

The **New** Panama Canal: A Better Way To Go

ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW PANAMA CANAL EXPANSION PROJECT

KEY FACTS	
Project area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located within Panama Canal operational areas • Will not require new impoundments or lakes • Will not displace communities or affect productive areas • Has been used in previous canal projects (1914 canal, 1939 third set of locks, Gaillard Cut widening, regular dredging, and current modernization activities)
Impacts on water	<p>Gatun and Alhajuela lakes (main sources of potable water for Panama and Colon cities) will maintain their fresh water condition. ACP will implement efficiency measures to save water in the new locks (water saving basins). Water supply for the population will be maintained.</p> <p>Turbidity and suspended solids increase in certain areas under dredging activities will have a temporary and localized effect</p>
Impacts on flora and fauna	<p>The project will not affect primary forests, protected areas or areas of scientific interest; secondary forests may be affected and will be compensated by protecting other areas with biodiversity value or by reforesting with native species. The project will not threaten the existence of any known wild life specie. Wild life rescue measures will be taken before the project starts</p>
Social impacts	<p>Will create between 35,000 and 40,000 jobs including 7,000 directly related to the project. Will create more jobs resulting from activities of the maritime service cluster</p> <p>Minor disturbances like traffic and noise may temporarily affect some communities close to the project area during construction</p> <p>Possible inconveniences to infrastructures affected by the raising of Gatun lake will be adequately mitigated</p>
Impact on archeological and paleontological resources	<p>ACP undertook three prospective studies and identified a pre-Columbian and historical site that will be salvaged. During construction, measures will be taken to prevent the destruction of resources of interest</p>
Global climate and the canal expansion project	<p>The project could have a positive impact on global climate by helping reduce carbon emissions since it will enhance the use of the Panama route, which uses less fuel per ton of cargo than alternate routes. ACP and National Environmental Authority (ANAM) are studying the inclusion of the expansion project as a Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) entitled to Certified Emissions Reductions</p>