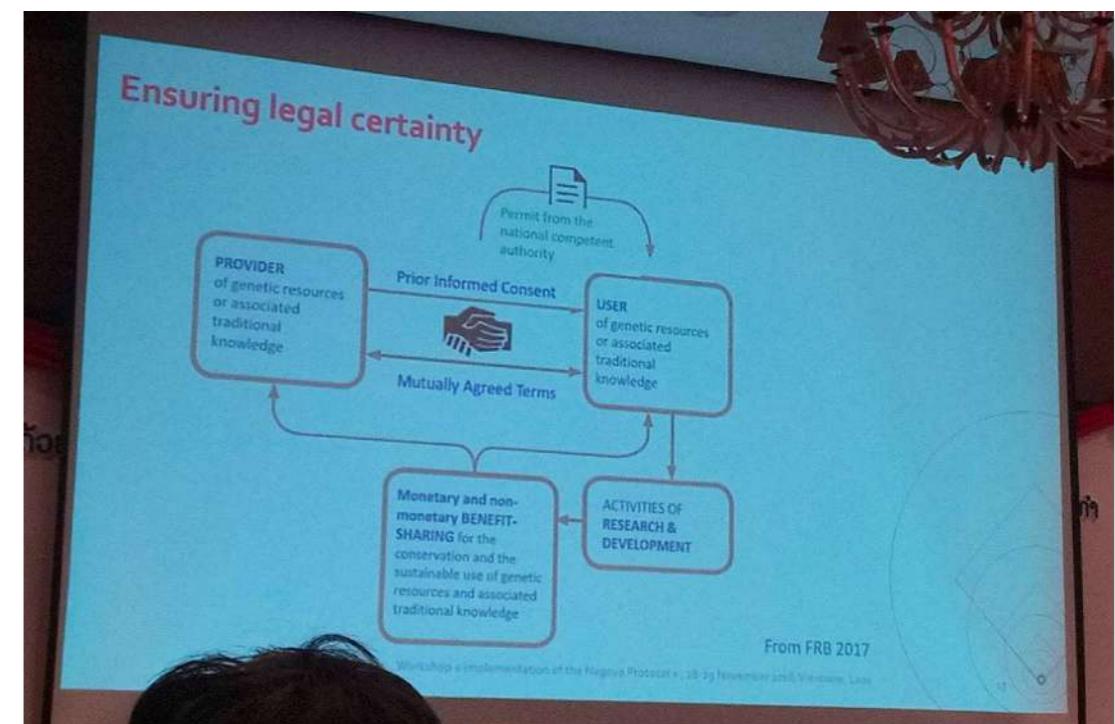
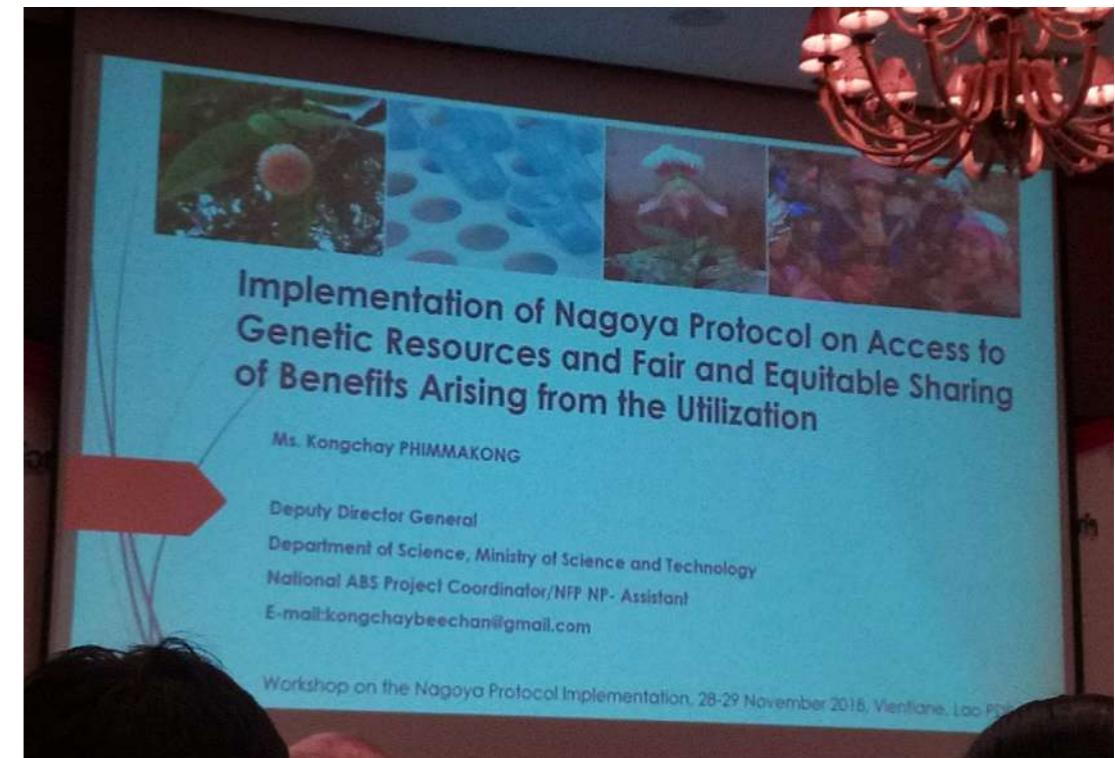


