

# Researchers in action

Throughout history, we have found different figures whose work has enriched the field of evolution

## Biruté Mary Filomena Galdikas (1948 - )

Galdikas is an **ethologist, anthropologist, primatologist, conservationist, and Full Professor at Simon Fraser University in Canada, who has devoted her entire life to studying and protecting orangutans in Kalimantan, Borneo.**

From a young age, she decided she wanted to dedicate her life to the orangutans. **She is one of three primatologists**, along with **Jane Goodall** and **Dian Fossey**, who were supported by the **National Geographic Society and Louis Leakey** to study those species that are humanity's closest relatives: the great apes. Before Galdikas work in Indonesia, nothing was known about orangutans. Now we know that they are very solitary creatures, build nests in trees, can live more than 40 years, that infants remain with their mothers until the age of 7, and that mothers give birth every eight years and never have twins.

**She founded Camp Leakey**, located in central Borneo, where she works full time since 1971. The institution's mission is to prevent the extinction of the orangutans, fighting continuously against the palm oil industry, an industry that is devastating the ape's habitat. She also founded another organization where they raise orphaned babies, giving them medical and emotional care, in preparation for their release back into the wild.

