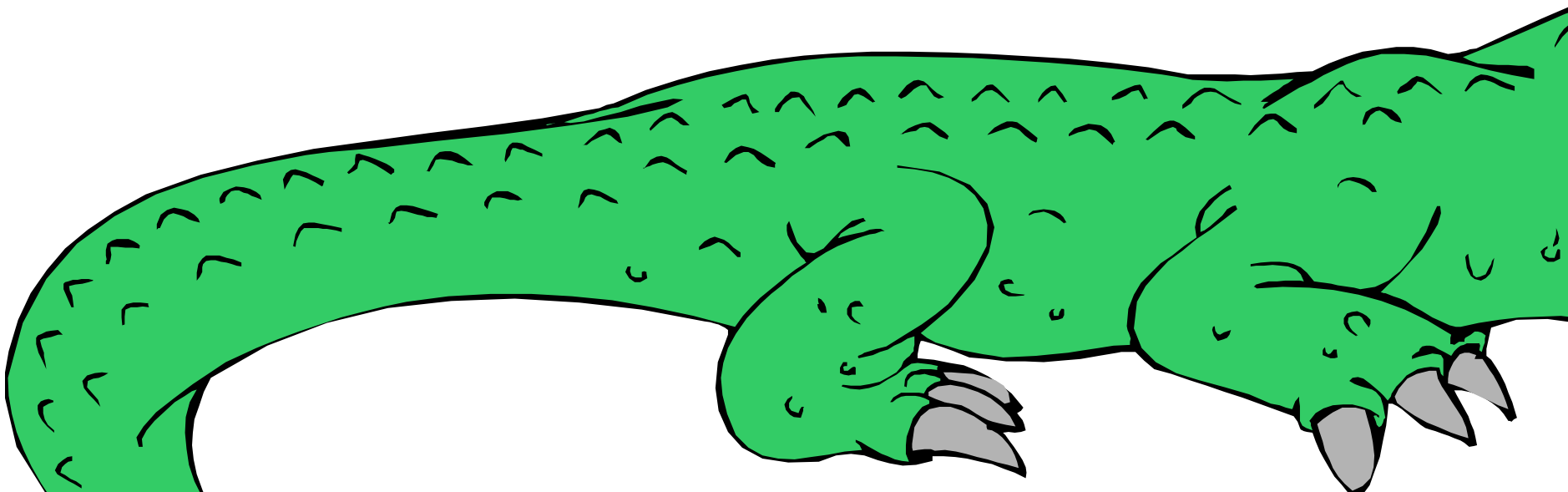
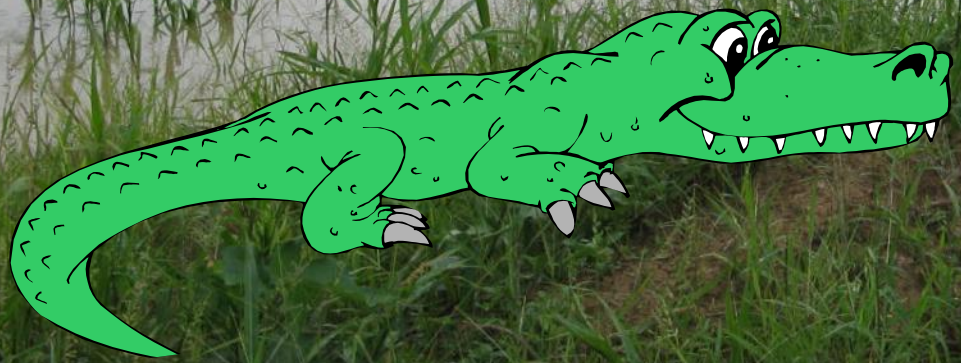
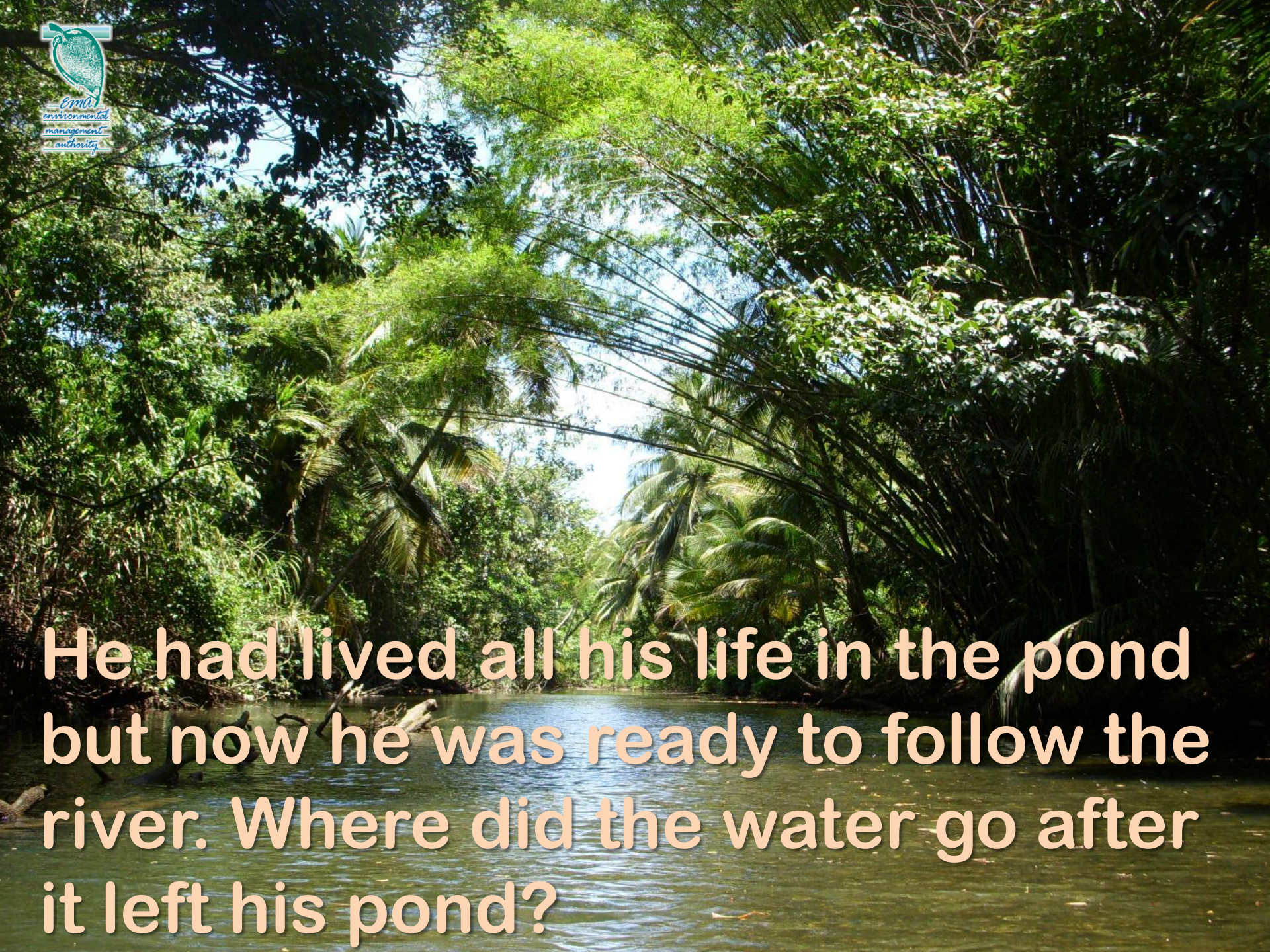
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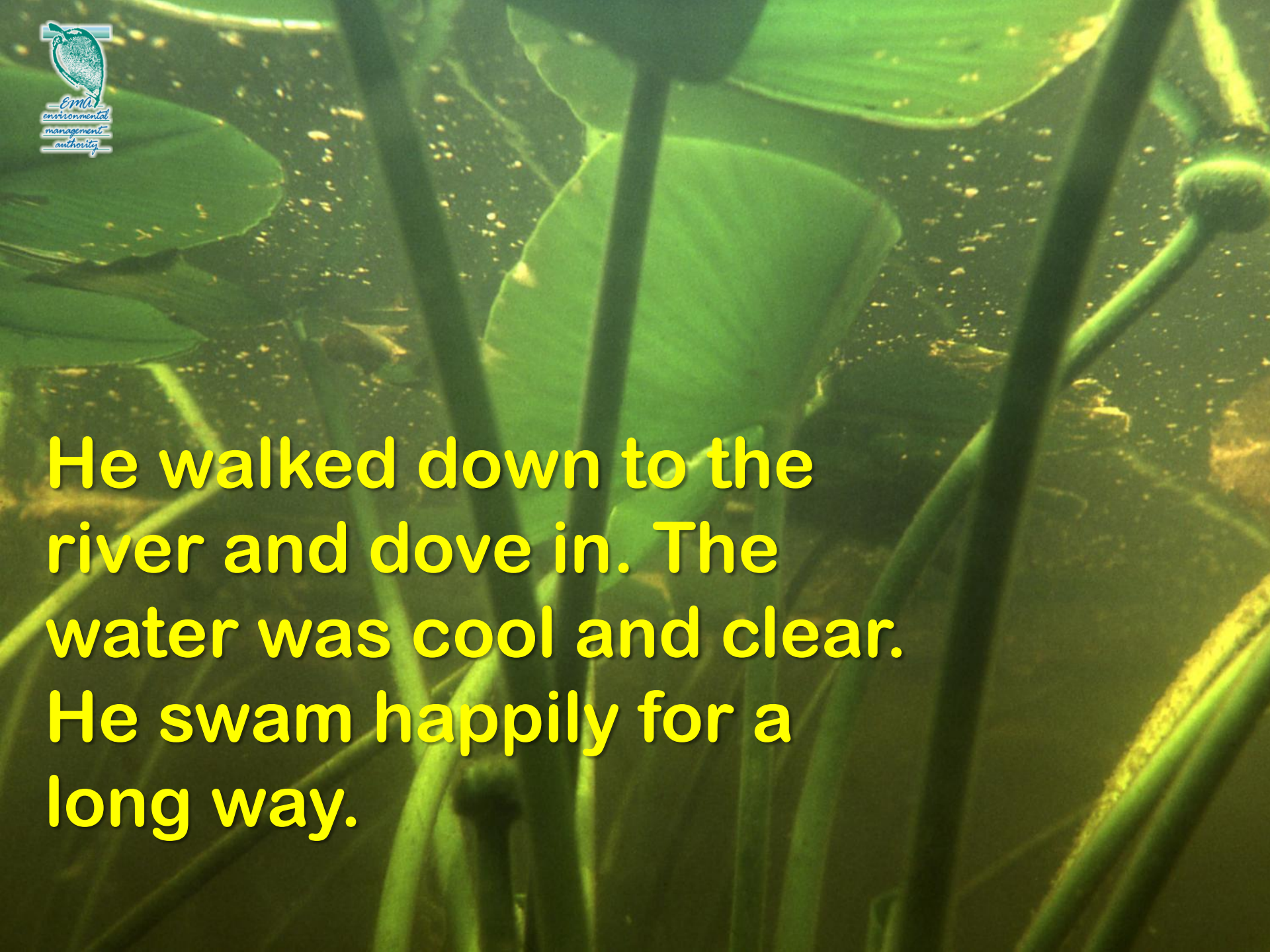
CARLOS MEETS WATER POLLUTION

