



Save and Help Rebuild the Piñas Community

A 501 (c) (3) nonprofit charitable public foundation.



Terri Andrews stands with the kids at the Piñas Bay School.

Tropic Star Lodge, Conservation Force and the CONAMAR Foundation are promoting a **Communal-Based Natural Resource Management Program (CBNRM)** for the benefit of the community of Piñas. On a long term basis, these efforts will continue to positively impact and further the protection of our billfish.

CONAMAR has lead the way in instituting the following conservation decrees or legislation:

- **Established a 20 mile “tourist area” from the Piñas point** making all commercial activity within that area illegal. (We are continuing the fight to extend this area to 50 miles, while working towards the elimination of long liners in our numerous tourist areas (Coiba, Perlas and San Blas Islands).



- In 1997 **President Ernesto Perez Balladares** signed a decree making it illegal to kill any billfish in Panama for commercial value.
- 2010 **President Ricardo Martinelli** signed into law a requirement to keep Tuna Boats from fishing within the 200 mile limit of Panama waters on both oceans.

(For more information and to receive bi-monthly CONAMAR newsletters, please contact: info@conamar.org)

In our work with the village and its people, the message of conservation and the need to support sustainable fisheries reaches everyone. The Panamanian government has noticed our leadership, and as noted, our mantra of responsible fishery practices has resulted in helpful legislation.

Additional CONAMAR Projects In Need of Funding:

- The **Village of Piñas** desperately needs a **full time doctor and a much improved clinic**, new equipment and medicine.
- Maintain and continue the work of **rerouting the Piñas River** back to its original course and protect the village houses and airstrip from washing away, along with continuing our efforts in order to keep the flooded areas drained and disease free.



A great example of your donations at work.



Jessica and Guy Harvey stand with Marcos and Irene Ostrander after Guy received the Panamanian governmental award “Orden Vasco Núñez de Balboa, Gran Oficial, which is the highest award presented by the Republic of Panama to a foreign citizen. The award was given in recognition of his work on conservation and promoting Panama as a destination for sport fishing.

- TSL has lobbied for years to extend the Piñas School beyond the 6th grade. Recently, the school expanded through the ninth grade. **A new building is desperately needed**, considering the village population has tripled in the last 20 years. **A night school is already ongoing** for the over 100 employees of TSL with limited education, but space is limited.
- Continued support for **Smithsonian trained Forest Rangers** and their reforestation efforts, while involving and educating the community.
- Provide a **neighborhood center** to hold community related services, including environmental conservation, health awareness, technical training, and English classes.
- **Acquire and maintain the existing heavy equipment, hire operators and mechanic** to be ready to work in the limited dry season of January–April, 2011.
- **Maintain with the TSL funded Preschool** located in the Forest Ranger house in the village.

- Continue to **protect the Harpie Eagles** and the **Orange Breasted Falcons** jointly with **Smithsonian Institute** and the **Peregrine Foundation** in the 14,000 acres that encompass the lodge.

- **Build a garbage incinerator** in the village, while educating the community on the value of recycling.

The list is endless!

In 2007, the project “**Save and Help Rebuild the Piñas Community**” was initiated in order to channel the Piñas River back to its’ original river bed. With a pledge of **\$500,000 TROPIC STAR LODGE** began the works needed which included excavating a 1,800 x 10 meter canal and drain the flooded areas. The project saved the airstrip, community, and helped eliminate the outbreak of disease and other health concerns that had affected the village. To date, **over \$1.5 million** has been spent to stop “mother nature” and the complications that have arisen in doing so.



Hard at work reinforcing gabions along the rerouted Piñas River.

With the amount of rain we have received in Central America in 2009/10 – we **URGENTLY** need to get back to rerouting the river, which began in dry season of 2007, and 2008. We must complete this project during the dry season months of January 1 through April 15, 2011.



The immensity of rerouting a river is plain to see.



Unlawful Long Liner in "Tourist Area."



Conservation Force

a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit charitable public foundation. You can make your donation by check or by credit card by filling our donation statement below. Remember that all contributions are tax deductible in the United States to the maximum extent permitted by law.

Our Contact Information:

Conservation Force
P.O. Box 278
Metairie, LA 70002 USA
(504) 837-1233 • (504) 837-1145 Fax
<http://www.conservationforce.org/donate.html>
email: cjackson@conservationforce.org

“Save and Help Rebuild the Piñas Community”

DONATION STATEMENT

CONAMAR FOUNDATION / PROJECT PIÑAS

Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution:

Project Designation

Circle Your Choice(s): SCHOOL • RIVER FLOODING • MEDICAL CLINIC
MOST URGENT NEEDS • WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Your Name: _____ Amount U.S.\$ _____

Method of Pay: Check Visa Mastercard American Express
make all checks payable to: Conservation Force

Card No.: _____ Expiration: _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Fax: _____

City: _____ Cell: _____

State _____ Zip _____ Email: _____

***Thank you for your compassion and generosity.
Conservation Force will confirm your tax deductible donation.***