**Progress Report:** Zero Draft Outcomes-Based Framework

December 2023



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### 01 Executive Summary

This report outlines the work Regen10 is undertaking to develop a farmer-centric, outcomes-based framework that supports the transition to regenerative global food systems. When complete, the framework will provide a holistic set of outcomes, indicators and metrics to understand and measure change that happens over time on farms and across landscapes.

The framework is being developed in a genuinely inclusive way that ensures the voices and needs of farmers and landscape stewards, including Indigenous Peoples, are incorporated.

To develop the zero draft of the framework, Regen10 analyzed more than 150 frameworks to understand their purpose, scope and the type of data they requested. The analysis found that despite the significant number of existing frameworks, there was a focus on practices instead of outcomes; they did not incentivize primary data; they took a siloed approach by focusing on a subset of issues, such as environment or soil health; and most had limited information on the framework publicly available.

Published at COP28, Regen10's zero draft outcomesbased framework prioritizes environmental, economic and socio-cultural outcomes at farm and landscape level. Regen10 will be testing the framework with key stakeholder groups through dialogue, consultations and on-the-ground trials throughout 2024.

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# (2) O2 Introduction

To establish food systems that are climate, nature and people-positive at scale, we need a clear method agreed by all stakeholders, that can measure progress and assess whether the agricultural production transformation we need is on track.

There are a wealth of practices, knowledge and experiences in use today. Some of these have been at the heart of traditional and indigenous food systems for generations. However, we still lack a shared understanding and evidence base that demonstrates how these approaches can contribute to creating more regenerative food systems globally.

Regen10 was set up to bridge this knowledge gap and to drive collaboration. It does so by adopting an inclusive approach, based on the knowledge and lived experiences of farmers, landscape stewards and other actors from across food systems. To guide its work, Regen10 commits to adopting 10 overarching Principles, set out in full in Annex 1. The Regen10 outcomes-based framework is under development by the Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU), World Farmers' Organisation (WFO), World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Sustainable Food Trust (SFT).





## () 03 Theory of Change

To scale climate, nature and people-positive food systems, we need a clear method agreed amongst all stakeholders, to measure progress and assess whether the agricultural production transformation we need is on track.

Attitudes around the food-climate nexus are evolving. We are now beginning to understand the inherent link between environmental, economic and socio-cultural factors and how they influence and affect the way in which our food is produced. There are many existing frameworks, but the way changes are measured on farms still focuses, for the most part, on environmental and economic metrics only – and on practices rather than outcomes.

**Theory of Change:** To address this issue, Regen10 are developing a farmer-centric outcomes-based framework to complement existing approaches, which is holistic and does not favor certain practices over others. The framework is being developed in an inclusive manner - through a process of dialogue - that ensures the voices and needs of farmers and landscape stewards, including Indigenous Peoples, are incorporated. The framework, when applied, will be of use to farmers and landscape stewards by enabling the collection of primary data at farm and landscape level.

With this data, farmers and landscape stewards will better understand the impacts of different agricultural practices across a comprehensive set of outcomes. Additionally, by using this data to build a broad and global evidence base, farmers and other food systems actors will be able to develop a roadmap that helps them achieve climate, nature and people-positive food systems – i.e., to understand what practices deliver what outcomes in what landscapes.

The data and evidence will allow farmers and landscape stewards to be rewarded for positive outcomes and to mobilize finance, thus accelerating the transition to more regenerative food systems.



Regen10 is constantly learning, and our theory of change will evolve accordingly. We will review our theory of change periodically to ensure it continues to be fit-for-purpose and backed by evidence from practice, science, rights-holders and landscape stewards, and to make sure it can be adapted to multiple contexts.

Driving impact: Farmers and landscape stewards are the owners of the data and should decide collectively how to manage and share their data through organized structures, such as farmers' organizations and cooperatives. Farmers and landscape stewards can then:

- Drive policy: Leveraging this new evidence base ٠ and advocating for changes to regulation that better support their needs. The data can also be shared with policy makers to enable datadriven and evidence-based policy decisions.
- Share data with corporate actors: Farmers and landscape stewards can decide to share their data with companies, so that companies can better understand how the supply chain can empower and incentivize farmers and landscape stewards to transition to more regenerative practices.

