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CARPATHIA®
NewStories from the Făgăraș Mountains
FOR COMMUNITIES
FOR NATURE
carpathia.org
June 2025

# Main activities summary

1. Forest conservation and management
2. Ecological restoration
3. Wildlife conservation
4. Conservation Enterprise Programme
5. Communication and community outreach




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# Forest conservation and management

© Doru Păunescu




In June it feels as if everything suddenly comes to life. Leaves grow quickly, flowers appear overnight, and birdsong can be heard everywhere. Nature rushes, as if wanting to take full advantage of the summer that has just begun.

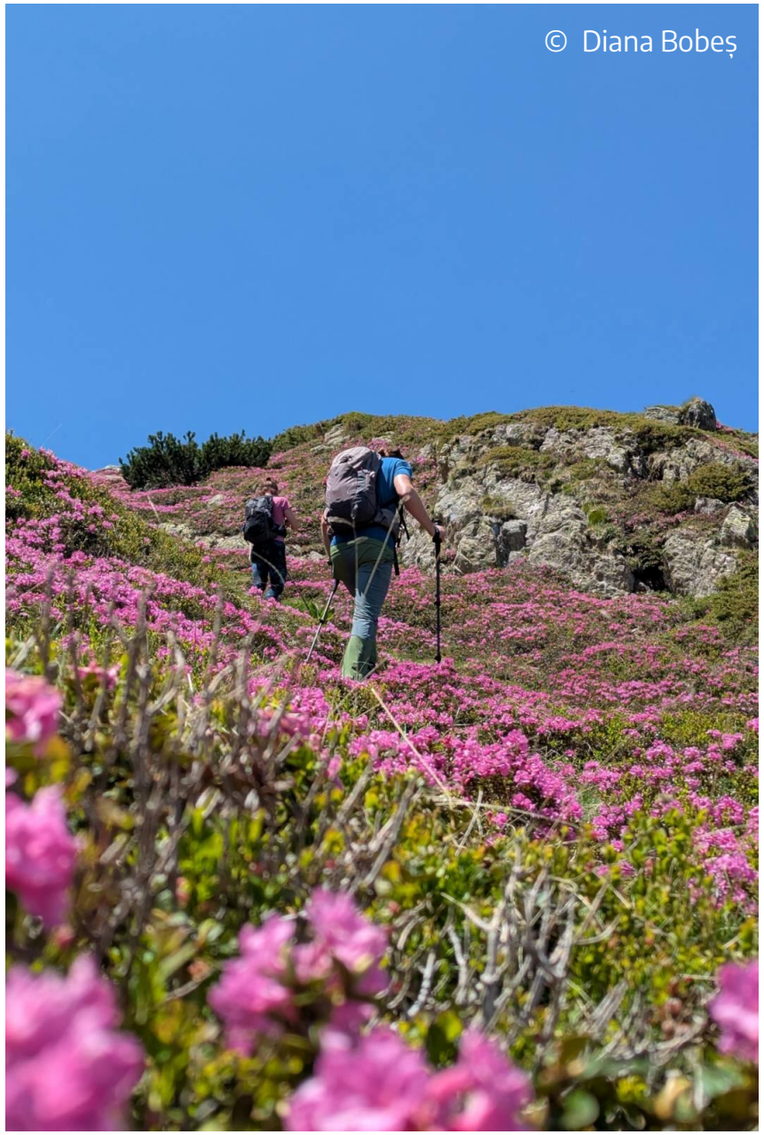


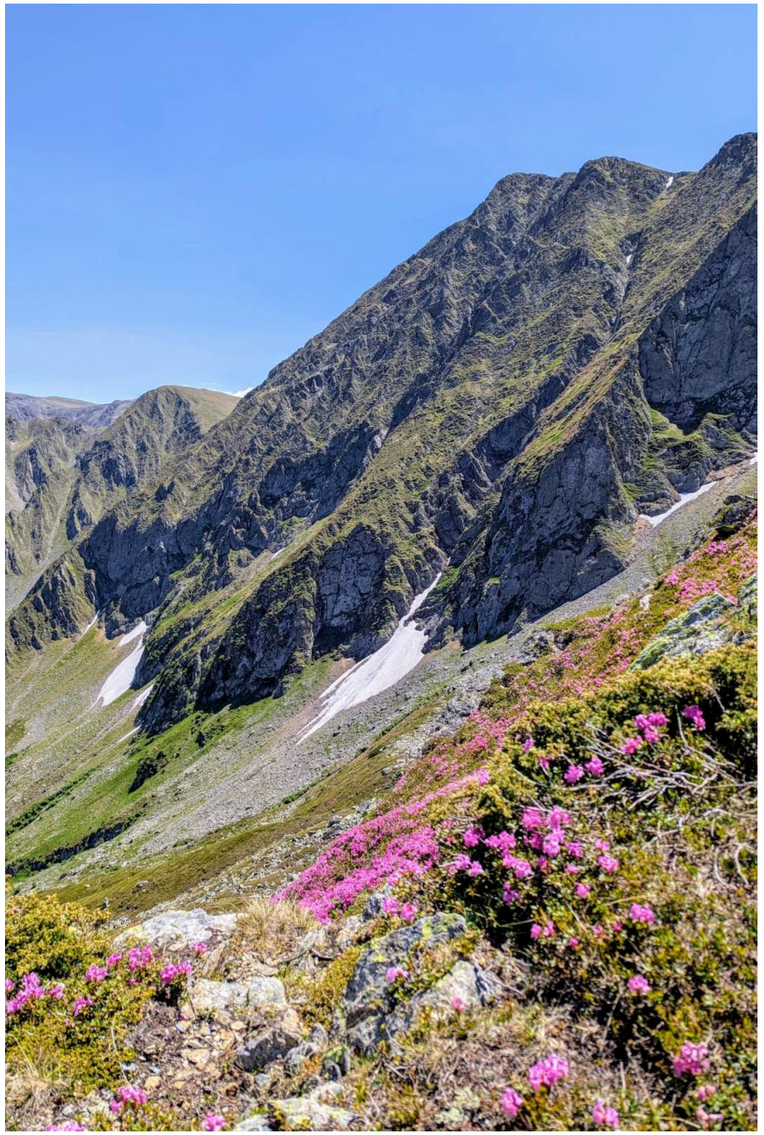

Heavy rains show us how high the risk of erosion is, especially in steep areas. The floods in the Groapele area brought with them a lot of plant debris. When the ecosystem is complete and balanced, nature recovers quickly, but repeated extreme events hinder this process.

