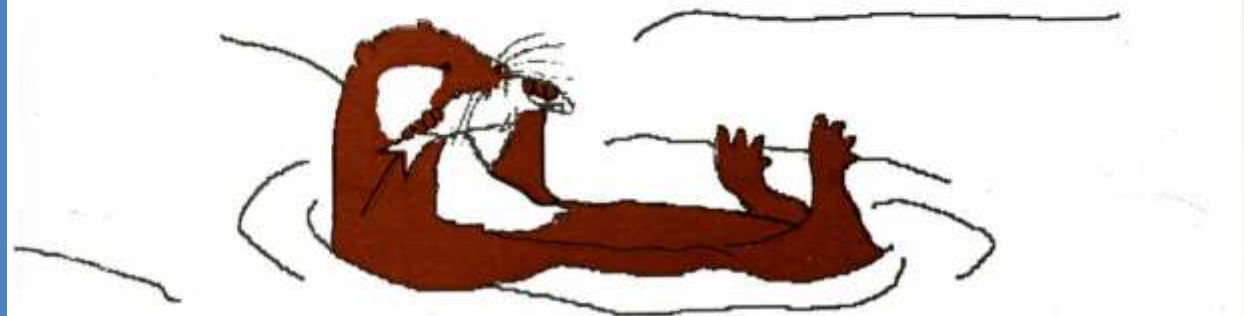
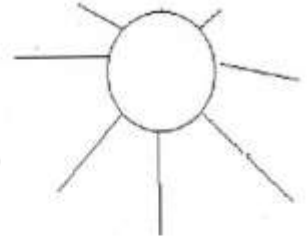