Partnership with Corporate Frameworks: To do this at scale, businesses and existing corporate

reporting frameworks should be guided by the Regen10 outcomes-based framework. Regen10's framework will act as a blueprint for existing frameworks, especially those focused on corporate reporting. It will guide them as to how the metrics can evolve, ensuring all actors consider livelihoods, nature and climate with equal priority. We are in discussions with the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative Platform (SAI Platform) who recently released 'Regenerating Together' – an industry-wide, global framework on regenerative agriculture, enabling alignment across our respective environmental outcomes and metrics. In time, we hope that Regen10 can support the Regenerating Together program to integrate economic, social and cultural aspects. Aligning on a holistic approach and converging on outcomes and metrics from farm to corporate disclosure level would allow companies to understand fully how their suppliers are making the transition to regenerative practices - and would enable them to act accordingly.

**Trade-offs:** By collecting data across a complete set of outcomes, farmers and other food systems actors will be able to understand the trade-offs and risks that different practices will offer. For example, better understanding can be gained of the trade-off between increasing yields or profit at the expense of farmer wellbeing or environmental impact – a relationship which would affect a farm's long-term resilience.

The journey to regenerative: The goal of the framework is to enable the transition to regenerative food systems. To do so, actors will need to demonstrate progress against all of the frameworks' outcomes at farm and landscape level, thereby setting clear expectations that only approaches which deliver on all the elements of the system environmental, socio-cultural, and economic - can be credibly claimed to be shifting towards regenerative food systems. This data collection and progress tracking at farm and landscape levels can also show how food systems can make a meaningful contribution to broader global goals, including the Paris Agreement, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and the Global Biodiversity Framework.

It is important to acknowledge that transitioning to a holistic vision of regenerative food systems is a journey – and a journey that will take time. Regen10's outcomes-based framework will help actors to take steps along this path, enabling data provision and collection to track progress over time. Regen10 will seek to outline what this journey might look like by identifying items that can be measured now compared to those that will need to be measured in the future. By identifying the data that is most difficult and costly to collect, we expect to support actors in prioritizing metrics as well as informing incentive structures that enable enhanced data collection.

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# 04 Analysis of Existing and Emerging Frameworks

Regen10's initial hypothesis was that despite the significant number of existing frameworks, they largely focus on practices instead of outcomes, did not incentivize primary data and took a siloed approach by focusing on a subset of issues, such as carbon or soil health.

To test our hypothesis, we conducted a wide-ranging analysis of more than 150 frameworks to understand their purpose, scope and the kind of data they ask for. Our key findings were that:

- Many frameworks measure practices as a proxy: • Measuring and reporting practices (e.g., cover crops or no till) as a proxy for achieving regenerative food systems does not fairly reflect what is happening on the ground because agriculture is highly context specific.
- The majority of frameworks do not specify what type of data should be collected: For example, an outcome in a framework might be 'improved soil health' but the framework does not specify if a) the data collected should be primary data from the farm or modelled secondary data (which often uses averaged data from the global north), or b) the data relies on practice-based

assumptions (e.g. introducing cover crops leads to healthy soils) or actual outcomes-based data (e.g. asking for soil health metrics).

- Few frameworks ask for outcomes-based primary data and these largely focus only on biophysical elements: For those that do specify what type of data should be collected, only around 10% collect any form of outcomes-based primary data. However, these often focus on a subset of issues or combine practices and outcomes. There is a clear lack of frameworks that capture socio-cultural outcomes alongside environment and economic outcomes.
- Many frameworks have limited information publicly available, especially in regard to indicators and metrics.

Based on this analysis, Regen10 developed an outcomes-based framework that is farmercentric, and which enables the collection of primary data across a holistic set of outcomes.

