Session 4: Identifying needs and challenges, and opportunities for action and collaboration in relation to adaptation monitoring, evaluation and learning

Emilie Beauchamp, Lead on MEL for adaptation
NAP Global Network / IISD
Adaptation Forum - March 19th 2024

NAP Global Network

IISD
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About the NAP Global Network

Our Goal: Enhance national adaptation planning and action in developing countries

What we do

Support national-level action on NAP development & implementation.

Help countries learn from each other through South-South peer learning and exchange.

Generate, synthesize, & share knowledge on NAP processes.

Our reach

63 developing countries have received direct technical support.

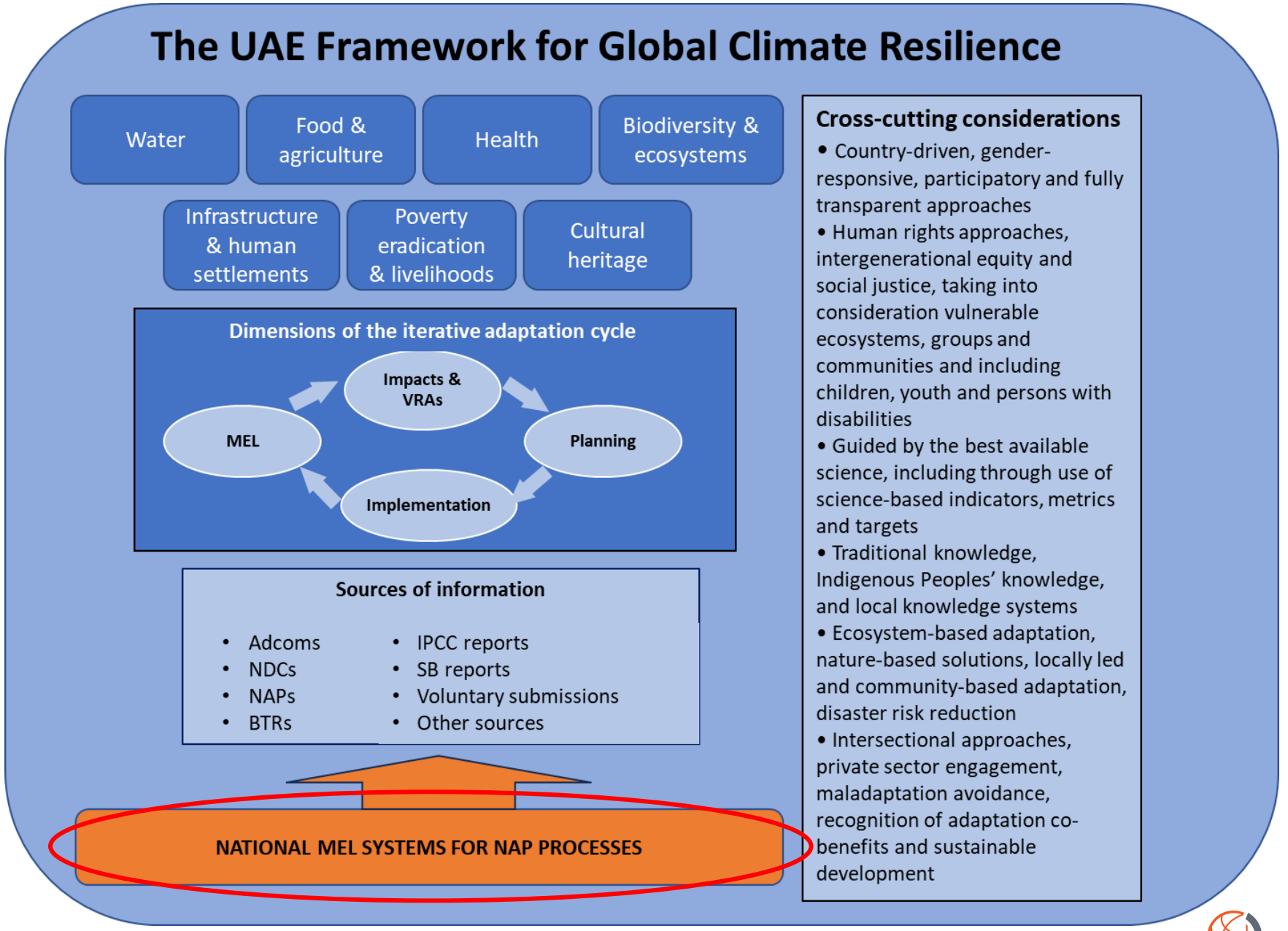
400+ people from more than **55** countries in peer learning & exchanges.

