

Correction to Will Nicaragua's Interoceanic Canal Result in an Environmental Catastrophe for Central America?

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The first paragraph was inadvertently omitted from the original document and is presented here.

Nicaragua's plan to build an interoceanic canal could be considered a major development project that would bring some economic benefit to this impoverished nation. It could also result, however, in an environmental disaster of unprecedented scope. The proposed canal—arguably the most ambitious infrastructure undertaking in Latin American history—would slice the country in half from east to west, traversing Lake Nicaragua (Cocibolca). The granting of such a concession without appropriate a priori environmental studies could pose a significant threat to the largest rain forest and principal fresh water reservoir in Central America. An urgent call is being made herein to the international research and public policy communities to help identify unintended consequences of great significance to environmental health, and to guide policy and approaches to avert a regional environmental disaster.

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