

## A potential tool to promote gender equity in fisheries?

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## Introduction

Fishing is often considered a male activity throughout the world. Estimates indicate, however, that women represent 47% of the global fisheries' workforce, encompassing about 56 million jobs in the harvest and post-harvest subsectors<sup>[1]</sup>. Nevertheless, the role of women in fisheries is often unrecognized, overlooked and underpaid worldwide<sup>[2]</sup>. Here, we evaluated the potential of a fisheries co-management scheme to substantially increase the access of women to fishing income, and to consequently enhance female recognition and empowerment. The scheme in focus was the arapaima (*Arapaima* sp.) co-management, a fishery scheme occurring in the Brazilian Amazon since the 2000s.

## Methods

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 143 women from 54 riverine communities along ~1,500 km of the Juruá river, a major tributary of the Amazon river.

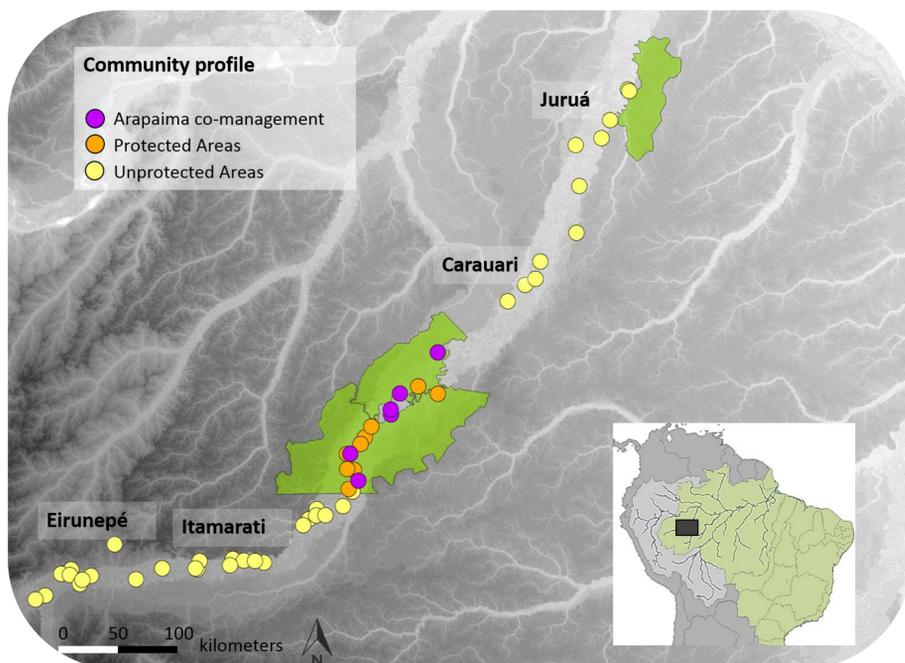
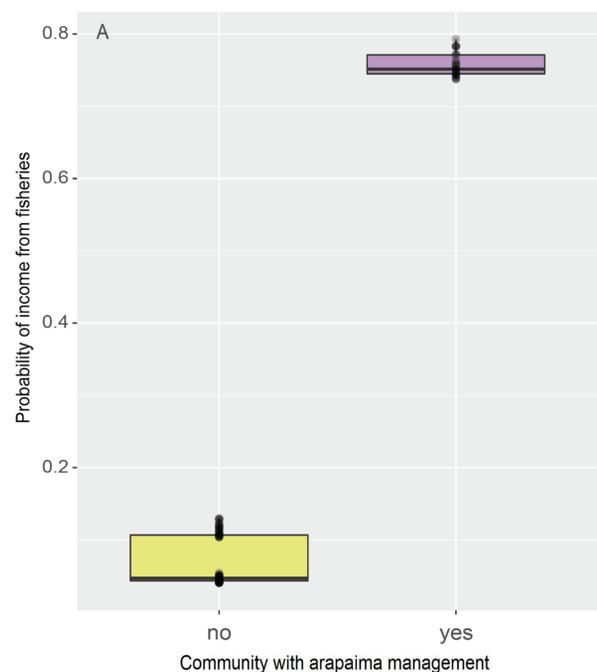
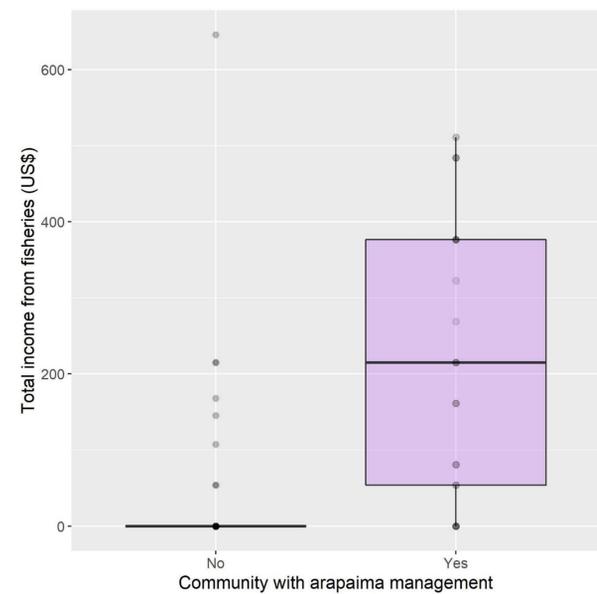


Photo: Carolina Freitas

## Results



***“Now we earn our own money; before we did not earn anything”***

## Discussion and Conclusions

Arapaima co-management embodies a groundbreaking novelty in the region by enabling women direct pay for their participation in a fisheries scheme.

- Chance out of invisibility
- More autonomy and power to the women
- Increased household budget share on food; enhanced family's nutrient intake and health; more benefits to the children<sup>[3-4]</sup>

Women inclusion was favored by specific features (e.g. labor division and capacity building).

Female participation is still geographically limited and much is needed to include women in the decision-making processes and to reach actual gender equity. Nevertheless, it represents a step forward in women recognition in fisheries and could serve as a model to be adapted to other fisheries schemes worldwide.

## References

- [1] World Bank. 2012. Hidden Harvest - The Global Contribution of Capture Fisheries.  
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