300+ knowledge materials have been produced.

Agenda

1. *The UNFCCC framing for MEL – in line with the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience (FGCR)*
2. *What are challenges – for countries?*
3. *What are good practices – for countries?*
4. *What are opportunities - for countries and globally?*

The recent UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience gives us incentives and framings for assessing adaptation progress – through MEL systems



The Enhanced Transparency Framework and the UNFCCC provide

There are a variety of planning, communicating and reporting instruments – which serve as sources of information for the UAE FGCR: NDCs, NAPs, Adcoms, National Communications, BTRs, other national progress reports

This means reporting burden on countries should be reduced…

… yet without **national MEL systems for NAP processes** (including reporting governance) countries can difficulty organize to use and **provide this information locally, nationally and globally.**

Coherence of Information Across Planning and Reporting Instruments

Information Required in A-BTR	NAP	AdCom	NAP Progress Reporting
Adaptation-related national circumstances, priorities, governance structure and institutions, laws, policies, and regulations	✓	✓	✓
Observed and expected impacts, risks, climate trends and hazards, and information on vulnerability and adaptation assessments	✓	✓	✓
Research on adaptation and vulnerabilities			
Adaptation goals, actions, plans, policies, priorities, and efforts	✓	✓	✓
Adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans, and mitigation co-benefits	✓	✓	✓
Stakeholder involvement and consultations	✓	●	●
Implementation of adaptation actions, plans, and policies		✓	✓
Integration of adaptation into development efforts and other policies	✓	●	
Gender-responsiveness and integration	✓	✓	

Information Required in A-BTR	NAP	AdCom	NAP Progress Reporting
Scientific, Traditional, Indigenous, and local knowledge and their integration	✓	✓	
Effectiveness and sustainability of adaptation		●	✓
Barriers, challenges, and gaps related to implementation	✓	✓	✓
Monitoring, evaluation, and learning, and relevant systems and indicators	✓	✓	✓
Cooperation, good practices, experiences, and lessons learned		✓	✓
Contribution of adaptation to other international frameworks	✓	✓	✓
Implementation and support needs of developing countries	●	✓	●
Support provided to developing countries, including on adaptation		✓	
How support meets adaptation needs		●	✓
Information related to loss and damage	●	●	

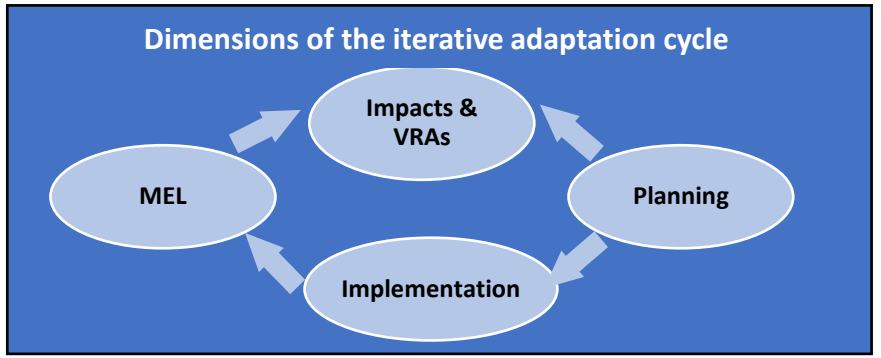
Challenge(s): MEL systems for adaptation must be contextual and nationally / locally owned to be effective

You cannot copy/paste a MEL system from a country to the other, nor apply top-down indicators without contextualization.

