

Please note that this presentation was given during the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP-15) in Copenhagen, December 7-18, 2009 for more information please visit <http://www.cop15.state.gov/> .

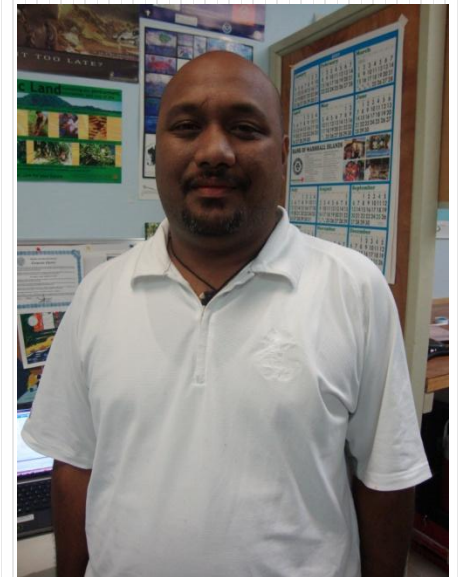




Putting the Climate Lens into the National Conservation Planning Efforts



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Overview

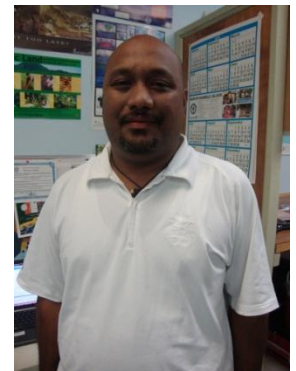
- Introduction-Marshall Islands
- Background & context
- Climate-proofing conservation area planning process
- Community based adaptation projects