## \* November 2018: Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, Vientiane, Laos

In November 2018 we were invited to attend a workshop co-organized by the French Institute for Research and Development (IRD), the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD) and the Ministry of Sciences and Technology of Lao PDR.

Any research that involves collection of biological samples that will be utilized to exploit their biochemistry or genetic resources must obtain an **Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing (ABS)** approval from the country of origin of the samples. This applies to several of our projects notably eDNA samples and botanical samples that will be collected as part of our study on feeding ecology of red-shanked doucs.

We have initiated the process to obtain the required permissions and will obtain them in early 2019.

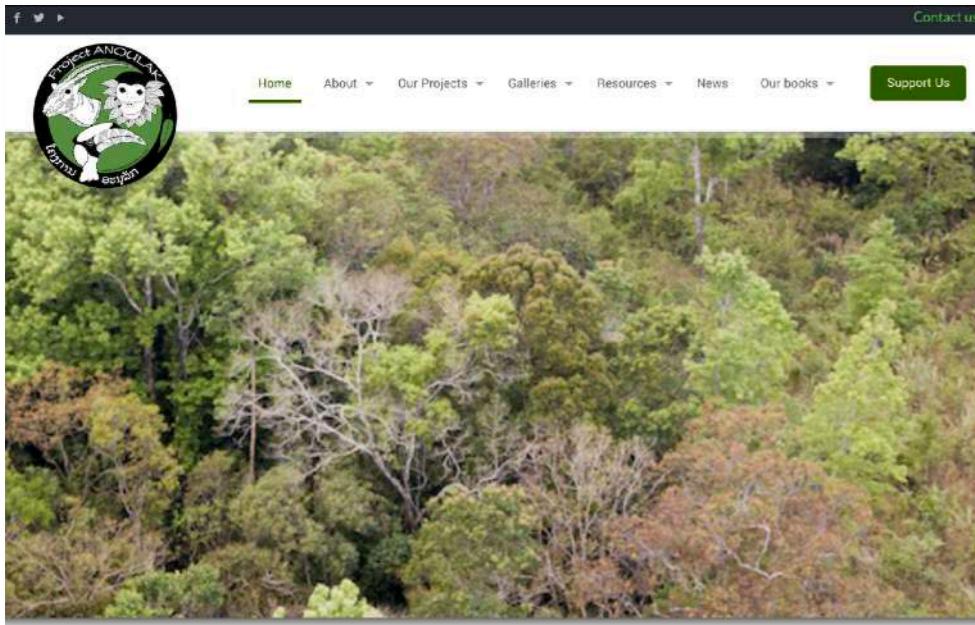




## Communication in 2018

## A new website for 2019 !

In 2018, we hired a website designer to develop a brand-new website and communication strategy, which will be launched in 2019!



Project Anoulak : Biodiversity conservation in the Annamite Mountains of Laos.

Project Anoulak is 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 Nakai-Nam Theun National Protected Area (NNT NPA).

[LEARN MORE >](#)

[VIDEO CHANNEL >](#)



### Our Projects

To achieve our mission, Project Anoulak develops and implements projects under four main programs.

- Biodiversity research and monitoring for conservation
- Community anti-poaching patrols
- Conservation awareness raising
- Community sustainable livelihoods

## Promotional videos

In March 2018, (as part of the Vigilife and Beauval Nature mission for eDNA project) Beauval's film maker Mathilde Arnold produced two videos to promote Project Anoulak's work:

Video presentation about our association:

✿ In English: <https://youtu.be/pIrvFztOe8>



✿ In French: <https://youtu.be/skMau3UodCI>



✿ In English with Lao subtitles [subtitles were made by the French Embassy in Laos to promote Project Anoulak's work in Laos]: <https://youtu.be/YyZHmsdOXb4>

A short movie about the eDNA expedition with Beauval Nature and Vigilife in Laos in March 2018 was also produced (in French): <https://youtu.be/q5swzp4uze4>

All videos are uploaded on our Youtube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/c/Conservationlaos>

Uploads PLAY ALL



Présentation de l'Association  
Projet Anoulak (Version)  
227 views • 5 months ago

