Development collides: Hydroelectric power and commercial whitewater rafting on the Rio Reventazon, Costa Rica
Andres Ferrate

The state-planned, multilaterally-funded Angostura Hydroelectric Project will dam the Rio Reventazon, thereby flooding the most important section of river used for commercial whitewater rafting in Costa Rica. As a result, a resource development conflict of local and national significance is emerging. This competition of the Reventazon presents a dilemma, since hydropower and tourism play important roles as tools for economic growth in Costa Rica.

This thesis examines the process that led to the Reventazon development conflict and the effects that the Angostura Hydroelectric Project will have on the development process in Costa Rica, a nation identified as a model for ecotourism, and the challenges that conflicts of this kind pose to efforts aimed at sustainable development.