

# Who We Are

**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.



NNT NPA is one of the largest remaining contiguous and little encroached forest blocks in the Indochinese peninsula and holds numerous rare, endemic and highly threatened species. The area is ranked as a priority for biodiversity conservation at the National and Global scale; 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. This is notably due to its unique ecosystem characteristic of the Annamite mountains where some of the last large mammal discoveries took place (e.g. saola *Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*; large-antlered muntjac *Muntiacus vuquangensis*; Annamite muntjac *M. truongsonensis*; Annamite stripe rabbit *Nesolagus timminsii*).



*Wildlife is under great threat of extinction in the region due to habitat loss and unsustainable hunting for meat consumption, use for traditional medicine and the international trade. We aim to mitigate these impacts for the safeguard of biodiversity.*

# What We Do

Project Anoulak acts at several levels:



## Scientific Research

We conduct scientific research on several aspects of wildlife ecology, in particular on species that are the most threatened of extinction. We currently focus our research on the behavioural ecology (e.g. daily activities, feeding habits, nutritional requirements, group dynamics, habitat use and movements) of white-cheeked gibbons (*Nomascus* sp.) and red-shanked doucs (*Pygathrix nemaeus*) to understand how they interact with their environment. We are also investigating the taxonomy and national distribution of the Northern (*N. leucogenys*) and Southern (*N. siki*) white-cheeked gibbons, which remain little understood. In addition, we are surveying other species using automatic camera-traps to determine the species occurring in the area.



We aim to extend our research programs to further species and aspire to collaborate with national and international academics, researchers and research groups.



## Habitat Protection

We collaborate and coordinate efforts with local management authorities to enforce the law and conduct patrols around the research site with villagers trained and hired from the local community.



## Conservation Education & Community Outreach

We conduct school-based conservation education activities in villages within NNT NPA to inform, engage and empower local communities in ecosystem protection and in particular the next generation.



We also engage and train local villagers in all aspects of our activities. They are helping us to collect data and protect wildlife.



## Capacity Building

We collaborate with academic institutions from the region to support Lao nationals in their higher education and supervise them during their research projects. Our research site in NNT NPA provides a unique opportunity for them to conduct wildlife research, and become the next generation of Lao conservationists.