Expedition à Nakai-Nam  
Theun pour prélevement  
291 views • 5 months ago

Presentation of Project  
Anoulak (English Version)  
910 views • 5 months ago

## Short edited wildlife video on our YouTube Channel

In 2018, we produced a new short video of red-shanked doucs filmed in the field posted it on our Youtube Channel: <https://youtu.be/HC-d-oinqR0>



# PROJECT ANOULAK IN THE NEWS IN 2018

Vue d'une publication : [Infobesancen.fr](http://www.infobesancen.fr/doc/PagesShowNews.aspx?ItemID=95374&WebID=1) - Page 1 sur 1

**VUE DÉTAILLÉE D'UNE PUBLICATION**

**LA CITADELLE DE BESANÇON SOUTIENT L'ÉDITION DU LIVRE MERVEILLES DES ANNAMITES**

Le 24 Décembre 2017 - Projets

Ne d'une volonté de faire connaître et de sensibiliser à la conservation de la faune et de la flore laotienne, le livre Merveilles des Annamites est le fruit d'une étroite collaboration entre Camille Coudrat, fondatrice et directrice de l'association Projet Anoulak, Eric Losh, auteur et illustrateur, et Mélanie Berthet, vétérinaire au Muséum de la Citadelle de Besançon. Les ventes de l'ouvrage vont permettre de financer de nouvelles actions pour préserver l'écosystème des vastes forêts millénaires des Annamites.



<http://www.merveilles-des-annamites.fr/>

**A la découverte des parages...**  
L'ouvrage bilingue français-anglais comporte une introduction de plusieurs pages, des illustrations aux couleurs vives alternant avec des paragraphes relatifs à la faune et la flore endémiques de la région, explique la Gradielle de Besançon.

**Chaque étape de ce récit est illustrée par un paysage dans les éditions en différentes espèces animales et végétales. Compréhensible par les plus jeunes, Merveilles des Annamites recueille ces réactions élogieuses. Le plus grand sourire apparaît lorsque les petits et les grands enfants affirment : "C'est magnifique !"**

**À la fin du livre, Camille Coudrat, jeune biologiste passionnée, avait eu l'idée de ce livre pour sensibiliser les enfants à la protection de la nature et l'environnement.**

<http://infobesancen.fr/doc/PagesShowNews.aspx?ItemID=95374&WebID=1> - 17/11/2018

**L'EST**  
PAYS : France  
PAGE(S) : 33  
SURFACE : 22 %  
PERIODICITE : Quotidien

RUBRIQUE : O&S  
DIFFUSION : 130600  
JOURNALISTE : Céline Mazeau

- 18 janvier 2018 - Edition Doubs - Haut Doubs > Page source

**BESANCONBIODIVERSITÉ**

**Un livre pour sauver la licorne de l'Asie**

« Merveilles des Annamites », livre imprimé à Ornans, donne à voir la faune des montagnes lao-vietnamiennes. Les ventes permettront de financer de nouvelles actions pour préserver cet écosystème rare où l'on trouve, en autre, le mytique saola.

**Céline MAZEAU**  
C'est un livre pour tous : enfants, adolescents et adultes. Un projet à la fois scientifique, artistique et pédagogique, qui a pour objectif : faire connaître la faune et la flore des vastes forêts millénaires des Annamites, chaîne montagneuse entre Laos et Vietnam. « Un lieu phare de la biodiversité, selon Mélanie Berthet, vétérinaire au Muséum de la Citadelle de Besançon. Un vrai bijou pour la conservation. »



Mélanie Berthet, présidente de l'association Anoulak et vétérinaire référente en Europe pour la conservation et la protection des gibbons COULON

**Au cœur d'une forêt ancestrale**  
La jeune femme connaît très bien cette région du monde : elle a fait sa thèse vétérinaire sur les gibbons au

Cambridge et a occupé son premier poste au Laos. C'est donc naturellement vers elle que s'est tournée Brice Lefaux quand a germé l'idée de créer « Anoulak » en 2013. Le directeur du Parc zoologique et botanique de Mulhouse, venu d'être contacté par Camille Coudrat, jeune primatologue qui voulait s'investir afin de protéger cet écosystème exceptionnel, malheureusement menacé par les chasseurs. C'est ainsi qu'est né, en 2014, l'association « Projet Anoulak » (ce qui signifie conservation en laotien), « une association qui finance une école de place, qui finance des chercheurs et plus d'une vingtaine de gardes forestiers ». La protection des aires naturelles n'était plus vraiment une priorité dans cette région, instable sur le plan politique et touchée par une grande pauvreté, explique Mélanie Berthet. Mais, avec la présence d'Anoulak, beaucoup de choses ont changé. » C'est donc pour faire connaître cette forêt et sa faune particulière que l'association a voulu faire un livre bilingue, français et anglais. « « Merveilles des Annamites », fruit d'une étroite collaboration entre Camille Coudrat, Mélanie Berthet et

