



# ANNUAL REPORT 2025



## Our Mission

To promote community-led approaches to lion and wildlife conservation in Western Tanzania.



## Our Vision

To create a healthy landscape for people and wildlife where humans, lions and other wildlife co-exist.



## Our Core Purpose

Our core purpose is twofold. We want to ensure that humans' land-based activities proceed in a way that preserves important wildlife habitats. Further, we want to ensure that communities can mitigate against human-lion conflicts and benefit from wildlife, thus making them more tolerant. To achieve these, we promote community-led approaches to land and wildlife conservation, including supporting wildlife management areas (WMAs), improving village-level governance, nature-based enterprises development, and supporting mitigation measures against human-lion conflicts.

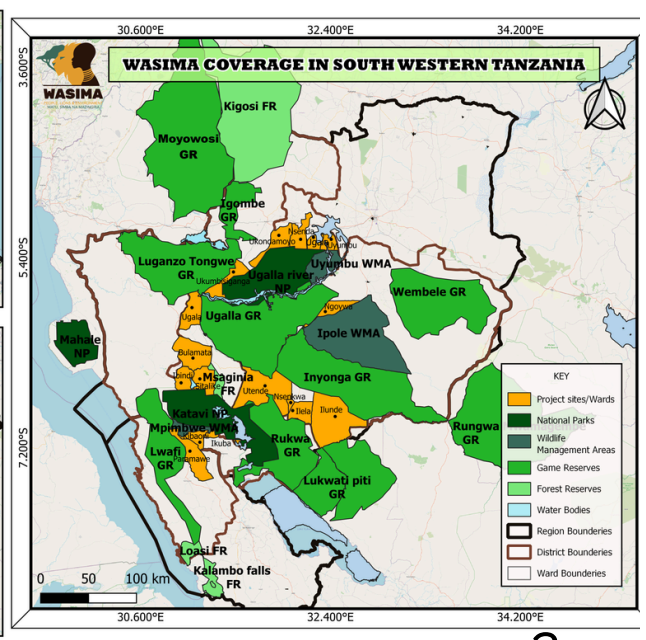
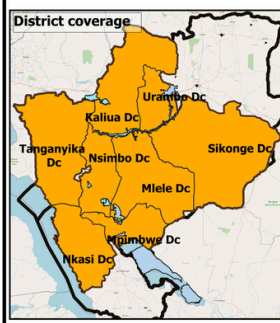
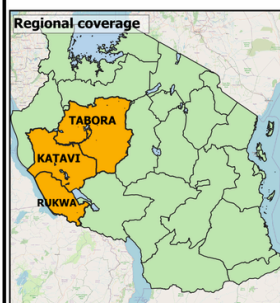


## Our Approach

We use a community-led conservation approach and believe the community knows its needs better than anyone else. Together, we work side by side to solve problems, make decisions, and create positive changes in our community.

## Our Coverage

WASIMA is based in the Mpimbwe District Council and is currently working in 25 villages bordering wildlife areas in three regions of Rukwa, Katavi, and Tabora, and eight District Councils of Mpimbwe, Mlele, Nsimbo, Tanganyika, Sikonge, Urambo, Kaliua, and Nkasi. Our long-term target is to reach 72 villages around the Katavi-Rukwa-Mahale-Ugalla-Kigosi Ecosystem surveyed in 2019-2020 and have reported recurring incidences of lion presence and related conflicts.



# A Message From our Executive Director

Dear Friends and Partners,  
As I reflect on 2025, I am filled with gratitude and pride for the strides that WASIMA made together in advancing community-led conservation across the Ugalla - Rukwa - Katavi landscape. This year has been a testament to the power of collaboration, resilience, and shared responsibility in safeguarding both people and wildlife. Through your support, we constructed 59 lion-proof bomas, directly protecting over 2,600 livestock valued at more than USD 580,000 and reducing retaliatory killings of lions. Our dedicated 25 Lion Conservation Ambassadors covered over 8,000 km of patrols and documented 50 lion sightings, along with sightings of other key species. Their presence has strengthened coexistence and built trust within communities.