Following the initial broad analysis, Regen10 selected a subset of 18 farm and landscape level frameworks (listed in Annex 2) that aligned most closely to Regen10's objectives and mission. The analysis explored the similarities and differences of the outcomes, indicators and metrics used across the different frameworks to determine Regen10's zero draft. The analysis revealed that: a) frameworks are most closely aligned around environmental outcomes but there is a distinct lack of socio-cultural outcomes. b) many frameworks combine practice and outcomes-based data. c) many frameworks focus on a subset of issues. d) very few frameworks look at both farm and landscape level outcomes together. e) not all frameworks specify indicators and metrics: those that do often use them in varying ways or interchangeably.

From this sub-assessment, the Global Farm Metric (GFM) developed by the Sustainable Food Trust was identified as the most holistic, outcomes-based, farmlevel framework that prioritized the collection of primary data useful to the farmer. As these priorities aligned with Regen10's mission, the GFM provided the starting point for Regen10's zero draft approach. The zero draft integrates helpful insights from other frameworks explored in the analysis, including developing the long list of indicators and metrics and informing the regenerative outcomes at farm and landscape level.

# 05 Outcomes-Based Framework: The Zero Draft

To ensure a system-wide transition to regenerative food systems, it is critical that the zero draft framework is comprehensive. This includes outcomes at farm and landscape level.

(<sup>6</sup>)

Within each outcome, the framework offers a long list of supporting indicators and metrics. Our vision is to create a structure that can be used by a variety of farmers and landscape stewards in all regional contexts. To make progress (tracked via the metrics and indicators), we need a unified vision as to the desired future state articulated by the outcomes. Over the next 12 months, Regen10 will consult and trial the suggested outcomes, indicators and metrics to seek consensus on the desired future state and to chart a journey towards achieving it.

Testing the zero draft will begin in early 2024. Regen10 will ensure that the zero draft framework is trialed onthe-ground in diverse farms and landscapes to ensure that it adequately captures the outcomes of different agricultural practices, and to ensure it is feasible and useful for farmers and landscape stewards.<sup>1</sup> Regen10 issued a call of support from farmers, Indigenous Peoples' organizations, companies and others at COP28 in Dubai, to join a journey of shared learning to refine the framework and build consensus as to how the world can move towards a truly regenerative system.

The outcomes, indicators and metrics in the zero draft are subject to change, based on the consultative approach and on-the-ground trials. The process will also identify whether some of the indicators and metrics can be prioritized when implementing the framework, as actors progress through the regenerative journey.

The testing process will run from January to December 2024. At the end of 2024, Regen10 will publish the next version of the framework taking account of insights from the testing process. Testing process: What is the difference between a Dialogue and a Consultation for Regen10?

Regen10 will test the zero draft framework with different stakeholder groups. We will use two different processes:

**Dialogues:** discussions with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC).Regen10 is working with IPLC leaders to identify the most appropriate method of engagement to help inform the development of the framework and identify if and how it can be most useful to IPLCs.

**Consultations:** formal discussions with businesses, farmers and civil society actors. Regen10 will hold consultations with these actors to gather insights and feedback on the desirability and usefulness of the framework. 7

The dialogue, consultation and trials process will allow us to:

- Collect qualitative and quantitative data to ensure the framework reflects the interests and needs of different farmers and landscape stewards in various contexts. It will do this by testing the feasibility and desirability of the outcomes, indicators and metrics across diverse landscapes, farmers and farm types.
- Identify if the farm and landscape level outcomes accurately capture the entire system and if all should be considered when moving to regenerative at farm and landscape level.
- Identify if there are core indicators and metrics applicable across multiple contexts that can act as a minimum viable product for regenerative food systems, and that can be used for comparison and aggregation.
- Determine whether a phased approach might be possible; identifying what can be easily measured now versus what can be measured in the future, as capacity and resource builds. This approach can help us identify what it takes to make the transition to regenerative practices. It can also help to inform what is required from incentive structures.



