



ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014



Project



Anoulak



Project Anoulak

First Annual Report 2013-2014



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1. Forewords

~ Camille N. Z. Coudrat ~

Project Anoulak Founder, vice-president & project manager

I arrived in Laos for the first time just three years ago when I began my PhD research on the wildlife status and conservation in Nakai-Nam Theun National Protected Area. I soon realized the importance of this area for biodiversity conservation in the Indochinese region. In Southeast Asia, species loss is critical and extinction risks the highest in the world. So while I was back in Europe writing up my thesis, going back there became an evidence and so Project Anoulak was born with a crucial partnership of like-minded people. Before I knew it, I was back in the beautiful Lao forest where I hope I will be given the chance to stay for the next couple of years of my life to bring my little contribution to wildlife conservation in Southeast Asia.

This first Annual Report of Project Anoulak will hopefully be followed by many more in the years to come. I hope you will enjoy it and that "some day you will join us"

Camille. Vientiane 12/10/2014



2. About Project Anoulak

WHAT

Project Anoulak is a non-for-profit association registered in France in 2014 with number "Volume 91 Folio 132" under the magistrates' court of Mulhouse, Alsace, dedicated to the conservation of the Lao wildlife

HOW

The project is developed and implemented around
FOUR COMPONENTS:

- **Scientific research:** we conduct scientific research on several aspects of wildlife ecology.
- **Capacity building:** the site provides a unique opportunity for Lao students to be trained and supervised to conduct their own research and become the next generation of biologists and conservationists in Laos.
- **Wildlife protection:** we use active patrolling around the site to protect the forest and the wildlife.
- **Environmental education and community involvement:** we implement conservation education activities in villages within NNT NPA to inform, engage and empower local communities in ecosystem protection. We are training villagers as our research assistants.

2. About Project Anoulak

WHERE

Project Anoulak is based in Laos and in particular in Nakai-Nam Theun National Protected Area. This area is a biodiversity hotspot and one of the largest contiguous forest blocks remaining in the region. It is a priority for the safeguard of endemic and key threatened species.



2. About Project Anoulak

MISSION STATEMENT

Develop and implement innovative, multidisciplinary and sustainable approaches to biodiversity & ecosystem scientific research and conservation at a local scale, in Nakai-Nam Theun National Protected Area, with a passionate and dedicated team of nationals and internationals.

VISION

The restoration of the biodiversity of Nakai Nam Theun National Protected Area with empowered local community as principal actors and advocates for the safeguard of the habitat and wildlife through conscious and informed sustainable livelihoods and development.

A strong, dedicated, passionate and skillful scientific community of young Lao nationals acting together for the sustainable future of Laos' forests, biodiversity, environment and people.



WHY THIS FLAGSHIP LOGO

Three **symbols** of Nakai-Nam Theun

Critically Endangered **saola** (*Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*):

The saola is endemic to the Annamite Mountains of Laos and Vietnam with one of the smallest ranges of any large mammal in the world. It is one of the most elusive species in the world, for it has virtually never been directly observed in the wild by any biologist, and also one of the most endangered mammals in the world. Its scientific discovery was only in 1992, thus, is one of the world's last large mammals discoveries. The species is taxonomically distinctive with its own genus. Its protection will act as an 'umbrella' for the conservation of many more threatened species.



Endangered **red-shanked douc** (*Pygathrix nemaeus*)

The red-shanked douc is one of the most charismatic and most beautiful primate in the world. It is restricted to remaining forests in Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. Its world's largest population is found in Laos and in particular in Nakai-Nam Theun NPA (Coudrat et al. 2012; Coudrat et al., in press). The species is the emblem of the (at least) nine species of primates occurring in Nakai-Nam Theun NPA.



The Near Threatened **great hornbill** (*Buceros bicornis*):

This charismatic large bird is the symbol of the diversity of bird species residing in Nakai-Nam Theun NPA: with 430 bird species, this is the largest number recorded in a single protected area in all of Southeast Asia.