WASIMA also invested in people. More than 1,800 youth engaged in wildlife clubs and vocational training, while women received training in pottery, poultry, and entrepreneurship, creating sustainable livelihoods that reduce dependence on fragile ecosystems. Our tree planting and agroforestry initiatives restored over 70 acres of land, with 42,000 trees planted from 43,000 seedlings raised in nurseries, ensuring healthier habitats for both wildlife and communities.

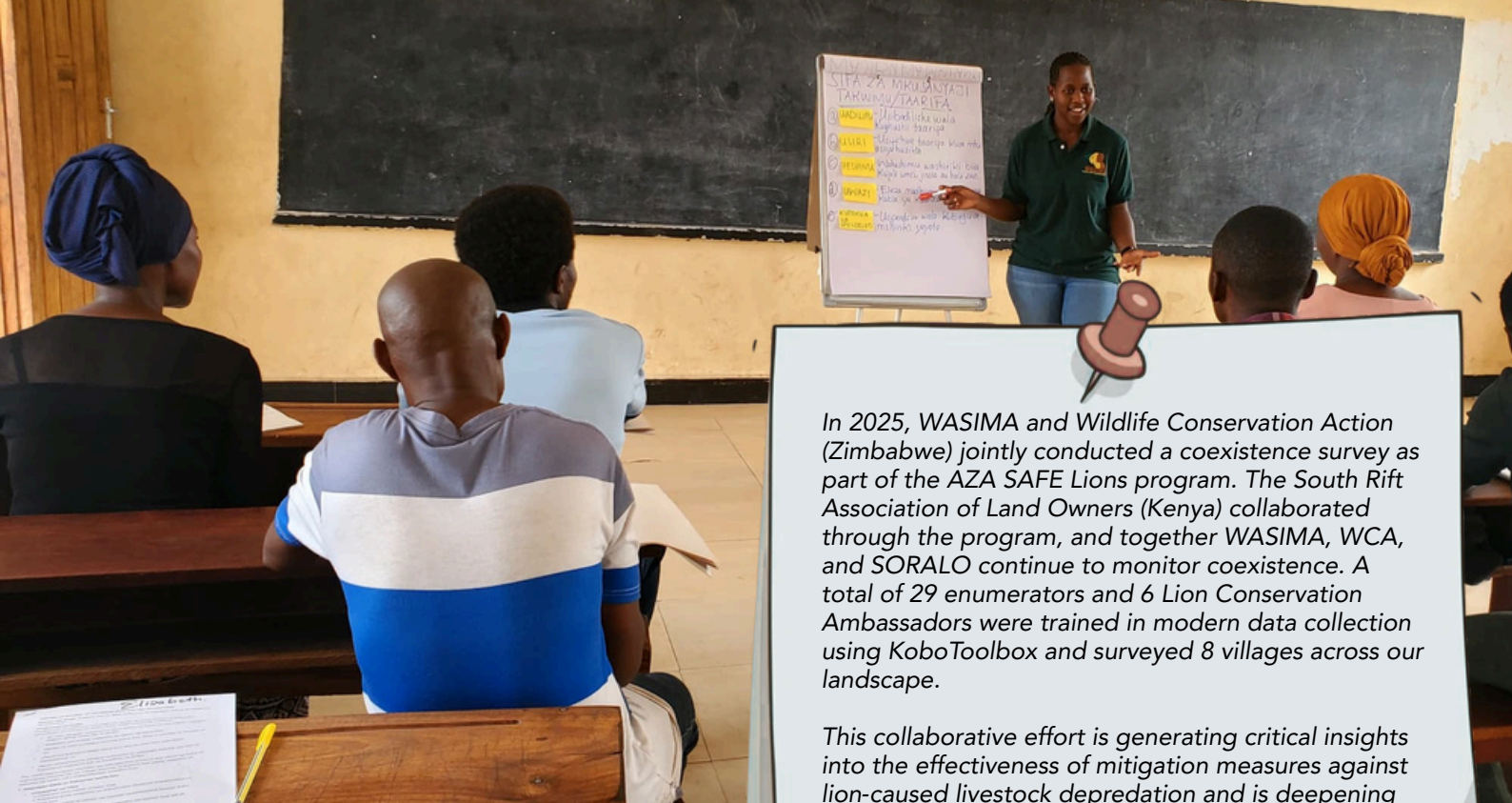
Public outreach reached over 260,000 people through radio sessions, film screenings, and immersive park trips, deepening awareness and inspiring collective action. At the governance level, we supported Uyumbu and Mpimbwe Wildlife Management Areas with improvements, patrols, and biodiversity monitoring, empowering communities to protect and benefit from their natural resources.