Figure 1: Regenerative outcomes identified at multiple scales

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e food ent	Data collection by stakeholder & objective
I	<ul> <li>Farmers* can collect data to understand the interconnected state of their farm – identifying resilience, risks and potential trade-offs to food production.</li> <li>The data reveals achievement of the socio-cultural, economic and environmental outcomes that the farm can deliver over time</li> </ul>
<b>E Level</b> : from otion	• Landscape actors** can leverage and aggregate farm level data and collect additional data from the landscape to identify how food production can contribute to landscape level regenerative outcomes accross social environment and economic.
comes	<ul> <li>Farmers, corporates, national governments and others leverage farm and landscape level data to identify how food production is contributing to global level impacts of planetary boundaries and social and economic issues.</li> <li>Global data on the food system is an aggregation of farm and landscape level data.</li> </ul>

\*In coordination with value chain actors \*\*Landscape actors: local communities, farmers, private sector and local and regional governments 05.1 Outcomes-Based Framework: The Zero Draft

### 5.1 The Farm Level

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The zero draft framework is currently structured in 12 categories. These represent the parts of the farm system that need to be monitored against agreed outcomes which have been identified as critical for enabling a transition towards regenerative food systems. Indicators and metrics have been identified for each of the outcomes. The long list of indicators and metrics that Regen10 will be testing are listed here and are also available on <u>Regen10's website</u>. For farmers and landscape stewards to have a full understanding of the resilience, risks and trade-offs in the farm system, the framework considers both farm level outcomes and the enabling conditions that have an impact on these outcomes:

- **Farm level outcomes** are those that result from practice changes e.g., increased soil health, increased worker well-being.
- Enabling conditions are external factors that have an impact on the farmers' ability to deliver farm level outcomes, over which the farmer does not have direct control. e.g., extreme weather events such as flooding, which affect the farmer's ability to deliver outcomes such as improving soil health and sustainably increasing yield.



05.2 Outcomes-Based Framework: The Zero Draft

### The Landscape Level<sup>2</sup> 5.2

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The landscape level framework sits around the farm level framework. The landscape level framework is structured with 11 outcomes across social, economic and environmental dimensions. It is considered important to measure these outcomes to understand how food production contributes to landscape level regeneration. From an initial calculation (assumptions to be tested next year), nearly 70% of the landscape metrics are informed by data collected against the farm level framework<sup>3</sup>. To calculate the remaining 30% of landscape metrics, additional data needs to be collected at landscape level.

Data collection at landscape level can be undertaken by a range or combination of actors interested in understanding and contributing to landscape regeneration through food systems. For example:

- Landscape level initiatives<sup>4</sup>: Collect data to ٠ share with other users to drive action e.g., to help governments identify policy interventions, to stimulate and facilitate corporate procurement, or to unlock funding to farmers and landscape stewards.
- Farming cooperatives/organizations: Collect data to ٠ a) better understand the long-term resilience of farming within the landscape and act accordingly, and b) share



Typically land size larger than 10,000 hectares, covering multiple farms; 3) Should follow human and ecosystem boundaries, but be informed by political boundaries when they are relevant. <sup>3</sup>The extent to which this represents the agriculture sector of the region is dependent on the percentage of farms that have carried out a farm level assessment against the framework. <sup>4</sup>A Landscape level initiative is defined as a coalition of people and organizations from across sectors and communities who work – over the long-term – toward resilient sustainable development and ecosystem regeneration through a shared landscape vision

**Figure 3: Landscape Level Outcomes** 

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data on landscape outcomes to the supply chain to increase financial support and market access

- **Private sector:** Collect data to identify how suppliers are contributing to regenerative agriculture targets and direct investment and action accordingly.
- National/Local government: Collect data to understand the structure of the landscape agricultural sector, build evidence about where to focus efforts, and tailor policies that contribute to the long-term resilience of the landscape and local communities.

In all cases, farmers and landscape stewards are the owners of data collected and should manage how the data is shared with other actors.

The outcomes-based framework focuses on the impact of food production on farms and landscapes. There are existing landscape level frameworks, including Landscale and Commonland 4 Returns Framework, that are conducting broader landscape system assessments. We hope that Regen10 can complement these approaches by generating primary data that will build a better understanding of how food production contributes to landscape sustainability and regeneration.

### 5.3 The Global Outcomes

Farm and landscape level data can be aggregated to a global level to reveal how food systems can contribute to global goals. Regen10 will not be defining outcomes at a global level, but will align these with the Planetary boundaries, the Paris Agreement, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and the Global Biodiversity Framework.