3. Organization



FOUNDER
Camille N.Z. Coudrat

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT Brice Lefaux Veterinarian Director Mulhouse Zoo	VICE PRESIDENT Camille N.Z. Coudrat Manager Project Anoulak	SECRETARY Benoit Quintard Veterinarian Mulhouse Zoo	TREASURER Mélanie Berthet Veterinarian Zoo Besançon
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ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PROJECT MANAGEMENT IN LAOS
Camille N.Z. Coudrat

LOCAL PROJECT COORDINATOR
Chanthalaphone Nanthavong

LOCAL TEAM
Local villagers
Lao students
Lao staff

RESEARCH PARTNERS
International students
International researchers

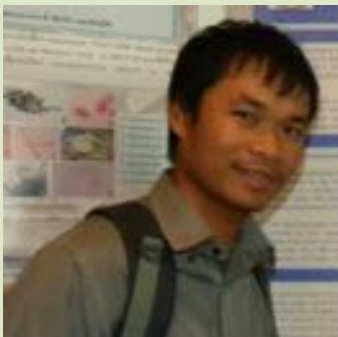
4. Activities 2013-2014

CAPACITY BUILDING

- Mr. Chanthalaphone Nanthavong (a.k.a. Tou) was supported by Project Anoulak for his Masters Degree 2013-2014. He conducted his final project research, co-supervised by Camille Coudrat, on estimating the population abundance of white-cheeked gibbons in Nakai-Nam Theun NPA. He has now graduated and continues to work with us as our local project coordinator.



- Mr. Oudone Phakphothong is currently conducting his Masters degree 2014-2015 under the co-supervision of Camille Coudrat for his final research project on the abundance estimate of langur species *Trachypithecus* spp. in Hin Namno National Protected Area (just south of Nakai-Nam Theun)



AWARD WINNING!
CONGRATULATION
to Mr Chanthalaphone
Nanthavong for being
awarded the 2014 American
Society of Primatologists
(ASP) Conservationist
Award for his outstanding
contribution and
commitment to primate
conservation in his country!



Training at the National University of Laos

In collaboration with the National
University of Laos and Suranaree
University of Technology, Thailand



4. Activities 2013-2014

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

This year we conducted a pilot Biodiversity Literacy Project For its long-term implementation in the near future.

This project was supported by



We are conducting a series of workshops in target village schools in Nakai-Nam Theun. One more workshop will be implemented by the end of this year to complete this pilot project.

Edited videos featuring the project are available to watch on our YouTube Channel at

[Project Anoulak's YouTube Channel](#)



4. Activities 2013-2014

GIBBON PROJECT

Phase I

In 2013-2014, we conducted the first systematic survey of gibbons in Nakai-Nam Theun National protected Area.

Results revealed a very high density of gibbon groups at our research site; between 2 to 4 groups/km² on average (using different analysis methods).

This means that Nakai-Nam Theun NPA may hold the world's largest population for the species.

The taxonomic status of the species within Nakai-Nam Theun is still uncertain (*Nomascus siki*/*N. leucogenys*). Phase II of our gibbons project will focus on confirming the species occurring in the area and starting a long-term study on their ecology.

The results of Phase I of the research will be published in two different papers, one focusing on their singing pattern, the other on their abundance at the research site using different analysis methods.

Five progress reports of our gibbon program Phase I are available on the website.



4. Activities 2013-2014

ABSTRACTS FROM GIBBON RESEARCH

Singing patterns of white-cheeked gibbons (*Nomascus* sp.) in the Annamite mountains of Laos

ABSTRACT

Gibbons (Primates: Hylobatidae) are small-bodied arboreal apes known for their stereotyped songs, coordinated in male-female duets in most species. Studying the structure and patterns of gibbon vocalizations is important for understanding their evolution, responses to changing environments, social behavior, and for designing efficient surveys for these endangered species. We recorded songs of white-cheeked gibbons (*Nomascus* sp.) in Nakai-Nam Theun National Protected Area, central-eastern Laos over a seven-month survey (November 2013-May 2014) during a cold dry season and warm dry season along with weather data. Males typically initiated the duet songs on average around 06:13. Song bouts lasted an average of 16 minutes. On a given day, the first male song started on average 17 minutes before sunrise and all songs ceased on average around 06:28, after sunrise. Both time of the first male song and song frequency differed between the two seasons, mainly affected by the occurrence of rain and morning temperature. Song length was relatively constant throughout the study and only weakly decreased with the occurrence of wind. Temperature had a significant influence on time of first call of gibbons. During colder months, gibbons started singing at a later time and closer to the sunrise; the warmer it became over the months, the earlier males started singing but during the warmest months of the study, which also correspond to the months when the rainy season started, gibbons started singing later again and closer to the sunrise. We argue that singing patterns in white-cheeked gibbons is principally related to sound transmission. Our findings provide information to plan and/or interpret results from short-term *Nomascus* spp. gibbon surveys, which are crucial in population conservation management plans.