Financially, we maintained strong accountability, with over 68% of funds directed to project implementation. Partnerships with regional and international allies enriched our expertise and expanded our impact. Looking ahead to 2026, we are determined to scale up coexistence strategies, deepen governance reforms, and invest further in staff and partnerships. Together, we are proving that communities can be custodians of wildlife while thriving themselves.

Thank you for walking this journey with us.  
Warm regards,

**Jonathan L. Kwiyege**  
Executive Director - WASIMA





In 2025, WASIMA and Wildlife Conservation Action (Zimbabwe) jointly conducted a coexistence survey as part of the AZA SAFE Lions program. The South Rift Association of Land Owners (Kenya) collaborated through the program, and together WASIMA, WCA, and SORALO continue to monitor coexistence. A total of 29 enumerators and 6 Lion Conservation Ambassadors were trained in modern data collection using KoboToolbox and surveyed 8 villages across our landscape.

This collaborative effort is generating critical insights into the effectiveness of mitigation measures against lion-caused livestock depredation and is deepening understanding of community tolerance, attitudes, and perceptions toward lion conservation. With analysis of the findings currently underway, the results will inform future strategies designed to strengthen coexistence and ensure a sustainable balance between communities and lions.

## 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

**59+**

Lion-proof bomas constructed across Kaliua, Urambo, Nsimbo, and Mpimbwe districts, directly benefiting 218 family households members and protecting over 2,665 livestock worth more than US\$ 581,192.

**1496+ Ha**

Hectares of village Natural Forest Lands are preserved in our landscape as a result of the Greening Initiative within project villages.

**42,000**

trees planted to restore 84 acres in the southern part of Katavi National Park through our Greening Campaign in Mpimbwe.

**1,890+**

Youth reached through vocational trainings in tailoring, welding, plumbing, livestock keeping, and bed making, as well as through wildlife clubs and eco-studies in schools.

**8,190 km Covered**

Distance covered by Lion Conservation Ambassadors across the landscape, documenting lions, hyenas, elephants, and wild dogs while using SMART tools for accurate data collection.

**260,000+**

Communities across the Ugalla–Rukwa–Katavi ecosystems through conservation education film screening, public meetings, park trips, public events and radio sessions.

**6**

Educational park trip conducted brought 219 community members, including students, teachers, village leaders, and residents, to Katavi National Park, giving them the chance to experience its rich biodiversity firsthand.

**400+**

Households benefited from our alternative livelihoods projects

# Empowering Lion Conservation Ambassadors (LCAs)



- In 2025, WASIMA managed to expand LCA's team to 25 Lion Conservation Ambassadors across the Ugalla-Rukwa-Katavi landscape, recruiting seven new ambassadors to replace vacant positions. Working closely with District Game Officers and village leaders, LCAs now serve as trusted community representatives, strengthening local ownership of conservation and addressing human-wildlife conflicts.
- To build their skills, LCAs and Village Game Scouts received training on SMART technology and Kobo Collect, with 39 participants trained and 10 LCAs equipped with smartphones for real-time reporting. Since adopting SMART in October 2025, patrols have covered 8,190 km, recording 50 lion sightings, 10 hyenas, 14 elephants, 6 wild dogs, and other species data that guides coexistence strategies across the landscape.
- Beyond patrols, LCAs continue to support communities by installing lion-proof bomas, operating the Loudspeaker Early Warning System (LEWS), and assisting in recovering lost livestock. Their presence in 25 villages has reduced conflict, strengthened awareness, and inspired collective commitment to safeguard Tanzania's lions and biodiversity.

## Human-Lion Conflicts and Lion Sightings: 2025 Impact

**Lion Sightings:** Monitoring documented 50 lion sightings. Data was collected through direct sightings and indirect signs (tracks, footprints, fur).

