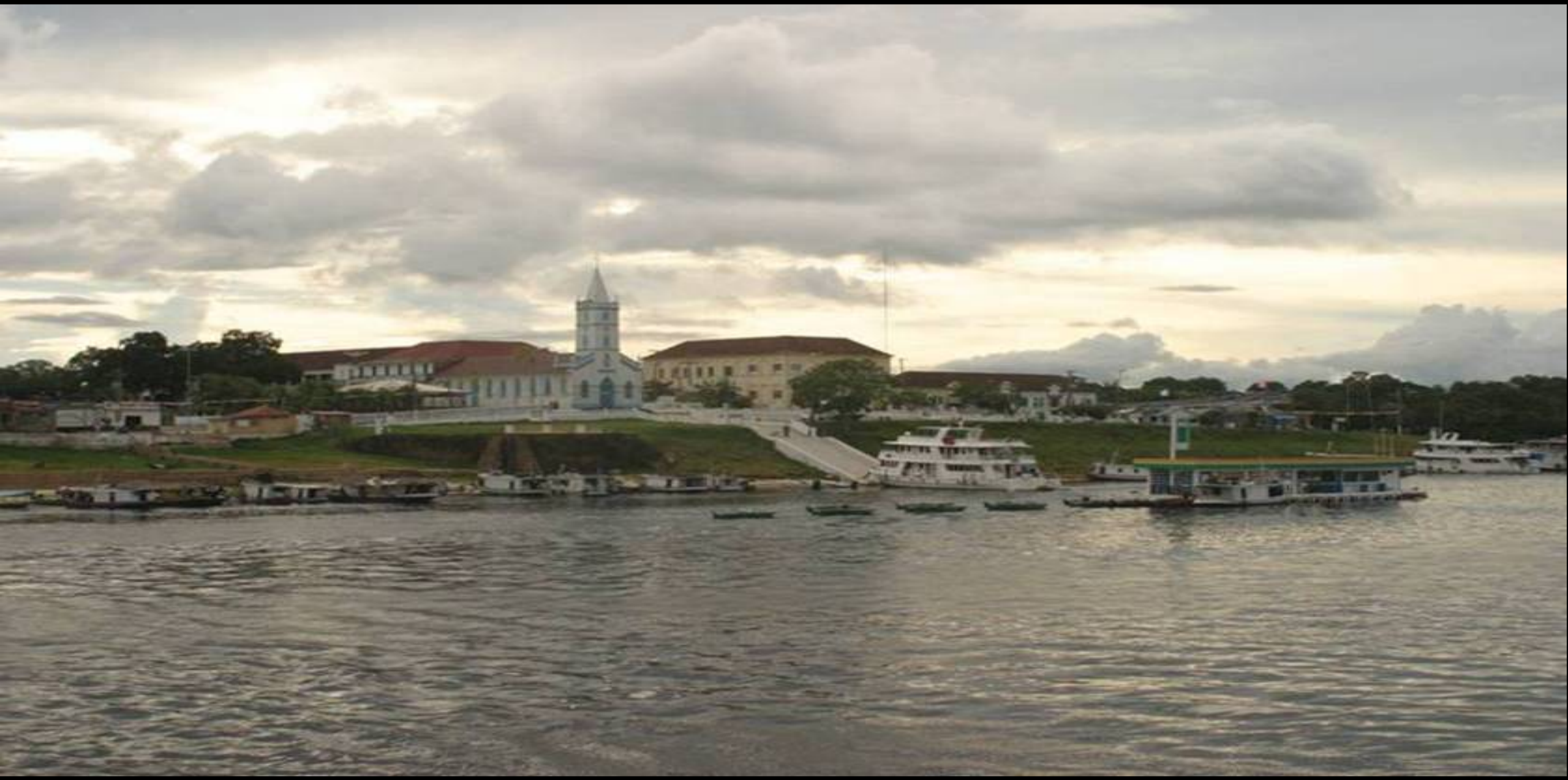

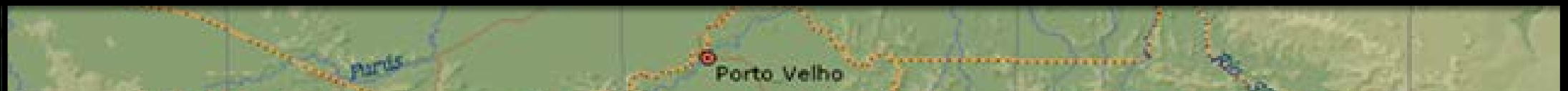
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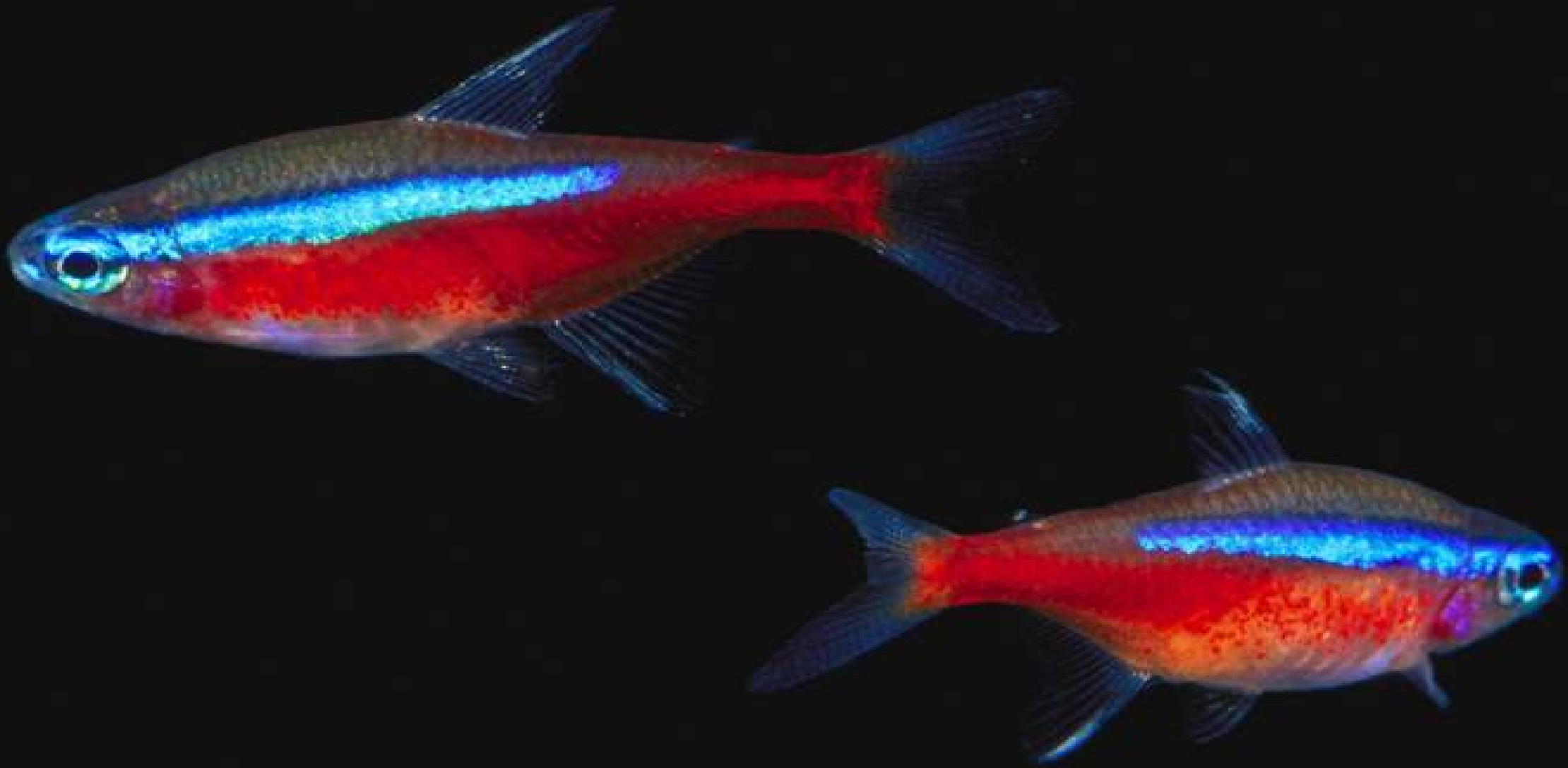

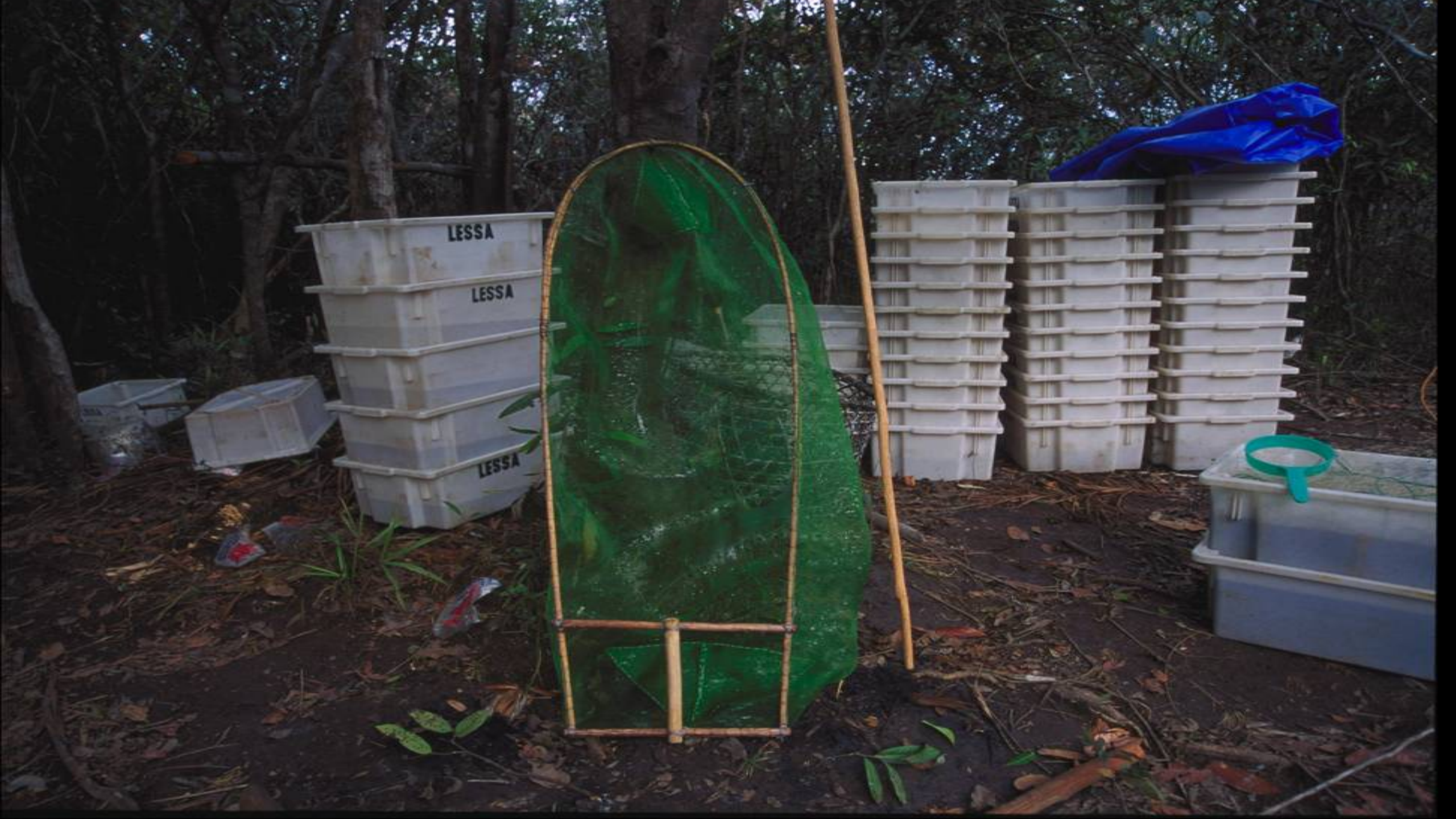
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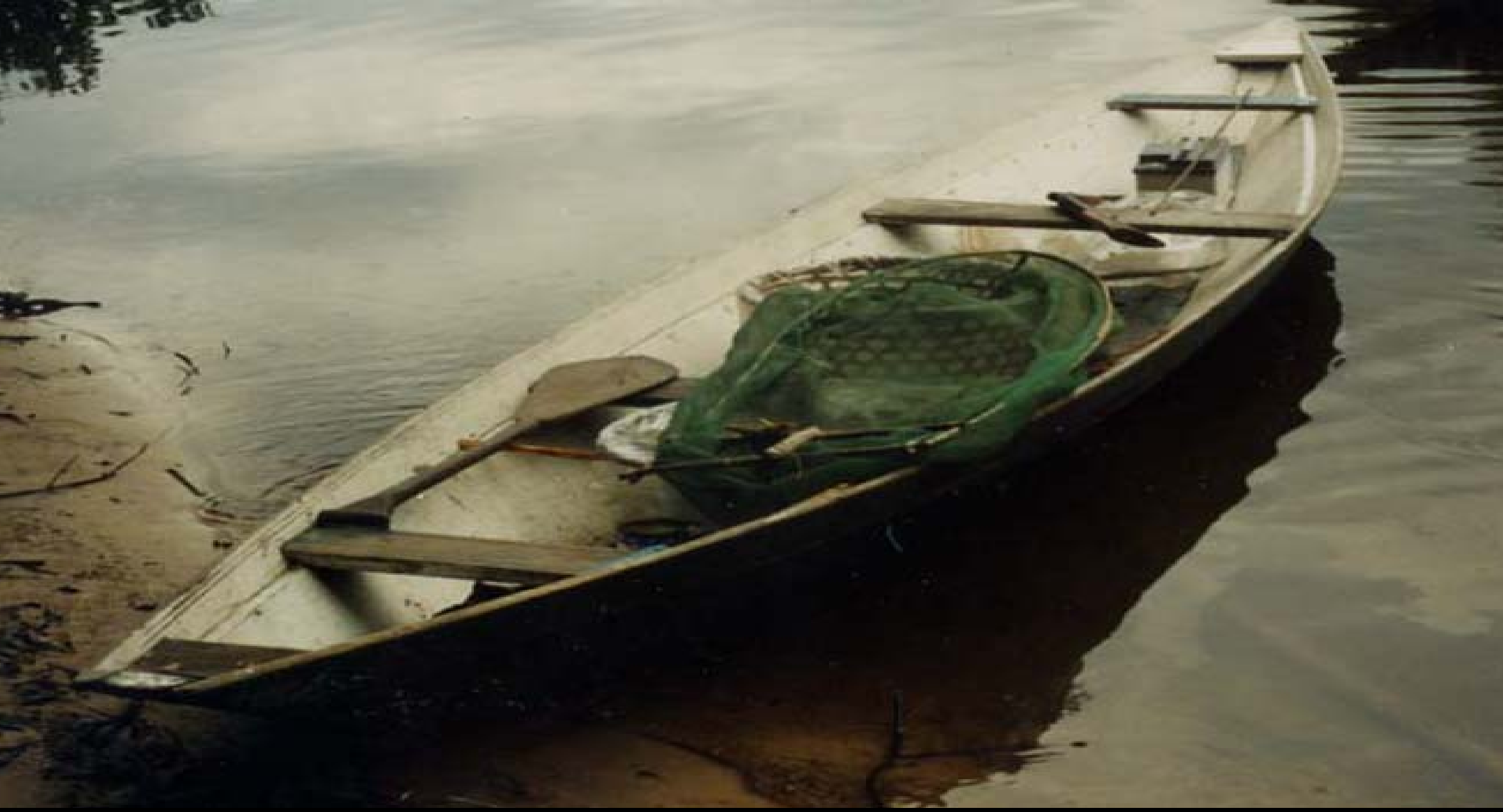

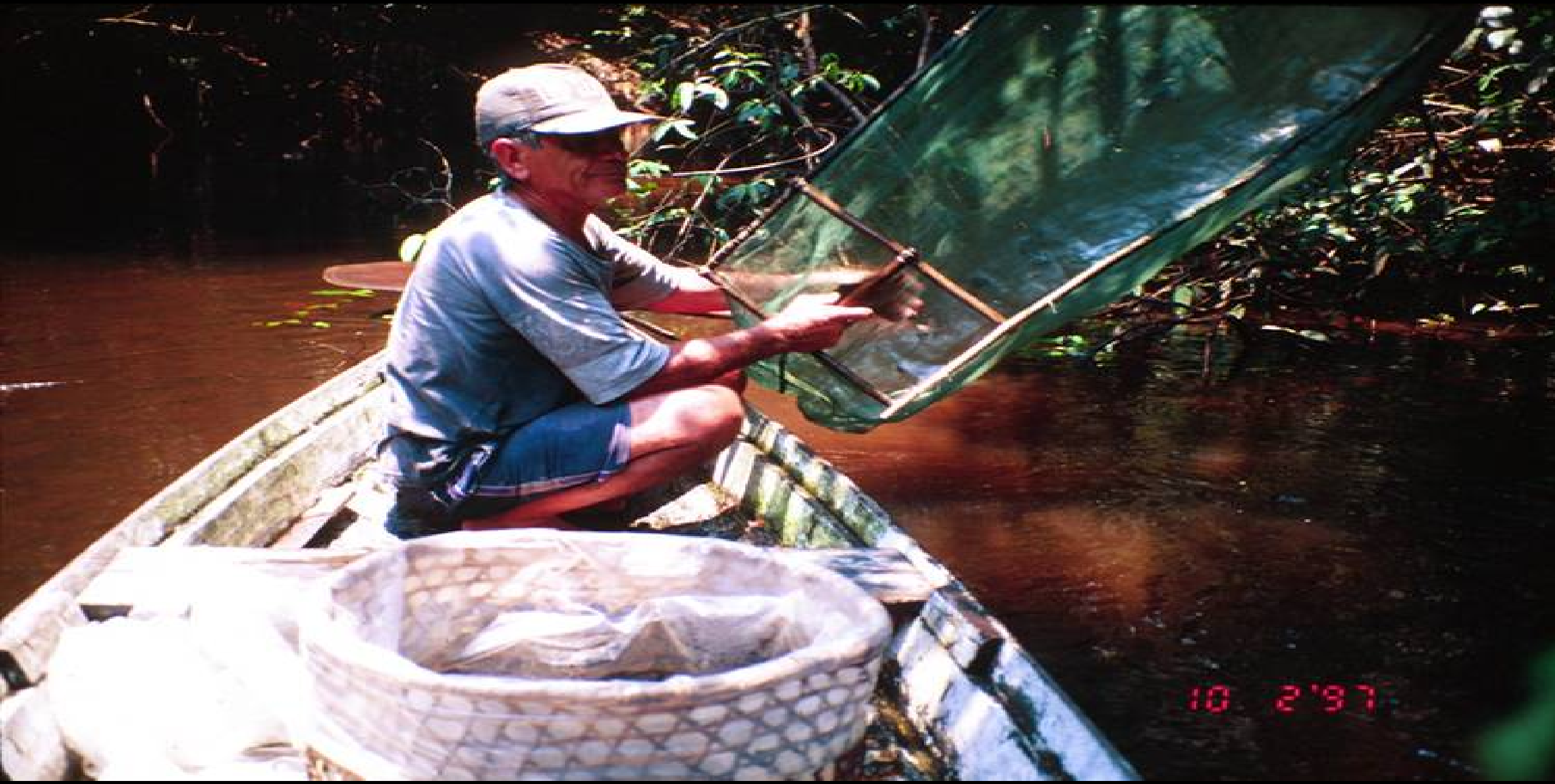