l'illustrateur new-yorkais Eric Losh. L'occasion d'un voyage sur les traces d'une famille laotienne au cœur de la forêt ancestrale là où vivent les dernières populations et le saola (on l'appelle aussi la « licorne asiatique » : un animal mythique qui n'a été décrit officiellement qu'au début des années quatre-vingt-dix et qui fait partie des mammifères les plus rares au monde). L'ouvrage très joliment illustré a été imprimé à Ornans ( « parce que l'imprimer utilise une encré écologique et du papier issu de forêts gérées durablement » ). Les ventes permettent de contribuer à la biodiversité des Annamites. « Merveilles des Annamites », 17, 50 €. En vente à la boutique de la Citadelle et dans les librairies L'Intranquille et Les Sandales d'Empédocle. ■

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**CITADELLE BESANÇON**  
SITÉE SUR  
MUSÉE COMTRIS  
MUSÉUM  
MUSÉE DE LA RÉSISTANCE  
ET DE LA DÉPORTATION

**COMMUNIQUÉ DE PRESSE**  
Besançon, le 18 décembre 2017

**La Citadelle de Besançon soutient l'édition du livre *Merveilles des Annamites, la vie dans les montagnes Lao-Vietnamiennes***

Né d'une volonté de faire connaître et de sensibiliser à la conservation de la faune et de la flore laotienne, le livre *Merveilles des Annamites* est le fruit d'une étroite collaboration entre Camille Coudrat, fondatrice et directrice de l'association Projet Anoulak, Eric Losh, auteur et illustrateur, et Mélanie Berthet, vétérinaire au Muséum de la Citadelle de Besançon. Les ventes de l'ouvrage vont permettre de financer de nouvelles actions pour préserver l'écosystème des vastes forêts millénaires des Annamites.

**Le livre :**  
**Résumé**

Les auteurs invitent le lecteur à un voyage immersif au gré des aventures d'une famille laotienne parcourant les montagnes des Annamites. Le long des rivières, au sommet de falaises escarpées ou encore au cœur des forêts de bambous et de la forêt tropicale, le lecteur découvre un monde merveilleux de vie sauvage.

L'ouvrage bilingue français-anglais compte une cinquantaine de pages au fil desquelles les illustrations aux couleurs vives alternent avec des paragraphes présentant la faune et la flore endémiques de la région. Chaque étape du récit est illustrée par un paysage tout en profondeur de champ dans lequel sont intégrés des détails animaliers et végétaux. Le lecteur, par l'écriture dessinée et leur réalisme, est transporté dans une nature en pleine effervescence.

Compréhensible par les plus jeunes qui apprécieront la beauté des images, *Merveilles des Annamites* introduit des notions écologiques intéressantes pour les adolescents. Les plus grands quant à eux seront séduits par la présentation technique des espèces et le dépassement offert par les illustrations.

Il y a un art, Camille Coudrat, jeune biologiste française passionnée, avait eu l'idée de ce livre pensé comme une synthèse entre la conservation de la nature et l'art.

Pour ce projet scientifique, artistique et pédagogique, la fondatrice de Projet Anoulak a fait appel aux scientifiques membres du bureau de l'association et à Eric Losh, directeur artistique, auteur et illustrateur originaire des Etats-Unis.

L'artiste, après avoir rédigé l'histoire en anglais, a enrichi ce livre de magnifiques dessins aquarelles, peintures acryliques, Mélanie Berthet, présidente de l'association Anoulak et vétérinaire référente en Europe pour la conservation et la protection des gibbons (espèces présentes au Laos), s'est quant à elle investie avec les membres du bureau dans la relecture, la syntaxe scientifique, l'impression et la vente du livre.

**Information pratiques**

Le livre est en vente à la boutique de la Citadelle au prix de 17,50 € TTC. Grâce aux dons de parcs zoologiques français qui ont permis de financer les coûts de production, 12 € par livre sont reversés à Projet Anoulak pour de nouvelles actions de préservation des vastes forêts millénaires des Annamites.

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**Retrouvez la Citadelle sur**  
[www.citadelle.com](http://www.citadelle.com)  
et sur les réseaux sociaux



**Le petit plus**  
Pour l'impression de *Merveilles des Annamites*, l'association a tenu à choisir une imprimerie ayant un processus de fabrication avec le plus faible impact écologique possible. C'est l'imprimeur Simon Graphic d'Ornans (25) qui a été sélectionné pour son encre écologique et son papier issu de forêts gérées durablement.

**La genèse du projet**

En 2011, après avoir rédigé une thèse sur les espèces du Parc national Nakai-Nam Theun au Laos, Camille Coudrat décida de fonder Projet Anoulak (qui signifie « conservation » en laotien). Cette association française à but non lucratif est dédiée à la recherche et à la protection de la faune et de la flore des Annamites. Cette chaîne de montagnes située dans la partie continentale d'Asie du Sud-Est, à l'est du Mékong, a été peu explorée par les scientifiques dans le passé, notamment en raison des déclivités et des conflits politiques. Aujourd'hui, les chercheurs y发现 de nombreuses nouvelles espèces et une incroyable biodiversité.