Introduction & General Background

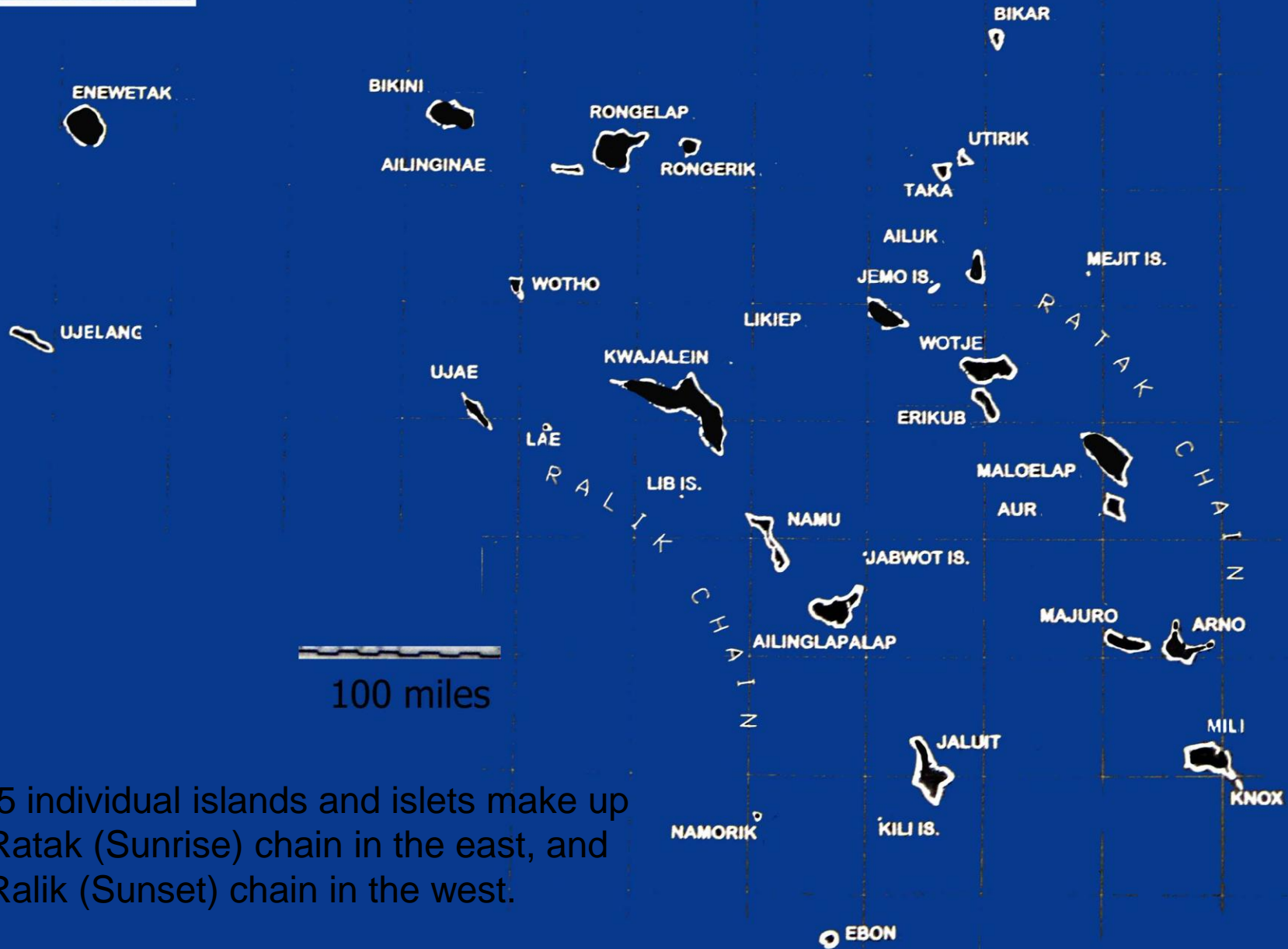


- 29 low-lying atolls & 5 individual islands;
- 2 million km² in the central Pacific Ocean;
- 1225 small islands & islets making up the Ratak (sunrise) and the Ralik (sunset) chains;
- Pop. Over 60,000





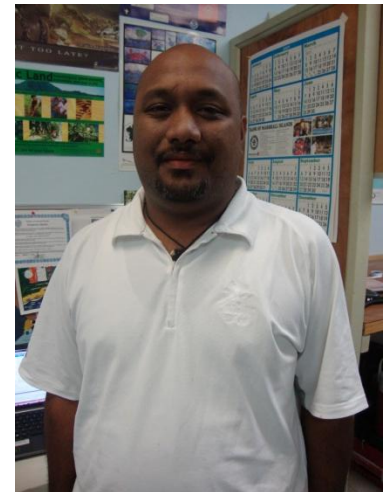
REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS



1,225 individual islands and islets make up the Ratak (Sunrise) chain in the east, and the Ralik (Sunset) chain in the west.

Impacts to RMI

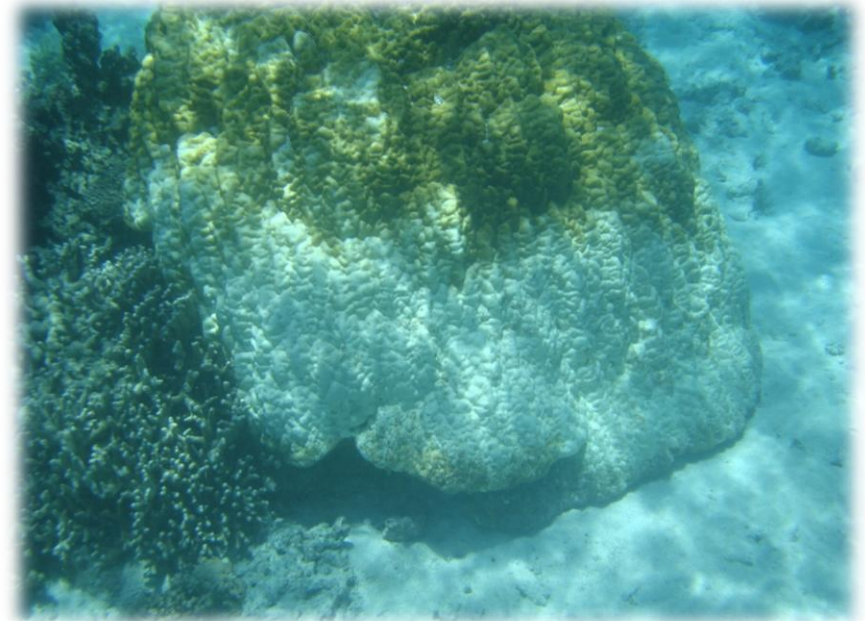
- Ocean acidification
- Increase in frequency of storm surges
- Longer frequency of droughts
- Negative effects to our marine resources
- Sea level rise
- Land degradation
- People, culture and our heritage



