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## Editorial

Orangutans are the “man of the forest,” without them, the forest could be in danger. They play a vital role in seed dispersal throughout their habitats. However, their population is drastically decreasing. A century ago there was about 230,000 orangutans in total. Now, there are only 104,700 Bornean Orangutans and 7,500 Sumatran orangutans. This issue is going to keep going unless we take a stand.

One of the main reasons for this extinction is because of deforestation and habitat loss. This happens to make way for oil palm plantations and other agricultural plantations. Today, they could become even more endangered, because at least 50% of orangutans are outside of protected areas. This has to stop because they are killing them just for plantations. There are many other reasons for their loss. However this is one of the main ones that have heavily impacted them and their numbers.

There are many more reasons for this drastic extinction, like poachers, trade, and food. Poachers find these orangutans to shoot the mothers and take the babies. That leads to the babies getting traded. Sadly, only about 1/3 of the babies survive this trade. Consequently, the demand of them is still the same so they have to kill more. Lastly, one of the main reasons for killing orangutans is, for food. While loggers and logging the forest, they do not get food. They have to go kill animals, including orangutans.

On the other hand, people are saying that they are doing it for good reasons. They kill them because they destroy crops in agricultural areas that they need. Also, orangutans get in the way of their plantations. These oil palm plantations are an effort to improve the local economy. Lastly, people gain a lot of money from orangutan’s skulls and for pets. These are some reasons for the other side of the story of why these orangutans are getting killed.

Despite orangutans living on the Asian continent, we can still help. You can support [worldwildlife.org](http://worldwildlife.org), they have been working on orangutan conservation since the 70’s. Also, you can make a symbolic orangutan adoption to support them. However, many different organizations are still fighting and donating to save these orangutans. I hope you can come to know these amazing creatures a little more after knowing what is happening to them. If you can, these animals need your help and every little thing helps.