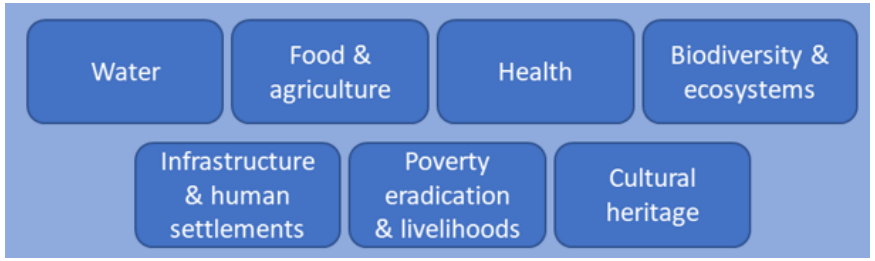
- Countries must follow the iterative adaptation cycle to identify which priorities, sectors, actions – which their MEL system must track and assess
  - *E.g. Fiji's cross-referencing adaptation and SDGs*

- Resources for MEL of adaptation actions and processes are not budgeted proportionally to achieve the goal of learning from M&E, and improving adaptation decisions

- Complexity (and lack of resources) in integrating gender responsive and socially inclusive views, priorities, and groups in MEL processes.



Dimensions and themes… where to start?



What is the status of MEL across NAP documents to date?

trends.napglobalnetwork.org

NAP TRENDS

% of NAPs with monitoring, evaluation & learning (MEL) frameworks

% of NAPs with commitment to progress reporting

% of NAPs with adaptation indicators defined

Good practices: Exchanges should focus on the process of developing & implementing M-E-L

All countries have *some* data on adaptation. All countries are continuously improving their MEL systems for adaptation. All countries nonetheless struggle to collate, coordinate, analyze, report, and learn….

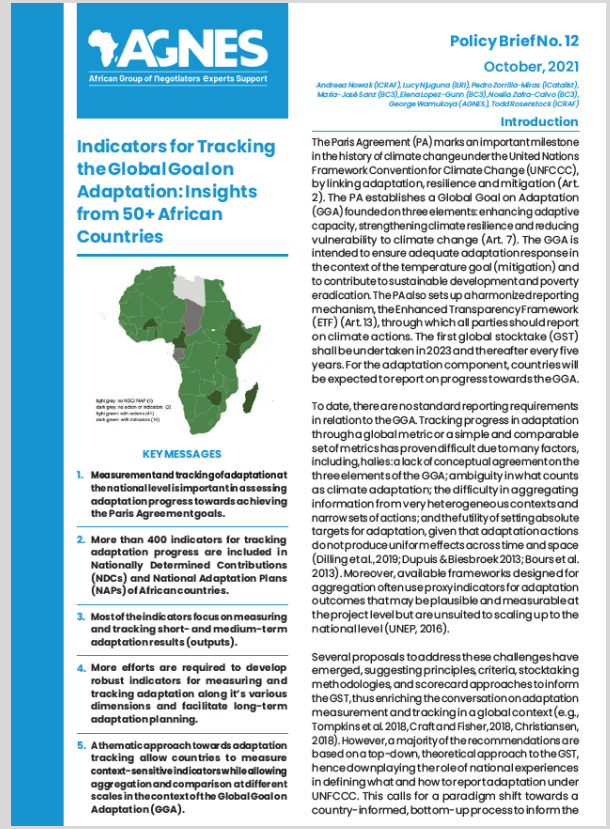
- Using a phased approach(es) - whether regional, sectoral, vertically integrated, time bound.
- Start small, pilot, scale up.
- Start planning and implementing your MEL system from the onset of your adaptation planning.
- Budget MEL as an activity as part of your NAP processes, not as an aside. Your MEL system must go beyond project or strategy time frames to assess outcomes and impacts.

Opportunities: Exchanges should focus on the *process* of developing & implementing M-E-L

A variety of learning-oriented activities are needed to support countries in developing, implementing and strengthening MEL systems.

