



July 13, 2011, PRESS RELEASE – ACES/ American Crocodile Education Sanctuary Reopens in Ladyville Friday, July 15, and invites the press to be there to see the new facility and the re-release of large rescued crocodiles into their new homes.

On July 15, 2011, around 2:00 pm, ACES will reach the Caribbean Shrimp Farm, Ltd. in Ladyville with some of the largest crocs in captivity in Belize. Croc ‘George,’ a 14-foot American crocodile originally rescued from Isla Bonita is the largest. All of the crocs were either ill, injured, or as in George’s case, problematic crocodiles that without ACES would be otherwise dead.

ACES/American Crocodile Education Sanctuary is a non-profit organization, permitted by the Belize Forest Department, dedicated to the conservation of Belize's protected species, specifically crocodilians, through scientific research and education in order to preserve Belize's wildlife for future generations.

On September 5, 2010, ACES was tragically destroyed by arson by villager rioting over the lack of police support to help find their missing children. Details at CNN Link: <http://edition.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/americas/09/07/belize.american.house.torched/index.html>. This tragic series of events did not stop ACES work saving crocodiles. Currently we are conducting a pertinent American Crocodile Population and Habitat Viability Assessment in Ambergris Caye, with a small amount of funding from the Rufford Small Grants Foundation: Link: <http://www.ruffordsmallgrants.org/rsg/projects/updates> This research will be utilized by the Belize Forest Department to develop a crocodile conservation plan for the island.

Established in 2006, ACES has rescued hundreds of ill, injured, problematic and illegally kept crocodiles, often in inhumane conditions, countrywide. With only an estimated 10,000 American crocodiles Worldwide, this species is threatened of become endangered through out its entire range. The Crocodile Specialist Group considers Belize to be last stronghold for these crocs. In some laboratory studies, crocodilian blood kills HIV and Herpes simplex viruses. These apex predators are a keystone species in keeping our environment in balance.

Additionally, ACES hopes to be able to establish a much needed and educational crocodile sanctuary on Ambergris Caye in the near future. Eco-tourism would provide the sanctuaries self -sustainability. It would also provide employment and training for local naturalists.

Thank you,
Cherie & Vince

Cherie Chenot-Rose & Vince Rose
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Owners of ACES/American Crocodile Education Sanctuary
ACES has a 501(c)(3) USA partner, “The Economic & Ecological Development Fund”