

## Hop to the Top: World Tree Kangaroo Day is Here!

SEATTLE—Today, May 21, Woodland Park Zoo is celebrating some tree top treasures for World Tree Kangaroo Day!

The endangered Matschie's tree kangaroos are found in Papua New Guinea (PNG). These marvelous marsupials, known for their distinctive faces and remarkable climbing abilities, play a crucial role in maintaining the biodiversity of their rain forest habitats.

"We're excited to celebrate these extraordinary animals on World Tree Kangaroo Day. This endangered species faces many challenges and it's imperative we take action to protect them and the forests they call home," said Lisa Dabek, PhD, founder and senior director of the Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program and senior conservation scientist at Woodland Park Zoo. "We hope everyone takes a moment today to learn about these unique creatures. Simply raising awareness about tree kangaroos is a huge step towards keeping them safe and their forests healthy for generations to come."

The [Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program](#) (TKCP) is a signature program of Woodland Park Zoo. TKCP works with local communities in Papua New Guinea to save endangered Matschie's tree kangaroos through education, health and livelihoods programming that benefits local communities.

Right now, Woodland Park Zoo is in the process of building a new immersive, best-in-class exhibit that will be home to Matschie's tree kangaroos, red pandas, keas and other forest dwellers. The Forest Trailhead exhibit, scheduled to open in 2026, will mark the first time visitors at Woodland Park Zoo will have an opportunity to see the tree kangaroos in a decade! *Please note, tree kangaroos currently live in a behind-the-scenes habitat while their new exhibit is being built and are not visible to the public at this time.*

Consider donating to the new forest exhibit! Visit [www.zoo.org/forestsforall](http://www.zoo.org/forestsforall) to make a gift and help create a space that supports healthy forests, thriving animals, and a place to foster community engagement, equity and action.

### Tree Kangaroo Facts:

- Fifty percent of all tree kangaroo species are classified as either endangered or critically endangered.
- There are 14 species of tree kangaroos found in only three countries: Papua New Guinea, Indonesia (the Provinces of Papua and West Papua) and Australia.
- Papua New Guinea is home to most of the species, with six species exclusively found in PNG, three species found across both PNG and Papua and West Papua, three species found exclusively in Papua and West Papua and two species found exclusively in tropical north Queensland, Australia.



- Woodland Park Zoo's Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program and its partners in Papua New Guinea are working to strengthen the protection of wildlife and habitat throughout the country.
- Major threats to tree kangaroos on the island of New Guinea include overhunting and habitat loss. In Australia, the major threat is habitat loss and fragmentation, and injury and death due to cars and dogs.

For more information or to become a zoo member, visit [www.zoo.org](http://www.zoo.org) or call 206.548.2500. Follow the zoo on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [TikTok](#).

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