Wenyeji Wa Mtoni





AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION
of ZOO KEEPERS



*Meyer-Reed
Ecological Fund*



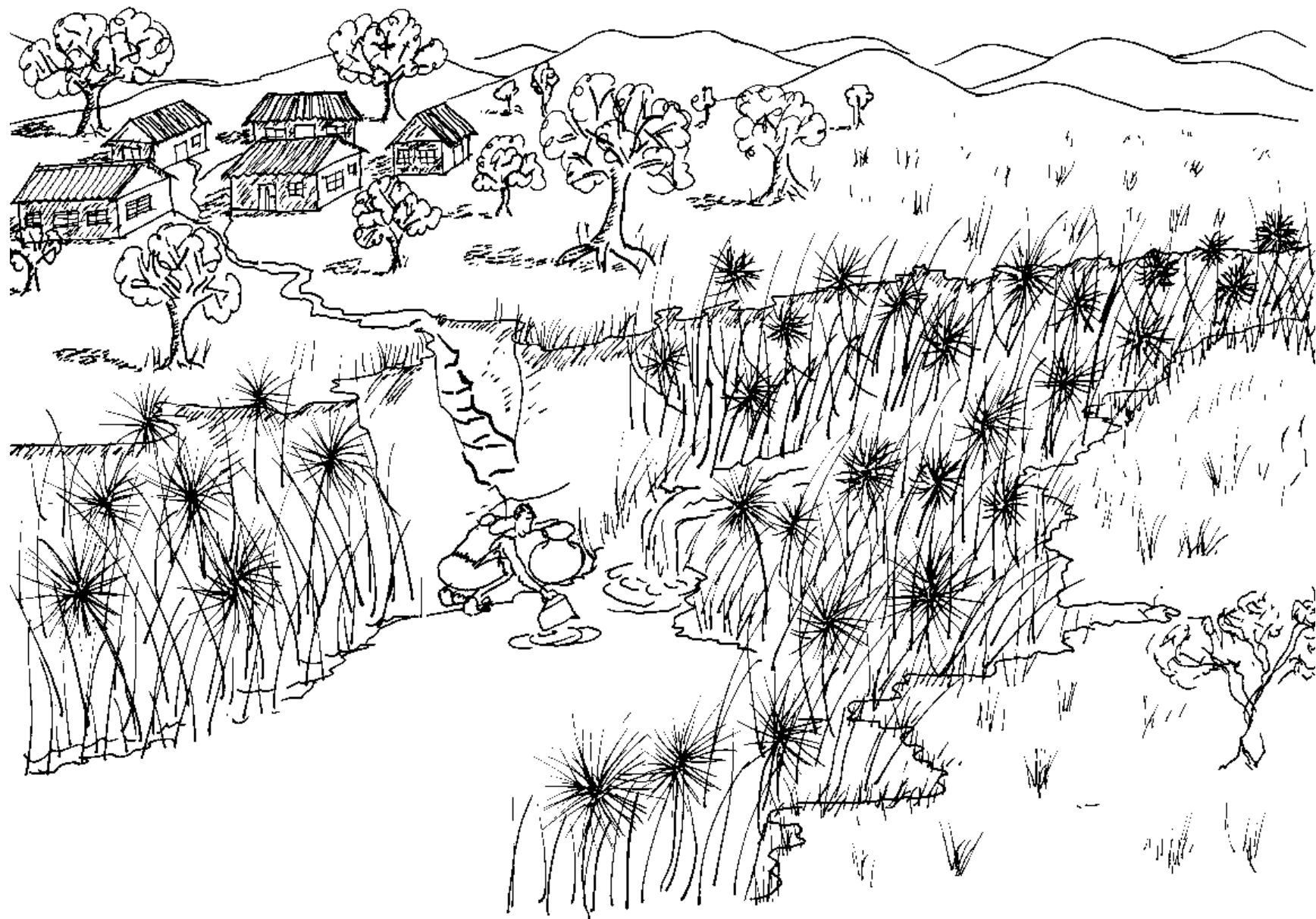
AZA Otter SSP

Riverine environments in East Africa have been abused and polluted by the very people who gain most from the rivers' resources. This threatens the survival of otters throughout the region. The aim of this colouring book is to introduce Primary school children to the importance of conserving this environment for the sake of their own well-being and the survival of aquatic fauna, particularly otters.