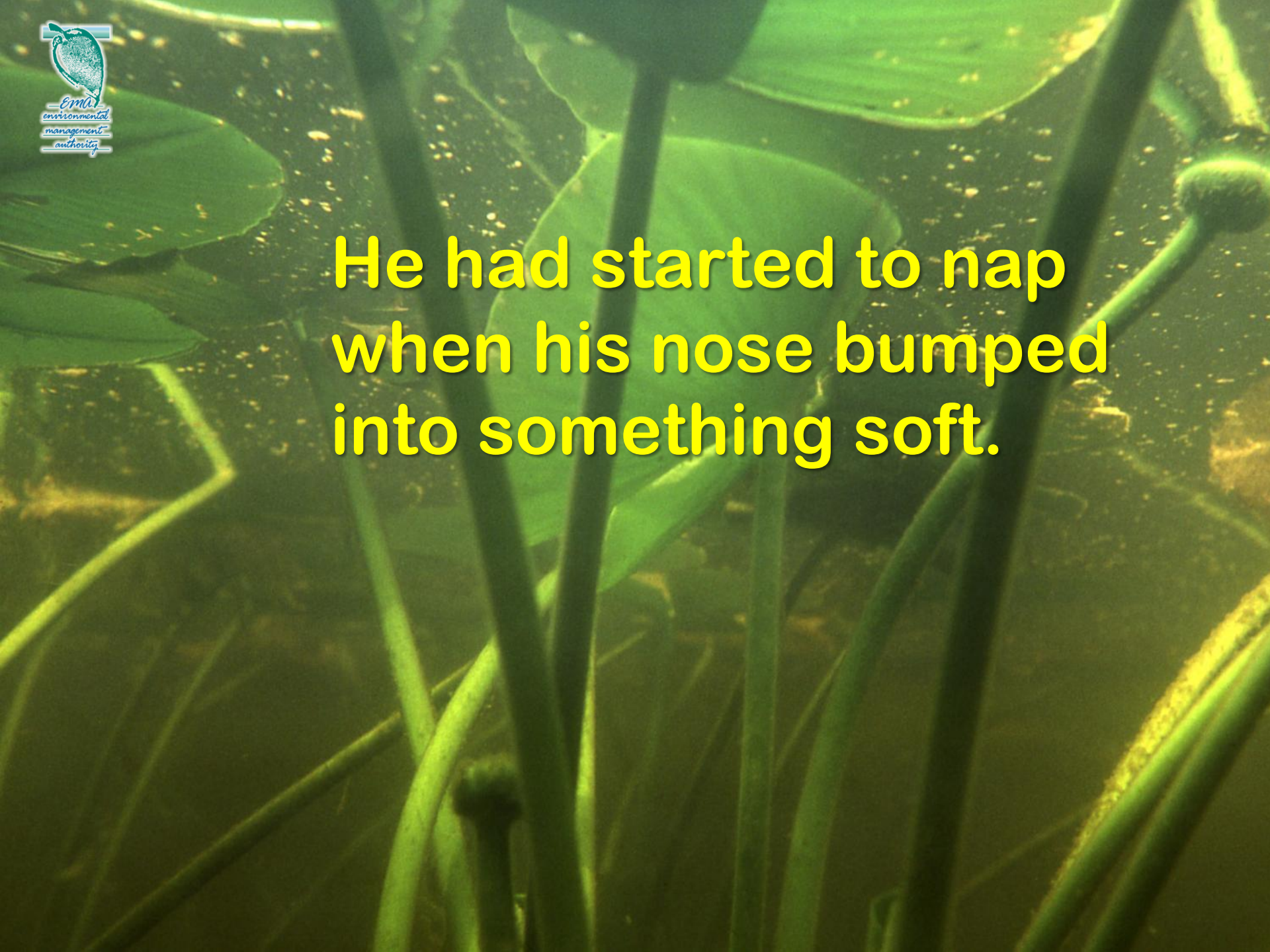


Carlos the caiman was ready for an adventure and he knew just what it would be.




He had lived all his life in the pond but now he was ready to follow the river. Where did the water go after it left his pond?


He walked down to the river and dove in. The water was cool and clear. He swam happily for a long way.


He had started to nap
when his nose bumped
into something soft.

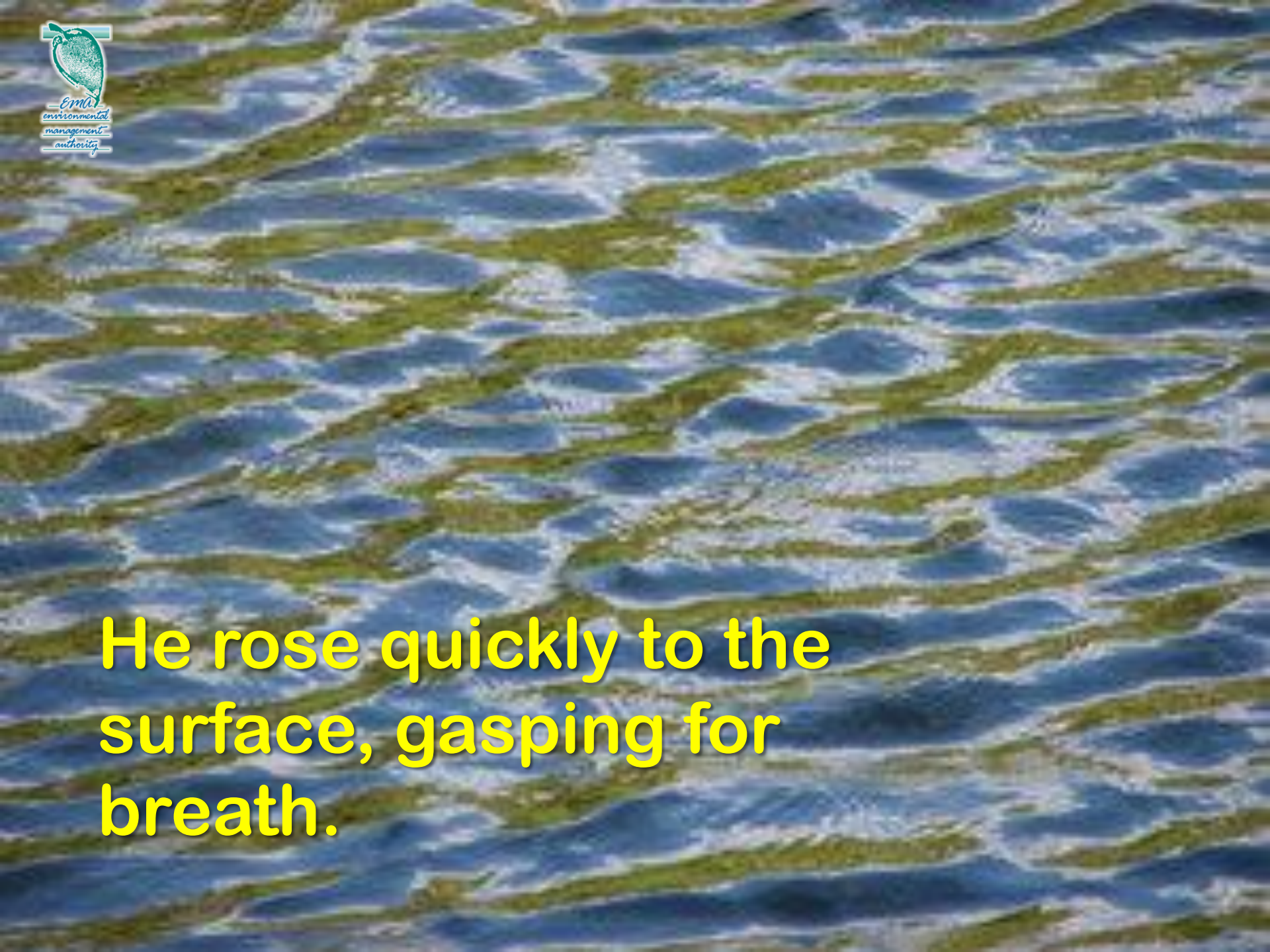
He opened his eyes but couldn't see anything!

Worse, he couldn't breathe!

"What's going on?" thought Carlos in a panic.



He struggled for a while before he was able to use his legs to free himself.


He rose quickly to the surface, gasping for breath.



He looked at the thing floating away from him. It was a plastic bag. The bag floated away and scooped up a coscorob.

“That could have been my lunch! Why is there a plastic bag in the water?” thought Carlos.



He poked his head out the water and loud music filled his ears.



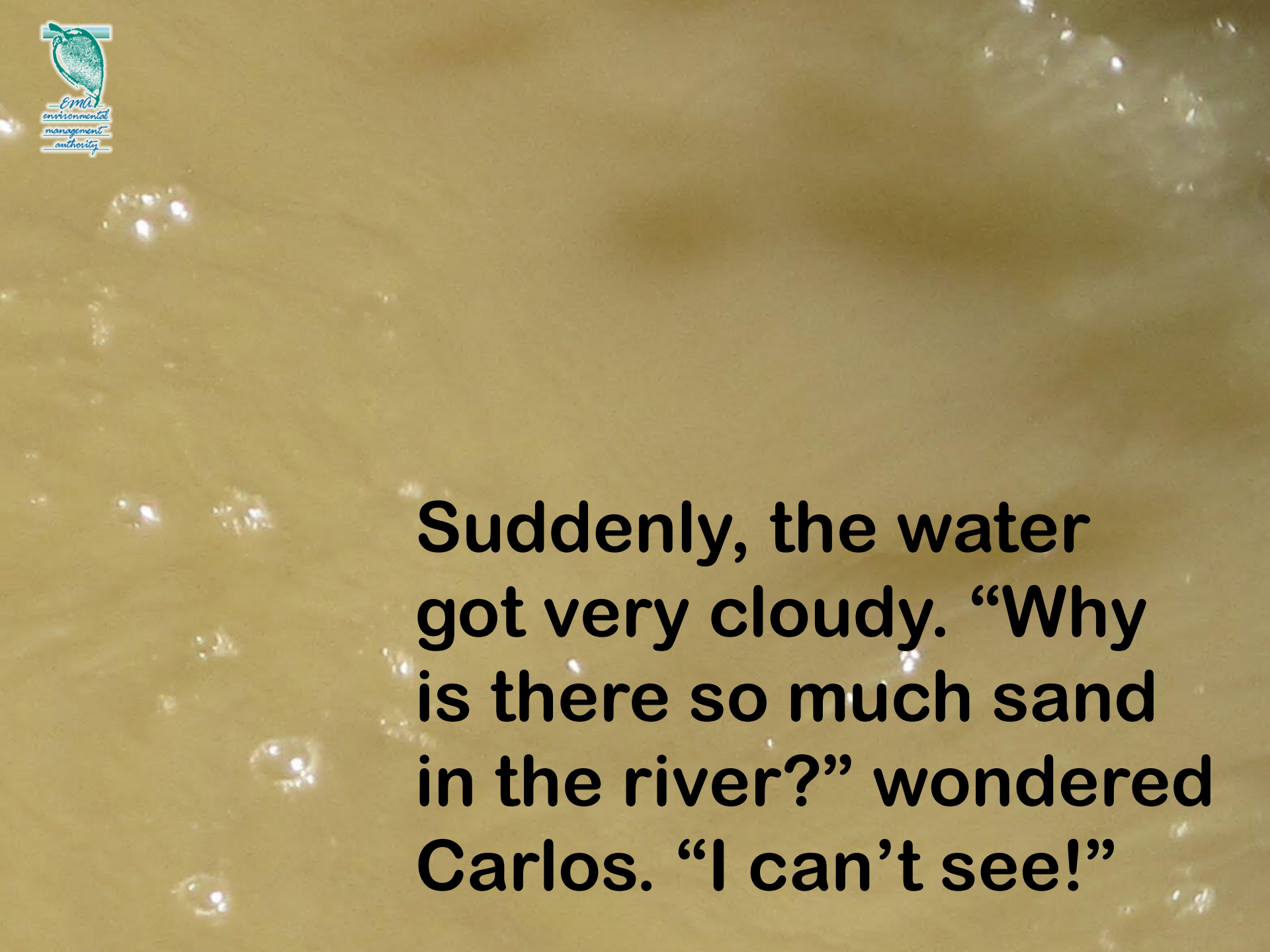
He dove back under and swam away from the noise before peeking out again.


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People were sitting on the bank of the river, eating and laughing.


There was a pile of garbage at the side of the river.

