

TC ABSTRACT

GY-T1108

Supplemental Endemic Fish Surveys for the Amaila Falls Hydroelectric Project

I. Basic project data

▪ Country/Region:	Guyana
▪ TC Name:	Supplemental Endemic Fish Surveys for the Amaila Falls Hydroelectric Project
▪ TC Number:	GY-T1108
▪ Associated Loan/Guarantee Number:	GY-L1035, GY-T1035
▪ Team Leader/Members:	Graham Watkins (Team Leader, VPS/ESG); Emmanuel Boulet (VPS/ESG); Richard Raghoo (CCB/CGY); Roy Parahoo (FMP/CBA); Clevern Liddell (CCB/CGY); Melissa Barandiaran (VPS/ESG); Martha Chavez (VPS/ESG)
▪ Date of TC Abstract authorization:	January 13 th , 2014
▪ Donors providing funding:	Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)/ Small and Vulnerable Countries Program GN-2616-1
▪ Beneficiary:	Guyana
▪ Executing Agency and contact name	Inter-American Development Bank, Graham Watkins
▪ IDB Funding Requested:	US\$440,000
▪ Local counterpart funding, if any:	-
▪ Disbursement period (which includes Execution period):	Disbursement is eight months (including six months of Execution period)
▪ Required start date:	January 2014
▪ Types of consultants (firm or individual consultants):	Non-government organization
▪ Prepared by Unit:	Environmental Safeguard Unit (VPS/ESG)
▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	Environmental Safeguard Unit (VPS/ESG)
▪ TC Included in Country Strategy (y/n):	Yes ¹
▪ TC included in CPD (y/n):	No
▪ GCI-9 Sector Priority:	This contributes to the goal of “supporting development in small and vulnerable countries” and to “assisting [...] in dealing with climate change, sustainable energy (including renewable) and environmental sustainability”

¹To support renewable energy development

II. Objective and Justification

- 2.1 The Bank is supporting the development of the Amaila Falls Hydroelectric Project (AFHP) through a potential non-sovereign guaranteed loan (GY-L1035) currently under preparation. A first Technical Cooperation to help support development of the AFHP (GY-T1075) has been executed.
- 2.2 The site of the AFHP is on the Kaieteur plateau in central Guyana. The area is isolated from the lowlands by a substantive escarpment. The AFHP area of influence includes part of the plateau and the upper reaches of two rivers – the Kuribrong and Amaila Rivers. These rivers have been shown to be sites of high fish species endemism.
- 2.3 The project presents a risk of significant conversion of the only known aquatic habitats of a recently described range restricted endemic fish species - *Characidium amaila*. However, not all possible areas and habitats for this fish have been surveyed to determine if the fish is widely distributed outside of the area of influence.
- 2.4 This objective of this technical cooperation is to finance additional targeted surveys for *C. amaila* to assist the project sponsor in completing its obligations to meet requirements of OP-703. These surveys are designed to determine if the species is found in a wider range of habitats and areas than it is presently known from. If the fish can be found in these areas, this would indicate that the AFHP will not result in the significant conversion of a critical natural habitat.

III. Description of activities and outputs

- 3.1 The TC will finance the following three main activities:
 - 3.1.1. Completion of a survey of the rapids in the upper Potaro River, extending from Chenapau Village, Region 8 to Mount Ayanganna. The Potaro River is situated on the same plateau as the Kuribrong and Amaila Rivers and presents similar habitat to the habitats where *C. amaila* has previously been found. There have been few surveys of the fish in the upper Potaro. The expected output is to determine the presence or absence of *C. amaila* in the upper Potaro River.
 - 3.1.2. Completion of a survey of the rapids in the lower Kuribrong River, extending from Amaila Falls to the Potaro River. To date, *C. amaila* has only been found in the upper Kuribrong River above the escarpment; there have been fish surveys in the lower Kuribrong, but this activity will target the specific habitats for *C. amaila*. The expected output is to determine the presence or absence of *C. amaila* in the lower Kuribrong River.
 - 3.1.3. Completion of a survey of the upper Kuribrong to determine the presence of suitable habitats and *C. amaila* in the upper Kuribrong watershed. To date five suitable habitat areas for *C. amaila* have been found in the upper Kuribrong watershed. However, areas situated under canopy cover have not yet been fully surveyed; this component of the survey will search prioritized areas within the watershed for habitat and the presence of *C. amaila*. The expected output is to determine the extent of presence of *C. amaila* in the upper Kuribrong River watershed.

IV. Budget

4.1 The estimated budget for this work is US\$440,000. There is no counterpart funding considered.

4.2 The budget is presented in the tables below:

Cost type	Total Funding (USD)
Consultancies	330,000
Fixed assets	-
Equipment: field equipment including boats and canoes	35,000
International travel costs	20,000
Bank supervision and administrative costs	15,000
Contingency	40,000
TOTAL	440,000

4.3 A contingency amount of US\$40,000 is included to cover any additional unforeseen costs that may be incurred because of uncertainties relating unexpected conditions due to the remoteness of the survey locations, changes in weather and water levels in the field sites.

V. Executing agency and execution structure (estimated length: about ½ page)

5.1 The Executing Agency (EA) for this TC will be the Bank. The Bank will contract WWF-Guianas through single source selection to provide logistical support to the fish survey specialists and to put together a team of biologists. WWF-Guiana Shield has recent previous experience organizing survey teams on the Kaieteur Plateau including completion of the baseline surveys for the Kaieteur National Park Management Plan. The administrative aspects of the TC will be supported by the by the Guyana Country Office with technical support provided by ESG in Washington DC focused on reviewing the methodology, technical capacities of specialists, and the results. The logistics of the survey will be supported by the Guyana Country Office.

VI. Project risks and issues (estimated length: about ½ page)

6.1 The areas proposed for surveys are remote and require experienced logistical support. WWF-Guiana Shield has a demonstrated track record working in this area. In addition, this work will be closely coordinated with Government of Guyana agencies.

6.2 The surveys should take place in ideal flow conditions (water flows low enough to access fish habitats) during the dry season (February-March). Delays in processing the TC or contracting logistical support, or adverse weather conditions may impact completion of the surveys as planned and within the expected timeframe.

6.3 Availability of the appropriate fish expert, logistical team, and transport equipment (e.g. helicopter) is not secured until contracts are executed and may also adversely impact completion of the surveys within the expected timeframe.

VII. Environmental and Social Classification (estimated length: ¼ page)

7.1 Since the TC supports the development of an infrastructure project (GY-L1035: Amaila Falls Hydropower Project), it has the same environmental and social category, in that case Category A. However the TC only support specialized studies and very limited environmental impacts are expected during the execution of the TC. On the contrary this TC aims to assist the project sponsor in completing its obligations to meet requirements of OP-703.

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