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li: Gowtham AGM on Unsplash

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# 06 From Theory to Action - Dialogues, Consultations and Trials

Regen10 will test the framework with key stakeholder groups through dialogues and consultations, and on-the-ground trials.

### **Dialogues and consultations**

- **Farmers:** WFO will lead the farmer consultations to gather insights and feedback on the framework's usefulness and feasibility. If you are a farmers' organization representative and would be keen to join, please register your interest <u>here</u>.
- **Business:** WBCSD will lead business engagement with companies and business-associated partner organizations through a dedicated workstream. This will generate insights to ensure that businesses are able to support the implementation of the framework. If you are a business organization and not currently included in WBCSD's network, please register your interest <u>here</u>.
- Indigenous Peoples: IUCN is developing a roadmap for engagement with Indigenous Peoples throughout 2024 to integrate their perspectives and ensure the framework is

applicable to their needs<sup>5</sup>. If you are an Indigenous People's organization, territorial authority or nongovernmental organization and not currently a member of IUCN, please register your interest <u>here</u>.

- Civil Society, academia and other actors: Regen10 are preparing a survey to gain access to expertise from important civil society groups and academics who are already working in this field. If you would like to participate in the survey, please register your interest <u>here</u>.
- **Experts Network:** Regen10 are convening a network of experts across all the key topic areas of regenerative food systems to make use of their technical guidance as the framework develops.

### **On-the-ground trials**

Regen10 will conduct on-the-ground trials in a diverse selection of 10-15 farms and landscapes to collect qualitative and quantitative data on how the framework resonates with farmers and landscape stewards. Regen10 will collaborate with local project partners to collect this data in a variety of contexts.



### **07** Conclusion

Imagine a future of food production driven by the people who work the land. A system where policy and business agendas are informed by the experiences of farmers and other landscape stewards, and by the evidence of the changes to the land that they see and can track and measure.

A policy, finance and business environment formed this way will incentivize and empower farmers and other landscape leaders as they progress on the journey. It will be a new way of advancing towards regenerative food systems, prioritizing inclusion and equity, lives, and livelihoods, while protecting and restoring nature.

Regeneration is happening now. It has also been happening in places for thousands of years. If done in the right way, the transition at a global scale will help combat climate change, protect nature, and advance more equitable food systems. Regen10 and our partners will use our networks and experience to develop tools and share knowledge that will help restore balance to ecosystems, boost sustainability in agriculture, and bring about more inclusive and equitable global food systems - in other words, deep regeneration.

**08** Annex 1: Regen10's Guiding Principles

Guiding principles are important for program development and evaluation and they can be used to navigate the uncertainties and emergent challenges of complex dynamic environments . The principles will be used to guide Regen10's work and engage new partners to facilitate alignment in mission and ambition.

<sup>13</sup>

In January 2023, Regen10 analyzed a series of existing principles of regenerative food systems. The analysis included 15 sets of principles, including 103 individual principles, used across a variety of agricultural philosophies, such as regenerative, sustainable and agroecology, as well as different levels of the system (e.g. agriculture, food system or wider society). The analysis found that principles are used in a variety of ways and can be summarized into three categories:

- Direct actions to be taken on the farm (e.g. • input reduction, minimize soil disturbance)
- Measurable outcomes from the farm • (e.g. animal health, biodiversity)
- System Goals (e.g. resilience, co-creation of • knowledge).

The analysis highlighted the significant work that has taken place over the years in developing these existing principles. For example the Food Producers' Declaration For the United Nations 2021 Food Systems Summit, the Global Alliance for the Future of Food Principles and the Committee on Food Security's High-Level Panel of Experts' 13 Principles of Agroecology all of which Regen10 endorse.

Rather than creating new principles of a regenerative food system, Regen10 has developed guidance on how Regen10 will carry out its work to enable regenerative and agroecological approaches to create food systems that deliver positive outcomes for people, nature, and climate. The Regen10 guiding principles were developed through this analysis and in consultation with food systems stakeholders and across Regen10 partners.





