

Progress Report

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Project title:

Taxonomic Status And Distribution Range Review Of White-Cheeked Gibbons (*Nomascus Spp.*) In Central Laos

Activities achieved:

1) Project design for Nakai-Nam Theun National Protected Area

We selected six primary sample sites to be visited in Nakai-Nam Theun based on (Figure 1):

- *Geographic location in relation to the Nam Theun river*: Three sites sampled to the east of the river and three sites sampled to the west of the river.
- *Relative easy access and logistics (including reduction in cost of field work)*

At each sample site, at least 3 sub-sites (minimum 2 kms apart) are visited to record the duet call of at least 3 different gibbon groups.

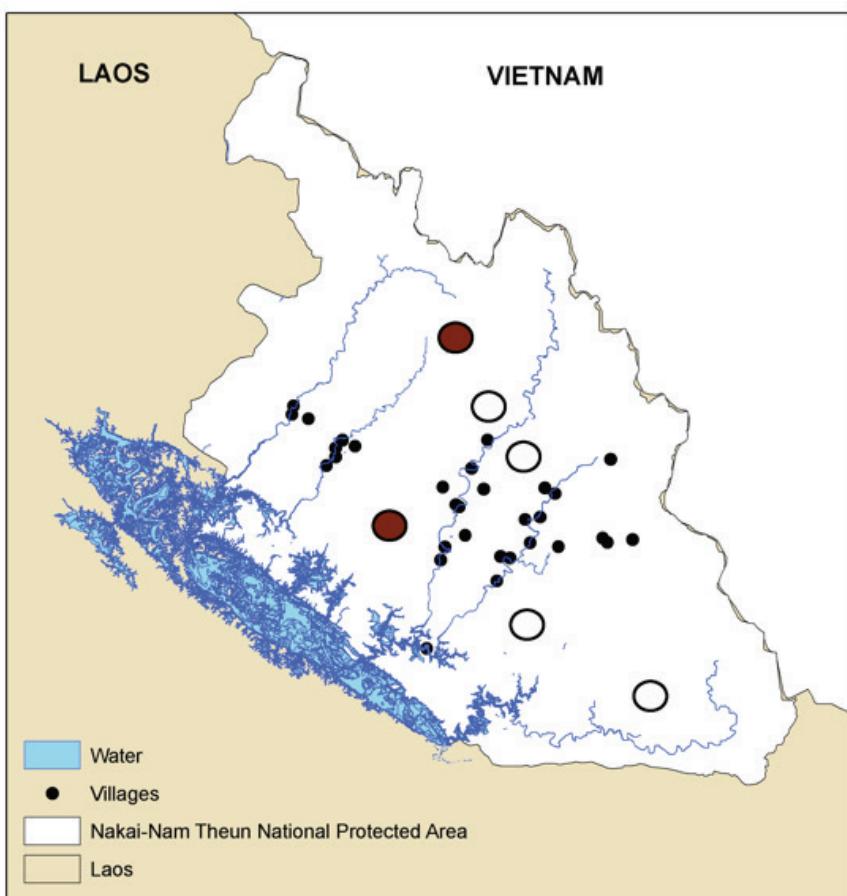


Figure 1: Location of six main sample sites in Nakai-Nam Theun National Protected Area (circles). At each sample site, at least 3 sub-sites (minimum 2 kms apart) are visited to record the duet call of at least 3 different gibbon groups. In Jan-Mar 2017, two sites were visited (red-filled circles).

2) Testing of equipment, field practice and training of personnel

In January 2017, I tested the equipment (Fostex FR-2LE Field recorder with external mono microphone Sennheiser with Rycotte wind shield) in the field and set up all options according to the needs and designed a dataform.

One field staff was trained to independently use the equipment and collect the data.