Malheureusement, la faune et la flore déjà identifiées – et celles encore inconnues – sont menacées d'extinction. Certaines espèces disparaissent avant même qu'elles n'aient été découvertes. Les principales menaces sont la pratique croissante de la chasse récréative et une demande illégale massive d'animaux sauvages pour la médecine traditionnelle et la nourriture y sont destinés aux zones urbaines. Ce braconnage, en plus de perturber l'écosystème local, affecte directement les populations autochtones.

Les principales actions menées par Projet Anoulak pour enrayer ces pratiques sont la recherche scientifique, la protection de l'habitat sauvage, la sensibilisation, la formation et la mobilisation des communautés locales et des générations futures.

La Citadelle de Besançon, qui avait déjà aidé cette association à voir le jour, a cette fois-ci apporté un soutien financier pour l'impression et la vente des livres.

**Des espèces connues à découvrir au jardin zoologique de la Citadelle de Besançon**

Le Muséum de la Citadelle abrite plusieurs espèces connues de celles présentées dans le livre, comme par exemple les :

- Gibbons à favoris roux ;
- Langurs de François ;
- Sangliers des Vissayas ;
- Colobus Papou.

**Retrouvez la Citadelle sur**  
[www.citadelle.com](http://www.citadelle.com)  
et sur les réseaux sociaux



**Cyril nous fait découvrir... ☺**



**Le projet Anoulak**

La chaîne montagneuse des Annamites se situe à la frontière entre le Laos et le Vietnam. C'est ici qu'est né « Anoulak », une jeune association française dédiée à la conservation de cet écrin abritant une biodiversité exceptionnelle.

**Cyril Hue est vétérinaire au zoo de La Flèche.**  
Dans chaque numéro, il parle avec nous d'animaux qu'il connaît et nous parle de protection et de conservation.



**LA NAISSANCE D'ANOULAK**

En 2011, Camille Coudrat, une jeune chercheuse française, part pour le Laos effectuer une recherche sur les gibbons et les langurs de due à l'occasion de son doctorat. L'essentiel de son travail se déroule dans le parc de Nakai-Nam Theun, situé à l'est du pays dans la chaîne montagneuse des Annamites, à la frontière du Vietnam. Là, Camille découvre une biodiversité exceptionnelle mais hélas déjà fortement menacée par l'homme. L'humain, notamment le braconnage, est la cause suivante, pour lutter contre ces menaces et mieux étudier cette faune unique, elle crée avec l'appui du zoo de Mulhouse et de celui de Besançon une association baptisée « Anoulak », qui signifie « conservation » en lao.

**ÉTUDIER POUR MIEUX PROTÉGER**  
Lorsque au début des années 1990 les scientifiques accèdent à la chaîne des Annamites, ils y découvrent une faune très

**AGIR POUR LA FORÊT**  
Depuis 2016, l'association a recruté et formé 24 rangers issus de la communauté locale afin d'arpenter les 300 km² de la zone protégée, de détruire les pièges et de prévenir l'abattage et de détruire tous les pièges retrouvés sur le terrain. La protection de la nature passe aussi par l'éducation. Anoulak organise ainsi au sein du parc de grands événements de sensibilisation, particulièrement auprès des enfants et de leurs enseignants. Récemment, l'association a produit un livre, *Merveilles des Annamites*, dont le message est simple : « Respectez et protégez la Biodiversité ». Il existe un autre ouvrage qui raconte une histoire autour du mytique saola intitulé *L'Esprit du saola*. Ces livres ont pour but de sensibiliser les communautés locales ainsi que le grand public à l'importance de conserver ces écosystèmes et leur vie sauvage.

**pour en savoir plus :**  
[www.conservationlaos.com](http://www.conservationlaos.com)



**Le saola**  
Deuxième emblème d'Anoulak, le saola n'a été découvert qu'en 1992. C'est l'un des derniers à avoir été nommés de la planète, très peu d'individus sont connus dans la nature. La silhouette n'est pas sans évoquer celle de la mythique licorne. Appartenant à la famille des bovins, son mode de vie nous est inconnu. L'analyse de l'ADN environnemental doit permettre de confirmer, on l'espère, la présence du saola dans le Nakai-Nam Theun.

**Le calao bicolor**  
Troisième emblème du logo d'Anoulak, le calao bicolor est le plus gros des calaos. Il est également réputé au Laos pour le caractère gracieux qu'il présente. Chez les calaos, la femelle vit en couple avec un seul mâle et leurs nids sont très proches. Chez les calaos, la femelle pond ses œufs au sein de la cavité d'un arbre dans laquelle elle va s'immerger en refermant l'entrée avec de la boue et ses fientes. Le mâle nourrit sa femelle pendant toute la période d'élevage de petits à travers un petit orifice laissé ouvert dans le mur de boue.