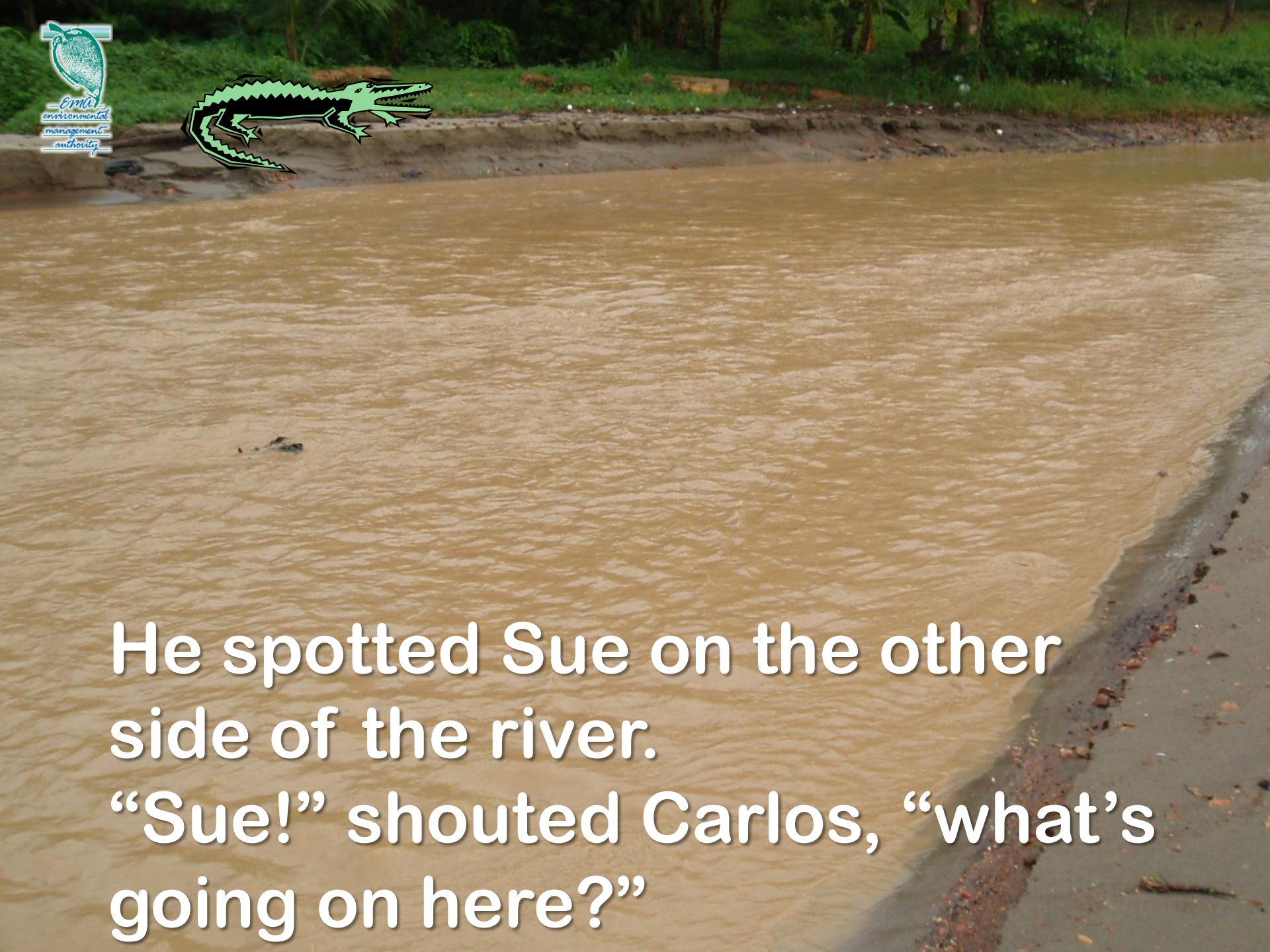

A boy finished his juice and threw the carton in the water.
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“These people don’t care about the river. Oh dear,” thought Carlos. He swam away quickly, bumping past some plastic bottles.
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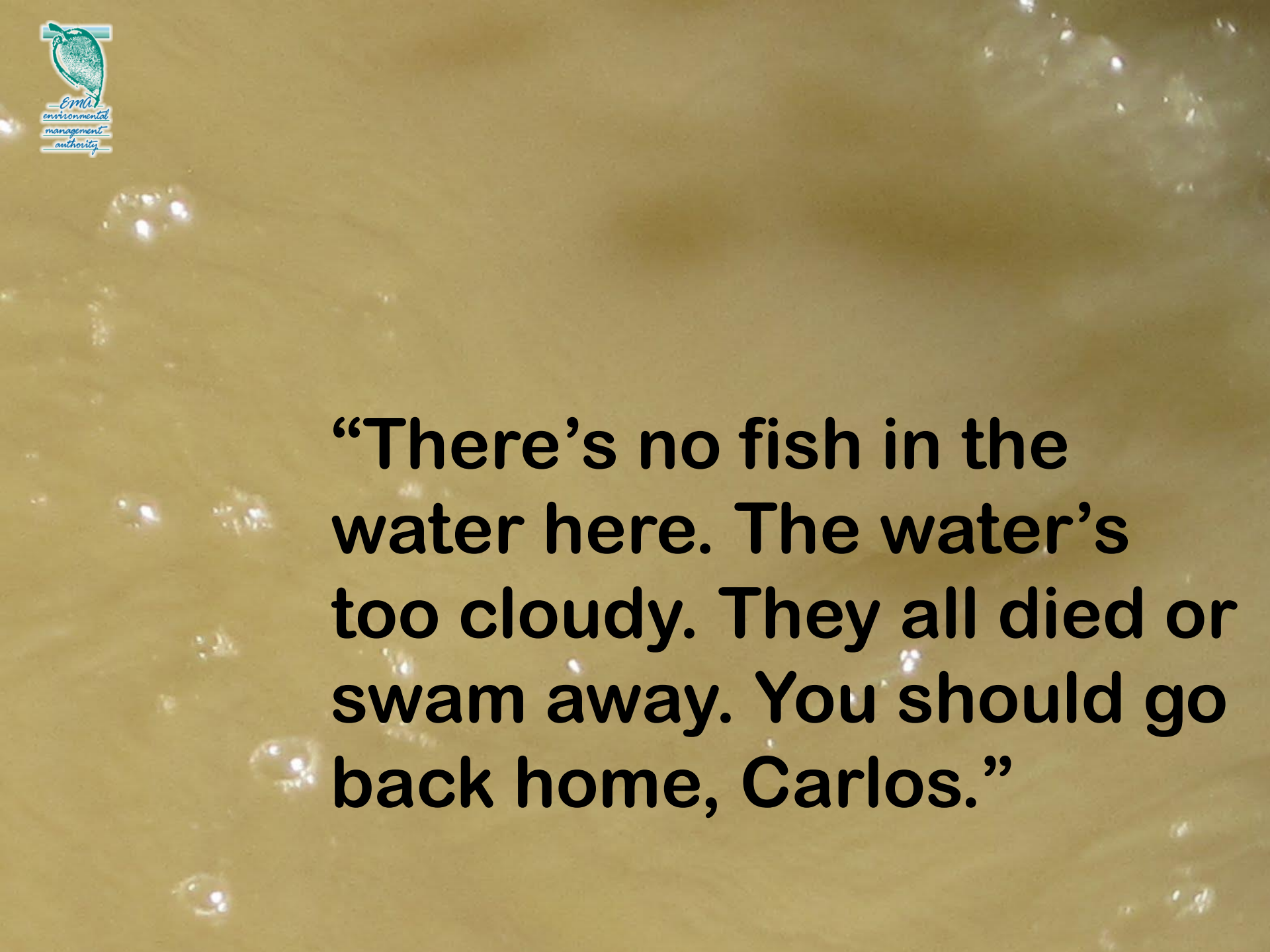
Suddenly, the water got very cloudy. “Why is there so much sand in the river?” wondered Carlos. “I can’t see!”


He poked his head out again, and heard a tractor engine. A tractor was digging into the earth, and shovelling red sand into a truck.



He spotted Sue on the other side of the river.
"Sue!" shouted Carlos, "what's going on here?"


“It’s a quarry,” replied Sue.
“They removed all the trees
and now they’re digging out
the earth to sell it.”



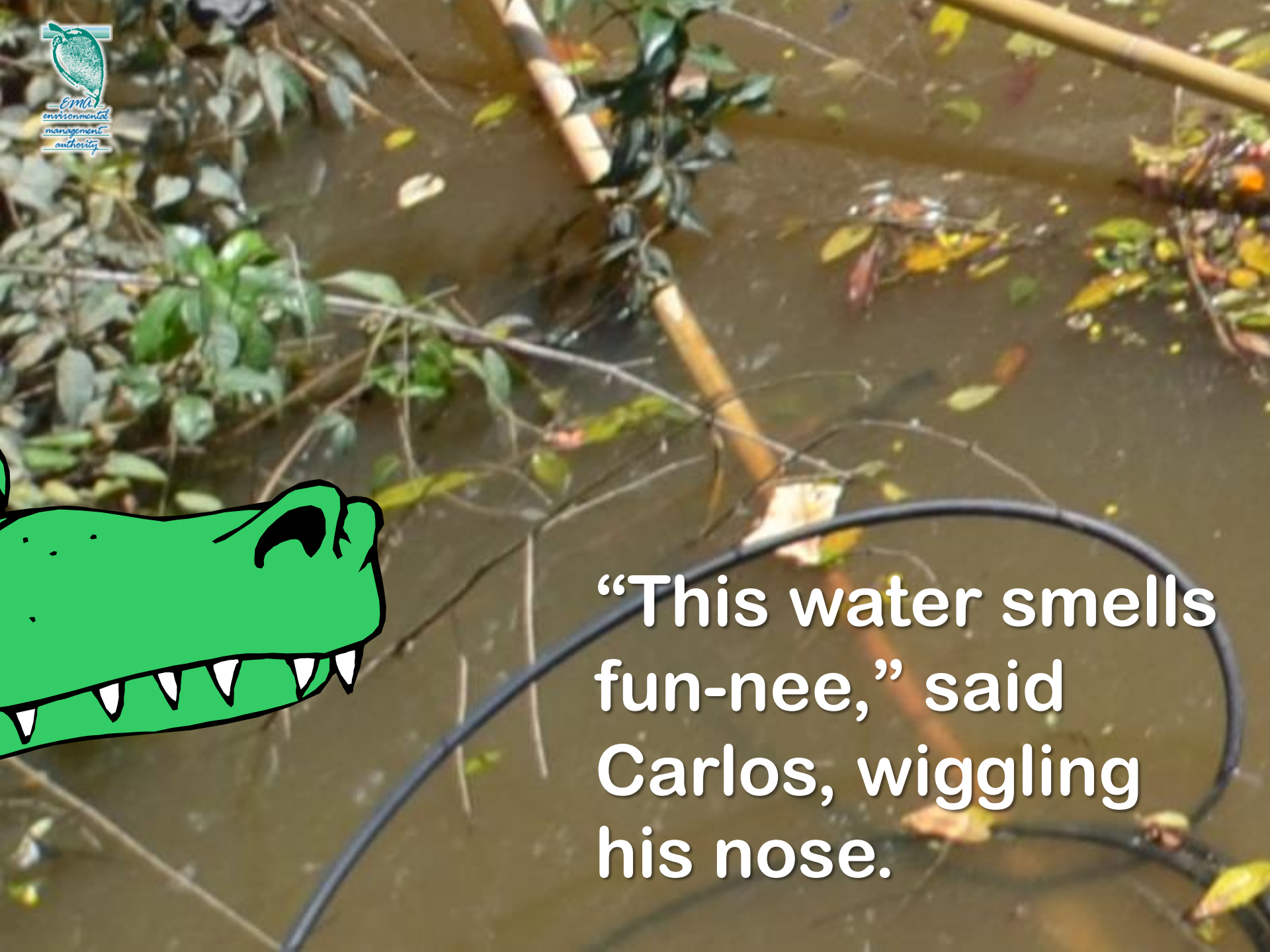
“There’s no fish in the water here. The water’s too cloudy. They all died or swam away. You should go back home, Carlos.”