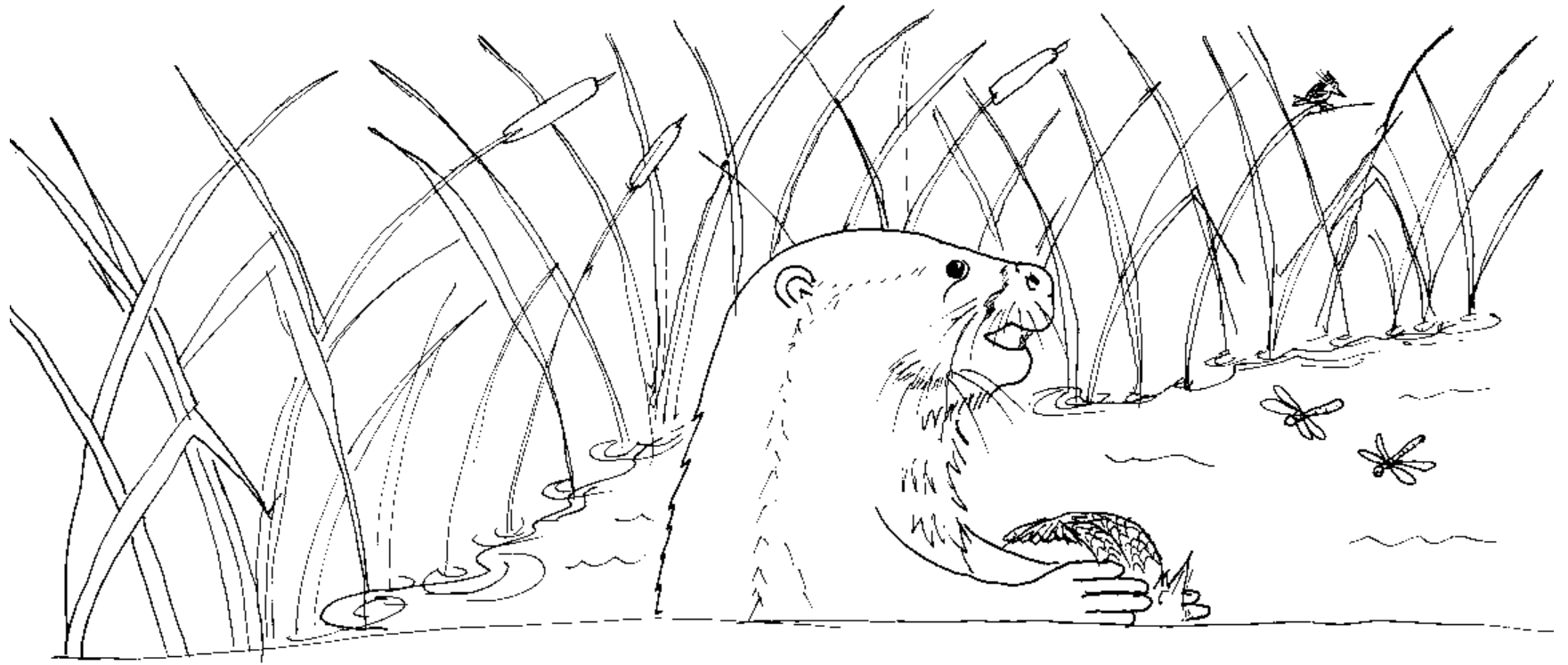
We would like to acknowledge the support obtained from the following donors; The American Association of Zoo Keepers, The American Zoo Association (Otter Species Survival Plan) and The Meyer-Reed Ecological fund. Without them, production of this book would not have been possible.