**Le muntjac géant**  
Appartenant à la famille des cervidés, le muntjac géant ressemble un grand muppi. Appelé également « cerf chevreuil » en raison des crêtes qu'il possède lorsqu'il se sent menacé, il a été pour la première fois décrit en 1996. Sa présence est avérée au sein du parc Nakai-Nam Theun grâce aux pièges photographiques placés par Anoulak dans la forêt.

**Le gibbon à favoris blancs**  
Appartenant à la famille des hominidés, cet animal est l'unique gibbon qui vit au Laos. Il est également connu sous le nom de « gibbon à favoris blancs ». Ses longs bras, sa tête ronde et ses doigts courts lui permettent de grimper aux arbres avec aisance. Il vit dans les forêts primaires et secondaires, dans les forêts de bambous et de palmiers.



**©Anoulak**

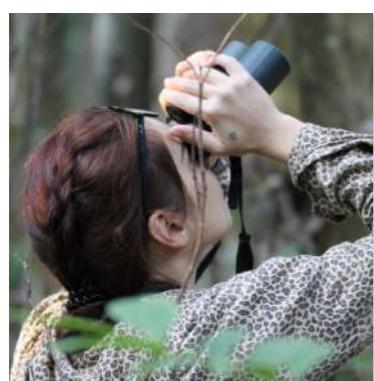
## EAZA CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN

In 2018, we partnered with the French Association of Zoological Parks (AFDPZ) to challenge French zoos into participating to the [EAZA Conservation Campaign: Silent Forest](#)



### Vous aussi, participez à La campagne “Silent Forest” de l'EAZA !

En relevant le défi qui vous est lancé par l'[Association Française des Parcs Zoologiques](#) !



Project Anoulak se joint à l'[Association Française des Parcs Zoologiques](#) pour vous lancer le défi et participer à la campagne!

Aidez-nous à sensibiliser sur la disparition des espèces d'oiseaux chanteurs en Asie du Sud-Est, ainsi que de bien d'autres espèces animales et végétales. La conservation de la biodiversité à travers le monde dépend en grande partie de l'éducation du grand public.

Camille Coudrat,  
Fondatrice et directrice de l'Association Projet Anoulak  
[www.conservationlaos.com](http://www.conservationlaos.com) - Dédié à la protection de la biodiversité au Laos

## PROJECT ANOULAK IS

### PRIMATE SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN CONSERVATION CAUSE 2018-2019 !



In 2018, Project Anoulak was chosen as the 2018-2019 Conservation Cause of the Primate Society of Great Britain, which means that money raised for conservation during this period will be donated to Project Anoulak.

 **Primate Society of Great Britain**  
Conservation Cause 2018-2019



Scan this QR code to watch our promotional video:

[www.conservationlaos.com](http://www.conservationlaos.com) Contact: [camillecoudrat@gmail.com](mailto:camillecoudrat@gmail.com)

**WHO WE ARE.**

- Project Anoulak (conservation in Lao language) is a French-registered not-for-profit association (registered since September 2014) 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.
- Our mission is 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, with a skilled, passionate and dedicated team of nationals and internationals.

**WHERE WE WORK.**

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

**A BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT ...**

Nakai-Nam Theun (3500 km<sup>2</sup>) is recognised at the national, regional and global scales for its importance for biodiversity conservation. It falls in the heart of the Annamite Mountain range: one of the richest regions of Southeast Asia in terms of biodiversity and endemism and is one of the identified 'Key Biodiversity Areas' within the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot.

**... AT RISK**

Southeast Asia is facing a biodiversity crisis: the region supports the highest number of threatened species in the world. Hunting is the main threat to biodiversity in mainland Southeast Asia. This has resulted in local or national extinction of several species across the region.

**WHAT WE DO.**

- Biodiversity research and conservation.** We currently focus on:
  - The behavioural ecology of the red-shanked douc (*Pygathrix nemaeus*)
  - The distribution and taxonomy of the white-cheeked gibbons (*Nomascus leucogenys* / *N. siki*)
  - Otter (*Aonyx*, *Lutra*, *Lutrogale*) surveys and conservation planning
  - Distribution and population monitoring of the large-antlered muntjac (*Muntiacus vuquangensis*)
  - Ground and arboreal animal population monitoring with systematic camera-trap surveys
  - Biodiversity surveys using environmental DNA techniques (including detection of elusive species)
- Anti-poaching patrols.**
  - Four ranger teams totaling 24 rangers; monthly patrols, covering ~300 km<sup>2</sup>
  - Collaboration and coordination of efforts with local government authorities
- Conservation education and community outreach.**
  - School-based conservation education activities
  - Teacher training and support
  - Production of illustrated storybooks for awareness raising
- Community alternative & sustainable livelihoods.**
  - Training and demonstration centre in target villages for permaculture and handicraft projects
- Capacity building.** Training the next generation of Lao conservationists

Currently supported by:







**Donors visit in 2018**



In March 2018, as part of a mission to collect water samples for the environmental DNA survey, Beauval Nature (Beauval Zoo) visited our project for the first time.