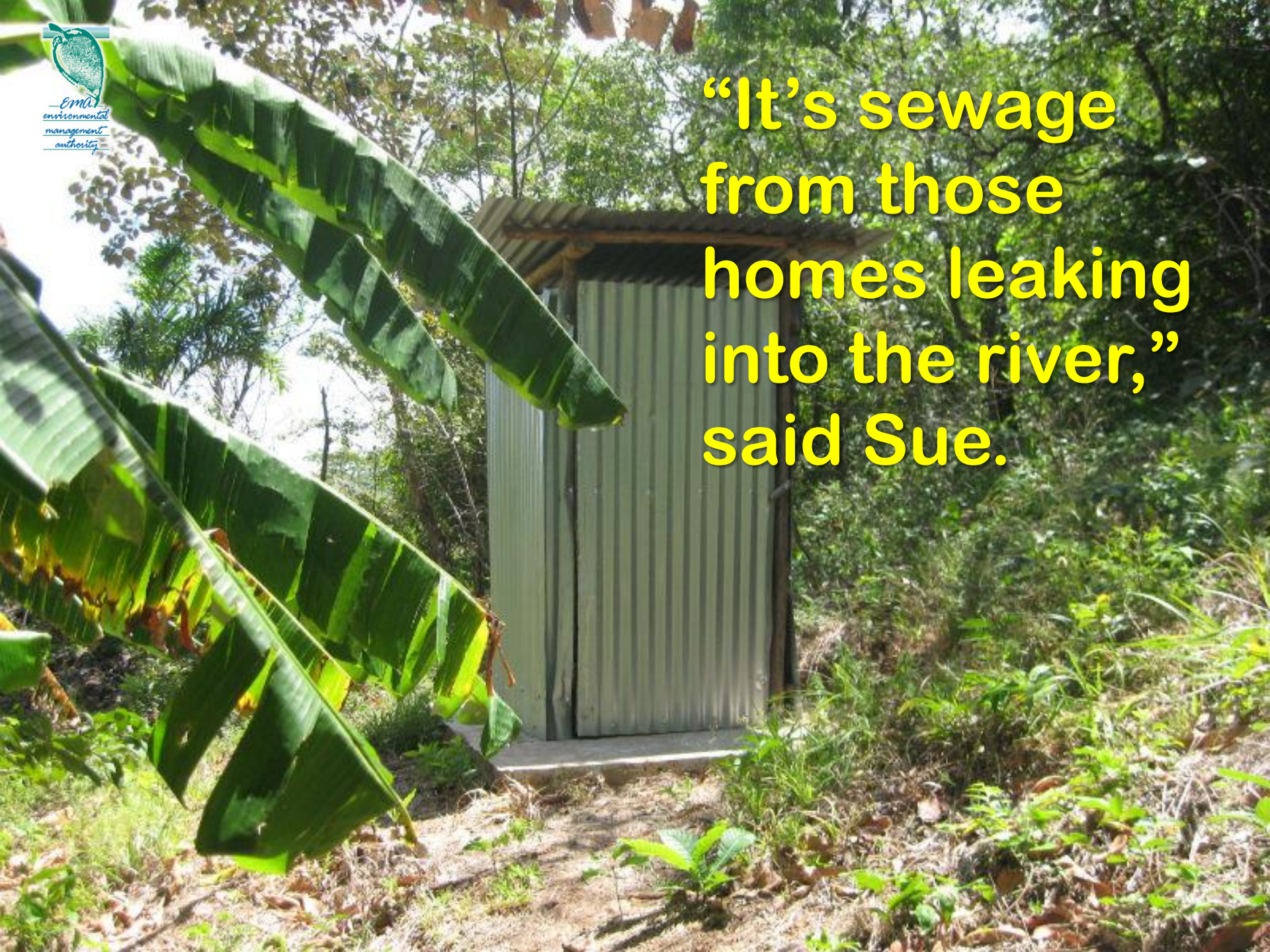
“My adventure’s not done yet! I have to see where the river goes!” Carlos climbed out the river and walked along its edge. Sue followed him.






They walked for a long time and the water in the river stayed cloudy.
Then they saw some houses on the opposite bank.
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“This water smells fun-nee,” said Carlos, wiggling his nose.

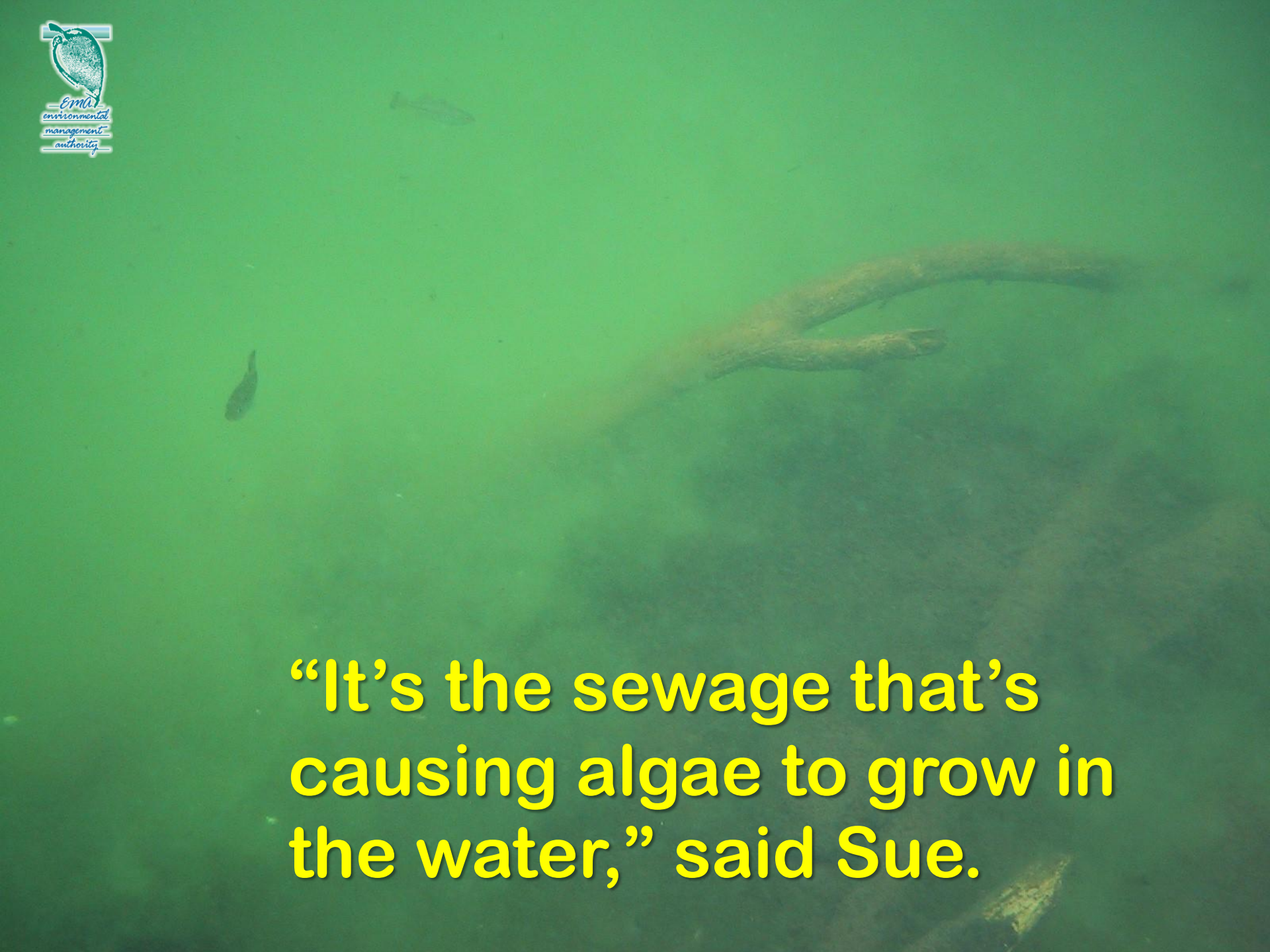

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“It’s sewage from those homes leaking into the river,” said Sue.

“That’s gross,” said Carlos. “They should make sure it doesn’t go into the river!”

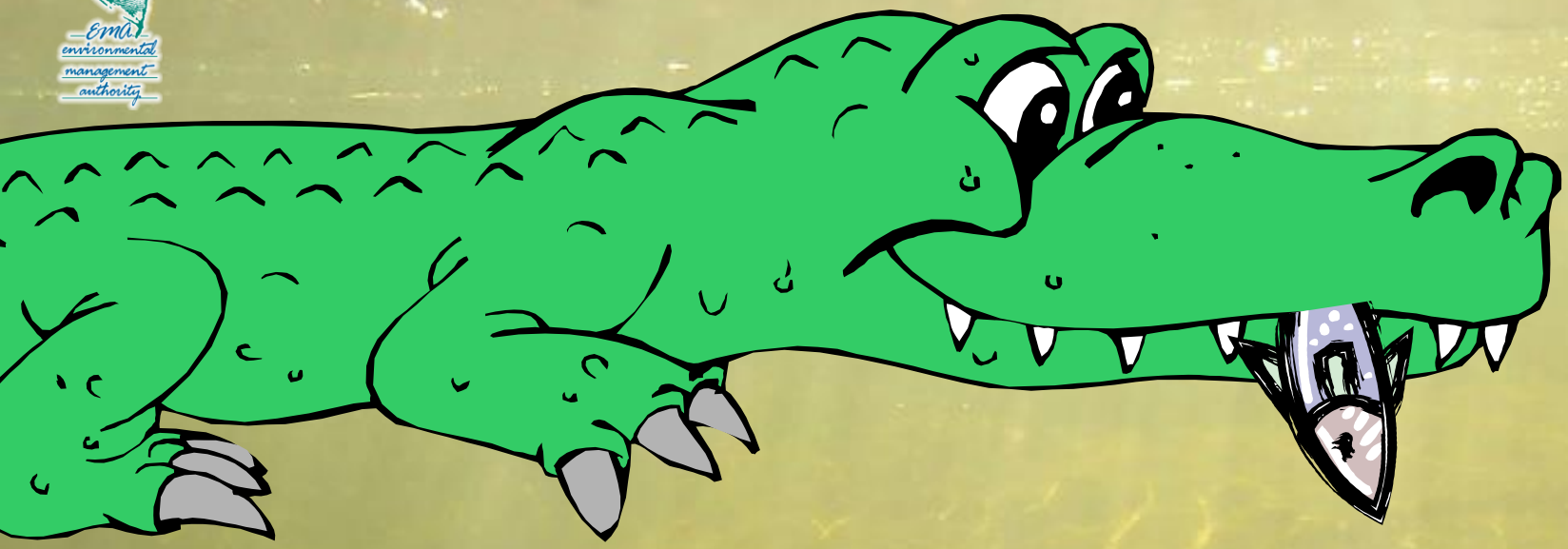



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As they walked a little further, the water turned a green colour.


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“What’s causing that?”
wondered Carlos.

