

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 29, 2020
Punta Gorda
Toledo, Belize



Julio Chub Receives Disney Conservation Hero Award

Punta Gorda Town, Belize, January 28th 2019 – The Disney Conservation Fund announced today that Julio Chub, the Community Liaison Officer of Ya'axché Conservation Trust has been honored with a 2019 Disney Conservation Hero Award. The award recognizes local citizens for their commitment to save wildlife, protect habitats and inspire their communities to take part in conservation efforts. Recipients from around the world were nominated by nonprofit environmental organizations, and each honoree and his nominating organization will share a \$1,500 award from the Disney Conservation Fund.

Julio Chub is one of only 18 award recipients in 2019 globally. Julio is a Q'eqchi Maya, community-oriented conservation hero who has committed the past 2 decades of his life to conservation and community empowerment in southern Belize. He remarked, "Communities are important in the work that we do. It is very important for them to be engaged actively and very involved because I have seen it and believe that involving them and having them participate, brings about change, positive change in conservation." Julio's incredible work of bridging communities, inclusive of community-based groups, women, farmers and students, with conservation has contributed to Ya'axché's vision of creating harmony between nature and human development for the benefit of both.

Ya'axché has been protecting wild places and empowering communities in southern Belize since 1998. The organization works to support the livelihoods of eight communities and directly protect over 151,000 acres of forests in the Maya Golden Landscape, southern Belize.

Disney Conservation Fund is committed to saving wildlife and building a global community inspired to work together to protect the magic of nature. Since 1995, the Disney Conservation Fund has directed \$86 million to support nonprofit organizations working with communities to save wildlife, inspire action and protect the planet, and has honored more than 180 Conservation Heroes for their extraordinary conservation efforts.

For information on Disney's commitment to conservation and a complete list of recent Conservation Hero Award recipients, visit Disney.com/Conservation.

END.

Ya'axché Conservation Trust

20A George Price Street, P.O. 177
Punta Gorda, Toledo District
Belize

Phone: (+501) 722-0108

E-mail: info@yaaxche.org

Web: yaaxche.org