



**BIODIVERSITY LITERACY PROJECT:  
TOWARDS LONG-TERM CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAMME IN  
NAKAI-NAM THEUN NATIONAL PROTECTED AREA, LAOS (PHASE 2)**

*PROGRESS REPORT  
April 2016*



A report by  
**Project Anoulak**

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## INTRODUCTION

Project Anoulak is dedicated to the Conservation of Wildlife in Laos through Scientific Research, Habitat Protection, Capacity Building, and Wildlife & Environmental Education.

This document outlines our progress report for 2016 Education Programs aimed to increase biophilia in remote and vulnerable villages within the Nakai-Nam Theun National Protected Area (NNT NPA) in Laos.

The project includes:

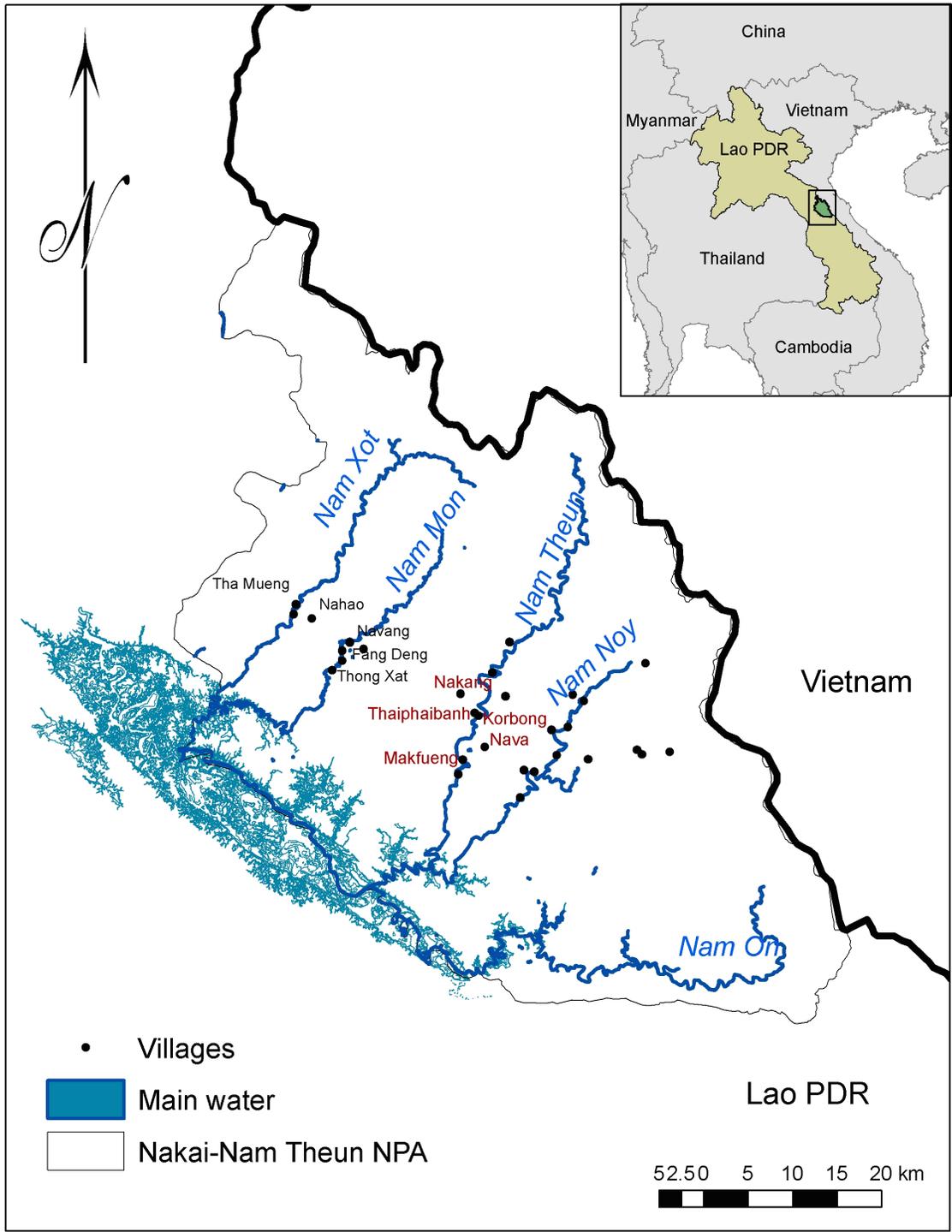
- (i) The development of interactive, hands-on and creativity-based activities for school children of primary and secondary school
- (ii) The production of a Training Booklet in English and Lao, where activities will be described, for long term use by teachers and educators
- (iii) Training of Trainers workshops to provide the necessary tools, techniques and confidence to local teachers and educators to implement independently school activities related to wildlife conservation and the environment, using the training Booklet as guide
- (iv) Pilot implementation of developed activities with teachers and educators in two village clusters in Nakai-Nam Theu NPA, Laos, involving 9 schools (2 secondary and 7 primary schools) within 9 different villages.