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In June, the Făgăraș Mountains were covered in pink myrtle-leaved rhododendron flowers (also known as Carpathian rhododendrons, or ‘mountain peonies’), captured here on the edge of Drăguș.

This species is a national emblem, strictly protected by law. Picking it or destroying the bushes is completely prohibited, as it would harm the fragile balance of the ecosystem.



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# Ecological restoration

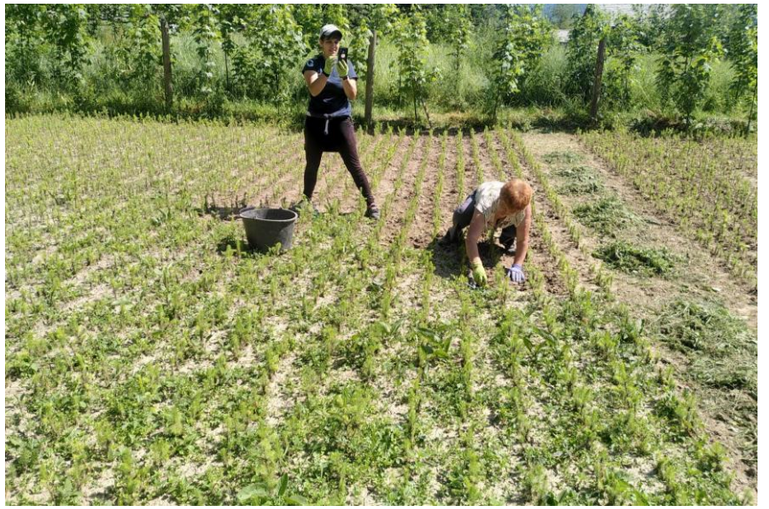
© Liviu Ungureanu

It is weed pulling season in the tree nurseries. We received help from UK volunteers, who came on a visit organised by the British association Flooglebinder. Thanks to them, we cleared weeds from a spruce plot and two plots of white fir seedlings.