Drawings© Arthur Ogada and Mordecai Ogada
Text by Mordecai Ogada

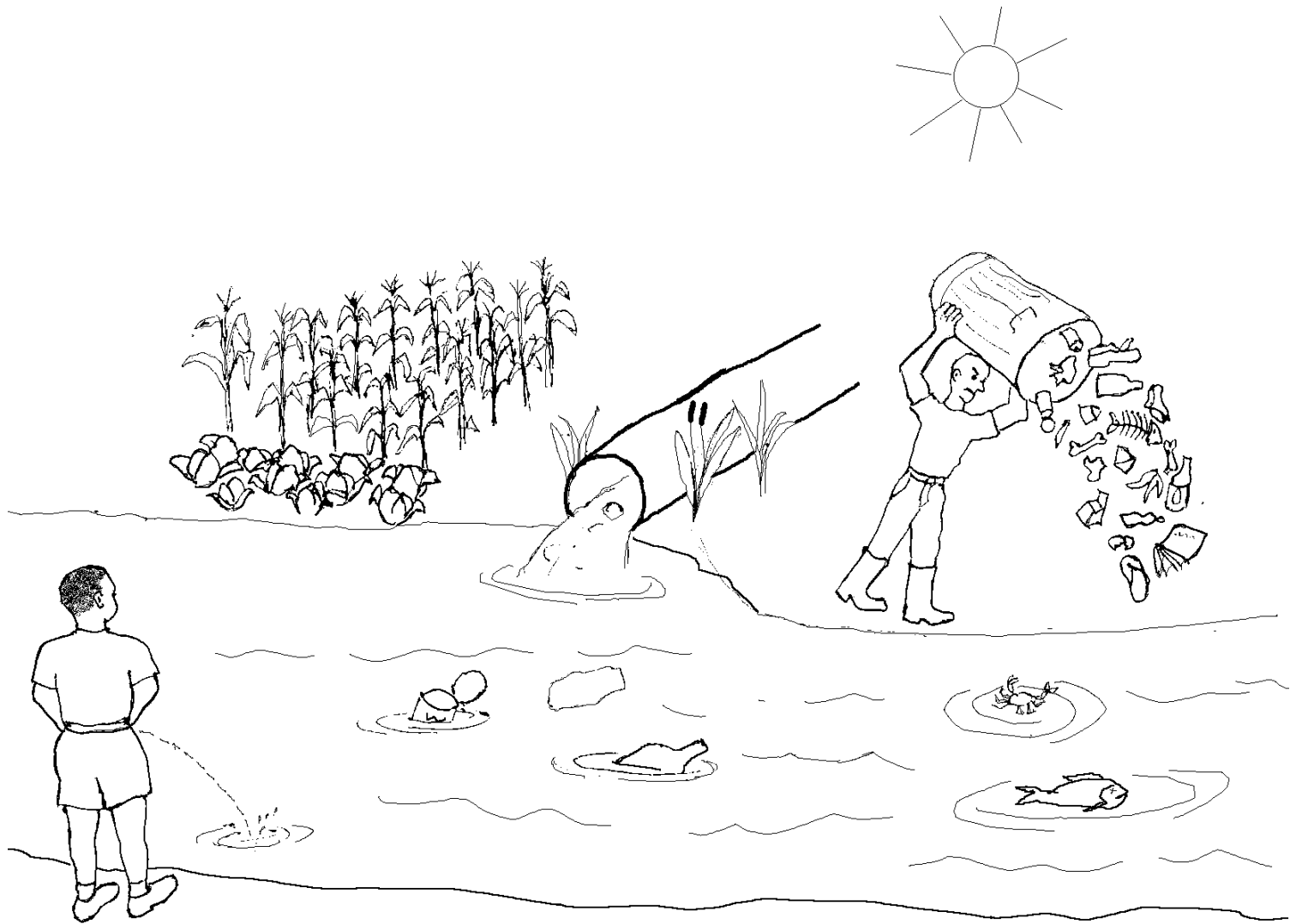
This is Mtoni Village. It is a near a river called Mto Safi. The villagers get water from the river for washing and drinking. Some of the children also have fun fishing.



Mto safi is the home of a very special animal called an otter. Have you ever seen one? You have to be very quiet and go down to the river or swamp early in the morning to see the otters. They can swim very well and they like eating crabs, worms, and frogs. Sometimes they eat a little fish. They like playing around in the river when there are no people around.