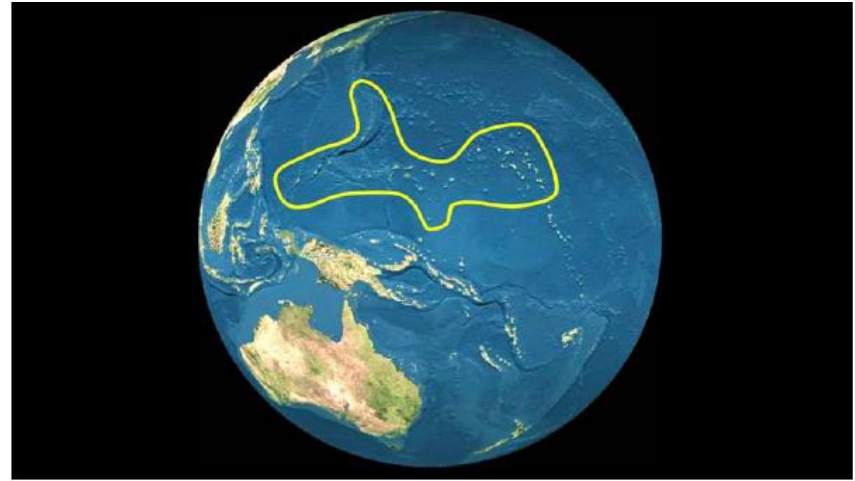
What's happening now!



Storm surges: December 08'



Coral bleaching: Aug. 09



To effectively conserve at least

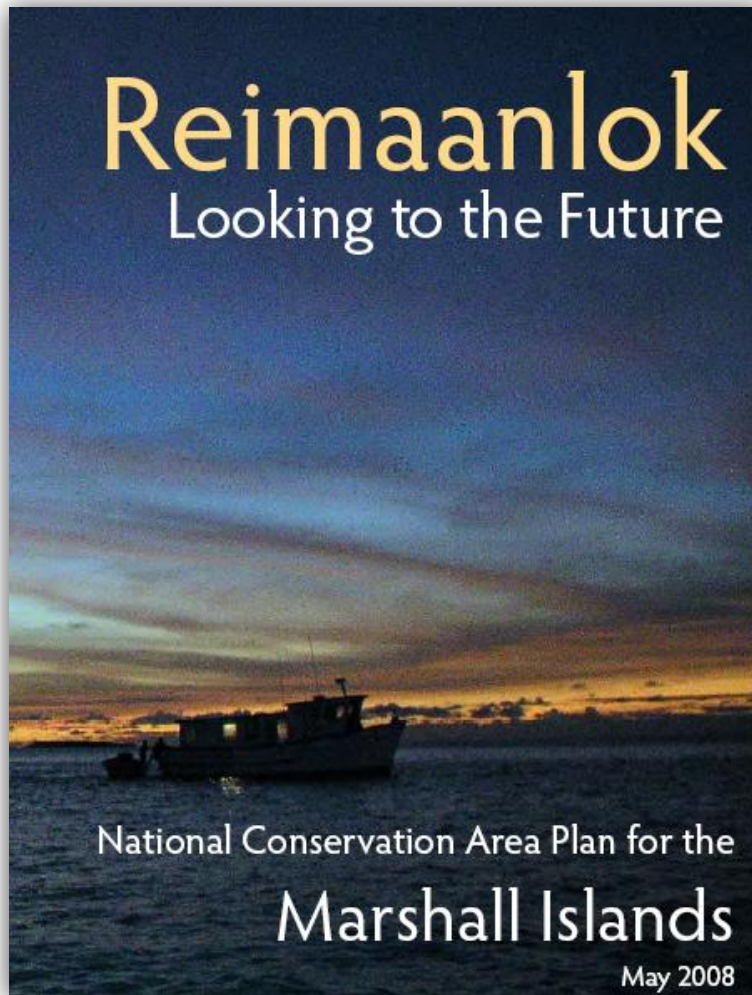
- 30% of the near-shore marine resources and 20% of the terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020

The Chief Executives of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, the U.S. Territory of Guam and the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

www.micronesiachallenge.org



Community Based Process



- Designed as a technical tool to assist resource agencies facilitate resource management planning with local governments & traditional leaders through a consultation process;
- Identifies & recommends coarse, fine and species targets important for cultural purposes (turtles, mangroves), and for unique and special areas (spawning & aggregation sites)
- Created from lessons learnt from resource management planning in the RMI

Community Based Process



- Marshallese professionals working on conservation issues in RMI;

-  involved most relevant national government and non government agencies ;

- Unique as it combines both Traditional & community management with science;



“this plan ... develops the principles, process and guidelines for the design, establishment and management of conservation areas that are fully owned, led and endorsed by local communities based on their needs, values and cultural heritage”