- Focus on sharing *how* rather than *what:* overfocusing on compiling indicators does not share applicable knowledge; countries need support to develop and contextualize their own systems.
- There is a need to increase understanding of Evaluations and Learning vs. monitoring.
- Peer-to-peer learning that builds partnerships between countries, and between actors within countries, are critical to set new relationships, trust – and sharing data.
    - *E.g.: learning cohorts, group peer learning, 1:1 as part of the NAP Global Network*
- Alignment, integration and reviews with other global frameworks (Sendai, SDGs, CBD)…

"More than 400 indicators for tracking adaptation progress are included in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) of African countries."



AGNES
African Group of Negotiators Experts Support

Policy Brief No. 12
October, 2021

Andreea Nowok (ICRAF), Lucy Njuguna (ELRI), Pedro Zorrilla-Miras (ICatalist), María- José Sanz (BC3), Elena Lopez-Gunn (BC3), Noella Zafra-Calvo (BC3), George Wamuliyoya (AGNES), Todd Rosenstock (ICRAF)

Indicators for Tracking the Global Goal on Adaptation: Insights from 50+ African Countries

KEY MESSAGES

1. Measurement and tracking of adaptation at the national level is important in assessing adaptation progress towards achieving the Paris Agreement goals.
2. More than 400 indicators for tracking adaptation progress are included in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) of African countries.
3. Most of the indicators focus on measuring and tracking short- and medium-term adaptation results (outputs).
4. More efforts are required to develop robust indicators for measuring and tracking adaptation along it's various dimensions and facilitate long-term adaptation planning.
5. A thematic approach towards adaptation tracking allow countries to measure context-sensitive indicators while allowing aggregation and comparison at different scales in the context of the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA).

Introduction

The Paris Agreement (PA) marks an important milestone in the history of climate change under the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC), by linking adaptation, resilience and mitigation (Art. 2). The PA establishes a Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) founded on three elements: enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening climate resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change (Art. 7). The GGA is intended to ensure adequate adaptation response in the context of the temperature goal (mitigation) and to contribute to sustainable development and poverty eradication. The PA also sets up a harmonized reporting mechanism, the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) (Art. 13), through which all parties should report on climate actions. The first global stocktake (GST) shall be undertaken in 2023 and thereafter every five years. For the adaptation component, countries will be expected to report on progress towards the GGA.

To date, there are no standard reporting requirements in relation to the GGA. Tracking progress in adaptation through a global metric or a simple and comparable set of metrics has proven difficult due to many factors, including, hallies: a lack of conceptual agreement on the three elements of the GGA; ambiguity in what counts as climate adaptation; the difficulty in aggregating information from very heterogeneous contexts and narrow sets of actions; and the futility of setting absolute targets for adaptation, given that adaptation actions do not produce uniform effects across time and space (Dilling et al., 2019; Dupuis & Biesbroek 2013; Bours et al. 2013). Moreover, available frameworks designed for aggregation often use proxy indicators for adaptation outcomes that may be plausible and measurable at the project level but are unsuited to scaling up to the national level (UNEP, 2016).