Density of white-cheeked gibbon *Nomascus* sp. In the Annamite mountains of Lao P.D.R.: A comparison of analysis

ABSTRACT

Given the globally threatened status of all gibbon species (Primate: Hylobatidae), the long-term monitoring of their populations is crucial for species-specific and site-based conservation strategies. Determining estimates of their abundance is therefore a key step. Nakai-Nam Theun National Protected Area (NNT NPA), Lao P.D.R., is one of the largest remaining contiguous forest blocks in Indochina. Illegal wildlife hunting is however a major threat. We conducted the first systematic survey of white-cheeked gibbons in NNT NPA, 3500 km², to estimate their abundance. We surveyed gibbons within 30-2x2 km² grid-cells using a set of three listening posts in each grid. The three listening posts in each set were visited simultaneously each morning for four consecutive days. We analyzed the dataset with three different methods to estimate abundance/occupancy of gibbons at the research site: (1) conventional triangulation method; (2) Detection/non detection occupancy model; (3) Repeated count of unmarked groups model (or 'N-mixture model'); (4) Spatial Explicit Capture-Recapture. We discuss the relative merits of each method.

4. Activities 2013-2014

PUBLICATIONS

Since we started our work in Nakai-Nam Theun in 2012

Peer-reviewed scientific papers

- Coudrat, C.N.Z., Nanthavong, C., Sayavong, S., Johnson, A., Johnston, J. and Robichaud, W.G. 2014. Low abundance of small medium-sized wild cat species in large primary forests: a case study of Nakai-Nam Theun National Protected Area, Lao PDR. *IUCN/SSC Cat News. Special Issue 8*: 45-52. [\[PDF\]](#)
- Coudrat, C.N.Z., Nanthavong, C., Sayavong, S., Johnson, A., Johnston, J. and Robichaud, W.G. 2014. Conservation importance of Nakai-Nam Theun National Protected Area, Laos, for small carnivores, based on camera trap data. *Raffle Bulletin of Zoology* 62: 31-49. [\[PDF\]](#)
- Coudrat, C.N.Z. and Nanthavong, C. 2013. A confirmed record of large-toothed ferret badger *Melogale personata* from central Laos suggesting syntopy with small-toothed ferret badger *Melogale Moschata*. *Small Carnivore Conservation* 49: 48-50. [\[PDF\]](#)
- Coudrat, C.N.Z., Nekaris, K.A.I. and Nanthavong, C. 2013. The world's largest population of *P. nemaeus* in Laos: combining distance sampling and habitat suitability modelling to estimate their density: implications for their conservation. *Oryx* 48: 540-547. [\[PDF\]](#)
- Coudrat, C.N.Z. and Nekaris, K.A.I. 2013. Modelling the niche differentiation of co-existing, elusive and look-alike species: a case study of four macaque species in Nakai-Nam Theun National Protected Area, Laos. *Animals* 3: 45-62. [\[PDF\]](#)
- Coudrat, C.N.Z., Duckworth, J. W. and Timmins R. J. 2012. Distribution and conservation status of the red-shanked douc monkey (*Pygathrix nemaeus*) in Lao PDR: an update. *American Journal of Primatology* 74: 874-889. [\[PDF\]](#)

Children's books & Primate Field Guide

- Coudrat, C.N.Z. 2011. [Save Douky, the red-shanked douc.](#) Vientiane, Lao PDR. (English and Lao). First print sponsored by Care for the Wild International.
- Coudrat, C.N.Z. 2011. [Silvered Langur Activity Book.](#) (English and Lao)
- Coudrat, C.N.Z. 2013. [Primate Field Guide Lao PDR](#) (English or Lao)

All publication are available on the [website](#) under 'Resources'



4. Activities 2013-2014

INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS ATTENDANCE

MAY 2012

EAZA Conservation Forum

Vienna, Austria

Oral presentation: *Conservation of the world's most beautiful primate, the red-shanked douc (Pygathrix nemaeus) in Lao PDR*

OCTOBER 2013

International Conference for Indochinese Primate Conservation

Endangered Primate rescue Centre, Cuc Phuong, Vietnam

Oral presentation: *Primate Conservation in Nakai-Nam Theun National Protected Area, central-eastern Laos*