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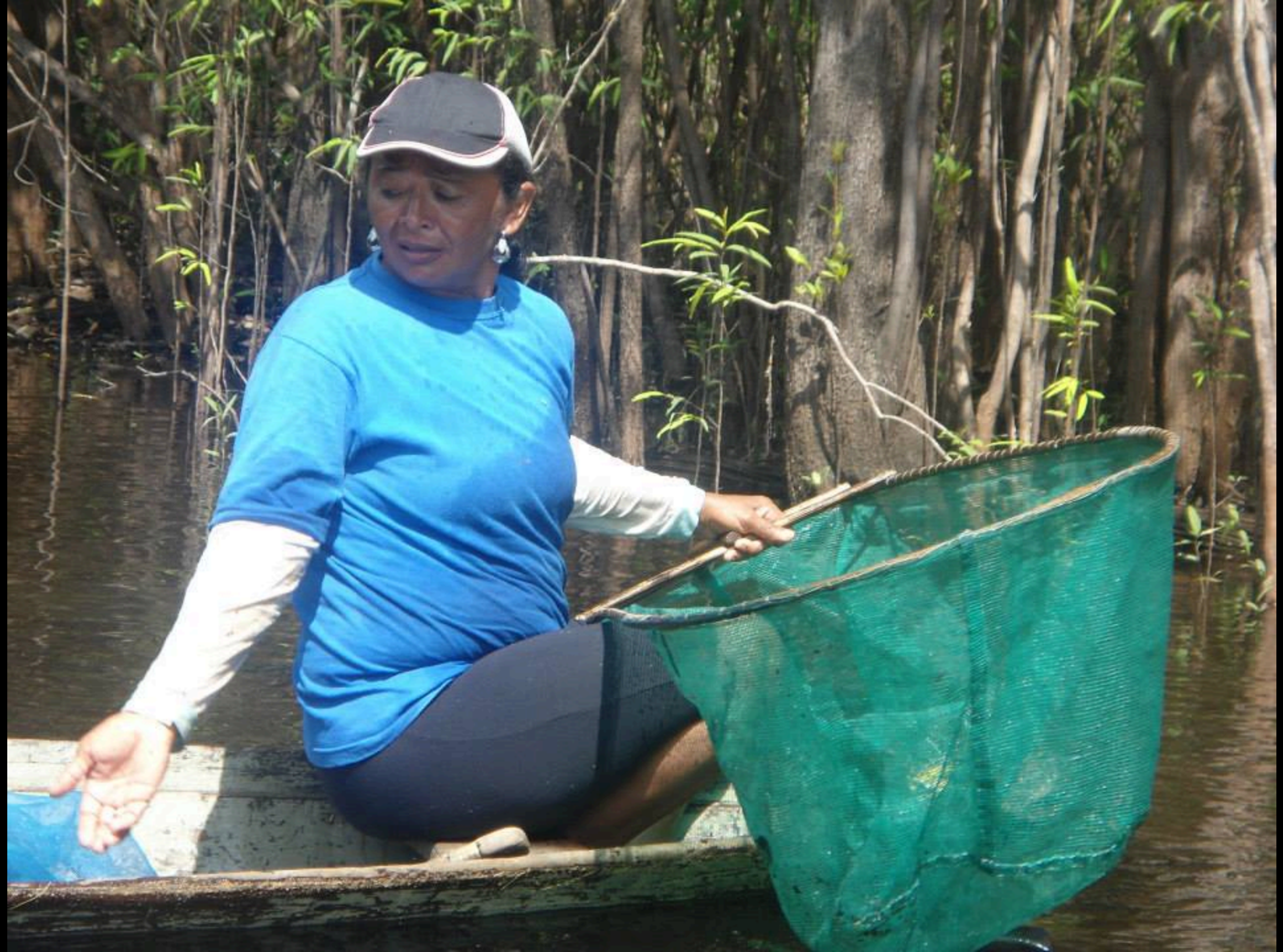


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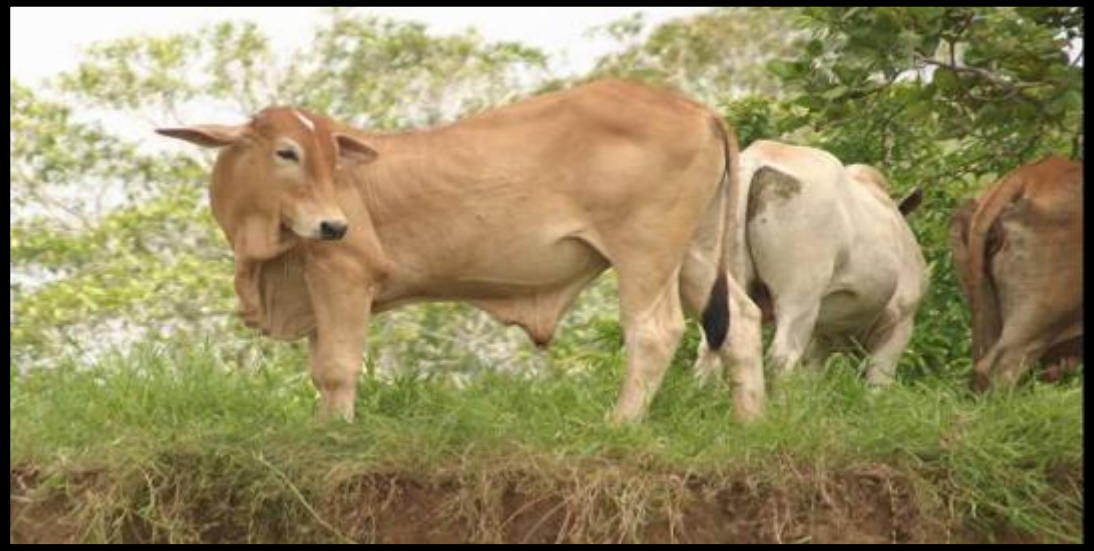

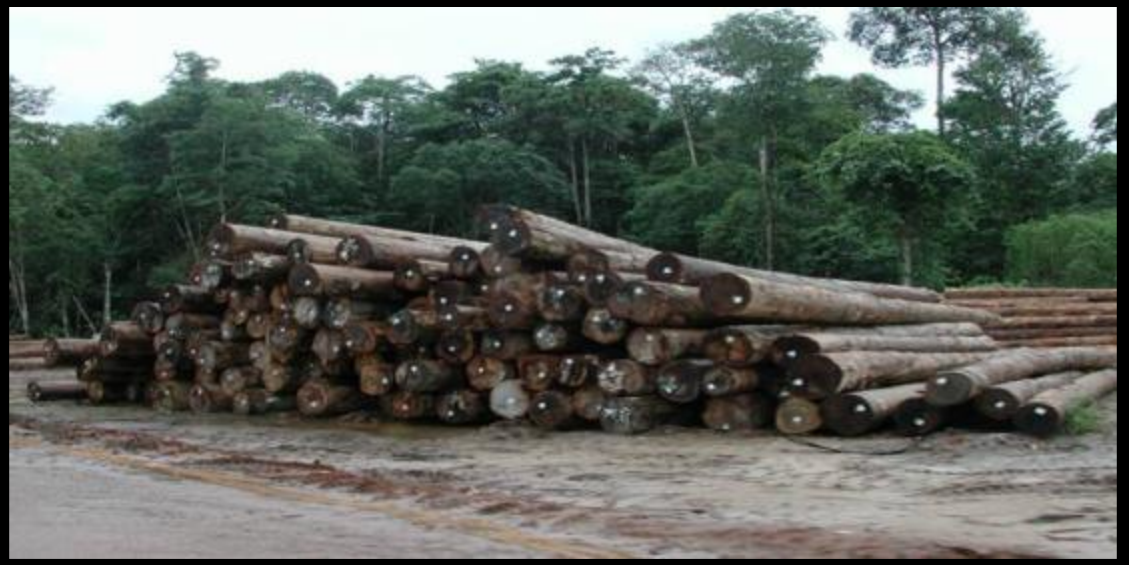

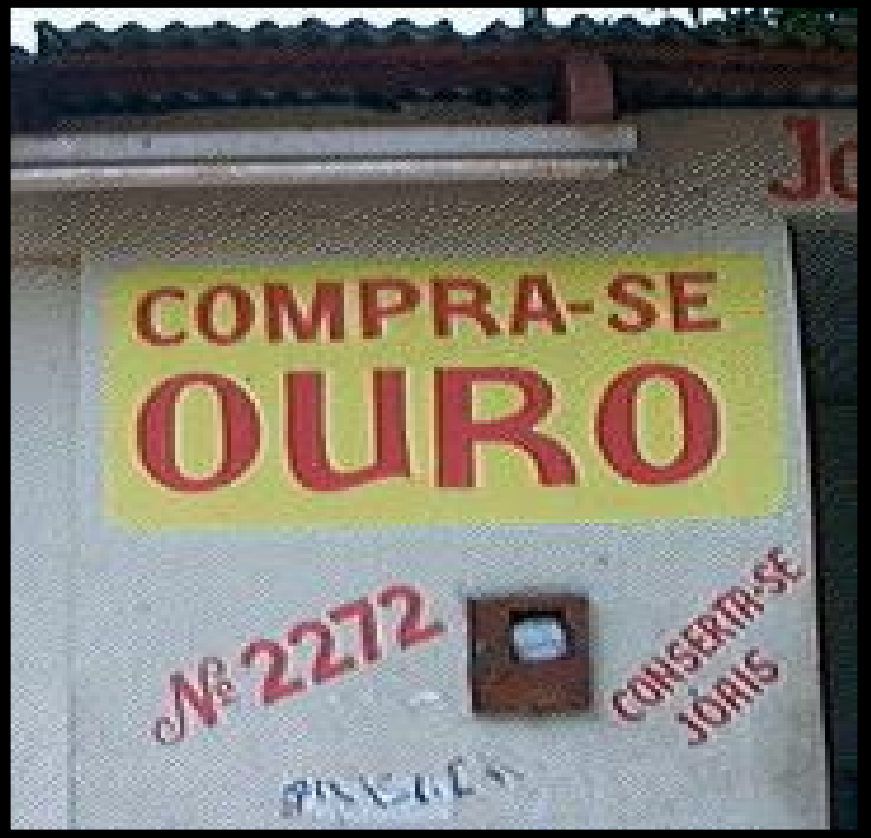