### Conflicts:

- 22 livestock killed by lion worth US\$ 6,641.
- 4 human attack reported in Kaliua district.
- 4 lions killed as problem animals under PAC in Nsimbo, Mpimbwe, and Tanganyika Districts.

### Positive Actions:

- 59 lion-proof bomas constructed, protecting over 2,665 livestock worth US\$ 581,192 and reducing retaliatory killings.
- Seven new LCAs recruited (total now 25), trained on SMART as a newly adopted technology and Kobo Collect for accurate conflict mapping and reporting.
- Five LEWS stations renovated, delivering 197 broadcasts to prevent further lion-related incidents.

# MORE HIGHLIGHTS

## Community awareness and Communication program

In 2025, WASIMA deepened its commitment to human-lion coexistence in south-western Tanzania by bringing communities and youth to the center of conservation. Through public film screenings in villages, immersive A Day in the Park trips into Katavi National Park, the expansion of school wildlife clubs, and radio sessions that reached more than 250,000 listeners, people of all ages were engaged in learning, dialogue, and shared responsibility. These efforts connected families, students, and leaders to the realities of living alongside lions, turning awareness into action and building a culture of coexistence that safeguards both livelihoods and wildlife for the future.



**Public Outreach and Film Screenings:** reached about 4,000 people, including approximately 50% men, 15% women, and 35% children to spread awareness and knowledge about conservation.

**A Day in the Park:** Engaged 219 community members in immersive, educational experiences within protected areas.



**Radio sessions:** 10 radio programs aired, totaling 595 minutes, reaching an estimated over 250,000 community members with conservation messages ranging from habitat restoration practices such as tree planting to HWC mitigations such as predator proof bomas installation



**Wildlife Clubs and Ecological Studies:** Four new school wildlife clubs established, bringing the total to 15 in Mpimbwe District. A total of 1,843 pupils participated in 19 classroom sessions, 2 conservation talks, and 2 eco-studies.

# Community Empowerment and Wildlife Protection

## Tree Planting and Agroforestry

WASIMA's tree planting and agroforestry program is designed not only to restore degraded habitats but also to reduce pressure on natural forests, which often fuels human-wildlife conflicts. In 2025, over 43,000 seedlings were raised in school nurseries, and more than 35,000 were distributed to households, schools, and churches. By restoring 70 acres of land, communities received fruit trees for food and income, while wildlife benefited from healthier ecosystems. Agroforestry training reached 57 households, equipping them with 1,600 seedlings to integrate trees into farms. This approach ensures families have sustainable alternatives, reducing the need to encroach into lion habitats.



## Women in Value Addition



Empowering women through value chain addition directly addresses the economic drivers of conflict. In 2025, 70 women were trained in pottery, poultry, and vending, alongside micro-enterprise business competencies such as business management, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship.

24 received financial support, and 13 market stalls were installed for vegetable vendors. By strengthening women's livelihoods, WASIMA reduces dependence on unsustainable resource use, ensuring households can thrive without resorting to activities that put them in direct competition with wildlife. Women thus become champions of coexistence, linking conservation to daily survival.

## Vocational Trainings

Youth unemployment often pushes communities toward risky practices like poaching or illegal grazing. WASIMA's vocational training project recruited 50 youth from five villages, with 46 graduates supported to start businesses in tailoring, welding, plumbing, and livestock keeping. Within three months, 43% of graduates were employed, 33% self-employed, and 13% combining both. Income levels rose significantly, with many earning between USD 5 - USD 13 per week, proving that vocational skills can reduce dependency on natural resources and create alternative livelihoods near protected areas.

## Energy Saving Stoves

Fuelwood collection is a major source of tension between communities and wildlife, often leading to habitat loss that displaces lions and other species. WASIMA introduced and supported installation of energy-saving stoves to 237 households in Mirumba village, built by 10 trained artisans. These stoves reduce fuelwood consumption, the time women and girls spend collecting firewood, and ease pressure on forests. By saving energy and protecting habitats, the initiative directly contributes to reducing human-lion conflict while improving household well-being.