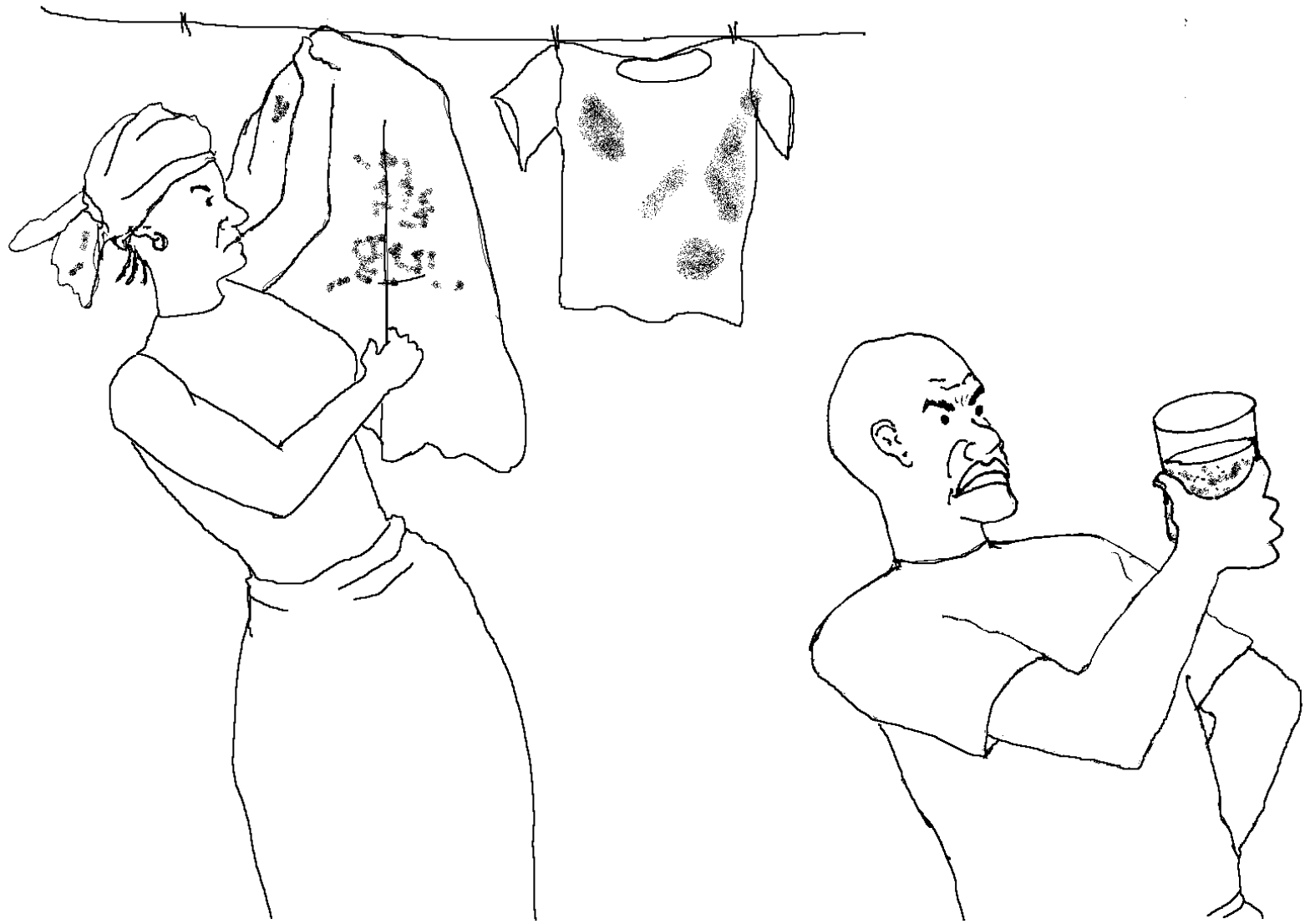


One day, the people in Mtoni started doing bad things. They were pouring sewerage into Mto safi, then Mr. Takataka started throwing rubbish into the river. Mr. Mkulima also started cultivating the riverbank and planting vegetables up to the water's edge. All this made Mto safi very dirty, and it became mto chafu.

