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FAZONIC Earns Verification from  
Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries

**'FAZONIC is a crucially needed facility, greatly appreciated as the only rescue center in Nicaragua' says GFAS director**

The Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS) is honored to announce that FAZONIC (Friends of the National Zoo) in Managua, Nicaragua, has achieved GFAS Verification.

"FAZONIC is the only operating wildlife rescue center in Nicaragua," said Patty Finch, executive director of GFAS. "It receives approximately 1000 animals per year at the rescue facility, with animal intake numbers expected to rise over the coming years, given the recent enforcement of anti-wildlife trafficking laws. FAZONIC is crucial to this region, and appreciated worldwide for its dedicated efforts."

The GFAS Verification means FAZONIC meets the comprehensive and rigorous definition of a true rescue center and is providing humane and responsible care of the animals, meeting rigorous and peer-reviewed standards established by GFAS, which is the only globally recognized organization providing standards for identifying legitimate animal sanctuaries and rescue centers. The verification status also provides a clear and trusted means for the public, donors worldwide and government agencies to recognize FAZONIC as an up and coming organization that needs support for continued growth and development.

"For FAZONIC this is a great opportunity and an honor to be approved by GFAS. We look forward to the world of opportunities with other international institutions that the GFAS certification will open for us. FAZONIC will work hard to honor this recognition and will continue our work to protect our wildlife," states Marina Sacasa Director of FAZONIC.

FAZOONIC has been working with Humane Society International (HSI) for years, and just recently, with funds from the U.S. State Department, constructed a new rescue center including an animal reception area, a clinic, a neonatal area and seven enclosures for rehabilitation, the development of and training of staff in new rescue and rehabilitation protocols, and the purchase of basic materials and supplies to help implement these protocols. “HSI is very proud that FAZOONIC has been approved for GFAS Verification. They have really come a long way since we started working with them and have strived to treat as many animals as they receive with rudimentary facilities. Their hard work has paid off with such recognition and their new facilities. FAZOONIC is now faced with the challenges of continuing to improve processes based on the new facilities and protocols as well as to maintain sustainability. HSI would like to congratulate them for their achievements and urge them to continue working towards meeting and raising the bar on international standards with GFAS,” says Jennifer Dinsmore, program supervisor for HSI.

“When I met key staff from FAZOONIC, I was impressed with their dedication and determination to succeed,” states Finch. “This is such a key facility for the region that I wholeheartedly encourage donors worldwide to support FAZOONIC, by contacting Director Marina Arguello at [sacasamarina1@yahoo.com](mailto:sacasamarina1@yahoo.com).

### **About Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries**

Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to the sole purpose of strengthening and supporting the work of animal sanctuaries in the United States and abroad. The goal of GFAS in working with and assisting sanctuaries is to ensure they are supported, honored, recognized and rewarded for meeting important criteria in providing care to the animals in residence. GFAS was founded in 2007 by animal protection leaders from a number of different organizations in response to virtually unchecked and hidden animal exploitation of animals for human entertainment and financial profit. These founding leaders sit on the GFAS Board of Directors to continue guiding the organization’s work in a collaborative manner. They represent top leadership from Born Free USA, The Humane Society of the United States, World Society for the Protection of Animals, American Anti-Vivisection Society, National Anti-Vivisection Society, and International Fund for Animal Welfare. [www.sanctuaryfederation.org](http://www.sanctuaryfederation.org).

### **About FAZOONIC**

In 1997, the *Fundación Amigos del Zoológico Nicaragüense* (FAZOONIC) [Friends of the Nicaraguan Zoo Foundation] was created to provide administration for the zoo. At the time there were no rescue centers or organizations working on wildlife rescue and rehabilitation in Nicaragua but a great need to receive and treat confiscated wildlife rescued from illegal trade. The government eventually donated three hectares of land to the Foundation for the sole purpose of establishing a rescue center, nevertheless no funds were allocated. Over the years FAZOONIC has developed a rescue center using its own funds and donations from NGOs such as HSI. On average the rescue center receives 1,000 animals a year, 55% birds, 34% reptiles and the rest mammals.