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Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*), a plant native to East Asia – Japan, China, and Korea – was brought to Europe as an ornamental species. Because it has no natural predators, it has spread rapidly and threatens biodiversity, soil stability, and even infrastructure.

In Rucăr, on the Râușor stream, clumps of Japanese knotweed confirm the formidable vitality of this plant.




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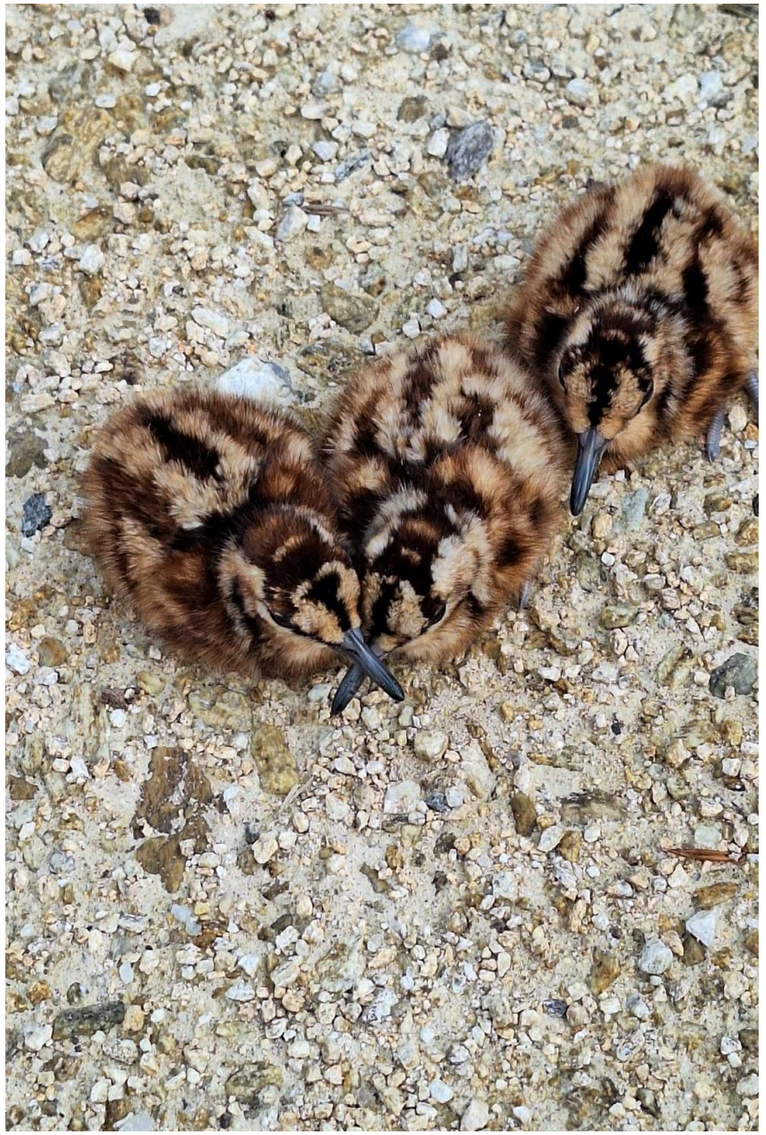
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# Wildlife conservation



Our rangers enjoy special encounters in the field. This time, they had the chance to see a family of Eurasian Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*).






© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

For snakes, mating season is in full swing. In the Lerescu peak area, we spotted twoadders (*Vipera berus)*... getting busy*.*




© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

# Première in the Făgăraș Mountains




We have received the best proof that bison feel at home in the southern Făgăraș Mountains. For the first time, a bison born free in this area has given birth in the wild! We can now talk about the second generation of free bison, a result we are very proud of.

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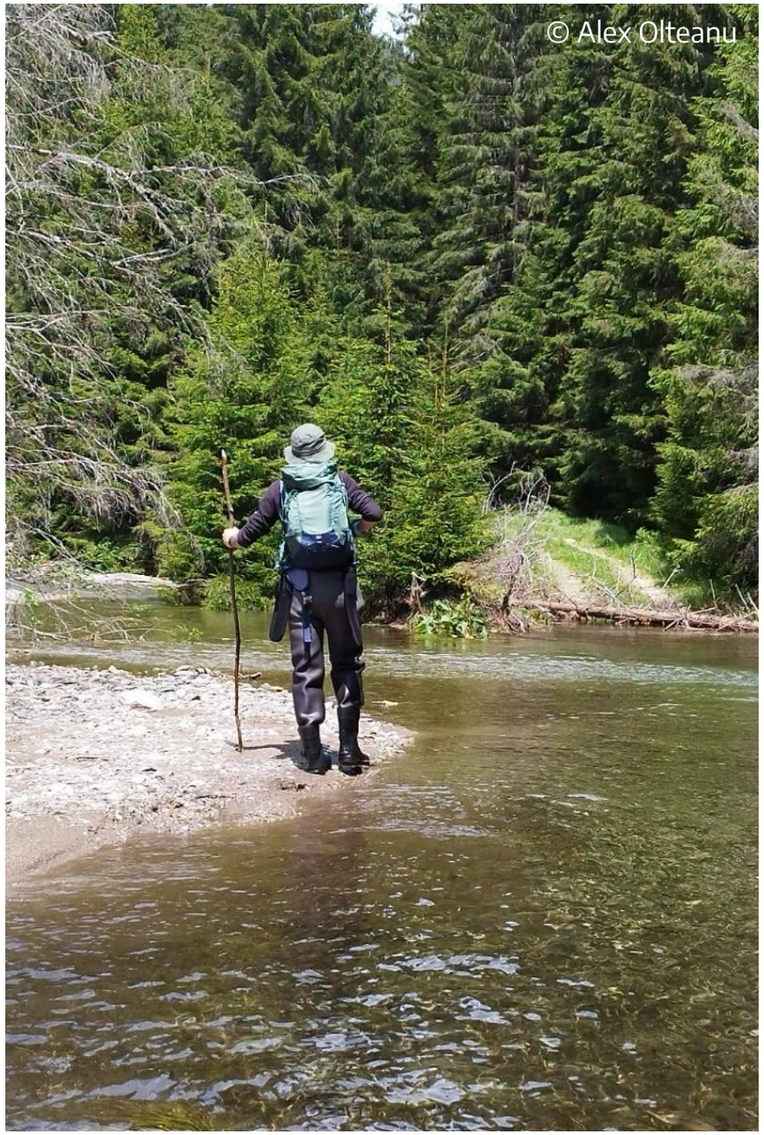



Bears do not keep food diaries. To study what they have eaten, we must follow their tracks and collect samples of their droppings.

One of the areas where we collect samples is Valea Vladului, which is crossed by bears that live far from human settlements and have a diet consisting mainly of grass, cranberries, and blueberries.

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia






In June, after heavy rainfall, Valea Vladului was flooded. We put on our waterproof suits, crossed the water, and continued to collect relevant samples for our study.

We obtained 208 samples for the bear diet study.

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

© fisheye.ro

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# Conservation Enterprise Programme

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June began with an abundance of food and cheer at the Cobor Biodiversity Farm. The Children's Day brunch was a hit with everyone, children and organisers alike!

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

Via Transilvanica, the iconic route that crosses Romania, has a trail that reaches Cobor!