This is a brief report on education activities in our second village cluster, Thaiphaiaban, for six days in April 2016.

## TARGET VILLAGES

Our first trip of Wildlife & Environmental Education activities were facilitated in a cluster of villages up the Nam Xot river, including Navang, Fang Deng, Thong Xat, Nahao, and Tha Mueang (Figure 1).

Our second trip of activities were facilitated up the Nam Theun River, in a cluster of villages including Makfueng, Nava, Korbong, Thaphaibanh, and Nakang (formerly BongBouy).



**Figure 1:** Location of Nakai-Nam Theun National Protected Area and the target villages visited during the first mission.

## SCHEDULE

The schedule for this mission is described below:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Travels</b>	<b>Education Activities</b>	<b>School Type</b>	<b># of Children registered at school/teachers involved in trainings</b>
<b>1 April 2016</b>	Nakai to Makfueng	Teacher Training in Makfueng		5 teachers (3 Makfueng, 2 Nava)
<b>2 April 2016</b>		School activities for Makfueng and Nava schools	2 Primary 1 Secondary	Makfueng: - 134 primary - 54 secondary Nava: - 31 primary <b>(Total = 220)</b>
<b>3 April 2016</b>	Makfueng to Korbong	Teacher Training in Korbong		5 Teachers (3 Korbong, 2 Thaphaibanh)
<b>4 April 2016</b>		School Activities for Korbong and Thaphaibanh schools	1 Primary 1 Primary	- 84 (Korbong) - 56 (Thaphaiban) <b>(Total = 140)</b>
<b>5 April 2016</b>	Korbong to Nakang	Teacher Training School Activities in Nakang	1 Primary	1 teacher (Nakang) - 42
<b>6 April 2016</b>	Nakang to Nakai			
				<b>TOTAL CHILDREN REACHED: 402</b>
				<b>TOTAL TEACHERS TRAINED: 11</b>

## FACILITATORS AND TEACHERS

Our second trip was in collaboration with Creative Literacy Laos (CLL), an organization on a mission to promote learning, creativity, and literacy in rural Laos. We therefore teamed up with a larger group in order to distribute hundreds of books, many with a conservation focus, to remote village schools.



The team of this second mission was composed as follows:  
11 teachers from three villages participated in a short teacher training before implementation of the activities.

Name	Role in project	Affiliation
Miss Janelle Kaczmarzewski	Education program leader	Project Anoulak
Miss Karlee Taylor	Education program leader	Creative Literacy Laos, Director Project Anoulak volunteer
Mr. Bandith Ladpakdy	Lead Facilitator	independent
Mr. Boonsway	Coordinator/implementation	Nam Theun 2 Watershed Management & Protection Authority
Ms. Khammai Vongsakhone	Implementation	District Education office
Miss Sanglee Bouddavong	Implementation	District Culture & Tourism office
Miss Chanthavy Souliyaphome	Implementation	District office
Miss Phonsevanh	Implementation	District office
Mr. Phanith	Implementation	District of Natural Resources & Environment
Five volunteers	Implementation	Happy Nakai/Stella
Five teachers in Makfuang	Implementation	Makfuang school teachers
Five teachers in Kobong	Implementation	Korbong school teachers
One teacher in Nakang	Implementation	Nakang school teacher