In December 2018, over Christmas time, we received the visit of representatives from a foundation from Hong Kong (*wish to remain anonymous*) that has been supporting our some of our work for the past few years and will support us in more projects from 2019.



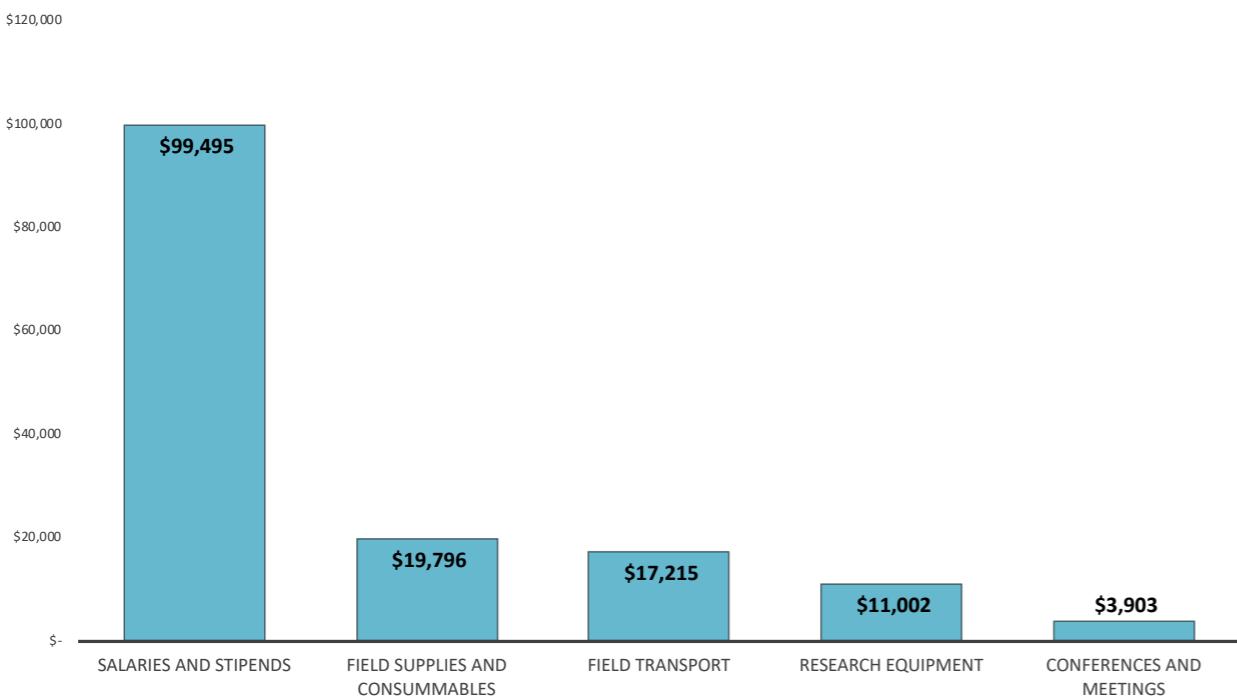
# Financial report 2018

In 2018, our association spent a total of **151,412 USD** [133,341 €] for our conservation activities

BALANCE 1st Jan 2018 in bank	\$71,604
TOTAL CREDITS 2018 (donations, fund raising sales)	\$168,725
<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE in 2018</b>	<b>\$240,329</b>
<b>TOTAL SPENT 2018</b>	<b>\$151,412</b>