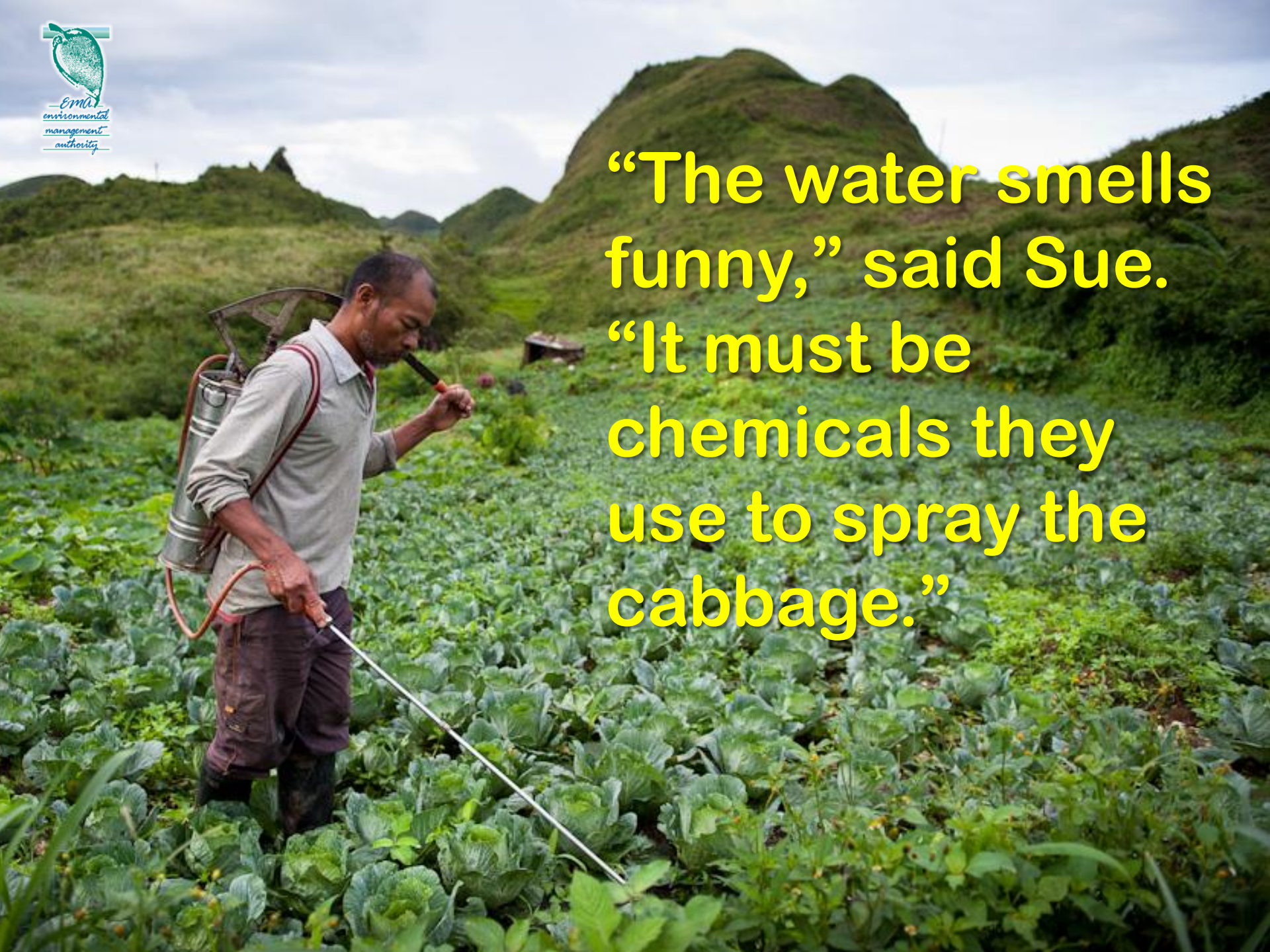

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“It’s the sewage that’s causing algae to grow in the water,” said Sue.


On, they walked.
Then, they came upon a field of cabbage.

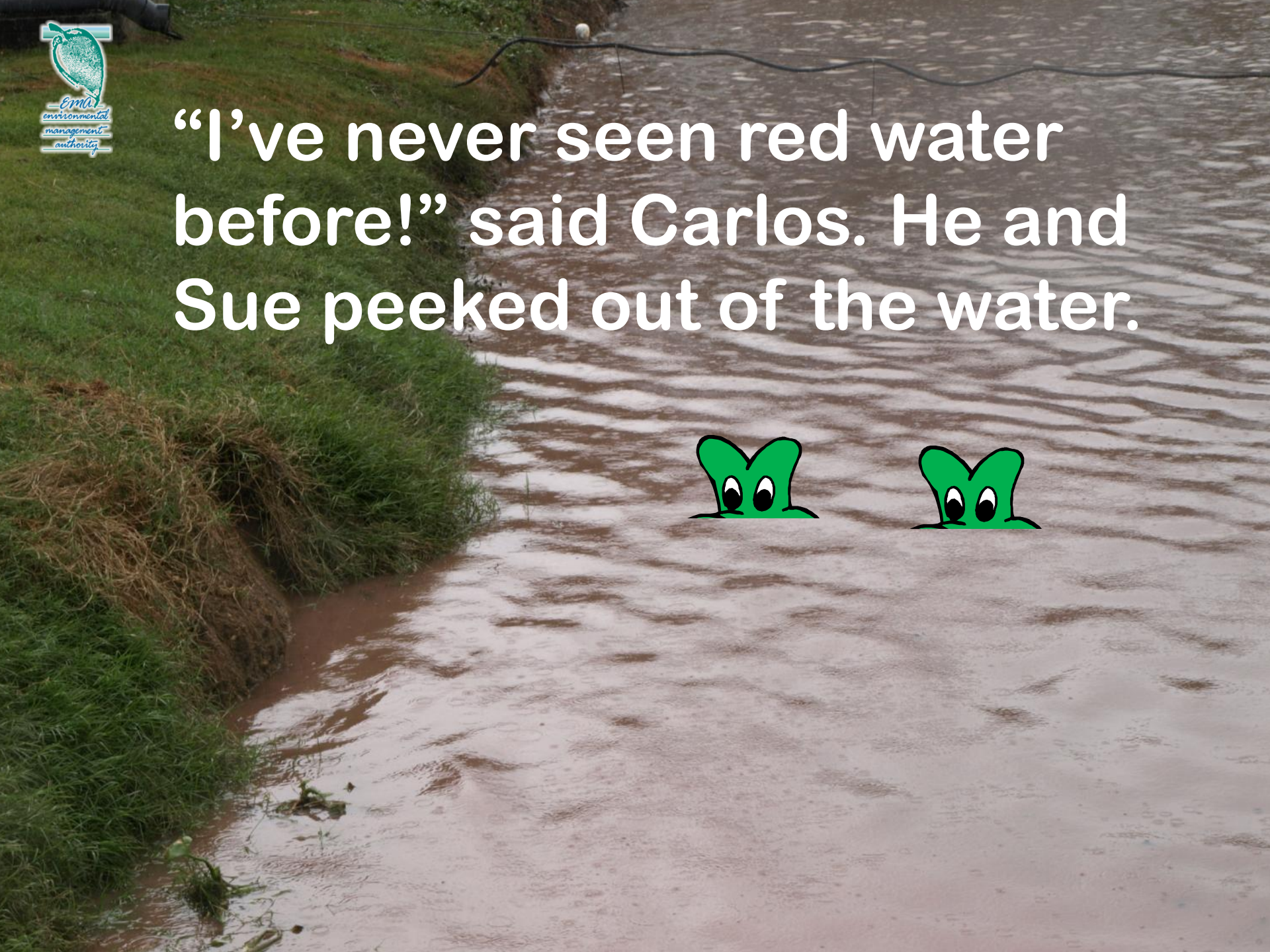


“The water’s not so cloudy, green or smelly anymore. Let’s go in!”
Carlos saw a fish and grabbed it.
He started to chew, then spat it out.
“This fish tastes nasty!”

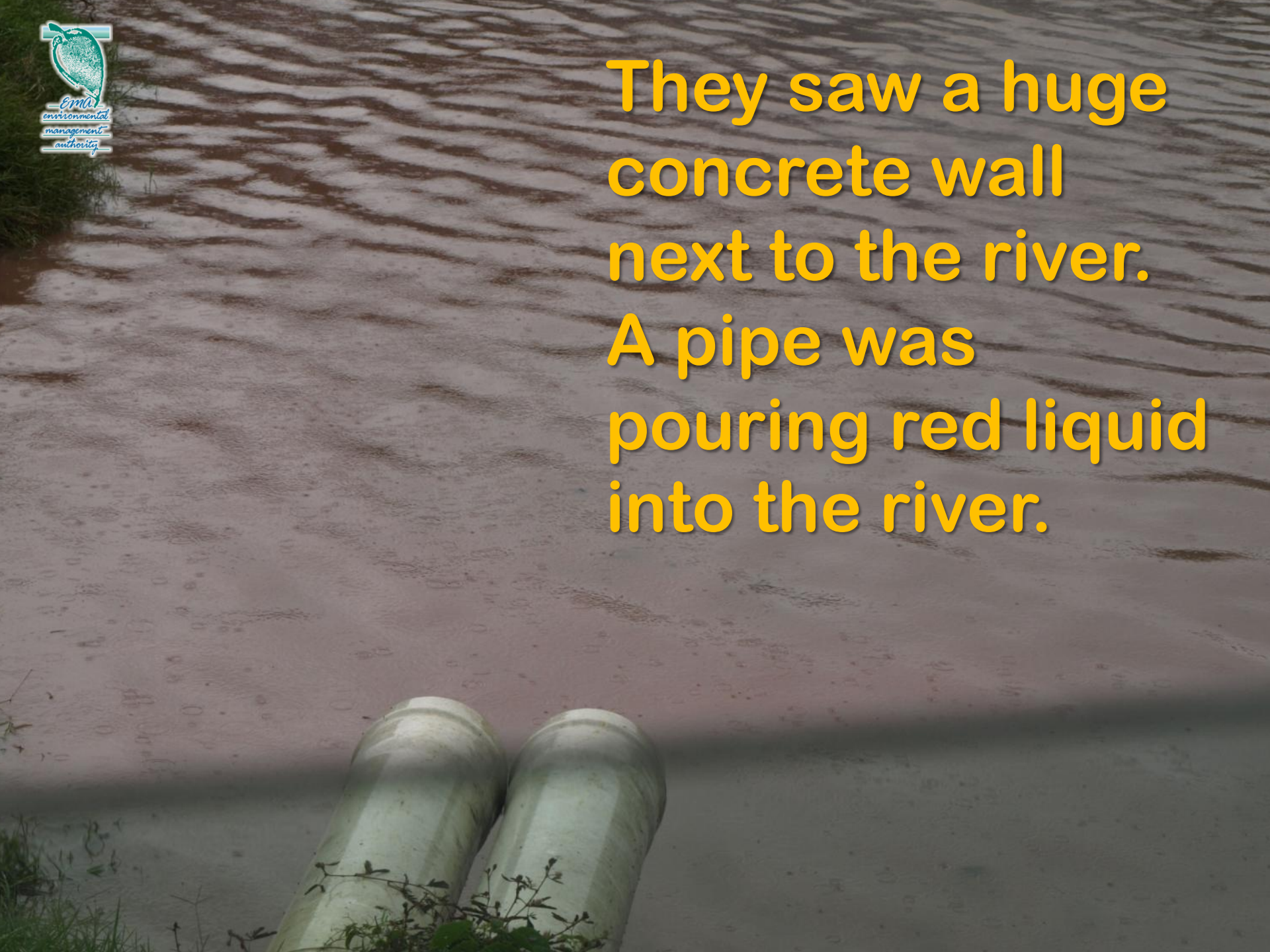

He and Sue looked around. The fish were all dead.

