

Panama, July 30, 2008.

Dear organizers,

Our names are Anais Jurado, Michelle Wong, Yvonne Bennett and Ileana Cotes (chaperone). We attended the Tunza Conference held in Stavanger, Norway, and we would like to find sponsors to support our project.

We received an appreciation letter where this information was included:

- *As promised at the conference, we would like to get some of our sponsors to support some of your projects. We would therefore like to receive from those of you who are interested, updated information on your project. Please send this to us before the end of **July 2008**.*

Information about our project and the future goals:

Contact Information

- Members: Anais Jurado, Michelle Wong, Yvonne Bennett, and Ileana Cotes
- Institution: Colegio Brader
- Title of organization: Mission Harpy Eagle
- Address: PO Box 830-001256
- Panama, Republic of Panama
- Phone numbers: (507) 233-3261/ 233-6691
- E-mail address: icotes@colegiobrader.edu.pa (Ileana Cotes)

Organization Information

- Organization Type – *nonprofit organization.*
- Organization Name – **Mission Harpy Eagle**
- *Organizational mission, focus, audience served, and geographic reach:*

Our mission is to educate the greatest amount of population about the importance of conserving the Harpy Eagle. Our tropical forest's health depends mainly on this eagle. Besides that, the Harpy Eagle is the national bird of Panama, and it is extinction. Harpies were found from the South of Mexico until Argentina. Most of them became extinct in those areas because of hunting, pollution, deforestation, and other factors.

We want our country to conserve this magnificent eagle, and our educational target goes from children to adults. We visit other educational centers across the country to teach about the Harpy Eagle, and we have even participated in video conferences with children from other countries.

In the beginning, Mission Harpy Eagle was composed of only 7th grade students. They decided to focus their efforts first on educating the rest of the students at our school.

Club members started sharing information about the Harpy Eagle with children from Preschool to Twelfth Grade. The response was incredible. Everybody wanted to know more about our national bird; many of these children had no idea the Harpy Eagle was so important to our tropical rainforest.

Today, Mission Harpy Eagle membership has grown and we have students from 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th. grades working to spread information about the wonders, biology, conservation and importance of this impressive eagle.

The group has also grown to such an extent that we have already worked in different schools around Panama City. We have also participated in events such as Festiarpía (hosted by Fondo Peregrino Panamá), Biofest, Earth Day and Scientific Fairs, and Eco-walks. Some group members have also participated in video conferences broadcast from Barro Colorado Island (a Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute scientific research site). Through these video conferences, they have also been able to share valuable information with children from the United States of America.

To better promote Harpy Eagle conservation at these events and during school visits, **Mission Harpy Eagle** members have designed a great amount of activities and promotional items that include: CD's, videos, posters, puzzles, pictures, key chains, caps, table games, and more. The group uses these items that have educational value to share with other students and public in general. Every year, the upcoming group of members brings new ideas that are then taken into consideration to be developed.

Mission Harpy Eagle has come a long way since it started. Every year, we welcome new members that have the motivation, devotion, and desire to better our planet. Their goal is not only to conserve the Harpy Eagle but nature in general.

Request Details

- The Harpy Eagle represents an important cultural representation for our indigenous groups in Darien. It is an emblem for the Embera and Wounaan groups of the region.
- Indians use the symbol of the Harpy Eagle to develop their art, legends, paintings, etc., therefore, the importance of conserving it. especially in that region.
- The Harpy Eagle maintains the tropical rainforest healthy, and keeps a balance within the population of animals it eats. Most of the nests of the eagles have been found in Darien.

Our main goal is to get support or sponsorship to develop a conservation project in Darien, a remote area in Panama, throughout the creation of “sisters schools” projects.

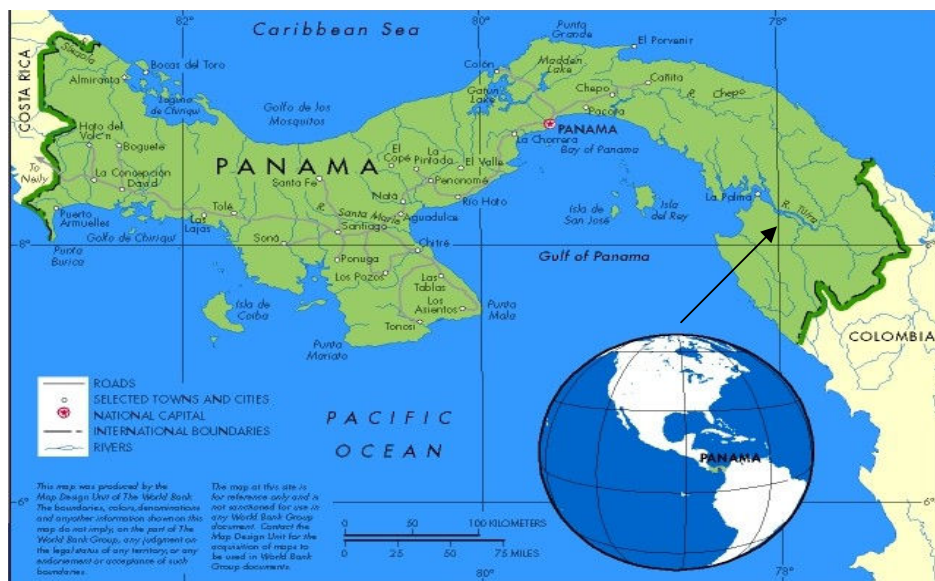
The “sisters schools projects” will be helped by the Members of Mission Harpy Eagle with the following:

- Develop workshops with teachers and students of the area teaching about the Harpy Eagle and the conservation of the forest. Mission Harpy Eagle members will travel to Darien in order to do that.
- Donations of educational materials (children from Darien can barely have papers, pencils, pens, and other utensils to work with) Some of them walk barefoot for long hours to attend school.
- Create more educational and promotional items about the Harpy Eagle and send them to Darien to the different schools of the area.
- Create more environmental videos to be sent to Darien.
- Print magazines and comics created by Mission Harpy Eagle Members and distribute them in Darien and other areas of the country.

The name of this campaign will be named: **The Harpy Eagle: An Education and Conservation Network Campaign with Sisters Schools.**

With this new initiative with are setting an example to follow. We will make our community aware of the problems Darien is facing in terms of environmental education. We will also help develop new leaders that will promote the conservation of the Harpy Eagle in a area that is vital for the conservation of this specie.

*The arrow points to Darien where our main jungle is located. This area along with the Amazon is known as the “lungs of America”.



Our website:

<http://missionharpyeagle.tripod.com/>