3) Data collection so far

Between January to March 2017, we visited two sample sites (Figure 1):

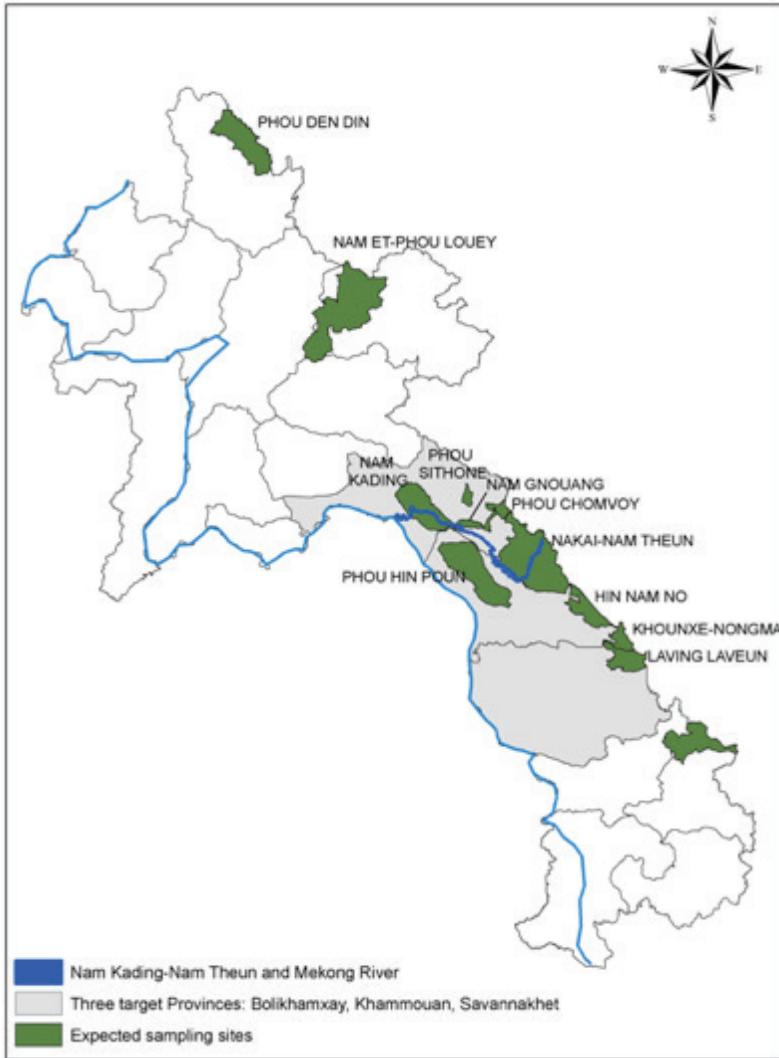
- Three good** recordings from three different groups
- Three good** recordings from three different groups

(**Note: only 'good' recordings are considered in the total. 'Good' recordings are those that (1) were close enough to the subject for a clear sound, (2) without too much background sounds, (3) are duet calls, and (4) include the complete duet or a major part of it)

4) Collaboration with other institutions:

Status of potential data collection in other protected areas (Figure 2):

- Phou Sithone: We obtained from WCS gibbon calls that were already recorded there in 2011
- Nam Kading: Discussion with WCS is on-going to visit the site and record gibbons there on both sides of the river
- Phou Hin Poun: IUCN-Laos is currently awaiting an MoU with the Government to obtain permission to work in this area. Once this is obtained I should gain access to this area.
- Hin Nam No: GIZ agreed to give us access to the site to record gibbon calls and covering costs of field work (the site will be visited during the next dry season (Oct 2017-May 2018)
- Kounxe Noungma: Permissions to survey this site are underway; a colleague biologist will be surveying this site in the next few weeks and should be able to record some calls from this area.



5) Our next steps

April 2017: visit of two sample sites

May-June 2017: visit of two sample sites

This will complete the data collection in Nakai-Nam Theun National Protected Area.

April-July 2017: Preliminary analysis of the samples collected will follow in order to present the preliminary results at the European Federation of Primatology, in Strasbourg in August 2017.

No fieldwork will be conducted between July-September 2017, which is the rainy season.

Fieldwork will resume in October 2017 in the other protected area were we collaborate with partners.

6) Finance

Funds so far were used according to the submitted budget, for travel to the site, food and per diem of assistants.