# Organizational Development and team growth



In 2025, WASIMA strengthened its team by recruiting new staff and promoting long-serving members, bringing the total workforce to 45 staff, including 25 Lion Conservation Ambassadors. This expansion ensured that conservation activities were well supported at both grassroots and organizational levels. Staff capacity was further enhanced through workshops on leadership, monitoring, evaluation, and learning, equipping managers and coordinators with practical skills to optimize program delivery.

Partnerships played a central role in advancing our mission. Collaborations with Maliasili, The Living Desert Zoo, and Wildlife Conservation Action (WCA) in Zimbabwe provided opportunities for training, knowledge exchange, and exposure to best practices in conservation and data management. These engagements broadened the team's expertise and strengthened WASIMA's capacity to implement evidence-based strategies. Participation in the Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leaders (EWCL) 2025 Cohort further enhanced leadership development and expanded our global conservation network.

## New WASIMA team joined in 2025



**Lutufyo Mbotwa**  
Human Resource Officer



**Elinuru Israel Isaya**  
Alternative Livelihood  
Program Officer



**Asha Masud Mohamed**  
Alternative Livelihood  
Program Officer



**Kelvin Evod Lupamba**  
Camp Mechanic and  
Driver

# Strengthening Community-Led Conservation and Wildlife Governance



## Supporting Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)

In 2025, WASIMA worked with partners to place Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) at the center of conservation, ensuring communities are both protectors and beneficiaries of wildlife.

In Uyumbu WMA, an investment of about USD 110,536 supported governance reforms, office improvements, a management vehicle, and new policies to strengthen transparency and accountability. More than 1,500 community members participated in the general elections, reinforcing representation. Patrols carried out with partners led to the arrest of offenders and reduced illegal activities, strengthening biodiversity protection.

In Mpimbwe WMA, 10 camera traps were installed to monitor species diversity and abundance. Just over a few months, we observed and recorded 8 species in Mpimbwe WMA, which includes elephants, zebra, buffalo, roan antelope, African crested porcupine, dik-dik, mongoose, and the lilac-breasted roller (bird). This confirms the biodiversity potential for conservation despite frequent human presence and calls for continued management and governance support if we are to sustain our WMA.

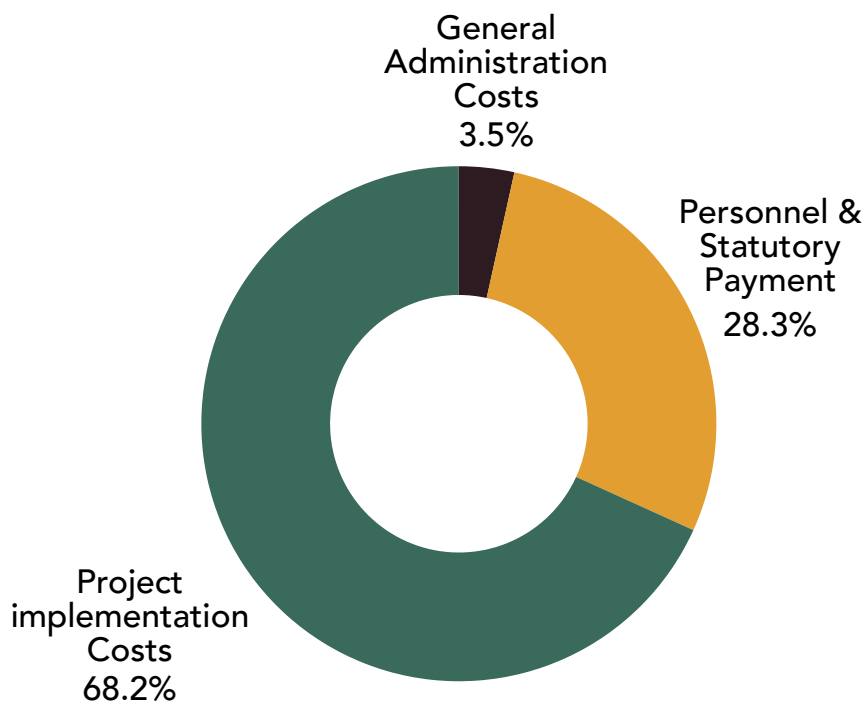
## Village Natural Resource Management & Governance