Regen10 commits to adopting the following 10 Principles as they apply to our work:

1	<b>Farmer-Centricity:</b> Ensure the experiences, knowledge, and realities of farmers, fishers, foragers, herders, and pastoralists are at the centre of regenerative initiatives and policy processes.
2	<b>Resilience:</b> Identify and support social, ecological, and economically adaptive systems in the face of a changing planet.
3	<b>Landscape-Alignment:</b> Apply a place-based, socio-ecologically adaptive, and context-specific approach to regenerative initiatives.
4	<b>Equity, Fairness, and Rights:</b> Make commitments to social justice, sustainable and safe livelihoods, rights-holders and stewards of the land, and access to affordable and nutritious food.
5	<b>Diversity:</b> Protect, support, and value diverse agricultural, ecological, and cultural realities while recognizing the shared reality and reliance of all beings on our planet.
6	<b>Healthy Climate:</b> Generate positive outcomes in policy, finance, research, and farming processes to ensure food systems fully contribute to global climate mitigation and adaptation goals.
7	<b>Collaboration and Partnership:</b> Advance a shared and ambitious vision, knowledge and dialogue, and collective strategies among regenerative food systems advocates, experts, and practitioners worldwide.
8	<b>Inclusivity and Transparency:</b> Facilitate the engagement of diverse people and organizations in transparent deliberations, outcomes, and collective actions affecting regenerative food systems initiatives.
9	<b>Innovation:</b> Co-create technical, policy, and social innovation to enhance people and planet together.
10	<b>Ongoing Learning:</b> Build evidence-based and diverse knowledge through peer-to-peer learning that informs and innovates transitions to regenerative food systems for diverse stakeholders and finds shared solutions.

The 15 sets of principles analyzed, which covered several agricultural philosophies and levels of the system, are listed below, followed (in Annex 2) by a table showing the 18 priority frameworks analyzed.

Principles		Author	Scope
1	Regenerative Agriculture	Richard Harwood, Rodale Institute	Agriculture
2	Agroecology	HLPE / Agroecology Europe	Agriculture
3	Organic Farming	IFOAM – Organics International	Agriculture
4	Conservation Agriculture	FAO	Agriculture
5	Regeneration	Smallholder Data Services / Terragenesis	Agriculture
6	Sustainable Agriculture Principles and Practices	SAI Platform	Agriculture
7	Fair Trade	World Fair Trade Organization	Food System
8	Sustainable Food and Agriculture	FAO	Food System
9	DEIJ Foodscapes Goals	The Nature Conservancy	Food System
10	Food Sovereignty	La Via Campesina	Food System
11	Global Alliance for Future of Food	Global Alliance for the Future of Food	Food System
12	IPES Food	IPES	Food System
13	Sustainable Food System	HLPE Food Security and Nutrition	Food System
14	Nature's Principles of Harmony	The Harmony Project	Wider Society
15	Justice		Wider Society

# (1) 09 Annex 2: Priority frameworks analyzed

Tranework Name/ Paper Name	Organization/
Global Farm Metric	Sustainable Fo
OP2B's Framework for Regenerative Agriculture	OP2B
Regenerating Together: A global framework for regenerative agriculture	SAI
Australian Agricultural Sustainability Framework	National Farme
CGIAR Initiative on Agroecology	CGIAR
Cool Farm Tool	Cool Farm Allia
Economy of Love	Economy of Lo
SAFA (FAO)	FAO
Tool for Agroecology Performance Evaluation	FAO
AMNC Cultural Landscapes Framework	IUCN
Regenerative Agriculture Scorecard (Coffee)	Rainforest Allia
TEEB AgriFood	Capitals Coaliti
Women's Empowerment Agricultural Index (WEAI)	IFPRI and C Development Ir
Ecological Outcome Verification (Savory Institute's Land to Market program)	Savory Institute
Technoserve Project Metrics	Technoserve
Regenerative Organic Certification	Rodale Institute
Integrating the social perspective into the sustainability assessment of agri-food systems: A review of indicators	Sannou et al 20
Moving towards an anti-colonial definition for regenerative agriculture	Sands et al 202

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