- The ecosystems on each atoll are important to the communities who live on the atoll
- Conservation of ecosystems plays a vital role in climate change because they provide natural carbon sinks. Healthy ecosystems also enhance the resilience of islands to the impacts of climate change.
- Recognize the role of Traditional Leaders as caretakers and protectors of their people and their natural resources and the intimate connection between people, culture and natural resources; and
- Realize that modern efforts to sustain the “Micronesian Way of Life” and to ensure the health, prosperity and diverse cultures of our island people are unlikely to succeed if the ecosystem services on which island and human rely continue to be degraded; and

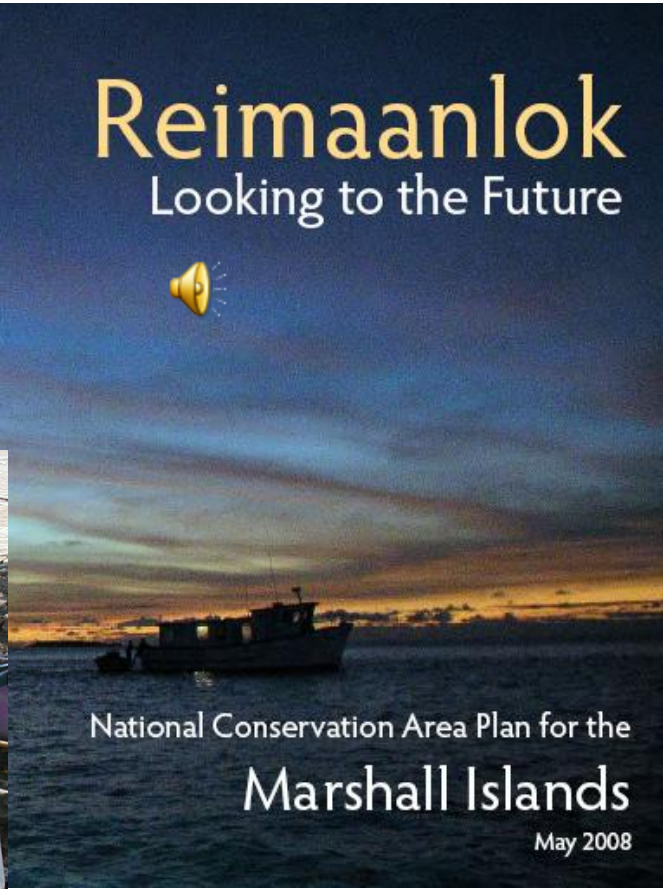
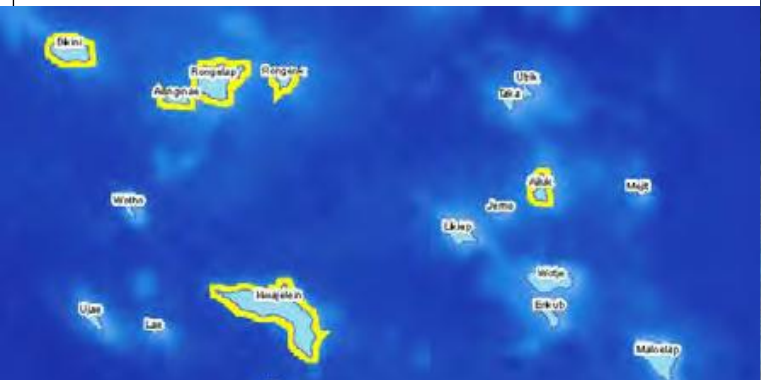


Community based process – Climate Lens

- 'climate proofing' of the Reimaanlok to provide guidance on ecosystem-based adaptation
- placing the most vulnerable people, communities and ecosystems at the heart of national climate change strategies



Community based process- climate lens



1

Initiation

2

Project Scoping
and Setup

3

Building
Commitment

4

Collecting &
Managing
Information

5

Developing the
Management Plan

6

Sign Off

7

Monitoring,
Evaluation
and Adaptive
Management

8

Maintaining
Commitment

Local knowledge: mapping of threats, identifying trends; capacity to cope; calendar of events

1	Initiation	A need to develop a community-based resource management plan is identified either at the local government level or at the national level.
2	Project Scoping and Setup	Establishment of a project workplan, a team of facilitators and identification of budget and resources.
3	Building Commitment	An initial visit is made by the national team to carry out education and awareness about the benefits of conservation and resource management, and to build trust with the community.
4	Collecting & Managing Information	Further visits focus on collection and documentation of local knowledge and use of resources, socio-economic information and baseline scientific information.
5	Developing the Management Plan	Several visits are made to the community to develop, draft and revise a detailed management plan.
6	Implementation	Achieve commitment to the plan through sign-off of management plan.
7	Monitoring and Evaluation	Monitor achievement of the objectives – both biological and socio-economic. Adapt the management plan accordingly.
8	Review	Ensure community has adequate support for ongoing management.