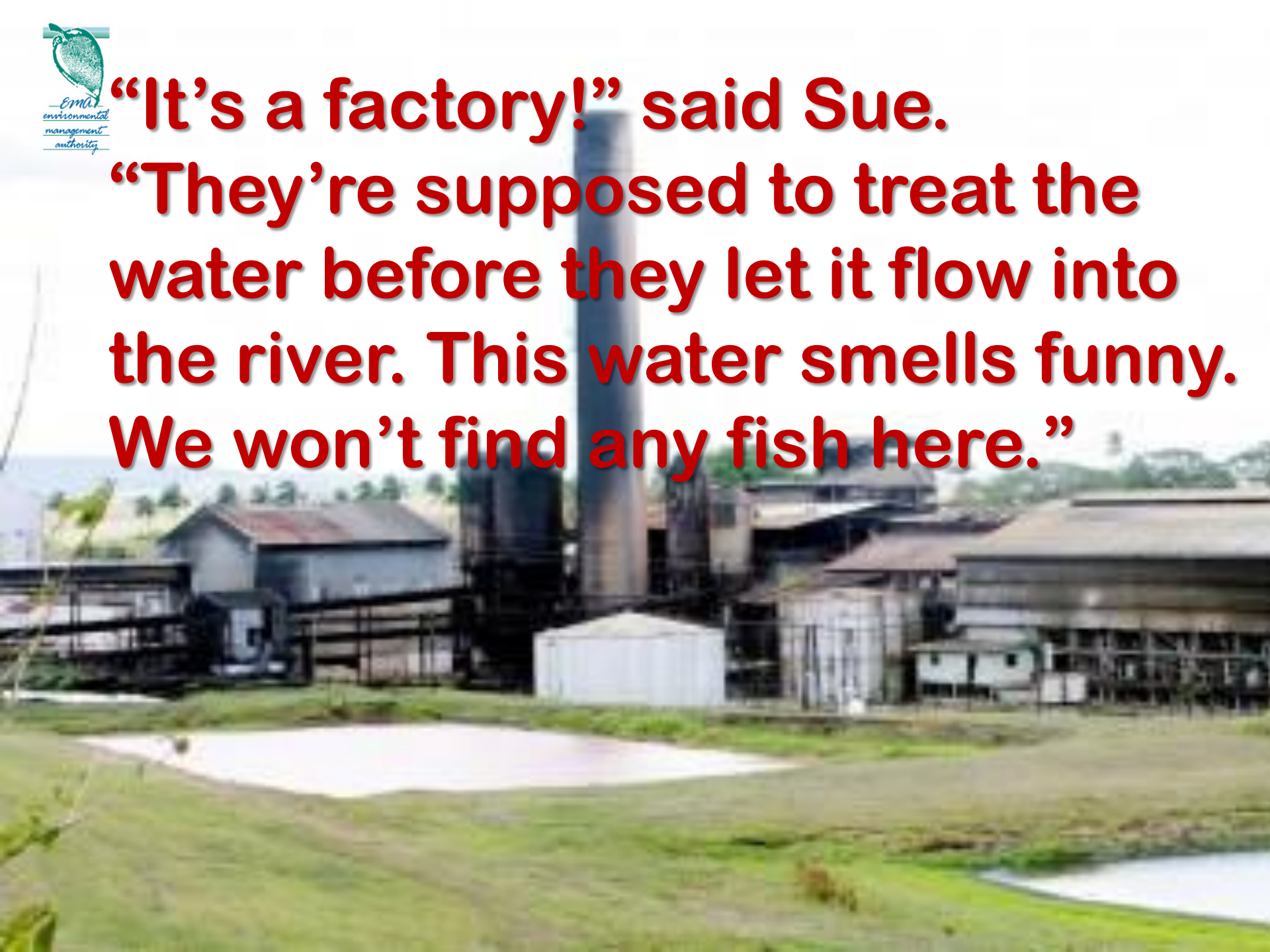

“The water smells funny,” said Sue. “It must be chemicals they use to spray the cabbage.”

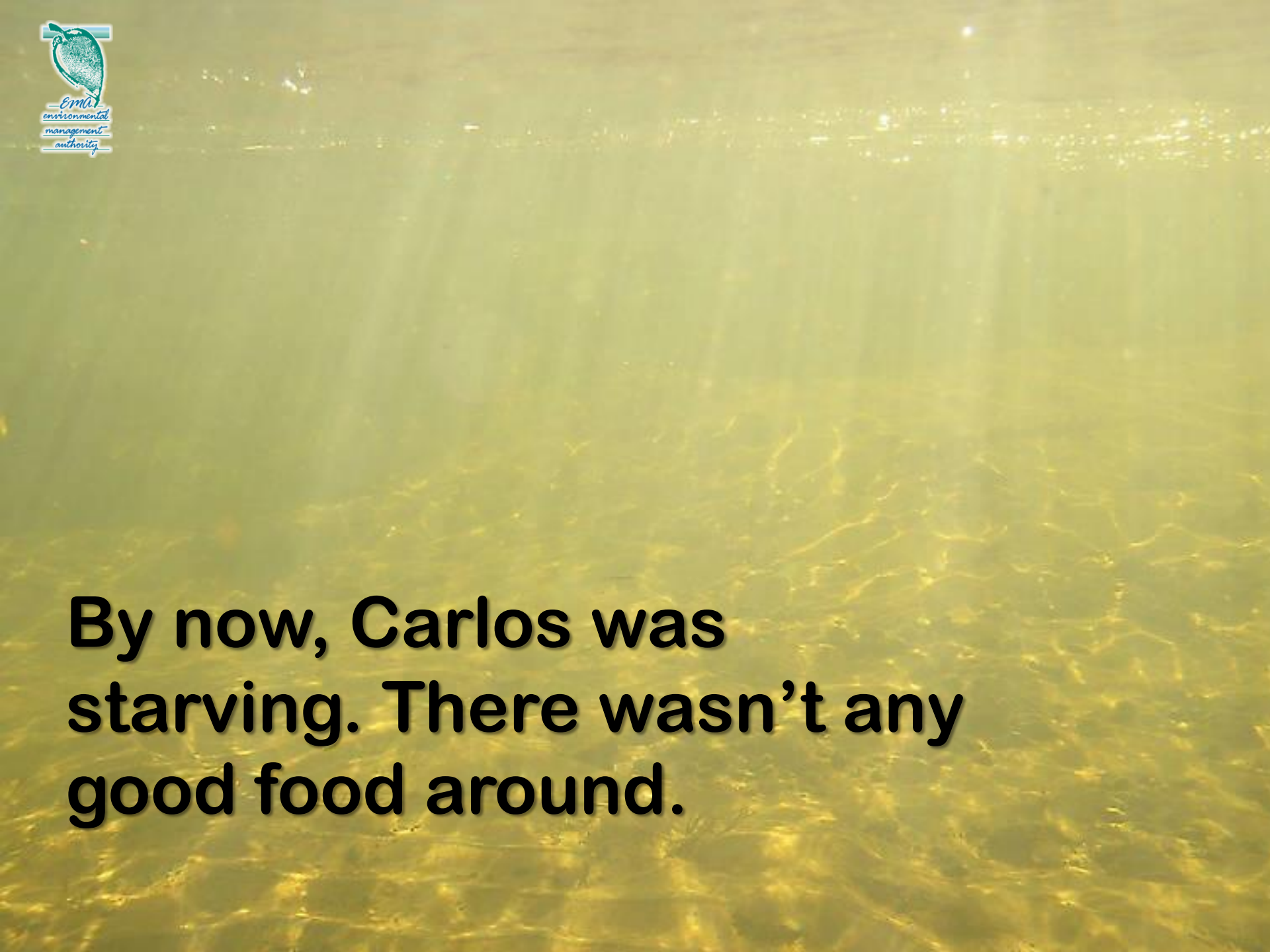

They held their breath
and swam downstream.
However, the water was
changing colour.



"I've never seen red water before!" said Carlos. He and Sue peeked out of the water.

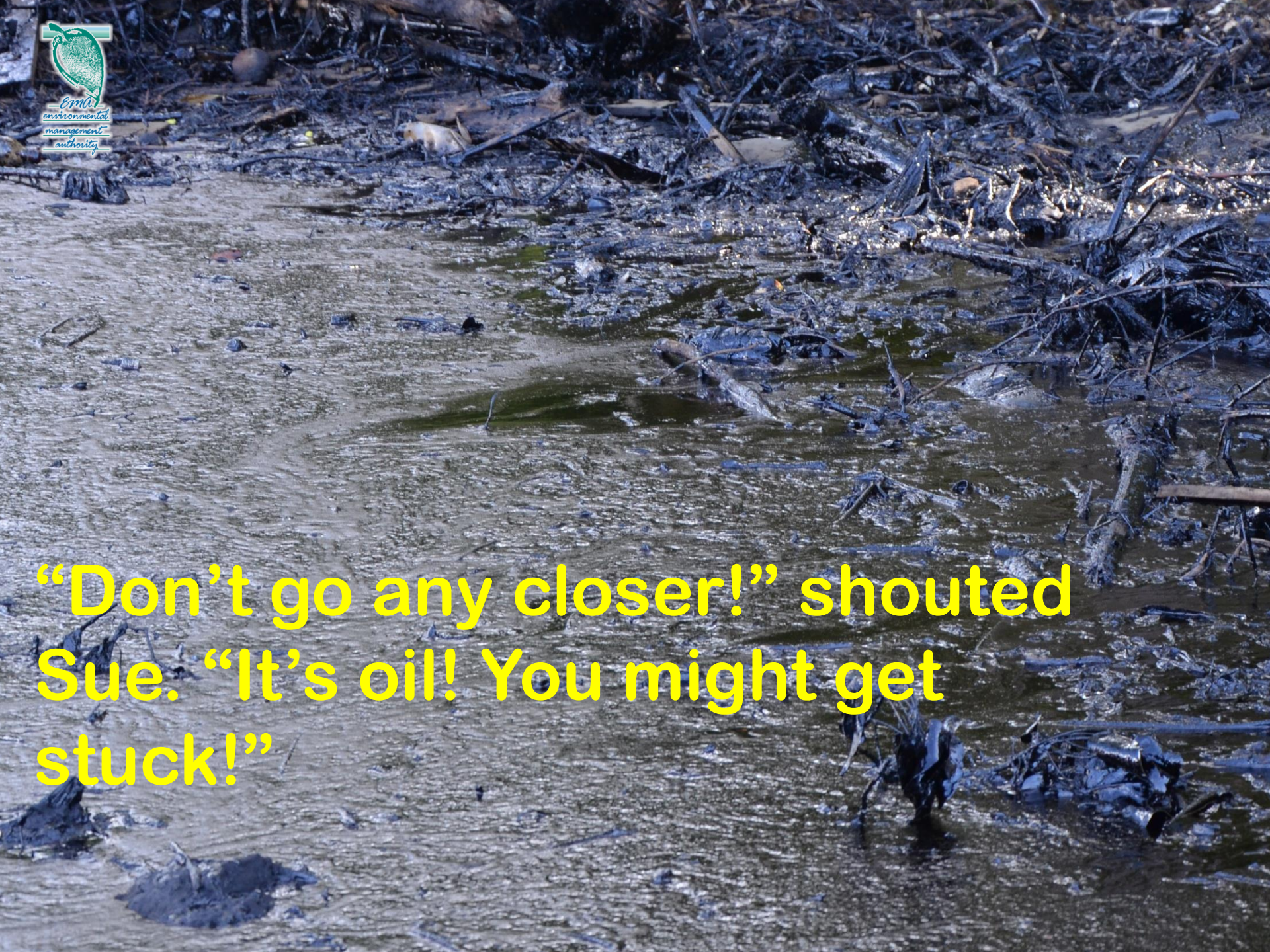

They saw a huge concrete wall next to the river. A pipe was pouring red liquid into the river.


“It’s a factory!” said Sue.
“They’re supposed to treat the water before they let it flow into the river. This water smells funny. We won’t find any fish here.”

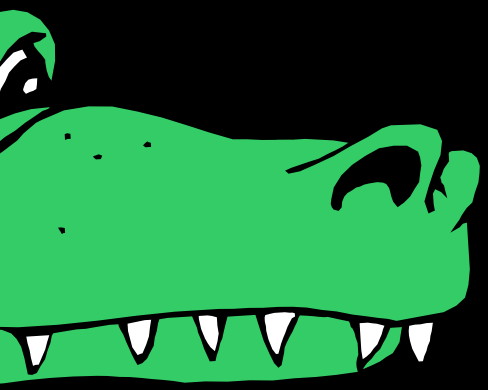

By now, Carlos was
starving. There wasn't any
good food around.