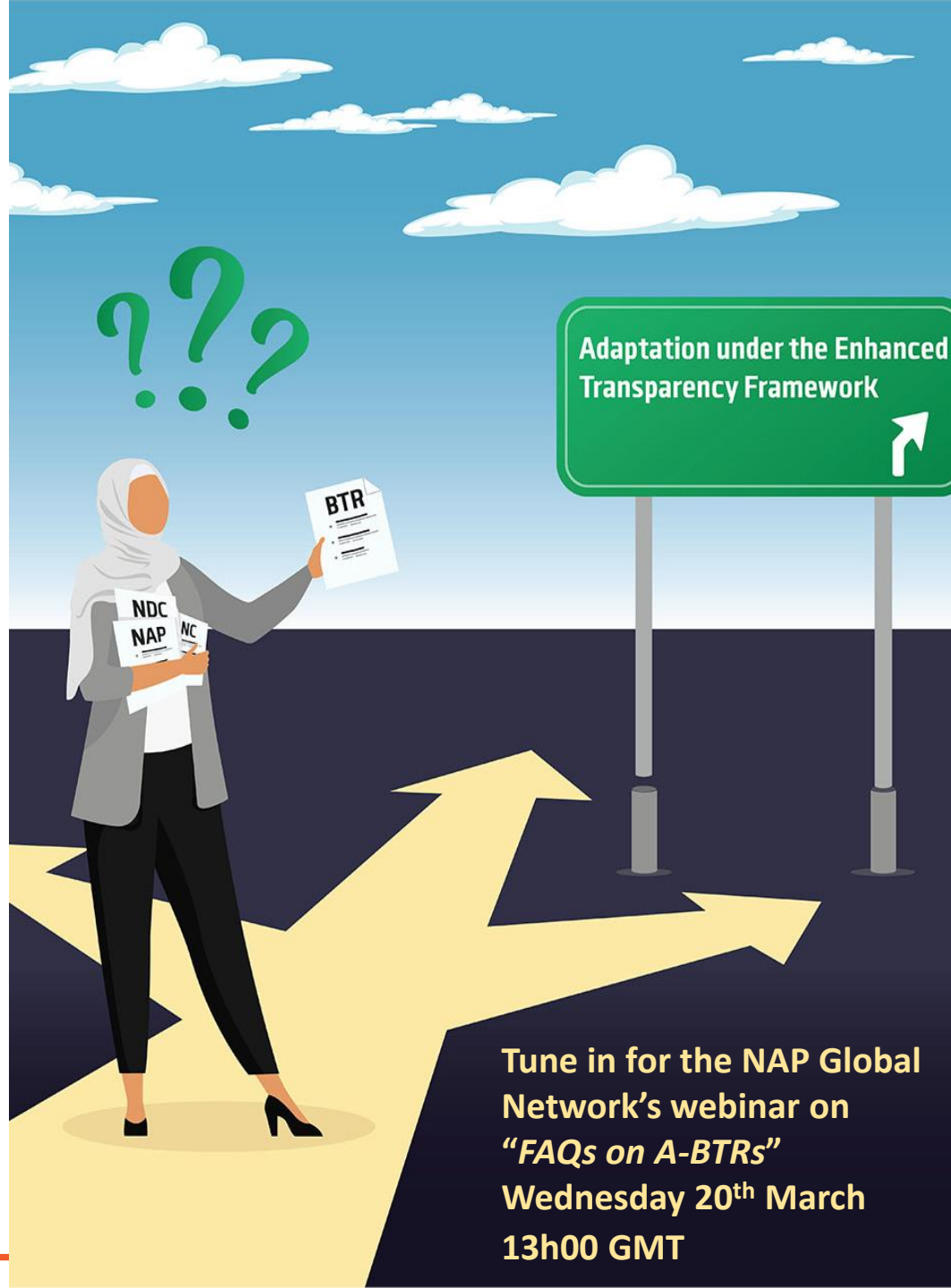
Several proposals to address these challenges have emerged, suggesting principles, criteria, stocktaking methodologies, and scorecard approaches to inform the GST, thus enriching the conversation on adaptation measurement and tracking in a global context (e.g., Tompkins et al. 2018, Craft and Fisher, 2018, Christiansen, 2018). However, a majority of the recommendations are based on a top-down, theoretical approach to the GST, hence downplaying the role of national experiences in defining what and how to report adaptation under UNFCCC. This calls for a paradigm shift towards a country-informed, bottom-up process to inform the

Nowok et al,. 2021. https://agnes-africa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Policy-brief-12_Indicators_for_tracking_the_Global_-Goal_on_Adaptation_insights_from_50_African_countries_07102021.pdf

Opportunities: for global learning and sharing

Several opportunities in the next years to support MEL systems in countries – which are the building blocks for global MEL and evidence.

- The review of the LEG's Technical Guidelines for NAP Process – in line with Decision 2/CMA5
- Mandates and invitations for the AC, LEG, and CGE to provide support and guidance for MEL – to support the UAE FGCR
- Biennial Transparency Report deadline – countries can start putting together progress reports
  - *E.g.: learning cohorts, group peer learning, 1:1 as part of the NAP Global Network*
- Ongoing work of the AC (and other bodies) on M&E and MEL
  - *E.g.: forthcoming Toolkit on MEL for NAP processes (publication April 2024)*



- WHAT do you want to learn more specifically about MEL systems for adaptation?

- HOW do you want to learn (what modality)?

Thank you!

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