In June, Terra Borza Teutonica was inaugurated, the first extension of the main Via Transilvanica route. The new route passes through Brașov County, going from Archita to Bran.

Hikers will find plenty of peace and ancestral tranquillity on the rolling hills of Transylvania. We look forward to welcoming you to Cobor, where you will find friendly accommodation and traditional cuisine at the Cobor Biodiversity Farm!










© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

Travel Carpathia hosted several groups of British students and teachers who arrived through Flooglebinder, an agency specializing in educational adventures in nature.

They enjoyed a comprehensive experience in the heart of the Făgăraș Mountains, which included workshops on fauna and flora, setting up a surveillance camera in the forest, searching for bison, and preparing meals in nature. In a nutshell, they saw first hand what nature conservation means!









© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

We are delighted to continue our long-standing partnership with the Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development in Germany. For the third year running, students and teachers have come to discover and admire the wild nature of the Făgăraș Mountains.





© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

Under the motto ‘never stop learning’, some of Travel Carpathia's guides took part in a bird watching training course. For our guests, this means added excitement and knowledge on guided tours: birds are a fascinating link in the ecosystem.



© Foundation Conservation Carpathia




Roadele Munților Făgăraș also include the treasures of wisdom that you encounter merely by walking through the villages surrounding the Făgăraș Mountains, talking to the locals, and living among them. You carry them in your heart, but you can also take them home in the photo and story album 'Memorable Encounters in the Făgăraș Mountains.'

It can be ordered at www.roadelemuntilor.ro

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

# Casa Tanti Maria



**Casa Tanti Maria** is a small family business founded by Mariana Găncilă in Lunca Gârții, near the Făgăraș Mountains. Each dish is made with natural ingredients and cooked in a cauldron to preserve the flavour of the ingredients.




*Zacuscă*, jam, sorbet, but also *bulz* or pickles, all prepared with love – Tanti Maria represents the essence of local producers in the Făgăraș Mountains area!

You can find Casa Tanti Maria's preserved products at https://roadelemuntilor.ro/

For delicacies prepared on the spot, keep an eye on events around the Făgăraș Mountains!

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia




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# Communication and community outreach

On 14th June, we cycled in the Carpathia Bike Tour! We had sunshine and wind, but also a few scattered raindrops. The menu was rich: goulash from Transylvanian Grey beef, but also cherries, doughnuts, pretzels, and pies.

We enjoyed a leisurely route, dotted with cultural highlights: a visit to the museum in Dăișoara, a concert at the church in Jibert, a guided tour of the fortified church in Viscri, and an artistic moment at the Rupea Fortress.

We can't wait for the next edition!




© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

We had the pleasure of participating, alongside mayors from the Făgăraș Mountains area and representatives of the Sibiu County Council, in an exchange of experiences in the Bavarian Forest National Park.

The most important lesson we brought home? Protecting nature can go hand in hand with the welfare of the community—when there is vision, cooperation, and trust.










© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

Bison bring good luck – in nature, but also in sports!

We are proud of the Zimbrii (Bison) Lerești football team, which won the Romanian Cup in the Fourth Division and first place in the Fourth Division championship in Argeș County.

They didn't stop there: they successfully passed the promotion play-offs for the Third Division. We wish them continued success!









