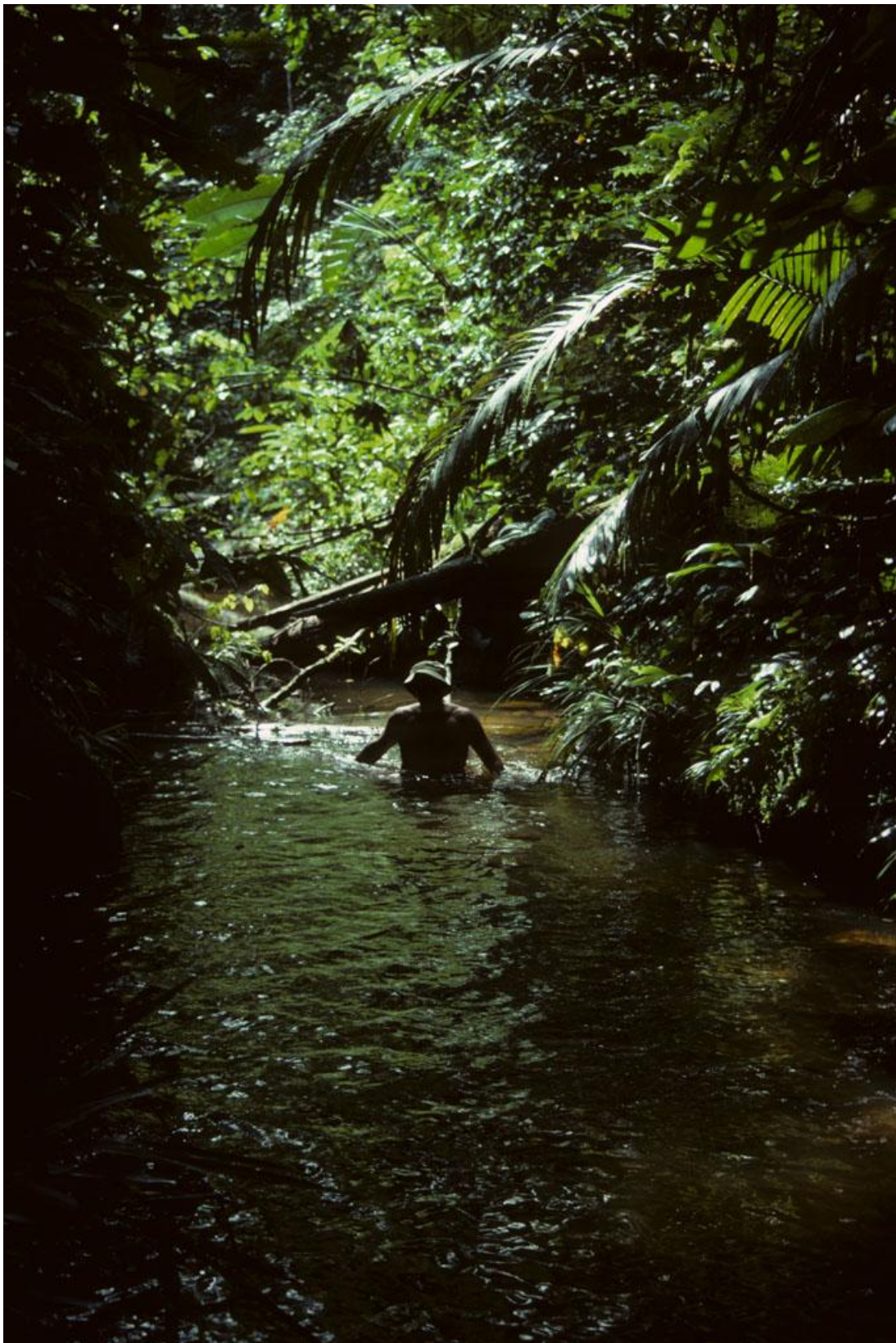


Wading through a jungle stream near Misahualli, Ecuador

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Wading through a jungle stream near Misahualli, Ecuador

A man wades through a chest-high stream. The verdant jungle encloses both sides of the stream. Misahualli, Ecuador is a small port town at the junction of the Misahualli and Napo rivers. It is a popular tourist destination due to its proximity to the Ecuadorian Amazon rainforest. Ecuador's Amazonian rainforest is one of the world's most biologically diverse regions. It is home to thousands of species of plant and animal life. Because the region is isolated it retains much of its original vegetation. Only recently has oil production threatened the isolation of this natural enclave.



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