At the village level, WASIMA facilitated natural resource management and governance appraisals in Masewela, Stalike, and Muungano villages, engaging 128 participants including leaders, elders, youth, and women. The process identified local resources, threats, and practical solutions such as modern agriculture, improved livestock keeping, and beekeeping to reduce elephant-related conflicts. Building on these appraisals, bylaws were drafted in seven villages across Kaliua, Mpimbwe, and Nkasi districts, with 300 community members involved in consultations. These bylaws introduced clear enforcement mechanisms against poaching, wildfires, and illegal tree cutting, aligning national policy with local realities. By empowering communities to govern their own resources, WASIMA strengthened accountability and reduced the drivers of human-wildlife conflict.

# OUR FINANCIAL TRENDS FROM 2024-2025

	2025		2024	
	TSH	USD	TSH	USD
<b>INCOME</b>				
Opening Fund Balance	122,044,000	46,582	48,268,344	18,423
Funds Received	786,506,960	310,259	857,041,712	327,115
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>908,550,960</b>	<b>356,841</b>	<b>905,310,056</b>	<b>345,538</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
General Administration Costs	20,926,506	7,649	42,386,056	16,178
Organizational Develepoment	0	0	125,300,000	47,824
Personnel & Statutory Payment	171,157,860	62,537	143,500,000	54,771
Project implementation Costs	412,346,751	150,662	472,080,000	180,183
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>604,431,117</b>	<b>220,845</b>	<b>783,266,056</b>	<b>298,957</b>
<b>Excess of Income over Expenditure:</b>	<b>304,119,843</b>	<b>135,996</b>	<b>122,044,000</b>	<b>46,582</b>

## EXPENDITURES FOR 2025



# OUR PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS



## A YEAR OF GRATITUDE AND SHARED PROGRESS





We are deeply grateful for the unwavering support of our donors, partners, communities, and team. Your commitment and generosity have enabled us to protect wildlife, empower families, and strengthen community-led conservation. Every contribution, big or small, has made a real difference and has been the foundation of our success.

Together, we celebrated milestones, overcame challenges, and learned valuable lessons. Looking ahead, we carry this momentum with confidence that, with your continued support, even greater achievements lie ahead. Thank you for being an essential part of this journey and for walking with us toward a future where people and wildlife thrive side by side.

## How You Can Join Us

### 1. Give your gift to support WASIMA's initiative in the landscape

Your financial contributions fuel critical conservation projects, strengthen community programs, and expand conservation awareness. Every donation, whether one-time or recurring, sustains our mission and creates lasting impact.

### 2. Volunteer Your Time Be part of hands-on conservation efforts.

From habitat restoration and wildlife monitoring to community outreach, your skills and dedication make a tangible difference.

### 3. In-Kind Contributions.

Donations of equipment and supplies, such as field gear, research tools, or educational materials, help us continue vital operations and extend our reach.

### 4. Corporate Partnerships.

Collaborate with us through sponsorships, employee engagement, and corporate social responsibility initiatives. Together, we can amplify impact and promote sustainable practices across communities.

Click to give your gift and make a difference

# ONWARDS 2026

Building on the milestones of 2025, WASIMA enters 2026 with renewed determination to scale up community-led conservation and strengthen coexistence across the Rukwa-Katavi-Tabora landscape. The past year showed that Lion-Proof Bomas, village governance reforms, camera trap monitoring, and alternative livelihoods can transform communities into custodians and beneficiaries of wildlife.

## In 2026, our priorities are:

- Expand coexistence strategies by increasing lion-proof bomas, patrol coverage, and biodiversity monitoring.
- Deepen village governance through more bylaws, natural resource appraisals, and community dialogues to reduce conflict and safeguard habitats.
- Invest in people by training Lion Conservation Ambassadors, Village Game Scouts, women, and youth, ensuring they have the skills to lead conservation efforts.
- Strengthen partnerships with local and international allies to bring innovation, resources, and global best practices.
- Secure sustainability by diversifying funding streams and reinforcing accountability and transparency.
- To strengthen the WASIMA team.





**WASIMA**  
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