

Project Update: July 2015

Interviews were carried out with staff of Hin Nam No National Protected Area (NPA) and local people in Thong Xam, Ban Soc, Noong Bua, Noong Ping villages, Boulapha District, Khammouane Province between 13th and 14th March 2015 to gather local knowledge on the presence of herpetofaunal species and site selection for field survey.

Field surveys were carried out in limestone, karst forested cave, mixed deciduous, and evergreen forests of Hin Nam No NPA and isolated surrounding areas between March and May 2015 including tourist trails in Thong Xam and Noong Bua villages, Xebangfai cave within Hin Nam No NPA and karst caves in Ban Soc, Bualapha, Gnommalath, Mahaxay, and Thakhkek towns. A total of 57 specimens of reptiles and amphibians were collected for examination at the Laboratory.

As a preliminary result, we discovered the *Gracixalus* cf. *quyeti* should be recorded for the first time from Laos. Four *Gekko* populations are under preparing to describe as new species from Khammouane Province. However, the taxonomic placement of snake specimens are unclear based on morphological examination only and thus molecular comparisons are currently processed.



Left: Xebangfai cave within Hin Nam No NPA. Right: *Gekko boemei* sp. nov.



Left: *Gracixalus* cf. *quyeti*. Right: *Gekko* sp.