Suddenly, they could go no further.
There was a wall of garbage in the
water ahead of them.
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They tried to get out and walk downriver, but then there was black stuff mixed in with the garbage.



"Don't go any closer!" shouted Sue. "It's oil! You might get stuck!"



“There’s so much pollution downstream from my pond.” said Carlos sadly.


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"Pollution from litter"
Jorge Fusaro

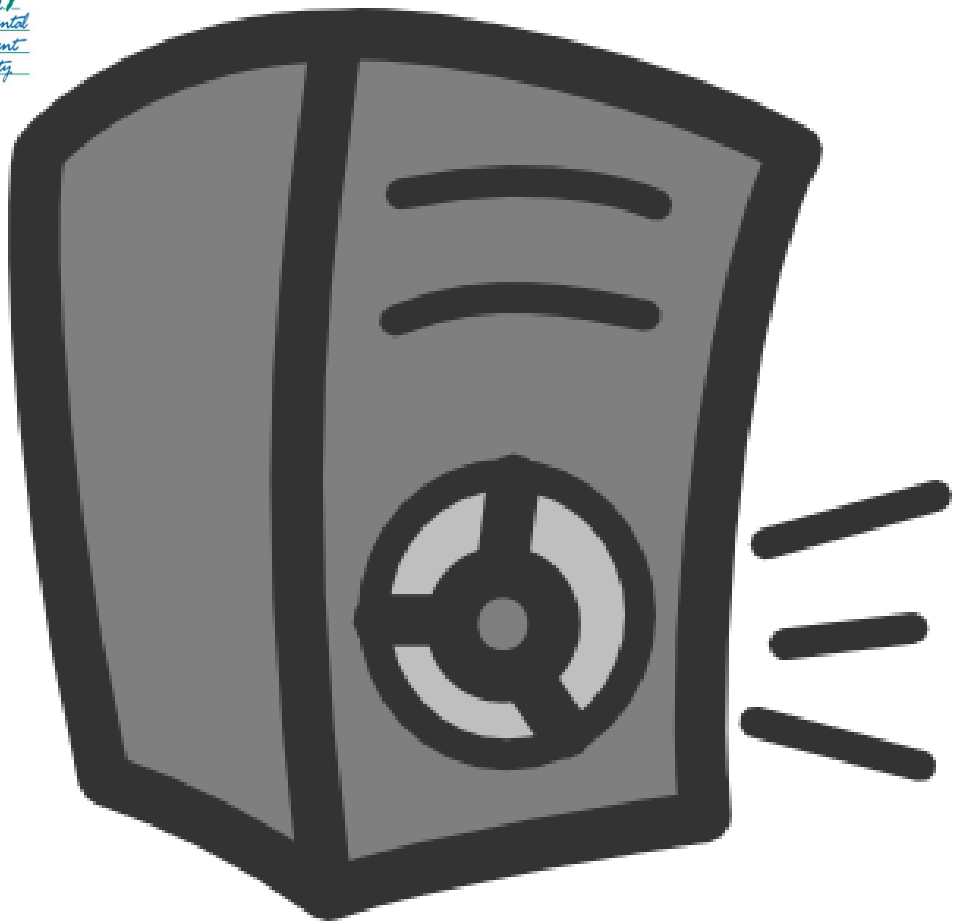

“from quarrying”


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“from farming”


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“from sewage”


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“from factories”

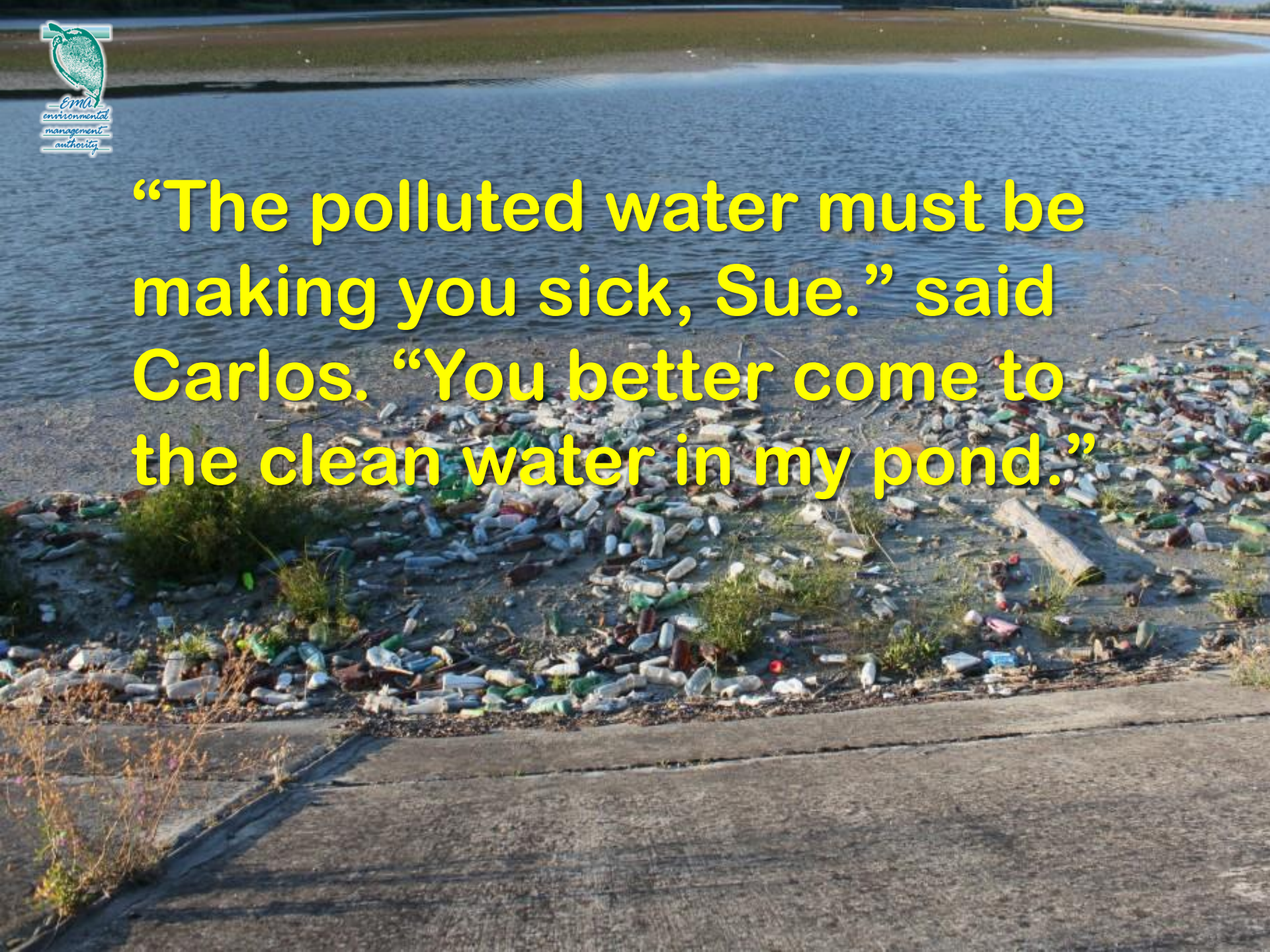

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“and from oil.”

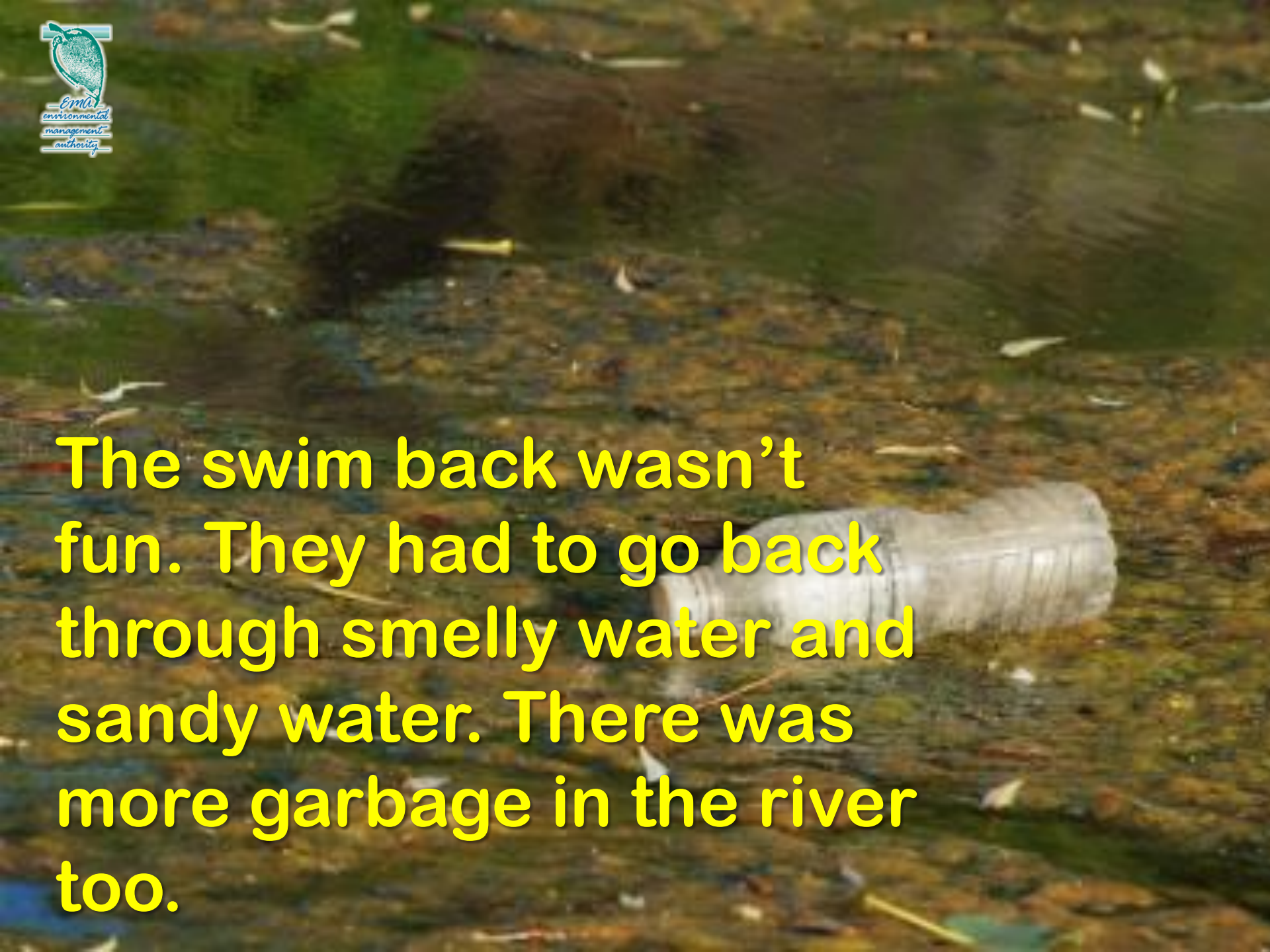


“Even noise pollution!”


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“I’m ready to go back home. I thought it would be nicer down here, or even fun, but it’s just smelly and there’s no food.”