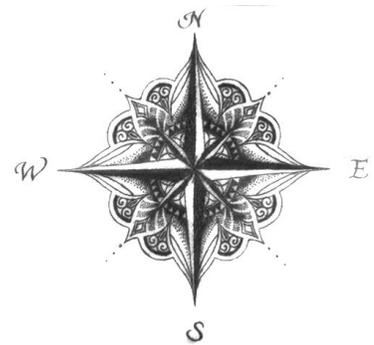


A child in Korbong village learning about various types of insects

## ACTIVITIES

A large group was separated into 4 smaller groups representing each cardinal direction (North, South, East, and West), with one leader and one elder assigned to each group.

The groups were then sent out from the central point to find their own natural “specimens” in whatever direction their team represented. Once individuals find their special item, we then sent the groups to rotate through four different stations at approximately 30 min intervals.



Station	Goal	Materials	Description
Display	To have the children record their natural item on a piece of	Natural item; tape or string; leaves; rocks, bottles, or	Each team was given a large square of fabric that represented a cardinal direction of their school grounds.

fabric that they can then present as a portion of the map of the natural world on their school grounds.

pieces of wood used to “print” the leaves onto the fabric; markers/pens for writing specimen names; an optional piece of fabric to sandwich the leaf during printing + tape to hold the leaf in place made the most beautiful prints.

When the children came back with a natural item they found special in the environment, they were given the task of affixing it to the fabric. For leaves, a beautiful print can be made by tapping the entire leaf between two pieces of fabric. If they found a shell or dead insect, this item was tied with string or taped in place. A pen or marker was used to write the name of the item next to it.

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**Library**

To provide a space where children can come learn from the many books generously donated by Creative Literacy Laos. Included in this station was an elder from the community to offer knowledge and wisdom about the natural world, thereby honoring the oral tradition of Laos.

Hundreds of books from various publishers in Laos, many with a conservation focus.

This creative literacy library was set up as a space where the children were free to come browse any of the books for more knowledge and information about their specimen. Additionally, this space promoted a positive relationship with books, reading, stories, and art.

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**Laboratory**

Give children the freedom to explore and discover the world around them with their senses in a new way.

Binoculars, magnifying glasses, laminated educational cards, books, compasses, specimen containers, measuring tools, mystery smell cups, natural items with different textures.

A science table is set up with various natural items for the children to explore using the observation tools while also having the opportunity to observe and identify their own individual specimens. This activity is meant to be unstructured, only suggestions for discovery are offered. Different fragrant items were placed inside mystery smell cups and the children were asked to use their sense of smell to figure out what was inside. These observational

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			practices were then transferred on to the special item they found, inquiring : Is it a Plant, Animal, or Mineral? What does it smell like? Where did you find it? How long is it?
<b>Present</b>	Speaking outloud to present all that they have learned about their natural item.	Audience, speaker, finished N,S,E, or W fabric display.	Each team then had the opportunity to present their piece of fabric and talk about the different items that made up their directional corner of the school grounds. These children do not generally have an opportunity to speak in front of a group as a leader, so this was a great exercise for them to feel more confident in doing so.

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In the evening, activities continued as we had the children return for a slideshow of photos from the day, a video to teach about gibbons and their need for protection, and a game where children listen to sounds of animals found within the NNT NPA and guess which animal it came from.



Students in the Laboratory station



Consulting community elders for knowledge



Scribing specimen names onto fabric



Printed leaves and attached specimens



Presenting findings to the group

## NEXT STEPS

The next steps to this project include:

- (i) **APRIL-MAY 2016:** Last visit of a village cluster in Nakai-Nam Theun, involving a mix of the previous and new activities with Training of Trainers workshops
- (ii) **MAY 2016:** (*if funds available*) Special 3-day Training of Trainers in Nakai District to provide the necessary tools, techniques and confidence to local schools teachers and educators to use and implement activities within the Training Booklet.
- (iii) **MAY-JUNE 2016:** Final Report

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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