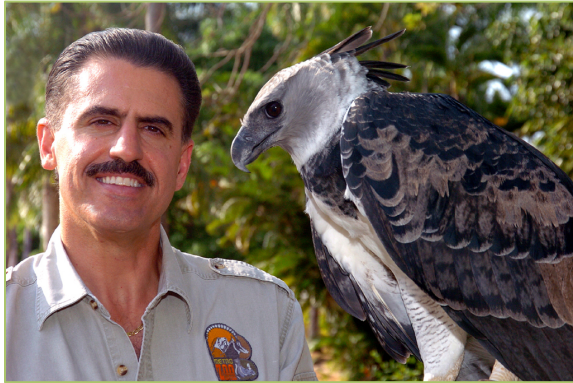


Ron Magill Conservation Heroes Award



Ron Magill
Director of Communications
Zoo Miami



ZCOG's Ron Magill Conservation Heroes Award (RMCHA) recognizes outstanding contributions to *in-situ* wildlife conservation in Latin America and the Caribbean Basin by promoting capacity building and project development. The award provides Latin American and Caribbean field conservationists with opportunities to fulfill their conservation potential by funding capacity building—in the form of professional training—and providing project development assistance—in the form of field equipment purchases or data collection and monitoring services. In doing so, the award bridges ZCOG's dual missions to promote capacity building through professional development and provide direct support for wildlife conservation in the Americas.

Paula Gonzalez Ciccía 2020 Award Recipient



Paula Gonzalez Ciccía, Conservation Programs Coordinator
Fundación Temaikèn

Conservation Hero

Paula Gonzalez Ciccía is the Threatened Species Conservation Program Coordinator at Fundación Temaikèn in Escobar, Argentina, and Principal Investigator of the Maned Wolf Conservation Project. Since 2009, Paula and her Fundación Temaikèn colleagues have been involved in a cooperative, multidisciplinary effort to protect Maned wolf (*Chrysocyon brachyurus*) populations and preserve their natural habitat in Argentina. Rescue, rehabilitation, reintroduction, and field monitoring have been key project components, as has an effort to promote the Maned wolf as an emblematic species for biodiversity conservation. In 2016, Paula was awarded ZCOG's Patrick Jones Memorial-Chattanooga Zoo Conservation Award in recognition of her work with Maned wolf recovery and conservation in Argentina.



Protecting the Maned Wolf

The Maned wolf is South America's largest canid. Solitary omnivores, they are found in low population densities in the grasslands, shrub habitat, and wetlands of central and eastern South America, including parts of northern Argentina, southern and central Brazil, Paraguay, Bolivia and southern Peru. Due to the impacts of habitat loss and alteration, human persecution and illegal hunting, collisions with vehicles on roads and highways, and pathogens contracted from domestic animals, Maned wolves are classified as Near Threatened by the IUCN Red List of Endangered Species. In Argentina, the species is classified as endangered ("en peligro") by federal environmental authorities and as a 'Provincial Natural Monument' in some provinces, including Córdoba, Santa Fe, Corrientes, Chaco, and Misiones.

Paula used funds from ZCOG's 2020 RMCHA to purchase GPS collars to monitor reintroduced Maned wolves. Data analysis from the monitoring study will inform the recovery, management, and conservation of the species in Argentina.

Learn more at www.zcog.org