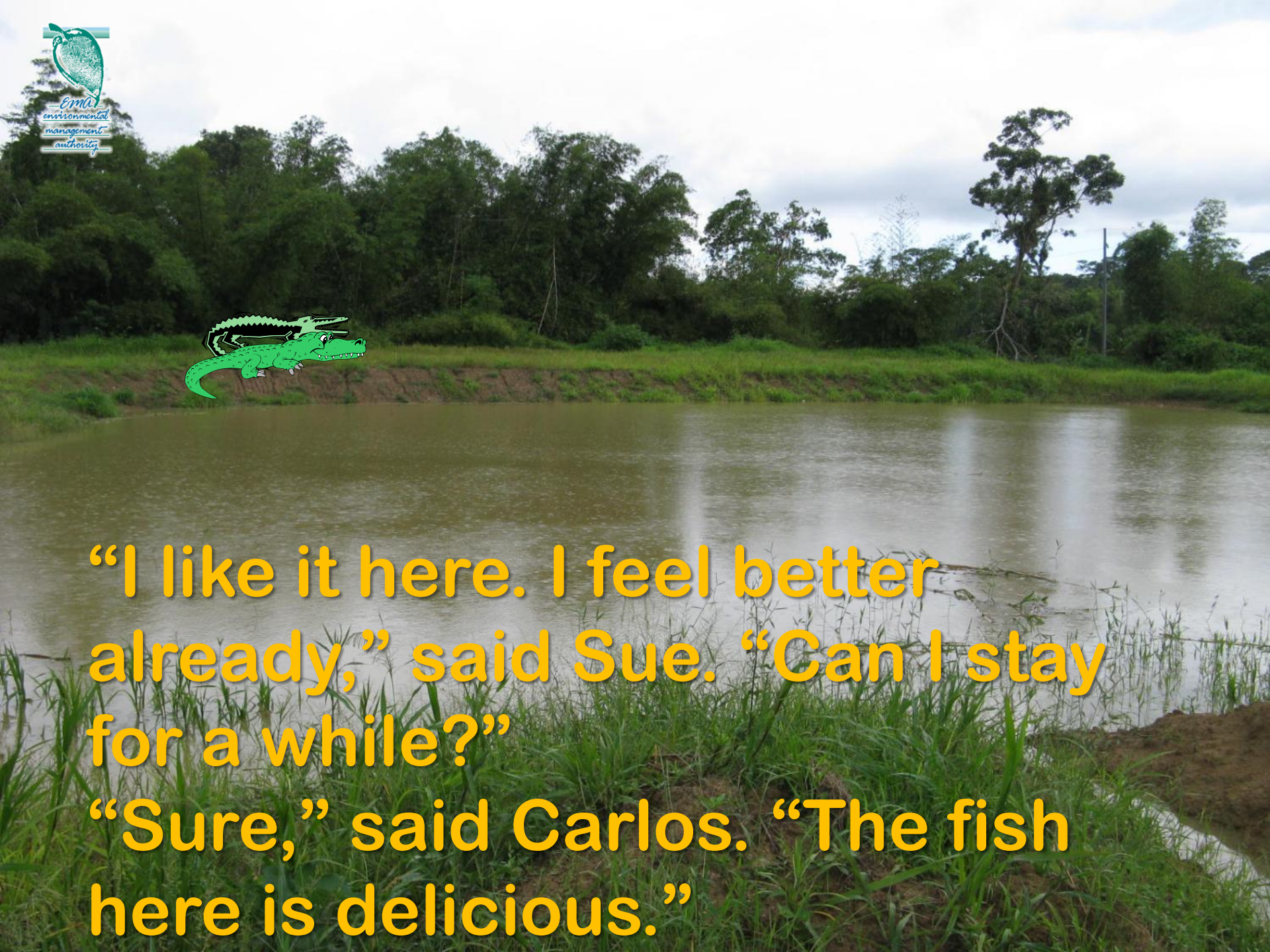

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“I don’t feel so good, Carlos.”
said Sue.


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“The polluted water must be making you sick, Sue.” said Carlos. “You better come to the clean water in my pond.”


The swim back wasn't fun. They had to go back through smelly water and sandy water. There was more garbage in the river too.

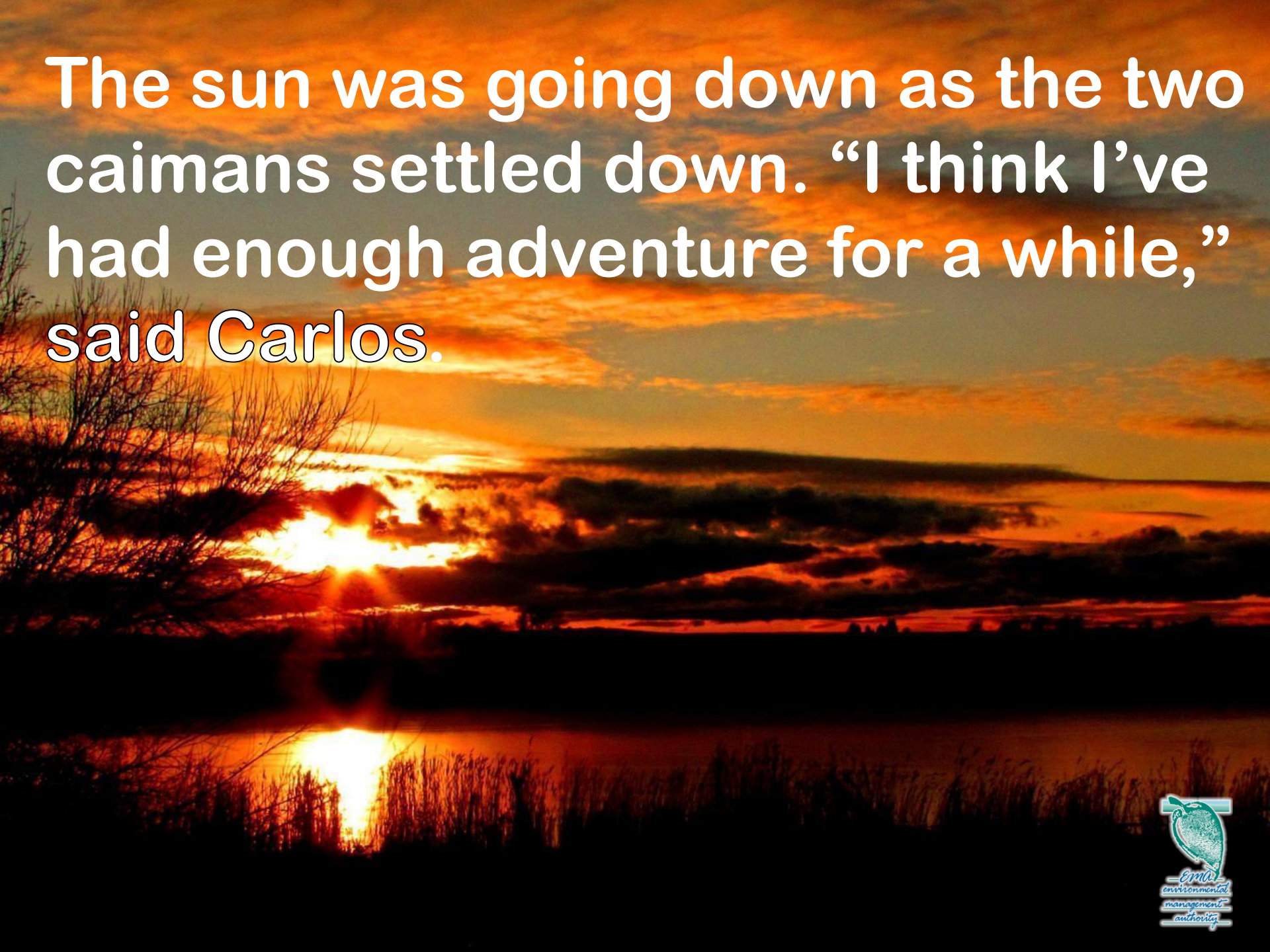
When they got back home,
Carlos was glad to see his pond.
“Even when this water is cloudy,
it’s not half so muddy as by that
quarry!”

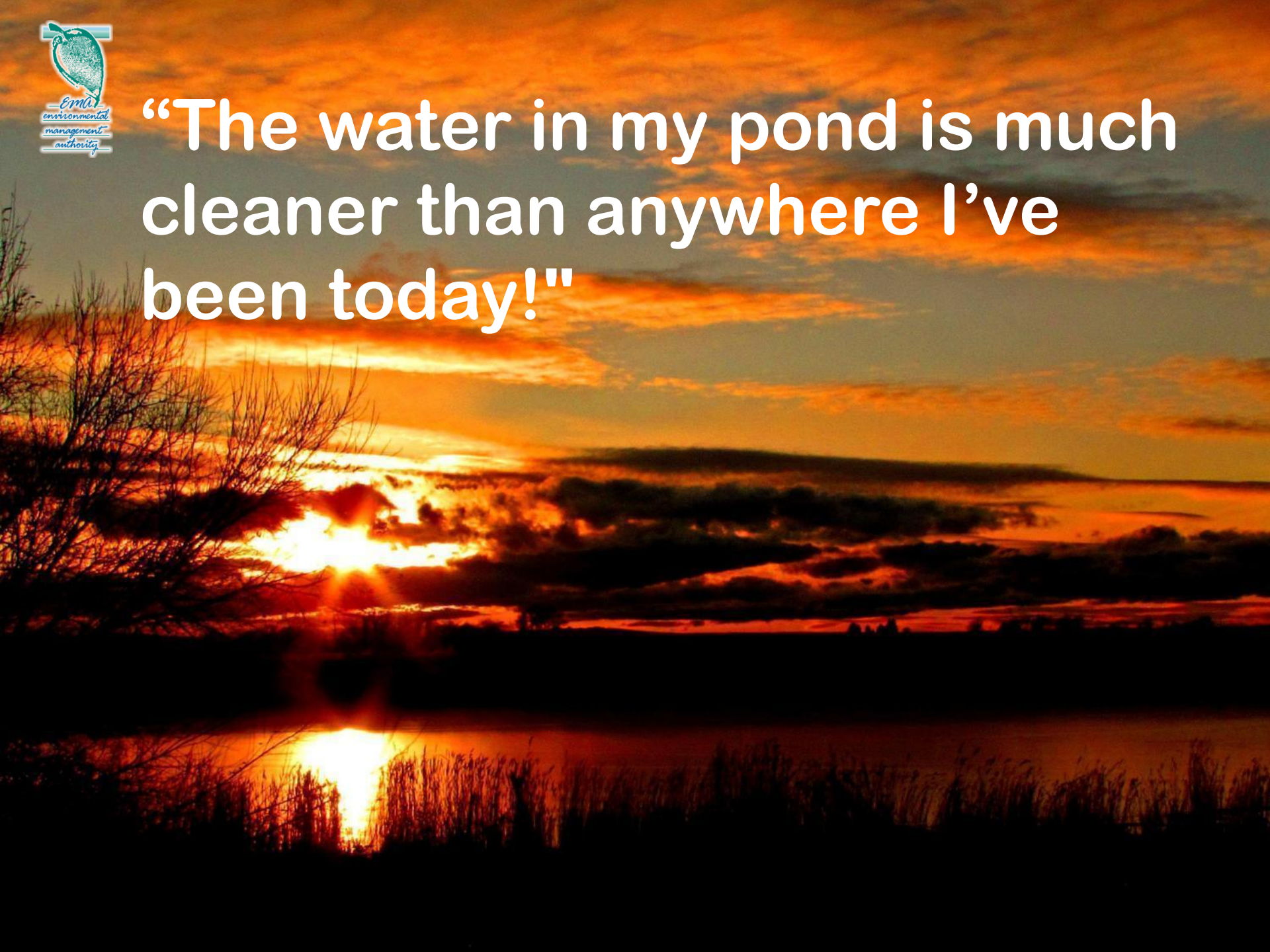




"I like it here. I feel better already," said Sue. "Can I stay for a while?"

"Sure," said Carlos. "The fish here is delicious."


The sun was going down as the two caimans settled down. “I think I’ve had enough adventure for a while,” said Carlos.


“The water in my pond is much cleaner than anywhere I’ve been today!"

What did you learn?

Name one source of water pollution.

Give an effect of water pollution.

What can you do to reduce pollution?



EMA says...

Less Waste, Cleaner Space

DON'T LITTER!