



Contact: Patty Finch
patty@sanctuaryfederation.org
1.928.472.1173

Cherie Chenot-Rose
acesnpo@hughes.net
011.501.666.3871

December 19, 2011

American Crocodile Education Sanctuary in Belize Earns Verification from Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries

‘ACES has literally risen from the ashes’ says GFAS Accreditation Manager

The Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS) is honored to announce that the American Crocodile Education Sanctuary in Belize has achieved GFAS Verification. This is the fourth sanctuary to be recognized in Central America, and the first in Belize.

"A thorough site visit was conducted by veterinarian Isabelle Paquet-Durand, who gave GFAS a comprehensive report," states Robin Mason, Accreditation Manager for GFAS. "It is so wonderful to see this sanctuary recover from the intentionally-set fire last fall, which resulted in the total loss of the former ACES facility in Toledo District of Belize, as well as in the tragic loss of crocodiles."

The new ACES facility is located in Ladyville, Belize. ACES, permitted by the Belize Forest Department, and now verified by GFAS, is dedicated to the conservation of Belize critical wetland habitats and protected species, specifically crocodylians, through scientific research and education in order to preserve Belize's wildlife for future generations. It was founded by Cherie and Vince Rose.

The GFAS Verification means ACES meets the comprehensive and rigorous definition of a true sanctuary and is providing humane and responsible care of the crocodiles, meeting thorough 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 ACES as an organization that is worthy of support for continued growth and development.

"We are honored and humbly proud to receive such a prestigious accreditation. We would like to thank the GFAS Board of Directors; Robin Mason, The Summerlee Foundation and their Program Director, Melanie Lambert; and Dr. Med. Vet. I. Paquet-Durand, for all their support and assistance in ACES's verification process. We give special thanks Charlie McIntosh of Caribbean Shrimp Farm, who generously is allocating property for the educational crocodile sanctuary. We will continue to strive to meet all standards of GFAS."

Cherie ads, "Earning this verification proved to me that one's dreams and goals are achievable through perseverance and faith, and most importantly are something that no one can take away from you."

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 worldwide. 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.

About American Crocodile Education Sanctuary

ACES/American Crocodile Education Sanctuary is a non-profit organization permitted by the Belize Forest Department, verified by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries, and dedicated to the conservation of Belize's critical wetland habitats and protected species, specifically crocodilians, through scientific research and education in order to preserve wildlife for future generations. Founded in 2006 by Research Biologist, Cherie Chenot-Rose, and Expert Croc Wrangler and Behaviorist, Vincent Rose, ACES rescues and saves numerous crocodiles country-wide which are either problematic or injured and would otherwise be destroyed, or crocodiles that are being kept illegally often in inhumane and uninhabitable conditions otherwise resulting in stress, disease and ultimately a slow untimely death. ACES provides care for the rescued crocodiles, rehabilitates and re-releases when able, conducts crocodilian research, and educates students and the public about crocodilian conservation and the importance of these magnificent reptiles in the World's ecosystems. www.americancrocodilesanctuary.org