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Home Aquarium Fish Sub-Group (HAFSG)

About HAFSG

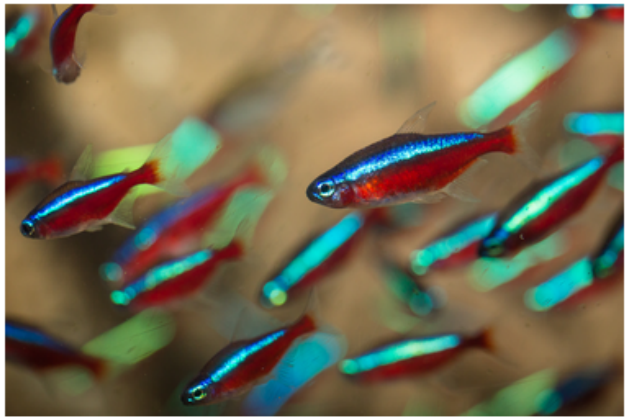

Photo credit: Vincent DiDuca

For decades home aquarium fish have been collected from regions of biological importance across the globe. The vast majority of the organisms in the home aquarium trade are represented by freshwater species (90 percent). The home aquarium fish trade is a large international market responsible for hundreds of millions of dollars annually in revenue for businesses. Although the majority of freshwater aquarium specimens are captive cultured, there are still fishing communities residing in areas of biological importance that capture and export fishes for the global trade. These fisheries are a powerful driver of the local economies and environmental protectionism in regions where their collection takes place. These fisheries face many pressing issues, including:

- Market competition from Ex-situ fish farms
- Public perception pressure on the industry to shift to captive bred stock
- Decline in recruitment of new fish hobbyists and a disconnection with millennials
- Increasing regulations on the importation of wild captured fishes
- The need to implement Best Handling Practices for wild caught fishes to maximize value and market competitiveness and minimize fish stress
- The need to develop marketing framework to highlight socioeconomic and environmental benefits of wild caught fishes
- The need for solutions that benefit the environment to address unsustainable or destructive practices
- The need to establish fair and equitable distribution of economic benefits

Enacting best practices for the capture and export of these fish can provide effective incentives for communities andworkers to fend off other industries and practices that degrade the environment upon which the fish depend, resulting in protection for not only the target species but the entire ecosystem. Many of these regions that contain marketable species, as well as other species that may be threatened