

# Ron Magill Conservation Heroes Award



Ron Magill  
Director of Communications  
Zoo Miami



## Ron Magill Conservation Heroes Award

The Ron Magill Conservation Heroes Award recognizes outstanding contributions to wildlife conservation in Latin America and the Caribbean Basin by supporting professional capacity building and project development. The award provides Latin American and Caribbean conservationists with opportunities to fulfill their conservation potential by funding capacity building—in the form of professional training—and 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 and habitat conservation in the Americas.

## Ricardo Moreno 2022 Award Recipient



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## Conservation Hero

Ricardo Moreno, *President and Principal Researcher*  
Fundación Yaguará Panamá

Ricardo Moreno is the co-founder, President, and Principal Researcher of Fundación Yaguará Panamá, a nonprofit organization that promotes the conservation and recovery of big cats in Panama. Throughout Panama, Ricardo and his colleagues at Yaguará are using scientific research, education, and public awareness programs to engage local communities and help them protect jaguars and their habitat. Specifically, the team is working with private landowners and ranchers to implement predation prevention measures to decrease human – jaguar conflict, and conducting Panama's first national jaguar census using camera trap methodology. Ricardo's tireless advocacy for jaguar conservation in Panama has earned him a Ford Prize and National Geographic Society Emerging Explorer honors, and marked him as a true conservation hero!



## Saving Jaguars in Panama

Over 40% of jaguar habitat in Panama has been lost due to urbanization, infrastructure development, large-scale agriculture, and cattle ranching, and the resulting human-jaguar conflicts threaten the species' long-term conservation. To address these issues, the Panamanian government listed the jaguar as *endangered* and developed a national action plan to support its conservation. Fundación Yaguará Panamá is working with the Panamanian government, universities, and private landowners to support the national action plan through research, public awareness, and community engagement. Funds awarded from ZCOG's 2022 RMCHA helped purchase camera traps for use by the group in Panama's first national jaguar census, a key component of Panama's National Action Plan for Jaguar Conservation.



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