AUGUST 2014

International Primatological Society Congress

Hanoi, Vietnam

Poster presentation: *Gibbon Survey In Nakai-Nam Theun National Protected Area, Laos Reveals One Of The Largest Remaining Populations Of White-cheeked Gibbons Nomascus sp.: A Comparison of Analysis Methods*

SEPTEMBER 2014

EAZA Annual Meeting

Budapest, Hungary

Oral presentation: *Wildlife Conservation in Laos with Project Anoulak: Development and Progress*



5. Financial report

Financial report 2013-2014 – All figures in US \$

GIBBON PROJECT (PHASE I)

CATEGORY	TOTAL
FOOD/ACCOMMODATION (for team)	\$1,433.99
TRANSPORT	\$944.01
SUPPLIES	\$390.63
SALARIES (for Lao Nationals only)	\$5,109.12
IPS CONFERENCE ATTENDENCE (for 2)	\$1551.13
EQUIPMENT	\$2028.13
ADMINISTRATIVE	907.51
TOTAL	\$12,364.52

Sponsored by: Mulhouse Zoo, ZGAP, PCI, ASP, Apenheul, Parc Animalier d'Auvergne, La Vallée des Singes, Minnesota Zoo, AFdPZ, Idea Wild.

PILOT EDUCATION PROJECT 2014

CATEGORY	TOTAL
TRANSPORT	\$370.42
FOOD	\$141.99
SUPPLIES	\$362.59
SALARIES (for Lao Nationals only)	\$5116.14
EQUIPMENT	\$349.10
PRINTINGS (t-shirts, caps, stickers etc.)	\$2,540.00
BANK TRANSFER	\$55.00
TOTAL	\$8935.00

Sponsored by: The Rufford Foundation

6. Ongoing & next activities

- Building our Anoulak field station in Nakai-Nam Theun NPA supported by CEPF



- Establishing our Primate Protection Unit, supported by Ocean Park Conservation Fund, HK



- Collaboration with the Primate Microbiome Project to investigate the roles of microbes in primate health, evolution, behavior, and conservation.



- Collaboration with GIZ to expand our primate research to Hin Namno National Protected Area



- Gibbon project PHASE II: behavioural ecology, nutritional analysis, taxonomical status



- Red-shanked douc project: behavioural ecology, supported by Mohamed Ben Zayed Fund



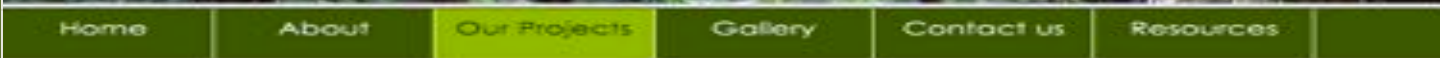
- Establish our long-term Biodiversity Literacy Project



7. Communication

WEBSITE

Created in 2013!



Welcome to www.conservationlaos.com!

FACEBOOK

Created in 2014!



YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Created in 2014!



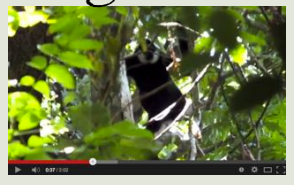
Conservation Laos

9 videos uploaded

Villagers involvement

Douc and gibbons videos

Education project



8. Supporters

None of this would have been possible without your support.
Thank you for your help & trust

In 2013-2014, Project Anoulak has been sponsored by:



THANK YOU!

9. Partners

Project Anoulak would like to thank our main partners:



The Lao Wildlife Conservation Association is dedicated to the conservation of wildlife and habitats in Laos.

They are our main national partner to obtain required permissions and with providing technical advices



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 NPA.

All our activities are implemented with prior approval and collaboration from NT2 WMPA



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

In 2014, Project Anoulak became an official partner organisation for *Nomascus siki* and *N. leucogenys*. EEP, approved by the Gibbon Taxonomic Advisory Group

Thank you also to the following parties who are helping us one way of the other:



10. Get involved

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

AMAZON WISHLIST

We are always in need of specific equipment or books for our projects. If you want to support us with the purchase of such items, look at our Amazon wish list, where you can directly make an order of the items in the list!

[Project Anoulak's Wishlist](#)



11. Contact

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Connect with us, stay informed

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- www.facebook.com/projectanouлак
- www.youtube.com/c/Conservationlaos



2015 is YEAR of THE GIBBON!

Support our efforts!
Support gibbon conservation!



Cornelia C.