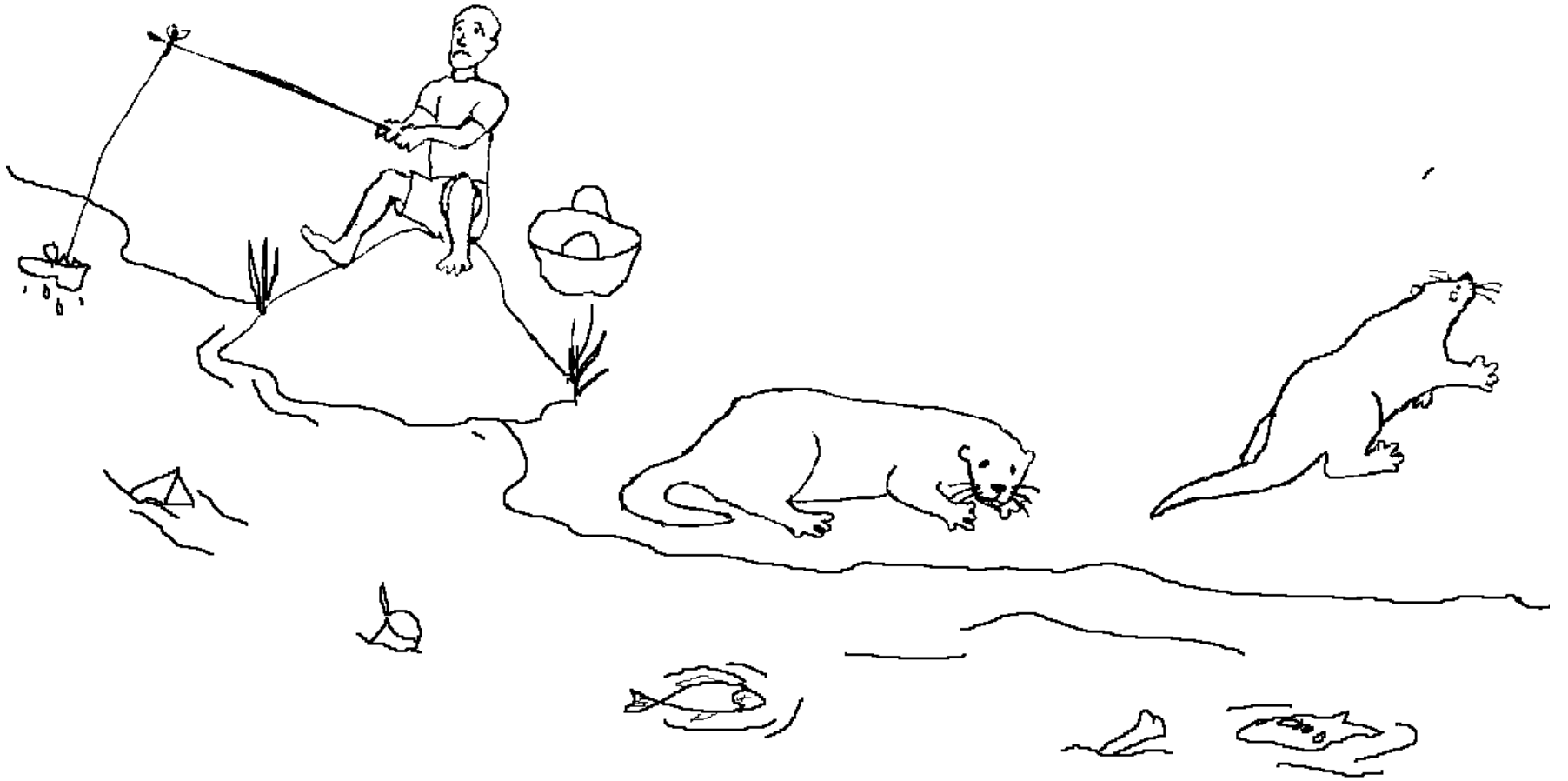




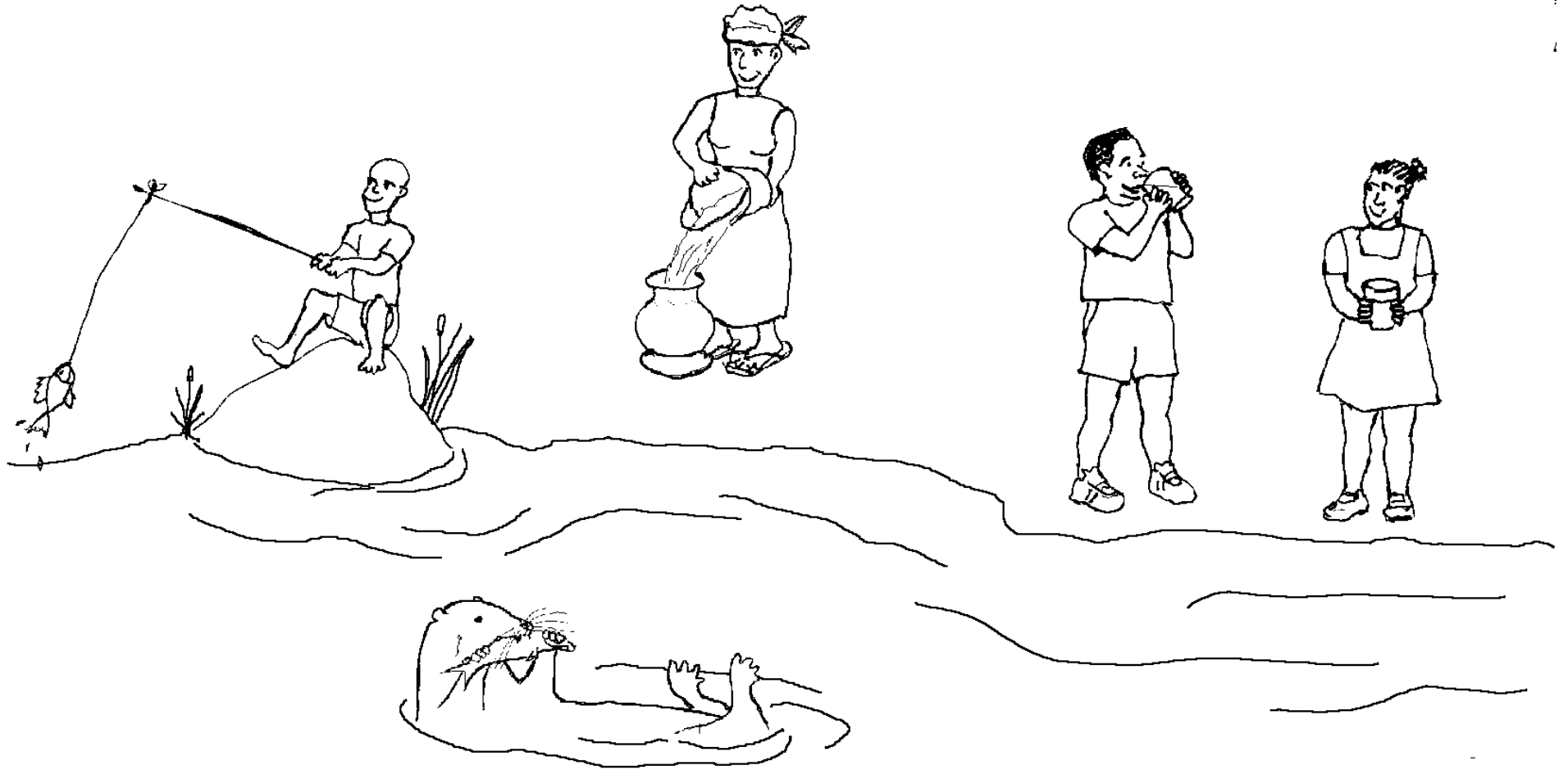
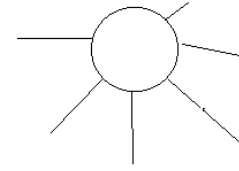
Bad things started happening in mtoni village. Mr. Takataka was thirsty and wanted a nice drink of water, but it was dirty and gave him a stomach ache! Mrs. Mkulima finished all her washing and all the clothes were still dirty because the water was brown! Mvuvi wanted to eat some fish for lunch so he went to the river to catch some but he only got a shoe and went hungry!!



All the fish and crabs had died, so the otters also had nothing to eat. They had to go away to find food in another river, and they were very sad, because they liked living in Mto safi.



Mr. Takataka felt bad and started burying his rubbish in a pit, then the villagers made a septic tank and poured their sewerage there. Mrs. Mkulima told Mr. Mkulima to stop farming on the riverbank, so he made a new vegetable farm behind his house. After some months mvuvi started catching fish again, Mrs. Mkulima could wash her clothes clean and everybody was drinking nice clean water.



The otters could also catch enough fish to eat and they were happy because they could come back and live in Mto safi again!

of the