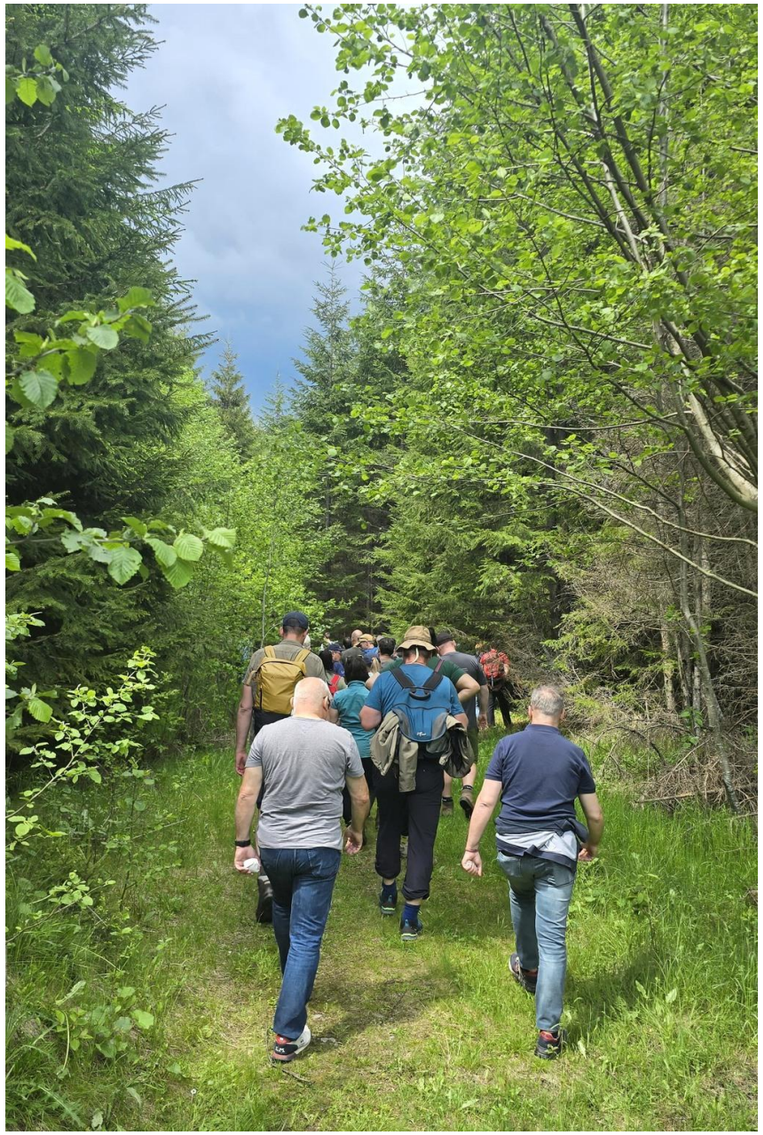



© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

The conference on the ecological reconstruction of European forests, organised by CINEA (European Agency for Climate, Infrastructure and Environment) and Foundation Conservation Carpathia brought 96 participants from 19 countries together in Brașov. More than 30 LIFE and HORIZON projects dedicated to forest restoration and climate resilience were presented.

The event also included field visits to see ecological reconstruction activities, education projects, and ecotourism infrastructure.



© Foundation Conservation Carpathia




We feel right at home at the Lynx Festival! The third edition gave us the opportunity to enjoy the latest films about nature alongside a curious and engaged audience.

Barbara and Christoph Promberger, our executive directors, answered questions from the audience about the realities of a nature conservation project.

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

Memories of Făgăraș Fest are hot, just like the July weather, so we are excited to tell you all about it!

The sixth edition of the festival at the foot of Făgăraș Mountains followed the same formula: live music, guided tours (1,200 participants in total!), debates, local products, and relaxation in nature. We had some new elements too: percussion workshops, workshops led by craftsmen, an installation on the Moașa River, a camping area with 400 tents, and minibus transportation to Avrig.




© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

The Moașei Valley welcomed us with splendid landscapes. The mountains echoed with the joy of music, the curiosity of the participants, and the enthusiasm of the children.

Thank you to everyone who made this edition an amazing experience!










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# Results

**4,528,254**

trees planted

**78,000 ha**

protected for wildlife, with no sport or trophy hunting

**353 locals**

are involved in CARPATHIA project's activities, receiving a fair pay

**27,906 ha**

of forest under permanent protection and safeguarded for future generations

**2,200**

students and teachers involved in environmental education projects

**>30**

local producers are part of the Roadele Munților Făgăraș initiative

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# How can you help?

Get in touch and let's discuss ways that you can get involved, as an individual and/or as a company.

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