



Dear TiME supporter,

Today, August 19, we celebrate World Orangutan Day. All three species of orangutan are Critically Endangered.

As with other great apes, we share significant similarities with orangutans. Indeed, when Bonitus first introduced the word orangutan to Europeans in the 17th century, he reported that the orangutan seemed completely human except for its inability to speak. Yet, Bontius also claimed that locals told him that the orangutans in fact could speak, but chose not to "lest they be forced to labor" ("fed non velle, nea ad labores cogereantur": *Historiæ Naturalis & Medicæ: Liber Quintus: De Quadripedibus, Avibus & Piscibus*, Jacobius Bontius, 1648).

Bontius even compared the orangutan to the mythological satyr, and claimed that the locals saw them as a crossbreed of humans and apes. Long before Darwin, people had already noticed our relatives as such.

We invite you to celebrate World Orangutan Day with us by reading a special article on deforestation by the author of *The Evolutionist*, a biographical novel about Alfred Russel Wallace, A British naturalist who studied and admired orangutans in their natural habitat and received equal credit with Charles Darwin for discovering the modern theory of evolution.

Below, you can also read news from our lands in Colombia in the aftermath of last week's devastating earthquake. Help TiME save endangered species

by voting for the threatened habitat you want to save in this year's campaign: [IKIAM Reserve \(Ecuador\)](#), [Río Roberto \(Ecuador\)](#) or [Rocha Bros \(Brazil\)](#).

Donate

News from Colombia

TiME's local partners in Colombia ([SalvaMontes](#), [Fundación Biodiversa Colombia](#) and [Empulsive Ink/Savimbo](#)) report that staff, their families and the nature reserves are doing okay after the 7.4-magnitude earthquake on August 10. Some homes belonging to Embera Chami people at [Cabildo Pada Kera](#) were, however, damaged.

Everyone at TiME expresses their deep condolences to the people of Colombia for their devastating loss.

Help via the Red Cross



"Each parcel of land is a story in conservation"

What do islands, orangutans, and dodos have in common?

As it turns out, they can all teach us about extinction, conservation, hope, and the power of TIME's mission. Join us in celebrating World Orangutan Day by reading about the impact of deforestation on orangutans and how we can make a difference.

[Read full article](#)

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