### Jan-Dec 2018 expenditure BY CATEGORY

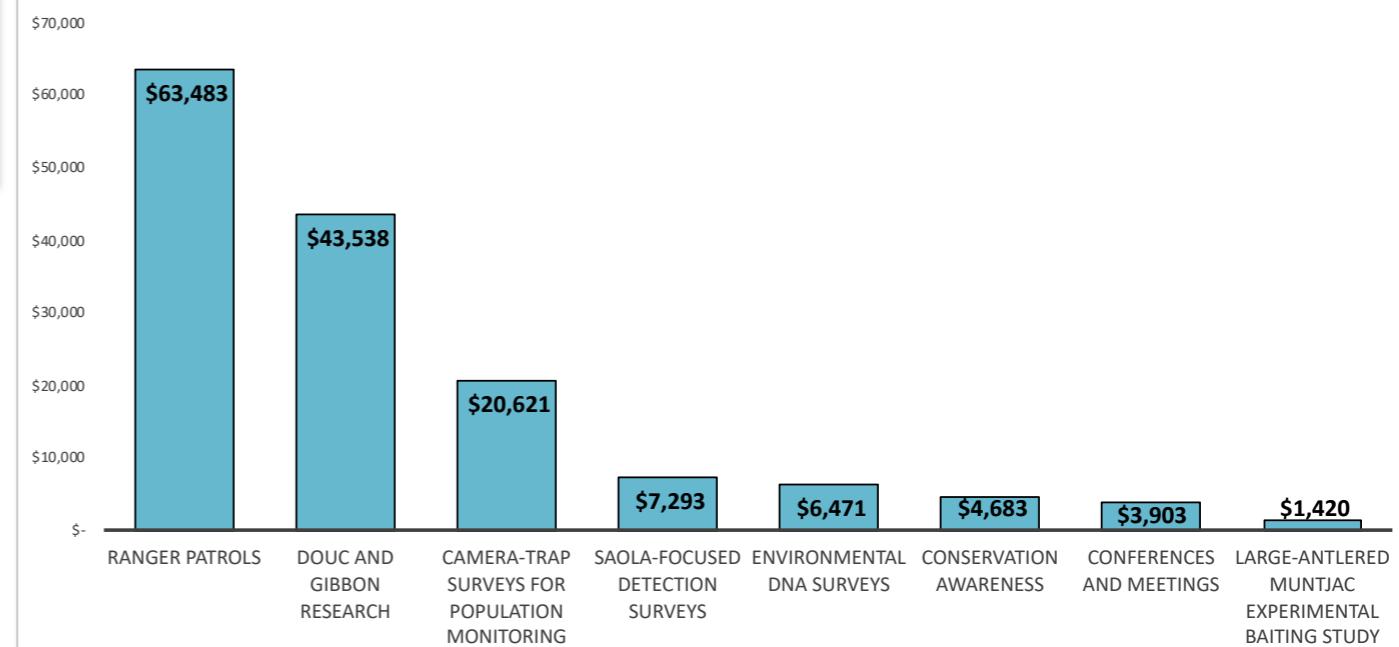
Total = \$ 151,412



**Figure 1:** Annual (Jan-Dec 2018) expenditures by category

### Jan-Dec 2018 expenditure BY PROGRAM/PROJECT

Total = \$ 151,412



**Figure 2:** Annual (Jan-Dec 2018) expenditures by program/project



# Workplan for 2019

Our draft work plan for 2019:

<b>Programs/activities</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>
<b>Biodiversity research for conservation</b>												
<i>Red-shanked douc behavioural ecology study</i>												
- Monthly follows												
- Visit of volunteer to train and support team												
- PhD student field work on feeding ecology of doucs												
- Botanical survey												
- Tree climbing training and canopy camera-trapping												
<i>Wildlife monitoring with camera-trapping</i>												
- Annual ground camera-trapping in Zone 3 (set-up, removal, data processing)												
- Camera-traps removal from Zone 2 and data processing												
<i>Environmental DNA surveys</i>												
- Second saola-focussed camera-trap + eDNA survey												
- eDNA method testing in collaboration with Spygen												
<i>Gibbon vocalizations recordings (for distribution study) at selected sites</i>												
<i>Otter surveys with camera-traps at selected sites</i>												
<b>Ranger patrols (total of 6 teams in 2019)</b>												
- 4 teams monthly patrols												
- Additional 2 teams monthly patrols												
<b>Community sustainable livelihoods</b>												
<i>Consultation workshop with local communities and local stakeholders</i>												
<i>Handicraft project for women</i>												
<i>Permaculture demonstraton and training center project</i>												
<b>International meetings and conferences</b>												
<i>Regional Owston's Civer Conservation Workshop, Hanoi, Vietnam</i>												
<i>International Otter Congress, Sichuan, China</i>												
<i>EAZA Anual Meeting, Valencia, Spain</i>												



## Acknowledgements

# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS AND PARTNERS IN 2018



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



Leibniz Institute for Zoo  
and Wildlife Research  
IN THE FORSCHUNGSVERBUND BERLIN E.V.



# THANK YOU TO OUR NATIONAL PARTNERS

We thank our two main local partners:

- \* The Nam Theun 2 Watershed Management and Protection Authority
- \* The Wildlife Conservation Association





**New Year's Greetings**

**Every new year is a time to reflect on our life's purpose and how best to fulfill it.**

**Despite the sometimes frenetic pace of our lives, it is important to take the time to observe the direction it takes, make choices and make space for our self-development; this will make us more efficient and focused in our accomplishments.**

**We wish you all the best in your personal and professional projects this new year.**



Contact:  
[camillecoudrat@conservationlaos.com](mailto:camillecoudrat@conservationlaos.com)

SUPPORT US



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