



Rafael Manzanero

Executive Director - Friends for Conservation and Development

Rafael started his conservation career in 1986 as a wildlife educator at the Belize Zoo. In 1989 he then joined the Belize Forest Department as a Conservation Officer. In 1995 he was promoted to Belize's first Protected Areas Officer and Chief Conservation Officer. After ten years with the Forest Department, Manzanero joined Rare's staff. Rare is a US based organization. For eleven years he provided technical support to various educators in Latin America, the Caribbean and the Pacific. At Rare he served as the General Coordinator for the International Diploma on Conservation Education based at the University of Guadalajara, Mexico. Rafael also served as Guatemala's Country Manager for three years serving as Rare's representative under a UNESCO partnership program in Tikal National Park and World Heritage Site. In 2006 he returned to Belize where he functions as the Program Director of the Chiquibul-Maya Mountains Program and Executive Director of Friends for Conservation and Development – the institution he founded in 1989. He is now a Community Associate with ISIS Belize.