

# Zoo Conservation Outreach Group

---



## PATRICK JONES-CHATTANOOGA ZOO CONSERVATION AWARD



### Patrick Jones-Chattanooga Zoo Conservation Award Winner: Rachel Graham, MarAlliance

[Zoo Conservation Outreach Group \(ZCOG\)](#) and the [Chattanooga Zoo](#) are pleased to announce **Dr. Rachel Graham**, Founder and Executive Director of MarAlliance, as the 2018 recipient of the **Patrick Jones-Chattanooga Zoo Conservation Award**. Rachel holds a Bachelor's degree in Zoology from Oxford University, a Master of Science degree from Edinburgh University, and a PhD from the University of York in the United Kingdom. In 2011, she won the Whitley Fund for Nature Gold Award for her work with sharks and fishing communities, and in 2017 received ZCOG's Ron Magill Conservation Heroes Award for her work with indigenous fishing communities in Panama's Comarca Guna Yala region.

Since 2014, Rachel and her MarAlliance team members have partnered with local fishing communities, NGOs, and local and national governments to identify threats, research needs, and conservation opportunities for marine wildlife and their critical habitats. As part of this work, Rachel has helped initiate a wide range of marine megafauna research and fisheries conservation actions worldwide. She is an active member of the IUCN Shark Specialist Group, and has helped establish several national shark advisory committees to better facilitate information sharing and policy reform for shark and ray conservation.

Dr. Graham will give a presentation on MarAlliance's work with local fishing communities in Panama's indigenous Comarca Guna Yala region during the Open Session of the ZCOG Board of Directors meeting, which takes place between 2:00PM-3:15PM on Sunday, September 23, 2018 in room #606 of the Washington State Convention Center in Seattle, WA. The session is open to all AZA 2018 conference attendees.



*Dr. Rachel Graham, MarAlliance.*

### ABOUT THE AWARD:

ZCOG and the Friends of the Chattanooga Zoo established the [Patrick Jones-Chattanooga Zoo Conservation Award](#) in 1999. The award recognizes excellence in wildlife conservation efforts in the Americas, while honoring the memory of Patrick Jones, a longtime friend and volunteer of the Chattanooga Zoo. Award recipients receive round trip airfare, hotel, and registration to attend the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) National Conference, where they present the results of their field research efforts and network with members of the global zoo and aquarium community.

Please contact [zco@zco.org](mailto:zco@zco.org) for additional details.