Existing Reimaanlok Process	
Activity	Suggested Tools/Resources
Collection of Local and Traditional Knowledge: Community mapping of resources and use	Guidelines for Collection of Local and Traditional Knowledge and "mo" in the Marshall Islands
Socio-economic survey	SEM-Pacifica socio-economic monitoring toolkit. SPC socio-economic survey method.
Baseline Survey of Natural Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualitative survey by members of 	NRAS survey methods or other standardized international survey protocols for marine and

Mainstreaming Opportunities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identity existing problems related to climate. A beach walk with the community members can include discussion on how/where the sea level will rise, how resources will change (see exercise) Important to understand what assets the community values, and then these can be reviewed Key informant interviews to define past event (environmental). (Witness Exercise) Mapping past hazards: changes over the years or agriculture areas Seasonal calendar regarding seasonal trends. 	
Understand the capacity to cope with climate changes (adaptive capacity) as a component of their vulnerability. Questions can be formed related to adaptive capacity. SPREP document on Community vulnerability	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarify priority assets (e.g., priority fisheries, coral reefs), which can then be reviewed for their sensitivity to climate change. Identify which areas are sensitive to, or have been impacted by 	

Socio-Econ: baseline tool; Impacts to livelihoods & lifestyle; level of knowledge and concern; stakeholder differences

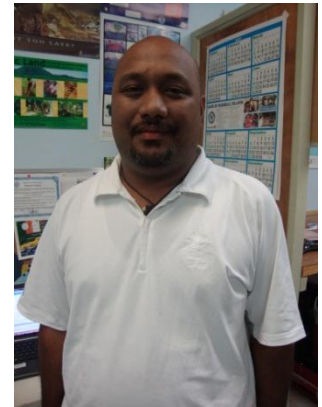


Add to Baseline Survey: Vulnerability Assessment



Namdrik Community Project:

- Community Mapping with different groups;
- Seasonal calendar
- Problem-Solution Matrix and Analysis
- Vulnerability Assessment





Namdrik Community Project





Coastal Protection

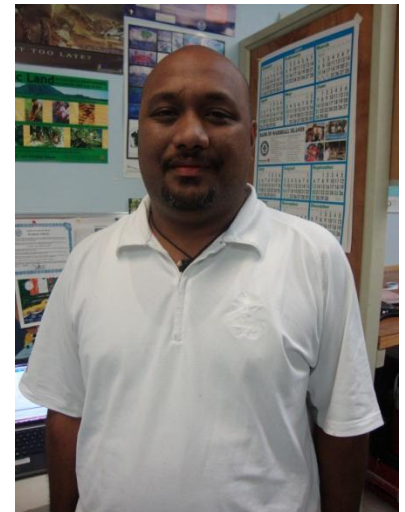
- *Janar* – Mixed forest - windward shores
 - *Scaevola*, *Tournefortia*, wild *Pandanus*, *Guettarda*, *Suriana* (northern atolls)
 - Protection of water lens, coastal protection and land stabilization, protection from salt-spray & wind, provision of food resources in the form of planted edible *Pandanus*
 - *Scaevola toccada* – most seaward, drooping branches can effectively dissipate wave action





Partnership is Critical to Success!!

- Equal Commitment from Govt. partners, NGOs and Community leaders;
- Additionally, technical and funding support to continue on to other communities;
- Lessons learned.....



Sharing of experiences

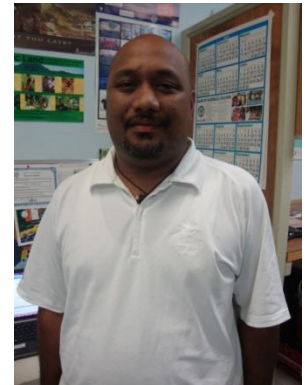


- Micronesia Sub regional Micronesia Challenge / Climate Change meeting 2009, Majuro Marshall Islands
- Pacific Climate Change Roundtable, 2009
- Sharing of best practices within region and resources
- Completion of Sustainable Financing Plan for effective conservation

Acknowledgement:



- U.S. AID
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- The Nature Conservancy
- Micronesian Conservation Trust





Thank you!
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