Misiones, Argentina contains the largest remnant of interior Atlantic Forest; however, it is under constant threat due to habitat conversion, a growing human population, and an expanding network of roads. In 2009, Proyecto Zorro Pitoco was initiated to model a biological corridor between existing protected areas in the northern-central zone of Misiones that would maximize animal movement and minimize human-wildlife conflict. Through the use of three noninvasive techniques (conservation detection dogs, genetic analyses of scat, and GIS technology), the team modelled a corridor that balanced the needs of five wide-ranging and ecologically diverse carnivores: the jaguar, puma, ocelot, oncilla and bush dog. The successful implementation of this corridor would almost double the amount of protected area in Misiones and help preserve the region's biodiversity. To make this corridor a reality, the team is using a multipronged approach that includes biodiversity surveys, local training, education outreach, interaction with land owners, and support of anti-poaching controls.

Come and learn more about how a rescued K9 and his love for finding scat opened new doors for conservation in Misiones, Argentina!